

Political Science

Faculty: Ball, Chair; Fair, Kenney, Koch, Lowi, Sullivan

Political science deals with the making of binding decisions for a society. The discipline examines public policy making not only in the United States, but throughout the world and in the international arena. Political theories, both past and present, inform the decision making of participants in this process and are therefore part of the subject matter of political science.

The study of political science involves reading and interpreting texts, gathering and weighing evidence, interpreting political events, evaluating theories about politics, and analyzing public policies. By engaging in these activities, students learn the fundamentals of scholarship, develop a concept of what it means to be a citizen of a representative democracy, become familiar with the traditions of liberal education, and begin to understand emerging patterns of globalization.

Political science graduates opt for further study in graduate or law school, or pursue careers in government, non-profit organizations, or the private sector.

Requirements for the Major

The political science major must take POL 110/American Government, POLS 200/Political Analysis, POLS 395/Tutorial in Political Science, POLS 498/Seminar in Political Science, one course in comparative politics, one course in international politics, one course in political theory, and six political science options, for a total of 40 semester hours in political science. Eighteen semester hours of the work in political science must be at the 300 or 400 level. In addition, political science majors must take STAT 115/Statistics I, ECON 200/Principles of Economics: Micro, and ECON 201/Principles of Economics: Macro; these courses may be used to satisfy the general education requirements in mathematics and social sciences.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for political science:

- Transfer in the program from another program within the College is based upon the following performance standards in these “foundation courses”: Earning the grade of C in POL 110/American Government.
- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these “critical content courses”: Earning the grade of C in *both* POL 110/American Government *and* POLS 200/Political Analysis.
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0 in courses for the program.

Requirements for the Political Science Minor

Political science minor requirements are POL 110/American Government, one course in comparative politics, one course in international politics, one course in political theory, and two political science options. Six semester hours of the course work for the minor must be at the 300 or 400 level.

Also see requirements for the [Public Policy Analysis and Management Minor](#); the [International and Area Studies Minor](#); and the [Politics, Law, and Philosophy Minor](#).

Departmental Honors

A departmental honors program is available. For information or eligibility, see the departmental honors adviser. The honors program requires nine semester hours of honors courses including POLS 495/Honors Thesis in political science.

Transfer Student General Education Requirements

General education requirements may be different for transfer students than for students entering the College as freshmen. Transfer students should refer to the Degree Programs and Requirements section of this bulletin for a statement of general education requirements.

General Information

Prerequisites for all courses except special courses and field experiences may be waived by permission of the instructor.

Political Science Major (POLA)

During academic year 2003-2004, The College of New Jersey is in the process of transformative curricular change. Therefore only the course of study for first-year students entering in 2003-2004 is set out below. These students should consult their advisors when planning courses for future years. Supplements to this online bulletin also will be available on an ongoing basis.

Freshman Year

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| POL 110/American Government | 4 |
| <i>or</i> | |
| POL 230/International Relations | 4 |
| POLS Comparative Politics Option | 3/4 |
| Mathematics (GE) including STAT 115 | 6 |
| IDSC 151/Athens to New York | 3 |
| <i>or</i> | |
| FSP First Year Seminar | 4 |
| Electives | 3 |
| WRI 102/Academic Writing | 4 |
| Foreign Language or Elective* | 6 |

**Electives should be taken by students who have been exempted from the foreign language requirement.*

COURSES (updated 11/5/03)

American Politics**POL 110/American Government 4 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(every semester)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Western

Examines the strengths and weaknesses, problems and promise of representative democracy in the United States. Surveys the relationships of citizens to Congress, the president and the courts through political parties, elections, interest groups, and the media. Considers the constitutional framework of government and the rights of the individual against governmental intrusion.

POLS 200/Political Analysis 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(annually)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Process

Surveys several major methods of political inquiry. Topics include research design, data analysis, statistics, and qualitative methods. Strengths and limitations of each approach are emphasized.

POLS 207/Citizen Democracy 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(annually)

Practical experience in, and study of, local political processes from the viewpoint of citizen activism. A project-driven course where students work with community organizations to research important issues of public policy, study the practical workings of real political processes, and evaluate the relationship of public officials to their constituents.

