

Political Science

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Political Science/Law Enforcement

109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2721

Web site: www.mnsu.edu/dept/psle/welcome.edu

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Political Science is the systematic study of politics, power relationships and government. Political Science is in one sense an ancient discipline: Aristotle called it the "queen of the sciences." Yet the focus for much of today's political science was developed in the past sixty years. Scientific observations have now joined older philosophical traditions. Modern political science examines politics in the United States, countries and regions of the world and in international relations. It explains how and why public decisions are made. Political Science majors can qualify for a wide variety of careers in public and private sector organizations, including business, law, government, journalism, international organizations and finance, political campaigns, interest groups and secondary and college teaching. The study of public affairs and government is essential for developing effective citizenship. This training prepares one for professional or volunteer involvement in community organizations, issue movements, electoral politics, and other activities in the public arena.

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Minimum university admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.

- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 (C).

Contact the department for application procedures.

POLITICAL SCIENCE BA, BS

Required for Major (Core, 3 credits):

POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)

Required for Major (Options, 30 credits):

Complete at least 15 credits in one of the four areas.

Subareas: Complete at least one course from five of the eight subareas. (15 credits)

AREA A: Theory and Methods

Subarea 1: Theory

POL 311 Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy (3)

POL 312 Modern Political Philosophy (3)

POL 313 Contemporary Political Philosophy (3)

POL 410 Topics in Political Philosophy (1-4)

POL 414 Early United States Political Thought (3)

POL 415 Recent United States Political Thought (3)

POL 416 Nonwestern Political Philosophy (3)

Subarea 2: Methods

POL 321 Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation (3)

POL 420 Topics in Political Methods (1-4)

POL 421 Research Methods (3)

POL 423 Public Opinion and Polling Methods (3)

AREA B: International Relations and Comparative Politics

Subarea 3: International Relations

POL 231 World Politics (3)

POL 430 Topics in International Relations (1-4)

POL 431 International Relations (3)

POL 432 International Law (3)

POL 433 International Organization (3)

POL 434 U.S. Foreign Policy (3)

Subarea 4: Comparative Politics

POL 241 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3)

POL 342 Asia Pacific Rim: Politics and Policy (3)

POL 435 Capitalism, Nationalism, & Democracy (3)

POL 439 Comparative Social Policy: The Welfare State in Europe and the Americas (3)

POL 440 Topics in Comparative Politics (1-4)

POL 441 Russia and Neighboring States Politics (3)

POL 442 South Asia: Politics and Policy (3)

POL 443 Middle East Politics (3)

POL 444 Latin America Politics (3)

POL 446 African Politics (3)

POL 447 Europe: Politics and Policy (3)

POL 448 Political Development and Change (3)

POL 449 Comparative Criminal Justice System (3)

AREA C: Public Law, Policy and Administration

Subarea 5: Public Law

POL 450 Topics in Public Law (1-4)

POL 451 Administrative Law (3)

POL 452 Jurisprudence (3)

POL 453 Constitutional Law (3)

POL 454 Civil Liberties (3)

POL 455 American Legal Philosophy (3)

Subarea 6: Policy and Administration

POL 260 Introduction to Public Administration (3)

POL 361 Public Budgeting (3)

POL 460 Topics in Public Policy/Administration (1-4)

POL 461 Environmental Politics (3)

POL 462 Collective Bargaining: Public Sector (3)

POL 463 Public Personnel Administration (3)

POL 464 Aging: Policy Issues (3)

AREA D: Institutions, Process, Behavior and Participation

Subarea 7: Institutions and Process

POL 371 State and Local Government (3)

POL 470 Topics in Institutions, Process (1-4)

POL 472 Urban Government (3)

POL 473 The Legislative Process (3)

POL 474 The Executive Process (3)

POL 475 The Judicial Process (3)

POL 476 Southern Politics

Subarea 8: Behavior and Participation

POL 381 Democracy and Citizenship (2)

POL 382 In-Service: Public Achievement (1)

POL 480 Topics in Participation and Behavior (1-4)

POL 482 Campaigns and Elections (3)

POL 483 Political Parties (3)

POL 484 Women and Politics (3)

POL 485 Terrorism and Political Violence (3)

POL 486 Racial and Ethnic Politics (3)

POL 487 Political Psychology (3)

With the approval of the advisor these courses may be used to satisfy the area and subarea requirements.

