

POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY

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LEARNING GOALS:

Students in Political Science are expected to graduate with an understanding of the major theories and debates in American, International, and Comparative politics and with the ability to compare and assess those theories critically. To do so, students will strengthen their understanding of major facts and concepts underlying each of the three fields. Students will recognize the diversity of populations and societies within the United States and globally, as well as the political, social and economic effects of different categories of diversity. Students will develop competency in conducting scholarly research, including the ability to critically read scholarly work and to perform their own research utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDIES

Requirements for the Major in Political Science. Majors take 44 semester hours in political science, all with grades of C- or better and at least a 2.00 political science GPA. Twenty semester hours of electives are selected with faculty adviser guidance (these may include two hours of internship credit); 16 of these semester hours must be at the 300 level or higher.

- 4 POLI-111 American Government and Politics
- 4 POLI-121 Comparative Government and Politics
- 4 POLI-131 World Affairs
- 4 POLI-205 Research Methods
- 4 POLI-305 Advanced Research Methods
- 4 POLI-501 Senior Seminar

20 hours of electives selected with faculty adviser guidance
(may include two hours of internship credit); 16 of these semester hours must be at the 300 level or higher.

The department also recommends additional courses in other areas, depending upon career goals. Frequent choices include business, communications, economics, earth and environmental sciences, modern language, history, and sociology.

Secondary Teaching Certification. Coursework required by the state of Pennsylvania for admission to the teacher certification program includes successful completion of ENGL-100 Writing and Thinking or equivalent course, at least 3 semester hours in British or American literature, at least 6 semester hours of mathematics coursework (or other courses which satisfy the Central Curriculum Analytical Thought requirement), and at least one 40-hour externship.

Education course requirements for secondary education are EDUC-101 Introduction to Education and Society, EDUC-102 Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Education, EDUC-250 Educational Psychology, EDUC-260 Introduction to Special Education, EDUC-270 Instruction of Exceptional Students, EDUC-330 Technology in Education, EDUC-350 English Language Learners: Theory and Instruction, EDUC-380 Instructional Design, EDUC-479 Principles of Learning and Teaching in Secondary Education, EDUC-483 Differentiated Instruction and Classroom Management in Secondary Education, and the EDUC-500 Student Teaching package (EDUC-501, EDUC-502, EDUC-503, and EDUC-600).

Political science secondary education students complete the regular political science major with one change in the requirements: rather than taking 24 semester hours of departmental electives, secondary education students take 20 semester hours of departmental electives. In addition to taking the courses listed above, secondary education political science students must complete certification in either social studies or citizenship. The requirements for certification in social studies are EDUC-425 Methods of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment in Teaching Social Studies, SOCI-101 Principles of Sociology, ANTH-162 Introduction to Anthropology, ECON-105 Elements of Economics, PSYC-101 Principles of Psychology, HIST-322 Pennsylvania History or HIST-324 Pennsylvania's Pasts and Their Publics, 1 course in U. S. history (HIST-111, HIST-112 or HIST-115), 1 course in European history (HIST-131 or HIST-132), and 1 course in non-Western history (HIST-151, HIST-152, HIST-171, HIST-172, HIST-180, or HIST-181). The requirements for certification in citizenship are EDUC-427 Methods of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in Teaching Citizenship, ANTH-162 Introduction to Anthropology, ECON-105 Elements of Economics, HIST-322 Pennsylvania History or HIST-324 Pennsylvania's Pasts and Their Publics, 1 course in U. S. history (HIST-111, HIST-112 or HIST-115), 1 course in European history (HIST-131 or HIST-132), and 1 course in non-Western history (HIST-151, HIST-152, HIST-171, HIST-172, HIST-180, or HIST-181).

Minor in Political Science. A political science minor complements many other majors. The minor requires 24 semester hours with grades of C- or better and at least a 2.00 GPA in the minor. Required courses include POLI-111, POLI-121, and POLI-131. At least 4 of the 24 semester hours must be at the 300-level or above.

Minor in International Relations. International relations is the study of interactions among countries. It explores countries' foreign policy, interstate trade, cooperation and war. An international relations minor is a strong complement to a number of fields, particularly for students who wish to pursue international study or business. Students may not attain an international relations minor if they have a political science major or minor. The minor requires 24 semester hours with grades of C- or better and at least a 2.00 GPA in the minor. Required courses include POLI-121 Comparative Government and Politics, POLI-131 World Affairs, and 12 semester hours from the following courses: POLI-321 European Union; POLI-331 American Foreign Policy; POLI-333 Development, Globalization and Society; POLI-334 International Organizations and Law; POLI-335 War and Politics; POLI-338 International Political Economy; or other approved courses. Students must also take one other four-semester-hour comparative politics course.

