COURSES FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science Courses

PSC101 Intro American Politics
Hours 3
Survey of the principles, political institutions, and practices of American national, state, and local politics. Elucidation of how people can affect government processes and decisions, and how government processes and policies affect people.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

PSC103 Intro Public Policy
Hours 3
Survey of problems encountered by American governmental units in fields such as agriculture, welfare, education, health, and business regulation.

PSC202 Political Science Methods
Hours 3
Introduction to the conduct of political inquiry and methods of political research.

PSC203 Comparative Politics
Hours 3
Theoretical approaches to the comparative study of national political systems.

PSC204 International Relations
Hours 3
Survey of the evolution of the modern state system and the basic forces in international relations.

PSC205 Political Theory
Hours 3
Survey of fundamental concepts in political theory such as liberty, equality, and authority.

PSC206 Public Administration
Hours 3
Study of the administrative principles and practices in the areas of organization, personnel management, budgeting, government regulation, and democratic controls.

PSC211 State & Local Govt
Hours 3
Study of the institutions and functions of American state and local governments and their relationship to the political process.

PSC314 Amer Judicial System
Hours 3
Introductory analysis of judicial organization, processes, and behavior, with emphasis on the institutional characteristics of the courts.

PSC316 Southern Politics
Hours 3
Examination of the party system of the Southern states in terms of its origin, nature, distribution of power, and impact on national politics.

PSC318 Constit Law Limits Gov Power
Hours 3
Study of the constitutional foundations of federalism and the separation of powers, with emphasis on the role of the Supreme Court.

PSC319 Con Law Civ Rts and Libs
Hours 3
Study of the Constitution's protections for civil rights and civil liberties, and the Supreme Court's interpretations of them.

PSC320 Special Studies In PSC
Hours 1-3
Supervised independent reading and research. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours, with permission of the department.

PSC321 Special Topics In PSC
Hours 3
Course content varies from offering to offering. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours, with permission of the department.

PSC330 Democratization
Hours 3
Examination of democratization processes and outcomes in different areas of the world, as well as success and failure in institutionalizing fully democratic systems.

Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or permission of the instructor
PSC331 Politics of Developing Nations
Hours 3
This course explores political and economic development within the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
Prerequisite(s): None
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: None

PSC332 Politics of Latin America
Hours 3
This course will examine Latin American political and economic developments throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 203 would be helpful.
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: None

PSC334 Government Politics West Europ
Hours 3
Analysis of the democracies of Western Europe. Attention is given to participation, societal cleavages, elections, parties, government institutions, policy making, and the European Union.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 203 or permission of the instructor

PSC336 African Politics
W
Hours 3
This course introduces students to the politics of contemporary Africa. It challenges the dominant representations of the continent as conflict prone, economically underdeveloped, and political unstable. Instead, the course presents Africa as a dynamic region comprised of 54 independent states with diverse political and economic realities. Students will explore core themes such as the politics of the state, politics of identity, economic and political development, the politics of conflict and cooperation, and the role of Africa in global affairs. These themes are examined through a variety of learning materials and collaborative-learning methods that expose students to dominant theoretical approaches and political science methodologies. It is important to note that this class is designated as a "W" course, which means "writing proficiency within the discipline is required for a passing grade in this course."
Prerequisite(s): N/A
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: N/A
Writing

PSC337 Politics of the Middle East
Hours 3
This course is designed to introduce advanced undergraduate students to contemporary Middle East politics. The course adopts a thematic approach to the study of Middle East politics. Important themes and questions in comparative politics will guide analysis of the complex political realities in the contemporary Middle East. The course begins with a historical overview of the emergence of the modern state system in the contemporary Middle East. The rest of the course draws on the tools of comparative politics to address some of the major issues facing the Middle East which include, but are not limited to, authoritarianism, political participation, identity politics, economic development, the political economy of oil, Islamist social and political movements, and the politics of gender.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 203 is recommended but not required.

PSC340 Civil Wars
Hours 3
This course covers a variety of topics related to civil war using a theoretical and scientific perspective. Topics include the distribution, onset, outcome, recurrence and duration of civil wars, and the management of civil war though third party mediation and negotiated settlements.

PSC343 Authoritarianism
Hours 3
The surprising persistence of authoritarian regimes since the end of the Cold War has inspired a major new literature in comparative politics on how non-democracy works. This course will address a number of important questions related to the functioning of authoritarian regimes and will explore authoritarian politics in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, and the post-Soviet countries.
Prerequisite(s): None; PSC 203 is recommended.

