Fall Semester 2016
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,
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 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 A (al Qaeda) to Z (the zero nuclear weapons movement), 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? 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
TBA

Class time: Mo and We from 12:30pm - 1:45pm
Class location: 005 Express Scripts Hall (ESH)

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 2102-001
Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Monica Swindle

100 % Online

Crosslisted: GS 2102; SOC WK 2102; SOC 2102; HIST 2102

This class introduces students to cultural, political and historical issues that shape gender. Through a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, the course familiarizes students with the spectrum of gendered experiences and power relationships. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the overlying focus will be on the human element in these works in order to promote a respect for the diversity of those elements.
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PS 2300-001
State Politics
Richard Middleton

100 % ONLINE

Prerequisite: POL SCI 1100 or Consent Of Instructor

It has been said that “all politics are local.” This adage is rooted in the fact that the political processes of state and local governments are typically more familiar to citizens than the federal process. In addition, state and local governments present the greatest number of opportunities for civic involvement and influence.

This course is an introduction to the political processes of American state and local governments. The primary objective of this course is to deepen student understanding and appreciation of state and local politics in the United States. The course focuses on major contemporary problems and trends affecting state politics and the role of state governments in our federal system. A second goal of this course is to equip students with the skills necessary to become more civic minded and aware of issues affecting local communities and the United States as a whole. Upon completion of this course, students should have gained a practical appreciation for state government. Finally, this is course is designed such that students should gain an understanding of the state legislative law making process. Each student will be required to probe into an array of issues confronting our lives as citizens of a state and act as a state correspondent. This course is not a course on Missouri state politics; rather, it is a broad assessment of the functioning of state and local governments in the American federal system.
PS 2320-001
African Americans and
The Political System
Richard Middleton

Class time: Tu and Th from 11:00am – 12:15pm
Class location: 201 Social Science Business (SSB)

Prerequisites: POL SCI 1100 or consent of instructor.

Examination of the status of African Americans in the context of the American political system. The course will focus on a number of issues, including: attitudes of various publics toward racial concerns; nature of problems in specific policy areas (e.g., unemployment, school desegregation, housing, poverty); representation of African Americans in governmental institutions and the private sector; and the role of African American leadership and civil rights groups in the political process. Course fulfills the state requirement.
PS 2370-001
Identity and Social Justice
Adriano Udani

Class time: Tu from 2:00pm - 4:40pm  
Class location: 155 Villa Building

Examines the meaning of social justice at the intersections of identities linked to race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, ability, religion, and citizenship in the United States. We will dissect how the social construction of "difference" within systems of power has resulted in social policies that marginalize some groups more than others. We will also discuss how oppression linked to delineations of difference can be challenged and socially reconstructed, and ultimately used as a source of political empowerment.
PS 2380-001
The Politics of Gender in the United States
Anita Manion

Class time: Tu and Th from 12:30pm - 1:45pm
Class location: 205 Clark Hall (CH)

Same as GS2380. Prerequisites: POL SCI 1100 or Consent of an instructor.

This course examines the role of gender in political institutions, practices and policy in the United States, past for political equality, the relationship between gender and political participation, vote choice, and public opinion, and how legislative, executive, and judicial offices are gendered at the national, state, and local levels. (This course satisfies State requirements in American History and Government).
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 2610-001
Ancient And Medieval Political Thought
Robert Clinton

Class time: Tu and Th 8:00am - 9:15am
Class location: 415 Clark Hall (CH)

Study of political thought from Plato to Machiavelli.
Constitutional Law is the first part of a two-semester case law course that examines how the U.S. Supreme Court shapes our constitutional democracy by interpreting the Constitution. In Constitutional Law, we focus on topics that help students understand the constitutional foundation of our political system: the Supreme Court’s power of judicial review, separation of powers in the domestic, foreign policy and war contexts, the relationship between the national government and the states, and property rights. In addition to reading court cases, we will examine the structural provisions and arrangements in the Constitution and the democratic nature of the Constitution. Considerable attention will be paid to the electoral college system and how the 2016 presidential elections will shape constitutional interpretation. This course is designed to strengthen student’s 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 improve their understanding of the Constitution. 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.

