Political Science

The Department of Political Science offers students the opportunity to study all aspects of politics using cutting-edge technical and theoretical tools. Our courses are animated by long-standing problems related to the use of power, its rightful exercise by governments and individual actors, and the institutions that affect how that power is exercised. Reflecting the breadth of the discipline, we offer a range of classes, including courses on elections and electoral politics, international political economy, justice and the state, and comparative analyses of political institutions across states.

A major in political science thus exposes students to the primary themes of the discipline: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, political methodology and political theory. A political science major offers students the opportunity to study political life as part of a broad liberal education, and it is a useful step toward law or business school. Other political science students pursue careers or further education in public administration, urban planning, journalism, education and social work or in federal, state or local government.

Required: 30 units minimum

To major in political science, students must complete a minimum of 30 units of political science course work, including at least 6 units of introductory course work, the course U25 PolSci 323 Introduction to Quantitative Methods, and at least 18 units of advanced courses at the 300 and 400 levels. The 18 advanced units for the major must include at least one 3-unit course from three of the following five fields:

- American politics
- Comparative politics
- International politics
- Political and social theory
- Methods of political research and analysis

The department encourages students to explore a wide variety of courses in political science. A student's program should be planned in close consultation with an academic adviser.

The Minor in Political Science

Required: 15 units

For the minor, 15 units of course work in political science, including at least 9 units of advanced-level courses, are required.

Courses


U25 PolSci 101 American Politics

This course provides an overview of the politics of American government. The topics covered are the historical developments of American politics, federalism, political participation (e.g., voting), institutions (e.g., Congress), and public opinion. That political actors are strategic in their pursuit of objectives is a theme underlying our examination of these topics. Accordingly, we explore the many ways in which strategic political behavior impacts institutions and the interactions between political actors in the U.S.

Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 102 Comparative Politics

This course introduces the student to the fundamentals of cross-national research, study, and understanding. Comparative politics is the study of the domestic politics of other countries. Comparative political study is important because domestic politics shapes what goes on within a given country and shapes how that country's citizens and leaders interact with other countries. Comparative study is challenging because it requires both factual and theoretical knowledge about the world's political systems and how and why they function. Without a strong background in the factual information and the theoretical frameworks around which we can begin to explain and predict political decisions, we cannot understand the world. This lack of understanding impedes effective decision making at the local, regional, national and international scales. In this course, we will study the dominant structures within which politics occurs and examine how those structures shape political choices.

Credit 3 units. Arch: SSC Art; SSC BU: BA, IS UColl: CD, OLI

U25 PolSci 103 Introduction to International Politics

Why do countries fight wars? When do states decide to trade? How can countries address global challenges such as climate change? This course introduces students to the tools needed to answer those and other questions related to interactions between states. First, we cover the theoretical and empirical basics required to analyze international politics in major policy areas such as conflict, trade, development, and the environment. Second, we explore the role of international organizations and how international interactions are connected to domestic politics.

Credit 3 units.
U25 PolSci 103B International Politics
This is an introductory survey course. Its goal is to familiarize students with the basic concepts of International Relations (IR) as a subfield of political science and to introduce them to important issues, such as cooperation and conflict, independence, in the era of globalization, human rights and human development, and the environment.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 103B
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: IS EN: S

U25 PolSci 203 Topics in Politics
The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 227 Just Do It! Running for Political Office
The course will focus on skills related to the democratic expression of political rights and responsibilities. The course will balance background knowledge of the issues with application. Students will explore how to use coalition building and advocacy skills to relate to personal issues to public issues. Students will research a current Missouri bill, create a strategic plan for its passage or failure, and prepare to give testimony on such bill in a mock House of Representatives committee hearing. Students will also learn about ethical dilemmas in policy and politics and create a plan for turning their passions into policy.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 227
Credit 1 unit. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