POL 391 Colloquium (1-4)

POL 490 Workshop (1-6)

POL 491 Internship (1-12)

POL 492 Individual Study (1-5)

POL 493 Individual Study: Social Studies Teaching (1-3)

Required for Major (Electives, 9 credits):

POL xxx POL xxx POL xxx

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY:

Language (8)

Political Science

Total Credits Required for Major (42 credits)

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR

Required for Minor (18 credits):

Choose at least 18 credits, 12 credits at the 300-400 level.

POL Any Level POL Any Level POL 300-400

POL 300-400 POL 300-400 POL 300-400

POLICIES/INFORMATION

Students must consult with the program advisor who will approve and file the program of courses selected and approve changes in the program.

GPA Policy. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 in the Political Science major.

Pass/No Credit Policy. With the exception of internship credits, which must be taken on a P/N basis, no more than one-fourth of the credits in a political science major or minor may be taken as P/N. Internship credits will not be counted as part of the one-fourth limitation, but will be subtracted from the total hours required for the major or minor prior to the computation of the one-fourth limitation.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

POL 100 (3) Introduction to Politics

Study of the nature of politics and government and their influence on society and human behavior.

F, S

GE-5

POL 101 (3) Introduction to Public Life

Combine study with action to remake yourself into a democratic citizen. Consider your beliefs, debate issues and learn political skills. Integrate these in practical public work on a real issue or project in a student group or community organization.

GE-9, 11

POL 102 (3) Politics of Diversity in Film

Use films and readings to understand the political implications of inequality and group identity in the US. Films helps students participate vicariously in experience of oppressed groups, reflect on their own attitudes and behavior regarding diversity, racism and bigotry

GE-7 CD-Core

POL 103 (3) Thinking About Politics

This course is designed to help you to read, think and write critically about important concepts and issues in the study and practice of politics. It is intended to acquaint you with some of the great debates in political thought, increase your understanding of how political systems work and help you to develop your research and writing skills.

GE-1C, 2

POL 104 (3) Understanding the U.S. Constitution

Rejoin the political debates of 1787 to understand the US Constitution. Compare the founding document with amendments, later usage and Supreme Court interpretations. Examine controversies over the meaning of the Constitution using the methods of political philosophers, historians, and legal scholars.

GE-5

POL 105 (2) Politics in Cyberspace

This course deals with the impact of information technology on politics, and develops the skills necessary to be an effective cyber citizen. It also examines political issues surrounding electronic information technology.

GE-13

POL 106 (3) Politics in the World Community

This introductory course examines key concepts and issues in contemporary world politics. It is a survey course covering topics including political culture, the political impact of economic globalization, the changing role of the state, nationality and ethnic identity, and issues of oppression and empowerment.

GE-8 CD-Related

POL 107 (3) Freedom and Authority

This course explores notions of freedom and authority across cultures and through time. By using political writings, literary works and film, the course examines issues including the nature and limits of legitimate authority, the nature and sources of freedom, limits to freedom, and the role of personal choice and conscience.

GE-1C, 9

POL 111 (3) United States Government

Become informed enough to play your part in governing the United States. Start by learning about the Constitution, our rights and freedoms, how the national government works and the opportunities and challenges of citizen influence. Political Science methods, and the challenges of citizenship are emphasized.

GE-5, 9

POL 201 (1-3) Issues in Politics

Various topics of current interest. Topics covered in the past include political corruption, contemporary ideologies, revolution, understanding the United States Constitution, political films. Course may be taken more than once for credit.

F, S

POL 221 (3) Introduction to Political Analysis

Elementary analytical concepts and basic techniques for understanding and doing research in political science.

F, S

POL 231 (3) World Politics

An introduction to the dynamics of interactions among sovereign states and other global actors.

F, S

POL 241 (3) Introduction to Comparative Politics

This course is designed to acquaint undergraduates with the data and methods of comparative politics. Approaches to the study of comparative politics may include country studies, regional studies, global surveys focusing on specific policy areas or other issues, and general comparative theory.

F, S

POL 260 (3) Introduction to Public Administration

A survey of the topics relative to administration in the public sector, including the history of public administration, organization theory, leadership and management, human resources management, budgeting and finance, policy analysis, program evaluation, and government regulation.

F, S

POL 311 (3) Ancient & Medieval Political Philosophy

A survey of Western political philosophy from Plato through the Conciliar Movement. An examination of the origin and development of basic concepts defining the relationship between the person and the state: human nature, community, authority, power, legitimacy, obligation, accountability, government, liberty and personal responsibility.

