POLITICAL SCIENCE (PSC) COURSES

PSC-111 Intro to Amer Govt & Politics
An analysis of the powers, functions, and political bases of government in America, including attention to democratic theory, civil liberties, political parties and pressure groups, campaigns and elections, Congress and the Presidency, judicial review, federal-state-local relations, and public policy-making in domestic, foreign, and budgetary areas.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science, Quantitative Literacy
Equated Courses: AP

PSC-121 Intro to Comparative Politics
This class will provide a general introduction to the study of political systems worldwide. The approach and many of the readings will be theoretical, but we will draw from real-world examples as illustrations of these theoretical concepts. Thus, a basic understanding of world history, current events, and even the American political system will be assumed. (A reasonable familiarity with elementary algebra will also be quite helpful.) This course is a requirement for all students who intend to major in political science and is a prerequisite for a number of other courses in the subfield of comparative politics. It is also a good choice for students wishing to satisfy a behavioral science distribution requirement.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
Equated Courses: AP

PSC-131 Intro to Political Theory
The survey of political theory will use selected political theorists to examine a series of major issues, concepts, and questions which are central to political theory, e.g., power, authority, justice, and liberty.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-141 Intro to Intl Rl Relations
A study of major contemporary approaches to understanding international politics, including political realism, liberalism, and constructivism. Through this framework, the course will take up concepts such as the evaluation of national power and the balance of power, the interplay of individuals and groups in international politics, the impact of capitalism on the development of the world-system, and the role of gender in world politics.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-177 Special Topics
The course provides opportunities for specialized, innovative material for students at an introductory level. All students interested in political science topics would benefit from this course. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor’s approval. Please refer to the Registrar’s page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-178 Special Topics
The course provides opportunities for specialized, innovative material for students at an introductory level. All students interested in political science topics would benefit from this course. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor’s approval. Please check the course descriptions for a particular semester offering.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-187 Independent Study
Enrollment Through Instructor and Department Chair.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-188 Independent Study
Enrollment Through Instructor and Department Chair.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-200 Political Inquiry & Analysis
This course introduces students to the craft of asking and answering questions about politics. It considers the variety of normative, descriptive, and causal concerns that motivate contemporary political science and surveys an array of approaches political scientists use to gather and analyze information in their quest to understand political phenomena. In addition to examining the use of fundamental research process elements in published political science studies, students will produce their own research project proposal.
Prerequisites: TAKE PSC-111, 121, 131, OR 141. OR INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION.
Credit: 1

PSC-201 Sociology & Politics of Health
An examination of the topic of health from the vantage point of the intersection of sociology and political science. Students will learn about key sociological concepts and theoretical approaches, which they will deploy to investigate topics such as societal health disparities, cultural and subcultural attitudes toward healthcare and health professionals, the relationship between governmental processes and health outcomes, and the mobilization and impact of health-related nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations. The course will feature a community-based service learning component.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
Equated Courses: SOC-201

PSC-210 Int Topics in American Politics
This is an intermediate-level course that focuses on a specific topic in American politics. Topics vary from semester to semester. Please refer to the Registrar’s page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
PSC-220 Int Topics in Comparative Politics
This is an intermediate-level course that focuses on a specific topic in comparative politics. Topics vary from semester to semester. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-230 Intermediate Topics in Political Theory
This is an intermediate-level course that focuses on a specific topic in political theory. Topics vary from semester to semester. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-240 Int Topics in International Relations
This is an intermediate-level course that focuses on a specific topic in international relations. Topics vary from semester to semester. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-277 Special Topics in Pol. Theory
The course provides opportunities for specialized, innovative material focused on political theory for students at an intermediate level. Students interested in political theory topics beyond introductory level would benefit from this course the most. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-278 Special Topics
The course provides opportunities for specialized, innovative material for students at an introductory level. All students interested in political science topics beyond introductory level would benefit from this course. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-287 Independent Study
Enrollment through Instructor and Department Chair.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-297 Research/Stats-Political Sci
This challenging course surveys the various ways political scientists use the scientific method and rigorous quantitative analysis to study politics. The course begins with an overview of the theory behind social scientific inquiry, outlining the basic logic of hypothesis testing and research design. We then devote significant attention to quantitative and statistical research methods, from basic probability theory to confidence intervals, means testing, and multivariate regression. The course also introduces students to computer software packages used to perform advanced statistical analysis (primarily SPSS). The primary aims of the course are (a) to prepare students to conduct their own quantitative research of political phenomena and (b) to make students better consumers of political information by familiarizing them with the ways statistics are used and abused for political ends. This course satisfies the College's quantitative skills distribution requirement and also the statistical methods requirement of a major in political science. Students taking the course should have a solid foundation in basic mathematics, including algebra.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science, Quantitative Literacy, Quantitative Skills

