

## **Political Science**

*Politika: the art or science of government concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy*

### **What is Political Science?**

Political science is the study of governments, public policies and political processes, systems, and political behavior. Political science subfields include political theory, political economy, policy studies and analysis, comparative politics, international relations, and a host of related fields. Political scientists use both humanistic and scientific perspectives and tools and a variety of methodological approaches to examine the process, systems, and political dynamics of all countries and regions of the world.

### **Why Study Political Science?**

Are you interested in American politics; international affairs; critical issues such as health, the environment, civil rights; theories concerning the ideal government and how power and resources are allocated in society? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interest? If so, you should consider studying political science.

Political science students can gain a versatile set of skills that can be applied in a wide range of exciting careers in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; precollegiate education; electoral politics; research and university and college teaching.

### **Careers In Political Science**

A bachelor's degree in political science can lead to exciting careers in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; precollegiate education; electoral politics; research and university and college teaching.

Political science majors gain analytical skills, administrative competence and communication abilities that are valued in a wide spectrum of potential career areas.

### **Examples of Careers for Political Scientists**

The following are a small sample of careers for political scientists.

Activist, Advocate/Organizer  
Administration, Corporate, Government, Non-Profit, etc.  
Archivist, Online Political Data  
Budget Examiner or Analyst  
Attorney  
Banking Analyst or Executive  
Campaign Operative  
Career Counselor  
CIA Analyst or Agent  
City Planner

City Housing Administrator  
Congressional Office/Committee Staffer  
Coordinator of Federal or State Aid  
Communications Director  
Corporate Analyst  
Corporate Public Affairs Advisor  
Corporate Economist  
Corporate Manager  
Corporate Information Analyst  
Corporate Adviser for Governmental Relations  
Corporate Executive  
Corporation Legislative Issues Manager  
Customs Officer  
Editor, Online Political Journal  
Entrepreneur  
Federal Government Analyst  
Financial Consultant  
Foreign Service Officer  
Foundation President  
Free-lance writer  
High School Government Teacher  
Immigration Officer  
Information Manager  
Intelligence Officer  
International Agency Officer  
International Research Specialist  
Issues Analyst, Corporate Social Policy Div.  
Journalist  
Juvenile Justice Specialist  
Labor Relations Specialist  
Legislative Analyst / Coordinator  
Lobbyist  
Management Analyst  
Mediator  
Plans and Review Officer, USIA  
Policy Analyst  
Political Commentator  
Pollster  
Public Affairs Research Analyst  
Public Opinion Analyst  
Publisher  
Research Analyst  
State Legislator  
Survey Analyst  
Systems Analyst  
Teacher  
University Administrator  
University Professor  
Urban Policy Planner  
Web Content Editor

### **Political Science Scope and Objectives**

The undergraduate major in Political Science aims to provide understanding of basic political processes and institutions as these operate in different national and cultural contexts. It also covers the interaction between national states, the changing character of the relations between citizens and governments, and the values and criteria by which the quality of political life is judged. The program may be individually focused to serve the needs of the liberal arts major, the student seeking preparation for graduate work in political science, public administration, law, and other professional fields, and the student preparing for specialized roles in political and public organizations.

### **Political Science Courses Offered to meet the Objectives:**

PLSC 103 – Critical Thinking About World Politics

PLSC 130 – International Relations

PLSC 150 – Introduction to Political Theory

PLSC 170 – Comparative Politics (*coming Fall 2008*)

PLSC 200 – National, State and Local Government (*coming Fall 2008*)

PLSC 210 – American Politics

PLSC 310 – California Politics and Local Government

### **Political Science Major Requirements:**

Core Courses (9 units): PLSC 130, PLSC 150 & PLSC 210

Selective Courses (9 units): PLSC 310, ECON 100, ECON 102, Foreign Language, HIST 201/202/100/101 or Math 200

### **Political Science AA Degree:**

Yes! Cañada College offers everything you need to finish an AA degree in Political Science as well as the undergraduate courses necessary to transfer to a four-year college or university as a Political Science Major.

### **Political Science Clubs:**

The Political Awareness Club (PAC) promotes informed voting and political awareness throughout the Cañada College Community. We sponsor debates in various political issues as well as hold roundtable discussions that focus on current events as they directly relate to politics and government.

### **Political Science Links:**

<http://www.apsanet.org/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

<http://www.house.gov/>

<http://www.senate.gov/>

<http://www.sen.ca.gov/>

<http://www.ss.ca.gov/>