



Research on the U.S.-Mexico border helped alumnus Cristian Martinez go from foster care to the halls of power in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Political Science.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

THE DEGREE

Why do some countries become democracies? How are public policies determined? What shapes relationships between nations in the international system? Political science majors at UC Irvine explore these and other issues related to how politics work at the individual, group, national and international levels.

Methods for gathering and analyzing information about political behavior and political processes are a major focus of the introductory course work.

Upper-division courses are organized around general areas of study including American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and public law. Each area provides students an opportunity to pursue a more in-depth look at political science from different angles.

CAREERS

Students have many opportunities to pursue special topics in political science through independent study courses, field studies and internships. Many choose to participate in the UC/DC Internship Program in Washington, D.C. and the university's Education Abroad Program.

Political science majors learn how to understand politics and acquire skills for effective performance in many professional fields. The course work emphasizes development of analytic thinking and clear writing skills essential for success in a number of fields.

Political science majors have gone on to pursue careers in business, international relations, law, politics, consultancy, journalism and public service as well as advanced graduate training in law, academics and public policy.

RESEARCH

As one of the top 35 programs in the nation, the political science department offers more than 100 courses each year to nearly 1,000 undergraduate majors.

World renowned faculty experts explore a host of topics including politics of advanced and democratizing societies and their interactions, political economy, international relations, legal systems, political institutions, political philosophy, political ideology, political behavior and radical and ethnic politics.

SCHOOL of SOCIAL SCIENCES

where I make a difference

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM FOR A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Freshman¹ (12 to 16 units per quarter)
Lower Division Writing (two courses)
Lower Division Political Science core courses (three courses)
Social Science 10A–B–C or Math 2A–B–7
Social Science 3A
General Education VI²

Sophomore³ (16 units per quarter)
Lower Division Political Science courses (two courses)
General Education II (three courses)
General Education IV (three courses)
General Education VII³ (one course)
General Education VIII⁴ (one course)
Electives

Junior (16 units per quarter)
Upper–Division Writing (one course)
Upper–Division Political Science courses (two courses)
Upper–Division Social Science courses (three courses)
Lower/Upper–Division Social Science course (one course)
Upper–Division Political Science module courses (two courses)
Electives

Senior (16 units per quarter)
Upper–Division Political Science module course (one course)
Upper–Division Political Science course (one course)
Electives

¹Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load in the second quarter of their first year.

²Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation.

³This requirement can be met with PS 61A.

⁴This requirement can be met with PS 6A or 41A or 51A.

OPPORTUNITIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT UC IRVINE

Explore the opportunities available to students interested in studying political science at UC Irvine.

Minor in Political Science

The minor in political science enables student to explore the field beyond the introductory level but in less depth than the major.

Minor in Global Peace & Conflict Studies

This minor addresses issues of international conflict and cooperation, international political economy and international environmental issues. The minor combines international courses from social sciences, humanities and social ecology.

Honors Program

The honors program provides an opportunity for the most outstanding students in the major to go beyond usual course offerings. Students engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. The program also allows student to investigate topics not covered in the classroom.

Student Organizations

The department supports an active chapter of the Model United Nations, a group focused on developing an understanding of current international issues, and the Law Forum, a student group for those interested in pursuing legal careers and in becoming more informed, effective citizens.

Learn more at www.polisci.uci.edu/ps_undergrad.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Student Affairs Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduates including course planning, change of major requests, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, and careers and internships. Visit online at http://undergraduatestudies.ss.uci.edu/ugs_usa or call (949) 824–6803 today to set up an appointment.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

A great starting point for information about academic–related endeavors is the School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and prospective careers in a number of social sciences–related fields. Visit the center online at www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc or call (949) 824–8322 today to set up an appointment.