

Department of Political Science

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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 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 sub-fields: political thought and theory, comparative politics, international relations, and Korean politics.

Currently, there are 11 faculty members and some 250 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 Thought, 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, and other graduates go on to work for NGO affiliations. Some students wish to further their study in political science and enter graduate programs for the M.A. degree or Ph.D. degree and some graduates stay at foreign universities around the world.

Faculty

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

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

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Jungkun Seo, Ph.D. University of Texas, Austin, 2007, Associate Professor, American Politics, seojk@khu.ac.kr

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