

POLITICAL SCIENCE BA, BS AND MINORS

Political Science

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
 Department of Government
 109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2721
 Website: sbs.mnsu.edu/government/pscience

Program Coordinator: Fred Slocum Ph.D.

Faculty: Abdalla Battah Ph.D.; Josh Berkenpas Ph.D.; Susan Burum J.D.; Scott Granberg-Rademacker Ph.D.; Tomasz Inglot Ph.D.; Avra Johnson Ph.D.; Eiji Kawabata Ph.D.; Kevin Parsneau Ph.D.; Fred Slocum Ph.D.; Jackie Vieceli Ph.D.

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 last century. 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.

Academic Map/Degree Plan at www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All

POLICIES/INFORMATION

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.

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

The combination of a Political Science major and Public Administration minor is not allowed.

Minimum Credit Requirement. All students (including transfer students) majoring in Political Science must take a minimum of 15 credits of Political Science courses at Minnesota State Mankato before graduation with BA in Political Science.

Minimum Credit Requirement. All students (including transfer students) majoring in Political Science must take a minimum of 15 credits of Political Science courses at Minnesota State Mankato before graduation with BS in Political Science.

Minimum Credit Requirement. All students (including transfer students) minoring in Political Science must take a minimum of 9 credits of Political Science courses at Minnesota State Mankato before graduation.

Minimum Credit Requirement. All students (including transfer students) minoring in Public Administration must take a minimum of 9 credits of Political Science courses at Minnesota State Mankato before graduation.

No more than six (6) credit hours of POL 491 (Internship) may be counted (as Unrestricted Elective credit) toward completing the Political Science major.

No more than six (6) credit hours taken toward completing the Political Science minor can be counted toward completing the International Relations major.

No more than six (6) credit hours taken toward completing the International Relations major can be counted toward completing the Political Science major.

No more than six (6) credit hours taken toward completing the International Relations minor can be counted toward completing the Political Science major.

GPA Policy. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 in the Political Science major AND must earn a "C-" or better for all courses 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.

POLITICAL SCIENCE BA

Degree completion = 120 credits

Major Common Core

POL 111	United States Government (3)
POL 221	Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
POL 241	Introduction to Comparative Politics (3)

Major Restricted Electives

Choose Area 1, Area 2 or Area 3 as your concentration area. Within your chosen concentration area, complete at least 15 credit hours (concentration requirement: minimum 15 credit hours). Within the other two (non-concentration) areas, complete at least 3 credit hours each (distribution requirement: minimum 6 credit hours total).

Area 1: American Politics and Policy

POL 260	Introduction to Public Administration (3)
POL 321	Democracy and Citizenship (2)
POL 322	In-Service: Public Achievement (1-2)
POL 361	Public Budgeting (3)
POL 371	State & Local Government (3)
POL 420	Topics in Participation and Behavior (3)
POL 422	Campaigns & Elections (3)
POL 423	Political Parties (3)
POL 424	Women & Politics (3)
POL 425	Terrorism & Political Violence (3)
POL 426	Racial and Ethnic Politics (3)
POL 427	Political Psychology (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 470	Topics in Institutions & Process (1-4)
POL 471	Public Opinion and Polling Methods (3)
POL 472	Urban Government (3)
POL 473	Legislative Process (3)
POL 474	Executive Process (3)
POL 475	Judicial Process (3)
POL 476	Southern Politics (3)

Area 2: International Relations and Comparative Politics

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	United States Foreign Policy (3)
POL 435	Capitalism, Nationalism, and Democracy (3)
POL 436	International Political Economy (3)
POL 437	International Conflict Resolution (3)
POL 438	International Relations of East Asia (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 & Neighboring States Politics (3)
POL 442	South Asia: Politics & Policy (3)
POL 443	Middle East Politics (3)
POL 444	Latin American Politics (3)
POL 445	Asian Pacific Rim: Politics & Policy (3)
POL 446	African Politics (3)
POL 447	European Democracies (3)
POL 448	Political Development & Change (3)
POL 449	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems (3)

