POLI SCI 182 – INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (HONORS)
3 credits.

Introduction to Comparative Politics, one of the four sub-fields in Political Science, which involves the comparative analysis of political institutions, processes, and outcomes at the national level. Examines how to usefully compare politics in a variety of countries and makes comparisons explicit and systematic in order to determine how governments work, how power is organized and contested at the national level, and how people can participate and pursue their interests in different political settings. Includes key concepts, theories, methods, and country case studies.
Requisites: Declared in an Honors program. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 120
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Gain knowledge about politics in different countries, including differences in democratic and non-democratic rule, differences in political institutions, economic policies, social cleavages, and salient contemporary political issues across countries.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Learn about concepts and theories from political science used in the study of politics in different countries.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Learn about different methodological approaches in studying politics, including how to develop a casual research question, and how comparisons of cases can be useful for testing theories.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Develop research and writing skills by working throughout the semester on a research paper.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Develop communication and presentation skills by engaging in class discussion and presenting research at the end of the semester.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 199 – DIRECTED STUDY
2 credits.

Directed study projects for freshmen and sophomores as arranged with a faculty member; students should have completed at least one course in POLI SCI.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2020

POLI SCI 201 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
3 credits.

An experimental topics course that introduces students to compelling recent events and to the current research of political scientists. This course can be repeated by students, but not with the same content.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2024

POLI SCI 205 – INTRODUCTION TO STATE GOVERNMENT
3-4 credits.

Basic institutions and processes of state government in the United States; the role of parties, pressure groups, and elections in the system; the policy process, its outputs and outcomes; the role of states in the federal system, and the diversity of state politics and policy.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the origins of federalism in the U.S. context and the relationship between the national and state governments.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore the policies and programs administered by the states, as well as the major influences on state politics
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the similarities and differences between the U.S. Constitution and the state constitutions.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/C&E SOC/HISTORY/SOC 259 – FORWARD? THE WISCONSIN IDEA, PAST AND PRESENT
1-3 credits.

Engage in ongoing reflection and dialogue on the Wisconsin Idea and how it informs the mission of the University of Wisconsin. Consider the Wisconsin Idea as it has developed since its beginnings, with a focus on what it means today and what it can mean in the future.
Requisites: Junior or senior standing only
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Listen respectfully to different opinions, respond rationally rather than emotionally, make reasoned arguments.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Respond to another point of view with research and substantive comments or questions, present and support your own position, and thus engage in a wider conversation.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Consider a specific question ("What makes an idea a Wisconsin Idea...?) and present a reasoned argument supporting the conclusion. (1-credit students)
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Deeply analyze an argument and respond by applying it to the student's own educational strengths and weaknesses. (3-credit students)
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Use course content to explain a controversial issue and suggest a course of action to address it, stating reasons, and anticipating counterarguments. (3-credit students)
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/C&E SOC/GEOG/HISTORY/LACIS/SOC/SPANISH 260 – LATIN AMERICA: AN INTRODUCTION
3-4 credits.

Latin American culture and society from an interdisciplinary perspective; historical developments from pre-Columbian times to the present; political movements; economic problems; social change; ecology in tropical Latin America; legal systems; literature and the arts; cultural contrasts involving the US and Latin America; land reform; labor movements; capitalism, socialism, imperialism; mass media.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze Latin American culture and society from an interdisciplinary perspective.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine historical developments from pre-Columbian times to the present.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify political movements, economic problems, social change, and ecology in Latin America.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/CHICLA/HISTORY/LACIS 268 – THE U.S. & LATIN AMERICA FROM THE COLONIAL ERA TO THE PRESENT: A CRITICAL SURVEY
3 credits.

A critical examination of US-Latin American relations from the colonial era to the present, tracing the emergence and evolution of the United States as a hemispheric and global power and its political and economic impact on Latin America. Primary attention will be focused on US relations with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, but other Latin American countries will figure prominently during certain episodes.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2020
Learning Outcomes: 1. Critically examine US-Latin American relations from the colonial era to the present.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine tracing the evolution of the United States as a hemispheric and global power and its political and economic impact on Latin America.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss US relations with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 270 – UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL NUMBERS
3-4 credits.

How numbers and statistics are used in electoral strategies, political debates and legal proceedings. Presents basic tools of analysis and how to use them. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 218 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Satisfied Quantitative Reasoning (QR) A requirement
Course Designation: Gen Ed - Quantitative Reasoning Part B
Breadth - Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Critically read and interpret quantitative content of many articles in the quantitative social sciences.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Conduct, interpret, and communicate results from analysis using statistical tests and regression.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain the limitations of observational data for making causal claims, and begin to use existing strategies for attempting to make causal claims from observational data.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Write basic clean, reusable, and reliable R code.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Feel empowered working with data.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 272 – INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
3-4 credits.

Major issues of public policy in such fields as economic management, welfare, education, health, energy and the environment. How public problems develop, approaches to policy-making, why programs succeed and fail. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 219 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand the provisions of the United States Constitution most related to the development and execution of public policy in the United States.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand the difference between federalism and the allocation of authorities between state, county, and municipal governments.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Learn to define and frame problems as an essential first step in the development of public policy.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Learn to develop, analyze, and advocate policy alternatives.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Learn how to write a policy memo.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Learn about executive, administrative, legislative, judicial, and other governmental authorities and their respective roles in making public policy.

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Understand the role of politics in policy development.
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Learn various approaches to policy analysis.
Audience: Undergraduate

9. Learn about various tools and functions available to public policy-makers.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 274 – POLITICAL CHOICE AND STRATEGY
3-4 credits.

An introduction to decision analysis, strategic interaction, and voting systems and their manipulation. Examines a wide range of institutions for making social choices and the opportunities for the exercise of political strategy.
Requisites: Satisfied Quantitative Reasoning (QR) A requirement
Course Designation: Gen Ed - Quantitative Reasoning Part B
Breadth - Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explore a rational-choice approach to studying politics -- also called formal political theory.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine how multiple people can make a social choice.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine how various voting rules and types of preferences can lead to di#erent outcomes under certain circumstances, and the implications of that for democracy.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explore collective action in politics and examine how people can cooperate to achieve common goals.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/AFRICAN/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/SOC 277 – AFRICA: AN INTRODUCTORY SURVEY
4 credits.

African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze African society and culture from a multidisciplinary perspective.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Discuss polity and economy from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Study contemporary nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/AFRICAN/AFROAMER/HISTORY 297 – AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN LINKAGES: AN INTRODUCTION
4 credits.

Analysis of retention of African elements in African-American oral, written, and material culture. Social, cultural, and political issues regarding race, self-definition, and self-determination in both Africa and North America will be examined.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the retention of African elements in African-American oral, written, and material culture.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore social, cultural, and political issues regarding race in both Africa and North America.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine self-determination in both Africa and North America.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/CHICLA 302 – MEXICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS
3-4 credits.

This class examines the major problems and issues in Mexican-American politics since World War II. An emphasis will be placed on the ways in which race, class and culture have structured politics for the Mexican origin people. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 464 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop an analytical framework for understanding the political dynamics of multi-cultural societies.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand how the dynamics of race, class, and ethnicity shape Mexican American politics and Latino politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine the historical conflict between Mexican and Anglo Americans.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand the politics of cultural pluralism in the United States.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 304 – THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF RACE IN THE UNITED STATES
3-4 credits.

Race in relation to American economic development. Problems of racial minorities in the American political and economic system. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 462 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: POLI SCI 104, POLI SCI 184, LEGAL ST/POLI SCI 217, CHICLA 201, or AFROAMER 151
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 305 – ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOR
3-4 credits.

Psychological and social components of voting behavior, current electoral trends, role of voters in the governing process. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 467 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop a theoretical and empirical understanding of how individuals make voting decisions.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Be able to analyze factors that affect the results of particular elections.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interpret surveys and election data to analyze how specific variables affect voters.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Develop a basis for evaluating the health of the U.S. electoral system.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 306 – AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
3-4 credits.

Examination of the electoral, organizational, and governmental roles of political parties at the national and state levels in the U.S. Emphasis on changes in response to historical and contemporary circumstances.
Requisites: POLI SCI 104 or 184
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the past, present, and future of the U.S. party system
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of various party nomination systems.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the electoral, organizational, and governmental roles of political parties at national and state levels.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 311 – UNITED STATES CONGRESS
3-4 credits.

