Courses

Survey of the history, basic ideas, structure, and political processes of the national government of the United States, including the fundamental relationships of the federal system. Required of all political science majors.

Survey of the history, basic ideas, structure, and political processes of the national government of the United States, including the fundamental relationships of the federal system. This course is equivalent to PLSC 2003.

PLSC 2013. Introduction to Comparative Politics (Sp, Su, Fa). 3 Hours.
An introductory survey of comparative political systems.

PLSC 2203. State and Local Government (ACTS Equivalency = PLSC 2103) (Odd years, Fa). 3 Hours.
Organization and functions of state and local governments in the United States, intergovernmental relations, administration, adjudication, and the organization and function of political parties on state and local levels.

PLSC 2813. Introduction to International Relations (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.
Introduction to the international system, theories of international behavior, political economy, conflict and peacemaking, the third world, international law and organizations, and the nature of the post-cold war world.

PLSC 300V. Internship in Public Affairs (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
Work experience in a public agency arranged by the student under the guidance of a faculty member. Paper required. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 3103. Public Administration (Sp). 3 Hours.
Trends and organization of public administration, dynamics of management; fiscal and personnel management; administrative powers and responsibility. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3183. Public Personnel Management (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Development of the merit system in government, career systems, human resource planning and development, labor relations, diversity issues, and the legal dimension of public personnel systems. Prerequisite: PLSC 300V.

PLSC 3203. Introduction to Legal Studies (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.
An examination of the legal profession, legal writing, and the substantive areas of law in the U.S. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3213. The South and the Law: Race, Gender, and Citizenship (Fa). 3 Hours.
Examines the experience of racial and ethnic minorities, as well as women, in the post-Civil War South. Explores legal ramifications and tracks cultural and political legacies of landmark cases and/or legislative acts.

PLSC 3223. Arkansas Politics and the Nation (Sp). 3 Hours.
An examination of Arkansas Politics including the political process, public policies, social problems, political behavior, governmental structure, and contemporary issues with an emphasis on the historical, regional, and national context. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3233. The American Congress (Fa). 3 Hours.
Thorough examination of the constitutional role of the legislative branch under the Constitution; the internal procedures and personalities of the Senate and House; the central place of Congress in shaping domestic and foreign policy. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3243. The Judicial Process (Fa). 3 Hours.
The structure and operation of the state and national court systems. Emphasis is upon the role of the judiciary in the American political system and the political aspects and consequences of judicial decision-making. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3253. Urban Politics (Sp). 3 Hours.
Analysis of comparative urban systems, including political process, public policy, social problems, governmental structure, and voter behavior. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3263. Latino Politics (Fa). 3 Hours.
Analyzes the social, economic, and political issues impacting the Latino (or Hispanic) community in the United States. Attention is paid to how the community itself responds to and influences these factors.

PLSC 3283. Civil Rights Policy and Politics (Sp). 3 Hours.
This course will draw from linkages between the protest phase of the civil rights and American political institutions. The course explores the institutional impact of the civil rights movement on the presidency, congress, the courts, administrative regulatory agencies, and civil rights advisory organizations. This course is cross-listed with AAST 3283.

PLSC 3293. African American Politics (Fa). 3 Hours.
This is a survey course designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of African American political participation in the United States. In addition to analyzing important events in African American Politics, the course attempts to explain evolving patterns of political participation in Black America. This course is cross-listed with AAST 3293.

PLSC 3303. American Political Development (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Examines the evolution of the American State and corresponding governmental and political institutions. Topics include models of political change and evolution, American political culture(s), governing institutional structures at the national level, the evolution of federalism, political linkage structures, and public policy. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3503. Governments and Politics of East Asia (Fa). 3 Hours.

PLSC 3523. Politics of the Middle East (Fa). 3 Hours.
Survey of the unity and diversity in the political development of the Middle East, as evident in historical legacies, state formation, civil society, social class, and political identity.

PLSC 3553. Western European Politics (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Comparative analysis of Western European parliamentary systems with special attention to political traditions, constitutional arrangements, socio-economic structure, and the political and legislative processes in countries such as Britain, France, and Germany. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 2013.

PLSC 3573. Governments and Politics of Latin America (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Comparative survey of Latin America political forces and institutions with special attention to patterns and problems of political change and development in that area. Prerequisite: PLSC 2013.

PLSC 3593. Politics of Mexico (Sp). 3 Hours.
A comparative survey of contemporary Mexican politics emphasizing Mexico's historical-institutional trajectory in relation to the US, North American relations, and the experiences of Mexicans in Greater (Gran) Mexico. Prerequisite: PLSC 2013.
PLSC 3603. Scope and Methods of Political Science (Irregular). 3 Hours.
The basic principles and assumptions of political inquiry (methodology) and research
and modern techniques for gathering and analyzing data about political phenomena. Prerequisite:
PLSC 2003.

