Fall Semester 2015
Political Science

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

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Americans expect a lot out of their governments. They expect it to keep the economy running smoothly, to protect the nation from foreign threats, to help recover from natural disasters, to ensure that people are treated fairly, and to make certain that we have quality healthcare and education, a clean environment, and good roads, among other things. We also expect government officials to listen to us and care about our complaints. Yet we disagree about what problems government should help solve, and how government should help solve them.

This course aims to provide a fair-minded and thoughtful description of the way American government works, the reasons that it works the way it does, and the challenge of governing America in the twenty-first century. We will closely track the 2014 elections for Congress and state government. We will examine the United States Constitution; rights and liberties; participation in politics; political parties, elections, interest groups and the media; Congress, the presidency, and the courts; and the ways that American government has addressed problems like a slow economy, immigration, social welfare and globalization,
PS 1100-E01
Introduction to American Politics
Anita Manion

Class time: Tu and Thu from 5:30pm - 6:45pm
Class location: 408 Clark Hall (CH)

Introduction to basic concepts of government and politics with special reference to the United States, but including comparative material from other systems. Course fulfills the state requirement.
This course covers many topics important to the role of unions in the American political system and American society from a labor perspective. Topics include the role of workers in current and future times, unions' institutional structure, collective bargaining strategies and obstacles for union organizing, recent union campaigns, labor's political role, and the relationship between labor and the media.
This course introduces students to western and non-western systems. It examines similarities and differences in the basic political ideologies, structures, economies, social institutions and governmental processes of developed and developing countries. It also provides frameworks for understanding the cultures of the world that are the basis for formal economic and political institutions. In addition, the course examines the role of non-state institutions, including trans-national ones, in shaping national policies. It uses case studies from Africa, Asia, Latin America, as well as Europe, to enhance student understanding of comparative politics.
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From Al-Qaeda to the Zero Nuclear Weapons Campaign, You will learn about it in PS 1800. The objectives of the course are the following:

Introduce students to the range of phenomena which comprise international politics.
Provide students with information and knowledge about both the historical development and current conditions of international politics.
Introduce students to concepts which are employed in the study of international politics and provide a basis for understanding contemporary world events.

Among the topics discussed in the course are how foreign policies are made and implemented, the international economy, diplomacy, international law and institutions, power, interdependence, arms races, terrorism, and war. In short, this introductory course is designed to touch upon a wide variety of topics that make up international politics. Although the course is in no way a "current events" course, every effort will be made to relate the reading and lecture material to "real world" concrete events reported daily in the newspaper/on the internet and to provide some insights into important contemporary issues (e.g., how, on the one hand, can the United States, be the single most powerful actor on the world stage since the Roman Empire, as many commentators say, yet, on the other hand, cannot seem to achieve its goals in Afghanistan or anywhere else? Will a $500 billion annual U.S. defense budget prevent a nuclear, biological, or conventional attack on the U.S. by terrorists or other states? What works better, carrots or sticks? Are trade wars among states likely to become more serious in the future? What is the "New World Order" or "Disorder" likely to look like in the future?)
PS 2000-001
Political Analysis
Pat Gouzien

Class time: Tue and Thu from 9:30am - 10:45am
Class location: 334 Social Science Building (SSB)

An introduction to political analysis, emphasizing both the logic of inquiry and practical methods. Students learn about the construction and evaluation of theories that relate to real-world politics. They also have an opportunity for hands on experience with qualitative and quantitative methods including graphics, descriptive statistics, cross-tabular and correlational analysis, hypothesis testing and computer applications.
PS 2260-001
Laws, Politics and Society
Barbara Graham

Class time: Tu and Th from 11:00am - 12:15pm
Class location: 328 Social Sciences Business (SSB)

Prerequisites: POLSCI 1100, or POLSCI 1200, or PS2280 or PS3210 or Consent of the Instructor

