

AMERICAN POLITICS FIELD CURRICULUM

The American Politics field explores the theory and practice of politics in the United States. It encompasses governing institutions like Congress and the presidency, electoral behavior like voting and participation, as well as vital questions related to race, ethnicity, and gender, interest groups and lobbying, public opinion, media effects, the bureaucracy, American political development and on and on.

Beyond its substantive breadth, American Politics scholarship is also noteworthy for its theoretical and methodological diversity. Familiar approaches span a vast analytical landscape, from rational choice models to detailed historical analysis, randomized experiments to survey research, qualitative case studies to large n statistics. Understanding and honing research skills is therefore integral for anyone engaging the AP literature, not to mention contributing to it.

UC Irvine's five-course American Politics curriculum introduces students to these various substantive foci and methodological tools, with the primary objective of preparing students to execute sophisticated original research about American Politics. So although the requirements below are purposefully open-ended, students should not merely satisfy them serendipitously; instead, students should fashion a curriculum befitting their own substantive interests and research needs.

1. All AP students must take the following "required course"...

REQUIRED COURSE

Research Design

2. ...plus at least two of three AP "core courses"...

CORE COURSES

American Politics Field Seminar
US in Comparative Context
Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

3. ...plus at least two additional AP "elective courses," including but not limited to...

ELECTIVE COURSES

American Political Development
Courts
Legislative Institutions
Multiculturalism

US Ethnic Politics
Political Participation
Political Psychology
Postwar Presidents

Public Opinion
State & Local Politics
Elections and Voting Behavior
US Presidency

Note: This elective course list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Courses with a comparative bent, for example, can satisfy this requirement if there is also substantial focus on the United States. As always, the ultimate decision will reside with the AP Field Coordinator.