Honor Societies and Student Organizations:

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society, promotes student interest in political science and sponsors forums on current political topics and workshops on applying to and attending graduate school and law school. The honor society accepts qualified students each fall and spring semester for membership, based on political science coursework and academic standing. Contact the faculty adviser in the department for further details.

Model United Nations Club (MUNC) is a student organization whose primary purpose is to educate its members and the student body about the United Nations and its activities. The organization is open to all students interested in global affairs and the UN. MUNC members attend two United Nations mock conferences each year and participate in a number of other group activities.

Future Lawyers of America is a student organization whose primary purpose is to inform its members of the various aspects of the legal profession. The organization is open to all students from various academic majors who are considering attending law school and share an interest in the legal profession. The organization sponsors speakers from various law-related occupations, organizes trips to law schools and law school fairs, and provides practice tests for the Law School Admission Test.

The Society of Politics is open to all students with an interest in politics and political science. The Society functions as both a social and professional organization for students to help them make connections and broaden the scope of their political knowledge. The Society hosts several events during the year, including a fall picnic, roundtables, and forums for the students and political science faculty to meet and discuss important issues.

Political Science examines various systems of government within and among nation-states and the principles on which they are based. It familiarizes the student with political concepts and issues, their historical backgrounds, and their relevance to the cultural systems in which they arise. The study of political science provides methods for analyzing political issues and the policies designed to address them.

Departmental Honors Program in Political Science

Eligibility: Majors with resident and total GPAs of 3.50 or higher overall and in Political Science, and the consent of the department. Senior standing is required. By the end of the second semester of the junior year, students must notify the department of their intent to seek departmental honors.

Requirements: Comprehensive written examination taken at the end of the first semester of the senior year; senior thesis written during the second semester of the senior year. Students must register for POLS 496, during the semester that they write the thesis.

Faculty

Geoffrey Peterson, Chair
Ali Abootalebi
Michael Fine

Rodd Freitag
Margaret Gilkison
Stephen Hill
Ming-Li Hsieh
Eric Kasper
Steven Majstorovic
Peter Myers
Justin Patchin
Jason Spraitz

Majors

- Comprehensive Major: Political Science, Legal Studies Emphasis, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S.
- Comprehensive Major: Political Science, World Politics Emphasis, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S.
- Major: Political Science, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S.
- Major: Political Science, Teaching - B.A.

Minors

- Minor: Political Science, Liberal Arts
- Minor: Political Science, Teaching

Certificates

- Certificate: Campaign Consulting
- Certificate: International Affairs
- Certificate: Legal Studies

POLS 102 Introduction to Politics (3 crs)
A general introduction to basic concepts and approaches to the study of politics and contemporary political issues and problems.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 110 American National Politics (3 crs)
Analysis of major components of American national politics. Includes examination of the individual’s ability to affect politics, and the impact of politics on individual lives.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R3 Civic and Environmental Issues
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 121 The Politics of Global Cultural Relations (3 crs)
Introductory course on the impact of clashing cultural orientations and competing belief systems on international affairs. Examines how cultural forces transform power and social interaction, and influence and shape world politics.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 122 Introduction to World Politics (3 crs)
Introductory course for the study of world politics. Focus includes states, international organizations (private and public), and other global interaction influencing and shaping world politics.
Attributes: GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 250 American Indian Politics (3 crs)
Credit may not be earned in both POLS 250 and AIS 250.
The course will examine the recent trends in American Indian politics beginning with the American Indian Movement through the present. The course will include topics on tribal sovereignty, legalized gambling, and tribal government.
Attributes: Cultural Diversity 3 cr., GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 260 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 crs)
A comparative analysis of political systems of Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, China, India, Iran, Brazil, and Nigeria.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 265 Problems of the Developing Nations (3 crs)
A critical examination of developmental concepts, socioeconomic and political problems of the Third World; elite groups, political ideologies, cohesive and divisive forces influencing development.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 290 Introduction to Political Analysis (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor. Limited to political science majors.
Examines the nature and design of scientific research; raises philosophical and methodological issues regarding the logic, theory, and empirical analysis of political research; explores reasoning, causality, and data analysis in scientific research.
Attributes: LE-S3 Creativity
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 291 Special Topics - Political Problems (1-3 crs)
Selected political problems and issues affecting our political system. Examples: racism, poverty, radicalism, pluralism. Completion of a semester's work in fewer weeks is possible with extra classes per week.