Principles, procedures and problems of the legislative process of the United States Congress. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 426
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand how Congress works, and how laws are really made today.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain how Congress can serve as a check on presidential and judicial power.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze what motivates members of Congress.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explain how legislative rules affect policy outcomes.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Explore why money matters in Congress.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 314 – CRIMINAL LAW AND JUSTICE
3-4 credits.

Substantive and procedural aspects of criminal law, including the purposes of criminal justice, specific crimes, criminal responsibility and punishment, legal concepts of proof, and 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendment issues. The case approach is used. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 452 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and a course in POLI SCI or SOC
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Discuss the substantive and procedural aspects of criminal law.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore the purposes of criminal justice.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine criminal responsibility and punishment and legal concepts of proof.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendment issues.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 315 – LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP
3 credits.

Practical experience in a legislative office. Policy research. Readings in legislative process.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Workplace - Workplace Experience Course
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop an understanding of work-life at the internship and what a career in the field entails.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Build substantive knowledge about political science by linking internship experiences to classwork and critically evaluating these relationships.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Encourage students to think about life after college by networking with other professionals, understanding the qualifications necessary to be successful in the job market, and learning how to effectively convey skills.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 316 – CAREERS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
1 credit.

Facilitates transitions from undergraduate academic learning related to Political Science to meaningful and rewarding professional opportunities including jobs, paid internships, graduate study, and post-graduate fellowships. Building on core coursework in Political Science and related disciplines, addresses how to utilize existing academic learning and completed readings and assignments, extra-curricular activities, student research, for-pay work, internships, and interaction with alumni and other personal networks to further develop career options. Also provides practical ways to explore and pursue a wide range of career pathways related to Political Science. Develop essential professional development materials and self-promotional skills.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explore and inventory individual strengths, competencies and positive professional attributes, and practice how to articulate and promote those strengths, competencies and attributes in writing (e.g., resumes, cover letters) and verbally (e.g., elevator statements), and through professional branding through online presence (e.g., LinkedIn, Handshake, ePortfolios);
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Utilize assigned readings, internet resources, social media, networking opportunities, and career interviews to gather specific information about career pathways, jobs and other professional opportunities related to Political Science and related career sectors including government, nonprofits, and for-profit entities;
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Cultivate, organize and utilize professional network relationships, including among UW and Political Science alumni, that can be instrumental in promoting further academic and early career success;
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Review and practice recommended job and related interview techniques, including behavioral-based interviewing, and become more confident in adjusting to varying interview formats and questions;
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Review current research and job sector trends involving salary expectations and negotiations, benefits packages, and evolving in-person and remote work expectations, and apply the newest research and trends in prospective job application and interview processes;
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Identify, analyze, reflect upon and discuss contemporary issues involving employee/ professional diversity, equity, and inclusion among differing career pathways and job sectors, and within varied workplace cultures, as additional considerations in future career decisions.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 320 – GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
3-4 credits.

An introduction to the most pertinent themes to the study of politics and governance in the Middle East. Main topics to be covered: political economy of the region; link between Islam, culture and democracy; the politics of authoritarianism; and political Islam.
Requisites: Sophomore standing, POLI SCI 104 or 140
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop a concrete understanding of the history and politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply comparative politics' theories and frameworks toward understanding the current events and the complexities of MENA's politics and governance structures
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Apply critical and analytical skills to different, even contradictory, points of views and contemporary debates relating to MENA politics and ongoing conflicts.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate the ability to write in several forms and present written ideas and arguments for audiences with diverse interests and backgrounds.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 323 – ISLAM AND WORLD POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Examines the multifaceted nature of political Islam in the contemporary world. Starting with the basic tenants of Islam, and key concepts and theoretical understandings of the relationships between Islam and politics, the course builds on the approaches developed in the first part of the course examining how Islam has influenced politics differently in various parts of the world including the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. Students will familiarize themselves with theoretical debates about the roles of Islam in politics; analyze the impact of Islam on politics in the contemporary world; and gain empirical knowledge about how Islam functions differently in various countries.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2020
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand theoretical debates about the roles of Islam in politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze the impact of Islam on politics in the contemporary world.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Gain empirical knowledge about how Islam functions differently in various countries.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 324 – CHINESE POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Examine three questions about Chinese politics through a comparative perspective. First, what functions do formal institutions such as the political party, legislature, courts, and bureaucracy serve in an authoritarian regime? Second, what are the political forces that lay a good foundation for China to successfully transition from a planning economy to a robust market economy and sustain high-speed growth for more than four decades? Finally, how does the Chinese government deal with pressing social problems and threats to its authoritarian leadership in this new era?
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop an understanding of major political institutions and governance challenges of China today.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Evaluate evidence for China's economic reform and develop the ability to analyze other policy changes.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Communicate effectively through written reports and discussion.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/INTL ST 325 – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND REVOLUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA
3-4 credits.

An introduction to the major empirical and theoretical themes in the study of social movements and politics in Latin America. While it is impossible to cover every theoretical approach or Latin American case during the semester, the course should give students the tools to begin to think critically about where and why people engage in collective action. We will develop and hone these tools through thinking about Latin American cases, paying specific attention to revolutions, social movements, and riots. The course is designed in three parts. It begins by exposing students to the dominant theoretical paradigms in the study of contentious politics as well as some prominent critiques. The course then turns to empirical themes in Latin American revolutions, challenging students to use and question the theoretical tools to which they have already been exposed. The final part of the course looks to social movements in Latin America. Cases will focus on challenges to dictatorships, identity-based movements, and resistance to globalization.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 120, 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 or 106 taken prior to Fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 328 – POLITICS OF EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
3-4 credits.

Asia is a vibrant region politically and economically, and is very important to the United States for international security and economic stability. Given its importance, this course provides broad and essential knowledge about Asian nations with a particular focus on China, South Korea, North Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. Country studies are intended to introduce major issues in comparative politics such as democratization, elections, economic development, security, religion and politics. This course will enable students to (1) gain an empirical and analytical understanding of the political dynamics of the region; (2) think comparatively within the regime and across the developing world more generally; and (3) address and debate theoretical questions in political science through Asian politics materials.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Gain an empirical knowledge about the political dynamics of the region.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze comparatively within the region and across the developing world more generally.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Address and debate theoretical questions in political science through Asian politics materials.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 329 – AFRICAN POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Process of rapid political change in contemporary Africa with special emphasis on the emergence of new states. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 660 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and POLI SCI 120, 182, or SOC/AFRICAN/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI 277 (or POLI SCI 106 or 186 taken prior to Fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the complex social, economic and political issues and problems confronting contemporary Africa.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically examine previously held beliefs about the way Africa works and become critical consumers of news coverage of Africa.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain the process of rapid political change in contemporary Africa and the emergence of new states.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 330 – POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT
3-4 credits.

An introduction to the political economy of development. Why are some countries more economically developed than others? To help answer this question, examine leading theories of economic development. In light of these theories, then examine the development experiences of three major regions of the world. Consider a series of issues about development, including the effect of ethnic diversity, corruption, natural resources, and women's empowerment on economic development. Conclude with an examination of the effects of international interactions-via trade, foreign aid, migration, and war-on economic development.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Address the question of why some countries are rich and others poor.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine leading theories of economic development.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss the development experiences of three of the world's major regions.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Consider selected issues—including ethnic diversity, corruption, natural resources, and women's empowerment—in economic development.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Understand the effects of interactions between nations—via trade, foreign aid, migration and war—on economic development.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 332 – GERMAN POLITICS
3-4 credits.

A broad overview of politics in Germany, Europe's politically and economically most powerful country. Several broad themes are covered: political institutions, electoral system and elections, parties and party system, interest representation, political participation, political economy, the legacies of Germany's past, social policy, European and foreign policy, and current and future challenges. Learn to relate the German experience to broader issues, problems, and concepts used in the comparative study of domestic politics.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze politics in Germany, Europe’s politically and economically most powerful country.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine German political institutions and the electoral system.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Relate the German experience to broader issues, problems, and concepts used in the comparative study of domestic politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 334 – RUSSIAN POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Theory and practice of Russian States, emphasis on politics, economic and institutional developments since 1991. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 633 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Increase knowledge of the trajectory of political life in Russia from 1917 through the present.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Learn the theoretical and institutional underpinnings of democracy, markets and the rule of law, and how to structure an argument as to the presence or absence of these institutions.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Improve oral advocacy skills through classroom discussion.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 335 – SOCIAL IDENTITIES
3 credits.

