**Political Science program**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:** June 1

**Spring:** October 15

**International Students:**

**Fall:** May 1

**Spring**: September 15

**Summer:** n/a

**Minimum Total Hours:** 36

**Program Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 45.1001

**Dept. Code:** IGS

**Program (Major/College):** POL AS

**Approved:** 1969

**Concentrations:**

Africana Studies

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Department:** School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu/)

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The graduate program leading to the M.A. in Political Science is designed to offer advanced general instruction in Political Science. It prepares its graduates for positions of responsibility in the public and private sectors, as well as in research, teaching, and study at the doctoral level.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

Same as university plus:

* Undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution
* GRE required
* Three (3) letters of recommendation, preferably from an academic source
* A 500-word statement of academic interest
* Official transcripts
* Minimum GPA of 3.00
* Must have an undergraduate background in political science.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Total Minimum Hours: 36 credit hours

Common Core – 12 credit hours

Major Field or Concentration 9 credit hours

Electives – 9 credit hours minimum

Thesis/Non-Thesis – 6 credit hours

For instructional purposes, the graduate curriculum in Political Science has been divided into four fields:

Field 1 Comparative Politics (courses with a CPO prefix)

Field 2 International Relations (courses with an INR prefix)

Field 3 American Government (Courses with a PUP, POS, or URP prefix)

Field 4 Political Theory (courses with a POT prefix)

**Common Core Courses -12 credit hours**

POS 6735 Foundations of Political Inquiry (3)

**Disciplinary Seminar Requirements**

Select two:

POS 6045 Seminar in American Government (3)

POT 6007 Seminar in Political Theory (3)

INR 6007 Seminar in International Relations (3)

CPO 6091 Seminar in Comparative Politics (3)

**Required Research Methods Sequence**

Select one:

POS 6746 Quantitative Analysis I (3)

POS 6707 Qualitative Analysis (3)

**Students may either choose a Major Field of study, or the concentration in Africana Studies**

**Major field 9 credit hours**

In addition to the core course in major area, three additional courses in the core area are chosen from American

Government, Political Theory, International Relations, or Comparative Politics.

**Concentration in Africana Studies - (9 credit hours)**

AFA 6932: Topics in Africana Studies (3)

AFA 6120: Social Theory and Social Thought (3)

AFA 6108: Social Construction of Race and Racism (3)

**Electives - 9 credit hours minimum:**

Electives include, but are not limited to:

AFA 6207: African American Historiography

AFA 6805: African Historiography

AFA 6355: African American Community Research

AFA 6387: Seminar on Genocide and Human Rights

AFA 6932: Special Topics

AFA 6905: Independent Study

AFA 6910: Directed Research

CPO 5934: Selected Topics in Comparative Politics (3)

POS 6933: Selected Topics in Political Science (3)

Electives have to be approved by the Graduate Director. Other graduate courses may also be taken as electives, with approval by the Graduate Director.

**Thesis/Non Thesis - 6 hours minimum**

**Thesis**:

POS 6971 6 Thesis: Master’s

AFA 6971 6 Thesis: Master’s

Students must enroll in either or AFA 6971 (Africana Studies Concentration students)s for a minimum of 6 credit hours. In their thesis, students must provide new insight into a relevant topic in political science or international studies. As students approach the thesis stage, they need to compose a thesis committee consisting of a major professor, who must be a member of the Department of Government and International Affairs, and two readers. One of the two readers can be from another department, but that person must first be approved by the Graduate Director. The thesis committee must approve proposals before students embark on their projects. Students must prepare a written thesis and defend their work in a formal oral presentation before their committee.

**Non-Thesis**:

Elective 3 Structured course approved by the Graduate Director

And one of the following:

POS 6909 3 Independent Study (for students in a major field)

AFA 6905 3 Independent Study (for students in the Africana Studies Concentration)

Students who choose a non-thesis option will be required to complete an additional 6 hours of course work at the 6000 level.

The student is required to demonstrate competency by successfully completing a substantial literature review of approximately 50 pages in his or her major field, or in the Africana Studies Concentration.

**Comprehensive Examination**

For students in the thesis program, successful completion of the Thesis serves in lieu of the Comprehensive Exam. For students in the non-thesis program, the extensive literature review determines competency and serves as the equivalent of a comprehensive examination.

**Course Listings**

CPO 5934 Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 3

CPO 6091 Seminar in Comparative Politics 3

CPO 6077 Social Movements 3

INR 5012 Globalization 3

INR 5086 Issues in International Relations 3

INR 6007 Seminar in International Relations 3

INR 6036 Seminar in International Political Economy 3

INR 6107 American Foreign Policy 3

LAS 6933 Seminar in Latin American Studies 3

POS 5159 Urban Policy Analysis 3

POS 6045 Seminar in American Government and Politics 3

POS 6127 Issues in State Government and Politics 3

POS 6455 Political Parties and Interest Groups 3

POS 6707 Qualitative Analysis 3

POS 6746 Quantitative Analysis I 3

POS 6735 Foundations of Political Inquiry 3

POS 6909 Independent Study 1-3

POS 6919 Directed Research 1-19

POT 6007 Seminar in Political Theory 3

POS 6971 Thesis: Master’s 2-19

Students may take a maximum of 3 credit hours of Independent Study (POS 6909) and 3 credit hours of Directed Research (POS 6919)

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>