POLS 301 State and Local Politics (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
A critical examination of federalism, localism, intergovernmental finance, intergovernmental relations, state and local institutions, and state and local elections.
Attributes: GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 305 Survey of U.S. Constitutional Principles (3 crs)
Prerequisite: No credit if taken after POLS 403 or POLS 404.
Analysis of the powers of governments in the U.S. and rights of individuals.
Attributes: GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R3 Civic and Environmental Issues
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 309 Classical Political Thought (3 crs)
Prerequisite: Minimum sophomore standing.
Study of major political thinkers from the ancient and medieval periods, with emphasis on Plato and Aristotle.
Attributes: GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K3 Humanities, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 310 Modern Political Thought (3 crs)
Prerequisite: Minimum sophomore standing.
Study of major political thinkers from the Renaissance to the French Revolution.
Attributes: GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K3 Humanities
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 311 Contemporary Political Thought (3 crs)
Prerequisite: Minimum sophomore standing.
A study of major political thinkers from the French Revolution to the present day, with emphasis on the philosophical roots of twentieth century ideologies.
Attributes: GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 312 American Political Thought (3 crs)
The intellectual roots of American Politics, with emphasis on the Revolutionaries, particularly Jefferson; The Federalist; Tocqueville's Democracy in America; and Lincoln.
Attributes: Cultural Diversity 1 cr., GE IIIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-DDIV Design for Diversity, LE-K3 Humanities, LE-R1 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 314 The Idea of Tolerance in the Western Political Tradition (3 crs)
Historical and philosophical consideration of the development of the idea of tolerance in the western political tradition, with emphasis on major philosophical defenders and critics of the ideal of an open, tolerant society, and on the American experiment in political, religious, and cultural tolerance.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 319 Politics of Latin America (3 crs)
- Credit may not be earned in both POLS 319 and LAS 319.
An examination of major institutions, groups, and selected topics related to Latin American politics.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 320 Caribbean Politics (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
- Credit may not be earned in both POLS 320 and LAS 320.
The dynamics of Anglo-phone and Hispanic Caribbean politics from Colonial rule to the present. Major topics include: colonialism; patterns of decolonization; post-colonial state power; the status of women; and recent trends in structures of dependency and popular resistance.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 321 Politics of the Middle East (3 crs)
Introduces students to social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of life in the Middle East by focusing on specific topics such as Religion and Politics, Nationalism, Peace and Conflict, Western Influence.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 322 Politics of Russia (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
A study of the transitions taking place in Russia covering subjects such as the Soviet past, nationalism, leadership, political institutions, and relations with the other former Soviet republics.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 323 Politics of Eastern Europe (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
An examination of political, economic, and cultural transitions in Eastern Europe. Topics covered include political-historical context, democratic institution building, market economic development, political cultural orientation, international organizations, and ethnonational conflict and conflict resolution.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 324 Politics of Asia (3 crs)
This course addresses political, economic, and social dimensions of contemporary Asian politics. The countries examined from a comparative perspective are China, North Korea, South Korea, India, and Indonesia.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 325 Model United Nations (3 crs)
A study of the institutional foundation and the contemporary role of the United Nations as a global intergovernmental organization in pursuit of a peaceful resolution to global conflicts and the promotion of cooperation among global actors.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 326 Politics of Southeast Asia (3 crs)
This course offers a comparative examination of Southeast Asian countries, including the Hmong diaspora, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam, on thematic issues.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 327 Politics of Continental Europe (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 102 or POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
An examinations of European parliamentary systems, their societies and cultures, the European Union, and the development of European identity.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 328 Islam and Politics (3 crs)
This course examines the multi-faceted nature of the relationship between Islam and politics in the contemporary world.

Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 329 Political Violence (3 crs)
This course offers a comparative study of political violence in the contemporary world, reviewing a variety of theoretical and empirical approaches to violence.

Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 330 U.S. Foreign Policy (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or consent of instructor.
A study of the principal theoretical approaches to the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and the major foreign policy issues facing the United States.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 331 International Organization and Law (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or consent of instructor.
An analysis of the historical and current patterns and theoretical concepts and theories relevant to the organization of global affairs.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 332 International Conflict (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or consent of instructor.
Examines the main theories and concepts used to understand and explain international and civil conflict. The course will also provide an analysis of the principle techniques and practices of conflict resolution.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 334 International Political Economy (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or ECON 103 or ECON 104 or ECON 201 or consent of instructor.
International political economy is the simultaneous study of power and wealth at the international level, or it is the study of political foundations of international economic interactions and vice versa.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 335 International Relations Theory (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or consent of instructor. Minimum sophomore standing.
Explores various theoretical approaches on world political order: Realism; Liberalism; Socialism; Critical Theory; Postmodern, Feminist; and Ecological perspectives. Within each framework, key concepts such as the state, power, globalization, regimes, etc., are explored.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 336 Arab-Israeli Conflict (3 crs)
This course examines the political, socioeconomic, cultural, and historical roots of the conflict between Arab States/Palestinian Arabs and the state of Israel. Both regional and international aspects of the conflict are fully discussed.

Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 338 Judicial Politics (3 crs)
A study of the judicial system and judicial policy-making, emphasizing the U.S. Supreme Court and lower federal judiciary.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 340 Congress and the Presidency (3 crs)
Prerequisite: No credit if taken after POLS 339 or POLS 348
Study of congressional representation, organization, lawmaking, and presidential leadership in the separation of powers system.

Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R3 Civic and Environmental Issues
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 341 Political Parties, Elections, and Voting (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
Emphasizes electoral politics in America, including the organization and functions of American political parties, the dynamics of campaigns and elections, and voting behavior in the U.S.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Service-Learning Optional
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 342 Public Opinion and Political Behavior (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
Development, nature and impact of political attitudes and opinions; white and minority opinion compared; political role of the mass media; personality and opinions; political participation; behavioral techniques of analysis; all in an American politics context.
Attributes: Cultural Diversity 1 cr., GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 343 Public Administration (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
Analyzes organizational structure and administrative behavior in governmental agencies. Topics include leadership, control, decision-making, recruitment, communication, adaptation, and others.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 344 Media and Politics (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
The course examines the symbiotic relationship between the media and political actors. The course will look at how the media influences the political agenda, how politicians manipulate the media, and the impact of political advertising.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 345 Film and Politics (3 crs)
An examination of how film delivers both implicit and explicit political themes and messages, with a focus on the areas of plot, characterization, symbolism, and cinematic techniques.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 346 Public Policy in the United States (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
Emphasizes policy analysis, the policymaking process, and the content of American domestic policy; includes coverage of a wide range of policy areas such as economics, environment, energy, business, labor, poverty, welfare, health, education, and agriculture.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 350 Group and Minority Politics (3 crs)
Examines the role, status, and experiences of minority groups within the American political system. Emphasis placed on an interest group perspective.
Attributes: Cultural Diversity 3 cr., GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-DDIV Design for Diversity, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R1 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 351 Women and Politics (3 crs)
Credit may not be earned in both POLS 351 and WMNS 351.
Analysis of women's roles and participation in politics: as citizens, voters, candidates, and officeholders. The impact of feminism and the women's movement on issues and policymaking.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 352 Gender and Politics in Global Perspective (3 crs)
Credit may not be earned in both POLS 352 and WMNS 352.
This course surveys important topics in the study of gender and politics in global perspective.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, LE-R2 Global Perspectives
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 353 Afro-American Politics (3 crs)
The dynamics of Black American politics from the mid-twentieth century to the present. Using a cultural studies and political economy approach, the course examines the social, economic, cultural, and political determinants of Afro-American politics after 1945.
Attributes: Cultural Diversity 3 cr., GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 387 The Psychology of Public Opinion (3 crs)
Prerequisite: Limited to Organizational Leadership and Communication comprehensive major, Bachelor of Professional Studies degree.
This course will look at ways in which individuals and groups form opinions on issues of relevance to themselves and their communities as well as examining the ways in which opinion can be measured and mismeasured.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, BPS
Flat Rate Tuition
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 390 Culture and Politics (3 crs)
Explores cultural and societal context of contemporary politics through various literary media and selected political studies. A cross-cultural approach examines national character, class, race, ethnic and religious differences, socialization, and cultural conflict.
Attributes: Foreign Culture, GE IIID Social Science-Political Science
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 395 Directed Studies (1-3 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required
Study of a political problem or topic.
Attributes: Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Repeat: Course may be repeated

