Political Science (PLSC)

Courses

PLSC 500V. Special Topics. 1-3 Hour.  
(Formerly PLSC 400V.) Topics in political science not usually covered in other courses. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 400V and PLSC 500V. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for degree credit.

PLSC 5043. The U.S. Constitution I. 3 Hours.  
(Formerly PLSC 4253.) United States Supreme Court decisions involving the functions and powers of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the President and federalism. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 4253 and PLSC 5043. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5053. Creating Democracies. 3 Hours.  
(Formerly PLSC 4513.) Analyses of the creation of democracies in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, East Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 4513 and PLSC 5053. Prerequisite: PLSC 2013. (Typically offered: Fall Even Years)

PLSC 5083. The Middle East in World Affairs. 3 Hours.  
An analysis of geo-political and socio-economic characteristics of Middle Eastern societies and their impact on world economic and political order. Special attention to such issues as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the promotion of lasting peace in the region, impact of oil on world politics, the involvement of superpowers, rehabilitation of Palestinian refugees and the role of the United Nations. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5103. Human Behavior in Complex Organizations. 3 Hours.  
Review of the fundamental literature and a systematic analysis of various theories and research focusing on organization and behavior in public administration, including the discussion of organizational development, human motivation, leadership, rationality, efficiency and conflict management in public organizations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years; Summer)

PLSC 5113. Seminar in Human Resource Management. 3 Hours.  
Intensive study of public personnel policies and practices, including legal foundations, classification and compensation plans, recruitment and selection processes, training, employment policies and morale, employee relations and organization. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall Odd Years; Summer)

PLSC 5123. Public Budgeting and Finance. 3 Hours.  
Focuses on the budgeting process and governmental fiscal policy formulation, adoption, and execution. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5133. Nonprofit Management. 3 Hours.  
This course provides an overview of the principal management functions in public and nonprofit organizations. Topics include financial management, HR development, program development. The relationships among volunteer boards of trustees, fund raising, public relations, and program personnel are analyzed, and the complex environments with service sector agencies are explored. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5143. Administrative Law. 3 Hours.  
A seminar which examines the constitutional and statutory basis and authority of public organizations. Special attention focuses on the nature of the rule-making and adjudicatory powers of public agencies and on executive, legislative, and judicial restraints on such activities. Also considered are the role, scope, and place of public regulatory activities. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5153. Environmental Politics and Policy. 3 Hours.  
Surveys recent patterns of environmentalism in the U.S. and explores the nature of policy making with regard to environmental and economic development issues. Several debates are presented, such as conservation vs. preservation, multiple use vs. sustainability, intergovernmental policy implementation, incentives, and free market environmentalism. (Typically offered: Fall Even Years)

PLSC 5163. Public Policy. 3 Hours.  
Seminar examining the study of public policy making in complex organizations. Attention given to different theories and frameworks explaining public policy making. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5173. Community Development. 3 Hours.  
Community development encompasses the political, social, and economic issues that shape contemporary communities. The seminar examines substantive issues in community development, related theories, and techniques. A major focus of the course will be on low-income and minority neighborhoods and efforts to create more inclusive communities in the U.S. and abroad. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5183. Comparative Governance Systems. 3 Hours.  
With an emphasis on international policy settings, students are encouraged to test extant policy models and discuss policy innovations that could produce improved policy outcomes. Introduces concepts of institutional logics and how organizations and individual actors experience and respond to the presence of multiple logics prevalent in many policy fields. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years)

PLSC 5193. Seminar in Public Administration. 3 Hours.  
Introduction to and synthesis of public administration theory, functions, history, public accountability and management concerns, economic impact of administrative decisions, current problems, and issues in the public sector. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5203. Seminar in American Political Institutions. 3 Hours.  
Research seminar dealing with selected aspects of the major governmental institutions in the United States. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5213. Seminar in American Political Behavior. 3 Hours.  
Reading seminar surveying major works on representative processes in American national politics, including political opinion, political leadership, political participation, voting behavior, political parties, and interest groups. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5223. The American Chief Executive. 3 Hours.  
Study of the origin, background, and evolution of the Office of the President of the United States, with a review of the president's powers in the areas of politics, administration, and legislation. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years)

PLSC 5243. Seminar in State Politics and Policy. 3 Hours.  
Research seminar dealing with selected aspects of state political institutions and politics such as policy diffusion, institutional professionalization, and representation. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall Even Years)