F

POL 312 (3) Modern Political Philosophy

A survey of Western political philosophy from Machiavelli through Edmund Burke. An examination of the development of ideas about government from the 15th Century through the 18th Century. Emphasis is placed on origins of political authority, purposes for which government exists, relationships be-

tween government authority and individual rights, civic virtue, republicanism and democracy.

S

POL 313 (3) Contemporary Political Philosophy

A survey of Western political philosophy from Hegel through the post-modernist writers. An examination of 19th and 20th Century political philosophers emphasizing German transcendentalism, utilitarianism, economic determinism, state socialism, neoliberalism, communitarianism and post-modernism.

Variable

POL 321 (3) Public Policy Analysis & Evaluation

Traces the history of public policy analysis and program evaluation and provides rudimentary backgrounds on substantive policy areas, e.g., environmental policy; models to analyze policies; and means to evaluate policies and programs.

Variable

POL 342 (3) Asian Pacific Rim: Politics & Policy

Survey of the political processes, governmental institutions and policies of the countries of the Asian Pacific Rim, with special emphasis on China, Japan and the newly industrializing states of Southeast Asia.

Variable

POL 361 (3) Public Budgeting

An overview of the budgetary and fiscal processes of public budgeting, including the politics surrounding public budgeting and fiscal policy decisions.

Variable

POL 371 (3) State & Local Government

Institutions, processes, intergovernmental relations, and politics of U.S. state and local governments.

F, S

POL 381 (2) Democracy and Citizenship

Students learn about active citizenship from readings and discussions on the theory and practice of democracy. They also integrate this intellectual activity with their related practical experience as citizen-organizers in POL 382. From these related courses students should become more motivated to participate, to feel a greater sense of empowerment, to improve political skills, and to better understand and appreciate democracy.

Permission required. Students should register for this course both fall and spring semesters.

Coreq: POL 382. F, S

POL 382 (1) In-Service: Public Achievement

Students will learn about citizenship and democratic participation by serving as citizenship coaches for teams of middle school students. The university students help middle school students form teams around issues of interest to them. They set goals, attempt actions and evaluate their experiences. Usually there is one coach per team and the teams have four to eight members. Orientation workshops and ongoing debriefing and development meetings are also required. Permission required. Students should register for this course for both fall and spring semesters.

Coreq: POL 381

POL 391 (1-4) Colloquium

Topics will vary. Typically each session of this colloquium is lead by a different speaker. The emphasis is upon the exchange of views. A single instructor typically will coordinate the colloquium and be responsible for the administrative aspects of the course.

Pre: Consent of advisor Variable

POL 410 (1-4) Topics in Political Philosophy

This course explores topics in political philosophy beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with change of topic.

Variable

POL 414 (3) Early United States Political Thought

Political thought in the United States from the colonial period to the Civil War. Puritans, American revolution, republicanism, debate over United States Constitution, Jacksonian Democracy, Thoreau, reformers and religious and secular utopias, womens' rights, states' rights, abolitionism, proslavery.

Variable

POL 415 (3) Recent United States Political Thought

Political thought in United States from reconstruction to present. Controversies over industrial capitalism: Social Darwinism, Utopian Socialism, Populism, Socialism, Progressivism. Women's Rights, suffrage movement and contemporary feminism; African American political thought: liberalism; conservatism.

Variable

POL 416 (3) Nonwestern Political Philosophy

This course introduces students to the political philosophies of major thinkers from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The course is designed to enhance students' analytical and writing skills.

Variable

POL 420 (1-4) Topics in Political Methods

This course explores topics in political science research methods beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 421 (3) Research Methods

Research methods commonly used in political science and public administration. Emphasis on such topics as the scientific approach, research design, qualitative research and measurement issues.

Pre: POL 221 or consent Variable

POL 423 (3) Public Opinion and Polling Methods

This course examines public opinion in American politics. Topics include the definition, nature and consequences of public opinion; political socialization; public opinion on selected issues; intergroup differences in public opinion, and public opinion polling methods.

POL 430 (1-4) Topics in International Relations

This course explores topics in international relations beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 431 (3) International Relations

An advanced theoretical survey of the dynamics of politics and political change at the global level.

S

POL 432 (3) International Law

A study of the legal norms and institutions which influence international and transnational relations.

Variable

POL 433 (3) International Organization

Study of the function and process of the United Nations and other international organizations.

S

POL 434 (3) United States Foreign Policy

This course is a general overview of US foreign policy institutions, processes, and politics. U.S. foreign policy is examined in historical, global and domestic contexts.

