

A Guide to Undergraduate Study in Politics

**For Information on Requirements
for the Major or Minor, Courses
Offered, the Politics Society, the
Politics Honors Program, Pi Sigma
Alpha, Internships, Readings &
Research, and Much More!**

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Department of Politics
New York University

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Contacting the Politics Undergraduate Office

The **undergraduate office** is located at 19 West 4th Street. You can reach the office by entering on West 4th and taking the elevator to the 2nd Floor.

The **advisement office** is located at room 232 and is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can come by, or email the advisors at politics undergrads@nyu.edu. The undergraduate advisors can help you with the following:

- Declaring a major or minor
- Course clearance and registration
- Special permission for courses
- Transfer credit
- Study abroad approval

For a complete listing of politics department classes, advisement hours and other information, see http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/undergrad/undergrad_requirements.shtml.

Requirements for the Politics Major

General Requirements

The major in politics provides students with the opportunity to explore political science both broadly (across five fields of study: Analytical Politics, Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Politics) and deeply (through concentration in a single field of study).

The course requirements for Politics majors are:

- (1) 10 four-credit Politics courses (with a V53 number) with a grade of C or better.
- (2) Of these 10 courses at least 2 must be chosen from among the four “core” courses – Political Theory (V53.0100), Power and Politics in America (V53.0300), Comparative Politics (V53.0500), and International Politics (V53.0700). Most advanced courses have the associated core course or courses as a prerequisite and thus it is a good idea to take core courses as a freshman or sophomore.
- (3) At least 1 course must be taken in three of the five fields: Analytical Politics, Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Politics.
- (4) No more than 5 courses (for a total of 20 credits) taken through transfer credit and/or NYU Study Abroad may count towards the major. AP credits are counted as transfer credits.
- (5) No more than 3 courses (for a total of 12 credit) taken in NYU Study Abroad programs (courses numbered V53.9xxx) may count towards the major.

Requirements for the Politics Minor

The minor requires 5 four-credit courses (20 credits) in the department (courses with a V53 number) completed with a grade of C or better. The department requires that half of the minor be

completed at CAS. NYU study abroad and/or transfer credits can be applied to the minor, not to exceed half of the required credits. AP credits are counted as transfer credits. A minor program may reflect a special emphasis in one of the department's five fields.

What Counts as a Politics Course?

Transfer Credit for Students from GSP

Students transferring from GSP can get "generic" politics credit, V53.0000, for 4 points towards the major or minor, for completing the core curriculum in GSP. However, GSP core courses cannot be substituted for a core course in Politics.

Other Transfer Credit

To receive transfer credit from another college or university outside of NYU towards the politics major or minor, students must submit copies of the syllabi for the relevant courses as well as a transcript from the other institution to the undergraduate advisors. Note that all courses must first be approved by the College of Arts and Sciences.

AP Credit in Politics

Students with AP credit in politics can get "generic" politics credit, V53.0000, towards the major or minor. Only AP credits in government and comparative politics (not history and statistics) can be counted toward the major/minor. However, AP credit cannot be substituted for a core course in Politics. AP credits are counted as transfer credits.

Non Politics Department Courses at NYU

Only if they have a V53 number (are officially cross-listed), and are not counted towards another major or minor, courses offered by other departments can be counted towards the major or minor. NYU courses without a V53 number do not count towards the major or minor.

Getting Into Closed Classes

Generally, when a politics course closes enrollment, students can join wait lists for a place in the class. We do not allow students to be placed into classes ahead of the waitlist. Since most classes are closed due to space constraints and fire codes, it is extremely rare for a student to be added to such a class.

Handling Grade Disputes or Problems in a Class

If you have a problem in a Politics class (either in grading or otherwise) you should first try to address the problem through discussions with the instructor. If this fails to resolve the issue, you should submit a formal complaint via email to politics.undergrads@nyu.edu. Please note that email received at this address is not distributed to the faculty.

Information for Politics Majors Who Wish to Study Abroad

We encourage all politics majors and minors to consider a semester abroad. However, it is important to be careful in choosing which courses to take abroad, and when to schedule a semester abroad. Below are things you should consider:

Only V53 courses count:

If studying abroad at an NYU program, only those courses with a V53 designation count towards the politics major. If a course has a title or a description that sounds like it is about “politics” but does not have a V53 designation, it **will not** count towards the major or minor.

