POLITICAL SCIENCE (POL-SCI)

Courses

POL-SCI 210 American Government Credits: 3
American government and politics, with special reference to the U.S. Constitution. This course meets the state requirement for study of the U.S. and Missouri Constitutions.

POL-SCI 220 Introduction To Comparative Politics Credits: 3
Introduces students to general concepts of political authority and systematically analyzes the causes and consequences of variation in political institutions, processes and policies across countries, illustrating concepts and themes with case studies of major European and Asian countries.

POL-SCI 221 Introduction to Comparative Politics and Research Credits: 3
This course introduces students to general concepts of political authority, and systematically analyzes the causes and consequences of variation in political institutions, processes and policies across countries. This course also introduces students to research in comparative politics, with students developing an independent research project.

POL-SCI 230 International Relations Credits: 3
An analysis of relations among nations, with emphasis on structures of international power, causes of war, and approaches to peace.

POL-SCI 301 Western Political Philosophy Credits: 3
An examination of the major theories of politics from Plato to today.

POL-SCI 302 Political Research And Analysis Credits: 3
This class focuses on methods of analysis used in political science research. This course also covers research plans used to gather information about politics and effective ways of utilizing that information. As advances in computing technology expand the availability of politically-driven data, it is possible to bring an increasing amount of information to bear on more questions.

POL-SCI 303 Political Behavior Credits: 3
This course will survey research on conventional and unconventional forms of mass political behavior. Topics to be discussed include campaign participation, voting behavior, public opinion, the media, and participation in protests and revolutions. This course will also cover the methodological approaches to the study of political behavior.

POL-SCI 304 Politics of Developing Countries Credits: 3
The course examines the key arguments that have been advanced to account for differences across countries in rates and levels of economic and political development.

POL-SCI 308 Parties and Interest Groups Credits: 3
Introduction to parties and interest groups in the United States and their important role in the political process. Topics include the formation, organization, activities, and impact of political parties and interest groups in American politics.

POL-SCI 309 Public Opinion Credits: 3
Explores public opinion in the United States, surveying theories and empirical research on the measurement, formation, and distribution of public opinion.

POL-SCI 313 Politics In The American States Credits: 3
A study of the structures, functions, and politics of the institutions of American state governments and an assessment of their role in the federal system. This course is particularly interested in the extent to which political economy and political culture, broadly defined, influence public policy within the states.

POL-SCI 314 Politics of Kansas City Metro Credits: 3
This course will provide an understanding of politics in urban America through a study of metropolitan Kansas City. It will discuss the relationships between local governments, their decision making process, city-county consolidation, structure of regional council of governments, forming political alliances and current political issues affecting the metropolitan area. The course will discuss the politics of issues like transportation, sports facilities, environment and economic competitiveness.
POL-SCI 315 Public Policy Credits: 3
A broad introductory overview of decision theories, governmental structures, and policy processes. Emphasis on the organizational and societal context of public formulation, implementation, and evaluation.

POL-SCI 316 Terrorism And Political Violence Credits: 3
This course explores terrorism and armed struggle from theoretical and historical perspectives, and analyzes a number of violent movements with nationalist, ideological, and religious motivations.

POL-SCI 318 Political Psychology Credits: 3
The field of political psychology is an interdisciplinary field that draws on both psychology and political science to address topics in the political world. This course will focus on a variety of topics including inter-group conflict, stereotyping and prejudice, political socialization, attitude formation and change, political communication, decision heuristics and biases, public opinion, and the future of political psychology.

POL-SCI 319 Campaigns And Elections Credits: 3
This course will examine the role of campaigns in determining the outcome of both congressional and presidential elections and the way that electoral rules structure both campaign strategies and electoral outcomes. This course focuses on topics such as the role of the media, campaign advertising, campaign financing, public opinion, registration requirements, and the role of interest groups.

POL-SCI 326 Racial & Ethnic Politics Credits: 3
This course provides an analysis of the political behavior and roles of racial and ethnic groups in the American political system. Theoretical, empirical, and practical issues of race, racism, and race relations are examined (in the political context). Public policy, electoral behavior, and political institutions are also investigated with regards to the empowerment and political incorporation of communities of color.

POL-SCI 333 Social Networks in Politics Credits: 3
This class focuses on mass political behavior and social networks in the US. Particular attention will be devoted to how relations between individuals can affect political attitudes and participation. We will also consider how these individual relations combine to shape outcomes such as political attitudes, voter turnout, and election outcomes.