**Course Requirements and Format:** class lectures, oral case briefs, exams, quizzes and class discussion.

The primary objective of this course is to examine the institutional role of the U.S. Supreme Court in the American political system. The contemporary Supreme Court is often described as being at the “storm center” of American politics. In this course, we will explore how Supreme Court Justices wield power in our political system. The following topics will be covered: the Supreme Court’s institutional background and place in the federal judicial system, the process and politics of selecting Justices to the Supreme Court, how Justices select cases for review, the role of oral argument and attorney expertise, the opinion assignment and opinion writing process, Supreme Court decision making theories and the implementation and impact of Court decisions. Additional attention will be paid to the politics surrounding the vacancy created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Supreme Court’s 2016-2017 docket, and the impact of the 2016 presidential elections on the ideological composition of the federal courts.

Course Requirements and Format: access to reliable high speed internet, a web cam and headset (optional); short papers, activities, quizzes and online class participation using Discussion Board; and weekly PowerPoint video lectures. Google Hangouts will be used for online office hours.

How do Americans choose a new president? How do you know a good president when you see one? Does the president have too much power, or too little? Why would anyone in their right mind want this job? The American Presidency class explores these questions while we live through one of the most historic dramas of the century: the selection of the 45th President of the United States. We'll begin by examining the election process in depth, looking at the nomination and election processes, the forces that are ripping at political parties, and the role of money and social media in the election. We'll look at the job of the presidency, and at what kinds of people become president. We'll understand what the framers had in mind when they designed the presidency. We'll come to grips with the tools of presidential power, and the people who help the president exercise those powers. We'll look at ways presidents influence and respond to public opinion, the media, interest groups and political parties. Finally, we'll study presidential effects on economic, domestic, and foreign policy.
PS 3350-001
Political Parties and Elections
David Kimball

Class time: Mo and We from 9:30am - 10:45am
Class location: 307 Clark Hall (CH)

Prerequisite: POL SCI 1100 or consent of instructor.

This course examines the role of political parties and elections in American democracy, with some comparisons to other countries. This includes a survey of election laws and how they influence the strategies of parties and candidates. Finally, the course examines the main predictors of voting behavior in the United States. Course fulfills the state requirement.
PS 3420-001
Public and NonProfit Personnel Management
Russell Signorino

Class time: Tu and Th from 11:00am - 12:15pm
Class location: 408 Clark Hall (CH)

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.
Perquisite: POL SCI 1100 or consent of instructor.

The Politics of Poverty and Welfare is a course that will provide students an opportunity to clarify their own thinking about poverty and inequality, their causes and results, and the appropriate role of government in alleviation. Students will be challenged to examine their own ideas about and perceptions of poverty. We will examine the major explanations for poverty and inequality in our affluent nation, the composition of the poor, and trends over time. From there we will analyze policies and programs intended to alleviate poverty and their consequences.
This course involves a study of collective bargaining processes including contract negotiations, contract administration, and methods for the resolution of bargaining disputes. Both theoretical and applied issues in collective bargaining will be addressed. Specific topics include the economic determination of bargaining power, legal constraints on the bargaining process, negotiation strategies and techniques, and the use of mediation and arbitration in the resolution of bargaining disputes.
Prerequisite: Political Science 1100 or 1500, or consent of instructor

Public policy goals, and the mechanisms used to attain them differ considerably from country to country. We nonetheless “expect” female leaders to do a better job of formulating laws suited to women's needs and interests than their male counterparts. The empirical question is whether or not increasing numbers of women-in-politics necessarily leads to better policies for women.

