# Government Major Planning for First Years

## Suggested Courses | Notes
--- | ---
**First Year**  
Introduction to American Politics (GOVT 103)  
Introduction to Comparative Politics (GOVT 105)  
Introduction to International Politics (GOVT 108)  
Students wishing to major in Government should take two of the three 100-level introductory courses to the political science subfields.  
One of the courses should be the Writing Intensive version of the course. Writing Intensive sections are designated by a “WI” before the name of the course.

**Sophomore Year**  
GOVT 103, GOVT 105, or GOVT 108  
Introduction to Political Theory (GOVT 206)  
Research Seminar (GOVT 290, 291, 292 or293)  
In addition to completing the remaining 100-level introductory course, students should take the 200-level introduction to the political theory subfield. Again, one of the four introductions to the subfields must be taken in a Writing Intensive section.  
After completion of the introductory courses, and before proceeding to upper division courses, students should take one of the Research Seminars. Ideally, this course will be taken during the spring of sophomore year or the fall of junior year.

**Junior Year**  
Research Seminar (if not already completed)  
Two government electives  
During the junior year, students begin taking upper division elective courses. A total of four elective courses are required for the major.  
Government majors are strongly encouraged to participate in a semester abroad or off-campus program during the junior year. In choosing government electives, students should consider courses that will prepare them for their off-campus experience. For example, a student wishing to study in London or Denmark should consider taking the European Politics course.

**Senior Year**  
Two government electives  
Senior Year Experiences  
SYE: Independent Study  
SYE: Internship  
SYE: Honors Thesis  
During the senior year, majors will complete their remaining elective courses.  
Though not required, the department offers majors several options for Senior Year Experiences, including independent study with a faculty member, a workplace experience relevant to the major or a substantial research project culminating in an honors thesis. The SYE courses count toward the four elective courses required for the major.

## Additional Guidelines
- No more than four out of the nine required courses may be in any given subfield.
- At least seven courses (including 103, 105, 108, and 290) must be taken on campus.
- No more than fourteen government credits may be counted toward your degree.
- Students may complete the stand-alone government major or elect a major that combines government courses with courses in African studies, Asian studies, Canadian studies or Environmental Studies. For information about these majors, refer to the University Catalog or the Government Department website.