An introduction to theories and empirical work on social identities, focusing in particular on definitions and measurement. It has three main goals: First, examine various definitions of social identities and different types of identities (ethnicity, race, nationality, gender, class, and religion). Second, look at techniques and strategies that have been developed to measure identities (content and discourse analysis, surveys, interviews and ethnography, censuses). Third, examine empirical works on identities from a variety of geographical areas and methodological perspectives.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2020
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate their understanding of major theories of social identity, types of social identities, and ways of measuring social identities.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Utilize the techniques of content analysis, interviews, and surveys to measure social identities.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Apply knowledge of social identities to a research question, including outlining a research plan and conducting original data collection.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Evaluate evidence to answer their research question, and contextualize results with respect to existing published work.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Write up a research paper and communicate the results in an oral presentation with slides.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 336 – DEMOCRACY (AND ITS UNCERTAIN FUTURE)
4 credits.

Democracy has come under stress, both at home and across the world. The global decline of democracy has accelerated over the past decade, and levels of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen today are down to levels last found around 1990. The promise of democracy's inevitable ascent and dominance after the end of the Cold War has proven shortlived. Examines the state and future of a political system we tend to take for granted but should not. Starts with a brief overview of the evolution of the concept of democracy over time. Examines the relationship between democracy and economic development, culture, identity, and religion. Considers and compares core democratic institutions. Investigates current challenges to democracy and democratization and offers an overview of the state of democracy across different world regions.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Learn about leading definitions, classifications, and measurements of democracy
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand the determinants of democracy
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine democratic political systems and institutions, how they function, and how they relate to each other
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Become familiar with rising threats to democracy and the prospect of autocratization
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Compare different democratic systems systematically
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Understand and choose proper evidence/sources to support an argument
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 338 – THE CIVIL-MILITARY PARADOX IN U.S. POLITICS AND SOCIETY
3 credits.

Protecting a democratic nation from foreign threats often requires that nation to create a powerful military. Yet the creation of a powerful military may undermine the democracy that it is designed to protect. How do, and how should, democracies manage the paradoxical relationship between civilian authority and military institutions. Explores civilian and military perspectives in U.S. civil-military relations; address issues such as the use of military advice by civilian leaders, military challenges to civil authority, and tensions generated by shared responsibility for national security between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Studies how civil-military relations impact wider American society by examining the garrison state hypothesis; debates centered upon the draft versus an all-volunteer force; issues of equity and inclusion; and current concerns regarding a civil-military "gap."
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the Civil Military Paradox and the complex web of relationships that link the American public, civil authority, and the U.S. armed forces. Articulate an appreciation for why the paradox and civil-military relationships are important.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Demonstrate how civil-military relations (CMR) impact our personal, professional, and civic lives.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Comprehend and apply the vocabulary and theoretical concepts that inform our understanding of civil-military relations.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Explain how big ideas, historical experiences, and wider trends shape civil-military relations in the United States. These considerations include: (a.)the U.S. Constitution(b.)national culture (core assumptions, values, and beliefs)(c.) public sentiment(d.)partisan political debates (e.)the domestic and international environments (political, security, economic, social)(f.)issues of equity/inclusion
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Address critical issues and debates related to civil-military relations in U.S. politics and society—past, present, and future.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Demonstrate how to think critically and write effectively. Respond to contemporary civil-military issues by developing recommendations for action. Support these recommendations with properly interpreted evidence and sound argument.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Produce research and analysis that deepens our understanding of the issues, theory, and/or practice of civil-military relations
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 339 – NON-DEMOCRACIES
3 credits.

Studies the varieties and characteristics of non-democratic regimes from around the world: how they form, why they endure, and when they collapse, engaging along the way with theories of electoral behavior, political psychology, political violence, popular mobilization, and democratization.
Requisites: POLI SCI 120 or 182
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify key types of non-democratic regimes and their characteristics.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify why these regimes resist pressures to democratize.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify the key legacies of non-democratic regimes.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 340 – THE EUROPEAN UNION: POLITICS AND POLITICAL ECONOMY
3-4 credits.

Introduction to the politics, political economy, history, and theory of European integration. Topics include the workings of EU institutions and law, the effect of the EU on national politics and economies, economic politics and policy-making in the EU, the EU as an actor in the world economy.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the history and theory of European integration.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore the workings of EU institutions and law.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine the effect of the EU on national politics and economy, economic politics and policy-making in the EU.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/JEWISH 341 – ISRAELI POLITICS AND SOCIETY
3-4 credits.

Examines the issues currently facing Israeli society and the ongoing debates in Israeli politics. Provides historical background and analytical understanding of contemporary Israeli politics. Attention will be paid to political history, institutions, economic development, coalition formation, ethnic politics, and religious-secular divisions as they are manifested in Israeli politics.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Learn about Israeli politics, history, and culture.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply political science concepts and theories to understand Israeli politics and society.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand who the main actors are in Israeli politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand the main social and political cleavages in Israel.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 342 – STATE-BUILDING: HOW STATES ARE FORMED, FUNCTION, AND INFLUENCE SOCIETY
3-4 credits.

Exploration of state-building: examining how states are formed, how they develop and maintain political power, and the ways in which they shape society. Draw on insights from political science, but also economics, history, and anthropology, to learn about the processes of state formation, the importance of state capacity, and the state's role in war, governance, and social justice. Topics will include the relationship between the state and issues like the environment, gender, and identity, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities states face in a rapidly changing world. Analysis of historical and contemporary examples from various political systems yields insights into the state's role as both a force for order and a driver of social change. Lectures, discussions, and case studies, will lead to a deeper understanding of the state's central role in global politics and everyday life.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and describe key theories and historical processes involved in state formation, including the roles of conflict, economy, and ideology.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine how states develop and maintain capacity, manage resources, and exert authority, including the factors that contribute to strong versus weak states.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Use comparative analysis to understand differences in state-building processes across historical and cultural contexts, developing a critical perspective on the state's evolving role globally.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 343 – THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
3-4 credits.

Role of alliances in contemporary and historical international political systems. Purpose of alliance formation; reasons for their dissolution; relationship of alliance activity with international war and with political integration. Role of alliances in future international systems. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 367 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to Fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the role of alliances in contemporary and historical international political systems.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the purpose of alliance formation and reasons for their dissolution.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critically evaluate the role of alliances in future international systems.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 344 – THE RUSSIAN WAR ON UKRAINE: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES
3 credits.

Examines causes and consequences of the Russian invasion and war on Ukraine. Analyzes the war using concepts in comparative politics (e.g., regime type, national identity, and domestic politics in Ukraine and Russia) and international relations (e.g., international security, institutions and norms, sanctions and trade, migration and human rights).
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze and explain political science work relevant to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically assess how prior political science work does or does not help explain outcomes related to the Russian war in Ukraine.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Engage and participate in discussion with peers, instructors, and the public on the topic of Russia's invasion of Ukraine
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Write an original research paper that analyzes political science theory in light of empirical data on the Russian war in Ukraine, and present the findings of the paper to the class.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 345 – CONFLICT RESOLUTION
3-4 credits.

Every war comes to an end, but some end sooner than others. This course analyzes why and how conflicts come to an end, discussion relevant theories of conflict and conflict resolution, and important cases. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 378 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the frequency of war over time.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Assess competing explanations for the rise and decline of war.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Evaluate the arguments of competing theories of war causation andtermination.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Weigh the importance of alternative explanations for peace.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Compare the e#ectiveness of post-conflict strategies such as electionsand truth and reconciliation commissions.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Describe and evaluate several cases of international intervention in conflict, such as mediation, peacekeeping and humanitarian intervention.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Evaluate the strength of the quantitative evidence supporting the proposition that democracies do not fight each other.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 347 – TERRORISM
3 credits.

