POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fordham’s Political Science program will prepare you to understand and navigate successfully the political processes and institutions that define and shape our increasingly complex and interdependent world.

For more information about the Political Science department, please visit our page on the Fordham website

Admissions

Requirements

- Resume/CV
- Statement of Intent (up to 500 words). Please include your name on all pages of your document.
- Writing Sample (5-20 pages in length)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official degree transcripts confirming prior degree conferral are required for all applicants, regardless of matriculation status. These should be ordered at least one month prior to the application deadline for your program of interest. Please note: you may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts.

Please note: GRE scores are only required if you are seeking GSAS financial aid.

English Proficiency

International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). GSAS will also consider a student’s International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level language testing results.

Official TOEFL or IELTS scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – Code # 2259. Please consult the English Proficiency web page for additional information.

For more information about admissions to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, please visit their page on the Fordham website.

Courses

POSC 5100. American Political Behavior. (3 Credits)
The nature and sources of mass political behavior, with a focus on questions of mass-elite linkages derived from democratic theory; political attitudes, their origin and measurement; mass participation—electoral and non-electoral—and its systemic consequences.
Attributes: AMST, ASHS, DATA.

POSC 5130. Political Institutions and Processes. (3 Credits)
Legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The formation and implementation of public policy. Institutional norms and behavior in American national government.
Attribute: DATA.

POSC 5140. Themes in Urban Public Policy and Power. (3 Credits)
We see around us a city constantly in change, dynamic change, in which multiple actors compete daily. What are they competing for? And why? What does power mean for those actors? How is it to be defined? Who wins, who loses, and why? What are some of the policy issues that confront actors in a city whose only constant is change? We will during the weeks that follow look in a survey fashion at a series of urban issues and ideas, often with a focus on New York City. We will also hear from and be able to talk with guest speaker personalities with unique histories and perspectives. This should help inform our thinking about the issues we discuss, their historical and political context, and their salience.
Attributes: HEC, PMMA, URSG.

POSC 5238. Strategies of Political Communication. (3 to 4 Credits)
How to build campaign messages based on an understanding of vote determinants, research tools, and candidate psychology.
Attribute: PMMA.

POSC 5240. Fundamentals of Political Campaign Management. (3 to 4 Credits)
Will introduce the basic elements of political campaign management, focusing on the role and the responsibilities of the modern campaign manager at all levels of campaigns; local, congressional, statewide, and national.

POSC 5243. Campaign Finance and Ethics. (3 or 4 Credits)
Designed to introduce students to the current campaign finance laws that regulate elections for federal and non-federal political candidates.
Attributes: CEED, CENS.

POSC 5244. Elections and Campaign Management Internship. (3 Credits)
A professional-level internship in a political consulting firm or campaign organization, which will give students direct, practical experience and where they can apply what they have learned in classes to a real world setting.

POSC 5245. Earned Media Strategies. (3 Credits)
This course will explore how campaigns develop strategies to attract media attention, publicity and news coverage. Topics include: speech-writing, press releases, press conferences, social media communications.
Attribute: PMMA.

POSC 5246. Technology and Campaigns. (3 Credits)
This course will explore the use of modern technology in campaigns. Students will learn how to capitalize on developments in technology and new media for electioneering purposes to target, mobilize and persuade voters. Students will also learn how to use campaign management software, database management and GIS mapping technologies, to execute effective campaigns.
Attribute: PMMA.

POSC 5247. Data Analytics for Political Campaigns. (1 Credit)
This course will explore how campaigns can use data analytics to target and deliver voter appeals and mobilization efforts. Topics include: micro-targeting, data analysis, polling research and quantitative analysis.
Attribute: PMMA.
POSC 5250. Introduction to Quantitative Analysis. (3 Credits)
An introduction to the major theoretical frameworks of quantitative research. This course will give students first-hand experience at the fundamentals of research design and quantitative methodologies used in American political science.

POSC 5251. Political Survey Research. (3 Credits)
This class is designed to take students through the entire process of conducting both telephone and Internet public opinion surveys, with a specific look at political polling method. It applies academic and practical research to teach question writing and selection, survey construction, managing and fielding questionnaires, and analyzing and writing about data. Its goal is to provide students with a working knowledge of how to conduct and analyze their own surveys as well as how to evaluate others’ surveys.
Attributes: DATA.

POSC 5255. Public Opinion Certificate Practicum. (3 Credits)
This course will take students through the process of designing, implementing, and analyzing an actual public opinion survey. Students will be responsible for managing every aspect of the Fordham American Faith (FAF) survey, gaining vital experience in hands-on survey work.
Prerequisites: POSC 5251 and POSC 5250.

POSC 5257. Survey Research Data Analysis. (3 Credits)
This course will focus on topics in and application of survey data analysis, particularly on interpretation and presentation of survey results. Students will learn to construct and use survey weights, to employ scaling of survey items, to use static to make conclusions regarding pre-state hypotheses. There will be an emphasis on visual presentation of descriptive statistics and the results of statistical models. Furthermore, the course will cover linear and logistic regression analysis.
Prerequisite: POSC 5250.

POSC 5299. Special Topics: Campaigns. (3 Credits)
This course considers the relationship between religion and politics by reading Euro-American political thinkers such as Spinoza, Leibniz, Kant, Hume, and Locke. We also consider how post-Enlightenment philosophers—such as Michel Foucault, Jürgen Habermas, Tariq Ramadan, and Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na’im—address the Islamic revival.
Attributes: CEED, CENS.

POSC 5500. Comparative Pol Analysis. (3 Credits)
Problems of stability and change in the First, Second, and Third Worlds are examined with relation to socioeconomic factors that affect, and are affected by, institutions, processes, and policies.
Attributes: INST, IPED, URSG.

POSC 5560. Conflict Resolution. (3 or 4 Credits)
This course will focus on the nature of international and regional conflict during the post-Cold War period in terms of both current theory and the reality of recent conflict situations. Topics will include: analysis of the causes of contemporary conflicts; assessment of current international, regional and national approaches to conflict resolution; psychological implications of civil and ethnic conflicts; challenges of multiparty international mediation; and consideration of the role played by international, regional and community level institutions in addressing conflict situations. Particular emphasis will be placed on what theories and ideas actually work when put in to practice.
Attributes: CEED, CENS, INST, IPED, IRST.