PSC344 The Israel-Palestine Conflict
Hours 3
How are we to make sense of the present-day conflict between Israelis and Palestinians? How do the parties involved see that conflict, and how does it fit into our own conceptions of religion and politics, war and peace, place and space? Why does it seem so intractable? Why does it occupy such prominence in contemporary political discourse? Through an examination of primary and secondary historical texts, literary works, films and artwork, we will explore the origins and unfolding of this conflict both internally (ie, as emerging from within distinct social-political moments for the people involved) and externally (in relation to broader geopolitical and economic developments). As the conflict remains ongoing, we will strive for compassionate, nuanced engagement; to understand rather than judge; and to find hope for new possibilities.
Prerequisite(s): Background in Middle Eastern politics is not required, but will be of benefit

PSC353 Modern Political Thought
Hours 3
Key political theorists from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Assigned texts may vary, but typically include works by Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, J. S. Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche. Topics include conceptions of a just society, the state, the value of political participation, liberty, and equality.
PSC361 Fiscal Policy & Budget
Hours 3
Study of governmental revenue and expenditure policies with emphasis on the budget as a method of administrative and fiscal control.

PSC362 Organization Theory
Hours 3
An examination of traditional and contemporary organizational theory and its application to public administration.

PSC364 African Amer & Polit Sys
Hours 3
A historical and contemporary assessment of the political, social and economic development of African-Americans in the American political system.

PSC365 Introduction to Environmental Policy
Hours 3
This introductory environmental policy course reviews major developments in environmental regulation in the United States, considered in a global context. Readings examine the evolution of U.S. environmental policy, the form and function of social institutions used to govern human-environment interactions, including markets, state and civil society, and conventions, norms, and morals. U.S. and U.N. legal structures, agencies, and NGOs are addressed, with attention to comparative regulatory frameworks. The “new institutional approach,” “resource regimes,” and various incremental and transformative institutional reforms are discussed. The impact of economic and cultural factors—including class, race, gender, and location—on resource use and other policy decisions affecting the physical and built environments will be explored. Evolving institutional approaches to energy use, such as sustainability, “wise use,” adaptive management, and resilience are examined. This course is cross-listed with NEW 365.
Prerequisite(s): No prerequisites are required.

PSC370 American Public Policy
Hours 3
This course provides a broad overview of public policy in the United States. In addition to learning about the policy process and policy analysis, we will examine the historical context and contemporary status of several policy issues.
Prerequisite(s): None
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: None

PSC399 Internship In PSC
Hours 3-6
Students may receive credit for internships they secure in offices, agencies or organizations related to Political Science. Students must secure the agreement of a faculty member to supervise the internship.

PSC411 Public Opinion
Hours 3
The formation, distribution, structure, properties, and techniques of measuring public opinions in the United States.

PSC414 Foreign Policy Decisionmaking
Hours 3
This is an overview of the key components of Foreign Policy Decision Making (FPDM). Students are expected to learn the theories and models of FPDM and be able to apply them to case studies of foreign decisions. This course is distinguished from PSC 413 by specifically focusing on how and why decisions are made.
Prerequisite(s): None; PSC 204 is recommended
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: None

PSC416 Migration and American Politics
Hours 3
This course examines how great movements of people have shaped American politics and policy.
Prerequisite(s): None
Prerequisite(s) with concurrency: None

PSC421 Seminar in Political Science, Writing Intensive
W
Hours 3
May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours. Selected problems in various areas of political science. Topics, instructors, and political science subfields covered will vary by instructor and semester. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in the course.
Writing

PSC422 Seminar Political Science
Hours 3
May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours. Selected problems in various areas in political science. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

PSC434 Internatl Polit Econom
Hours 3
The course deals with the international trade and finance regimes, foreign economic policy, transnational corporations in the world economy, North/South and East/West relations, and the implications of economic interdependence.

PSC435 War And Peace
Hours 3
Study of the causes of war at the individual, societal and international levels of analysis with particular emphasis on international relations research using the scientific method.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 204 or PSC 413

PSC438 Govt and Politics of S. Asia
Hours 3
Examination of South Asian states. Attention is given to the legacies of colonialism, political institutions, democratization, economic development, political conflict and regional security.
PSC439 Politics and Policy of the United Kingdom  
**W**  
Hours 3  
This course will introduce you to the government, politics and policy of the United Kingdom (UK). Topics will include political history, parties, interest groups, elections, governing institutions (Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet), regional issues including Northern Ireland, Britain's process of leaving the European Union ("Brexit"), and a number of specific policy areas. After a brief survey of the political history of Britain, the course will focus on post-WWII politics and policy, from the creation of the National Health Service and the growth of the welfare state in the early post-war years, to the "Thatcher revolution" of the 1980s and its emphasis on free market principles, Prime Minister Tony Blair's "Third Way" policies, the coalition government of 2010-15, and the current minority government. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.  
Prerequisite(s): PSC 101 and junior class status, or permission of instructor  
Writing