Interdisciplinary Options. Political science majors can easily complete a minor in other departments. Others opt to take a second major. Many choose a related field, such as a modern language, economics, sociology or business. A legal studies minor is a popular choice for those considering a career in the law. International studies, also an interdisciplinary program, is another common option as a minor or second major.

Honors. The departmental honors program encourages and commends outstanding academic work in political science. To graduate with departmental honors, political science majors must do the following:

- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the department and 3.25 overall,
- Request admission to the program at the beginning of their senior seminar, and
- Complete and publicly present and defend an honors-quality project in their senior year

Pi Sigma Alpha. Students who satisfy membership requirements may be invited to join the campus chapter of this national honor society in political science.

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

American Government and Politics

POLI-111 American Government and Politics

An introductory course covering the major institutions and processes of American government and politics, with a focus on the Constitution, mass political behavior, and the decision-making of elected officials. 4 SH. CC: Diversity Intensive, Social Interactions.

POLI-211 Women and U.S. Politics

An introductory examination of the role of women in the U.S. political system. The course includes a theoretical and historical view of the development of women's political activity in the United States, as well as a contemporary look at women as activists, voters and candidates. Current issues are incorporated as appropriate. Same as WGST-211. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. 4 SH. CC: Diversity Intensive, Interdisciplinary.

POLI-212 Introduction to Public Policy

"Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made", a quote often attributed to Prince Otto von Bismarck. Against this advice, this course focuses on understanding how laws are made. We will examine the policy-making process in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in other countries. Who sets the agenda adopted by politicians and policy-makers? What role(s) are played by private actors in the policy-making process? What factors help or hinder the process of implementing policies? Students will consider all of these questions and focus in depth on a number of current policy debates, including immigration policy, environmental policy, and education policy. This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of the theories explaining how policies are shaped by the political process and a familiarity with the practical tools used by policy-makers to develop and enforce the rules, policies, and laws that we all must follow. 4 SH. CC: Ethics Intensive.

POLI-310 Public Opinion and Political Psychology

This course examines the psychological dimensions of politics, with a particular focus on how citizens make sense of their political surroundings and how their understandings of the political world are linked to their political beliefs and behaviors. Topics include the effects of personality, the role of emotion and reason, the nature of mass decision-making, and the impact of the media on other sources of information. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. POLI-111 is recommended but not required. 4 SH. CC: Interdisciplinary.

POLI-312 Elections and Voting Behavior

This course examines two main questions about political behavior in the American public: why do people participate in politics and why do they vote the way they do? Emphasizes the diverse nature of the American electorate and how decisions are shaped by geographic and demographic factors. Also discusses normative issues associated with voting rights, political knowledge in the electorate, and polarization in American politics. There are no prerequisites for this course, but POLI-111 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Diversity Intensive.

POLI-314 Diversity in American Politics

Studies the many shapes of diversity found in the United States and how this diversity impacts the American political system. Analyzes how different groups have been denied or granted access to the political system and the success or failure of these groups in affecting the political system as voters, candidates and office holders, and in bringing new principles, values and practices into American politics. The theoretical challenges presented by the general concept of diversity will also be examined. There are no prerequisites for this course; however, POLI-111 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Diversity Intensive.

POLI-316 The American Presidency

An exploration of the power of the American presidency as it has developed over time. Studies presidential authority, the limitations on presidential power and the presidency's impact on public policy in the United States. Explores the interplay between individual presidents and the institution of the presidency. Topics covered include the presidential selection process and the relationship between the president and the Congress, "the bureaucracy" and the courts. There are no prerequisites; however, POLI-111 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Writing Intensive.

POLI-317 The U. S. Congress

Examines the U. S. Congress as an institution, its responsiveness to public opinion, its relations with other branches of government, and its impact on public policy. Topics include congressional elections, the quality of representation, the internal working of the House and Senate, and the comparison of Congress with state legislatures. There are no prerequisites for this course, but POLI-111 is recommended. 4 SH.

Public Law

POLI-215 Law and Politics

Examines the law and the legal system in the United States, assessing the possibilities and limitations of the law. Studies the political basis of the law and critiques of the American legal system. Discusses the major players in the legal system, including lawyers, judges and juries. Course culminates with a mock trial. Restricted to majors and minors in Political Science, Public Policy, Legal Studies and Environmental Studies. 4 SH.

