

## What will my schedule look like?

American Politics Majors will take 13 courses during their first, second, and third class years. While many schedules differ, here is a typical schedule.

### YEARLING YEAR

Fall Term	Spring Term
<b>SS252</b> (Advanced AP)	Science 3
LX203	LX204
EV203	MA206
PY201	<b>Research Methods</b>
SS201	<b>Political Thought</b>

### COW YEAR

Core Engineering	Core Engineering
<b>Political Development</b>	<b>Comparative Politics</b>
PL300	HI302
CY305	SS307
<b>AP Elective #1</b>	<b>AP Elective #2</b>

### FIRSTIE YEAR

Core Engineering	LW403
<b>Public Policymaking</b>	<b>AP Elective #3</b>
MX400	<b>AP Elective #4</b>
<b>IA Elective</b>	<b>CSC #2</b>
<b>CSC #1</b>	<b>CSC #3</b>

## What if I want even more AP?

The American Politics Thesis Program offers motivated cadets a chance to pursue original research on a topic of their own choosing.

In addition to completing the course requirements listed above, each thesis student will enroll in one additional thesis preparation course in each semester of their Firstie year.

With the assistance and oversight of their selected faculty advisor, each thesis student will produce a written thesis and present their work during Projects Day.

## Your Course of Study

**The AP Major consists of: 5 "Toolbox" Courses, 4 AP courses, 1 International Affairs course, and 3 Complementary Support Courses.**

### Toolbox Courses

**SS360 Research Methods:** An introduction to the methods and techniques of research in contemporary political science.

**SS366 Comparative Politics:** Analyzes the sources of stability or instability in political regimes and examines the conditions that promote either democracy or dictatorship.

**SS376 American Political Development:** explores patterns in the public policy process and examines historical processes to analyze American political institutions and policy outcomes.

**SS386 Political Thought:** A comparative political philosophy course examining the philosophical foundations of Western liberal democracy and political Islam, and associated policy implications.

**SS480 Public Policymaking:** The AP capstone course, integrating and synthesizing prior study and culminating in a final project focused on a current public policy issue.

### Choose Four AP Courses

SS370	MASS MEDIA & AMERICAN POLITICS
SS373	THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
SS379	LEGISLATIVE POLITICS
SS392	THE POLITICS OF RACE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY
SS464	HOMELAND SECURITY
SS465	TERRORISM: NEW CHALLENGES
SS466	ADVANCED TERRORISM STUDIES
SS468	CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS
SS472	THE AMERICAN STATE & THE SOLDIER
SS473	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
SS481	THE POLITICS OF DEFENSE POLICY
SS490A	COLLOQUIUM IN AMERICAN POLITICS
SS493	SENIOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN POLITICS

### Choose One IA Course

### Choose Three Complementary Support Courses from the Following Fields

American Studies	Methods
Criminal Justice	Policy
Development	Political Behavior
Economics	Political Theory
Finance	Security Studies
Leadership and Management	Strategy and
Law and Politics	Statecraft



"When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen ..."

**-George Washington**



### Want more information?

Please contact the American Politics Counselor:

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## What is American Politics?

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**American Politics majors understand their role in the American system of government as citizens and officers**

➤ **Political Institutions:** learn about the central theories in the field regarding the major formal and informal institutions in our government, how they developed, and how they currently function.

➤ **Public Policy:** explore the process of policy formulation—understanding the outcomes of the political process and evaluating the character and consequences of domestic and foreign policies.

➤ **Strategy:** explore the formulation of defense policy and how our nation determines its interests and values-- and equally important-- the methods the government employs to protect these interests and values.

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## What can I do with an AP Major?

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In the Army, an AP major will provide you the strategic, political, cultural, and policy-making knowledge that Army leaders at all levels from Platoon Leader to Theater Commander need to succeed on the contemporary battlefield.

Graduates are well prepared to serve in interesting assignments including Special Forces, Strategic Intelligence, PSYOPS/Civil Affairs, Foreign Area Officer, Strategic Planner, Embassy Attaché, Congressional Liaison, White House Fellow, and more.

AP prepares you to gain acceptance to various top graduate school programs (MPP/MPA, Ph.D., Law, or MBA). It also serves as effective preparation for federal or state government jobs, running for office, working for think-tanks or lobbyist groups, and a myriad of corporate positions in the private sector.

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## Why Major in American Politics?

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**American Politics is relevant to your career as an Army officer and beyond. Create a course of study tailored to your specific interests with the help of our extraordinary faculty**

**Relevant:** An understanding of American Government, U.S. public policy and the political decision making process is key to your success as an Army officer in the years to come. In our major, you will understand how the world works by studying history, law, economics, media, politics, civil society, foreign policy, civil-military relations, and more.

**Engaging:** The AP curriculum is intellectually rigorous and investigates problems to which there are no certain solutions. It will test the limits of your ability to think critically as well as creatively.

**Flexible:** There are only 5 required courses. You get to pick your other 8 courses from a large variety of electives from almost every academic department. Build the curriculum that fits your individual interests.

**Well Resourced:** Studying American Politics provides you the opportunity to interact with a number of expert guest speakers, travel on exciting trip sections, and the chance to compete for AIADs across the U.S. and the world. Recent AIAD locations include: The White House, Congress, Pentagon, DIA, NSC, NYPD Joint Terrorism Task force, and many more!



**CDT Lagattuta and SECDEF Mattis during his AIAD serving in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.**



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## Domestic Affairs Forum

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DAF is the premier club of the American Politics program and truly connects the classroom to American society! The Domestic Affairs Forum seeks to educate cadets about American politics, public policy, government, public leadership, and grand strategy through direct exposure to a variety of public leaders and institutions at the local, state and federal levels while inspiring cadets to engage in a lifetime of public service. DAF cadets learn about domestic politics and government through a variety of experiences including round tables, mentorship programs, panel discussions, and numerous trip sections across North America.

**Join DAF today! Email CDT Alexander Dolan ([Alexander.Dolan@westpoint.edu](mailto:Alexander.Dolan@westpoint.edu)) for more information.**



**DAF Cadets tour the NBC Nightly News set during a trip section to New York City.**