

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.
Dynamics of conflict and cooperation. Processes of foreign policy decision making. Major international economic issues. Basic future trends. Primary analytical approaches for studying world politics.
- 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)
Structure and processes of American state government. Interstate differences. Constitutions, elections, political parties, interest groups, and intergovernmental relations. Policy focus on education, welfare, and criminal justice.
- 302 Urban Politics**
Fall. 3(3-0)
Structure and processes of American urban politics. Relationship of cities to U.S. federal system. Interstate variations. Policy focus on public education, crime, social welfare, and economic development.
- 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)
Cross-national study of common law and civil law systems. Judicial review and selection of judges. Models of judicial decision-making. High court-low court relations. Role of courts in society.
- 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)
The nominating process. Recruitment of candidates and the formation of electoral coalitions. Analysis of election results. Trends in electoral support for officeholders and parties.
- 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 policy-making 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.

PLS—Political Science

- 362 American Foreign Policy and National Security**
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) P: (PLS 160 or concurrently) or (MC 220 or concurrently) or (MC 221 or concurrently)
Theories of foreign policy making. Factors shaping foreign policy in various countries. Current and recurrent problems in foreign policy making.
- 363 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.
- 364 Politics of the United Nations and International Organizations**
Spring. 3(3-0) Not open to students with credit in MC 322.
History and evolution. League of Nations, United Nations. Growth and role of regional, specialized, and non-governmental organizations. Impact of new states. Politics, functions, and problems.
- 371 Classical Political Philosophy**
Fall, Spring. 3(3-0)
Examination of major themes in classical political philosophy as represented by such Greek and Roman philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, or Cicero.
- 372 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.
- 377 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.
- 392 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: Completion of Tier I writing requirement. R: 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.
- 397 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.
- 422 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.
- 441 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.
- 442 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.
- 481 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.
- 490 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 490H
Guided research on selected topics for students in the political science program.
- 491H 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.
- 494 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.
- 495 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.
Individual research and reading supervised by a faculty member.
- 800 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.
- 801 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.
- 802 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.
- 803 Political Thought**
Fall. 3(3-0) RB: Admission to graduate program in political science.
Major political philosophers. Major themes of political philosophy. Consideration of the relationship between political philosophy and other fields of study in political science.
- 809 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.
- 811 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.
- 820 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.
- 821 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 826, RD 826
Evolution of international development theory across disciplines. Changing conceptualizations, measurements, processes and effects of development and poverty. Ethnicity, social class, gender, and community influences on socioeconomic processes. Current issues, concerns, and strategic alternatives.
- 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 802
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.
Intensive study of one subfield of American politics. Critical evaluation of the literature.
- 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.
- 970 Research Seminar in Political Thought**
Spring of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PLS 870
Intensive study of one subfield of political philosophy.
- 980 Research Seminar in Formal Theory**
Fall of odd years. 3(3-0) A student may earn a maximum of 9 credits in all enrollments for this course. RB: PLS 880
Intensive study of one formal modeling technique used in political science research.
- 990 Topics in Professional Development**
Fall, Spring. 1 to 4 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department.
Professionalization for Ph.D. students, including seminars on dissertation writing, graduate student teaching, and other aspects of professional development.
- 993 Readings in Political Science**
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 6 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 12 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Approval of department.
Supervised reading in a subfield of political science, public administration, or public policy.
- 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research**
Fall, Spring, Summer. 1 to 12 credits. A student may earn a maximum of 36 credits in all enrollments for this course. R: Open to doctoral students in the Political Science major.
Doctoral dissertation research.