Maximum Number of Courses:

Only 3 four-point courses taken in NYU Study Abroad programs (courses designated V53.9xxx) may be counted towards the major.

No more than 5 four-point courses taken as transfer credit and/or NYU Study Abroad courses may count towards the major.

Non-NYU Program:

If studying abroad at a non-NYU program, the courses taken will be treated as transfer credit. Students should get approval for courses before going abroad if they wish for them to count towards the Politics major. Students should get approval from the Dean’s office (Silver, 9th floor) **before** seeing the advisors in the department (Room 232).

Field Seminars and Graduate Courses

Field Seminars

Undergraduate field seminars are offered in each field each year. They are advanced seminars for juniors and seniors who are politics majors. Students must have completed four courses in politics, one of which must be the core course in the field of the seminar. They must also have a 3.0 cumulative average or the permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited to 20 students each.

Honors Seminars

These are advanced seminars for juniors and seniors. Non-honors students can take them, but they must have a 3.5 cumulative average. Students must have completed four courses in politics, one of which must be the core course in the field of the seminar. Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

Graduate Courses for Undergraduates

To register for a graduate class in politics, undergraduate students must request permission from the instructor of the course and the Director of Graduate Studies. Students should see Carlos Rios in the Department of Politics, email carlos.rios@nyu.edu.

Internships and Readings and Research

Maximum Points

Students cannot take more than 8 points of independent study and/or internship in the Department of Politics. Both independent study courses and internships require special permission as specified below.

Readings and Research Classes

Description of Readings and Research Class, from the CAS Bulletin:

V53.0990 - Readings and Research. 2 or 4 points. Prerequisite: written approval of student's departmental adviser, instructor, and director of undergraduate studies. Students with a 3.0 average in at least three previous politics courses are permitted to carry on supervised individual readings and research. Please note that this course does **NOT** count toward the Politics major or minor.

A student should choose a topic in consultation with an instructor. An appropriate length of the final paper should be 12+ pages for a 2-credit hours and 20+ pages for 4-credit hours. The project should not be solely a book report, chronology of events, or unsupported opinion. The paper should include multiple sources, facts, interpretations, and viewpoints of the student. Students must submit an application (page 14 of this handbook) along with one-page description of the proposed project. The application must include a signature of approval from the proposed faculty.

Internships in Politics

Internships do **NOT** count toward the major or minor. To register for an internship you must be either a major or minor in politics and have 3.0 overall GPA. You must also have completed two of the following courses: V53.0100, V53.0300, V53.0500, or V53.0700, and have permission of the department internship advisor.

Please note that the politics department does not advertise or recruit students for internships. Students should secure an internship before meeting with the internship advisor. The Department posts internship information on our website and on the internship bulletin board in the department. The sponsoring firm or organization may not give you a salary, but is allowed to reimburse you for personal expenses. This means that the sponsoring firm or organization may pay you for your independent study credits, but the check must be made out to NYU. The sponsoring firm or organization must provide a designated supervisor for your activities and that person must indicate to us the hours that you are to work, the tasks you are to perform, and how your performance will be assessed by them. Please use the form provided by the Department (on page 15 of this handbook) for this purpose. At the end of the internship the designated supervisor must fill out a second form from the Department assessing your work, kinds of tasks you performed, and how your performance was assessed by the organization. No credit taken for an internship counts towards the fulfillment of your credit requirements to major or minor in politics. You may register for either 2 or 4 credits of internship. If you choose 4 credits, you will be expected to work 8-12 hours a week at your internship and submit a 20-page paper to your advisor; if you choose 2 credits, then you should work at least 6 hours a week and submit a 10-page paper.

Applications for internships to be completed during the Fall semester are due no later than **September 30**. Applications for internships to be completed during the Spring semester are due no later than **January 30**. Application forms are found at the back of this handbook (page 15).

Student Organizations

The Politics Society

The Politics Society is an undergraduate organization, which gives Politics students the opportunity to take an active role in the shaping of their department. Geared towards strengthening the department, the Politics Society allows students to voice opinions on faculty, classes, advising and events. The Politics Society schedules meetings during the semester and all majors are encouraged to participate in the society. The society is divided into four committees, each with a specific purpose to enhance students' experiences as Politics majors and minors: Faculty, Curriculum, Advising, and Programs/Internships.