Variable

POL 435 (3) Capitalism, Nationalism, and Democracy

This course explores the interaction of the three complex contemporary political and socioeconomic phenomena: the continuing expansion of global capitalism, the rise of nationalism(s), and the new wave of democratization

around the world. The following topics are covered and discussed in class, with references to specific country and regional examples, (1) the impact of international economic institutions and democratization, (2) new forms of political participation in emerging democracies, (3) cultural and ethnic determinants of democratization, (4) problems of economic inequality in new democracies, (5) social and gender issues of democratic transitions, and (6) the relationship between democratic expansion and world peace. Course format will be lecture, discussion, student presentations and occasional films.

POL 439 (3) Comparative Social Policy: The Welfare State in Europe and the Americas

This course offers a cross-national perspective on the politics of social policy and the welfare state in industrialized parts of the world, including North and South America and different regions of Europe. It also explores distinct national patterns of public policy solutions to the common contemporary problems of social security, poverty, and health care by paying close attention to both domestic factors and the forces of globalization that work to constrain government decisions. This multidimensional approach is designed to enable students to better understand how politics work in different ways to produce collective or social choices.

POL 440 (1-4) Topics in Comparative Politics

This course explores topics in comparative politics beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 441 (3) Russia & Neighboring States Politics

This course focuses on the Russian political system in relation to domestic social and economic environments and also on the role of Russia as a global actor. It examines the post communist transformation in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

Variable

POL 442 (3) South Asia: Politics & Policy

This course introduces students to the governments and politics of the South Asian countries. The historical and cultural context of politics are explored, as well as contemporary issues.

Variable

POL 443 (3) Middle East Politics

This class explores the dynamics that determine politics and effect change in the region. Using a comparative perspective for the major countries in the region, we examine such issues as Islam, nationalism, resources, regional conflicts, impact of the international system, and political development.

F

POL 444 (3) Latin American Politics

This course includes a detailed analysis of select countries and theoretical concerns in Latin American studies. Its general goal is to provide students with the knowledge of Latin American politics and societies in both regional and comparative contexts.

Variable

POL 446 (3) African Politics

This course is designed to acquaint undergraduate and graduate students with key concepts and issues in the study of African politics. The historical and cultural context of politics is explored, as well as topics of current importance in the field.

S

POL 447 (3) Europe: Politics & Policy

This course discusses government institutions, political developments, and policymaking structures of contemporary Europe, including the former

communist countries of East/Central Europe and the Balkans. It will also cover the ongoing process of European integration (European Union) and democratization of the former Soviet bloc countries. Some of the topics covered will include: elections, party systems, federalism and devolution, ethnic and minority policy, social policy, economic reforms, gender and politics, and cross-Atlantic relations with the US.

POL 448 (3) Political Development & Change

This course introduces students to key issues and concepts in the study of political and economic development. Both theoretical approaches and empirical data are presented. The course is also designed to enhance students' analytical and research skills.

F

POL 449 (3) Comparative Criminal Justice Systems

A comparison of criminal justice philosophies, structures, and procedures found in various countries around the world. Same as LAWE 434

Variable

POL 450 (1-4) Topics in Public Law

This course explores topics in public law beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 451 (3) Administrative Law

Legal procedures by which state and federal administrative agencies exercise legislative, judicial and executive powers. Emphasis is placed on the constitutional position of administrative agencies, the rule making process, the power of agencies to decide rights and obligations concerning individual cases, and judicial control of administrative action.

F

POL 452 (3) Jurisprudence

Philosophy and sources of law. Schools of legal philosophy and types of legal thinking. Emphasis is placed on Classical Natural Law, Analytical Legal Positivism, Legal Realism and Critical Legal Studies. Same as LAWE 435

F

POL 453 (3) Constitutional Law

Review of selected U.S. Supreme Court decisions relating to the powers of the President, Congress and the Judiciary, as well as the division of power between the states and the federal government. Focus is on case briefing, underlying rationales, and the development of individual analytical abilities.

Variable

POL 454 (3) Civil Liberties

Review of selected U.S. Supreme Court decisions interpreting areas such as substantive due process, abortion, speech, press, religion, and equal protection. Focus is on the rationale which underlies decisions and the development of individual analytical abilities. Same as LAWE 436

Variable

POL 455 (3) American Legal Philosophy

This course examines major schools in American legal thought from the dawn of the 20th century to the present day. Our focus will lie with turn-of-the-century formalism; legal realism; the legal process school; law and economics; and critical legal studies. We will apply legal reasoning from these schools to selected controversial 20th-century Supreme Court cases on church-state issues, gay and lesbian rights, privacy rights, criminal defendants' rights and other issues as appropriate.

