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.

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.

PSC201 Scope Political Science
Hours 3
Survey of the political processes and institutions of contemporary societies and an introduction to the concepts and concerns of political research.

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.

PSC301 Pol Party & Elections
Hours 3
Activities of parties and pressure groups in American politics. Attention is given to the social composition, organization, finance, and nominating processes of parties.

PSC312 Amer Legislative Syst
Hours 3
Analysis of the politics and processes of the U.S. Congress, including its Constitutional origins, evolution, current structures and rules, elections, and relationships with the public and other political actors.

PSC313 The American Executive
Hours 3
Examination of the U.S. Presidency, including its Constitutional origins and historical evolution; current structure, selection, and powers; and relationships with the broader executive bureaucracy, Congress, and the public.

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

PSC315 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.

PSC316 Con 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.

Prerequisite(s): PSC 101

PSC317 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.

Prerequisite(s): PSC 101

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

PSC333 Soviet Post Sov Politics
Hours 3
Study of institutions and processes in the USSR and the post-Soviet republics, with attention to concepts of authoritarianism, systemic change, and democratization.

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.

PSC335 Soc Movements & Cont Politics
Hours 3
Examination of social movements. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of movements on political processes.

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

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.

PSC342 For Pol Sov Un Suc State
Hours 3
Examination of the influence of the Soviet Union in the evolution of the international system as well as the interests and strategies of Russia and other successor states.

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  
No description available

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

PSC413 Amer Foreign Policy  
Hours 3  
Examination of the forces and processes affecting United States foreign relations. Attention is also given to the content and problems of contemporary American foreign policy.

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.  
Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or permission of instructor.  
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.

PSC433 Communism Europe 1945-89  
Hours 3  
Examination of the interaction of Marxist theory and practice in various national settings. Attention is given to the differential evolution of parties and regimes and to reasons for the dissolution of communist systems.

PSC434 Internatl Polit Econ  
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

PSC436 Non-Communist East Europe  
Hours 3  
An examination of the political issues, processes, and institutions, primarily in the formerly communist states of East-Central Europe.

PSC437 Post Communism  
Hours 3  
Examination of processes of democratization and reversion to authoritarianism in East Central Europe and Eurasia. Political, social, and economic alterations of communist arrangements are discussed. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

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.

PSC441 Terrorism  
Hours 3  
Explores the definition and dynamics of domestic and international terrorism, terrorist ideas and terrorist organization, and the political problems of suppressing terrorism.

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

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

PSC444 International Organizations
Hours 3
An examination of the essential structures and processes in international organizations, both governmental and nongovernmental, and their roles in the area of global security, economy, and social welfare. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

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.

PSC448 Human Rights & Institutions
Hours 3
This class examines how domestic and international institutions create incentives or constraints leading to human rights violations or protections from a social science perspective.

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.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 205

PSC455 Political Traditions and Dilemmas
Hours 3
This course is a sustained examination of the history of political thought in the western tradition coupled with philosophical investigation into contemporary issues.

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