

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PS 0200 AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS 3 cr.

Designed to provide students with a basic working knowledge of the basic goals of the constitutional framers, giving students an understanding of the purposes of the American political system; the essential structures (or institutions) within the American political system, the behavior (broadly defined) of the actors within the American political system, the purpose and performance of the linkage institutions in the united states (possibly including political parties, elections, and interest groups); and the types of policies that are often produced by a system with the characteristics of those found in the united states. Depending on the interests, area of expertise, and inclinations of the particular instructor, some of these may be emphasized more heavily than others.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 0211 AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 3 cr.

Examines the structure and function of the American criminal justice system. Subject matter involves an examination of criminal procedure as it has been established by the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions, and judicial interpretations. Case law and the manner in which case law shapes the work activities of criminal justice professionals are emphasized. Critical issues in criminal justice are also examined (alternatives to incarceration, victims' rights, and others).

Prerequisite: None.

PS 0300 COMPARATIVE POLITICS 3 cr.

Provides students with basic information about a range of political systems outside the United States and teaches them to use that information to examine major theories about politics. The course is also designed to help students understand the government and the politics of the united states in comparative perspective and to develop some understanding of comparative methodology and the logic of comparison as a social science method. Depending on the interests, area of expertise, and inclinations of the particular instructor, some regions and topics might be emphasized more heavily than others.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 0335 SOCIOLOGY OF POLITICS 3 cr.

This course examines the relationship between political institutions and the institutions of the economy, family, education, religion, and stratification. With a major focus on American society and the conditions underlying stable democracy, these relationships are studied in historical and cross-societal comparative perspective as well as in terms of a society's location in the system of international relations.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 0500

WORLD POLITICS

3 cr.

Aims to increase students' knowledge of the history of the modern state system and, in particular, political developments during the past few decades. It introduces students to basic concepts and analytic frameworks that political scientists employ to understand world politics, enhancing students' knowledge of international institutions that play important roles in world politics and exploring current issues in world affairs relating to human welfare and security. Depending on the interests, area of expertise, and inclinations of the particular instructor, some of these may be emphasized more heavily than others.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 0600

POLITICAL THEORY AND ANALYSIS

3 cr.

Designed to introduce students to the idea of normative political theory and to important authors and concepts in the western political theory tradition. Students will learn to understand both historical and contemporary debates surrounding important political concepts such as authority, justice, liberty, and democracy, and to appreciate the differences among normative, empirical, logical, and faith-based political claims. Students will learn to read critically and analytically, to make simple normative arguments, and to explain the specific role of normative arguments in political science and political life. Depending on the interests, area of expertise, and inclinations of the particular instructor, some of these may be emphasized more heavily than others.

Prerequisite: None

PS 1201

CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

3 cr.

Explores major topics in the area of civil liberties and civil rights which have concerned the Supreme Court in recent years and which have provoked extensive political and social controversy. Examples include decisions about discrimination, privacy, freedom of speech and assembly, and conflicts between freedom of the press and a fair trial.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 1202

AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

3 cr.

A study of the interpretation of the constitution by the Supreme Court and of the place of the court in the American political system. Topics include the development of judicial review, civil and political rights, national and state powers over the economy, and the powers of the president. Major emphasis is given to the courts policymaking roles and to its decisions in the area of civil liberties and rights.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 1210 RELIGION AND POLITICS 3 cr.

Religion and politics both wrestle with issues of justice, power, authority and liberty, and both offer to serve as sources of meaning in our lives. Inevitably then, religion and politics are intimately entwined. In the United States, the most religious and religiously diverse nation in the world, founded by a religious people seeking religious liberty, religion plays prominently in politics and political culture and politics strongly influences religious belief and practice. Explores the intermingling of religion and politics.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300 or PS 0600.

PS 1211 LEGISLATIVE PROCESS 3 cr.

Provides an analysis of the legislative process in modern democracies with primary attention devoted to the legislative process in the United States. The history and meaning of representation is analyzed as is the behavior of participants in the legislative process. The impact of social-economic forces on decision-making in the United States is studied as are the roles of interest groups, political parties, the executive branch, and the judiciary.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300.

PS 1212 AMERICAN PRESIDENCY 3 cr.

Provides an analysis of presidential leadership in the United States. The first part of the course deals with factors helping to explain presidential leadership: how presidents are nominated and elected, the constitutional framework within which the presidency operates, presidential relations with the bureaucracy, and presidential personality. This framework is then used for an intensive analysis of presidential leadership in foreign and domestic policy.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300.

PS 1231 POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS 3 cr.

Examines the organization and character of American political parties, the impact of environmental factors on party processes and behavior, patterns of party competition, and the role of parties in shaping public policy and in providing a linkage between public and government. Attention is also given to the political behavior of the American public. Recent changes in the organization of party institutions are examined.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300.

PS 1234 ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESS 3 cr.

Examines the factors that affect national electoral outcomes in the U.S.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300.

PS 1251 URBAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 3 cr.

This course is an introduction to the key structures, procedures and problems of cities and urban areas. Topics covered include: city-suburban conflicts, relations between cities and the federal government, forms of local government and their advantages and disadvantages, property taxes, housing, urban renewal, crime, courts, and education. The principal objective of the course is to help the student develop a well-informed and differentiated view of urban places and problems.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 1252 STATE GOVERNMENT 3 cr.

Survey political processes and public policy outcomes in the fifty American states. Policy areas to be covered include the environment, era, taxation, crime and law enforcement, and welfare.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300.

PS 1261 AMERICAN PUBLIC POLICY 3 cr.

