



# Certificate in Foundations of Political Theory

This certificate is a means of enhancing undergraduate education through a focused combination of courses, independent study, and program participation. Administered by the Political Science Department, the program is open to all Texas A&M University undergraduates, regardless of major.

If you are interested in gaining background for post-graduate studies in the law, social science, history, or political theory, or for a fulfilling career that builds on your analytical and expressive skills, this certificate program may be for you.

The program requires 18 hours of course work, including an introductory course in political theory and a capstone senior research course. It also requires frequent participation in program activities such as lectures and conferences. Participants in the certificate program may choose one of two areas of concentration: history of political theory, or analytic political theory.

Interested students are encouraged to enroll in the program as freshmen to avoid having to add extra hours to the degree program. Students are encouraged to meet with the undergraduate advisor as early as possible to plan their courses of study and to make sure that they have completed the appropriate prerequisite courses.

Successful completion of the program will be indicated on the student transcript. Each student will also receive a program certificate upon graduation from Texas A&M.

## **Summary of the Requirements for the Certificate**

- 18 credits -- Introduction to Political Theory (POLS 303) plus 4 upper division courses, including two required and two elective courses from one of the lists below, plus a capstone course (POLS 481)
- participation in program activities, documented at least four times
- foreign language training recommended but not required

## Course Requirements

1. Courses for the History of Political Theory Concentration (12 hrs.; starred courses are required):

\*POLS 349 (Early Political Thought)

\*POLS 350 (Modern Political Thought)

POLS 359 (American Political Thought)

POLS 364 (Global Political Thought)

POLS 455 (Traditions of Political Theory)

POLS 461 (Jurisprudence)

HIST 420 (European Intellectual History from the Enlightenment to 1900)

HIST 421 (European Intellectual History in the Twentieth Century)

COMM 301 (Rhetoric in Western Thought)

COMM 327 (American Oratory)

ENGL 353 (History of Rhetoric)

PHIL 332 (Social and Political Philosophy)

PHIL 410 (Classical Philosophy)

PHIL 411 (Medieval Philosophy)

PHIL 413 (Modern Philosophy)

PHIL 414 (Nineteenth Century Philosophy)

PHIL 415 (American Philosophy)

ENGL 308 (History of Literary Criticism)

Variable topics courses, such as POLS 306, POLS 485, POLS 489, POLS 497, and similar courses in other disciplines may qualify, when focused specifically on the history of political theory or topics of significant substance or importance. Students who plan to apply such a course toward the above requirements should first determine, by consulting with an Undergraduate Advisor in the Political Science Department, that the course would be accepted toward the Certificate.

2. Courses for the Analytic Political Theory Concentration (12 hrs.; starred courses are required):

\*POLS 369 (Theories of Democracy)

\*POLS 454 (Contemporary Political Ideas)

POLS 364 (Global Political Thought)

POLS 353 (Constitutional Rights and Liberties)

POLS 359 (American Political Thought)

POLS 455 (Traditions of Political Theory)

POLS 462 (Women and the Law)

HIST 420 (European Intellectual History from the Enlightenment to 1900)

HIST 421 (European Intellectual History in the Twentieth Century)

COMM 301 (Rhetoric in Western Thought)

COMM 327 (American Oratory)

ENGL 354 (Modern Rhetorical Theory)

ENGL 401 (Critical Theory and Practice)

PHIL 332 (Social and Political Philosophy)

PHIL 307 (Philosophy of the Social Sciences)

PHIL 419 (Current Continental Philosophy)

SOCI 430 (Contemporary Sociological Theory)

Variable topics courses, such as POLS 306, POLS 485, POLS 489, POLS 497, and similar courses in other disciplines may qualify, when focused specifically on the analysis of political theory or topics of significant substance or importance. Students who plan to apply such a course toward the above requirements should first determine, by consulting with an Undergraduate Advisor in the Political Science Department, that the course would be accepted toward the Certificate.

## **Capstone Research Experience (3 credit hours)**

The capstone course is POLS 481 Senior Research Seminar. Since POLS481 is a variable content course, the student must be careful to choose a section for which the focus will be an original research paper independently developed by the student that explores historical or analytical political theory. (The student should consult with an academic advisor in Political Science to make certain that a particular section of POLS 481 will apply for this certificate program.)

## **Conference and Lecture Participation Requirement:**

Students are required to attend at least four of the lectures and/or conferences offered by the Program in Political Theory. Lectures are offered at least three times per semester, and conferences at least once per year. Students may choose any four of the lectures to fulfill this requirement, but are advised to start early. Certification that a student has attended a lecture requires two steps: (1) signing the sign-up sheet at the lecture site and (2) turning in a one-page, typed summary of the lecture to the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) in the Department of Political Science. The summary must be filed with the UPO within fourteen days after the lecture.

## **Admission Requirements**

Admission requirements are identical to those listed under the Bachelor degree in the Texas A&M University undergraduate catalog.

Although language training is not required for certification, successful completion of some senior research experience topics may depend on appropriate linguistic skills. Students are encouraged to acquire these skills early in their academic careers, and to meet with political theory faculty for advice on these matters.

Students interested in the Certificate should make an appointment with an academic advisor in the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) in the Department of Political Science, Allen Building, Room 2024.

## Steps to Receive the Certificate in Foundations of Political Theory

1. Apply for the program as early as your freshman year or first year at Texas A&M University. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Advising in the Department of Political Science.
2. Plan ahead to schedule appropriate classes. You are responsible for acquiring the specific course work. UPO advisors are available to assist you in planning a program for completing Certificate requirements.
3. File for the Certificate during your semester of graduation. Download the document from <http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/undergrad/certificate/ftp> or obtain a copy from the UPO, 2024 Allen Building. Submit the completed form to the UPO. You will receive the Certificate in six to eight weeks after graduation.

**Political Science Department Advisor:**

**Dr. Michael Balog, Allen Bldg, Rm 2023, 862-1890**