POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLS)

POLS 101 American National Government
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Introduction to the study of politics focusing on basic concepts, processes, and institutions; emphasis on government and politics of the U.S. examined in comparative perspective; probable topics include nature of constitutional democracy, ideology, parties and elections, and formation of public policy.

POLS 152 Politics and Pollution
1 credit
Political, government, and administrative aspects of overcoming air, water, and other types of pollution of our environment.

POLS 200 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged.

POLS 203 (s) Workshop
Credit arranged.

POLS 204 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged.

POLS 205 Introduction to Comparative Politics
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
Basic structures, patterns, and sociocultural environment of foreign political systems; includes case studies of the government and politics in selected countries.

POLS 207 Introduction to Political Behavior
3 credits
This course is an introduction to the political behavior of the American electorate. The basic goals of this course are to explain political behavior and investigate the consequences of it. In this course, we will primarily focus on voter turnout; however, we will also discuss other forms of political participation (e.g., giving money), vote choice, partisanship, and ideology. We will address the following questions: Who votes? How have voting rates changed over time? What influences why some people vote? Who votes for whom? In order to address these questions, we will explore literatures, controversies, and theories of political behavior.

POLS 208 Introduction to Political Philosophy
3 credits
This course will introduce students to the practice and diverse products of political philosophy or normative political theory. Unlike theories in other areas of Political Science, which are typically focused on attempts to provide explanations and predictions regarding empirical phenomena, political philosophy is focused more on normative questions regarding how we ought to arrange our political affairs and how we ought to understand key morally laden concepts, such as obligation, rights, justice, and equality.

POLS 209 Introduction to Public Policy
3 credits
The study of public policy focuses on how political actors and institutions define public problems, generate solutions to solve them, and evaluate the consequences of those solutions. The course will focus on institutional arrangements for making public policy decisions, the role of various actors – including those from the private and non-profit sectors – in shaping policy outcomes, and the fundamentals of analytic approaches to public policy.

POLS 235 Political Research Methods and Approaches
3 credits
Introduction to the study of politics, including scope of the discipline, principal fields, research design, and methods of political research and analysis.

POLS 237 Introduction to International Politics
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
Survey of approaches used to describe and explain conflict and cooperation among states in the international system; special emphasis on games of strategic interaction.

POLS 275 American State and Local Government
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science
American state and local politics from a comparative perspective; focus on parties, interest groups, voting behavior, legislative and executive government, judiciary, intergovernmental relations, and public policies.

POLS 299 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged
Graded P/F.
Prereq: Permission.

POLS 307 Institutions of the European Union
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
Cross-listed with FLEN 307
A cross-cultural examination of the European Union, its history, evolution, and current functioning; social, cultural, and political differences among union partners; economic structure and demographics; business culture.

POLS 331 American Political Parties and Elections
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science
Development and present character of American political parties and of electoral system, functions of parties in periods of relative consensus and of critical choice regarding fundamental principles, party reform, and future prospects for party system.

POLS 332 American Congress
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science
Roles and functions of Congress in the American political system, theories of representation, recruitment of legislators, Congressional organization and behavior, power structure, relationship to the executive, courts, interest groups, and public.

POLS 333 American Political Culture
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, American Diversity
Relation of public opinion and political action and affiliation to broad economic, social, religious, and intellectual developments.

POLS 336 Political Research Methods and Approaches II
3 credits
Course covers advanced research design, social science quantitative methods and data collection issues.
Prereq: POLS 235.

POLS 338 American Foreign Policy
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
Analysis of how key decision makers, such as the President and Congress, convert inputs from the international, national, and societal systems into foreign policy outputs.
POLS 352 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
3 credits
Cross-listed with PHIL 352
This course will introduce students to the topics and methods of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). The approach will be interdisciplinary, with the aim of investigating and illustrating how and why these three disciplines are indispensable to addressing both the normative and factual issues each poses on its own. The course will cover basic methods in rational choice theory, game theory, social choice theory, and political philosophy to explore problems pertaining to decision-making, coordination, cooperation, and justice. The texts will include both traditional and contemporary writings on these issues.

POLS 364 Politics of the Environment
3 credits
Cross-listed with NRS 364
Political factors that influence formation, implementation, and impact of public policies aimed at protecting the environment.

POLS 381 European Politics
3 credits
Gen Ed: Social Science, International
Examination of political processes in European parliamentary systems; topics include parties and elections, coalition formation and dissolution, public policy, and the dynamics of the European Union.

POLS 384 African Politics
3 credits
Cross-listed with IS 384
Exploration of the politics of African countries, beginning with the historical roots of colonialism and decolonization, but concentrating on contemporary issues of state building, war and conflict, development, democratization, and international and regional relations.