Examines the causes of terrorism, goals and strategies pursued by terrorist groups, the consequences of terrorism, and counterterrorism policies adopted by governments. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 319 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 120, 140, 182, 184, INTL ST 101 or LEGAL ST/POLI SCI 217) or (POLI SCI 103, 106, or 186 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Compare alternative definitions of terrorism.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Recall the history of terrorism, including prominent groups, ideologies and campaigns.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Describe the state of terrorism today, including currently active groups and ideologies inspiring terrorist attacks.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Categorize the motivations, strategies and tactics of terrorism.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Analyze the e#ectiveness of terrorism in achieving its goals in a variety of cases.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Evaluate the e#ectiveness, cost, legality and morality of counter terrorism policies, both military and non-military.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Analyze quantitative data related to terrorism to test a hypothesis on its correlates, causes or consequences.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 348 – ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
3-4 credits.

Focuses on how to analyze problems in international politics by the use of game theory. Examples include governments making choices about the size of their military forces, barriers to trade, or international agreements on environmental issues. Analysts study strategic interaction using both informal and mathematical methods. Provides a good introduction to the basics of game theory -- a tool useful in many different settings -- as well as an introduction to the study of world politics. From the perspective of quantitative reasoning, one of the most important set of lessons center on the logic of strategic interaction and the notion of equilibrium. Along with basic game theory students will also be introduced to the pragmatic use of mathematical tools including algebra, set theory, functions, and probability theory. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 376 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Satisfied Quantitative Reasoning (QR) A requirement and (POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to Fall 2017)
Course Designation: Gen Ed - Quantitative Reasoning Part B
Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand the logic of strategic interaction.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Master the basics of non-cooperative game theory.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Be able to apply the logic of strategic interaction to international politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Master the algebra necessary to solve games with complete and incomplete information.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Master the algebra necessary to solve both one-time and iterated games.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Understand the logic of signaling games.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 349 – GLOBAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE
3 credits.

Lawyers are present in all countries, but their roles vary tremendously. In some countries, lawyers are greatly respected and are seen as making an important contribution by representing their clients and participating in the political process. In other countries, lawyers are viewed as less essential, perhaps even as a nuisance. Study lawyers in many different countries in an effort to explain the variation in their status and the consequent impact on citizens' access to justice.
Requisites: POLI SCI 120, 140, or sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand and compare the role of lawyers in the U.S. and other countries.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Contrast the role of lawyers in democratic and authoritarian political systems.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Synthesize social science readings and formulate arguments in written and oral form.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Improve oral advocacy skills through active classroom discussion.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 350 – INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
3-4 credits.

Analyzes the interaction of politics and economics in the international arena, both historically and in the contemporary era of globalization. Focuses on international trade, monetary, and financial relations in both developed and developing economies. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 371 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Apply basic knowledge of historical events in international political economy.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand how international economic flows a#ect and constrain domestic policymakers.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss international trade, monetary, and financial relations in both developed and developing economies.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 352 – TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN WORLD POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Provides an introduction to the study of transitional justice (TJ), or how institutions - local, domestic, and international - address the legacies of human rights abuses. Explore several key questions motivating the study of transitional justice: Why do societies pursue accountability for past repression in general? How do transitioning societies go about these pursuits? What effects might TJ policies have on prospects for democracy, rule of law, and future human rights abuses? Special attention to how local and global politics interact to influence both the development and the effects of different transitional justice policies.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe the history and political foundations of transitional justice
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe and differentiate between transitional justice mechanisms at the international, domestic, and local level
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain the role of different international and domestic actors in designing and implementing transitional justice
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze and evaluate the implications of different transitional justice mechanisms for democracy, peace, and stability
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 354 – INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WORLD ORDER
3-4 credits.

The study of international cooperation and the analysis of regional, functional, and universal regimes and institutions. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 337 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand the existing logics, theories, concepts, and functions of international institutions.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze the political and legal dimensions of international organizations.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Think critically and theoretically about the dynamic roles of international institutions in world politics that impose consequences on countries and citizens of the world.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/CHICLA/HISTORY/LACIS 355 – LABOR IN THE AMERICAS: US & MEXICO IN COMPARATIVE & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
3 credits.

Provides a critical examination of the history of labor and working people in the Americas, from the colonial era to the present. It focuses on the experience of the United States and Mexico, offering a comparative perspective on their distinct but also shared (and increasingly linked) histories. The seminar proceeds chronologically, highlighting major episodes in the evolution of labor systems in the two countries, beginning with the colonial labor systems implemented by the Spanish and British empires following the European conquest of the Western Hemisphere. Among other topics, we will examine the pivotal role of slavery and other forms of forced labor, the impact of the industrial revolution, the emergence and expansion of corporate capitalism and the labor unrest it provoked in the post-civil war U.S., the role of labor in the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath, the impact of the Great Depression and labor incorporation on the post-WWII social and political order of both countries, the breakdown of that order and the move to neo-liberalism in the 1970s and 1980s, and the emergence of an increasingly integrated North American production system and its consequences for labor and working people on both sides of the US-Mexico border.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2021

POLI SCI 356 – PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
3-4 credits.

A survey course that focuses on interactions among the primary entities in the international system; namely, states, inter- governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other international actors governed by international law. The study of international relations and international law is absolutely critical to understanding contemporary politics, both domestic and foreign. This course addresses both structural and substantive issues related to international law. In other words, it should provide basic tools for understanding the way in which international law works, as well as introduce substantive issues of interest to students of world politics. The course will place special emphasis on the role of international organizations in the international legal system, and special attention will be paid to the European Union as an international actor within this system of law. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 316 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain why international law exists.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Provide a clear explanation of the different sources of international law, the various means of resolving international legal disputes, and how US courts approach questions of international law.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain why different types of international problems are best addressed by different types of legal structures, and how this accounts for variation in the shape of international law across issue areas.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate comfort engaging with a variety of different primary sources (e.g. judicial cases, treaties).
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate the ability to identify the key facts in a given fact pattern, identify relevant provisions of international law, and apply these legal principles to these facts to build a legal argument.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Make an argument about whether international law is successful at achieving its goals.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 358 – STATES IN THE WORLD: COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY
3-4 credits.

How do states make foreign policy decisions? What kinds of factors most influence states' international behavior on security, economic, and humanitarian questions? What explains the foreign policies of different states? Develop skills in analyzing foreign policy from a social scientific standpoint. Examine the logic of theories and evaluate the evidence for and against different explanations for how states behave internationally. Develop knowledge of specific countries and foreign policy topics.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the influence of domestic factors on the formulation and execution of foreign policy in different countries.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Compare and contrast the foreign policies of multiple countries, identifying commonalities, differences, and trends.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Apply key theories and concepts to analyze and predict the behavior of states in the international system.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Conduct independent research on a specific foreign policy issue and/or country, utilizing relevant academic literature and primary sources.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Effectively communicate insights into comparative foreign policy through written assignments, presentations, and class discussions.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Engage in constructive debates and discussions on global affairs, drawing on the knowledge gained in the course.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 359 – AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
3-4 credits.

This course undertakes a historical and analytical approach to U.S. foreign policy since World War II. The course is divided into three main topics: U.S. Foreign Policy since World War II and the evolution of U.S. policy and the impetus behind important foreign policy choices; The people and institutions and processes that guide foreign policy formation and implementation; And the more salient foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. in the 21st century including how the US has responded to the attacks of September 11, 2001, the effectiveness of foreign aid policy.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 140, 184 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Obtain a better understanding of U.S. foreign policy.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine current foreign policy issues U.S. policymakers must address.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand institutional arrangements complicate the policy process.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explore how particular issue areas challenge decision makers.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Examine what general theoretical statements can be made about foreign policy.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 360 – HISTORY OF AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
3-4 credits.

The intellectual origins and evolution of American political thought as seen through the lens of leading politicians, novelists and social critics from the Puritans to the Civil War; consideration of the central tensions of American political thought from a contemporary perspective. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 565 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 160 or ILS 205) or (POLI SCI 209 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the intellectual origins and evolution of American political thought.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore American political thought as seen through the lens of leading politicians, novelists and social critics from the Puritans to the Civil War.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze the central tensions of American political thought from a contemporary perspective.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 361 – CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
3-4 credits.

This course considers central themes and controversies in American political thinking during the 20th and early 21st centuries. Topics include the development of liberalism from the Progressive Era to the New Deal to the Great Society and beyond; the emergence of new strands of conservatism after World War II and the tensions between those strands; challenges by excluded and marginalized groups to the traditional social and political order; and the revival of concerns about "community" in America. As a topic of study, "American Political Thought" combines philosophy, political theory, history, and practical politics. The course covers a wide variety of texts, ranging from philosophical treatises to newspaper articles, from presidential addresses to works of social science with ultimate goal to become more knowledgeable and more critical students of the American political experience. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 566 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 160 or ILS 205) or (POLI SCI 209 taken prior to Fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explore American Political Thought from the progressive era to the present day.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Discuss the progressives; New Deal liberalism; and different strands of conservatism after World War II.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine communitarianism; multiculturalism; and recent political rhetoric.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze issues of race, gender and class in the 1960s.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/CLASSICS/HISTORY 362 – ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY
3 credits.