This course examines the “classical” equal opportunity policies of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s that younger generations now take for granted: the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX, Affirmative Action, etc. We then investigate the extent to which comparative educational, health, welfare, and reproductive technology policies have – or have not – helped to improve the lives of women and minorities in the United States and Europe. Finally we explore the “darker side” of intersectionality based on a case study of New Orleans in the post-911/post-Hurricane Katrina era.
Prerequisites: POL SCI 1100; Recommended: POL SCI 2420.

The first half of the course explores the role nonprofit organizations play in the identification, formulation, and implementation of public policy. In this class will examine the theoretical, political, social, and legal foundations of nonprofits in the United States.

The second half of the class consists of a group research project, investigating the influence of political nonprofits (dark money) on the American election process. During this research project students will individually conduct interviews with nonprofit and public policy leaders then write up the results. As a group we will analyze survey data, code interview data, and produce a report of this research. Through this class students will gain experience with statistical software, Qualtics survey software, and Atlasti word analytics software.
PS 3800-001
Media, Film and Literature and International Politics
Ruth Iyob

Class time: Tu and Th from 11:00am - 12:15pm
Class location: 312 Clark Hall (CH)

This seminar engages students in the complex ways by which media, images and literary narratives shape political perspectives and international policy making. Using multi-disciplinary texts, films, and web-based materials this course addresses the political discourse behind national and international debates on humanitarian interventions, war on drugs, transnational terrorism, human trafficking, and cross-border immigration.
PS 3890-001
Studies in International Relations: Labor in the Global Political Economy
Judith Ancel and Robert Russell

100% ONLINE

Prerequisite: POL SCI 1100, POL SCI 1500, or consent of instructor.

What do the World Bank and the IMF have to do with your job? Are we moving toward global corporate government? What’s a production chain? Did NAFTA work? For whom? How are workers fighting the decline of labor rights and standards around the world? Are global unions possible? This course will examine current issues, trends, and developments which are shaping labor in today’s global economy. It will analyze the shifting balance of power between labor and capital, the role of governments, and evaluate the strategic options for workers and unions operating in a global environment.
Prerequisite: Senior standing and consent of Professor.

As we approach the end of the 2016 election, this course examines American political problems in a global perspective, comparing our outcomes and policies with those of other industrialized democracies around the globe.

The first part of the course considers the issues, covering living standards, taxes, economic policy, Social Security, poverty/inequality/welfare, health care, crime, and education.

The second part analyzes potential causes of the problems we see: Government, money’s influence on government, and globalization pro and con.

The final part of the course considers solutions from across the political spectrum.

Course requirements include reading, discussion, a draft term paper, and a final 15-25 page paper.
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 in 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.
SAME AS POL SCI 6451
Prerequisites: POL SCI 1500 or consent of instructor

Once defined as metropolitan areas accommodating over 5 million people, today’s mega-cities must provide the means of survival for 10 to 25 million residents. This astounding mass migration to major cities has been fueled in part by shifts in global markets, structural adjustment policies, natural catastrophes and ethno-religious conflagrations. As of 2001, 31.6 percent of the world’s urban population lived in slums; by 2007, nearly half of all human beings were city dwellers, leading to un-governability, environmental degradation, health/welfare crises and other problems of urban sustainability. UN Habitat studies predict that the urban population will reach 5 billion by 2030 out of a total population of 8.1 billion. Urban growth rates are highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, South-Eastern Asia and Eastern Asia.

Major cities have historically functioned as centers of commerce, culture, and technological innovation. They have also become caldrons of poverty, criminality, violent protest, terrorism and major environmental disasters, including earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and other climate-change effects. This course will examine the causes and effects of mega-city development and migrating diasporas in a variety of national settings, including but not limited to China, Brazil, India, Turkey, Japan and Kenya. It will definitely foster “global awareness,” as well as a better understanding of the “interconnectedness” of politics, economics and climate change across the planet.