

Political Science Courses

Course Descriptions: The hours identified with each course description represent the amount of time spent in the classroom, laboratory and clinical area per week during a semester.

Prerequisite: A prerequisite indicates a course which must be successfully completed before enrolling in other courses as indicated.

Corequisite: This indicates a course which must be taken no later than the same semester as the course described.

Recommended Background: Indicates level of course background or other criteria a student needs to be successful in a course.

POLI 101

Introduction to Political Science 3 Hrs
Introductory political science with emphasis on political theory, ideas and comparative political systems.
Fall, Spring

POLI 102

American Government and Politics 3 Hrs
Introduction to American government and politics with emphasis on Constitutionalism, political parties, interest groups, elections, policy processes and issues, and problems in contemporary government.
Fall, Spring

POLI 300

American Constitutional Law 3 Hrs
A survey of U.S. constitutional law from the early Republic to the present. The major US Supreme Court decisions in our history in the areas of the powers of government, federalism, and individual rights, and the philosophical and historical background of American constitutional law are considered. The operation and intended role of the US Supreme Court is also examined
Fall, Spring

POLI 301

State and Local Government 3 Hrs
State and local politics and government structure, rationale and operations; students will be encouraged to observe hearings and deliberations of governing bodies as they work.

Fall, Spring

POLI 302

The American Congress 3 Hrs

An examination of the national legislature, comparing the understanding of Congress at the Founding with contemporary practice. Emphasis on the transformation of Congress and of the making of public policy after the post-1965 consolidation of the administrative state. Elections, representation, the internal workings of Congress, relations among the branches, and the role of the bureaucracy.

Fall, Spring

POLI 303

The American Presidency 3 Hrs

A study of the constitutional design and practical operation of the U.S. Presidency. The selection of presidents. The rise of the modern presidency, the character of executive power, and the nature of democratic leadership will be examined.

Fall, Spring

POLI 304

The American Judiciary 3 Hrs

A study of significant operations and powers of federal and state courts. The course also considers the impact of judicial decisions and the possible political role of the judiciary in the United States.

Fall, Spring

POLI 305

Comparative Politics and Legal Systems 3 Hrs

A study of the government, politics and law of selected foreign countries, usually including certain Western European countries and one or two others. Similarities and differences among foreign governments and between foreign governments and the US government are stressed, along with the political and legal philosophies underlying the other countries' institutions. Certain general topical areas, such as comparative law, are sometimes treated in addition to individual countries

Fall, Spring

POLI 306

Catholic Political Thought 3 Hrs

A study of key works, in whole or in part, of major Catholic political thinkers and commentators, among them St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, John

Duns Scotus, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Thomas More, Tocqueville, Brownson, Santayana, Acton, Maritain and selected papal encyclicals, especially those of Pope John Paul II.

Fall, Spring

POLI 307

International Relations 3 Hrs

An introduction to the analysis of the contemporary international system, including the role of NGOs, and its evolution in the twentieth-century. The course will examine various approaches to explaining major international wars, ethnic conflicts, and economic problems.

Fall, Spring

POLI 400

Internship 3 Hrs

An integrated academic work experience in a government, legal or administrative agency for a semester. Possible positions include state legislature, United States Congress, police agencies, planning units, newspapers, and radio stations. Students work a minimum of 20 hours per week in close cooperation with political leaders and officials and participate in a weekly academic seminar. Instructors hold frequent individual conversations with interns as well as the agency supervisors.

Fall, Spring

Pre-Law Course

LAW 401

Trial Advocacy: Internship 3 Hrs

An internship with a law firm, public prosecutor or defender, or a government agency. A major paper is required.

Fall, Spring