Explores key issues in the ideology and practice of Athenian democracy. Examines democratic values, institutions, rhetoric, and sociology in order to provide the basic tools to understand democracy in its ancient context. Engages with a variety of source material (literary, archaeological, epigraphic) in order to develop multiple skills of interpretation. Some questions examined include: What are the key features of Athenian democracy, how did it change over time, and how did it differ from modern democracy? How did the Athenians justify and critique this political system? How did they reconcile citizen egalitarianism with social inequalities of wealth, gender, and status? To what extent were women, foreigners, slaves, or the poor included or excluded from politics? Was Athenian democracy a robust political system or a system in crisis?
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand and use appropriately the specific terminology (names, places, concepts) related to Athenian democracy
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Discuss with appropriate methodological awareness conflicting views expressed in modern scholarship
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze problems relating to the reconstruction of historical concepts in the ancient world with reference to relevant source material
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Critically read and engage with complex academic texts (both ancient sources and modern literature)
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Present knowledge, ideas, and analysis orally (in classroom discussion) and in written formats
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/ILS 363 – LITERATURE AND POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Interactions between literature and politics, and the role of literature more generally in the functioning of the political systems. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 570 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand how literary writing affects political consciousness.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore how literary works represent and negotiate political questions in writing.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Encourage students of literature to read and think politically.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 364 – CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
3-4 credits.

Exploration of key themes, developments, and figures in Christian political and ethical traditions.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 160 or ILS 205) or (POLI SCI 209 taken prior to Fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify the major political thinkers who developed the Christian tradition.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and summarize the important philosophical concepts of Christian political thought.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Comprehend the influence of Christianity in our political ideas and institutions.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Evaluate how Christian ideas influence current debates on law, constitutionalism, morality, religion, political ideology, and public policy.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/ILS/ITALIAN/LITTRANS 365 – MACHIAVELLI AND HIS WORLD
3 credits.

Introduces students to the major works of Machiavelli through the close reading of his writings in cultural and historical contexts. Discussion and targeted writing assignments will aim at cultivating in students 1) a broad understanding of Machiavelli's principal intellectual attitudes, 2) a deeper understanding of his literary sensibility, and 3) the ability to articulate controversies and complexities surrounding his thought.
Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement
Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop a broad understanding of Machiavelli's principal intellectual attitudes.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Cultivate a deep understanding of Machiavelli's literary sensibility.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Articulate controversies and complexities surrounding Machiavelli's political thought.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 366 – CONTINENTAL POLITICAL THOUGHT
3-4 credits.

Continental political theory is a tradition of thought usually distinguished from 'Anglo-American political theory' and originally associated with French and German writers in the 19th and early 20th century. What it means for humans to be free and what the requirements of a free society are the questions that motivate Continental political thought. Topics include: what it means for humans to live freely; the nature of reason and language; the relationship between politics, reason and culture; the political effects of language and technology; and the competing models of political freedom that result. Covers leading European political theories from the 18th through the 21st centuries and their application to contemporary questions of democratic theory.
Requisites: POLI SCI 160
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major European political theorists since the 18th century through written essays, quizzes and class discussion.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Practice critical reading and writing skills through analysis of sophisticated philosophical texts in written essays.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify and categorize the vocabulary and content of contemporary political theory debates through quizzes and written essays.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze and assess the theoretical roots of contemporary political conflicts in written essays.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Assess and compare the arguments for and against different kinds of political systems in written essays and class discussions.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 370 – ISLAM AND POLITICS
3-4 credits.

In the early twentieth century, a series of movements arose in the Middle East and South Asia, calling Muslims to return to Islam. Today, leaders and members of such groups -now known as Islamists -insist that one cannot live a fully Islamic life in the absence of an Islamic state. How and why did these movements come to focus on building an Islamic state? How do they pursue this goal?
Requisites: Sophomore standing or 3 Credits in HISTORY or POLI SCI
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify major concepts related to Islam and politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand the historical development, major debates, and contemporary manifestations of Islam and politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Become familiar with major historical and contemporary research into Islam and politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/JOURN/URB R PL 373 – INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY RESEARCH
3-4 credits.

Theory and practice of survey research; questionnaire design, sampling, data visualization, statistical analysis.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Formulate and construct logical arguments about political phenomena and evaluate those arguments using survey research
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the theoretical components of survey research
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interpret survey results in general with a particular focus on political polling
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Design and assess political surveys, including questionnaire design, question wording, survey mode, sample size, nonresponse, survey experiments, standard error, and margin of error
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate statistical analysis skills in the context of political surveys including: hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, difference of means tests, data visualization and linear regression
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Recognize ethical issues in survey research
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 377 – NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WORLD POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Covers the origins of nuclear weapons, the reasons states seek them, the strategies developed for their use, the consequences of their development, and efforts to control and reverse their spread.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand how nuclear weapons are made and what states have them.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine why some states develop nuclear weapons and others do not.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine whether nuclear weapons make war more or less likely between states.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explore what strategies states develop for the potential use of nuclear weapons and why.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Understand the history and debates surrounding efforts to control the spread of nuclear weapons, including prominent arms control treaties.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 390 – STUDY ABROAD TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
1-4 credits.

An umbrella course for variable credit international relations courses taken on study abroad programs.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

POLI SCI 400 – TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
1-4 credits.

An umbrella course for variable credit topic courses, such as summer forum, intensive summer courses, half-semester courses, etc.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 401 – SELECTED TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
3-4 credits.

A topics course for the exploration of current issues in Political Science.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 405 – STATE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY
3-4 credits.

The structure of state government and the politics of public policy-making in the fifty states.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain the basic organizational structures of state governments in the U.S, including their constitutional powers, and compare them with the national government's organizational structure.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe the characteristics of Wisconsin State government and politics, including key milestones involving party organizations and dynamics, voting and electoral patterns, political reforms, and handling of ongoing policy challenges.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain the unique status of local governments in governance and policymaking, and as avenues for more direct citizen participation in public affairs.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Discuss contemporary issues involving state governance and policy, to include budgeting and finance, elections, commerce, education, environment, natural resources, and policing.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 408 – THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
3-4 credits.

The President as chief administrative leader, political leader, foreign policy initiator, commander-in-chief, and head of state.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104 or 184)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine fundamental questions about the President's role as formal head of the executive branch of government and head of state, and as the focal point of public attention.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore the sources of presidential power.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the factors that explain how presidents are elected.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Examine how presidents govern.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 411 – THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION : POWERS AND STRUCTURES OF GOVERNMENT
4 credits.

This course undertakes an historical examination of the development of American constitutional thinking about powers and structures of government from the founding era to the present day. Issue that are considered include separation of powers, executive war powers, the powers of Congress, judicial review and the role of courts, and federalism. The course focuses on the development of constitutional law, constitutional politics, and American political development.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104 or 184)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the historical development of American constitutionalism.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Develop a broad knowledge of the historical constitutionalism and modern and historical constitutional debates.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explore how legal rules define constitutional rights and liberties, and how different ways of thinking about those rules prevailed during different historical periods.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize that in different periods, different approaches of interpreting and applying the Constitution have appeared or have been dominant, and these approaches often cut across doctrinal subject areas.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 412 – THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION: RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES
4 credits.

This course undertakes an historical examination of the development of American constitutional thinking about individual rights and civil liberties from the founding era to the present day. Issue that are considered include freedoms guaranteed by the original Articles, the Bill of Rights, and the Civil War Amendments (XIII, XIV, and XV) as these issues appear in constitutional law, constitutional politics, and social and economic developments. The role of the federal courts, the nature and operation of principles of federalism, and the authority of Congress to protect constitutionally guaranteed rights are also major topics of consideration.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104 or 184)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the historical development of American constitutional thinking about individual rights and civil liberties from the founding era to the present day.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine freedoms guaranteed by the original Articles, the Bill of Rights, and the Civil War Amendments (XIII, XIV, and XV) as these issues appear in constitutional law, constitutional politics, and social and economic developments.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the role of the federal courts, the nature and operation of principles of federalism, and the authority of Congress to protect constitutionally guaranteed rights.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 414 – THE SUPREME COURT AS A POLITICAL INSTITUTION
3 credits.

