

# SOCIAL SCIENCE

## Mission

It is the mission of the Social Science program to prepare social studies teachers as future leaders in secondary education. In doing so, the program seeks to foster critical thinking and inquiry skills, and an interdisciplinary understanding of the social sciences. Furthermore, the program prepares future teachers to effectively communicate knowledge and ideas to students in the secondary education environment, and to design effective lesson plans and learning units within the social sciences.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate competence in the following skills outcomes of the Social Science program:

1. Historical Interpretation
  - 200 - Illustrate how historians make interpretations of the past.
  - 300 - Distinguish broad trends in historical interpretations (historiography).
  - 400 - Synthesize multiple historical interpretations.
2. Scholarly Argument
  - 200 - Identify authors' arguments.
  - 300 - Distinguish between authors' main arguments and secondary points.
  - 400 - Evaluate authors' arguments and evidence.
3. Scholarly Sources
  - 200 - Learn how to analyze/question a source.
  - 300 - Evaluate sources and contrast diverse and conflicting sources.
  - 400 - Formulate relationships among multiple sources.
4. Thesis Statement
  - 200 - Develop thesis statement supported by evidence using appropriate standards of evidence.
  - 300 - Create an argument, marshal evidence from multiple sources, and use endnotes, footnotes, and bibliography.
  - 400 - Select problem of study, find appropriate resources, and use endnotes, footnotes, and bibliography.
5. Social Sciences
  - 200 - Demonstrate the connections among cognate social studies areas.
  - 300 - Integrate perspectives from multiple cognate social studies areas.
  - 400 - Evaluate the applicability of cognate social science areas.
6. Communication
  - Display clear and cogent written and oral communication.

In addition, students will demonstrate competence in the following outcomes particular to the cognate social science:

1. Articulate essential knowledge and concepts in the social sciences.
2. Interpret quantitative and qualitative evidence.
3. Apply the scientific method to answer well-formulated research questions.
4. Evaluate the utility of contending analytical perspectives.

- Bachelor of Science – Field Endorsement in Social Science (Grades 7-12) (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/social-science/bs-field-endorsement-social-science-7-12/>)
- Bachelor of Science – Middle Level Education Academic Area in Social Sciences (Grades 5-9) (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/social-science/bs-middle-level-education-academic-area-social-sciences-5-9/>)
- Political Science (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/social-science/political-science/>)

### PS 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCES3 Credits

Learn how political scientists study and understand the world of politics. Major concepts in the discipline will be learned and applied from a comparative perspective. Different methodological approaches to studying politics will be investigated, as well as the different analytical frameworks political scientists employ. Students will also learn about the various subfields within the discipline, including Comparative Politics, International Politics, American Politics, Political Behavior, and Political Economy.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

### PS 110 U.S. POLITICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT3 Credits

Institutional and cultural approaches to American government and politics. Students will engage in inquiry about the nature of government and democracy and study the founding of the United States system of government as they evaluate their personal ideological and political values and seek opportunities to contribute positively to a more democratic society.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #9

### PS 210 POLITICS AND ECONOMICS3 Credits

Analyzes the relationship between politics and economics. The class investigates this relationship by examining an array of institutions, to include the sub-national, the nation-state and the supra-national. Students will acquire knowledge of basic economic concepts and theories and develop methodological literacy needed to understand political and economic research. Further, students will understand the role of political economy in historical explanation.

**Cross-Listed:** HIST 210/PS 210

### PS 321 U.S. POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT3 Credits

U.S. constitutional system, political process, and governmental institutions from an historical perspective. Emphasis will be placed on American political development. Topics include constitutionalism, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, public opinion, mass political behavior, campaigns and elections, the legislative process, presidential powers, and judicial powers. While the focus is on national politics, special attention will be paid to Nebraska politics and government.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

**Prerequisites:** ENG 135, ENG 136 or 19 on ACT English test and Sophomore or above status

### PS 325 RURAL AND FRONTIER POLITICAL ECONOMY3 Credits

This course explores the economies, societies and governments of rural America, and the politics relevant to center-periphery relations. Furthermore, it places rural and frontier political economy in comparative perspective through the study of these topics in selected countries.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**Notes:** This course is required for Political Science minors and is an elective for Social Science majors.

