

WHAT CLASSES TO TAKE WHILE ABROAD

If a course on politics in the country or region of the world the student will be visiting is offered by the Department, the student should consider taking the course here before leaving (to become a more astute observer of politics) or abroad (to learn about politics from local sources). Keep in mind that courses taken abroad cannot duplicate work completed at UCSD.

Some study centers provide students with stronger political science training than others. In this situation, students should consider reducing work in political science at the foreign study center, and concentrating instead on the academic fields in which the study center excels. (Political Science majors should prepare for this before leaving UCSD by taking upper division political science courses as sophomores if they must graduate within four years).

Although students can transfer as many as six courses toward meeting the requirements for the major from outside UCSD, the Department does not encourage students to try to complete half of the upper division course work for the major abroad. We recommend planning for a maximum of three to four courses transferred to the major. Study abroad can provide students who wish to go on to graduate school in political science with fluency in a foreign language and with commitment to research particular problems or regions of the world. But, students who wish to go on to graduate school will best be served by completing more than half of their upper division courses in the United States.

Courses taken abroad which are applied to the Political Science major cannot be taken pass/not pass. Students must also earn at least a C- in the course for it to count toward the major or minor.

Students do not need to limit their courses to subjects that duplicate courses taught at UCSD. The following general guidelines should help students select and evaluate courses to be transferred to the major:

- To be considered toward the major or minor, courses taken abroad must transfer as a minimum of four units at UCSD. Courses less than four units will not be considered.
- Courses must not duplicate work completed at UCSD. This is most commonly a problem with introductory, survey courses in international relations and comparative politics. In such cases, if the courses taken abroad cover the same material as political science 11 or 12, students may elect to have the course transfer in lieu of one of these. Students must still take one of the three lower division courses in residence at UCSD.
- Many courses taken abroad are about politics, but are not political science courses. Courses transferred to the major or minor must explicitly include an organizing conceptual or theoretical framework for analysis, or explicitly introduce students to a range of theoretical options, as part of the course material.

- Courses that transfer to the major must be analytic, not historical narratives nor journalistic treatment of current events.
- To transfer to the major or minor, courses must involve as much work in political science as UCSD upper division political science courses. Normally, this means a mid-term and final exam and/or a course paper, and on average at least four books or their equivalent required reading. Students need to be prepared to provide supporting evidence of their claim that the course was equivalent to one of our upper division courses.
 - When given the option of writing an essay or taking an oral exam, students should complete written work that would strengthen the case for the political science content of the course. In addition, given a choice, students should direct their written work toward political science rather than history or economics or sociology.
 - Generally, courses taken abroad in business or business and politics, law or international law, organizational theory, and national culture and sociology ("Culture and Society of X") have relatively little political science content and are difficult to accept for the major. Political theory courses which require students to read original theory texts transfer relatively easily and are preferable to courses which survey philosophy of ideas. Courses on "Politics of France, Spain, etc." are usually transferable provided that these are not just current events courses. International relations courses must extend students beyond the material in Political Science 12. Many other kinds of course have transferred. Students should discuss prospects for specific courses with the faculty advisor.
 - Remember that universities are structured quite differently in other countries. Students' responsibilities may be more ambiguously defined. Faculty may be more flexible in their attitudes toward attendance. Syllabi may not be available. Readings may not look like our readings. Administrative offices may be very decentralized. This does not necessarily detract from the intellectual, academic value of the experience. But it may limit the amount of work that you can transfer toward the major. To assure maximum possible transferability of courses, students should take academic responsibilities abroad seriously, remembering that however different their system is, students will be expecting credit in the UC system.

All classes taken on the UC Education Abroad Program are listed individually with their accompanying grades on your UCSD transcript. The courses are UC approved courses and count toward your 180 unit requirement for graduation; however, **The Political Science Department has the final authority** to determine how the coursework is used to fulfill specific Political Science requirements. (UCSD Opportunity Abroad Program courses are also listed individually on your transcript with the number of transfer units granted for each course.)