POLS 385 Political Psychology
3 credits
Gen Ed: International
The main goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the cognitive biases that influence the choices and behavior of individuals in the realm of global politics. Topics include but are not limited to: loss aversion, personality and beliefs, group influence, analogical reasoning, and emotion. Substantive examples will be drawn from research in International Relations and Comparative Politics. As such, the course will cover the psychology of international conflict, civil war, voting behavior, and public opinion.

POLS 400 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged.

POLS 403 (s) Workshop
Credit arranged.

POLS 404 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged.

POLS 410 Game Theory
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 510
The study of strategic interaction in which an outcome depends upon an individual’s own decision and the choices made by others; introduction to the basic tools of game theory used to conceptualize and model political problems as games, including situations involving conflict, cooperation, contracts between agents and principals, coordination, and bargaining. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 420 Introduction to Asian Politics
3 credits
Gen Ed: International
Joint-listed with POLS 520
This course will offer both a country-based and thematic survey of political systems and issues in Asia. Countries to be covered will include (but not be limited to) China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Pakistan. The course will also cover topics such as democratization, economic development, and the changing Asian security environment. Additional projects and/or assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: POLS 205. (Spring only)

POLS 423 Politics, Policy and Gender
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 523
Examination of the gendered social construction of political processes, outputs, and public policy formation on the national and international level. Study of the historical evolution of women's participation in American politics as well as other countries. Analysis of the politics of gendered representation and political leadership in American politics and elsewhere. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 425 History of Political Philosophy I
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 525, Cross-listed with PHIL 426
Perennial problems of politics examined through study of seminal authors of classical antiquity (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero); medieval confrontation of theology with classical political philosophy (Augustine, Aquinas, Marsilius). Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 426 History of Political Philosophy II
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 526, Cross-listed with PHIL 427
Foundations and development of modern liberalism; analysis of its characteristic goals, and democratic, socialist, and communitarian critiques of the project; study of authors including Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and contemporary theorists such as Rawls. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 428 American Political Thought
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 528
Major themes and debates in the American search for political self-understanding; topics include representative democracy, religion and politics, the frontier and its legacy, and individualism vs. communitarian claims; study of original sources (Founding Fathers, Thoreau, Lincoln, Populists) and contemporary implications. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 429 Contemporary Political Ethics
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 529, Cross-listed with PHIL 429
Current controversies concerning status and substance of ethical claims about deception, violence, coercion, and economic justice in politics and public action. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 430 Political Participation Internship
1-9 credits, max 9
Directed student internship as a participant-observer in the political process, work during a campaign with a candidate, party, or interest group. Graded P/F.
Prereq: Permission.
POLS 437 American Presidency
3 credits
Roles, power, and functions of the presidency; relationships with other structures and institutions in the U.S. political system. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.
Prereq: Senior standing or Permission.

POLS 439 Public Policy
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 539
Processes by which domestic policies are formulated and administered; analysis of intentional and unintentional impacts of these policies on society. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 440 (s) International Organizations & International Law
3 credits
Cross-listed with IS 440
League of Nations, United Nations, and role of international law in international relations; the UN's contribution to international security and economic and social development.

POLS 441 Genes and Justice: Comparative Biotechnology Policy Formation
3 credits
Gen Ed: International
Joint-listed with POLS 541, Cross-listed with PHIL 441
This course introduces students to the basic theoretical, ethical, and practical issues surrounding the rise and regulation of recent biotechnological and biomedical advances, including genetically modified animals and plants in agriculture, stem cell research and cloning in biomedical research, and reprogenetics in medically assisted reproductive technology. Students will learn about theoretical and ethical frameworks to investigate questions of domestic and international policy making and the task of governing modern biosciences, including food safety, fair-trade, consumer well-being, informed choice in medical treatment, conservation, biodiversity, and sustainability. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: PLSC 207 or 3 credits of another science course or 3 credits of political science.

POLS 449 World Politics and War
3 credits
Gen Ed: International
Joint-listed with POLS 549
A critical analysis of several competing theories that explain why wars occur; some focus on the attempts to control and eliminate warfare as a tool of international diplomacy. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

POLS 451 Public Administration
3 credits
Environment of public administration, politics of organizations, public decision-making, public relations, leadership, personnel administration, financial administration, administration ethics; related topics.

POLS 454 Public Organization Theory
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 554
Organization theory and behavior in public and nonprofit sector, organization structure and environment, individual behavior in organizations. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 458 Management Internship
1-9 credits, max 9
Directed internship in an agency of federal, state, or local government or special projects involving federal, state, or local government. One cr for each week of internship work. Graded P/F.
Prereq: Permission.

POLS 459 Legislative Internship
1-9 credits, max 9
Directed internship in a national, state, municipal, or corporate legislative body. Supervised work experience. Report required. Graded P/F.
Prereq: Permission.

