Overall Credit Hours: A major consists of at least 36 credits of Political Sciences courses (all classes with a 46 prefix). At least half (18 credits) must be taken at the 300 course level or higher. No more than 45 credits of Political Science courses may count toward the total 120 credits for graduation.

**Course Requirements** (5 classes / 15 credits)

1) **46.101 Introduction to American Politics.** This course is normally taken in the fall or spring semester of the Freshman Year. (Freshmen should take the designated majors only section if possible.)

2) **46.201 Introduction to Political Analysis.** This course examines the methods of political science research and claims to knowledge. It is normally taken during the sophomore year.

3) **46.301 Research Methods in Political Science.** This course focuses on understanding arguments grounded in numbers and data. The goal is to gain experience in generating accurate statistical claims and recognizing misleading ones.

4) **46.496 Practicum or 46.497 Practicum in the Law** provides 75-100 hours of practical experience in politics, government, or law. The 3 credit practicum will be graded satisfactory or unsatisfactory. With advanced arrangement, 3 credits of the Washington Center may count as this requirement (all other Center credits are FAHSS general electives). No more than one practicum may count toward the 120 credits required for graduation.

5) **Seminar.** Students select a 300 or 400 level Seminar, which is a small class of advanced students, focused on more intensive writing than usual classes. The topics of seminar courses will vary with the interests of department faculty. An alternative to a standard Seminar course is to select 46.401 Research Seminar in Political Science after prior discussion with a professor. This individualized course requires an extensive research paper. It is especially appropriate for Honors students. This course can be taken in conjunction with a regular (non-Seminar) course in the same or subsequent semester, working with that professor to produce a research project in addition to the normal work of that course.

In addition to these requirements (101, 201, 301, Practicum, and Seminar) majors take at least 7 other classes (21 credits) in Political Science for a total of at least 36 credits.

**Distribution Requirements**

Of all Political Science courses taken, at least 2 must fall into each of 3 broad areas:

1) American Politics, Government, and Policy
2) Law and Theory
3) Comparative and International Politics

Courses can include any 46 prefix class at any level (including seminars). The initial four required courses (101, 201, 301, and Practicum) do not count toward the distribution. Any given course may count in only one area of the distribution (even if it might be suitable for multiple areas).

**Courses Satisfying General Education Requirements**

Political Analysis satisfies the Ethics, Diversity, and Information Literacy Requirements. The Seminar or Practicum satisfy the Capstone Self-direction & Collaboration Requirement.