This course examines the relationship between law, politics and society by focusing on litigation, cause lawyers and litigants and their efforts to seek justice and pursue political and social change in America. The selected thematic topics to be discussed include: (1) Galanter’s framework on why the “haves” come out ahead in litigation and the limits of legal change, (2) a case study on civil litigation, litigation strategy and justice based on Stern’s Buffalo Creek Disaster, (3) the intersection between law and politics through the lens of cause lawyering, and (4) how court decisions shaped protest movements during the civil rights era, Vietnam war era and the Ferguson protests. In this course you will develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills; learn about the civil justice system; and develop insight into how and why litigants and interest groups use law to bring about social change.
This course is an examination of the American state and federal judicial branch of government. Among the topics examined in this course include an analysis of the structure, organization and function of courts as well as how people within the court system behave. This course also assesses how judges make decisions and the effect of those decisions on public policy.
This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the relationship of people of black African descent in the United States to the American political system and its institutional power structures. This course examines the racial historical background and context as well as legal and constitutional framework of the United States and how each has impacted the lives of African Americans. The course also investigates how African Americans have challenged prejudice, discrimination, and racism in American society. The course engages students in readings, lectures, documentaries, and discussion of current events to assist students in learning the most important issues affecting the African American community and the strategies that can be used to help make advancements within the African American community.
Four out of five U.S. citizens live in metropolitan areas. It's the place they call home and it's where they have planted their economic stakes. As metropolitan citizens, we are simultaneously engaged in two contests: which metropolitan area gets what across the planet and who gets what within the metropolitan area. How do metropolitans organize for the global competition and how does politics operate within the metropolitan context?

This course shows how these two contests overlap and interact. Citizens want their metropolitan areas to finish high as they compete with others. This is the interdependency which unites a region's residents. But citizens also want their segment within the metropolitan area-- their neighborhoods and their economic sectors-- to receive more of the benefits and bear less of the costs. This is the division which animates a region's politics.
This course focus is on developing each student’s comprehension of the history and foundational underpinnings of Public Administration. The course will cover the economic, political, and social dynamics within the field of public administration as well as the management challenges related to human resources, finances, program development, evaluation, technology, and strategic planning. Students will be afforded an opportunity to advance their theoretical and practical knowledge of public administration.
PS 2540-001
Political Systems Of Mexico, Central America And The Caribbean
Lorenzo Gonzalez

Class time: Tu and Th 2:00pm -3:15pm
Class location: 328 Social Science Building (SSB)

Prequisites: POL SCI 1500 or consent of instructor.

An introduction to the study of the political systems of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Examination of the cultural context that has shaped the political, economic, and social development of these countries. This course satisfies the Cultural Diversity requirement.
This course is a historical survey of the works of important political thinkers in the period extending from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. Included in this survey are the works of thinkers such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hume, Kant, Marx, Mill and Nietzsche. Special attention will be paid to the problems of modern constitutionalism and social contract theory, the rise of territorial sovereignty and the modern nation-state system, and the conflict between the individual and society in modern political science. A particular focus will be upon ideas of human nature in political thought, and how these ideas produce different conceptions of the individual’s relation to society and thus different forms of government.

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions regarding the course at: clintonro@umsl.edu
Constitutional Law is the first part of a two-semester case law course designed to help students understand how the U.S. Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and shapes our constitutional democracy. Constitutional Law focuses on the structures of American government. The topics examined in this course include the nature of the Supreme Court's power, separation of powers in the domestic, foreign policy and war contexts, national-state relations and property rights. This course is designed to strengthen students’ analytical and communication skills associated with the study of Supreme Court cases. Constitutional Law is highly recommended for prelaw students, students who plan to study American politics at the graduate level and students who want to strengthen their understanding of constitutional politics in the United States. Constitutional Law is a junior/senior level political science course and it should be taken after introductory level courses in American politics or courses on the American legal system.
Prerequisite: PS 1100 or consent of instructor.

This course links Americans’ political attitudes to their political participation and explores how governmental institutions, the media, and social group affiliations affect public opinion and political behavior. The course also examines what trends in public opinion and participation suggest about the state of American democracy. Course Fulfills The State Requirement.
Prerequisite: POL SCI 1100, or 2400, or consent of instructor.