POL 460 (1-4) Topics in Public Policy/Administration

This course explores topics in public policy and public administration beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on

the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 461 (3) Environmental Politics

A study of the natural environment as a public policy issue in the political process of the United States, with some attention given to comparative and international perspectives.

Variable

POL 462 (3) Collective Bargaining: Public Sector

A broadly based introduction to the issues, processes, and techniques of public sector labor relations.

Variable

POL 463 (3) Public Personnel Administration

The development of public personnel management in federal, state and local governments; strategic planning and policy making, position management, staffing, performance management, workplace relations.

F

POL 464 (3) Aging: Policy Issues

The public policy process and issues as related to the generations, particularly to older Americans. Focuses on the policy context as well as the specific policies and programs.

S

CD-Core

POL 470 (1-4) Topics in Institutions & Process

This course explores topics in political institutions and process beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 472 (3) Urban Government

Politics of cities and metropolitan areas. Impact of race, class, gender, immigrant status issues. Intergovernmental relations, how citizens can influence urban politics.

Variable

POL 473 (3) Legislative Process

United States Congress and state legislatures, with some cross-national comparisons. Legislative structure, powers; districting, elections, representation, constituency relations; committee system, parties, law-making process, rules and procedure, decision-making, relations with executives and courts. Reforms.

S

POL 474 (3) Executive Process

Examination of executive politics in United States at a federal and state level, with some cross-national comparisons. United States presidency and executive branch, governors and state executive branches, mayors, and other local executives.

Variable

POL 475 (3) Judicial Process

An examination of the structure, jurisdiction and processes of federal and state courts. Also studied are judicial decision-making, the selection of judges and justices. Same as LAWE 437.

Variable

POL 476 (3) Southern Politics

The course examines politics in the American South. It examines the historical and cultural roots of Southern distinctiveness, traditionalistic political culture, racial conflicts, hostility toward organized labor, religious fundamentalism, tolerance of state violence, and social and moral conservatism. major attention is paid to the realignment of white Southerners toward the Republican Party.

POL 480 (1-4) Topics in Participation & Behavior

This course explores topics in political participation and behavior beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

POL 482 (3) Campaigns & Elections

Elections in the United States at the federal, state and local levels. Election law, history, factors affecting elections, voting behavior, campaign finance, role of parties and groups, campaign strategy and tactics. Analysis of contemporary elections.

F

POL 483 (3) Political Parties

Parties at United States, state, local level. Cross-national comparisons. Decline and revival of parties. What parties do. Is two party systems best? Are three parties the answer? Party organization. Voting behavior. Legislative, executive parties. Minnesota focus.

S

POL 484 (3) Women & Politics

Politics impact on women: women's impact on politics and governance; primary focus on United States but some comparative considerations.

Variable

CD-Core

POL 485 (3) Terrorism & Political Violence

History, philosophy, techniques and countermeasures to terroristic and low intensity threats to public order. Both domestic and international terror. The blurring of the lines between low intensity conflict/terrorism and multinational high intensity crime. Same as LAWE 438

Variable

POL 486 (3) Racial and Ethnic Politics

Racial and ethnic minorities in U.S. politics. Public opinion on racial issues, minority representation, race (partisanship and voting behavior), and racial issues (affirmative action, school busing, immigration).

POL 487 (3) Political Psychology

Applications of psychological concepts to politics. Intergroup relations, stereotyping, political authoritarianism, presidential character and psychology, foreign policy decision-making, political tolerance, and mass violence and genocide.

POL 490 (1-6) Workshop

Selected topics. May be repeated with change of topic.

Variable

POL 491 (1-12) Internship

Field placement with a governmental agency or related organization. Provides a learning experience in which the student can integrate and apply knowledge and theory derived from curriculum.

P/N only.

Variable

POL 492 (1-5) Individual Study

Advanced study and research on topics not currently available in existing courses. May be repeated with a change of topic. Requires advisor and instructor approval of topic.

Variable

POL 493 (3) Individual Study: Social Studies Teaching

This course provides individualized instruction for students preparing for social studies teaching with a concentration in political science. Students carry out research projects related to curriculum development and the teaching of social

studies.
Variable
