

# Northwestern

## Department of Political Science

### Recommended Courses & Information for First-Year Students 2019-2020

#### 100-Level First-Year Seminars

Our 100-level courses are taught in a small, seminar-style format that offers an excellent introduction to the field and encourages robust discussion and interaction with professors. First-year seminars do not count towards the Political Science major or minor. The department is offering the following first-year seminars this year (all seminars are listed as POLI\_SCI 101-6):

Fall 2019	Winter 2020	Spring 2020
Plato's Road to Resilience	Data Ethics	Syria: Politics, Society, and Culture in Revolution
Press & the Political Process	Sports, Politics, and Public Opinion	Body Politics and Feminist Theory
Alts, Populists, Neos, and Billionaires: Right Politics Worldwide in the 21st Century	Politics of Citizenship, Migration, & Refuge	Insurgency and Nation-Building in the Age of Revolution
Political Controversy		
The American Way of War		

#### 200-Level Courses

First-year students are encouraged to begin with our 200-level gateway and methodology courses. Gateway courses introduce students to the four main political science subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. The political science major requires three gateway courses and one methodology course. The department is offering the following 200-level courses this year (all courses are listed as POLI\_SCI):

Fall 2019	Winter 2020	Spring 2020
201: Introduction to Political Theory	201: Introduction to Political Theory	210: Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science
210: Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science	210: Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science	230: Introduction to Law in the Political Arena
220: American Government and Politics	211: Introduction to Interpretive Methods in Political Science	240: Introduction to International Relations
240: Introduction to International Relations	220: American Government and Politics	
250: Introduction to Comparative Politics	250: Introduction to Comparative Politics	

### 300-Level Courses

- The department recommends that first-year students take one or two 200-level courses before taking 300-level courses. However, first-year students can take 300-level courses if there are no pre-requisites. Students can check CAESAR to see the 300-level courses being offered each quarter.

### Designing Your Major

- You can specialize in a particular topic or explore a broad range of issues and areas.
- An optional thematic concentration can be used to identify classes focused around a key theme. Examples of thematic concentrations include public policy, peace and conflict studies, political representation, and political economy.
- You are encouraged to consult with faculty advisors to design your own program of study.

### AP Credits

- A score of 5 on the AP American Government and/or AP Comparative Government exam can place you out of the equivalent 200-level course (POLI\_SCI 220: American Government and Politics and POLI\_SCI 250: Introduction to Comparative Politics)
- Using AP credit does not reduce the total number of courses required to complete the major. Instead of taking POLI\_SCI 220 or 250, you would take an additional 300-level course.

Visit the Department of Political Science's website ([www.polisci.northwestern.edu](http://www.polisci.northwestern.edu)) to find more information about requirements for the major and minor, advising, thematic concentrations, and quarterly course offerings.