POL-SCI 336 American Foreign Policy Credits: 3
Understanding the contemporary debate over American foreign policy in terms of the premises and perspectives of several competing schools of thought.

POL-SCI 343 The Politics Of Social Security Credits: 3
A study of the American Social Security system, including its history, principles, and prospects for the future.

POL-SCI 348 Constitutional Law: The Federal System Credits: 3
A study of the president, congress and state governments from the perspective of the Constitution, emphasizing powers and limitations on the exercise of authority.

POL-SCI 349 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties Credits: 3
A study of civil liberties in American society, emphasizing factors and forces that restrict or enlarge their scope, as understood through constitutional interpretation.

POL-SCI 357 Western European Politics Credits: 3
This course explores democratic representation and political institutions in Western Europe.

POL-SCI 359 Latin American Politics Credits: 3
In this course we will focus on the major periods in Latin American political history since the Great Depression. This includes the post-War period of optimism in which democratic governments promoted rapid economic development, the period of pessimism and authoritarianism from the 1960s to the 1980s, and a new democratic renewal beginning in the 1990s. We will examine the consolidating democracies that emerged in the 1990s in depth. We will also examine case studies of recently failed democracy, Venezuela, and ask why this democracy failed.

POL-SCI 360 Labor, Politics and Society Credits: 3
This course explores many aspects of unions and the labor movement in society and the vital role organized labor plays as a pillar of democratic society. Unions impact the economy, growth, and the distribution of wealth, and the impact racial and gender equality, social security health and job safety, energy and the environment, and even foreign relations. As a social movement, labor has had a major impact on American history. This course covers these topics from a labor perspective. It examines current obstacles for union organizing, recent union campaigns, labor’s political role, and the relationship between labor and the media. This course is part of the Certificate Program in Labor Studies and is offered on the University of Missouri Interactive Video Network at UMKC, UMSL, and UMC.

POL-SCI 361 Global Issues in a Changing World Credits: 3
Threats to national and international securing were once dominated by military force and interstate warfare. Threats are now seen in a much broader context. Non-state, transnational actors now pose a threat to transnational business, states, and even civilizations. Issues like global climate change and HIV/AIDS are seen as threats to national survival well beyond any single nation’s ability to contain. For some, the deep phenomenon of globalization is seen as a threat to national sovereignty and, indeed, a threat to the international system of states. In this course, challenges and opportunities replace threat as the organizing principle, and the role of international institutions takes center stage.
POL-SCI 362 Latin America and International Relations Credits: 3
This course we will survey the relations between Latin American states and between Latin America and the world. Taking the Latin American states as the key actors, we examine the history of US-Latin American relations, including current issues such as drug trafficking, immigration and terrorism. We will also study the region as a player on the international stage, examining Latin America's changing role in the world arena related to trade, development, and the environment. Finally we examine the emergence of new leadership in Latin America.

POL-SCI 364 Designing American Elections Credits: 3
This course examines the role of elections in American politics. Topics include voter registration, campaign finance, redistricting, the electoral college, and primary elections. We will also evaluate how different electoral rules affect political outcomes such as voter turnout, participation, and representation.

POL-SCI 365 Congress and Parliaments Credits: 3
The objective of this course is to compare the American Congress to parliaments and legislatures in other countries. The course will examine how elections and institutions affect the behavior of legislators and the policy-making process in many countries.

POL-SCI 366 British Politics Credits: 3
This course focuses on the contemporary politics of the United Kingdom, particularly elections, institutions, and political parties.

POL-SCI 369 Politics Of The Middle East Credits: 3
The course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of political systems and major political issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Topics to be covered in the course include the question of Middle east exceptionalism, democratization, the effect of religion and identity, political economy of the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli conflict, political violence, and the Arab Spring.

POL-SCI 370 Labor Law Credits: 3
In this course, participants will examine the role of government in the regulation of labor-management relations in the United States. While the focus of the course will be on federal laws regulating private sector labor relations, parallel issues addressed in the Railway Labor Act and state public sector labor relations law will also be covered. Specific topics include the legal framework for the organization of workers, definition of prohibited or unfair labor practices of employers and unions, legal regulation of the collective bargaining process, regulation of the use of economic weapons in labor disputes, enforcement of collective bargaining agreements and the regulation of internal trade union activities.

POL-SCI 380 Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6
Offered as a special course in the individual faculty member's area of research specialization. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies. The topic and instructor will be announced in advance.