PLSC 3803. International Organization (Sp). 3 Hours.
The theory and practice of international organizations past and present, with
emphasis on the United States and a critical examination of current trends.
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

PLSC 3813. International Law (Fa). 3 Hours.
Analysis of the traditional principles of public international law including the law
of war, the law of the sea, and the legal nature of statehood; and analysis
of selected principles of private international law relevant to such topics as the
multinational corporation, international arbitration, commerce with Communist states,
and the expropriation of foreign property. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

PLSC 3823. Theories of International Relations (Sp). 3 Hours.
Analysis of major intellectual traditions in the field of international relations, including
realism, liberalism, and social constructivism. Emphasis will be placed on how they
help us to understand war, revolution, global capitalism, nationalism, peace,
and other significant international phenomena. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 and PLSC 3013.

PLSC 3853. American Foreign Policy (Fa). 3 Hours.
The structure and process for making and implementing the foreign policy of the
United States, and an evaluation of current policies in the contemporary international
milieu. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 3013.

PLSC 390V. Special Topics (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
Special topics in political science. May be repeated for degree credit.

PLSC 3913. American Political Thought Before 1900 (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Major ideas, issues, and arguments in American Political Thought from the colonial
period to approximately 1900. May be repeated for degree credit.

PLSC 3923H. Honors Colloquium (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Covers a special topic or issue, offered as part of the honors program. Prerequisite:
Honors candidacy in political science. May be repeated for degree credit.

PLSC 3933. Contemporary American Political Thought (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Twentieth century American political thought, including who should participate,
expanding concepts of freedom, political economy, equality, feminism, rights,
conservatism and liberalism.

PLSC 394V. Readings in Political Science (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
For advanced students who wish to study some field of political science beyond the
course offering available in that field. Prerequisite: Junior standing. May be repeated
for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 3983. Politics in Literature (Sp). 3 Hours.
Analysis of political theories and issues through extensive reading and discussion of
selected works of literature. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 3013.

PLSC 399VH. Honors Course (Irregular). 1-3 Hour.
Prerequisite: Junior standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 400V. Special Topics (Irregular). 1-3 Hour.
Topics in political science not usually covered in other courses. May be repeated for
degree credit.

PLSC 4103. Introduction to Urban Planning (Fa). 3 Hours.
Reviews the many forms, functions, and purposes of American cities. Covers basic
planning theories, surveys the various sub-fields of planning, discusses trends in the
planning field, and utilizes computer simulations. Prerequisite: PLSC 3253.
This course is cross-listed with PADM 5833.

PLSC 4193. Administrative Law (Sp). 3 Hours.
Legal aspects of the administrative process and the effect of legal principles and
processes upon administrative decision-making. Emphasis is given to the limitation
of administrative discretion and the judicial review of administrative decisions.
Prerequisite: PLSC 3103 or PLSC 4253.

PLSC 4203. American Political Parties (Irregular). 3 Hours.
The nature, function, and history of political parties in the United States
with emphasis on party membership, organization, campaign techniques, finance
and electoral alliances. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 4213. Campaigns and Elections (Irregular). 3 Hours.
This course examines the American electoral process. It is an empirical course
that provides opportunities for original analysis of survey data and election returns.
Emphasis is placed on the most recent federal election. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 4233. The American Chief Executive (Sp). 3 Hours.
Offices and roles of the President and state governors of the United States focusing on
the evolution of the offices in terms of responsibilities and political leadership.
Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 4253. The U.S. Constitution I (Sp). 3 Hours.
United States Supreme Court decisions involving the functions and powers of
Congress, the Supreme Court, and the President and federalism. Prerequisite:
PLSC 2003.

PLSC 4263. The U.S. Constitution II (Irregular). 3 Hours.
United States Supreme Court decisions interpreting the political, economic, and civil
rights of individuals and groups. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 4273. Political Psychology (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Examines role of the individual in the polity including basic psychological constructs
of relevance to political action, the formulation and maintenance of stable political
orientations, the patterns linking the individual to the polity, and major modes of
inquiry. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003.

PLSC 4283. Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations (Even years, Sp). 3 Hours.
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.

PLSC 4303. History of Political Parties in the United States 1789-1896 (Even years, Fa). 3 Hours.
Origin and development of the American party system from the implementation of
the Constitution to the election of McKinley. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4503.

PLSC 4313. History of Political Parties in the U.S. Since 1896 (Odd years, Sp). 3 Hours.
Response of the party system to America’s emergence as an industrial nation and
world power from the election of 1896 to present. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4513.

PLSC 4323. Racial Identity, Politics, and Public Policy (Even years, Sp). 3 Hours.
Examines how race and perceived racial differences affect political discourse,
mobilization, representation, and political outcomes. Prerequisite: PLSC 3293 or
AAST 1003 or Junior standing.
This course is cross-listed with AAST 4323.

PLSC 4333. Southern Politics (Sp). 3 Hours.
Evaluates the significance of the southern region within the national political scene,
as well as discuss the unique political history and workings of the region. Explores
the various groups within the region that continue to fight for political influence and
power.
PLSC 4343. Money and Politics (Fa). 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.

PLSC 4373. Political Communication (Even years, Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of the nature and function of the communication process as it operates in the political environment. This course is cross-listed with COMM 4373.