U25 PolSci 230 U.S. Presidential Campaigning
With the 2016 Presidential race as our backdrop, this course will explore the road to the White House, from early primaries and caucuses through the general election. We will study the role and impact of the media, political parties, and interest groups. We will discuss campaign strategy and organization and the importance of fundraising, debates, polling, social media, and national conventions. We will assess the strengths and weaknesses of current presidential campaigns in real time. Students will select a candidate to "manage" throughout the course and develop themes, speeches, and a general election strategy for their candidate. We will not debate which candidate is the best, but we will discuss who has the best message, organization, and overall campaign.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 260 Game Theory in Science and Culture
Introduces the major intellectual insights of game theory in a nontechnical fashion, and examines the influence game theory has had on geopolitics, social philosophy, psychology, art, and the humanities. In addition to covering the basic machinery of the theory, the class will: participate in numerous illustrative classroom games; examine game theory in film, literature, and literary criticism; see how game theory has contributed to social theory; and learn about the background of game theory and its history and perception as a hoped-for tool in the Cold War. Grades based on problems, short essays, two short-essay exams, and participation.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 260
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC

U25 PolSci 3006 Humanitarian Intervention
This course will examine the political factors that influence humanitarian intervention by studying the ethical, legal, economic, and geostrategic aspects underpinning one of the more controversial developments, namely, the use of military force to protect civilians caught up in internal conflict, such as in Somalia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. The course reviews traditional humanitarian principles and considers how 21st-century intrastate wars have influenced humanitarian organizations. We also consider the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine and its impact on NATO operations.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3031 Race and Ethnicity in American Politics
This seminar will discuss the continuing importance of race and ethnicity in American politics and the politics of racial minority groups in America. It will examine the disadvantage minorities have in the American political structure including problems with political participation. It will examine how the structure and functions of the branches of government and its bureaucracy affect the aspirations of minorities. The roll of pressure groups on political structure will be discussed. Additional discussion will focus on urban politics and tensions.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3031
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC, SC, SD Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 3032 Global Energy Policy: From Israel to Iran
This course examines how the global energy markets operate and how energy policy is formulated, with a special focus on the Middle East. Students interested in working in the energy and/or policy world will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in energy policy formulation and its profound impact on national security, the economy, and foreign policy. Students will deal with issues such as securing energy markets and suppliers, managing oil revenue, deciding on the country's fuel mix for electricity, promoting nuclear energy in the Middle East, engaging with environmental concerns, using energy resources as a "weapon" in foreign policy, subsidizing renewable energy, and the role of energy in war. After learning the basics of the energy market, students will focus on the major players in the Middle East and examine their energy markets -- from Israel to Saudi Arabia and Iran -- including the involvement of foreign actors such as the United States and Russia. They will then be tasked with writing their own op-eds and policy papers to try and influence the process of energy policymaking and to gain experience writing for different audiences. The course will include a guest lecture by an executive from a major coal producer operating in St. Louis (depending on availability) and an optional class visit to a renewable energy project near St. Louis.
Same as U94 JME 303
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, PSI

U25 PolSci 3050 Politics of International Law
In this course, we will focus on key issues of international law and international politics, and how issues of law and politics intersect at the international level. This will include a focus on theories of international relations, theories of international law; conflicts regarding resources, territory and ideology; the military-industrial complex; globalization, privatization and
commercialization; international trade; international treaties; international institutions; the limits of international law; customary international law; the law of the sea; space law; the concept of empire; unilateralism; human rights; and war law.