PSC441 Terrorism and Political Islam  
**W**  
Hours 3  
This is an introductory course into two distinct subjects: terrorism and Islamist movements. The main aim of the course is to show when and why Islamists turn violent, but it also emphasizes that not all Islamists are terrorists. The first part discusses correlates of terrorism, including agents, strategies, and ideologies of terrorist organizations as well as the causal underpinnings of terrorist group formation. The course's second part highlights varieties in Islamist organization, namely social movements, opposition groups, state actors, and militant organizations. The final part of the course focuses on empirical examples of Islamist terrorist organizations: Hamas, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda, and the Islamic State. Writing proficiency within the discipline is required for a passing grade in this course. Students do not need to have prior knowledge of the course subject.  
Writing

PSC442 Internatl Conflict  
Hours 3  
Examination of the various kinds of violent conflicts in which nation-states become involved.

PSC443 Comparative Pub Policy  
**W**  
Hours 3  
Analysis of domestic policy in advanced industrialized democracies, looking at both policy process and policy substance. Attention will be given to the questions of how and why policies differ across countries, and how one might evaluate policy performance cross-nationally. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.  
Writing

PSC446 Political Economy of Security  
Hours 3  
The course will cover a variety of topics that link security and political economy. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

PSC452 American Political Thought  
Hours 3  
Investigates primary sources and secondary literature covering the origin and direction of the U.S. political ideology. Topics typically include liberalism, civic republicanism, and debates between contemporary scholars concerning American exceptionalism.

PSC462 Public Personnel Admin  
Hours 3  
Study of the American public personnel system at the local, state, and national level. Emphasis is on such areas as the political activity of government employees, the application of the principle of equal opportunity and affirmative action, and the role of collective bargaining in government.

PSC464 The Politics of Health Policy  
Hours 3  
We examine health policy at all levels of government, with particular focus on the interdependence of the national, state, and local governments to provide health services. The political environment of health policymaking and implementation is explored. Health policies such as Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act will be examined, as well as other policies that impact health. We examine the policymaking process in general, applying health policy to the concepts and theories. We compare the US health care system with systems in other industrialized democracies.  
Prerequisite(s): Approval of academic advisor and at least junior status.

PSC465 The Politics of Sex  
Hours 3  
There are three key components to this course: 1) the status of women in politics and society, 2) the role of social movements and the Supreme Court regarding the status of women in politics and society, and 3) a substantive policy issue related to the politics of sex determined by class vote (possibilities include reproductive rights, marriage equality, sexual assault on campus, and others).  
Prerequisite(s): Junior status.
PSC466 The Politics of Poverty
W
Hours 3
In this course we will examine one of the most enduring social problems in the United States – poverty. The course is divided into three sections. In the first section, we will primarily focus on the conceptualization and measurement of poverty, as well as the demographic groups that are most likely to suffer from high poverty rates. In the second part of the course, we will review in detail the major government programs aimed at alleviating poverty. We will examine their historical development, their structure and the social science research on their effectiveness. In the third section of the course we will review alternative explanations for poverty, focusing on the distinction between individual and structural explanations and how it influences public discourse and the politics of poverty. As this is an upper level course that fulfills the university’s writing requirement, there will be a significant amount of writing in this class. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course. These written assignments will require coherent, logical, and carefully edited prose. In addition, these assignments will require students to demonstrate higher-level critical thinking skills, such as analysis and synthesis.

Writing

PSC467 The Conservative Movement in America
W
Hours 3
This class will examine the origins and history of the conservative political movement in the United States, following the development of this ideology from its origins as a small movement of journalists and intellectuals to the dominant ideology of the Republican Party, and ultimately, for a time, the dominant ideology in the United States. This class will focus primarily on texts written from a conservative or right-wing perspective. That said, the purpose of this class is not indoctrination. Students are encouraged to engage in vigorous, respectful class discussions on the ideas presented, noting any weaknesses perceived in the arguments considered. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not demonstrate writing skills appropriate for an upper-division undergraduate course will not receive a passing grade, regardless of that student’s performance in other aspects of the class.

Writing