Spring Semester 2016
Political Science

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

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This course aims to provide a fair-minded and thoughtful understanding of why American government works the way it does, as well as the challenges of governing the United States in the 21st century. We will track the 2016 elections, Congress, the Obama administration, key decisions of the courts, and the actions of Missouri and other states. 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 economic downturns, immigration, social welfare, and globalization.
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PS 1200/CCJ 122, Foundations of Law, is a rigorous and intense introductory course on law and the American legal system. The material taught in this course is similar to that which students in their first year at an American Bar Association approved law school take. Students looking to take an “easy” course should not enroll in this course. This will probably be one of the hardest courses you encounter during your studies at the University. As a broad liberal arts approach to the study of law, this course is designed to familiarize students with legal ideas, legal reasoning, and legal processes. It also provides comparative and historical perspectives on law that will help explain legal diversity and legal change. Finally, it offers opportunities to explore some of the persistent issues in law and legal theory: for example, issues about the sources of law, the responsibilities of the legal profession, or the relative merits of the adversary system. Individuals confront laws on a daily basis, yet are sometimes totally oblivious that they are affected by them. In the United States, laws guide most social interactions and create an atmosphere of stability and societal norms. Law, as applied, is mostly about limitations on human behavior. In this course, students will learn a wide-range of legal topics, issues, and concepts; among them including: 1) case briefing, 2) IREAC, 3) foundations of American law, 4) the judicial system, and 5) substantive areas of law.
This course introduces students to different forms of governance in the 21st century. We will explore, discuss and analyze the role of political, economic and social institutions in promoting citizens’ quality of life in a globalized world. Students are encouraged to engage in deeper discussions of the following issues: 1) political institutions and citizen participation; 2) political culture and identity politics; 3) economic and human development; 4) regime types, ideologies and state capabilities; and 5) globalization in developed and developing nations.

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor by email if they have questions at iyob@umsl.edu or by telephone at 314-516-6372
This course will allow us to expand our perspectives as political observers in the United States so that we can truly appreciate the global issues of the 21st century. We will gain an understanding of the comparative perspectives of the major political, social, economic, and ideological factors that influenced the development of specific regions and countries, which will inform our discussion of global contemporary issues.

Major themes of this introductory class include a brief historical general analysis as a starting point, political progress and evolution from authoritarianism to democracy, social equity, and economic development.

The goal of this course is to provide a basic understanding that allows students to follow what we may perceive as constant political change. We want to be able to track and interpret the significance of the latest changes in political direction, institutional modification, economic developments, social uproar and confrontations and new cycles of problems and crises.
PS 2000-001
Political Analysis
Pat Gouzien

Class time: Mo and We from 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Class location: 003 Express Scripts Hall

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 mean comparison analysis, correlational analysis, hypothesis testing, and computer applications. Two statistical programs are introduced and used throughout the course. The primary analytical program is Stata. R-an open-source free software is also introduced. The use of statistical programs for quantitative analysis is directly applicable to job skills in data analytics. Learning to use both Stata and R adds to skills sought after by corporations. Both programs also boost academic skills for social science research.
PS 2102-001
Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Young Im Lee

Class time: Mo and We from 11:00am – 12:15pm
Class location: 408 Clark Hall(CH)

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.
In this course, we will examine the ways in which law has created, reinforced or transformed gender roles over time. This course surveys the legal status of American women from the adoption of the Constitution to the present through cases, statutes and other legal materials. We will focus on relevant legal issues in areas such as marriage and the family, reproductive freedom, voting rights, employment, education, the criminal justice system, women in the legal profession and the intersection of gender, race and class in the legal system. An important goal of this course is to help students develop critical and analytical skills that they can use to address significant questions about law as a tool for implementing or dismantling power-laden gender relations. This course does not assume significant prior background in legal studies. This course satisfies the state requirements in American History and Government.
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 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.
This course invites students who are interested to learn about how policy decisions are made. It introduces students to the fundamental skills of policy analysis and to some of the difficult choices involved in identifying, addressing and resolving public policy problems. Students will also explore how studies in social policy are used to understand and examine the complex concept of inequality. It is designed to help you think creatively and critically about public policy issues.
PS 2510-001
The Politics of European Union
Joyce Mushaben

Class time: Tu and Th from 11:00am - 12:15pm
Class location: 344A Social Science Business (SSB)

Prerequisite: Pol Sci 1500 or consent of instructor.