PLSC 4513. Creating Democracies (Even years, Fa). 3 Hours.
Analyses of the creation of democracies in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, East Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Prerequisite: PLSC 2013.

This interdisciplinary course explores China's foreign trade and international order by introducing students to the historical context and economic theory necessary for understanding China's role in the international trading system from the ancient past to the contemporary era. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4533, ECON 4533.

PLSC 4563. Government and Politics of Russia (Even years, Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of Russian and Soviet politics after 1917 and of the democratization of Russia and the other successor states. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 2013.

PLSC 4573. Gender and Politics (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Examines the significance of gender in politics. Includes discussion of the women's movement and feminist theory, but emphasizes the content and process of public policy as it relates to women and men. Focus is on the U.S. but final third is devoted to comparative topics. Prerequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 2013.

PLSC 4583. Political Economy of East Asia (Sp). 3 Hours.
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.

PLSC 4593. Islam and Politics (Fa). 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.

PLSC 4613. Social Network Analysis (Fa). 3 Hours.
Introduces the fundamentals of Social Network Analysis (SNA), and its applications for research in various social science fields. Prerequisite: SOCI 2013. This course is cross-listed with SOCI 4183.

PLSC 4803. Foreign Policy Analysis (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Comparative analysis of foreign policy, with attention paid to explanations at a variety of levels, such as the individual, group, organizational, societal, systemic.

PLSC 4823. Foreign Policy of East Asia (Sp). 3 Hours.
This course provides an introduction to the international relations of two major East Asian states, China and Japan. Key topics include: China and Japan's interaction with the world political and economic systems; domestic sources of international behavior and major dimensions of foreign policy in the 1980s and 1990s.

PLSC 4833. International Political Economy (Fa). 3 Hours.
This course provides an analysis of the interaction between politics and markets in the world economy. Its central objective is to illustrate how political and state actions have shaped and been shaped by the development of the global economy.

PLSC 4843. The Middle East in World Affairs (Sp). 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.

PLSC 4853. International Norms and Corporate Social Responsibility (Sp). 3 Hours.
This course focuses on the interplay between international social expectations and business strategy. How norms prevail and why norms emerge will be observed from a business vantage point. Pre- or corequisite: PLSC 2003 or PLSC 2013.

PLSC 4863. Political Psychology and International Relations (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Examines psychological approaches to international relations and examines how these perspectives advance the study of world politics.

PLSC 4873. Inter-American Politics (Irregular). 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. Prerequisite: Junior standing.

PLSC 4883. Politics of International Law (Irregular). 3 Hours.
This course examines the interaction between law and politics in the international system, focusing on international law.

PLSC 4933. African American Political Ideology (Odd years, Sp). 3 Hours.
A survey course designed to identify and examine characteristics and functions of several variants of black political ideology/thought. This course is cross-listed with AAST 4933.

PLSC 498V. Senior Thesis (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
PLSC 499VH. Honors Essay (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
Not part of the 30 hours requirement for the major. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5103. Human Behavior in Complex Organizations (Fa). 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.

PLSC 5113. Seminar in Human Resource Management (Fa). 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.

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

PLSC 5133. Nonprofit Management (Irregular). 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.

PLSC 5143. Administrative Law (Sp). 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.
PLSC 5153. Environmental Politics and Policy (Even years, Fa). 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.

PLSC 5163. Public Policy (Sp). 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.

PLSC 5173. Community Development (Irregular). 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.

PLSC 5193. Seminar in Public Administration (Fa). 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.

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

PLSC 5213. Seminar in American Political Behavior (Sp). 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.

PLSC 5233. The American Chief Executive (Odd years, Sp). 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.

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

PLSC 5253. Politics of Race and Ethnicity (Irregular). 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.

PLSC 5343. Money and Politics (Fa). 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.

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

PLSC 5503. Comparative Political Analysis (Fa). 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.

PLSC 5513. Seminar in Politics of the Middle East (Irregular). 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.

PLSC 5523. Topics in Politics of the Middle East (Irregular). 3 Hours.
In-depth analysis of specific political phenomena in the contemporary Middle East. Inquiry will vary but may focus on gender, political economy, politics of inclusion and exclusion (democratization and authoritarianism), or the politics of oil. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

PLSC 5703. Research Design in Political Science and Public Policy (Fa). 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.

PLSC 5803. Seminar in International Politics (Fa). 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.

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

PLSC 5843. International Legal Order (Fa). 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.

PLSC 590V. Directed Readings in Political Science (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

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

PLSC 592V. Internship in Political Science (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Internship in a local, state, regional, or federal agency. Paper required on a significant aspect of internship experience. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

PLSC 593V. Special Topics (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
Topics in political science not usually covered in other courses. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5943. Advanced Research Methods in Political Science (Fa). 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.

PLSC 595V. Research Problems in Political Science (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

PLSC 5963. Mixed Methods Research Design (Sp). 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.

PLSC 600V. Master's Thesis (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour. Master's Thesis. May be repeated for degree credit.