PSC-310 Adv Topics in American Politics
This is an advanced course that focuses on a specific topic in American politics. Topics vary from semester to semester. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-311 Congress & Executive
A study of the legislative and executive branches of the United States government. This course will involve analysis of each branch as an institution. Particular attention will be given to the interactions between and the interdependence of Congress and the Executive, and the effects of these interactions on the decisions and operations of the two branches of government. Counts as an advanced course in American Politics.
Prerequisites: PSC-111 or permission of instructor.
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-312 Parties, Elect, Pressure
A systematic look at mechanisms for popular control of American government. This course looks at the nature of public opinion and its translation into political action. Political parties and interest groups are investigated as mechanisms which link the citizen to the policy-making system. Attention will be given to elections and the bases upon which individuals make their decisions at the polls. We will also consider the conflicting arguments about the decline, decomposition, and realignment of parties, and the rise of the single-issue interest group in recent years. This course counts as an advanced course in American Politics.
Prerequisites: PSC-111
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
PSC-313 Constitutional Law
Do gay Americans have a constitutional right to get married? Should racial and ethnic minorities receive the benefits of affirmative action when applying to college or law school? Does a woman have a constitutional right to an abortion? Does the federal government have the power to regulate health care? What role should judges play in deciding such divisive and morally vexing issues? This course examines the Supreme Court’s most potent power—to strike down as unconstitutional the actions of elected officials on these and other "hot button" issues. How should the Court apply such broadly worded constitutional guarantees as "equal protection" and "due process of law" to modern problems? Should the Court follow the "original intent" of our Founders or be guided by more recent, evolving standards? When the Court has wrestled with tough issues, what impact has its decisions had on other branches of government and on American society in general? This counts as an advanced course in American Politics. This course is offered in the fall semester.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
Equate Courses: PPE-333PCS-313

PSC-314 Topics in Constitutional Law
This course focuses in depth upon a topic relating to the role that courts should play in government. Past topics have included Civil Liberties in War and Peace, which explores how we treat those we fear most—suspected criminals, alleged enemies of the state including terrorists, and those who criticize the government during wartime. This course counts as an advanced course in American Politics. Please refer to the Registrar’s page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-315 Religious Freedom
May the United States Air Force Academy display a banner declaring "I am a member of Team Jesus Christ" in its football locker room? May the Indiana House of Representatives pray and sing a Christian song at the beginning of one of its sessions? Must employees be permitted to post at work biblical verses that condemn homosexuals? Should we prosecute Christian Scientist parents whose critically ill child dies because the only treatment he received was prayer? May public schools teach intelligent design in their science courses? The collision of religion, politics, and the law generates many sensitive questions. We will work through these kinds of questions to determine what our Constitution means when it forbids government from establishing religion and protects our right freely to exercise our many religions. We will also explore whether religion can play a productive role in politics without debasing itself or causing strife. Counts as an advanced course in American Politics.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-316 Public Policy
In this course, which focuses on domestic policy, students will learn about two different ways of studying public policy: public policy analysis and the politics of the policy process. Students will learn about public policy analysis and how it is both similar to and different from other fields of study in political science. During this part of the course, students will practice skills such as memo writing and client consultation. Students will study the politics of the policy process by comparing different models of policy formation and analyzing the different institutions that help shape public policy (the legislature, interest groups, bureaucracy, etc.). Students will do exercises with case studies and also participate in an in-class simulation. Counts as an advanced course in American Politics. This course is offered in the in spring semester in odd-numbered years.
Prerequisites: PSC-111
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-317 State & Local Pol
A survey of the institutions, actors, and processes involved in the governing of states, cities, and other local jurisdictions. Attention is given to intergovernmental relations as well as to the analysis of individual units. Field work is required. Counts as an advanced course in American Politics.
Prerequisites: PSC-111
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-320 Adv Topics Comparative Politics/Adv Topics in Comparative Politics
These courses focus at an advance level on a particular issue concept, problem or question in comparative politics. Advanced level. Please refer to the Registrar’s page for course description.
Prerequisites: PSC-121
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-322 Politics of the European Union
This course will examine the politics of the European Union (EU). Attention will be given to the political institutions and dynamics of the Union itself, as well as to those of its member states, and to the process of EU expansion more generally. Special attention will be given to the possible effects of EU integration on national identity in contemporary Europe. Students will be permitted to complete some class assignments in German, Spanish, or French. Typically offered the spring semester of odd-years, this course counts as an advanced course in Comparative Politics or International Relations. Registration through instructor only.
Prerequisites: PSC-121
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
PSC-323 Political Development
This deeply historical course examines the emergence of the sovereign state as the predominant organizational institution in global politics, as well as the myriad institutional forms it has taken over time and around the world. Special attention will be given to the role of warfare in the consolidation of modern states, the rise of nationalism, and to factors that promoted democratization in some parts of the world, but not others. The course will also consider several enduring questions of political development, such as whether democratization, globalization, and technological progress are inevitable - or even desirable - features of modern society.
Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSC-121, PSC-131, HIS-101 or HIS-102.
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
Equated Courses: PPE-332