This course uses a social science approach to analyze theories of judicial decision making and to learn how law is made in a political context. Students will understand how the Supreme Court and justices operate in an interdependent political environment.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze theories of judicial decision making.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand how the Supreme Court and justices operate in a political environment.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain how law is made in a political context.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 416 – COMMUNITY POWER AND GRASS ROOTS POLITICS
3 credits.

Introduces students involved in volunteer or community activism in the Madison area to the literature on political power and community organizing. Conduct field research and write an analysis of activities.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand scholarly debates over the character and significance of political organizations and social movements.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze a local political organization or social movement.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine social movement politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 417 – THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM
3-4 credits.

Structure, process, and personnel of American courts; emphasis on the governmental and political consequences of court decisions for public policy-making.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand the functioning of the American judicial system.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine how courts interact with each other and with other branches of government.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the structure and function of the American court system and its historical development.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand how court decision-making factors influence judicial outcomes.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 419 – ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
3-4 credits.

Delegation of powers, elements of fair administrative procedure, judicial control over administrative determination. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 420 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2021
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the role that federal administrative agencies play in the U.S. political and legal system.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Investigate the institutional context and ideological character of administrative law and agency practices.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine classic debates over the origins of regulation.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand competing legal philosophies about democratic administrative regulation.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Examine political struggles to control the bureaucracy.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Understand how agencies use adjudication and rulemaking to effectuate their policies.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/CHICLA/HISTORY 422 – LATINO HISTORY AND POLITICS
3 credits.

Students will examine the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural experiences and conditions of Latinos, one of the largest US racial/ethnic minority groups. Course focus is on people who trace their origins to Mexico, the Caribbean, and countries of Latin America.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Discuss the complexity of the Latino population and divergent political agendas of various subgroups.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Develop an understanding of the historical origins of how Latino social/ political movements have emerged and changed.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Evaluate the role of movements and activists in policy reform and social/political change.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Examine the impact of the Latino vote on contemporary politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Explore contemporary policy issues affecting the Latino population.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 425 – THE POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY OF POLARIZATION
3 credits.

The content encourages critical thinking about societies and the larger global community through readings and assessments that explore questions about individual and community behaviors, group dynamics, and the rise of populist authoritarian appeals and policies in the United States and globally. It emphasizes the importance of understanding several psychological theoretical approaches and diverse research methods in political science. Additionally, it involves synthesizing and applying social science concepts from psychology, economics, political science, and sociology, requiring a multifaceted perspective on the issues examined.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Synthesize insights from psychological, political, and sociological perspectives to develop a nuanced understanding of polarization as a concept.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine the role of individual and group identity in explaining political behavior and polarization in the US and around the world.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze the political and psychological origins and evolution of political, cultural, and economic divides in modern America, using evidence from primary and secondary sources.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Compare and contrast the intersections of liberalism and conservatism, as well as the impact of extremism, on the American political landscape.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Examine the shifting media environment and its role in reinforcing or mitigating partisan divides.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Synthesize insights from psychological, political, and sociological perspectives to develop a nuanced understanding of polarization as a concept.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Create a reflective analysis or research project that articulates a clear and evidence-based perspective on the state of polarization in the United States today.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/GEN&WS 429 – GENDER AND POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
3-4 credits.

Examines the gendered nature of political institutions around the world, including implications of women's exclusions from public life in a global context; the obstacles to women's greater participation; how women have gained greater voice in political leadership in some countries; and the differences women make in the political arena. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 643 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing; not open to special students
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify key political science work related to gender/women in politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically assess cultural, institutional, political economy, and other theories about gender/women and politics.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Describe patterns of gender inequality in politics across different political systems and cultural contexts.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Analyze causes of gender gaps in political participation or representation.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Demonstrate skills in oral argument or analytical writing.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Identify key political science literature and debates related to gender/women in politics.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/INTL ST 431 – CONTENTIOUS POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Social movements, revolutions, and riots continually shape and re-shape the world around us. The course will evaluate and apply dominant theoretical approaches to understanding contention through careful attention to empirical cases throughout the world.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and POLI SCI 140 or INTL ST 101 (or POLI SCI 103 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine how social movements, revolutions, and riots continually shape and re-shape the world around us.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Evaluate and apply dominant theoretical approaches to understanding contention in politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Study empirical cases of contentious politics throughout the world.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/RELIG ST 433 – RELIGION AND POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Explores the relationships and interactions between religion and politics from a comparative perspective. Discuss the appropriate relationship between religion and state. Investigate the implications of the various ways in which the religion-state relationship have been involved in political conflict. Building on this, turn to several of the current issues in religion and politics asking: Why is religion apparently more important than ever despite an increasingly secular world? What is religious nationalism? What is fundamentalism? How can we explain the similarities and differences between religious fundamentalist movements across the globe? How should democratic states cope with the emergence of fundamentalist movements? In order to begin answering these questions, integrate the theoretical frameworks we develop with explorations of the historical and local context of relevant case-studies from around the world.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 140, 120, RELIG ST 101, 102, 103, or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103 or 106 prior to fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the relationships and interactions between religion and politics from a comparative perspective.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze the appropriate relationship between religion and state.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss the implications of the various ways in which the religion-state relationship have been involved in political conflict.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/INTL ST 434 – THE POLITICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
3-4 credits.

Examines the origins and development of human rights in international politics. The course discusses what human rights are, international human rights movements, the international search for justice after mass crimes, and international humanitarian intervention. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 317 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the meaning of human rights in international politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine the origins and development of human rights in international politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explore international human rights movements.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Discuss the international search for justice after mass crimes.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/GEN&WS 435 – POLITICS OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
3 credits.

Explores the intertwined relationship between gender and politics in contemporary Middle East and North Africa. Situates the region's historical, socio-political, and cultural context that have particularly contributed to shaping the current discourse on gender in the Arab World. Explores - both theoretically and empirically - the role of Arab women in influencing the political processes across the Middle East. Examines real-world examples of Middle Eastern women from different parts of the region who have succeeded to challenge the status quo and push for genuine change.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop a concrete understanding of the history and politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the ways they shape gender power relations across the region.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Apply comparative politics frameworks and feminist theories toward understanding patterns of female political participation and better understand current events and complexities of the region's politics and governance structures.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Sharpen critical and analytical skills through exposure to different, even contradictory, points of views and contemporary debates relating to the role of women in shaping MENA's politics post-Arab uprisings.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Develop and present ideas and arguments to audience with diverse interests and backgrounds.
Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Apply pertinent theoretical and empirical evidence necessary to make critical and analytical arguments about gender and politics in comparative perspective.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 437 – NATIONALISM AND ETHNIC CONFLICT
3-4 credits.

Nationalist conflict and ethnic contestation remain major components of global politics. Drawing on cases from around the world, this course explores why this is the case. In the process, we will address a number of crucial questions: What are nations and ethnic groups? Where do they come from? Why do they pick particular territories? How do they define who can be part of the group? Why are they so successful in mobilizing people to kill and be killed? In the course of answering these questions, the course investigates the interactions between nations and states, religion and nationalism, globalization, citizenship and minority rights, and the causes and solutions for national and ethnic conflict.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 120 or 182) or (POLI SCI 106 or 186 prior to fall 2017)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No

POLI SCI/INTL ST 439 – THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GENOCIDE
3-4 credits.

Examines the phenomenon of genocide in the modern world. The class covers the concept of genocide, theories of why genocide occurs, and particular cases in the 20th and 21st centuries. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 318 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2021
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine genocide in the modern world.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Study theories of why genocide occurs.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine particular cases in the 20th and 21st centuries.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 442 – HONORS SEMINAR ON STATE-BUILDING
3 credits.

