FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

# NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
## Undergraduate Programs

UUPC Approval 3-30-26
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

**Department** Political Science

**College** Honors College

**Program Name**
Political Science Concentration

☐ **New Program***

☑ **Change Program***

**Effective Date**
*(TERM & YEAR)*
Fall 2026

**Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.**

1. Add newly approved courses to political theory required course options (CCJ 2002, POT 2002).
2. Removed option to substitute for POS 2041.
3. Specify options to substitute for CPO 2002 (formerly CPO 3003).
4. Clarify that a course can't be double counted as a concentration requirement and as a concentration elective and modified some other language governing the choice of Political Science electives, for clarity.
5. Updated the Electives list: added PUP 3032, deleted IDS 4933 specific course since it is already counted under the general IDS 4933 listing; deleted other courses no longer in catalog (HIS 4930 H of Terrorism, which now has its own number that is listed, and PHH 3442); updated courses that have new numbers; and corrected some existing titles to match with the title in the FAU catalog.
6. Minor revisions to the description of the concentration.

*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.

**Faculty Contact/Email/Phone**
Dr. Mark Tunick, tunick@fau.edu, 68670

**Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation**

| *Approved by* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Department Chair M. A. Tunick | 3/20/2026 |
| College Curriculum Chair Terje Hill | 3-20-2026 |
| College Dean Julie Esnes Lea | 3/20/26 |
| UUPC Chair Korey Sorge | 3-30-26 |
| Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Maeroff | 3-30-26 |
| UFS President | |
| Provost | |

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

# CONCENTRATION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Students must earn a "C" or better in each course taken to fulfill a concentration requirement.

## Advisory Board:

Dr. Tim Steigenga
Dr. Mark Tunick

Political science is a broad discipline concerned with how people with different interests and values reach collective decisions and form binding policies in order to maintain a stable and flourishing society. It studies the role of law and government and non-governmental institutions in distributing scarce resources. It takes up questions such as what makes a government legitimate? What causes revolutions and wars? How can government be arranged to realize the greatest happiness of its citizens, and what factors determine whether the ideal arrangement is achieved in practice? The Honors College concentration in political science provides the necessary groundwork for students wishing to do graduate work in political science and related disciplines, and is excellent preparation for law or business school or careers in journalism, public affairs, education, or government. Students also ~~have the opportunity to~~can take advantage of public speaking opportunities ~~opportunities including participation in~~such as the Diplomacy program and moot court.

The discipline of political science is closely connected with other disciplines, including economics, history, philosophy, and sociology. Political science itself is commonly divided into four sub-fields:

*American Politics:* studies the government of the United States, including the relations between the three branches (the Presidency, Congress, the Judiciary), between the federal government and the states, and between government and private interests. Students might examine health care or immigration policy, explain election outcomes, learn how to measure public opinion, or consider whether lobbying, litigating, or taking to the streets is more effective in achieving social change;

*Comparative Politics:* focuses on foreign (non-U.S.) political systems. Students compare different systems to evaluate the various ways in which governments respond to similar problems and meet citizen needs. Central factors for comparison include political culture, political institutions, political processes, and public policy. A

comparative analysis of these factors can help us to answer questions such as why some countries are democratic while others are authoritarian, why some are well-developed politically and economically while others are not, and why some are stable while others face internal conflicts and civil wars;

*International Relations:* International Relations is the study of patterns of conflict and cooperation among world actors, primarily nation-states, but also international organizations, nationalist groups, religious groups, non-governmental organizations, and others. Students examine questions about the nature of the international system, the distribution of power and resources among international actors, why nations go to war and make peace, and how foreign policy is constructed. Topics for study include war and the use of force, nuclear weapons and proliferation, the politics of global welfare, development and underdevelopment, international political economy, international organizations, globalization, environmental security, and foreign policy.

*Political Theory:* Political theory is concerned with the nature of politics and the sort of knowledge appropriate to the study of politics. It also focuses on concepts such as justice, freedom, equality, and legitimacy, exploring how these concepts have been developed throughout history and how they bear on contemporary issues. Political theorists examine foundational questions such as: Why do people live under~~in~~ government? What makes government legitimate? Why should policies be decided by majority vote and not by experts? Government may be needed to ensure our freedom, but at what point does government make us unfree? Can there be a science of politics?

## Concentration in Political Science

| Course # | Course Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| POS 2041* | Honors Government of the U.S. | 3 |
| CPO 2300~~3~~* | Honors Introduction to Comparative Politics | 3 |
| INR 2002 | Honors Introduction to World Politics | 3 |
| | *Political Theory Course:* Choose one of the following: | 3 |
| POT 2002 ; or | Honors Introduction to Political Theory; or | |
| POT 3021; or | Honors History of Political Theory; or | |
| CCJ 2002; or | Honors Crime, Law, and the Criminal Justice System; or | |
| PHI 2642 | Honors Ethics of Social Diversity | |
| | Political Science Electives | 18 |
| IDS 4970 | Honors Thesis (two semesters) | 6 |
| | Total Credits | 36 |

~~* May be replaced by an appropriate upper level course with approval of a concentration advisor.~~
*Any upper level course with a CPO prefix may substitute for CPO 2002.