The forces of nationalism have long dictated the fates of European citizens, culminating in two world wars and a forty-year division of the continent into Eastern and Western spheres of influence. The collapse of socialism, symbolized by the opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989, coincided with a grand design to intensify European integration. Hoping to embrace a new era of peace and prosperity, Europeans found themselves torn asunder by the Yugoslav war in the 1990s, by the Euro-crisis after 2008 and, more recently, by a massive wave of refugees fleeing new wars in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Because we cannot assess Europe’s future until we comprehend the complexities of its past, this course begins with an investigation of the post-WWII order. We then analyze recent developments along four thematic lines: political sovereignty and decision-making; the transformation of the welfare state; the role of gender and generational change in shaping EU policies; and national identity, redefined via mass migration and globalization since 1989. We work our way through the formidable maze of institutions and regulatory powers comprising the European Union, in preparation for participation in the Midwest Model EU in mid-April at Indiana University (Bloomington), representing two member-states and vying heatedly for a few “Best Delegate” Awards.
PS 2580- 001
African Politics
Jean Germain Gros

**100% ONLINE**

Prerequisite: POL SCI 1500 or consent of instructor.

This course is intended to acquaint the student with Africa’s 51 odd states and the problems facing them in the 21st century. Some of the issues to be explored are: nation-building and the legacy of colonialism, economic development and reform, ethnic conflicts, international relations amongst African states and with the non-African world – especially former colonial powers, and finally, various forms of governance and the prospects for sustainable democracy on the continent.
PS 2820 - 001
United States Foreign Policy
Marty Rochester

Class time: Mo and We from 12:30pm – 1:45pm
Class location: 308 Clark Hall (CH)

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

Examination of the factors influencing the formation and the execution of United States foreign policy, with a focus on specific contemporary foreign policy issues. We will examine intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq, WMD proliferation in North Korea and Iran, ISIS and the war on terrorism, and other challenges facing the Obama administration.
Civil Liberties is the second part of a two-semester case law course on landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases in American constitutional law. The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the substantive meaning of the various liberties and rights contained in the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment. This course is divided into three topics: civil liberties, civil rights and the right to privacy. For the civil liberties topic, we will examine Supreme Court cases in the areas of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, petition and assembly, obscenity and libel. For the civil rights topic, we will examine equality cases in the areas of race, gender and sexual orientation. Finally, the right to privacy topic will cover Supreme Court cases on abortion, same sex marriage, and the right to die.
Prerequisites: Consent of Instructor

In this course, participants will examine the role of government in the regulation of labor-management relations in the United States. While the focus of the course will be on federal laws regulating private sector labor relations, parallel issues addressed in the Railway Labor Act and state public sector labor relations law will also be covered. Specific topics include the legal framework for the organization of workers, definition of prohibited or unfair labor practices of employers and unions, legal regulation of the collective bargaining process, regulation of the use of economic weapons in labor disputes, enforcement of collective bargaining agreements and the regulation of internal trade union activities.
PS 3331-001
Congressional Politics
Tyler Chance

Class time: Tu and Thu from 9:30am – 10:45am
Class location: 332 Social Sciences Business (SSB)

Prerequisite: Political Science 1100 or consent of instructor.

