

# **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**PS 0200**

**AMERICAN POLITICS**

**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.**

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**

**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.**

The United States constitution plays an extraordinarily powerful role in American political life. The primary focus of this course is examination of the role of constitutional law in the American political process. We do this by analyzing constitutional interpretation by the United States Supreme Court and other federal courts in its major decisions. Students will learn how the court reached its decisions, who some significant justices have been, how the court considered contending arguments, and what the consequences of these decisions for our political system have been. Topics include the development of judicial review and close analysis of the way in which the court has addressed the two major structural features of the U.S. Constitution ' separation of powers and federalism in an historic and contemporary setting. Specific issues in these areas are struggles over presidential and congressional power and national versus state power. We also address issues regarding civil liberties and civil rights. Students should find this course helpful in

reaching a more sophisticated understanding of the major issues of constitutional law in American life, as well as providing a useful background to the cases and kinds of legal analysis they may pursue in further study in law school or other graduate study.

*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.**

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.**

Examines political institutions and developments in Germany following the World War II, first tracing them through the eras of postwar occupation, Cold War partition and consolidation of the two German states, through the East German revolution of 1989 that set the state for unification. The course will pay special attention to the domestic and international public policy challenges facing post-unification Germany.

*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.**

Compares and contrasts the governments and political processes throughout Latin America. It offers a detailed look at several countries, and also provides a comparative framework to discuss the rise, fall, and quality of democracy.

*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.**

Provides a historical survey of American foreign policy from the end of World War II until the present, an analysis of the decision making process led by the president of the United States, and a discussion of the impact of both the international political system and American domestic politics on this process.

*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. This course will discuss the different approaches to national security and the policies through which they have been implemented, such as military buildup, political and military alliances, military and economic consequences, and nuclear policies.

*Prerequisite: PS 0300 or PS 0500.*

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

Examines the connections between power and wealth, states and markets, and economics and politics in order to gain a better understanding of the political underpinnings of the global economy as well as the influences that international economics has on national and international politics. It is an introduction to what political scientists call international political economy (or simply IPE).

*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**                      **EARLY MODERN & ENLIGHTENMENT POLITICAL THOUGHT**                      **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**                      **MODERN & CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**                      **3 cr.**

Addresses the progress of democratic theory and relevant "challengers" in the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. Starting with post-revolutionary expressions of democracy, the class turns to the various challenges democracy faces in that time period: Marxism, communism, anarchism, fascism, and totalitarianism. It then looks at where democratic theory was left following these challenges in the 1960's and 1970's, and what that meant for the idea of democracy itself. Students in the class will gain exposure to Paine, DeToqueville, Marx, Lenin, Arendt, Goldman, Dahl, and Schumpeter. Grading will be primarily focused on short reaction papers, in-class writing and recall exercises, and a final argumentative research paper.

*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.**

Attempts to assess the significance of the insights into human potentialities in light of the traditional views and assumptions of political theory.

*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.**

Uses cinema from a variety of countries to explore, in comparative perspective, central concepts and themes of politics, such as power, authority, conflict, leadership, ideology, propaganda, revolution, justice, and participation.

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

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

Normally associated with internships or special programs like the Washington center on learning alternatives.

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

Readings on special topics for which courses are not currently offered

**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.