

Political Science & International Relations

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What is Political Science?

The Political Science major is concerned with the theory and practice of politics and the analysis of political systems and political behavior. Political Scientists study to reveal the relationships underlying political events and conditions. The undergraduate curriculum of the Department of Political Science is structured to develop an understanding of the dynamics and institutions of political life, to learn the methods of empirical research and analysis, and to educate a prepared citizen for the society.

Political Science at Kyung Hee

The oldest of its kind in Korea, the Department of Political Science at Kyung Hee University accepted its first students in 1955. Since then, the department has become a leading faculty of political science in Korea, training graduates who have become leaders in both the public and private sectors. The department aims to educate students in the basic theories and practices of politics, both domestic and international, so as to prepare them to take on leading positions and roles in the public sector. As such the curriculum focuses on teaching the students analytical tools and skills which will enable them to understand and analyze politics and political behavior as well as the institutions and processes through which public policy is formed in different political systems. The curriculum is divided into four subfields: political thoughts and theory, comparative politics, international relations, and Korean politics.

Currently, there are 8 faculty members and some 50 undergraduate students in the department. The department runs a special program for those students preparing to work for the citizen sphere.

Degree Requirements

The requirements for the intensive single major track include:

- 19 courses in Political Science courses (57 credits): 7 required courses (21 credits) and 12 elective courses (36 credits).
- a graduation thesis (this may be waived if a certain level of English proficiency is approved).

The requirements for the dual-major track include:

- 13 courses (39 credits) in Political Science including 7 required courses (21 credits) and 6 elective courses (18 credits).
- a graduation thesis (this may be waived if a certain level of English proficiency is approved).

Courses

Year 1

Introduction to Political Science, Introduction to Public Administration, Introduction to Sociology, Introduction to Law, Logic and Thought

Year 2

Comparative Politics, Western Political Thoughts, Korean Politics, International Relations, Korean Diplomatic History, Introduction to the Study of Political History, Western Diplomatic History, Political Process, Western Political Thought in the 19th Century

Year 3

Methodology of Political Research, Foreign Policy Analysis, Women and Politics, Citizen and Politics, Introduction to Political Economy, Public Opinion and Politics, Japanese Politics, International Relations in East Asia, Political Development

Year 4

Korean Political Thought, International Organization, Contemporary Political Theory, American Politics, Current Issues of International Relations, Oriental Political Thought, Political Ideology, Political Philosophy

Careers and Graduate Destinations

The vast majority of the graduates enter public service upon graduation, including foreign service, political parties, law, and the media, while a large number also join the private sector. In particular, not a few graduates work for NGO affiliations. Some students who want to study political science deeply can enter graduate programs for the M.A. degree or Ph.D. degree. It is noticeable that some graduates stay at foreign universities around the world.

Faculty

Seung-Hyun Paek, Ph.D. University of Louisiana, 1989, Professor, Political Philosophy, shbaek@khu.ac.kr

Soung-Ho Lim, Ph.D. M.I.T., 1995, Professor, Comparative Politics, limsh@khu.ac.kr

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Jong-pil Chung, Ph.D. Syracuse University, 2005, Assistant Professor, Government and Politics of China, jongpil@khu.ac.kr

Jung-kun Seo, University of Texas, Austin, 2007, Assistant Professor, Comparative Politics, American Politics, seojk@khu.ac.kr