This course is designed to acquaint the student with key issues associated with employment and management in the public and non-profit sectors. Material is provided to identify factors shaping human resource policy as it is implemented in those sectors and learn the concepts and processes of collective bargaining, recruitment/placement, equal opportunity, training/development, and performance evaluation.
PS 3430-001
Union Leadership And Administration
Judith Ancel & Matthew Pezold

100 % ONLINE

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

This course will focus on the roles and challenges of union leadership in a changing environment. Topics will include the union leader's roles as representative, organizer and educator as well as administrative responsibilities within the union and the relationship with enterprise management in both adversarial and participatory situations. Options for leadership style and organizational models will be discussed and explored in both theory and practice. Leaders will develop their skills of motivation, speaking strategic planning and managing complex campaigns and diverse organizations.
Our deepest hopes, doubts and conflicts shape our choices about the land, air and water that are essential to our lives. We value our environment for the beauty that ennobles us and the resources that ensure our prosperity. Environmental policy reveals what is at stake in society's decisions about the environment and on the priorities we set. It also tells us about the way that government solves problems and the strengths and weaknesses of government as an instrument for realizing our ideals.

This course has two goals. First, we have to understand the facts about key environmental controversies and the way American government has responded to them. Topics include environmental ideas, land use, water and air pollution, population growth, energy, global warming, solid and hazardous waste, endangered species, and international environmental co-operation. The second goal is to build problem solving skills by applying them to these difficult problems. Political science analyzes the way that groups of people work out problems when they disagree about values and are uncertain about facts. Environmental issues offer a great way to explore our different standpoints, and the way try to solve our common problems together. Environmental problems involve ideological, partisan, class, ethnic, and gender conflicts. They also involve great uncertainty about causes, effects, and risk. If you understand environmental problem-solving in the United States, then, you will have a better understanding of solving other kinds of problems.

This course *does not* require that you have a background in biological or other sciences. We welcome biology majors and other majors to join us. Graduate students in biology, political science, and other disciplines should contact the instructor to discuss concurrent individual readings courses to allow them to participate in the course.
PS 3580-001
African Diasporas: Identity Politics And Transnational Communities
Ruth Iyob

Class time: Tu and Thu from 12:30pm-1:45pm
Class location: 415 Clark Hall (CH)

Prerequisites: POL SCI 1500 or consent of instructor.

In the new millennium, African Diasporas continue to significantly shape foreign policy-making, fuel remittance economies, and inspire social justice movements seeking to redefine human rights, international laws governing migrations, and citizenship. This course highlights the political, economic and socio-historical contexts which contributed to the emergence of African diasporas and provides an analytical framework for a deeper understanding of the challenges of political membership and citizenship in the 21st Century. Using a multi-disciplinary framework, this course encourages students to read and critically engage in analyses of the role of global African diasporas in shaping the political debates about democratic governance, immigration, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitan citizenship.

The format of the course includes lectures, films, documentaries, social media reports, and scheduled roundtable discussions of assigned readings. Students are encouraged to come to office hours and meet with the instructor to discuss issues related to the course.

All Required Readings are posted on MyGateway.

Please feel free to email the professor at iyob@umsl.edu with any questions about the course.
Karl Marx (1818-83) was the founder of one of the most important intellectual, social, and political movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. He is often considered one of the main founders of modern social theory, and even those who disagree with his views have to reckon with them. We will examine a diverse selection of Marx’s own work as well as that inspired by him to try to determine what is living and what is dead in Marxist theory today.
PS 3700-001
NonProfit Organizations and Public Policy
Barbara Hosto-Marti

Class time: Mo and We from 5:30pm - 6:45pm
Class location: 415 Clark Hall(CH)

Prerequisites: POL SCI 1100;
Recommended: POL SCI 2420.

This course explores the role nonprofit organizations play in the identification, formulation, and implementation of public policy. The course begins with an overview of the scope of the nonprofit sector and then examines the theoretical, political, and legal foundations of nonprofits in the United States. In the next part of the class, students will apply their understanding of the public policy process and the nonprofit sector to analyzing case studies of nonprofit activities in policy areas to be determined by the class. Finally, in light of the emergence of 527 organizations and ethical lapses within the nonprofit sector, we will discuss and debate if nonprofits are still worthy of their unique tax-exempt status.
In the globalized world that we live in “International Politics” permeates our daily lives. Media reports, films and documentaries of distant wars, inter-state and intra-state conflicts, economic embargoes, terrorist/security threats to our embassies/citizens abroad, and, social media messages on our screens constantly remind us that we are actors in the global arena. This course examines the relationship between the visual and spatial representation of geopolitical power and the formulation and implementation of international policies.