**PS 332 GLOBAL POLITICS3 Credits**

The structure of the nation-state system and the processes of political activity both within and between states with an emphasis on historical perspectives of global political development. Processes of governance, conflict within and between states and non-state actors, economic development, globalization, and ideologies from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives. This course combines traditional political science subfields of comparative politics and international relations.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #10

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

**PS 333 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW3 Credits**

A study of the development of the American governmental system through judicial interpretation of the Constitution. This class is rooted in the conviction that constitutional interpretation is an intricate blend of politics, economics, history, and competing values. This class will emphasize the institutional development of the Court, the evolving role of the judiciary, legislative and executive branches, the dominant theories of constitutional interpretation, the politics of judicial selection, and the ongoing relevance of constitutional interpretation.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ333/LS333/PS333

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**PS 337 INTRODUCTION TO LAW3 Credits**

A study of the American legal system, legalism in society and the relationship between law and justice. This course examines the structures of our legal system and considers economic, social, and political implications as they influence the development of a rule of law. Historical and present legal controversies will be examined.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ337/LS337/PS337

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**PS 390 INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE1-12 Credits**

Provides practical experience in political science in a state or federal agency or other relevant office.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Department Consent

**Notes:** Open to upper division students majoring in one of the social sciences or a minor in political science; interested students should contact the Internship and Career Services Office to secure application materials; application should be made prior to the semester the internship will be started; the amount of credit will be based on availability of a suitable work position, the qualifications of the applicant and the work hours.

**PS 400 INDEPENDENT STUDY/RESEARCH1-3 Credits**

Study or research in an area of special interest.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent

**Notes:** The number of credit hours is determined by the topic and the amount of work required.

**Requirements:** Permission of the Instructor, Dean and Academic Vice President is required.

**PS 401 STUDY ABROAD IN POLITICS1-3 Credits**

This course provides students the opportunity to study politics abroad. In addition to the experiential component of the course, students will 1) produce either a reflection essay that places their study abroad experience within some aspect of the political science literature, or 2) compose a research paper that includes field-work and other research methods. The number of units for this course will vary based on the scope of the work additional to the study abroad experience.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #10

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**PS 410 POLITICAL INQUIRY3 Credits**

Methods of inquiry in political science will be discussed and applied. Methods will include controlled comparisons, process tracing, interpretive approaches, survey methods, experiments, and linear regression. Students will design and execute projects to apply these research methodologies as they develop an expertise in a substantive topic in political science.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

**PS 420 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT3 Credits**

The main lines of American political thought and ideology will be examined. The Founding era, especially the debates between the Federalists and the Antifederalists, will be emphasized, as will developments in the post-WW II era.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**PS 429 ISLAM AND POLITICS3 Credits**

The relationship between the religion of Islam and contemporary politics will be analyzed. This relationship will be considered in the context of democratic politics, forms of authoritarian governance, and contentious politics in the Muslim-majority world as well as minority politics in the United States and Western Europe.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #10

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

**Dual-listed:** PS 529

**PS 430 TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE1-3 Credits**

Special topics in Political Science.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Notes:** May be repeated with a change of emphasis.

**PS 431 HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT3 Credits**

Various themes in political philosophy will be covered, such as political obligation, rights, freedom and justice. Major philosophers covered will include Plato, Locke and Rousseau.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #7

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**PS 434 CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY3 Credits**

This course will examine the structures and processes of Congress and the Presidency, and how the two institutions interact with one another. Topics will include constituency and partisan influences, organizational structures, and decision-making processes in both branches of government. The course will highlight the independent and dynamic nature of inter-branch relations, with an emphasis on the evolving constitutional system of the United States.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**PS 436 FIELD STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE3 Credits**

This course provides an opportunity for direct observation of governmental officials and other political participants. A typical session is a two-week stay in Washington, D.C. examining the activities of the federal government.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent

**PS 439 DEMOCRACY: U.S. AND THE WORLD3 Credits**

The concept of political democracy will be critically analyzed in both historical and contemporary discourses. The emergence and evolution of political democracy will be covered with an emphasis on American political culture and institutions and frequent comparisons to other advanced democracies and developing democracies around the world.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

**Dual-listed:** PS 539

**SS 323 LAW AND AMERICAN SOCIETY3 Credits**

Nature, functions, and limits of law and its impact on economic, political, and social institutions.

**Cross-Listed:** LS323/SS323

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**SS 390 INTERNSHIP IN SOCIAL SCIENCE1-12 Credits**

Provides practical experience in social science in a social or governmental agency. Open to upper division students majoring in one of the social sciences.

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**Add Consent:** Department Consent

**Notes:** Interested students should contact the Internship and Career Services Office to secure application materials; application should be made prior to the semester the internship will be started; the amount of credit will be based on the availability of a suitable work position, the qualifications of the applicant and the work hours.

**SS 395 SEMINAR IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES3 Credits**

Required for all History, History Education and Social Science majors. Students will understand Social Science methodologies and integrate knowledge and skills developed over the curriculum. Culminates the interdisciplinary focus of the program and produces a synthetic understanding of a topic/problem that is demonstrated in original scholarly research.

**Cross-Listed:** HIST 395/SS395

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**SS 400 INDEPENDENT STUDY/RESEARCH1-3 Credits**

Study or research in an area of special interest.

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent

**Notes:** The number of credit hours is determined by the topic and the amount of work required.

**Requirements:** Permission of instructor, Dean and Academic Vice President is required.

**SS 430 TOPICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE1-3 Credits**

Special topics in Social Science.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Notes:** May be repeated with a change of emphasis.