An examination of the Congress of the United States, its history and evolution, its contemporary politics, and its role in the national policy-making process. Topics include candidate recruitment, campaigns and elections, representation, committees, legislative leadership, roles and norms, voting alignments, lobbyists and interest groups, oversight of administration, and House-Senate comparisons, the role of Congress in foreign policy, economic policy, social-welfare policy will be examined.
PS 3440-001
Public and NonProfit Budgeting
Yuguo Liao

Class time: Mo and We from 11:00am- 12:15pm
Class location: 305 Clark Hall (CH)

Prerequisite: Political Science 1100 or consent of instructor

This introductory course in government budgeting deals with public revenue and expenditure policies, the budgetary process and financial management. It introduces the basic concepts, tools, theories and practices of public budgeting and exposes students to the current changes in this field. This course emphasizes on the interdisciplinary learning and practical orientation.
PS 3455-001
Metropolitan Planning
Andrew Glassberg

Class time: Thursdays from 2:00pm- 4:40pm
Class Location: 205 Clark Hall (CH)

Prerequisites: POL SCI 1100, POL SCI 2400, or consent of instructor.

Why do metropolitan areas look the way they do? How much of this was "planned?" Can/should metropolitan development be planned? Who should decide, and how? This course will examine the political processes in metropolitan areas as they relate to planning. We will look at a series of urban plans and see what they have (and have not) accomplished, and look at a range of alternative views of how planning might be done. Course fulfills state requirement.
PS 3500-0001
The Politics of the Middle East: International and National Dynamics
Ruth Iyob

Class time: Tue and Thu from 9:30a-10:45a
Class Location: 315 Clark Hall (CH)

This course introduces students to the complex political dynamics of the Middle East in the 21st century characterized by the ebb and flow of politics of protest and militancy which have given rise to shadowy transnational actors and rivalries. Students will examine the institutional and historical background that have shaped the political landscape of the Middle East such as inter-state wars, unresolved territorial disputes, the ascendancy of security states, refugee flows, social media networks, and spillover of violence across national and transnational borders. Special attention will be paid to the role of citizens in revolutionary, reformist, secular and jihadist movements with the objective of dislodging entrenched authoritarian regimes.

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor by email at iyob@umsl.edu or by phone at 314-516-6372 if they have any questions.
PS 3710-001
NonProfits, Civil Society & Volunteerism
Russell Signorino

Class time: Tu and Th from 8:00am - 9:15am
Class location: 334 Social Science Building (SSB)

Prerequisites: POL SCI 1100 and junior standing.

This course introduces basic concepts about the role of voluntary action in democratic society, especially in the context of organizations in the nonprofit sector. Theories of civil society and social capital are explored. Selected approaches to leadership are considered, in addition to the variety of motivations for giving time and resources to the pursuit of social and political change. Students will gain practical skill development in the recruitment, training and utilization of volunteers. Through study of recent case examples, students will develop an appreciation for the characteristics of effective leadership and strategic use of volunteers. In addition, the course includes an overview of new technologies that are being used by voluntary organizations to enlist participation and strengthen commitment of supporters.
PS 3830-001
International Political Economy
Kenneth Thomas

**100 % ONLINE**

Prerequisite: Political Science 1100 or 1500, or consent of instructor.

This course provides an introduction to international political economy. In particular, it will focus on the politics of international trade, finance, and investment. It will analyze the relationships between developed and developing countries and it will assess the relative usefulness of alternative frameworks for studying international political economy.
PS 3860 -001
Studies in War and Peace
Walter Siewert

Class time: Tu and Thu from 12:30pm – 1:45pm
Class location: C209 Honors College

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

International Economic and Political Justice
Around the globe the use of “soft” power—economic, political, and diplomatic power—can be as devastating as the use of “hard” military power. But unlike in the case of war (only justified in self-defense), there is no (relatively) clear line as to when such “soft” power is being used appropriately and when its use might cross the line into manifest injustice.
In this course we will explore contemporary global justice theory as well as historical and contemporary case studies to address the challenging question of justice in the global context. A central historical case will involve Britain, the U.S. and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now known as BP) and their influence on the political, economic, and social development of Iran in the 20th century. We will be reading statist theories by Rawls, Nagel and others, that emphasize the independence and rights of nations, and downplay global obligations, as well as cosmopolitan theories by Pogge, Shue and others, that emphasize global obligations and downplay the importance of national borders.
Some of the kinds of questions we will be addressing include: What (if anything) do the global rich owe the global poor? Where is the line between sound international business practices and unfair exploitation? Where is the line between a strong foreign policy and unfair socio-political domination? To what lengths may a nation legitimately go to protect its interests short of war? What obligations does a multinational corporation have toward a foreign population whose natural resources it is engaged in harvesting?
This course could be of vital interest to political science, history, philosophy or business students who are interested in the intersection of ethical/political theory about global justice and real-world cases of global interaction that may cross the line from cooperation to domination.
PS 3950-001
Senior Seminar in Political Science
Jean Germain Gros