POL-SCI 380A Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6
POL-SCI 380B Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6
POL-SCI 380C Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6
POL-SCI 380D Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6
POL-SCI 380E Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6
POL-SCI 380X Political Science And Politics Credits: 1-6

POL-SCI 381 Mock Trial Credit: 1
A study of the trial process in the U.S. judicial system focusing on the structure and rules of trials, including the role of attorneys. Combination of student performance with in-class lecture and discussion.

POL-SCI 403 Political Ideology Credits: 3
A critical examination of contemporary political ideologies including democratic and authoritarian theories.

POL-SCI 404 Conflict Resolution and Cooperation Credits: 3
This course examines theories of cooperation in the international system. Students will assess the challenges to international cooperation and the means through which states and non-state actors overcome those challenges. Students will critically evaluate theories of conflict resolution and cooperation, while learning to apply those theories to current events.

POL-SCI 406 Presidential Politics Credits: 3
This course will examine the American presidency as an institution, and will analyze its role in the American political system. It will also consider the administrations of the various presidents.

POL-SCI 407 Congressional Politics Credits: 3
Focus on the U.S. Congress and its role in the political process, surveying theories and empirical research on congressional campaigns, internal procedures, and the relationship between Congress and the other branches of government.

POL-SCI 408 Judicial Politics Credits: 3
An examination of the judiciary in the American political process, emphasizing the role of judges, lawyers and the Supreme Court.

POL-SCI 424 Urban Politics and Community Power Structures Credits: 3
This course surveys and analyzes the literature covering urban politics. Students will gain both a theoretical understanding of and empirical grounding in the politics of urban America. An array of important political, social and economic problems that impact urban politics will be examined.
POL-SCI 425 Seminar in Comparative Politics Credits: 3
A survey of the major research in comparative politics including state building, democracy, economic development, and political violence.
Prerequisites: POL-SCI 220.

POL-SCI 427 Presidential Power: foundations, Growth, Issues Credits: 3
An intense examination of the growth of presidential power, from its constitutional foundations; the necessity of a strong presidency, but the potential for abuse. Appropriate for the general student, as well as for majors in political science.

POL-SCI 435 Politics Of The Environment Credits: 3
A survey of the political aspects of environmental issues. The course poses the problems of environmental damage and examines actual and proposed policies aimed at addressing them. Also offered through the PACE program.

POL-SCI 440 Contemporary Political Thought Credits: 3
Political philosophy from Nietzsche to today.

POL-SCI 442 American Political Thought Credits: 3
This course will focus on intellectual reactions to the major periods in American history (the movement for independence, the writing of the Constitution, the Jacksonian period, the Civil War debate, the growth of big business, the rise of the positive state and contemporary America). Contemporary theorists will be included along with Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Marshall, etc.

POL-SCI 451 International Politics In Europe Credits: 3
An examination of developments in international politics in Europe since the end of the Cold War. Issues are discussed in the context of relevant theories of international relations.

POL-SCI 452 Concepts in International Relations Credits: 3
This course exposes advanced undergraduate students to major conceptual and theoretical approaches to international relations.
Prerequisites: Prior course in international relations, politics, economics, or history.

POL-SCI 480 Government And Politics Credits: 1-6
This variable credit course will explore different contemporary issues and problems related to government and politics. Credit may apply to the major but will not satisfy any of the four subfields distribution requirements.

POL-SCI 490 Senior Seminar Credits: 3
A review, analysis and integration of the literatures of the several sub-fields of the discipline. For senior political science majors only.
Prerequisites: Senior standing.

POL-SCI 491 Internship Credits: 1-6
With the written consent of the department chairman, students may participate in structured internship programs approved by the department for a maximum of six hours.

POL-SCI 492WI Senior Seminar (Capstone) Credits: 3
This intensive survey of political science provides graduating seniors an opportunity for integration and review of their study of political values, behavior, and institutions. Satisfies both writing intensive and capstone requirements.
Prerequisites: Senior standing in political science, RooWriter.

POL-SCI 493 Study Abroad Credits: 1-6
With prior approval from the department advisor, students may complete coursework at an approved foreign university and receive up to 6 hours of political science credit.

POL-SCI 497 Political Science Tutorial Credits: 3
Senior political science majors may apply to do independent study under a selected professor. Must have written consent of the professor prior to registration. Only one tutorial will count toward the major.

POL-SCI 498 Honors Tutorial Credits: 1-3
Senior political science majors with a grade point average of 3.4 or above in political science may apply to do independent study under a selected professor. Must have written consent of professor prior to registration. Only one tutorial will count toward the major.