PSC-324 Political Economy of Development
Why have some countries been able to prosper and remain at peace while others have suffered massive levels of poverty, inequality, and instability? Why haven't foreign assistance, democracy promotion, and peacekeeping efforts produced sustained growth and stability in many of these long-suffering countries, but they have done so in others? This class will examine these questions through the lens of politics. Students will learn what learn what political scientists have discovered about the logic of how countries develop politically and economically, and how different outcomes (i.e., peace and prosperity vs. dysfunction and poverty) can result. Students will also come to understand how political leaders and the institutional environments in which they operate combine to produce these outcomes. We will also study the strengths and weaknesses of the various strategies policymakers employ, from poverty relief programs to international trade, to promote growth and stability.
Prerequisites: PSC-121
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
Equated Courses: PPE-334

PSC-325 Cuban Politics
Before being sentenced to prison for revolutionary activity in 1953, Fidel Castro ominously declared that history would absolve him of his crimes. While Castro's ultimate legacy is still a work in progress, observers of Cuban and Cuban-American politics notice that the island has given rise to at least two distinct histories: one, where US attempts to liberate the island have been foiled by Castro's communism, and one where Castro's attempts to liberate the island have been hindered by Yankee imperialism. This class examines the rich narratives of Cuban history, politics, and culture. Special attention will be given to the crucial impact that developments on the island nation have on domestic politics in the United States, especially with respect to such important issues as immigration and regional trade. No previous coursework in political science is required; however, it is recommended that students take PSC-121 (Introduction to Comparative Politics) or its equivalent before taking this course. Moreover, a background in 20th century history and an understanding of current events will be assumed.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-326 Politics of the Middle East
A survey of the politics of the major states and nations of the Middle East. Special attention will be given to a number of leading issues in the region, including the Arab-Israeli Conflict, oil, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and US foreign policy in Afghanistan and Iraq. Attention will also be given to broader questions of economic and social development, human rights, and the role of women in the modern Middle East. This course counts as an advanced course in Comparative Politics.
Prerequisites: PSC-121
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-327 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
This class will provide a general introduction to the study of nationalism and ethnic conflict. In it, we will touch upon a wide range of cases of ethnic conflict and genocide, including the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland, genocide in Rwanda and the Holocaust, and current crises in the Middle East. With such a wide range of cases, the approach will be largely theoretical - focusing on the underlying causes of such conflicts and on the general conditions under which they might be remedied. Thus, a solid foundation in the study of comparative politics and a reasonable familiarity with international current events will be expected. This course counts as an advanced course in Comparative Politics or International Relations.
Prerequisites: PSC-121 with C- or better.
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-328 Holocaust: Hist/Politics/Representation
This course examines the Holocaust from historical, political, and cultural perspectives. While we will focus on the history of the event itself, from t the rise of Nazism in the 1930s to the end of World War II, we will also devote significant attention to representations, reflections, and portrayals of the Holocaust in the twosthirds. While the Holocaust ended in 1945, Holocaust history continues to the present day. World leaders are routinely called 'Nazis' by those who disagree with them, and episodes of human suffering - from warfare, oppression, and (rightly or wrongly) seen through its lens. The Holocaust, usually defined as the systematic attempt by Nazi Germany and its allies to eliminate the Jews of Europe, has clearly expanded beyond its strict historical setting to become a defining event in the global human experience. Students will explore the Holocaust is portrayed from various perspectives and how responses and attitudes about the Holocaust have changed over time. This interdisciplinary course has prerequisites and is open to students of any major. Students may apply the course toward distribution requirements in behavioral science; literature and fine arts; or history,philosophy, and religion. It also counts towards the PE major's diversity requirement.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science, Literature/Fine Arts, History/Philosophy/Religion

PSC-330 Adv Topics in Political Theory
This is an advanced course that focuses on a specific topic in political theory. Topics vary from semester to semester. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
PSC-331 History of Pol Thought: Ancient & Mediev
History of Political Thought: Ancient and Medieval. A series of full-credit courses, each of which will focus on a particular political theorist or group of theorists from classical antiquity or the medieval period. Specific offerings will vary from year to year.
Prerequisites: PSC-131
Credit: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-335 History Pol Thought
A series of full-credit courses, each of which will focus on a particular political theorist from the Renaissance or modern period. Specific offerings will vary from year to year. This course counts as advanced course work in Political Theory.
Prerequisites: PSC-131
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
Equated Courses: PPE-336