Credit 3 units. UColl: PSI

U25 PolSci 3061 Sex, Race, and Justice: The U.S. Supreme Court Year Review
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3103 Topics in Politics: Comparative Politics — The Middle East
Credit 3 units. BU: BA UColl: PSC, PSI

U25 PolSci 3111 The Trump Administration: An Examination of a New Paradigm for Presidential Leadership & Governance
This course will examine and assess the promise, progress, and performance of the Trump administration by addressing Trump as the president, the politician, and the person. We will examine Trump's historic upset victories in the Republican primary and the Presidency, including his populist-nationalist political philosophy and campaign strategy. We will study how Trump, the politician, has been able to successfully win the right, despite controversial positions. We will examine how he implements his brand of political-economic strategy and global world view across contemporary issues, including public activism and Black Lives Matter, immigration and civil liberties, fake news and media literacy, gender issues, the environment, and globalization. The syllabus schedule may change in response to political events.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3153 Local Economic Development
This course introduces students to the concepts and practices of local economic development.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA, PST

U25 PolSci 3191 Topics in American Politics
This course is intended primarily for sophomores and juniors. The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSC, PSI

U25 PolSci 3232 Introduction to Data Analysis for Public Policy and Politics
The goal of this course is to establish a baseline understanding of the qualitative and quantitative techniques, tools, and processes used to wield data for effective decision making in government, politics and the nonprofit sector. Its approach focuses on pragmatic, interactive learning using logical methods, basic tools, and publicly available data to practice extracting insights and building recommendations. It is designed for students with little prior statistical or mathematical training and no prior experience with statistical software.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U25 PolSci 3252 Topics in Comparative Politics
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U25 PolSci 3267 Research in the Contemporary Academic Library: Prison Education Project Research Partnership
This course has a dual role as an introduction to political science research approaches and methods and as a practical training opportunity in library research. Students will have opportunities for direct application of their information and data literacy as research assistants working with faculty and incarcerated students in the Washington University Prison Education Project. This course is appropriate for political science and other social studies students as well as students participating in any scholarly community.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3291 Modern South Asian Politics
This course will focus on the recent political history and development of South Asia. It will begin with a review of the British colonial period and the Independence movement. The remainder of the course will examine different political issues in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Topics will include political mobilization, land reform, law and politics, social movements, religious and caste politics, the rise of religious nationalism, and political control of the economy.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3292
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC BU: IS

U25 PolSci 330 Topics in Political Science: Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives
This course explores the theoretical underpinnings of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) policy platform. Since its emergence, BLM has articulated an intersectional critique of anti-black violence in the United States (and, to a certain extent, globally). BLM and the larger M4BL coalition provide an in-depth analysis of the specific ways structures of oppression such as white supremacy, patriarchy, and racial capitalism affect Black populations. By historically, theoretically, and politically situating BLM and the M4BL policy platform in the context of Black radical thought, including but not limited to abolitionist thought, intersectionality, and conceptualizations of racial capitalism, we will trace the ways BLM and M4BL adopt and build on various lineages of critique to diagnose contemporary forms of anti-black violence.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA, PST
U25 PolSci 331 Topics in Political Science
Varies by semester
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSI

U25 PolSci 332 Environmental and Energy Issues
This course considers the major issues in these increasingly important areas of public policy. We discuss the importance of political processes and actors on such phenomena as global warming, endangered species, and public lands. This course emphasizes the American experience but also considers international implications.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSA

U25 PolSci 333 St. Louis Metropolitan Urban Politics
This course will focus on examining, analyzing, critiquing and exploring the political institutions, political operatives and political activities of the myriad various urban communities that comprise the greater St. Louis metropolitan urban region. Prerequisites: Prior academic course work, a professional background and/or a strong academic or applied interest in St. Louis politics or urban politics in general.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 334 Sustainability Policy
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 336 Topics in Politics: Constitutional Politics in the U.S.
The principal purpose of this course is to introduce students to the politics of constitutional interpretation. We will first discuss the origins of the constitution, the structure operation and work of courts, and judicial decision making. Afterwards, we will examine various areas of the law relating to institutional powers and constraints (e.g., federalism, presidential powers, Congressional authority). In so doing, we will develop an understanding for the legal doctrine in each area of the law and also examine explanations for the legal change we observe.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3325
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 337 Topics in Politics: Social and Political Movements
This course is intended primarily for sophomores and juniors.
The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 333
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 338 National Security, Civil Liberties and the Law
This course is intended primarily for sophomores and juniors.
The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3381
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 340 Topics in Politics
This course varies from semester to semester.
Credit 3 units.

