

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

## Student Learning Outcomes for the B.A. in Political Science

Students completing the B.A. major will be able to:

1. *Political Institutions and Structures*: including regimes, governments, legislatures, courts, bureaucracies, parties, interest groups, security forces, elites, regional and international political and economic organizations, systems, etc.
  - a. Descriptive: By the end of the Political Science program, students should have fundamental factual knowledge of key political institutions and structures at international, regional, national, and subnational levels.
  - b. Analytic: Students should be able to reason about, analyze, conceptualize, interpret, critically evaluate, and compare and contrast key political institutions and structures. Students should understand how institutions shape political choices, policies and laws.
2. *Political Processes, Behavior, and Ideas*: processes include the exercise of power, representation, collective action, conflict, strategic interaction, etc; behaviors include decision-making, participation, voting, violence, etc; ideas may include opinions, norms, beliefs, ideologies, philosophies, etc.
  - a. Descriptive: By the end of the Political Science program, students should be able to identify, define and describe key political processes, behaviors, and the ideas held by political actors.
  - b. Analytic: Students should be able to reason about, analyze, conceptualize, interpret, critically evaluate, and compare and contrast, basic political processes, behaviors and ideas. Students should understand motivations for these behaviors and sources of political ideas and values.
3. *Political Contexts and Cultures*: relevance of political institutions and structures/processes, behavior, discourses, and values to global, regional, subregional and national contexts.
  - a. Descriptive: By the end of the Political Science program, students should have factual familiarity with political systems and cultures different from their own.
  - b. Analytic: Students should be able to reason about, analyze, conceptualize, interpret, critically evaluate, and compare and contrast political systems and cultures different than their own. Students should understand how contexts and cultures shape process, values and institutional differences.

