Why Politics at Brandeis?

Brandeis offers students the opportunity to study politics and law from a variety of perspectives. The core curriculum focuses on American and comparative government, international relations, and political theory.

Curriculum Overview

The major requires nine courses, including one departmental seminar and at least one course in each of the following subfields:

- American government
- Comparative government
- International relations
- Political theory

At least five of the nine courses must be taken with politics faculty. The department encourages majors to take introductory before advanced courses, but it is not required. Up to four courses may be transferred to the politics major from study abroad and Washington semester programs.

The minor in politics requires five courses:

- At least one introductory politics course (POL 10a, 11b, 14b, or 15a)
- At least one departmental seminar
- At least one course in each of two of the department’s subfields listed above

A minimum of four of the five courses required for the minor must be taught by politics faculty.

Some exciting features:

- Small seminars that address issues of government and politics in the United States and around the world
- Independent study courses on topics students choose in consultation with department faculty
- Departmental honors program for students who choose to complete a thesis in their senior year under the direction of a thesis adviser

Other Opportunities

The undergraduate politics program offers exceptional students the opportunity to earn a BA and MA simultaneously. The combined BA/MA program requires thirty-eight courses—six beyond the thirty-two required for the major—including two graduate field seminars, two upper-level politics courses, and a master’s project course (POL 350a and b).
Career and Education Opportunities

The undergraduate curriculum is designed to prepare students for careers in governmental and nongovernmental public service, policy analysis, journalism, law, and business, as well as for postgraduate work in political science.

Students also go on to top law and graduate schools such as Harvard, Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, and the University of California at Berkeley.

Faculty

Following is a list of department faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Steven Burg, chair**
  Comparative politics, ethnic politics, East European politics, conflict resolution

- **Jeffrey Abramson**
  Political theory, constitutional law, media and politics

- **Robert Art**
  International relations, U.S. foreign policy

- **Seyom Brown**
  International relations, world politics

- **Shai Feldman**
  International relations, Middle East politics

- **Mari Fitzduff**
  Conflict resolution, coexistence

- **Donald Hindley**
  Comparative politics, Southeast Asian and Latin American politics

- **Jytte Klausen**
  Comparative politics, Western Europe, political economy of advanced industrial societies

- **Daniel Kryder, graduate director**
  American political development

- **Martin Levin**
  American politics, politics of administration

- **George Ross**
  French and European politics

- **Ralph Thaxton, chair, East Asian studies**
  Comparative politics, East Asia, China, comparative revolutions, comparative democratic movements

- **Eva Thorne**
  International political economy, international institutions and Third World development, Latin American politics

- **Peter Woll, undergraduate advising head**
  American politics and government, administrative law, Congress

- **Bernard Yack, chair, History of Ideas**
  Political theory, history of political thought, nationalism, cultural pluralism