POL 215/Gender and Politics 4 cr.

(3 class hours)
(annually)

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender Studies

The role of gender in politics is examined in a lecture/discussion format. Topics include research on gender, differences and similarities in political socialization and electoral behavior, gender-related issues in public policy, the role of gender in the decision making of public officials, and the relationship between theories of gender and the actual practice of politics.

POLS 300/Politics and Public Management 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)

An examination of the field of public administration focusing on the external and internal factors that shape the performance of public agencies, the interaction of public agencies and their leaders with the presidency, Congress and the courts, and the administrative skills public administrators need to manage a public organization.

POLS 305/American Public Policy 3 cr.

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)

An examination of the policy-making process, the important domestic policies that have resulted, and the evaluation of these policies. The primary focus of the course will be on the substantive issues of contemporary public policy in such areas as the environment, health care, welfare, the economy, crime, and education.

POLS 311/The Presidency and Congress **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
Problems of the modern American presidency and of the U.S. Congress, with an emphasis upon interrelationships and consequences for the national policy-making process.

POLS 315/Parties, Interest Groups, and the Media **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternative years)
An examination of the role of political parties, interest groups, and the media as intermediaries between citizens and formal governmental institutions. The course will focus on the role of parties, interest groups, and the media in leadership recruitment, issue formulation, and public policy making.

POLS 316/Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
A study of the origins, content, and impact of citizen attitudes on the U.S. political system. Particular attention will be given to the impact of public opinion, along with other factors, on voting and elections.

POLS 318/Urban Political Economy **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(occasionally)
Analysis of the impact of demography, economics, and politics upon the decline and development in urban areas. These factors will be applied to such selected urban problems as housing and urban development, poverty and welfare, transportation, public safety, and education.

POLS 320/Constitutional Law **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
An analysis of how the U.S. Supreme Court interprets the Constitution, focusing on the issues of how much power the U.S. Congress, president, and courts should have and how the U.S. government should interrelate with the state governments.

POL 321/Civil Liberties **4 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(annually)
An analysis of how the U.S. Supreme Court interprets the Constitution, focusing on the rights of the individual, including freedom of expression, freedom of religion, the right of privacy, due process of law, and equal protection of the laws.

POLS 323/Law and Society **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
An examination of what law is, the sources of law, and the impact of law on society and the individual. Examines internal aspects of the legal system, such as legal reasoning and the structure of the legal profession, as well as external factors such as the economic system and social structure, in order to illustrate the dynamic relationship between law and the society in which it exists.

POLS 328/State and Local Government **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
Analysis of government structure and process, and of community social, economic, and political characteristics as forces shaping public policy at the state and local level.

International Politics

POL 230/International Relations **4 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(every semester)
Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content
An examination of contemporary patterns of international interaction and their historic roots with attention to competing theoretical perspectives. Topics studied include foreign policy, international law and organization, and international political economy.

POLS 330/American Foreign Policy **3 cr.**
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
Examines the formulation and execution of American foreign policy in the context of American politics and of the United States' historic role in the world; some themes considered include the domestic sources of foreign policy and the conditions under which the United States uses force abroad.

POL 333/Vietnam and America 4 cr.
(3 class hours)
(annually)
Examines the origins and nature of the American role in the Vietnam conflict, 1946–1975, and the effects of that conflict on American politics, society, and foreign policy.

POLS 335/International Organization 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
Nature, structure, and functioning of international organizations, with a focus on the United Nations system, as a means to maintain international peace and security, and promote international and social cooperation.

POLS 337/International Law 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(occasionally)
International legal principles concerning international legal personality, jurisdiction over persons and places, diplomatic and consular relations, treaties, war, and relations at sea and in space.

POLS 340/International Relations Theories and Methods 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(occasionally)
Various approaches to analyzing international politics including rational choice, game theory, and regime theory in addition to realism, liberalism, and Marxism.

Comparative Politics

POL 150/Introduction to Comparative Politics 4 cr.
(3 class hours)
(annually)
Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Western
The nature of politics and comparative analysis; examines various political systems—developed and developing, communist and non-communist—and criteria for evaluating them and their performance.