POLI-411 Constitutional Law

Examines the U.S. Supreme Court with an emphasis on its major decisions in questions of judicial review, federalism, separation of powers, interstate commerce, state police powers and substantive due process. Emphasizes the court's political role and judicial decision making. Prerequisite: Junior standing. POLI-111 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Interdisciplinary, Writing Intensive.

POLI-412 Civil Liberties

Examines significant Supreme Court decisions concerning the protection of liberty and equality. Topics covered include freedom of speech and press, church-state relations, right to privacy, criminal procedure, and racial and gender discrimination. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing. POLI-111 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Writing Intensive.

Comparative Politics

POLI-121 Comparative Government and Politics

Surveys the political systems, ideologies and socioeconomic policies and issues in various countries and regions of the world. 4 SH. CC: Diversity, Social Interactions.

POLI-224 Government and Politics of Europe

Comparative study of contemporary government, politics, problems and policies in Europe, with a special focus on Western Europe, though some attention is given to countries in Central and Eastern Europe. 4 SH. CC: Social Interactions.

POLI-226 Soviet and Russian Politics

Looks at Russian and Soviet politics and foreign policy. The Soviet Union is examined, with particular emphasis on the policies of Gorbachev and the 1991 disintegration of the U.S.S.R. The post-Soviet period is also studied, especially the challenges of democratization and of moving toward a market economy. While primary attention is paid to the situation in Russia, issues in the other former Soviet republics and Eastern Europe are also discussed. 4 SH.

POLI-320 African Politics

This course looks at the development of African states from the pre-colonial period to the present day and analyzes contemporary issues characteristic of political life in Sub-Saharan Africa. This includes the study of conflict, development, ethnic politics, and democratization. In addition to work describing politics on the continent, students are also introduced to a set of conceptual tools and sources of data that allow them to study African politics. There are no prerequisites for the course although POLI-121 is recommended. 4 SH.

POLI-321 European Union

Examines the post-World War II development, institutional structure and policies of the European Union and its predecessors in the movement toward European integration, with a special emphasis on the current situation. Restricted to Political Science majors. 4 SH.

POLI-324 Issues in Comparative Politics

This course focuses on topics relevant to the study of politics and governance outside of the United States. Such topics include the origins, development and current state of party systems in modern democratic governments; the comparison of different modes of political behavior (including public opinion, elections and voting, and protest) in advanced industrial democracies; an examination of how economic policies (including social welfare policies) are developed and implemented under different political systems; and the complex relationship between national identity and the legitimacy of the state. This course is intended to provide students interested in Comparative Politics with a deeper understanding of some of the current lines of inquiry in that field. The course may be repeated for credit if the subtitle (and therefore the course content) is changed. There are no prerequisites, however POLI-121 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Social Interactions.

International Politics and Foreign Policy

POLI-131 World Affairs

Examines state behavior in the international system in light of countries' abilities and limitations. Causes of state action, leaders' decision making and the role of power are discussed. Explores why states go to war, the role of the United Nations, the benefits and costs of free trade, and the effects of the environmental and human rights movements. Case studies and current events are used to illustrate theories and provide a framework for discussion. 4 SH. CC: Social Interactions.

POLI-331 American Foreign Policy

Studies the formation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy. Focuses on both the role of the United States in the post-World War II era and current foreign and security policy issues. 4 SH.

POLI-333 Development, Globalization and Society

A study of the relationship between economic development paradigms, institutions and groups in society. The course focuses on international economic relationships, world order, and the resultant social and political conflict. More specifically, this course examines how global economic development policy since the 1960s has influenced relations between states, major institutions, organizations and social groupings in both the developed and the developing world. Same as SOCI-333. Prerequisite: Junior standing and either SOCI-101 or ANTH-162. 4 SH. CC: Interdisciplinary.

POLI-334 International Organizations and Law

A study of the ways of managing the issues that arise from increasing interdependence among nation-states. The course explores the consequences of the growth of international organizations and the proliferation of treaties in areas of security; economics; the environment; and political, social and human rights. Primary attention is devoted to international governmental organizations, especially the United Nations and the World Court, but international nongovernmental organizations (e.g., Amnesty International and Greenpeace) are also considered. There are no prerequisites; however, POLI-131 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Writing Intensive.