POLS 397 Student Academic Apprenticeship in Political Science (1-6 crs)
Prerequisite: Grade of B+ or above in the assigned course. Minimum total GPA of 3.30.
Consent: Department Consent Required
- Cannot apprentice in the same course twice.
Qualified students work under close supervision of faculty exploring methods to teach political science and assisting in the teaching of a course or courses. Students enhance their understanding of the discipline and their communication skills.
Attributes: Service-Learning, Full 30 Hours
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits

POLS 399 Independent Study - Juniors (1-3 crs)
Prerequisite: Minimum junior standing.
Consent: Department Consent Required
Individual project under the direction of a faculty member.
Repeat: Course may be repeated

POLS 403 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Powers of Government (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
American constitutional principles as interpreted by the Supreme Court; the constitutional structure of the U.S. government. Emphasizes powers of Congress, President, Judiciary; principles of federalism and separation of power. Focus on study of Supreme Court cases.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 404 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Civil Liberties (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
American constitutional principles concerning the relations between individual and government. Emphasizes freedom of speech, press, religion; separation of church and state; and equality. Focus on study of Supreme Court cases.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-K2 Social Sciences, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 405 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Due Process and Criminal Law (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
American constitutional principles concerning the criminal process and criminal law. Emphasizes the rights found in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments and theories of due process and incorporation from the Fourteenth Amendment.
Attributes: GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 406 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Equality and Privacy (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
Study of the U.S. Constitution’s 14th and 15th Amendments as explicated by the U.S. Supreme Court in cases concerning issues of racial and gender equality and sexual privacy.
Attributes: Cultural Diversity 1 cr., GE IIID Social Science-Political Science, LE-DDIV Design for Diversity, LE-R1 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 480 Political Science Capstone (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 290. Limited to political science majors. Minimum senior standing.
  • Student must have successfully completed at least one course in each of the four areas of the discipline.

Graduating seniors apply their acquired knowledge and skills to selected topics for research. Students work under the direction of an assigned faculty to produce a major research paper and oral presentation to the class.

Attributes: LE-I1 Integration, Capstone Course
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 491 Special Topics - Advanced Political Problems (1-3 crs)
Selected political problems and issues affecting our political system. Examples: racism, poverty, radicalism, pluralism. Completion of a semester's work in fewer weeks is possible with extra classes per week.

Attributes: Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Repeat: Course may be repeated

POLS 496 Honors Independent Reading (2-3 crs)
Prerequisite: 3.50 GPA in political science courses or consent of instructor. Independent reading and research in selected areas of political science.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits

POLS 498 Internship (1-6 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor. Limited to political science majors and minors and criminal justice majors.
Consent: Department Consent Required
Assignment to a political or administrative situation for practical experience. The work experience will be related to the fundamental theories of the discipline.

Attributes: Service-Learning, Full 30 Hours, Internship
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits

POLS 499 Independent Study - Seniors (1-3 crs)
Prerequisite: Minimum senior standing.
Consent: Department Consent Required
Individual project under the direction of a faculty member.
Repeat: Course may be repeated

POLS 501 State and Local Politics (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
  • Cross-listed with POLS 301. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

A critical examination of federalism, localism, intergovernmental finance, intergovernmental relations, state and local institutions, and state and local elections.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 509 Classical Political Thought (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with POLS 309. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Study of major political thinkers from the ancient and medieval periods, with emphasis on Plato and Aristotle.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 514 The Idea of Tolerance in the Western Political Tradition (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with POLS 314. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Historical and philosophical consideration of the development of the idea of tolerance in the western political tradition, with emphasis on major philosophical defenders and critics of the ideal of an open, tolerant society, and on the American experiment in political, religious, and cultural tolerance.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 521 Politics of the Middle East (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with POLS 321. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Introduces students to social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of life in the Middle East by focusing on specific topics such as Religion and Politics, Nationalism, Peace and Conflict, Western Influence.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 522 Politics of Russia (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with POLS 322. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