Political Science Electives: Students must take six 3-credit courses from the list of political science electives, below. Courses counted for another political science requirement cannot also be counted as an elective. At least four of these courses must be 3000-level or above, two of which are political science courses in the same sub-field. Up to three of the six courses may be "Electives in related disciplines" (see below). Students may, with approval of their concentration advisor, count as Political Science electives courses offered by the Political Science Department on the Boca campus that are ~~upper-level (~~3000 or 4000-level~~)~~ with a prefix of POS, COP, POT, INR, PUP, or PAD, so long as they are not courses offered at the Honors College~~, with approval of their advisor~~. Students are reminded they need at least 42 ~~upper-level (~~3000 or 4000-level~~)~~ credits to graduate.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES

| Course # | Course Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| | *American Politics* | |
| POS 3691 | Honors Law and American Society | 3 |
| POS 4603 | Honors Constitutional Law I | 3 |
| POS 4604 | Honors Constitutional Law II | 3 |
| PHI 2642 | Honors Ethics of Social Diversity | 3 |
| POS 4206 | Honors Political Psychology | 3 |
| POS 4414 | Honors The U.S. Presidency | 3 |
| POS 4609 | Honors The Judicial Process | 3 |
| ~~POS 4685~~ | ~~Honors American Legal Development~~ | ~~3~~ |
| PUP 3032 | Honors Public Policy Process | 3 |
| | *Comparative Politics* | |
| CPO 4305 | Honors Religion and Politics in Latin America | 3 |
| CPO 4303 | Honors Latin American Politics | 3 |
| POS 4957 | Honors Political Science Study Abroad | 3 |
| | *International Relations* | |
| INR 3102 | Honors American Foreign Policy | 3 |
| INR 3248 | Honors Exporting Democracy:<br>U.S. Policy Toward Latin America | 3 |
| INR 3502 | Honors International Organization | 3 |

| Course # | Course Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| INR 4503 | Honors Advanced Diplomacy | 3 |
| | *Political Theory* | |
| POT 3021 or POT 2002 | Honors History of Political Theory or Honors Introduction to Political Theory | 3 |
| CCJ 2002 | Honors Crime, Law, and the Criminal Justice System | 3 |
| POS 3626 | Honors Privacy | 3 |
| PHI 2642 | Honors Ethics of Social Diversity | 3 |
| ~~PHI 3644~~ | ~~Honors Obligations~~ | ~~3~~ |
| PHI 3653 | Honors Ethics in Business, Govt, Society | 3 |
| ~~PHP 3502~~ | ~~Honors Hegel's Political Philosophy~~ | ~~3~~ |
| | *General Electives* | |
| POS 4905 | Honors Independent Study | 3 |
| POS 4915 | Honors Directed Independent Research ~~Study~~ in Political Science | 1-3 |
| POS 4932 | Honors Special Topics | 1-3~~3~~ |
| POS 4693 | Honors Women, the Workplace, and the Law | 3 |
| ~~POT 3113~~ | ~~Honors Politics and Morality in Film~~ | ~~3~~ |
| | | |

## ELECTIVES IN RELATED DISCIPLINES

| Course # | Course Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| AMH 3630 | Honors American Environmental History | 3 |
| AMH 4932 | Honors The 1960s | 3 |
| ASN 3006 | Honors Introduction to Asian Studies | 3 |
| ECS 3013 | Honors International Economic Development | 3 |
| ECP 3451 | Honors Law and Economics | 3 |
| ECO 4532 | Honors Modern Political Economy | 3 |
| ECO 3101 | Honors Intermediate Microeconomics | 3 |
| ECO 3203 | Honors Intermediate Macroeconomics | 3 |
| ECO 4400 | Honors Industrial Org and Game Theory | 3 |
| ECO 4531 | Honors Public Finance and Public Policy | 3 |
| EUH 2341 | Honors Twentieth Century Europe | 3 |
| EUH 3575 | Honors Russian Under the Tsars~~History I~~ | 3 |
| EUH 3576 | Honors The Soviet Union and Since~~Russian History II~~ | 3 |
| EUH 3662 | Honors Revolution in Europe | 3 |

| Course # | Course Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| EVS 3403 | Honors Global Environmental Issues | 3 |
| GEA 2000 | Honors World Geography | 3 |
| HIS 1933 | Honors The Civil Rights Movement | 3 |
| ~~HIS 4930~~ | ~~Honors History of Terrorism~~ | ~~3~~ |
| IDS 3932 | Honors History, Politics, Civilization and Culture in Latin America | 3 |
| IDS 3930 | Honors Law in the Real World | 1 |
| IDS 3932 | Honors Immigration | 3 |
| IDS 3932 | Team Taught Course on an Appropriate Topic | 1-3 |
| ~~IDS 4933~~ | ~~Honors Racial Integration and Jim Crow~~ | ~~3~~ |
| IDS 4933 | Team Taught Course on an Appropriate Topic | 1-3 |
| ISS 4304 | Honors Comput Social Science | 3 |
| PHH 3100 | Honors Ancient Greek Philosophy | 3 |
| PHH 3400 | Honors History of Modern Philosophy I | 3 |
| ~~PHH 3442~~ | ~~Honors History of Modern Philosophy II~~ | ~~3~~ |
| PHI 3682 | Honors Environmental Philosophy | 3 |
| POS 3675 | Honors Moot Court | 1-3 |
| SOP 3004 | Honors Principles of Social Psychology | 3 |
| SYG 1000 | Honors Introduction to Sociology | 3 |
| SYD 4792 | Honors Race, Gender, Sexuality and Science | 3 |
| WOH 4209 | Honors History of Terrorism | 3 |
| WST 3015 | Honors Introduction to Women's Studies | 3 |
| WST 4504 | Honors Feminist Theory | 3 |

## HONORS THESIS

Students concentrating in political science must write an honors thesis on a topic within political science.

A good deal of research conducted by political scientists is quantitative, and students concentrating in political science are strongly encouraged to take a Research Methods course. All students concentrating in political science are strongly encouraged to participate in an internship or study abroad program with a substantial political content.