In-depth exploration of the origins, functions, and societal impacts of states from a global and historical perspective. Engage critically with theories of state formation, state capacity, and governance, analyzing how states are created, sustained, and challenged across various contexts. Special attention will be given to the role of states in shaping and responding to war, environmental challenges, and social dynamics. Draws on interdisciplinary sources from political science, history, economics, and anthropology. Develop and defend nuanced arguments on the state's role as an agent of both stability and change.
Requisites: Satisfied Quantitative Reasoning (QR) A Requirement, junior standing, and declared in an Honors program
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Evaluate and critique major theories of state formation, state capacity, and governance, identifying their strengths, limitations, and applicability across different historical and cultural contexts.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Integrate perspectives from political science, history, economics, and anthropology to understand the multifaceted role of the state in societal development and change.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Conduct comparative analyses of state structures, capacities, and policies, drawing on diverse case studies to identify patterns, variations, and underlying factors in state development and function.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Synthesize course concepts and empirical evidence to construct and defend original, evidence-based arguments on the state’s role in society, demonstrating advanced critical thinking and academic writing skills.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 445 – LEGAL WRITING, FROM COUNSELOR TO ADVOCATE
3 credits.

Introduction to legal reasoning, writing, and research. Draft memos and briefs based on fictional case files and independent legal research, simulating the practice of law. Topics include precedent, sources of law, reading and interpreting legal texts, objective legal analysis, persuasion, and oral argument.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Read legal sources critically and accurately to identify relevant information.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Recognize the weight and significance of legal authorities within the American legal system.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze and synthesize legal authorities to explain and formulate controlling rules.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Apply legal rules to a set of facts—both to predict legal consequences and to advocate for a preferred result.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Use research strategies to find controlling and persuasive legal authority.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Write clearly and concisely about the law in different professional contexts, including objective office memoranda and persuasive legal briefs.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Articulate legal analyses and argue legal positions via oral communication and advocacy.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/ECON/ENVIR ST/URB R PL 449 – GOVERNMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
3-4 credits.

Problems of public policy and administration for development and use of natural resources.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2025

POLI SCI 460 – TOPICS IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
3-4 credits.

Investigation at an advanced level of selected problems in political philosophy.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 160 or ILS 205) or (POLI SCI 209 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI 461 – INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR IN POLITICAL ECONOMY, PHILOSOPHY, & POLITICS
3 credits.

An interdisciplinary seminar focusing on current policy debates designed to incorporate concepts and approaches from philosophy, political science, and economics.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Synthesize concepts and arguments from philosophy, politics, and economics.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply concepts and arguments from philosophy, politics, and economics.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Engage in written work incorporating an array of primary and secondary sources.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/ILS 463 – DECEPTION AND POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Deception and truth telling as matters of fundamental political concern. Writers ranging from Plato to John Rawls have grappled with the problem of deception and truth-telling in politics. Flattery, hypocrisy, lying as a matter of state, lying as a matter of policy: philosophical explorations of these and related phenomena are the central focus.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explore deception – and truth telling – as matters of fundamental political concern.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine flattery, hypocrisy, lying as a matter of state, and lying as a matter of policy: philosophical explorations of these and related phenomena are at the center of this course.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explore writers ranging from Plato to John Rawls and how they have grappled with the problem of deception and truth-telling in politics.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/GEN&WS 469 – WOMEN AND POLITICS
3-4 credits.

Changing political roles, status, attitudes, and behaviors of women in contemporary society and of the political implications of changing female/male relationships.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2021
Learning Outcomes: 1. Introduce students to concepts of sex, gender and sexuality and how they have been fundamental to the shape and function of political institutions, laws, and policies.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand how women have participated in politics despite severe legal and political restrictions.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand how social policies and institutional rules inhibit women's influence and participation.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explore how the media cover female candidates.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Examine what barriers inhibit female candidates from running for office.

Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 470 – THE FIRST AMENDMENT
3-4 credits.

An examination of the basic principles, purposes, and assumptions of First Amendment cases and literature, with attention to both historical and contemporary controversies.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the structure and substance of judicial opinions at the appellate level.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the role of the lawyer in the judicial system of the United States.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Apply legal research and writing skills in class assignments, demonstrating improvement through revision and feedback.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Evaluate and synthesize complex fact patterns giving rise to First Amendment claims.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Engage in discussions regarding historic and current legal debates on the meaning of free expression and the appropriate reach of the First Amendment.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 481 – HONORS SEMINAR ON RACE AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES
3 credits.

This course examines the sources and policy implications of racial division in American politics by analyzing a range of issues, such as affirmative action in the workplace and in higher education, the use of black majority districts as a means of enhancing representation of minority interests in Congress, differences in public opinion between whites and blacks, and issues concerning multi-racial and ethnic tensions. We will examine the historical background of race relations and the current policy debates, with a focus on trying to find common-ground solutions. The goal of this seminar is to stimulate critical thinking on this important issue, causing students to think about race and politics in new ways.
Requisites: Junior standing and declared in an Honors program
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze the sources and policy implications of racial division in American politics by analyzing a range of issues, such as affirmative action in the workplace and in higher education.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine the historical background of race relations and the current policy debates.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explore differences in public opinion between whites and blacks, and issues concerning multi-racial and ethnic tensions.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 490 – STUDY ABROAD TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
1-4 credits.

An umbrella course for variable credit American government courses taken on study abroad programs.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

POLI SCI 511 – CAMPAIGN FINANCE
3-4 credits.

Examination of campaign finance, including: the philosophical rationale behind campaign finance regulations, the history of regulatory frameworks, the influence of campaign contributions on decision making, campaign finance laws in other countries, and reform proposals. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 466 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 104, 184, or LEGAL ST/ POLI SCI 217)
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand and articulate the major philosophical and constitutional rationales and arguments for a more (or less) restrictive regulatory framework for campaign finance.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify the connections between regulatory structures and the political consequences (both intended and unintended) of those structures.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the history of campaign finance regulation, the causes of major changes, and the current regulatory structure.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand the jurisprudence and major Supreme Court decisions that have set the terms of campaign finance regulation.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Connect controversies over campaign finance regulation to broader themes in Americanpolitics.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 515 – PUBLIC OPINION
3-4 credits.

Formation of opinions within and among the political publics; their role in the development and practice of governmental policy. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 473 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain theorists' claims about the role of the public and of public opinion in democracy and compare these claims to the role that empirical research suggests it does play.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze what is meant by public opinion and how various methods of measurement help us understand it.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interpret and critique public opinion poll results.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Discuss the nature and origins of individual and aggregate-level public opinion.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Participate in small group discussions, and listen to and hear other participants.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI/AFROAMER 519 – AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY
3-4 credits.

Explores a range of theories that African Americans have drawn upon to cope with and ameliorate their political circumstances in the United States within the specific parameters of political theory.
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 160 or AFROAMER 151) or (POLI SCI 209 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze how African American thinkers simultaneously reflect and complicate liberal, conservative, nationalist, and materialist political thought.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine how African American thinkers understand sexism in African American political thought and racism in feminist thought.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interrogate contemporary debates in African American political theory including, but not limited to, the parameters of effective black leadership.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 529 – ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
3-4 credits.

Examines the political, social, and economic aspects of the evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict over time, and the theoretical and policy issues it raises. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 631 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 120, 140, 182 or INTL ST 101) or (POLI SCI 103, 106, or 186 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Articulate an in-depth understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and it's evolution over time.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Develop an appreciation of the complexities and dynamism of this conflict through an examination of its origins, the actors involved, and the key historical and political factors that have shaped it.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Examine the political, social, and economic aspects of the evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 590 – STUDY ABROAD TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: POLITICAL THEORY
1-4 credits.

An umbrella course for variable credit political theory courses taken on study abroad programs.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

POLI SCI 601 – PROSEMINAR: TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
3 credits.

Intensive study and research in selected problems within the constituent fields of political science.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2024

POLI SCI 635 – COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF SPORT
3-4 credits.

Covers the political economy, political culture, and the politics of identity (nationalism, race, ethnicity, social class, religion, and gender) that is usually associated with sport at both the highest and lowest levels of competition. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 616 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Sophomore standing and (POLI SCI 120 or 182) or (POLI SCI 106 or 186 taken prior to fall 2017) or graduate standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Examine the political economy of sport in a global context.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Study the political culture of sport.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss the politics of identity (nationalism, race, ethnicity, social class, religion, and gender) that is usually associated with sport.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 681 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS
3-4 credits.

Honors in the major in Political Science thesis research and writing.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 682 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS
3-4 credits.