Using thematic and case study approaches, this course analyzes how international politics is shaped by media representations including films depicting state and non-state actors, technocrats, social and political activists, cyberspace warriors, and global communities-on-the-move. We will examine the role of film, popular culture and social media in shaping national and international public opinion on wars of intervention, national self-determination, universal human rights, foreign policymaking and diplomacy.


Additional Readings and Film Viewings Posted on MyGateway

Students are encouraged to come to office hours and discuss questions and topics related to the course by email at iyob@umsl.edu or call at 314-516-6372
This is a course about global problems and how humanity is organizing itself to respond to those problems. The objectives of the course are: (1) to provide knowledge about the kinds of international organizations which exist in the contemporary world and an understanding of their role as actors in world politics; and (2) to increase understanding about specific global problems (the control of violence including weapons proliferation and terrorism, management of the world economy, hunger and overpopulation, and protections of the environment).

This course will examine the growing complexity of the post-Cold War world order. The kinds of questions which will be addressed in the course are the following: To what extent can the United Nations be expected to effectively deal with civil wars, human rights violations, nation-building, and other new demands being made on it today? What is the magnitude of the economic, energy, and environmental crises confronting the planet? How powerful are multinational corporations (such as Shell Oil and Toyota) in competing with national governments in driving the world economy? To what extent is the "shrinking and linking" of the globe a reality, or an optical illusion ("globaloney")? Are we witnessing today integration of the planet or disintegration? What might the world look like as the 21st century progresses? Is there truly a "new world order" dawning? Throughout the course, students will be expected to refrain from both the wishful thinking ("bad idealism") and harsh cynicism ("bad realism") which so many observers of international organizations tend to indulge in.
Though developed states stress the forces of globalization and the war against terrorism in justifying their macro-economic policies of the past decade, they have simultaneously adopted exclusive nationalistic approaches with regard to labor migration, asylum/refugee and welfare policies in response to such pressures. The renewed emphasis on citizen rights, defined in terms of one’s “nationality,” poses a special paradox for the United States, whose existence owes to the influx of countless ethnic/racial groups over four centuries. Despite the election of an Austrian bodybuilder as Governor of California, US voters are deeply divided over the rights their country ought to accord “legal” and “illegal” immigrants, over bans on bilingual education and English-only ballots, as well over the use of ethnic profiling at US airports in defense against “terrorism.” Comparable heated debates have spread like wildfire throughout Europe—despite the fact that integration is supposed to produce a “Europe without borders...based on the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital.”

This course examines the salience and functions of gender, ethnicity and citizenship in a globalized context. We begin with an historical review of US immigration laws, based on the experiences of Native American, African-American, Mexican, Chinese, and European minorities. We then explore the many dimensions of globalization, linking US policies to conflicts and crises around the world. Students will conduct individual research projects based on the dictum: Think globally, act locally! Final papers will be used for the purpose of departmental assessment as required by the state of Missouri. This course is a requirement for graduating political science majors but is also open to students who believe that the world could really use some liberty and justice for all.
PS 4090-001
American Government for the Secondary Classroom
Laura Arnold & Martha Jane Neukomm

Class time: Mo from 4:00pm - 6:40pm
Class location: 206 Social Science Business (SSB)

Same as: SEC ED 4090 Prerequisites: Admission to the Teacher Education Program. TCH ED 3310 or the consent of the instructor.

Adapts the themes and subject matter of American Government to the secondary classroom and trains teachers in techniques particularly designed to maximize the use of primary sources, foster critical inquiry, and encourage knowledge of subject matter. Particular emphasis will be placed on defining the broad and connecting methods of inquiry for use us an interactive classroom. Can be counted towards the Political Science major requirement, but not the American Politics subgroup. Counts towards Social Studies certification. Not available for graduate credit.