Area 3: Theory and Public Law

POL 311	Ancient & Medieval Political Philosophy (3)
POL 312	Early Modern Political Philosophy (3)
POL 313	Modern 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)
POL 450	Topics in Public Law (1-4)

POLITICAL SCIENCE CONTINUED

POL 451	Administrative Law (3)
POL 453	Constitutional Law (3)
POL 454	Civil Liberties (3)
POL 455	American Legal Philosophy (3)

Other Course Choices

With permission of advisor, any of the following courses may substitute for courses in the three areas above. No more than 6 credits of POL 491 Internship, can be counted toward completing the Political Science major.

POL 391	Colloquium (1-4)
POL 480	Topics in Political Methods (3)
POL 490	Workshop (1-6)
POL 491	Internship (1-12)
POL 492	Individual Study (1-5)

Major Unrestricted Electives

From the list below, complete at least 6 credit hours of courses at any (100 through 400) level, and at least 6 additional credit hours of courses at the 300 or 400 level (electives requirement: at least 12 credit hours total). The twelve credit hours of Political Science Major Unrestricted Electives must be different courses than those taken as Major Restricted Electives.

Political Science Electives

POL 100	Introduction to Politics (3)
POL 101	Introduction to Public Life (3)
POL 103W	Thinking About Politics (3)
POL 104	Understanding the U.S. Constitution (3)
POL 106	Politics in the World Community (3)
POL 201	Issues in Politics (1-3)
POL 231	World Politics (3)
POL 234	Model United Nations (3)
POL 260	Introduction to Public Administration (3)
POL 311	Ancient & Medieval Political Philosophy (3)
POL 312	Early Modern Political Philosophy (3)
POL 313	Modern Political Philosophy (3)
POL 321	Democracy and Citizenship (2)
POL 322	In-Service: Public Achievement (1-2)
POL 361	Public Budgeting (3)
POL 371	State & Local Government (3)
POL 410	Topics in Political Philosophy (1-4)
POL 414	Early United States Political Thought (3)
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POL 427	Political Psychology (3)
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POL 451	Administrative Law (3)
POL 453	Constitutional Law (3)
POL 454	Civil Liberties (3)
POL 455	American Legal Philosophy (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 470	Topics in Institutions & Process (1-4)
POL 471	Public Opinion and Polling Methods (3)
POL 472	Urban Government (3)
POL 473	Legislative Process (3)
POL 474	Executive Process (3)
POL 475	Judicial Process (3)
POL 476	Southern Politics (3)

Minor Required: Any.

Other Graduation Requirements

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY: Language (8 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE BS

Degree completion = 120 credits

Major Common Core

POL 111	United States Government (3)
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POLITICAL SCIENCE CONTINUED

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POL 451	Administrative Law (3)
POL 453	Constitutional Law (3)
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Other Course Choices

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POL 490	Workshop (1-6)
POL 491	Internship (1-12)
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Major Unrestricted Electives

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POL 201	Issues in Politics (1-3)
POL 231	World Politics (3)
POL 234	Model United Nations (3)
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POL 475	Judicial Process (3)
POL 476	Southern Politics (3)

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

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MINOR

The study of Public Administration provides students with the skills needed to succeed in public-sector management. Skills include leadership and management, data and policy analysis, budgeting and finance, human resources as well as a working knowledge of public-sector governments and political environments.

Minor Core

(The following courses are required)

POL 111	United States Government (3)
POL 221	Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
POL 260	Introduction to Public Administration (3)
POL 371	State & Local Government (3)

Elective (6 credits)

Choose up to six credits from the courses listed below. At least three of the six credits must come from the Restricted Electives category.

Restricted Electives (choose 3-6 credits)

At least three of the six elective credits must come from these courses.

