

POLITICAL SCIENCES

At the end of this lesson, students are going to learn:

- What is meant by political sciences?
- What are its main subfields?
- Which topics or problems political sciences are working on or solving?
- What are the main aims of political studies?
- Who are the famous names in this field?
- What are the main methods used in political studies?
- What relation do political sciences have with language studies?

Definition

It is a social science concerned with the study of the state, nation, government, politics and policies of the government. Politics is defined as "the actions in obtaining and wielding power in public life and having the ability to shape judgments that have national or societal repercussions." The scientific study of politics is known as political science. It examines political behavior, political ideas, and political systems of government as well as the laws and constitutions that go along with them.

The term "political science" was not always distinguished from political philosophy, and the modern discipline has a clear set of antecedents including also moral philosophy, political economy, and political theology. The designation "political scientist" is commonly used to denote someone with a doctorate or master's degree in the field.

Disciplines of Political Sciences :

- It is commonly divided into distinct sub-disciplines which together constitute the field: Political theory; Political philosophy; Political ideology; Policy studies; Political economy; Comparative politics; Public administration; International relations; Public law.

Which topics or problems political sciences are working on or solving?

- It deals extensively with the theory and practice of politics, and the analysis of political systems, political behaviours and political culture.
- Political Scientists are engaged in revealing the relationships underlying political events and their conditions, and from these revelations attempt to constitute principles about the way the world of politics work.

What are the main aims of political studies?

- Political science measures the success of governance and specific policies by examining many factors, including stability, justice peace and public health,
- It focuses on the theory and practice of government and politics at the local, state, national, and international levels.
- Some political scientists seek to advance positive theses (which attempt to describe how things are, as opposed to how they should be) by analyzing politics; others advance normative theses, such as by making specific policy recommendations.
- Political scientists are dedicated to developing an understanding of institutions, practices, and relations that constitute public life and modes of inquiry that promote citizenship.
- Political science provides analysis and predictions about political and governmental issues.
- Political scientists examine the processes, systems and political dynamics of countries and regions of the world, often to raise public awareness or to influence specific governments.

Who are the famous names in this field?

- **Harold Joseph Laski**, The Man Who Popularized Trade Unions in Britain
- **Kristian Skrede Gleditsch**, One of Norwegian's Greatest Thinkers of All Time
- **Arnold Brecht**, Author of Political Theory
- **John Mearsheimer**, The Foremost Expert in International Relations
- **Axel Brusewitz** , The Man Who Wrote A Constitution For Sweden
- **Henry Abraham** , American scholar on the judiciary and constitutional law
- **Alan Abramowitz**, expert in American politics, political parties
- **Brooke Ackerly**, expert on grounded normative theory,

What are the main methods used in political studies?

- Political science is **methodologically diverse and appropriates many methods originating in psychology and social research.**
- Approaches used in Political sciences include **interpretivism, choice theory, behaviourism, structuralism, realism, and institutionalism.**
- Political science, as one of the social sciences, uses methods and techniques that relate to the kinds of inquiries sought: **primary sources, such as historical documents and official records, secondary sources, such as scholarly journal articles, survey research, statistical analysis, case studies, experimental research, and model building.**

The use of English in politics :

Language is the medium through which we understand each other. It is fundamental for each thing we do in life; it helps us communicate ideas, persuade and present ourselves; English language for example can be used in interactive learning, interpretation, telephone or interviewing skills, debates, etc.

The English language has become the language of international relations, if you understand and speak it, you will facilitate your work and get extra benefits. But in the political field, you have to take training in English for politics. (Varieties of English is a vast field in ESP)

The latter is an active topic in all languages, talking about politics in English with your mates for example, is a great opportunity to practice your language skills; if you really feel strongly about a political viewpoint, you will be motivated to make yourself understood, just learn expressions and vocabulary you need to discuss politics with.

If you want also to improve your language skills, you can put a hand in the different debates held by many language centres all over the world. It is a great chance to invest your vocabulary and communicative talents. Besides, as students, you should not only aware of events and decisions of this world, it is beneficial to understand why these events come to be.

In that case, you have to be eager to debate and talk about the political affairs of the current world. Discussing in English with your mates about the different immediate topics in politics will enlarge your experience and backgrounds.