POLITICAL SCIENCE    PLS

Department of Political Science
College of Social Science

100 Introduction to American Politics
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0)
The policymaking process in national government, with emphasis on political participation, the presidency, Congress, Supreme Court, bureaucracy, and civil rights and civil liberties.

140 Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0)
Comparative analysis of political systems in first, second, and third-world countries. Alternative methods for comparative cross-cultural analyses of political systems.

160 Introduction to International Relations
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0) Not open to students with credit in MC 220 or MC 221.

170 Introduction to Political Philosophy
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0)
Basic questions of political philosophy as considered from ancient to modern times. Primary focus on the origins, defense, and radical critiques of modern liberal democracy.

200 Introduction to Political Science
Fall, Summer. 4(4-0)
The science of politics. Theory construction, model building, empirical testing, and inductive inference. Examples from American, international, and comparative politics.

201 Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis
Fall, Spring, Summer. 4(4-0)
Philosophy of social science. Principles of research design, measurement, hypothesis testing, measures of association, cross tabulations, and regression analysis.

202 Introduction to Data Analytics and the Social Sciences
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0)
Approaches to data analysis in the social sciences. Computational tools for data collection and visualization across various digital sources, including text or social media.

301 American State Government
Spring. 3(3-0)

302 Urban Politics
Fall. 3(3-0)

304 Minority Politics
Fall. 3(3-0)
Minority groups and the political process in the United States. Civil rights movements, political organizations, legal decisions, political participation, and legislative politics.

310 Public Administration and Policy Making
Fall. 3(3-0)
Role of public bureaucracy in the U.S. Theories of administrative behavior and the impact of hierarchy on policymaking. Relations with the president, Congress, interest groups, and the public. Administrative functions, responsiveness, and ethics.

313 American Public Policy
Fall, Spring, Summer. 3(3-0)
Political and economic concepts for evaluating the consequences of government decision making. Issues of problem identification, policy adoption, and implementation affecting program evaluation.

320 Judicial Politics
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) R: Not open to freshmen or sophomores.
Analysis of the structure and functions of judicial systems. Organization, administration, and politics of judicial bureaucracies. Roles of judges, juries, counsel, litigants, and interest groups in the adjudication process.

321 Constitutional Law
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) R: Not open to freshmen or sophomores.
U.S. Supreme Court policy making and its effect on issues of current importance, including First Amendment freedoms, due process, race relations, sex discrimination, and privacy.

322 Comparative Legal Systems
Fall, Summer. 3(3-0)

324 Congress
Spring. 3(3-0)
The design of Congress. Rules, structures, and procedures affecting policy making. Impact of regular elections on legislative behavior.

325 The Presidency
Fall. 3(3-0)
Role of the president in the U.S. political system. Constitutional questions, presidential selection, presidential power, interbranch relations, and presidential policy making.

333 Public Opinion and Political Behavior
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0)
Role of public opinion in political systems and its impact on the political process. Group differences, political socialization, development and change of political attitudes and behavior patterns. Methods of studying public opinion.

334 Campaigns and Elections
Fall of even years. 3(3-0)

342 Comparative Political Economy
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) P: EC 201 or EC 202
Democratic politics and the linkages among political, social, and economic conceptions of equality in developed and developing countries.

344 Politics of Developing Areas
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0)
Politics of modernization, democratic and authoritarian regimes, and class and ethnicity in developing countries.

345 Religion and World Politics
Fall. 3(3-0)
Comparative analysis of the role of religion in politics across world regions. Discussion of major theories and topics in relation to religion-state relations.

346 Middle East Politics
Fall. 3(3-0)
Political history, political institutions, political actors, and political culture in the Arab countries of North Africa and the Middle East, as well as Turkey, Israel, and Iran.

347 Democratic Regimes
Spring. 3(3-0)
Democratization, democratic consolidation, political institutions, and economic development in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

351 African Politics
Fall. Spring. 3(3-0)
Political institutions and governmental processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

352 Latin American Politics
Spring. 3(3-0)
The political process in Latin America from a comparative perspective. Development, democratization and the role of democratic institutions in the political life.