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Politics Honor Society



NYU's Politics Department Beta Eta Chapter invites qualified students to join Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. To join, an undergraduate student must be a major in Politics or International Relations, have completed 12 points in Politics Department courses (courses numbered with a V53), have a 3.5 GPA in the major, and a 3.3 GPA overall. There is a one-time only membership fee of \$30 payable (check, no cash accepted) to the national organization. Please see the web site at <http://www.apsanet.org/~psa/> for more information.

The Politics Honors Program

Admission to and completion of the Honors Program in Politics requires a GPA of at least 3.65, both overall and in the major. In the spring semester of their sophomore year, politics majors with at least a 3.65 GPA will be invited to an informational meeting about the Honors Program and will be advised of the course requirements for admission to the Honors Program. Application to the Honors Program takes place in the spring of the junior year.

Admission to and completion of the Politics Department Honors program requires the following:

1. Applications are due by March 1 in the spring of the junior year. Application requirements include:

- i. 3.65 GPA both overall and in politics courses.
- ii. Completion of or enrollment in Quantitative Methods for Political Science (V53.0800). Only with prior permission from DUGS may students take statistics courses in other social sciences such as sociology, economics, or psychology as substitutes for V53.0800.
- iii. Completion of or enrollment in at least one undergraduate field seminar, *Honors Seminar*, or 1000- or 2000- level graduate course. *Honors Seminars have a GPA admissions requirement of 3.5 overall and are designed to permit students to apply research skills in a specific substantive area.*

Admission to the Honors program will permit students to register for the fall Senior Honors Seminar I (V53.0950), during which students will prepare a research proposal for their senior thesis.

2. Completion of the Senior Honors Seminar I (V53.0950) in the fall of the senior year.
3. Completion of the Senior Honors Seminar II (V53.0951) in the spring semester of the senior year, during which students will finish the research for and write their honors thesis. The instructor teaching the Senior Honors seminar will, under ordinary circumstances, be the first reader of the theses for students registered in the class. Occasionally, another faculty member may serve as first reader and the instructor of the seminar will serve as second reader.
4. *Participation in the Politics Honors Research Conference, to be held in April of the senior year. At the Research Conference each thesis will be read and discussed by a second faculty member, who will serve as the second reader for the thesis.*
5. Approval of the honors thesis by both the instructor teaching Senior Honors II and the second reader of the thesis. Theses will be approved for honors if they merit a grade of at least A-, as determined by the first and second readers.
6. Maintenance of a GPA of at least 3.65 both overall and in politics courses. The overall GPA requirement may be waived provided it is at least 3.5.
7. Completion of all other Politics Department major requirements. The honors major requires a total of 10 courses (40 credits). Senior Honors Seminars I and II (V53.0950 and V53.0951), Quantitative Methods (V53.0800) and Field Seminars and *Honors Seminars* count toward the required 10 courses. To clarify any doubts you may have, please contact advisors at politics.undergrads@nyu.edu.

Students successfully completing the Honors Program will receive a degree with Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors, as determined by the Department's Honors Committee, taking into consideration both the quality of the thesis and the student's record in the Honors Program.

Honors Thesis Guidelines

The following are guidelines for a typical empirical thesis. Those honors students writing normative theses can obtain relevant guidelines in Senior Honors I. Also note that while there are no absolute length requirements, the norm is approximately 40-60 pages.

1. Question

Your thesis should propose an open question or aim at an explanation of an already observed phenomenon that you believe requires an explanation given the generally accepted background understandings.

2. Literature review

Your thesis should review the relevant academic literature concerning your question. In what ways does the existing literature not address your question adequately or completely?

3. Primary explanation and testable hypotheses

You must articulate a logically coherent explanation for the phenomenon of interest, starting with any premises generally acknowledged to be true in the existing literature. If the empirical question you are asking does not have a generally acknowledged answer, you must supply that answer, carefully specifying the procedure that yields it. You then need to derive from your explanation testable hypotheses, which can be assessed in the light of either available data or data you gather yourself.

4. Alternative explanations

As far as possible, your thesis should examine and reject the testable hypotheses which may be derived from competing explanations.

5. Description of data

You will need to provide a precise description of the data which you are using to assess the alternative hypotheses. This should include a detailed description of your observations as well as all dependent and independent variables.