A study of the transitions taking place in Russia covering subjects such as the Soviet past, nationalism, leadership, political institutions, and relations with the other former Soviet republics.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 523 Politics of Eastern Europe (3 crs)
  • Cross-listed with POLS 323. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

An examination of political, economic, and cultural transitions in Eastern Europe. Topics covered include political-historical context, democratic institution building, market economic development, political cultural orientation, international organizations, and ethnonational conflict and conflict resolution.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
POLS 524 Politics of Asia (3 crs)
Prerequisite: One course in POLS or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 324. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

This course addresses political, economic, and social dimensions of contemporary Asian politics. The countries examined from a comparative perspective are China, North Korea, South Korea, India, and Indonesia.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 525 Model United Nations (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with POLS 325. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

A study of the institutional foundation and the contemporary role of the United Nations as a global intergovernmental organization in pursuit of a peaceful resolution to global conflicts and the promotion of cooperation among global actors.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 530 U.S. Foreign Policy (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 330. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

A study of the principal theoretical approaches to the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and the major foreign policy issues facing the United States.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 531 Women and Politics (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with POLS 331 and WMNS 351/WMNS 551. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

Analysis of women's roles and participation in politics: as citizens, voters, candidates, and officeholders. The impact of feminism and the women's movement on issues and policymaking.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 534 International Political Economy (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 122 or ECON 103 or ECON 104 or ECON 201 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 334. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

International political economy is the simultaneous study of power and wealth at the international level, or it is the study of political foundations of international economic interactions and vice versa.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 536 Arab-Israeli Conflict (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with POLS 336. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

This course examines the political, socioeconomic, cultural, and historical roots of the conflict between Arab States/Palestinian Arabs and the state of Israel. Both regional and international aspects of the conflict are fully discussed.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 544 Media and Politics (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 344. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

The course examines the symbiotic relationship between the media and political actors. The course will look at how the media influences the political agenda, how politicians manipulate the media, and the impact of political advertising.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 545 Film and Politics (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with POLS 345. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

An examination of how film delivers both implicit and explicit political themes and messages, with a focus on the areas of plot, characterization, symbolism, and cinematic techniques.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 551 Women and Politics (3 crs)
• Cross-listed with POLS 351 and WMNS 351/WMNS 551. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses.

Analysis of women's roles and participation in politics: as citizens, voters, candidates, and officeholders. The impact of feminism and the women's movement on issues and policymaking.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 595 Directed Studies (1-3 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required
• Cross-listed with POLS 395.

Study of a political problem or topic.
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
POLS 603 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Powers of Government (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 403. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

American constitutional principles as interpreted by the Supreme Court; the constitutional structure of the U.S. government. Emphasizes powers of Congress, President, Judiciary; principles of federalism and separation of power. Focus on study of Supreme Court cases.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 604 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Civil Liberties (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 404. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

American constitutional principles concerning the relations between individual and government. Emphasizes freedom of speech, press, religion; separation of church and state; and equality. Focus on study of Supreme Court cases.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 605 U.S. Constitutional Principles - Due Process and Criminal Law (3 crs)
Prerequisite: POLS 110 or consent of instructor.
• Cross-listed with POLS 405. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

American constitutional principles concerning the criminal process and criminal law. Emphasizes the rights found in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments and theories of due process and incorporation from the Fourteenth Amendment.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

POLS 691 Special Topics - Advanced Political Problems (1-3 crs)
• Cross-listed with POLS 491.

Selected political problems and issues affecting our political system. Examples: racism, poverty, radicalism, pluralism. Completion of a semester's work in fewer weeks is possible with extra classes per week.

Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option

POLS 795 Research Paper (1-2 crs)
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: PR Only Grade Basis

POLS 797 Independent Study (1-3 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required
Individual project under the direction of a faculty member.

Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option