354 Politics of Asia
Fall of even years, Spring of even years. 3(3-0)
Political institutions, political actors, and policymaking processes in selected Asian countries.

356 Politics of Europe and the European Union
Fall, Summer. 3(3-0)
Governmental institutions and processes, political socialization, and political culture in Western Europe and the European Union.

357 Politics of English Speaking Democracies
Summer. 3(3-0)
Political institutions, political actors, and political culture in Britain, Australia, or Canada.

358 Politics of the U.S.S.R. and Its Successor States
Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with James Madison College. Administered by Political Science.
Political history, communist ideology, state institutions, and political processes in the Soviet Union and its successor states.
American Foreign Policy and National Security
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) P: (PLS 160 or concurrently) or (MC 220 or concurrently)

Theories of foreign policy making. Factors shaping foreign policy in various countries. Current and recurrent problems in foreign policy making.

International and Domestic Political Conflict
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) P: (PLS 160 or concurrently) or (MC 221 or concurrently)

Civil war, conflict, and conflict resolution in the international system.

Politics of the United Nations and International Organizations
Spring. 3(3-0) Not open to students with credit in MC 322.


Classical Political Philosophy
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0)

Examining of major themes in classical political philosophy as represented by such Greek and Roman philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, or Cicero.

Modern Political Philosophy
Fall. Spring. 3(3-0)

Major themes of modern political philosophy as represented by such thinkers as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, and Nietzsche.

American Political Thought
Fall of even years. 3(3-0)

Major themes of American political thought. Topics may include the founding of the U.S., naturalism, race relations, or progressivism.

Special Topics in Political Science
Fall, Spring. 1 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 8 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: Open to juniors or seniors in the Department of Political Science or in the College of Social Science or in the Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science Major or in the Political Science Major or in the Political Science-Prelaw Major or in the Public Policy Major or in the World Politics Major or approval of department.

Issues and problems in contemporary political science.

Analyzing and Visualizing Data in Politics
Spring. 3(3-0) P: PLS 201 or PLS 202

Exploration and evaluation of political science theories or public policies through empirical analysis; approaches to data and graphical analysis in the political sciences; studies of prominent or emerging political science and policy data sources.

Seminar in Political Science (W)
Fall, Spring. 4(4-0) A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: (PLS 201) and completion of Tier I writing requirement RB: Political Science major or student with background in political science or international studies.

Variable topics including legislative behavior, policy analysis, political development, human rights, international conflict, foreign policy, international political economy, and constitutionalism.

Islam and World Politics
Spring of even years. 4(4-0) Interdepartmental with James Madison College. Administered by James Madison College. P: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement SA: MC 420

Manifestations of political Islam within key Muslim countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan. Use of political Islam by states and groups as an instrument to advance their international goals.

Social Science Data Analytics Applications
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Geography and Social Science. Administered by Social Science. P: PLS 202

Application of computational tools for data collection and visualization to various topics in social science research.

Undergraduate Research Seminar
Fall, Spring. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: PLS 200 or concurrently RB: PLS 201 or concurrently R: Approval of department. SA: PLS 481H

Advanced research seminar for students in the political science program.

Guided Research
Fall, Spring. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: (PLS 200 or concurrently) or (PLS 201 or concurrently) or approval of department RB: PLS 200 and PLS 201 R: Approval of department. SA: PLS 480H

Guided research on selected topics for students in the political science program.

Senior Honors Thesis
Fall, Spring. Summer. 3 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. P: PLS 481H

Original research and writing under direction of a faculty member.

Field Experience in Political Science
Fall, Spring. Summer. 1 to 12 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department.

Supervised field work in several areas of study. It may involve internships with non-profit organizations or public agencies, or participation in survey research, political campaigns, or petition drives.

Independent Study
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department.

Proseminar: Political Theory and Research Methods
Fall. 3(3-0)

Issues in the accumulation of knowledge about political phenomena. Approaches to the verification of hypotheses. Alternative theoretical conceptions in study of politics.

Quantitative Techniques in Public Policy and Political Science I
Fall. 3(3-0) R: Open only to graduate students in the Department of Political Science or approval of department.

