Political Science Courses

Courses

POL 5300. Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I.
Seminar in Quantitative Research Methods I (3-0) Basic introduction to principles of scientific inquiry, research design, and quantitative methodological techniques used in political analysis. Required of all graduate Political Science majors. The seminar must be taken during the first semester of graduate study.

Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POL 5301. Sem in Qual Resrch Methods.
Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods (3-0) The study of qualitative research methods, including case studies and the comparable cases strategy. Issues and themes used to illustrate these methods will vary according to the instructor's interests. Prerequisite: POLS 5300 or equivalent course with a minimum grade of "B" or better.

Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
Prerequisite(s): (POLS 5300 w/B or better)

POL 5302. Sem Quant Research Methods II.
Seminar in Quantitative Research Methods II (3-0) This course further explores methods of quantitative analysis and hypothesis testing, including data management, various regression estimation methods, diagnostic techniques, and other topics. Prerequisite: POLS 5300 or equivalent course with a minimum grade of "B" or better.

Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
Prerequisite(s): (POLS 5300 w/B or better)

Seminar in American Political Behavior (3-0) The study of theories and research about how and why people act politically. Areas of study include: political participation, gender, public opinion, political communication, and race and ethnicity. Course content will vary based on which area of study is highlighted.

Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POL 5311. Sem-Racial,Ethnic,Gender Polit.
Seminar in Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Politics in America (3-0) An analysis of race, ethnicity, class and gender in American politics, with emphasis on such concepts as multi-culturalism, assimilation, alienation and separatism. May be repeated when the topic varies.

Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
POLS 5312. Seminar-Political Leadership.
Seminar in Political Leadership (3-0) A study of the theoretical and practical foundations of leadership behavior including the styles and interactions, confrontational as well as collaborative, of persons in various positions of political authority.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5313. Seminar-Political Communication.
Seminar in Political Communication: The study of the formation of shared public perceptions through various media and the analysis of their political effects. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5314. Seminar-Urban Politics.
Seminar in Urban Politics (3-0) Politics in the urban environment, with emphasis upon the effects of heterogeneity and pluralism.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5315. Seminar in American Institutions and Processes.
Seminar in American Institutions and Processes (3-0) This course is designed to study the various theories and research about the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government in the United States. Course content will vary based on which branch of government is highlighted.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5320. Seminar in Public Law.
Seminar in Public Law (3-0) Covers a wide range of substantive and/or procedural topics in public law and/or the sociological analysis of the function of law.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

Seminar in Judicial Process and Behavior (3-0) An analysis and evaluation of the judicial process and trial and appellate judges’ behavior in state and federal courts, including the organization of courts, judicial recruitment and appointment, judicial decision-making, and the implementation and effects of judicial policies. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
POLS 5322. Seminar in Comparative Law.
Seminar in Comparative Law (3-0) A study of the differences in substance, procedure, methods and ways of thinking between the United States and countries of the civil law tradition (most European, Mexico and Latin American countries). May be repeated for credit when topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5330. Seminar-International Politics.
Seminar in International Politics (3-0) Examines the structures and the interactions that characterize the politics of the international system. Attention is paid to various theoretical perspectives of international relations scholarship and other topics of world politics.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

Seminar in International Organization and International Law (3-0) Focuses on the creation and operation of international organizations, both state and non-state based, and on the continuing evolution of international law. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5332. Seminar-Foreign Policy Dec Making.
Seminar in Foreign Policy Decision Making (3-0) Examines in detail the process of decision making within individual international actors and the cumulative effects of such decisions.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5333. Seminar-Comparative Politics.
Seminar in Comparative Politics (3-0) Study of comparative political systems, including comparative political cultures. Emphasis on the methodology of comparative politics.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5334. Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.
Seminar in Comparative Political Development (3-0) The comparative analysis of socioeconomic development, regime transitions, and political culture. Topics may include democratization political economy, social movements, ethnic conflict, gender politics, civil society, and corruption.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
POLS 5335. Sem-Post Communist Transition.
Seminar in Post Communist Transition (3-0) Focuses on the politics and economics of selected countries undergoing post-communist transition. .
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5336. Sem-Southwestern Border Politi.
Seminar in Southwestern Border Politics (3-0) United States-Mexico relations as they effect the international frontier, with emphasis upon political leadership, ethnicity, and institutions. .
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5337. Seminar-Latin American Politic.
Seminar in Latin American Politics (3-0) A study of the political systems of Latin America. Offerings of the course may focus upon one country, regions or all of Latin America. .
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5338. Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ..
Seminar in International Political Economy (3-0) Examines the political and economic effects of the interaction of national policies in the global economy, with special attention paid to theory, evidence, and national policies. Topics include: trade policies, monetary policies, financial crises, multinational corporations, intergovernmental economic organizations and treaties, free trade areas, and other issues of economic development.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