While testing explanations and the hypotheses that they imply is much easier when one is dealing with data which can be quantified and analyzed statistically, not all explanations can be so tested. Even if the explanations you are working with do not lend themselves to statistical tests, you may be able to consider the counterfactual arguments that can be adduced in support of these explanations as well as the fit of the additional inferences that can be made from them with the available evidence and conceptual premises accepted generally and/or implied by your explanations.

6. Results

Your thesis should report the results of your tests, along with the appropriate levels of confidence that you have in those results (e.g., confidence levels in statistical analyses, the number of observations that were available for testing your explanations, the quality of data, including coding used, etc.).

7. Conclusion

Your thesis should conclude with a discussion of the significance of your work, the limitations of your work, and its implications for further research.

The International Relations Major

The International Relations Major is an entirely separate major from the Politics major and has an entirely separate set of requirements. For information please go to www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics

Help for Students in Politics Classes

Tutoring for Politics Classes

Located in Weinstein Residence Hall and with hours that extend well into the evening, the **College Learning Center (Weinstein Residence Hall, 1st Floor, 998-8808)** offers a variety of services designed to help students realize their fullest academic potential, such as group study sessions in support of specific politics courses, individual review sessions in areas not covered by group sessions, and study skills workshops. There are two computer rooms—one equipped for language instruction and both connected to the Internet, including the World-Wide Web. In addition, the Center houses outposts of the Writing Center and of NYU Speaking Freely, and its staff can make referrals to other sources of help.

Henry & Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities

The Center (**31 West 4th Street**) facilitates equal access to the programs and activities of the College and NYU. Matters relating to students who visit the Center are strictly confidential. Services cover a wide range of disabling conditions. In addition to working with students who have mobility, visual, and hearing impairments, the Center assists a significant number of students with learning disabilities and many others with chronic impairments, such as diabetes, cancer, HIV infection, psychiatric illness, head trauma, and seizure disorders. The Moses Center is staffed by a group of specialists who have a wealth of experience in helping students obtain necessary academic adjustments and accommodations based upon

individual needs. In order to receive services from the Center, students must provide appropriate documentation.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is a place where one-on-one teaching and learning occur, where the work always focuses on writing. Experienced consultants will assist NYU students, faculty, and staff with their writing at any stage in their writing processes. We work with writers on essays, lab reports, personal statements, poems, stories, and other written texts. Writers may schedule one appointment per week, up to two weeks ahead of time, using our on-line scheduling system. A second weekly appointment is available on a walk-in basis. Appointments normally are 45 minutes in length.

The Writing Center is a part of NYU's Expository Writing Program. We are located at 411 Lafayette, 3rd floor. Our phone # is (212) 998-8866. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please go to: www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/writing_center.html .

Application for a Major or Minor in Politics

This form is for use by CAS Students ONLY.

Name: _____, _____ Date: _____
Last First MI

Declaring a MAJOR _____ Declaring a MINOR _____

NYU ID #: _____

Local Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____ / _____
mm yyyy

Majors are required to take at least two core courses and it is suggested that you take three. Please mark below which of these core courses you have taken and the grades you have received:

- Grade in V53.0100 (Political Theory) _____
- Grade in V53.0300 (Power and Politics in America) _____
- Grade in V53.0500 (Comparative Politics) _____
- Grade in V53.0700 (International Politics) _____

Please list any Politics faculty members whom you would like to have as your faculty advisor:

Overall GPA (estimated) _____

Are you interested in the honors program? _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Advisor's Signature _____

Application for Admission to the Politics Honors Major

1. Personal Information

Name: _____		
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>
NYU ID: N _____	Expected Date of Graduation: ____ / ____	Overall GPA: _____
	<i>mm</i> <i>yyyy</i>	
Are you currently participating in the CAS Scholars program? _____	Politics GPA: _____	

2. Campus Address

Street: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Telephone: ____ - ____ - _____	Email: _____	

3. Politics Courses Completed *(Completion/enrollment in Quantitative Methods and a seminar course are required for admission)*

	<i>Course</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		
6)		
7)		
8)		

4. The Politics Honors major requires the completion of an honors thesis, typically involving supervised independent research in an area of particular interest to the student. Please attach a page to this form describing the topic you wish to explore for the thesis and any classes you have taken or plan to take that will provide background or experience in your topic. Please be as specific as possible.