POL 250/Politics and Society in Developing Countries 4 cr.
(3 class hours)
(annually)
Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, non-Western
An introduction to politics and society in developing countries from an interdisciplinary perspective. Drawing upon history, anthropology, sociology, and political science, the first half of the course examines the historical development of developing countries and the challenges and constraints they face in becoming “modern,” and in creating strong and coherent societies, economies, and policies. The second half is devoted to a more detailed examination of four central themes in social and political life in the developing world.

POLS 274/HIST 274/Origins of the U.S. Constitution 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(annually)
An examination of the political theories, people, social and economic forces, events, and political context that influenced the framing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

POLS 350/Politics in Europe 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
Examines government, politics, and society in the major European nations including but not necessarily limited to the United Kingdom, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

POLS 352/Comparative Politics of Development 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(alternate years)
An examination, within the framework of the comparative political economy of development literature, of a sample of developing countries and their efforts to develop economically and politically.

POLS 353/Politics in East Asia 3 cr.
(3 class hours)
(occasionally)
Comparative study of political thought and institutions of East Asian countries emphasizing problems of modernization and interaction of economic, cultural, and social forces.

POLS 357/Middle East Politics **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)

An examination of the politics of Middle Eastern and North African states from a comparative historical perspective. The principal focus is on the challenges and constraints that Middle Eastern societies have faced in their efforts to create modern nation-states. Topics include imperialist intervention in the region, post-colonial state-building experiences, and the role of Islam in domestic politics.

POLS 360/Politics in Russia **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(occasionally)

Historical-physical foundation of the former Soviet system, Marxism-Leninism, the Communist Party, newly emerging formal institutions of government, elite and functional groups, problems of industrialization, and foreign policy.

Political Theory

POLS 270/Western Political Philosophy **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(annually)

Selected political questions that have intrigued Western society from time immemorial and theoretical solutions presented by some of the great political philosophers from classical Greece to the present day.

POLS 370/American Political Theory **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(alternate years)

Employs ideas of major American political theorists, concerning the individual, community, and world, to develop a framework for evaluating contemporary political thought and practice.

POLS 377/Issues in Contemporary Political Theory **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(occasionally)

An examination of selected issues surrounding the interpretation of concepts such as justice, democracy, liberty, rights, equality, obligation, power, or authority within the context of major schools of contemporary political thought, e.g., conservatism, liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, and others.

Special Courses

POLS 291, 391/Topics in Political Science **variable cr.**

(occasionally)

Current or specialized topics proposed by faculty or students and approved by the department. May be taken for credit several times if content differs each time.

POLS 395/Tutorial in Political Science **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)
(every semester)

Prerequisite: Junior status

An intensive study under close faculty supervision of a particular topic or problem in political science through extensive reading by the student and the submission of both oral and written reports to the tutor. Emphasis on the development of the student's depth of knowledge and understanding of scholarly issues through a close professional relationship between tutor and student.

POLS 398/Independent Study in Political Science **variable cr.**

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Student proposals must be approved by the political science department prior to registration

Independent reading or research pursued under supervision of a departmental adviser; project proposals may be presented by upper-level students who have completed six credits of 300- and 400-level political science courses.

POLS 476/Honors Independent Study **variable cr.**

POLS 495/Honors Thesis in Political Science **3–6 cr.**

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Special invitation by the department

This course is designed to permit participants in the departmental honors program to pursue an advanced independent research project culminating in a paper to be defended before a departmental committee. May be repeated for credit.

POLS 497/Internship in Public Affairs **3–6 cr.**

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Permission of intern supervisor

Supervised field experience in a public agency or an agency involving public affairs; readings and an analytical paper integrate theory with experience in public administration and politics. May be repeated for credit; no more than six credits may be counted toward the major.

POLS 498/Seminar in Political Science **3 cr.**

(3 class hours)

(annually)

Prerequisite: Junior standing

Advanced study through individual research and formal seminar reports on topics of special interest to seminar participants. May be repeated for credit.

student's major. The options are designed to have students take challenging courses outside their majors that will contribute to their understanding of the law as a discipline. Students interested in pursuing this minor should contact one of the advisers listed above to obtain information regarding approved options for their majors.