Seminar in Comparative Political Institutions (3-0) The comparative analysis of political institutions, such as electoral systems, party systems, legislatures, judiciaries, parliamentary vs. presidential systems, cross-border institutions, system of interest representation, and intergovernmental relations.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5340. Sem-Ancient/Medieval Pol Phil.
Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy (3-0) Study of the works of major western political philosophers of the ancient and medieval periods. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
POLS 5341. Seminar-Modern Political Philo.
Seminar in Modern Political Philosophy (3-0) Study of the works of major western political philosophers from the modern period. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5342. Sem-American Political Thought.
Seminar in American Political Thought (3-0) Study of American political thought with special focus upon the founding. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5343. Seminar in Border Politics.
Seminar in Border Politics (3-0) Comparative study of selected international borders in their multifaceted transnational, local, regional, and national complexities.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5344. Seminar in Border Theory.
Seminar in Border Theory (3-0) Course examines theoretical explanations for the political behavior and events on international borders from a comparative perspective. Special attention is paid to explaining border politics and various issues including bilateral cooperation, geopolitics, territoriality, culture, demographic migrations, and economic flows across borders.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5345. Comparative Electoral Systems.
Comparative Electoral Systems The comparative analysis of elections and electoral systems in the world. Topics may include analyses of electoral rules and their consequences, elections, voting behavior, electoral strategies, electoral administration, and elections in non-democratic countries.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5346. Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt.
A survey of theories and research on the political economy of development. Topics may include global and national inequalities, development strategies, and the role of politics and political institutions in shaping policy choices and outcomes. Prerequisite: Departmental approval.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
Examines classical and contemporary topics of security studies, particularly how the security of countries is affected by the behavior of other countries and non-state actors, with an emphasis on security policy. Topics may include geopolitics, insurgency, terrorism, failed states, genocide, disease and ecological disaster, human security, international crime networks, weapons in space, arms races, nuclear weapons policies, and the proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Prerequisite: Department approval required; POLS 5330 recommended.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POL 5348. Sem in Politics of Latin Amer.
Examines contending theories and research on Latin American politics. Focuses on such topics as democratic, semi-democratic, and non-democratic regimes; popularism; electoral and party systems; political institutions; the role of the military; economic development; and public policy. Topics and countries may vary by instructor. Prerequisite: Departmental approval.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POL 5349. Seminar in Political Thought.
Seminar in Political Thought (3-0) This course investigates topics of political thought ranging from ancient to modern/contemporary time periods. The subject matter will vary according to the instructor’s choice but will familiarize students with relevant literature and contemporary scholarly discussions of political thought.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POL 5350. Seminar-Administrative Theory.
Seminar in Administrative Theory (3-0) Basic introduction to the major theories and approaches which form the basis for the practice of public administration. MGMT 5311 may be substituted with permission of MPA advisor.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POL 5351. Seminar-Research Methods Publ Adm.
Seminar in Advanced Research Methods in Public Administration (3-0) Practical in-the-field application of quantitative and methodological techniques by government agencies, with special emphasis on microcomputers. Normally the seminar will be taken the second semester of graduate study.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

