Political Science

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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 United States.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLH, OLI

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
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, interdependence in the era of globalization, human rights and human development, and the environment.
Credit 3 units.

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

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 course will examine both the historic and current role of minorities in American politics. Special emphases will be placed on political participation/voting behavior, the uses of race in campaigns and political rhetoric, race as it affects public policy, and finally, the effect of racial issues on American party alignment.
Credit 3 units. Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S UColl: PSA
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, OLI, 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: Middle East Politics
This course is designed to explore the historical background, social and political environment, political structure, political dynamics, foreign policy, and future prospects of the most influential and "hotspot" countries of Middle East: Turkey, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, and Yemen.
Credit 3 units. BU: BA UColl: CD, OLI, 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: OLI, PSA

U25 PolSci 323 Introduction to Quantitative Methods
This course introduces the basic concepts of data analysis and statistical computing, both increasingly used in the social sciences and the humanities. The emphasis is on the practical application of quantitative reasoning and data analysis. The general goal is to provide students pragmatic tools for assessing statistical claims and conducting their own basic statistical analyses. Topics covered include basic descriptive measures, measures of association, sampling and sample size estimation, and simple linear regression. Assignments are based on real-world data and problems in political science. Basic math skills (algebra) are recommended.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

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
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 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 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 3310 Topics in Politics: Theories of Social Justice
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 331
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art; SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 3311 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 3313 St. Louis Metropolitan Urban Politics
This course examines the evolution of politics, government, and political and economic behavior in the greater St. Louis metropolitan region and selected suburban communities. We will study how the St. Louis metropolitan region has rapidly developed into a major Midwestern political and economic center. We also will consider the role of influential institutions such as the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association, and Civic Progress. Students will conduct research on major political issues facing the greater St. Louis metropolitan region.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 3322 Sustainability Policy
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3326 Topics in Politics: Constitutional Politics in the U.S.
This is a topics course in Political Science.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3325
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art; SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 3331 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
This course surveys postwar American foreign policy in historical perspective. It begins by evaluating the rise of the United States as a world power during the 20th century, its current position of primacy and its consequences in the post-Cold War period, and the distinctive traditions and institutions shaping the making of American foreign policy. It then examines the origins of the strategy of containment during 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 11, 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; ETH EN: S
historic, policy and political movements surrounding them. Many find it hard to believe that there is no explicit “right to vote” in the U.S. Constitution – part of a compromise inextricably tied to the history of race in America. Yet there are more constitutional amendments governing the right to vote than any other, prohibiting the abridgment of voting based on race, gender, property ownership, age and other 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.

U25 PolSci 4131 Directed Research in Political Science
Research activities or project in political science under the supervision of an instructor in the department. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

U25 PolSci 414 Directed Fieldwork
A fieldwork project carried out under the direction of the department. Must be taken pass/fail. Credit variable, maximum 9 units.

U25 PolSci 422 Topics in American Politics
The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 4552 Comparative Political Economy
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. Same as L32 Pol Sci 4552. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

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.