Application for Pi Sigma Alpha

Name: _____, _____ _____ Date: _____
Last First MI

NYU ID #: _____

Local Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (_____) - _____

Number of Credits Completed in Politics (you must have completed 12 credits): _____

Overall GPA (estimated): _____ GPA in Politics Courses: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____ / _____
mm yyyy

Please attach a \$30.00 check made out to *New York University* and deliver to:

Stephanie Nica
Department of Politics
19 West 4th Street, Room 202

If you have any questions, please contact: politics.undergrads@nyu.edu

FOR OFFICE USE:

Received payment _____

Application for Readings and Research

Name: _____, _____ Date: _____
Last First MI

NYU ID#: _____

Semester and Year Requesting Readings and Research: _____

GPA in Politics: _____

Number of Credits Earned in Politics: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____ / _____
mm yyyy

Please attach a one-page description of the project.

FOR THE FACULTY ADVISOR ONLY:

I support Mr./Ms. _____ application for 2 __ 4 __ credits of Readings and Research. I agree to supervise him/her on the project described.

Faculty Advisor:

Name _____
(Please Print)

Signature: _____
(Please Sign)

DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Internship in Politics: Application for Approval

Please note: Internship applications are due **September 30** (for fall semester internships) and **January 30** (for spring semester internships).

1. Personal Data:

Name: _____	NYU ID #: _____
Campus Address: _____	
Telephone: _____	Email: _____

2. Academic Standing:

Overall GPA: _____	Politics GPA: _____
Expected Graduation: _____ / _____	
mm	yyyy

3. About the Internship:

Employer Name: _____		
Street Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____	Fax: _____	
Contact Person: _____	Title: _____	
Contact Person Email: _____		

FOR INTERNSHIP SUPERVISOR ONLY:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR ONLY:

I support Mr./Ms. _____ application for 2__4__ credits of Internship. I agree to supervise him/her for the duration of this internship. At the end of the internship I will read and grade his/her Journal and assess whether or not academic credit must be granted.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Internship in Politics: Approval Letter for Internship Supervisor

Dear Designated Supervisor:

Thank you for accepting the responsibility to supervise our student _____ during his/her internship at your organization. Internships are a very important part of the education we provide to our majors at the Department of Politics at NYU. Through carefully selected internships we aim to offer to some of our best students the opportunity to work in and be a part of the activities of agencies, offices and organizations so that they can combine real life experience with the study of related problems in politics and political science.

Please take a few minutes to fill out this form, which is very important for assessing how effective this internship might be for our student. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at politics.undergrads@nyu.edu. Thank you for your time.

What is your position within this organization?

How closely will you work with our student?

He/she will work closely with me.

He/she will work in the office (agency, organization) but not with me.

I will meet him/her occasionally.

I will not work with him/her but I will supervise him/her anyway.

What kind of activities will the intern perform?

How many hours per week will she/he work?

6 Hours

8 hours

10 hours

12 hours

14 hours

How will you assess performance? Please Explain.

Supervisor's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to:

New York University, Department of Politics, 19 West 4th Street, 2nd Floor, 10012
Email: politics.undergrads@nyu.edu Tel: (212) 998-8500 Fax: (212) 995-4184

Internship in Politics: End of Internship Letter for Supervisor

This evaluation is confidential and must be faxed by the supervisor directly to the department.

Dear Designated Supervisor:

Thank you for taking your time to supervise our student _____ during his/her internship in your organization. Please take a few minutes to fill out this form, which is very important for our records and for assessing how effective this internship was for our student. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us: politics.undergrads@nyu.edu. Thank you.

How closely did you work with our student?

- He/she worked closely with me.
- He/she did work in the office, but not with me.
- I met with the student occasionally.
- I did not work with student, but I supervised him/her anyway.

What kind of activities did the intern perform?

How many hours per week did she/he work?

- 6 Hours
- 8 hours
- 10 hours
- 12 hours
- 14 hours

How would you assess his/her performance?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Not satisfactory

Please explain:

Supervisor's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to:

New York University, Department of Politics, 19 West 4th Street, 2nd Floor, 10012
Email: politics.undergrads@nyu.edu Tel: (212) 998-8500 Fax: (212) 995-4184