Seminar in Financial Management and Administration (3-0) Analysis of the concepts and theories of public fiscal administration. Emphasis is placed on budgeting, accounting, purchasing and debt administration. (FIN 5305 may be substituted with permission of MPA advisor).
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
POLS 5353. Seminar-Human Resources Mgmt.
Seminar in Human Resources Management (3-0) The study of the social, political, legal dimensions of public personnel management with emphasis on human resources, development, and implementation. (MGMT 5321 may be substituted with permission of MPA advisor.)
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5354. Seminar-Admin Law & Regulation.
Seminar in Administrative Law and Regulation (3-0) The legal problems of the administration process, including the use of administrative discretion, fact-finding and hearing procedures, and the methods and scope of judicial review of administrative decisions.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5355. Seminar-Comparative Public Admin.
Seminar in Comparative Public Administration (3-0) A comparative view of government administration in developed and developing countries. Examines both the effects of culture on government bureaucracy and the efforts of governments to promote socioeconomic development. May include emphasis on the U.S.-Mexico border administration.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5356. Seminar-Nonprofit Sector Admin.
Seminar in Nonprofit Sector Administration (3-0) Examines the special administrative challenges in the nonprofit sector, with attention to practical management and problem-solving. Includes topics such as the nature and scope of the nonprofit sector, fundraising, volunteer management, government and public relations, and the organization of nonprofit institutions. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5357. Women and Men in Management.
Women and Men in Management (3-0) Analyzes gender diversity in public and private institutions.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5358. Admin Ethics & Responsibility.
Administrative Ethics and Responsibility (3-0) The course will deal with ethical issues that public administrators will face: responsibility, accountability, discretion, the public interest, professionalism, codes of ethics, and corruption. The course will focus on applied ethics and reasoning processes administrators can use to analyze and evaluate ethical dilemmas.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
Seminar in Regional and Urban Planning (3-0) Covers planning topics associated with satisfying area-wide service needs in urban and regional environments. Topics may include land-use regulation, capital facilities siting, and transportation planning. 
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5360. Seminar-Urban Administration.
Seminar in Urban Administration (3-0) Public administration at the level of service delivery with emphasis upon the management and policy problems facing local agencies. May be repeated for credit when the topic varies.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5361. Seminar in Political Economy.
Seminar in Political Economy (3-0) Teaches how political and economic theory tools and techniques can be used to analyze public policy issues and problems. Substantive topics may vary with instructor.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5362. Seminar-Public Sector Accounting.
Seminar in Public Sector Accounting (3-0) Examination of the public sector and non-profit accounting process, including the preparation of annual financial reports, transaction analysis, auditing, and cost analysis for grants and service efforts.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5363. Seminar-Intergovernmental Relations.
Seminar in Intergovernmental Relations (3-0) Covers the interrelationships among international, national, state and/or local government institutions in the policy making, executive and/or administrative processes. The special issue of states and communities situated on international borders is also discussed.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5364. Seminar-Public Policy Analysis.
Seminar in Public Policy Analysis (3-0) The study of the politics of the policy-making process. Emphasis is on the actors involved in public policy-making, their interactions, and the outputs of the policy process.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
Seminar in Policy and Decision Making (3-0) The use of quantitative decision tools and formal modeling in legislative, executive and judicial policy-making and evaluation processes.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5366. Internship-Public Administration.
Internship in Public Administration (0-0-20) Practical internship experience with a public or nonprofit sector agency, selected in consultation with the MPA program advisor. The experience consists of at least twenty hours of work per week with the selected agency. The internship will be under close supervision by the agency and the MPA program advisor. Prerequisite: Department approval.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**20 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
0 Lecture Hours
20 Other Hours

POLS 5367. Comp Integration of Publ Admin.
Comprehensive Integration of Public Administration (3-0) This course is designed to prepare the student for the final comprehensive examination in public administration. Key management concepts, issues, and value concerns in the subject areas of public administration are reviewed and integrated. This course is taken in the student's final semester in the MPA program. Prerequisite: Department approval.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5368. Seminar in Conflict Analysis.
Examines processes of conflict and cooperation between and within countries. War and peace is studied both as a cause and outcome of interactions between states and peoples within states. Topics may include interstate war, civil war, conflict resolution techniques, military alliance, economic factors, the role of international organizations, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, and other forms of low-intensity conflict. Prerequisite: Departmental approval required; POLS 5330 recommended.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5370. Field Analysis Seminar.
Field Analysis Seminar A special listing for courses in the field of comparative politics offered by the departmental faculty that are outside the purview of the above courses. It covers specialized thematic or geographic topics. It can also be used for study abroad programs. Topics vary by instructor. The course may be repeated under a different topic and/or instruction.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours

POLS 5380. Selected Problems-Government.
Selected Problems in Government (3-0) Independent study, research and writing on a topic agreed upon by student and professor.
**Department:** Political Science
**3 Credit Hours**
**3 Total Contact Hours**
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
POLS 5393. Final Paper Project.
This course is to be taken the last semester by students following Degree Plan II. Students will extend and refine a paper from a seminar taken during their first 27 credit hours. Prerequisites: POLS 5300 and POLS 5301 or 5302 or equivalent course, with minimum grades of "B" or better; and departmental approval.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours
Prerequisite(s): (POLS 5300 w/B or better ) AND (POLS 5301 w/B or better ) OR (POLS 5302 w/B or better)

POLS 5398. Thesis.
Thesis (0-0-3) As part of this course, the student will successfully prepare and defend a prospectus for the MA thesis. The prospectus must be approved by the student's thesis committee, and failure to meet this requirement within two long semesters will preclude continuation of the student in the MA program. Prerequisite: Department approval.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
0 Lecture Hours
3 Other Hours

POLS 5399. Thesis.
Thesis (0-0-3) Prerequisites: POLS 5398 and department approval.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
0 Lecture Hours
3 Other Hours
Prerequisite(s): (POSC 3598 w/P or better ) OR (POLS 5398 w/P or better)

POLS 6303. Seminar-Cult/Ling/Pol Borders.
Seminar in Cultural, Linguistic, and Political Borders (3-0) This seminar provides an interdisciplinary immersion into cultural, linguistic, and political issues in the US-Mexico border region, their policy implications, and the challenges posed to policy solutions amid political-administrative divisions. Prerequisite: Departmental approval.
Department: Political Science
3 Credit Hours
3 Total Contact Hours
0 Lab Hours
3 Lecture Hours
0 Other Hours