PLSC 5253. Politics of Race and Ethnicity. 3 Hours.  
Reviews identity, political action and concepts of political activity by minority groups, focusing on contemporary political behavior, the incorporation of minority groups into the U.S. political system. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5273. The U.S. Constitution I. 3 Hours.  
United States Supreme Court Decisions involving the functions and powers of Congress, the Supreme Court and the President and federalism. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5283. Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations. 3 Hours.  
(Formerly PLSC 4283.) Analysis of changes in intergovernmental relations in the American federal system. Discussions will focus on political, economic/fiscal and administrative aspects of policy changes of the pre-and post-Reagan eras. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 4283 and PLSC 5283. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)
PLSC 5343. Money and Politics. 3 Hours.
Familiarizes students with the world of money and politics in the United States. Examines the function of money in elections, the legal aspects, and the consequences of the regulatory environment. Provides a means to gain analytic computer skills and a strong foundation for further study of political science. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5373. Political Communication. 3 Hours.
(Formerly PLSC 4373.) Study of the nature and function of the communication process as it operates in the political environment. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 4373 and PLSC 5373. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)

PLSC 5383. Seminar in Political Communication. 3 Hours.
Research seminar focusing on selected topics such as candidate imagery, diffusion of political information, or political symbolism. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with COMM 5383.

PLSC 5503. Comparative Political Analysis. 3 Hours.
A selection of topics to provide the theoretical, conceptual and methodological and foundation for the analysis of contemporary political systems. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5513. Seminar in Politics of the Middle East. 3 Hours.
Explores the major lines of inquiry on the politics of the state and society in the context of endogenous and exogenous forces that have influenced conceptions of power, legitimacy, and identity. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Irregular)

PLSC 5563. Government and Politics of Russia. 3 Hours.
(Formerly PLSC 4563.) Study of Russian and Soviet politics after 1917 and of the democratization of Russia and the other successor states. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 4563 and PLSC 5563. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 2013. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)

PLSC 5583. Political Economy of East Asia. 3 Hours.
(Formerly PLSC 4583.) Development strategies and policies of major economies in East Asia. Topics include theories for East Asia's economic growth, dynamics and process of East Asian political and economic developments, strengths and limits of the East Asian development model, Asian values and their implications for Asian-style democracy, and dynamics of regional cooperation. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both PLSC 4583 and PLSC 5583. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5593. Islam and Politics. 3 Hours.
Compares contemporary Islamist political movements. Seeks to explain causes, debates, agendas, and strategies of Islamists in the political realm. Addresses sovereignty, the rule of law, visions of the good state and society, and relations between nationalism, religion and political development. Focus on Middle East with comparative reference to other cases. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5703. Research Design in Political Science and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to introduce graduate students to fundamental research issues in the realm of applied social science while developing the ability to apply basic skills for conducting research. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5803. Seminar in International Politics. 3 Hours.
Research seminar providing intensive coverage of selected topics in theories of international relations, the comparative study of foreign policy making, and international organizations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5833. Seminar in Contemporary Problems. 3 Hours.
Seminar with concentrated reading in selected and specialized areas of contemporary international relations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5843. International Legal Order. 3 Hours.
Analysis of distinctive characteristics of contemporary international law. Topics include role of legal order in controlling the use of force in international relations and the impact of social and political environment on growth of international law and relations among international political systems. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 5863. Political Psychology and International Relations. 3 Hours.
Examines psychological approaches to international relations and examines how these perspectives advance the study of world politics. (Typically offered: Irregular)

PLSC 5873. Inter-American Politics. 3 Hours.
An analysis of the political themes, regional organization, and hemispheric relations that constitute the inter-American system, with special emphasis on conflict and cooperation in the hemispheric policies of the American republics. (Typically offered: Irregular)

PLSC 5883. Politics of International Law. 3 Hours.
This course examines the interaction between law and politics in the international system, focusing on international law. (Typically offered: Irregular)

PLSC 590V. Directed Readings in Political Science. 1-3 Hour.
Directed readings in Political Science. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5913. Research Methods in Political Science. 3 Hours.
Methods relevant to research in the various fields of political science. Required of all graduate students in political science. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 592V. Internship in Political Science. 1-6 Hour.
Internship in a local, state, regional, or federal agency. Paper required on a significant aspect of internship experience. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

PLSC 593V. Special Topics. 1-3 Hour.
Topics in political science not usually covered in other courses. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5943. Advanced Research Methods in Political Science. 3 Hours.
Provides a firm theoretical foundation in, and an ability to apply, various multivariate statistical methods that are most commonly used for empirical analysis of politics and policy. Prerequisite: PLSC 5913 or equivalent. (Typically offered: Fall)

PLSC 595V. Research Problems in Political Science. 1-3 Hour.
Research problems in Political Science. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5963. Mixed Methods Research Design. 3 Hours.
An advanced overview of a particular type of multi-point research design. Mixed methods research combines quantitative and qualitative research strategies in a single research project. (Typically offered: Spring)

PLSC 5993. African American Political Ideology. 3 Hours.
A survey course designed to identify and examine characteristics and functions of several variants of black political ideology/thought. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years)

PLSC 600V. Master’s Thesis. 1-6 Hour.
Master’s Thesis. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.