This course will track many elements of the presidential election process. In particular, we shall examine the reason and role of the primary and caucus process in choosing delegates to the national conventions; the role of campaign donations and political action committees; how and why various aspects of the media cover campaigns, the more powerful role of social media, why journalists choose certain narrative lines; how televised debates and polls sort out the leading contenders; how the base of both leading parties have considerable leverage in choosing their party’s nominee, and how polls work and shape public perceptions.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 3411 Topics in Politics: Party Politics in America
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 343 Constitutional Law
This course presents an introduction to constitutional law and practice in the United States. Emphasis is placed on the role of the U.S. Supreme Court as an interpreter of the Constitution.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 344 Courts and Civil Liberties
Introduction to the philosophical bases and historical development of constitutional civil liberties. Substantial emphasis on the Supreme Court’s interpretation of First Amendment guarantees and of the right to privacy. Prerequisite: sophomore standing, or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 3441 Courts and Civil Liberties: Defendant’s Rights
This course explores the operations of the American criminal justice system. Substantial emphasis on the constitutional rights accorded to the criminally accused. Readings consist primarily, but not exclusively, of Supreme Court cases.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3441
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA, ETH EN: S

U25 PolSci 352 The Politics of Privacy in the Digital Age
This course explores the changing nature of privacy in contemporary society.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3462
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: ETH UColl: PSA, PSC

U25 PolSci 364 The New Space Rush
This course will introduce students to new activities regarding outer space. New types of spaceships and space hotels are being designed. Vast quantities of natural resources such as gold, platinum, iridium, osmium, helium 3 and water were recently discovered in outer space. These new advances in space exploration, science, technology and architecture can be analyzed through the lens of political science. Across various disciplines, these accomplishments in physics, biology, chemistry, engineering, medicine and computer science, along with the likely economic implications, can be explained by political science concepts, theories and analytical tools. Students from many disciplines can learn more by understanding the big
Students will gain understanding of policies in a variety of policy arenas. The core project of the course will help students develop their analytic and writing skills by applying the models learned in class to a specific policy debate within one of the areas discussed in the course. Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSA

U25 PolSci 370 Topics in Politics: The United States of EUROPE?
The European Union is the most advanced experiment of regional integration and "supranational" governance beyond traditional nation-states and intergovernmental cooperation. This course is designed to explore the dynamics of this experience over the past 60 years within a historical and geographical context, considering political, economic, institutional and cultural factors. The course will not only cover the 27 member nations and interrelationships among them, but will also address topics related to the external relations of the EU. Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSC

U25 PolSci 374 American Foreign Policy
American foreign policy from the end of World War II to the present; the domestic constraints on America's ability to create a coherent, effective foreign policy. Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSC

U25 PolSci 375 TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS:
International Organizations and Global Governance
This course surveys post-War American foreign policy in historical perspective. It begins by evaluating the rise of the United States as a world power during the twentieth century, its current position of primacy and its consequences in the post Cold period, and the distinctive traditions and institutions shaping the making of American foreign policy. It then examines the origins of the strategy of containment in the early Cold War period before considering how these debates animated the changing course of American foreign policy through the various phases of the Cold War conflict. The course concludes by analyzing American foreign policy since the end of the Cold War, up to and including debates about the consequences of September 11th 2001 for the United States' position of primacy, the Bush Doctrine and the American led intervention in and subsequent occupation of Iraq. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S UColl: ML

U25 PolSci 3781 Israeli Politics
Places Israeli political issues and events within the context of existing political theories. Discusses the politics and ideology of pre-state Israel and the foundation of the state. The creation of modern Israel political institutions, elections, and government coalitions. Also, Israeli foreign policy and international involvement. Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, PSC, PSI