POLS 462 Natural Resource Policy
3 credits
Cross-listed with NRS 462
Political and institutional context for making natural resource policy; emphasis on interaction between private and public sectors and the federal, state, and tribal governments, including an examination of topical issues in natural resource politics.

POLS 467 Constitutional Law
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 567
The Supreme Court as a constitutional policymaker; federal jurisdiction; constitutional principles concerning judicial review, federalism, implied powers, separation of powers, and due process. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

POLS 468 Civil Liberties
3 credits
Gen Ed: American Diversity
Joint-listed with POLS 568
The Supreme Court and its role in protecting civil liberties; freedom of speech, press, and religion; due process, the Bill of Rights, and its application to the states; criminal justice. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

POLS 471 Intergovernmental Relations
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 571
Analysis of fiscal and administrative interdependencies among governmental units in the U.S., with an emphasis on public policies. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 472 Local Government Politics and Administration
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 572
Politics, structure, and problems of American cities and other local governments; focus on the urban political economy, the fiscal and social challenges, and the links between public and private sectors; changing social and political functions of American cities and metropolitan fragmentation. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 474 Public Opinion and Political Behavior
3 credits
From this course, you will understand the measurement, structure, and dynamics of public opinion, both what influences it, as well as how it shapes other aspects of politics and public life, including: the character of political attitudes, party identification, turnout and participation, and the vote decision. You will also understand different modes of political participation including conventional and non-conventional and their correlates.
POLS 480 Politics of Development
3 credits
*Gen Ed: International*
Joint-listed with POLS 580
Role of the state in development, political economy of change, transition to democracy in the Third World, problems of ethnic conflict, overpopulation, and poverty. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 487 Political Violence and Revolution
3 credits
*Gen Ed: International*
Joint-listed with POLS 587
Survey of the dominant theories attempting to understand the conditions under which humans rebel against their government; from political demonstrations and riots to terrorism to revolution; special emphasis given to the revolutions in Iran and Vietnam. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

POLS 490 Senior Experience
3 credits
*Gen Ed: Senior Experience*
Required of all political science majors; capstone course devoted to mastery of inquiry in political science research; topics will vary.

POLS 498 (s) Internship
Credit arranged.

POLS 499 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged
Graded P/F.
*Prereq: Senior standing and 24 credits in political science.*

POLS 500 Master’s Research and Thesis
Credit arranged
Graded P/F.

POLS 501 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged
Areas normally offered incl U.S. politics, U.S. foreign policy, African and Asian politics, community power and politics, U.S. political thought, public law, public administration, and political development. One 2-day field trip is authorized for the seminar in public administration.

*Prereq: Permission.*

POLS 502 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged.

POLS 503 (s) Workshop
Credit arranged.

POLS 504 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged.

POLS 510 Game Theory
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 410
The study of strategic interaction in which an outcome depends upon an individual’s own decision and the choices made by others; introduction to the basic tools of game theory used to conceptualize and model political problems as games, including situations involving conflict, cooperation, contracts between agents and principals, coordination, and bargaining. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 520 Introduction to Asian Politics
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 420
This course will offer both a country-based and thematic survey of political systems and issues in Asia. Countries to be covered will include (but not be limited to) China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Pakistan. The course will also cover topics such as democratization, economic development, and the changing Asian security environment. Additional projects and/or assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: POLS 205. (Spring only)

POLS 523 Politics, Policy and Gender
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 423
Examination of the gendered social construction of political processes, outputs, and public policy formation on the national and international level. Study of the historical evolution of women’s participation in American politics as well as other countries. Analysis of the politics of gendered representation and political leadership in American politics and elsewhere. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 525 History of Political Philosophy I
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 425
Perennial problems of politics examined through study of seminal authors of classical antiquity (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero); medieval confrontation of theology with classical political philosophy (Augustine, Aquinas, Marsilius). Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 526 History of Political Philosophy II
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 426
Foundations and development of modern liberalism; analysis of its characteristic goals, and democratic, socialist, and communitarian critics of the project; study of authors including Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and contemporary theorists such as Rawls. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 528 American Political Thought
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 428
Major themes and debates in the American search for political self-understanding; topics include representative democracy, religion and politics, the frontier and its legacy, and individualism vs. communitarian claims; study of original sources (Founding Fathers, Thoreau, Lincoln, Populists) and contemporary implications. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 529 Contemporary Political Ethics
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 429
Current controversies concerning status and substance of ethical claims about deception, violence, coercion, and economic justice in politics and public action. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POLS 535 Advanced Political Science and Research Methods
3 credits
Course covers advanced research design, social science quantitative methods and data collection issues.