PSC-336 American Political Thought
A broad survey of American political ideas as expressed in primary sources including classic texts, key public documents, and speeches. The course investigates themes of mission, means, and membership as recurrent issues in American political thought. This course counts as an advanced course in Political Theory.
Prerequisites: PSC-131 or HIS-241 or 242
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-338 Contemporary Political Theory
Students will study the political theory of selected contemporary authors and movements, especially as these theories relate to the development of democratic political theory, the critique of democratic political theory, and the contemporary examination and/or redefinition of concepts like justice and equality. This course counts as an advanced course in Political Theory. It is offered in the spring semester in odd-numbered years.
Prerequisites: PSC-131
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-340 Adv Topics in International Relations
This is an advanced course that focuses on a specific topic in international relations. Topics vary from semester to semester.
Prerequisites: PSC-141
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science, Quantitative Literacy
Equated Courses: PPE-330

PSC-343 Intro to Civil-Military Relations
In this course we examine one of the world's oldest political institutions: militaries. Armed forces are created primarily to defend states and their interests against other states and threatening actors, yet they can also play an important role in the domestic political affairs of the states that they are created to defend. The course intends to improve students' understanding of military actors and the various ways in which they are related to both international and domestic politics. Because an all-encompassing treatment of military affairs is impossible within the context of a single semester, this course emphasizes the role played by people (soldiers, officers and their civilian leaders) rather than machines (tanks, artillery pieces, small arms, etc.). This course counts as an advanced course in International Relations.
Prerequisites: PSC-141
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-344 Insurgency, Revolution & Terrorism
What is terrorism? Is one man's freedom fighter another man's terrorist? What motivates a person to become a suicide bomber? What causes terrorism? How can states counter terrorism? How is terrorism different from an insurgency? Why has the United States experienced such difficulty in Iraq and Afghanistan? How can states counter and defeat insurgencies? These are all questions that have come to dominate much of the discussion in post 9/11 international relations. Although terrorism and insurgencies have existed in one form or another for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, these phenomena have become two of the more intractable and important problems in international relations. This course will address these and other questions from both global and U.S perspectives. This course counts as an advanced course in International Relations.
Prerequisites: PSC-141
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science, Quantitative Literacy

PSC-346 Amer Foreign Policy
This course seeks to answer the questions of who makes American foreign policy, and what are the most important sources of and influences on it. The course focuses on the features and processes of American foreign policy making and the actors, influences, and issues involved in it. The goal of this course is to provide the student with the historical, institutional, procedural, and theoretical frameworks to understand how American foreign policy is made. This course counts as an advanced course in International Relations or American Politics.
Prerequisites: PSC-111 or 141.
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-347 Conflict, War, and Peace
This course delves deeply into international relations theory focusing on issues of war and peace. We will explore in depth the logic behind variants of several theoretical perspectives, including, but not limited to, liberalism, realism, constructivism, and other important schools of thought. During the course, we will explore issues more narrowly related to topics such as the democratic peace, deterrence, terrorism and asymmetric warfare, along with issues of cooperation and global governance. This course counts as an advanced course in International Relations.
Prerequisites: PSC-141
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-348 International Organizations
This course focuses on international organizations (IOs) and the role that they play in the international system. We consider the relationship between key theoretical perspectives and IOs, as well as how international organizations operate across a variety of issue areas from security and trade to human rights and development. We also cover a variety of truly global IOs, such as the United Nations, as well as IOs with a more regional focus such as the European Union. This course counts as an advanced course in International Relations.
Prerequisites: PSC-141
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-387 Independent Study
Credits: 1 or 1/2
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science
PSC-388 Independent Study
Credits: 1 or 1/2
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-471 Special Topics
The course provides opportunities for specialized, innovative material to be studied at an advanced level. Since the content of this course varies from semester to semester, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval. Please refer to the Registrar's page for course description.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-487 Independent Study
Credits: 1 or 1/2
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-488 Independent Study
Credits: 1 or 1/2
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 0.5-1
Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSC-497 Senior Seminar
Open only to senior political science majors. This is both a reading and a research seminar, organized around a general concept central to the discipline. Participants discuss common readings on the topic. They also prepare individual research papers which treat the general theme, but from the stance of their chosen emphases within the major. This course is offered in the fall semester.
Prerequisites: none
Credit: 1
Distribution: Behavioral Science