

# MAJOR

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ New Building, 09.65.01

### POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

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See all major requirements at: [www.jjay.cuny.edu/political-science-major-resources](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/political-science-major-resources)

## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

The Political Science major is designed to enhance students' knowledge of politics, policy, governance, and government ranging from a global to a local perspective. It will help them become knowledgeable citizens capable of reasoned judgments on political issues and ideas.

Political Science includes a number of subfields. Topics of study include the role of law and courts in the functioning of government; comparative examinations of different political systems; and theories of interactions between nations. The major also exposes students to concepts of justice, citizenship, and participation, among others.

### IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

- **Form** and express cogent arguments as you engage in intellectually grounded debate.
- **Communicate** reasoned judgments on political issues and ideas.
- **Initiate**, develop, and present independent research.
- **Demonstrate** familiarity with the major theories and ideas of the following Political Science subfields:
  1. Law & Courts
  2. Comparative Politics
  3. International Relations
  4. Political Theory & Philosophy
  5. Urban Politics & Policy
  6. American Politics & Government

### FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

**Political Science (POL) 101:** American Government and Politics provides an essential foundation for all other courses in this major.

Students in the POL major are able to choose courses from five areas: Law, Courts & Politics, Political Theory, Urban Politics & Public Policy, International/ Comparative, American Politics. They can focus more on one area if they like, or pick from a variety of areas, depending on their interests.

Our society's current and historical struggles for justice and equality are the focus of classes like:

- **POL 313:** The Law & Politics of Race Relations
- **POL 375:** Law, Order, Justice & Society
- **POL 320:** International Human Rights
- **POL 316:** The Politics of Rights
- **POL 319:** Gender & the Law
- **POL 318:** The Law & Politics of LGBTQ Rights

*"The human is by nature a political animal."*

— Aristotle, Politics

*“My Political Science classes led me to pay attention to what is going on in the larger world of politics, where the great questions of justice and the common good are argued and decided.”*

— Political Science Major

## WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Social and political analysis
- Logical reasoning
- Persuasive writing
- Data interpretation and evaluation

## WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- English
- History
- Philosophy
- Human Rights

For more information about minors, go to:

[www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors)

## WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

### Public Affairs Internships

Students can apply for several academic, public affairs internships that are part of the major including: the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, NY state judges, NYC Council members, state legislators, members of Congress, and other public and non-profit offices.

### Research Assistantships

- Participate in faculty research (**POL 385 & POL 387**)

## THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- Foreign Services Officer
- Financial Consultant
- City Planner
- Government Relations Specialist
- International Research Specialist
- Journalist
- Legislative Analyst/Lobbyist
- Policy Analyst
- Public Affairs Research Analyst
- Polling/Survey Analyst
- University Professor
- Urban Policy Planner
- State Legislator
- Teacher
- Attorney

Since 2014, nearly 30% of all law school-bound John Jay graduates majored in Political Science or Law and Society, according to National Student Clearinghouse data. Both majors provide an excellent foundation for graduate study in law.