POLS 539 Public Policy
3 credits
Joint-listed with POLS 439
Processes by which domestic policies are formulated and administered; analysis of intentional and unintentional impact of these policies on society. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.
POLS 541 Genes and Justice: Comparative Biotechnology Policy Formation  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 441  
This course introduces students to the basic theoretical, ethical, and practical issues surrounding the rise and regulation of recent biotechnological and biomedical advances, including genetically modified animals and plants in agriculture, stem cell research and cloning in biomedical research, and reprodogenetics in medically assisted reproductive technology. Students will learn about theoretical and ethical frameworks to investigate questions of domestic and international policy making and the task of governing modern biosciences, including food safety, fair-trade, consumer well-being, informed choice in medical treatment, conservation, biodiversity, and sustainability. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit. Recommended Preparation: PLSC 207 or 3 credits of another science course or 3 credits of political science.  

POLS 549 World Politics and War  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 449  
A critical analysis of several competing theories that explain why wars occur; some focus on the attempts to control and eliminate warfare as a tool of international diplomacy. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.  

POLS 552 Administrative Law and Regulation  
3 credits  
Legal and judicial constraints on administration action, rule-making, adjudication, and other modes of administrative action. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.  

POLS 554 Public Organization Theory  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 454  
Organization theory and behavior in public and nonprofit sector, organization structure and environment, individual behavior in organizations. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.  

POLS 555 Public Administration Theory  
3 credits  
Major writers in public administration theory and concepts such as leadership, supervision, authority, decision-making, and human relations.  

POLS 556 Governmental Policy and Program Analysis  
3 credits  
Techniques used to analyze policy alternatives and to evaluate program; developing program objectives, management by objectives, productivity analysis, program evaluation, and policy analysis.  

POLS 557 Governmental Budgeting  
3 credits  
Theory and practice of budgeting in a political environment; focus on potentials and limitations of various budgeting systems, particular viz the federal experience.  

POLS 558 Research Methods for Local Government and Community Administration  
3 credits  
This course will provide research tools to students interested in local and community administration. Topics will include research design, inferential statistics, regression analysis, binary dependent variable modeling with application to policy analysis and performance measurement, and program evaluation.  
Prereq: STAT 251.  

POLS 559 Field Based Research  
3 credits  
This course gives in-service MPA graduate students the opportunity to conduct applied research under faculty supervision. Research projects will be selected according to the needs of the agency, student interest, and with faculty approval.  

POLS 565 Local Government Law  
3 credits  
The course examines the major legal issues involving local government, including tax and spending, public employment contracts, delivery of services and tort liability. Also covered are the relationship problems such as inter-local conflicts and the manner in which state governments and the federal government impact local government. This course also will provide practical instruction on the functions and procedures of municipal governing bodies, municipal courts, and planning and zoning boards.  

POLS 566 Local Economic Development  
3 credits  
Local economic development (LED) is an essential dimension of communities’ wellbeing. This course focuses on local economic development theories, analytical tools, and strategies and their application including analysis of local economy and formulation of local economic development plan. It prepares students interested in a career position in local economic development or in local government and nonprofit fields in general.  
Prereq: Graduate standing.  

POLS 567 Constitutional Law  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 467  
The Supreme Court as a constitutional policymaker; federal jurisdiction; constitutional principles concerning judicial review, federalism, implied powers, separation of powers, and due process. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.  

POLS 568 Civil Liberties  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 468  
The Supreme Court and its role in protecting civil liberties; freedom of speech, press, and religion; due process, the Bill of Rights, and its application to the states; criminal justice. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.  

POLS 571 Intergovernmental Relations  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 471  
Analysis of fiscal and administrative interdependencies among governmental units in the U.S., with an emphasis on public policies. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.  

POLS 572 Local Government Politics and Administration  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 472  
Politics, structure, and problems of American cities and other local governments; focus on the urban political economy, the fiscal and social challenges, and the links between public and private sectors; changing social and political functions of American cities and metropolitan fragmentation. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.
POL 575 Public Personnel Administration  
3 credits  
Personnel administration in public agencies; history of the personnel and merit systems; recruitment; selection, training, and evaluation of administrators; collective bargaining and political activity in public service; personnel administration and democracy.

POL 580 Politics of Development  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 480  
Role of the state in development, political economy of change, transition to democracy in the Third World, problems of ethnic conflict, overpopulation, and poverty. Additional projects/assignments reqd for grad cr.

POL 587 Political Violence and Revolution  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with POLS 487  
Survey of the dominant theories attempting to understand the conditions under which humans rebel against their government; from political demonstrations and riots to terrorism to revolution; special emphasis given to the revolutions in Iran and Vietnam. Additional projects/assignments required for graduate credit.

POL 598 (s) Internship  
Credit arranged.

POL 599 (s) Research  
Credit arranged.

POL 600 Doctoral Research and Dissertation  
Credit arranged  
Graded P/F.