Foundations of research methodology. Applications of data in public policy and political science. Individual research projects.

Quantitative Techniques in Public Policy and Political Science II
Spring. 3(3-0) RB: PLS 801 R: Open only to graduate students in the Department of Political Science or approval of department.

Linear and nonlinear models applied to public policy and political science data. Individualized research projects.

Political Thought
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: Admission to graduate program

Major political philosophers. Major themes of political philosophy. Consideration of the relationship between political philosophy and other fields of study in political science.

Proseminar in Formal Theory
Spring. 3(3-0) R: Open to doctoral students in the Political Science Major or approval of department. SA: PLS 880

Formal models in understanding politics. Topics may include game theory, spatial modeling, social choice theory, public choice theory, and dynamic modeling. Theoretical issues and research applications.

Proseminar in Policy Analysis
Spring. 3(3-0) R: Open to graduate students.

Economic and political techniques for analyzing public policies. Utility and limitations of these techniques and their use and abuse in public policy analysis.

Proseminar in American Politics
Fall. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.

The major subfields of American politics. Political behavior within institutions and mass political behavior.

State Government and Politics
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0)

Research literature on state government. Interstate differences. Parties, elections, governors, state legislatures, bureaucracy, interest groups, and policy outcomes.
822 Urban Government and Politics  
Spring of even years. 3(3-0)  
Research literature on urban government. Structure, process, and policy issues. Intergovernmental relations and fiscal interdependencies.

826 International Development: Theory and Practice  
Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Anthropology and Community Sustainability and Forestry and Social Science. Administered by Community Sustainability. SA: ACR 626, RD 826  

828 Public Opinion and Political Behavior  
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) RB: (PLS 801 and PLS 802) or approval of department.  
The acquisition and change of political attitudes. The relationship between political attitudes and political behavior. Methods and problems of measuring political attitudes.

850 Proseminar in Comparative Politics  
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Research literature in a subfield of comparative politics. Methods, approaches, and purposes.

854 Comparative Political Institutions  
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Political institutions from a comparative perspective. Topics may include electoral systems, political parties, presidential vs. parliamentary systems, representation, federalism, and constitutional engineering.

857 Parties and Elections  
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Origin, organization, and behavior of political parties in advanced industrial societies. Structure and transformation of party systems. Role of issues and elections in party systems. Parties in developing societies.

860 Proseminar in International Relations  
Fall of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Theoretical perspectives and analytical approaches to a subfield of international relations.

870 Proseminar in Political Thought  
Spring of even years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Survey of major issues or themes in political philosophy.

871 Classical Political Philosophy  
Fall. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Study of one or more major figures or thinkers in ancient or medieval political philosophy.

872 Modern Political Philosophy  
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Study of one or more major figures or thinkers in modern political philosophy.

877 American Political Thought  
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Study of one or more major concepts or thinkers in American political thought.

884 Proseminar on Political Institutions and Public Choice  
Fall. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 6 credits in all enrollments for this course.  
Theories of political institutions, with particular emphasis on the U.S. Possible topics include models of rational action in electoral, legislative, and bureaucratic institutions and problems of majority rule, collective action, and social welfare.

900 Research Seminar in Political Methodology  
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 15 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PLS 810 or PLS 811  
Advanced topics in political methodology. Individual research projects.

910 Research Seminar in Public Policy and Public Administration  
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PLS 810 or PLS 811  
Specialized topics in public administration or public policy.

920 Research Seminar in American Politics  
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course.  

932 Education Policy Implementation  
Fall. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Educational Administration. Administered by Educational Administration.  
Process and politics of policy implementation in education.

933 Evaluation of Education Policy Implementation  
Spring. 3(3-0) Interdepartmental with Educational Administration. Administered by Educational Administration.  
Methodological tools for evaluating policy design and implementation.

950 Research Seminar in Comparative Politics  
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PLS 850  
Intensive study of one subfield of comparative politics. Critical evaluation of the literature.

960 Research Seminar in International Politics  
Spring. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PLS 860  
Intensive study of one subfield of international politics. Critical evaluation of the literature.