Recommended First Quarter Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower division POL course, except POL 51^</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Level Writing Course (ELWR)^ or</td>
<td>4-4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Division College English Composition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language*</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Course or First Year Seminar</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 - 15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alternative Courses**

- Additional GE Course if Foreign Language has been met with AP/IB or exam score. 3-4
- Students should not take GE or major courses with Writing Experience (WE) until ELWR is satisfied.
- Some POL faculty typically offer FYS.

Explore First Year Seminars: [https://fys.ucdavis.edu/](https://fys.ucdavis.edu/)

First Quarter Schedule Notes:

- If a student does not register for any POL courses that is 100% okay! The major is average sized and can be completed in 4 years if a student does not take any courses towards the major their first couple quarters.
- Students should not take POL 051 their first quarter, even if it is the only POL course with open seats. We strongly advise students to wait until their second/third quarter to take the course. Students have shared that taking an introductory POL course AND/OR STA 13/POL12Y prior to taking POL 051 has improved their comprehension/performance.
- It is recommended student take no more than 2 POL courses a quarter – reading and writing can add up. We encourage a balanced schedule.
- You might not get courses you want, but you will get a good schedule that will work towards graduation requirements.

Placement Exams

**Recommended**

- **Foreign Language**: All students pursuing an A.B. degree in the College of Letters and Science complete a Foreign Language through the 15-unit level (For example: through SPA 003 or above.) Please see the UC Davis Language Center website for details on course placement or proficiency exams if you have familiarity with a language other than English.

**Not Required**

- **Chemistry**: The Political Science major does not require the Chemistry Placement Exam. If you plan to take Chemistry courses, be sure to review placement requirements prior to enrollment.
- **Computer Science**: The Political Science major does not require the Computer Science Placement Exam. If you plan to take Computer Science courses, be sure to review placement requirements prior to enrollment.
- **Math**: The Political Science major does not require the Math Placement Exam. If you plan to take Math courses, be sure to review placement requirements prior to enrollment.

Recommended First Year Goals

- Many POL students pursue double majors and/or minors – find and take courses you are interested in outside of the major. Many courses that may complement and even enhance your knowledge of Political Science can be found outside of the POL department.
- Encourage intellectual exploration.
- Work towards your University/College requirements.
- Ensure a good transition from HS to college. Don’t overload courses, consider getting involved on campus. Check-in with yourself during first quarter to assess how you are doing- make changes for upcoming terms if needed.
**Additional information:**

POL majors will take upper division courses in three fields of Political Science, and lower division introduction courses align with these fields: American, Comparative, International Relations, and Theory. Keep this in mind when you do begin taking Upper Division courses.