POL 361	Public Budgeting (3)
POL 451	Administrative Law (3)
POL 460	Topics in Public Policy/Administration (1-4)
POL 462	Collective Bargaining: Public Sector (3)
POL 463	Public Personnel Administration (3)

Unrestricted Electives (choose 0-3 credits)

POL 471	Public Opinion and Polling Methods (3)
POL 472	Urban Government (3)
POL 474	Executive Process (3)
POL 491	Internship (1-12)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

POL 100 (3) Introduction to Politics

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

Fall, Spring

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, GE-11

POL 103W (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 develop your research and writing skills. WI, GE-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 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

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, GE-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. Fall, Spring

POL 221 (3) Introduction to Political Analysis

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

POL 231 (3) World Politics

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

POL 234 (3) Model United Nations

The course is intended to prepare students to participate in the model UN. Students learn about issues before the UN and acquire a variety of communication and negotiating skills as they model the role of ambassadors. Variable
GE-1B, GE-8

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. Fall, Spring

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. Fall, Spring

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. Fall

POL 312 (3) Early 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 between government authority and individual rights, civic virtue, republicanism and democracy. Spring

POL 313 (3) Modern 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) Democracy and Citizenship

Students learn about active citizenship from readings and discussions on the theory and practice of democracy. Students should become more motivated to participate, feel a greater sense of empowerment, improve political skills, and better understand and appreciate democracy. Co-requisite: POL 322
Fall, Spring

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. Fall, Spring

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, women's rights, state's 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 (3) Topics: Participation and 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 field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

POL 422 (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. Fall

POL 423 (3) Political Parties

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

POL 424 (3) Women & Politics

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

POL 425 (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 LAWVE 438
Variable

POL 426 (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 427 (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 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.
Prerequisite: POL 231
Variable

POL 431 (3) International Relations

An advanced theoretical survey of the dynamics of politics and political change at the global level.
Prerequisite: POL 231
Spring

POL 433 (3) International Organization

Study of the function and process of the United Nations and other international organizations.
Prerequisite: POL 231
Spring

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.
Prerequisite: POL 231
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.
Prerequisite: POL 241

POL 436 (3) International Political Economy

Focusing on patterns, processes, and problems of international trade, monetary, technological, and investment relations, this course examines the roles played by key government organizations in managing conflict and cooperation among states.
Prerequisite: POL 231

POL 437 (3) International Conflict Resolution

This interdisciplinary proseminar focuses on conflict resolution in the international arena. We will discuss causes of conflict, examine approaches to the study of conflict resolution, and analyze the varieties of nonviolent strategies of conflict resolution, emphasizing third party mediation.
Prerequisite: POL 231

POL 438 (3) International Relations of East Asia

An overview of the international relations of East Asia, the course examines cooperation and conflict among major powers in the area: China, Japan and the United States. Topics include Japan's pre-WWII expansionism, China's political transformation and North Korea's nuclear controversy.
Fall, Spring

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.
Prerequisite: POL 241

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.
Prerequisite: POL 241
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.
Prerequisite: POL 241
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.
Prerequisite: POL 241
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.
Prerequisite: POL 241
Fall

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.
Prerequisite: POL 241
Variable

POL 445 (3) Asia 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
Prerequisite: POL 241
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.
Prerequisite: POL 241
Spring

POL 447 (3) European Democracies

This course discusses government institutions, political developments, and policy-making 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.
Prerequisite: POL 241

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.

Prerequisite: POL 241
Fall

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 LAVVE 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.

Fall

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 LAVVE 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

Politics of the natural environment (U.S. focus). Environmental and opposition values; roles of public opinion, Congress, presidency and courts in environmental policymaking. Policy areas include: air/water pollution, climate change, hazardous/nuclear waste, sustainable development, and commons problems like overfishing.

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.

Fall

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 471 (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 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.

Spring

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 LAVVE 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 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