

# Collection Subject Statement: Political Science

**Last Reviewed:** April 2025

The Political Science collections at the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System (ULS) can be found across ULS locations including Hanley Library, Hillman Library, Millstein Library, Music Library, Owen Library, and Thomas Blvd Library. The collections support cross-disciplinary research and provide access to materials that intersect with other areas such as Area Studies; Communication; Criminal Justice; Economics; Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; History; Latin American Studies; Law; and Sociology.

## **Purpose and Audience**

The purpose of the collections is to support the academic, research, and educational needs of students, faculty, and researchers within the Political Science departments across the University system.

The primary audience for the collections includes undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and academic researchers from the diverse subfields within Political Science. The Pittsburgh campus offers Masters and PhD degrees in Political Science. The primary fields of study are American Politics, Comparative Politics (with emphasis on European and Latin American Politics), Political Theory, and World Politics.

The Greensburg, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses offer undergraduate majors in Political Science. The Bradford campus offers an undergraduate major in History-Political Science. The Johnstown campus offers The American Democracy Scholars Certificate for majors and non-majors that combines theory and civic discourse to increase understanding and inform civic action to sustain democracy, with a focus on constitutional ideals, principles, and institutions.

On the Pittsburgh campus, the Political Science Department partners with interdisciplinary programs and centers including the University Center for International Studies (UCIS); Asian Studies Center; Center for African Studies; Center for Latin American Studies; the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES); and the European Studies Center.

## **Guiding Principles and Areas of Focus**

The Political Science collections offer a wide range of materials that support the curriculum. The research areas of faculty and graduate students also influence the strategy for the collections. New acquisitions in print and electronic format are informed by thoughtful review and selection of materials, with additional items acquired upon request for research and teaching purposes. Materials are selected based on their academic quality, relevance to the curriculum, and contributions to the field of Political

Science. The materials in the Political Science collections are intended to represent diverse perspectives, populations, and methodologies.

### **Scope**

Most of the collection is English language. Items in other languages may be purchased upon request or added if received as donations. The primary geographic focus for the collections is on materials about the United States; North, West, and Southern Europe; and Latin America. Materials are also collected for Eastern and Southeast Asia; the Middle East; and Northern Africa.

Comprehensive resources on theory, research, and practice in the form of scholarly monographs are prioritized. eBook format is used for most new acquisitions. Print format is acquired for specific use cases and upon request. Priority is given to current publications. Older imprints are collected selectively, usually as replacements for classic works, or upon request. Textbooks are acquired upon request. The collections include a wide selection of peer-reviewed journals and trade publications in both print (for historic collections) and electronic formats (for current subscriptions).

### **Library of Congress Classification**

H (Social Sciences)

- **HJ:** Public finance
- **HX:** Socialism. Communism. Anarchism.

J (Political Science)

- **J:** General legislative and executive papers
- **JA:** General works
- **JC:** Political theory
- **JF:** Political institutions and public administration (general)
- **JJ:** Political institutions and public administration (North America)
- **JK:** Political institutions and public administration (United States)
- **JL:** Political institutions and public administration (Canada, etc.)
- **JN:** Political institutions and public administration (Europe)
- **JQ:** Political institutions and public administration (Asia, Australia, Africa, Pacific area, etc.).
- **JS:** Local government. Municipal government.
- **JV:** Colonies and colonization. Emigration and immigration. International migration.
- **JX:** International law
- **JZ:** International relations

### **Connections & Collaborations**

The ULS collaborates with other institutions and consortia to acquire specialized materials that support research, teaching, and learning in the subject of Political Science, particularly in areas where shared resources improve accessibility to rare or costly materials. Regionally and nationally, the ULS participates in several consortia for

collection development (EAST, Hathi Trust, CRL) and resource sharing (PALCI EZBorrow, OCLC Interlibrary Loan, RapidILL) that shape strategy for the Political Science collections.

### **Subject Experts**

- Bradford contact: Jenelle Jensen ([jme26@pitt.edu](mailto:jme26@pitt.edu))
- Greensburg contact: Kelly Safin ([kelly.safin@pitt.edu](mailto:kelly.safin@pitt.edu))
- Johnstown contact: David Kupas ([dmk24@pitt.edu](mailto:dmk24@pitt.edu))
- Pittsburgh contact: Chris Lemery ([clemery@pitt.edu](mailto:clemery@pitt.edu))

### **Sources of Information**

<https://www.polisci.pitt.edu/>

<https://www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/history-political-science-ba>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/academics/majors-programs/social-sciences/political-science>

<https://www.johnstown.pitt.edu/american-democracy-scholar-certificate>

<https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/academics/degree-finder/political-science>