Focuses on a variety of public policy issues. The issues may include social welfare programs, management of the economy, governmental regulation of business activities, environmental programs, urban problems, civil rights, civil liberties, crime control, and foreign policy.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300.

PS 1314 GERMAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS 3 cr.

Focuses on political and socioeconomic developments in West Germany since World War II. Students study the workings of political institutions and the formulations of public policies in the context of recent history.

Prerequisite: PS 0300 or PS 0500 or GEOG 0101 or HIST 0101 or HIST 0180 or HIST 1367.

PS 1318 EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS 3 cr.

Encompasses the comparative study of the political systems of Western Europe including the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, and Scandinavia. The primary themes will include political development and institutions, security, European integration, political culture, political economy, and democratization.

Prerequisite: PS 0300 or PS 0500.

PS 1321	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS	3 cr.
----------------	--------------------------------	--------------

A basic introduction to the dynamics of government in Latin America. The course examines the main political issues of contemporary Latin America, the major forms of government in the region and the ways in which social groups and classes participate in politics.

Prerequisite: PS 0300 or PS 0500 or GEOG 0101 or HIST 0101 or HIST 0180 or HIST 0500 or HIST 0501 or HIST 1367.

PS 1370	SPECIAL TOPICS	1-3 cr.
----------------	-----------------------	----------------

Current topics of particular sociological interest. Topics covered vary with instructor and term.

Note: Instructor Permission Required.

PS 1503	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	3 cr.
----------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

Focus on nongovernmental as well as intergovernmental organization, and will be concerned with the economic as well as the political aspects of such organization. Throughout the course, international organization will be approached as an arena for both conflict and cooperation.

Prerequisites: PS 0300 or PS 0500.

PS 1511	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY	3 cr.
----------------	--------------------------------	--------------

An introduction to US foreign policy since 1945. Emphasizes Soviet American relations, Sino-American relations, foreign economic policy and defense policy. Fast breaking current crises related to themes in the course are examined in group discussion. Case studies show how foreign policy is made.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300 or PS 0500 or GEOG 0101 or HIST 0600 or HIST 0601.

PS 1531	NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY	3 cr.
----------------	---------------------------------	--------------

National security is becoming a crucial issue with an impact both in the international system and in the domestic environment. Discusses the different approaches to national security and the policies through which they have been implemented. Includes military buildup, political and military alliances, and military and economic aid. Emphasizes the policies pursued in the last decade and their political and economic consequences.

Prerequisite: PS 0300 or PS 0500.

PS 1541	POLITICS OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS	3 cr.
----------------	--	--------------

Topics covered include international trade, international monetary relations, direct foreign investment by multi-national firms, commodity politics (OPEC) and the new international economic order. These issues will be analyzed in terms of liberal economic, neo-Marxian, and "mercantilist" orientations to international political economy.

Prerequisite: PS 0300 or PS 0500.

PS 1601	POLITICAL THEORY: PLATO TO MACHIAVELLI	3 cr.
----------------	---	--------------

Surveys the work of major thinkers in the western political tradition from ancient Greece through the Middle Ages, such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, and others.

Prerequisite: PS 0600.

PS 1602	POLITICAL THEORY: MACHIAVELLI TO ROUSSEAU	3 cr.
----------------	--	--------------

Surveys the work of major thinkers in the western political tradition from the early modern period through the enlightenment, such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Burke

Prerequisite: PS 0600.

PS 1603	CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT	3 cr.
----------------	---------------------------------------	--------------

Surveys the work of major thinkers in the western political tradition from the French Revolution to the present, such as Bentham, Mill, Marx, Tocqueville, Weber, Rawls, and Habernas.

Prerequisite: PS 0600.

PS 1607	AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	3 cr.
----------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

Provides a survey of American political thinking from the founding to the present.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0600.

PS 1611	LIBERALISM AND DEMOCRACY	3 cr.
----------------	---------------------------------	--------------

We shall attempt to think critically about liberalism and democracy, by means of conducting an historical and analytical examination of these concepts, with a special emphasis on contemporary criticisms of democratic capitalism.

Prerequisite: PS 0600.

PS 1623	PSYCHOLOGY AND POLITICS	3 cr.
----------------	--------------------------------	--------------

Designed to examine how various psychological schools of thought have been used to explain the major enduring concerns of political philosophy. Examines political thinkers who have borrowed from Freudian, humanistic, or behavioral psychological theory to provide new insights in understanding the nature of freedom, authority, obedience, and leadership.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 1629	TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY	3 cr.
----------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

Focuses intensely on a specific topic or problem in political theory; topics vary by instructor and term.

Prerequisite: None.

PS 1836	POLITICS THROUGH FILM	3 cr.
----------------	------------------------------	--------------

This course is about political power, authority, leadership, ideology, and revolution. We consider what they are, their different manifestations, how they work, their consequences, and how these have been portrayed on film. This is not so much a course on film, as it is a course about politics and issues of political theory and political morality as portrayed on film. We will use major commercial films and documentaries as case studies to explore some of the most fundamental issues of politics.

Prerequisite: PS 0200 or PS 0300 or PS 0500 or PS 0600.

PS 1901	INDEPENDENT STUDY	1-3 cr.
----------------	--------------------------	----------------

PS 1902	DIRECTED READING	1-3 cr.
----------------	-------------------------	----------------

PS 1955	POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONE	3 cr.
----------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

Capstone course for senior Political Science majors.

Prerequisite: Senior.

PS 1969	SPECIAL TOPICS – STUDY ABROAD	1 cr.
----------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

The study of special topics related to a study abroad experience.