Class time: Tuesdays from 2:00pm - 4:40pm
Class location: 208 Social Sciences Business (SSB)

Prerequisite: POL SCI 2000, Senior standing and consent of instructor.

Required of all political science majors in their last year of coursework as an integrative, capstone experience. Emphasis is on student-faculty interaction in a seminar format designed to engage upper-level students in a critical examination of a broad theme in political science, leading to the production of a major research paper. Topics vary. May be repeated. This course is not available for graduate student credit.

(Contact instructor for further details)
PS 3950-002
Senior Seminar in Political Science
David Kimball

Class time: Wednesdays from 2:00pm - 4:40pm
Class location: 307 Clark Hall (CH)

Prerequisite: POL SCI 2000, Senior standing and consent of instructor.

This course is required of all political science majors in their last year of course work as an integrative, capstone experience. Emphasis is on student-faculty interaction in a seminar format designed to engage upper-level students in a critical examination of a broad theme in political science, leading to the production of a major research paper. Topics vary. This course may be repeated.

In this course, students will produce a research paper examining a public policy problem or political outcome at the local, national, or international level. A significant part of the seminar meetings will be devoted to portions of the research project, including rough ideas, a research outline, documenting a policy, problem, or political outcome, rough drafts, and the final paper. There will be opportunities for each student to present work to the class, to receive advice from the other seminar participants, and to provide feedback to other students.

The theme of this seminar is an examination of the presidential nomination process in the United States. We will be following the primary elections and presidential caucuses taking place in many states during the semester. We will examine the election rules, voting results, and delegate counts for many states as the nomination moves toward the national party conventions in the summer. One purpose of the seminar is to understand the factors that influence voting behavior and help determine the winners of each party’s presidential nomination. We will use the nomination campaign to examine who wields the most power in party nomination fights and whether political parties are best defined by government officials or by coalitions of interest groups with their own policy demands.
PS 4060-001  
Theory of Decisions and Games  
Robert Clinton

Class time: Thursdays from 4:15pm - 6:55pm  
Class location: 306 Clark Hall (CH)  

Same As PHIL 4465 and POL SCI 6465.  
Prerequisites: Six hours of Philosophy and junior standing, or POL SCI 6401 (or the equivalent, or consent of the instructor)

This course is a survey of one of the leading topics in contemporary political theory: the formal analysis of political institutions and behavior, sometimes termed “formal theory.” The course is designed primarily for advanced students in political science, other social sciences, philosophy, and law, though it may include material that is of interest to students outside those fields as well. We will cover topics in game theory, social and public choice theory, social contract theory, spatial theory, and voting theory, focusing on such problems as the classical voting paradox, public goods and free rider problems, agenda manipulation, cycles, vote-trading, individual and collective rationality, and social and political instability. In this course, formal theory will be treated as a branch of modern political thought and placed within the broader context of traditional social and political philosophy. Thus no particular mathematical training or background in formal logic is required. General familiarity with social and political institutions, along with some common sense, is more important than formal training in mathematics or logic.
PS 4850-001
International Law
J. Martin Rochester

Class time: Mo and We from 9:30am-10:45am
Class location: 344A Social Science Building (SSB)

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

Study of the international legal system, including the content and operation of the laws of war and peace, how law is created and enforced with regard to the oceans and other parts of the globe, and the relationship between international law and international politics.