POLI-335 War and Politics

Analyzes issues of war and conflict in the international system, largely from a theoretical perspective. Students examine the questions of why states go to war, how wars can be prevented, how states fight wars and how such conflicts end. Case studies of wars, including World War II and the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, will be studied. Arms control, terrorism and peacekeeping are also discussed. There are no prerequisites; however, POLI-131 is recommended. 4 SH. CC: Team Intensive.

POLI-336 Rise of China & World Politics

China is rising. With nearly 1.4 billion people, it is the largest country in the world. Its economy has grown precipitously over the last thirty years and, by some measures, is larger than that of the United States. What does this mean for world politics? For the likelihood of war? For the continuance of the US-created liberal world order and issues like human rights and free trade? This course explores these questions, looking through the lens of international relations theories and China's history and current politics. There are no prerequisites; however, POLI-131 is recommended. 4 SH.

POLI-338 International Political Economy

Examines issues of political interaction with economic forces at the national, international and global levels. Topics studied include economic systems, international trade and finance, the European Union, NAFTA, CAFTA, OPEC, multinational corporations, economic development, poverty, inequality, and global environmental issues. Same as ECON-338. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing; ECON-201 or ECON-105 or instructor's permission. 4 SH. CC: Interdisciplinary.

Political Science Seminars, Independent Studies and Internships

POLI-202 Topics in Government and Politics

Examines selected topics or problems in American government or comparative government, international politics or political thought. May be repeated for credit if topic is different. 2 or 4 SH.

POLI-205 Research Methods

Introduces students to the social science research process and common techniques of quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Topics include the development of theory, measurement, data collection and analysis, and research ethics. Requirements include compiling a literature review and using statistical software to conduct data analysis. Restricted to majors in Political Science, Public Policy and International Studies. 4 SH. CC: Ethics Intensive.

POLI-305 Advanced Research Methods

This course is an advanced undergraduate course in statistical methods for political research. It covers statistical theory, techniques, and applications of regression analysis in political science, focusing on using statistical methods and statistical software to estimate and test causal relationships. The first part of the course demonstrates how to evaluate arguments and hypotheses statistically through simple and multiple regression analysis. Basic materials include estimation of parameters in bivariate and multivariate regression, hypothesis testing in regression analysis, statistical properties of OLS estimator, assumption violations, and their diagnosis and corrections in practice. The second part of the course introduces more advanced topics such as limited dependent variable and panel data models and focuses on helping students finish the replication term project. Restricted to Political Science majors. Prerequisite: POLI-205. 4 SH. CC: Analytical Thought.

POLI-300 Seminar

Detailed research and in-depth discussion on a selected topic. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing and instructor's permission. May be repeated for credit. 2 or 4 SH.

POLI-348 Issues in Democracy

This course examines questions related to the effectiveness and efficacy of democratic forms of governance in serving the people. Who should have a role in decision-making? Are most democratic citizens equipped to participate in decision-making? How can democratic institutions facilitate the participation of large and complex groups of people in geographically large and populous countries? In considering such questions, this course looks to both ancient and modern democratic theorists and analyses politics in both the ancient and post-modern worlds. The course may consider debates surrounding the formation of the Athenian Assembly in Ancient Greece or whether democratic accountability is achievable in international and supranational organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union. The course relies heavily on historical and political simulations, such as those that are part of the Reacting to the Past series. The course is intended to invest students in democratic processes by asking them to consider fundamental questions about democracy while acting as democratic citizens. The course may be repeated for credit if the subtitle (and therefore the course content) is changed. There are no prerequisites. 4 SH.

POLI-501 Senior Seminar

A capstone course for political science majors. Students research, write and present a senior thesis on an approved topic and participate actively in discussions. Required for all senior majors. Prerequisites POLI-205 and senior standing. 4 SH. Capstone. CC: Writing Intensive.

POLI-502 Directed Reading

Readings, essays and tutorials on a selected political science topic. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing and permission and arrangement with a department instructor. May be repeated for credit. 2 or 4 SH.

POLI-503 Independent Research

A major research project on a selected political science topic. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing and permission and arrangement with a department instructor. May be repeated for credit. 2 or 4 SH.

POLI-504 Independent Study

Individualized academic work for qualified students under faculty direction. Usually studies special topics not covered in regularly offered courses. 1-4 SH.

POLI-505 Internship in Government and Politics

Practical experience in a supervised work program. May be for a local, state or federal government agency, legislative body, political party, legal office, or other organization with substantial government-related responsibilities. Only two internship credits may apply to the major requirements. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing and department's permission. 2 or 4 SH.