U25 PolSci 382 Introduction to Public Policy
In this course students will learn the structures, processes, and actors comprising policymaking in the United States at the national and state level. Using various models of the policy process, students will gain understanding of policies in a variety of policy arenas. The core project of the course will help students develop their analytic and writing skills by applying the models learned in class to a specific policy debate within one of the areas discussed in the course. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSC, PSI
qualifications. Legislative enactments have also established rights with respect to voting. Each extension of voting rights has been a product of and brought about, social and political change. Today there are more laws conditioning access to the ballot than at any other time since the post-reconstruction era, and many states will be facing new rules heading into upcoming mid-term elections and in anticipation of redistricting following the 2020 census. This course will examine the interplay of law and politics, history and political movements in the right to vote. The course will begin with a historical look at the development of voting rights from the founding of our country to the present. What factors have caused us to redefine who gets to participate in the electoral process and how? We will then apply these principles to current controversies in voting rights, through examination of current litigation and policy debates, and by assessing proposed solutions for voting rights going forward. The course involves study of fundamental court cases, interactive discussion of contemporary debates, and review of current litigation and legislative proposals. The course will be supplemented by occasional media and guest visits by election officials, lawyers, lawmakers, advocates or others.  

Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>U25 PolSci 4131 Directed Research in Political Science</td>
<td>Research activities or project in political science under the supervision of an instructor in the department.</td>
<td>Credit variable, maximum 3 units.</td>
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<td>U25 PolSci 414 Directed Fieldwork</td>
<td>A fieldwork project carried out under the direction of the department. Must be taken pass/fail.</td>
<td>Credit variable, maximum 9 units.</td>
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<td>U25 PolSci 422 Topics in American Politics</td>
<td>The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.</td>
<td>Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA</td>
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<td>U25 PolSci 427 Economic Systems in Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Theory and practice of mercantilism, capitalism, and socialism. Historical and contemporary examples considered, with contemporary focus on Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Hong Kong. Primary emphasis on choices open to individuals; pecuniary and non-pecuniary prices paid to exercise those choices. Statistical evidence and case studies will be used. Course requirements include weekly written critique. Prerequisite: U07 Econ 1011 or 1021.</td>
<td>Same as U07 Econ 427</td>
<td>Credit 3 units.</td>
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<td>U25 PolSci 4552 Comparative Political Economy</td>
<td>This seminar will introduce the student to aspects of social choice theory, applied to themes to do with the economic origins of democracy, democratization and the stability of social orders. We shall read and discuss a number of recent books: Acemoglu and Robinson on Economic Origins; North, Weingast and Wallis on Violence and Social Orders; Przeworski on Democracy and Development; Ferguson on Money; Collier on Wars, Guns, and Votes. If time permits we also hope to discuss recent work by Stern on the Economics of Climate Change. Students will be expected to work on two short research papers, either empirically or theoretically based, and make a presentation of their work near the end of the semester.</td>
<td>Same as L32 Pol Sci 4552</td>
<td>Credit 3 units.</td>
<td>A&amp;S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S</td>
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Same as U25 PolSci 482 Public Policy Internship                                              | Internships in such places as legislators' offices, public interest groups, regional or community organizations, or private businesses with active public policy research interests. Prerequisites: 12 hours of political science course work; advanced standing; permission of University College, the instructor, and the department chair. Must be taken for letter grade. Must be taken concurrently with U25-414. | Credit variable, maximum 3 units.                                                                 |              |                                                                                                                                     |

U25 PolSci 483 Legal Internships                                                                 | The legal internship program is designed to allow advanced undergraduates the opportunity to undertake an internship in one of a variety of public and private law offices. Must be taken for letter grade. Must be taken concurrently with U25-414. | Credit variable, maximum 3 units.                                                                 |              |                                                                                                                                     |