Honors in the Major in Political Science thesis research and writing (continuation of POLI SCI 681).
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 683 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS SEMINAR
3 credits.

A class for honors students writing their senior honors thesis within a seminar format. Focus is on conceptualization, research design, writing of the thesis, and relevant issues of political science. Only senior majors writing honor thesis.
Requisites: Junior standing and declared in an Honors program
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Formulate and revise a focused research question; develop and defend a central argument (thesis) that is arguable and evidence-based.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify, summarize, compare, and integrate your argument within broader scholarly conversations in the field of political science.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Locate, assess, analyze, and synthesize scholarly sources to support, refine, or challenge your thesis.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Generate, design, and construct original arguments and ideas that demonstrate creative and independent thinking.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply disciplinary conventions to produce, organize, and present your research in a format that meets professional political science standards.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Critique, evaluate, and articulate constructive feedback on the work of peers to advance collaborative learning.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Interpret, respond to, and implement feedback from your faculty advisor and peers to revise and improve your writing and argumentation.
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Reflect on, monitor, and evaluate your own learning progress by identifying which research, writing, and analytical skills you are developing at each stage.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 684 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS SEMINAR
3 credits.

A class for honors students writing their senior honors thesis within a seminar format. Focus is on conceptualization, research design, writing of the thesis, and relevant issues of political science. Continuation of 683. Seniors only.
Requisites: POLI SCI 683, senior standing only, and declared in an Honors program
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Formulate and revise a focused research question; develop and defend a central argument (thesis) that is arguable and evidence-based.
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify, summarize, compare, and integrate your argument within broader scholarly conversations in the field of political science.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Locate, assess, analyze, and synthesize scholarly sources to support, refine, or challenge your thesis.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Generate, design, and construct original arguments and ideas that demonstrate creative and independent thinking.
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Apply disciplinary conventions to produce, organize, and present your research in a format that meets professional political science standards.
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Critique, evaluate, and articulate constructive feedback on the work of peers to advance collaborative learning.
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Interpret, respond to, and implement feedback from your faculty advisor and peers to revise and improve your writing and argumentation.
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Reflect on, monitor, and evaluate your own learning progress by identifying which research, writing, and analytical skills you are developing at each stage.
Audience: Undergraduate

POLI SCI 690 – STUDY ABROAD TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: COMPARATIVE POLITICS
1-4 credits.

An umbrella course for variable credit comparative politics courses taken on study abroad programs.
Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2001

POLI SCI 691 – SENIOR THESIS
3 credits.

For students writing a thesis in consultation with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 692 – SENIOR THESIS
3 credits.

For students writing a thesis in consultation with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

POLI SCI 698 – DIRECTED STUDY
1-4 credits.

Directed study projects for juniors and seniors as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 699 – DIRECTED STUDY
1-4 credits.

Directed study projects for juniors and seniors as arranged with a faculty member.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 799 – DIRECTED STUDY
1-4 credits.

Directed Study restricted to graduate students. Intended for master's level students.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2021

POLI SCI 800 – POLITICAL SCIENCE AS A DISCIPLINE AND PROFESSION
1 credit.

Describes and evaluates major approaches used in political science. Explores issues related to professional development and political science careers.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate an understanding of political science as a discipline and profession.
Audience: Graduate

2. Recognize major approaches used in the discipline of political science and the "hidden curriculum" of the profession.
Audience: Graduate

3. Identify a broad cross-section of the faculty and their research in the political science department.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 801 – DISSERTATION PROPOSAL RESEARCH AND WRITING SEMINAR
3 credits.

Provides structured support and mentorship for political science dissertation proposal writing. Includes topics such as defining relevant research questions, incorporating existing scholarship, developing a theory and research design and drafting a full prospectus.
Requisites: Declared in Political Science doctoral program
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Fully form their dissertation committee.
Audience: Graduate

2. Produce a draft of their dissertation prospectus.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/FRENCH/GERMAN/HISTORY/SOC 804 – INTERDISCIPLINARY WESTERN EUROPEAN AREA STUDIES SEMINAR
3 credits.

Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 811 – INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL COMPUTING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
1-3 credits.

Introduction to the issues of statistical computing in political science using statistical packages such as STATA and R with emphasis on developing sound practices for organizing data, protocols, and results in empirical research. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 553 prior to fall 2017
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2023

POLI SCI 812 – INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
4 credits.

Introductory statistics course for Ph.D. students. Emphasis on probability theory, inference, and the foundations of multivariate least squares and maximum likelihood.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Critically read, interpret and replicate the quantitative content of many articles in the quantitative social sciences
Audience: Graduate

2. Conduct, interpret, and communicate results from analysis using multiple regression
Audience: Graduate

3. Explain the limitations of observational data for making causal claims, and begin to use existing strategies for attempting to make causal claims from observational data
Audience: Graduate

4. Write clean, reusable, and reliable R code
Audience: Graduate

5. Feel empowered working with data
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 813 – MULTIVARIABLE STATISTICAL INFERENCE FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH
3 credits.

Extensive treatment of multiple regression and its variants.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 814 – SOCIAL IDENTITIES: DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT
3 credits.

Analyzes the concept of social identities with a focus on definition, comparison, and measurement. Explores a range of theories as well as methodological techniques for measurement. Examines classic works on race, ethnic, national, class, gender, and religious identities.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2020

POLI SCI 817 – EMPIRICAL METHODS OF POLITICAL INQUIRY
3 credits.

Acquaints students with a wide variety of research methods used to analyze political phenomena, emphasizing both quantitative and qualitative approaches.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 818 – MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION
3 credits.

Develops the theory of maximum likelihood estimation and applies it to models for discrete and limited dependent variables common to political and social science data.
Requisites: POLI SCI 812 and 813
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 820 – EXPERIMENTAL METHODS
3 credits.

Experimental methods in the social sciences, with specific application to political science. Covers the logic of experimentation and how experiments can be used to investigate social phenomena. Interpret, design, execute and analyze experiments.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, for 3 number of completions
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments made by prominent scholars in causal inference and experimental methods
Audience: Graduate

2. Design, analyze and field experiments suited to your own particular research question
Audience: Graduate

3. Understand and explain the ethical debates that surround experimental research
Audience: Graduate

4. Assess varied types of experimental designs on several dimensions
Audience: Graduate

5. Apply course concepts to analysis of current research and contemporary social scientific debates
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 821 – MASS POLITICAL BEHAVIOR
3 credits.

An empirical analysis of the role of mass publics in political life and the factors which determine the formation and expression of political beliefs and attitudes.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 825 – RACE AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES
3 credits.

Analysis of the role of race, class and ethnicity in the political process. Evaluation of theories from political science, economics and sociology. Topics may include policy analysis, political organizations, immigration, political behavior and culture.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2020

POLI SCI 826 – THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
3 credits.

Analysis of legislative process and the role of the legislature in the political system, emphasizing current research.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024

POLI SCI 828 – THE CONTEMPORARY PRESIDENCY: ISSUES AND APPROACHES
3 credits.

Current topics of research interest on the American presidency. Alternative approaches and methods for the study of the presidency.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

POLI SCI/JOURN 829 – POLITICAL COMMUNICATION
3 credits.

This course examines the role of communication in American politics. Topics covered include the communication of politics (e.g., communication by politics elites, effects of mass media and interpersonal communication on political attitudes) as well as the politics of communications (regulation of political communication, policy issues, etc.).
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe major conceptual and practical issues in politics in the digital media age.
Audience: Graduate

2. Develop basic analytical skills.
Audience: Graduate

3. Critique conceptualization, data collection and analysis of scientific evidence.
Audience: Graduate

4. Evaluate robustness of scientific findings and logical consistencies.
Audience: Graduate

5. Develop student's own study of the issues regarding political communication.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/CLASSICS 834 – ROMAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
3 credits.

In depth study of key works of Roman political thought, along with recent and classic scholarship in political theory, history, philosophy, classics, and literature.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2020
Learning Outcomes: 1. Master the state of existing research on Roman political thought through the study of primary and secondary sources.
Audience: Graduate

2. Develop expertise in methods of political inquiry, specifically the study of the history of political thought.
Audience: Graduate

3. Design, conduct, and complete original research dealing with Roman political thought.
Audience: Graduate

4. Communicate effectively, in both speech and writing, complex concepts and arguments related to Roman political thought to multiple audiences.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/A A E 835 – GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS
3 credits.

An introduction to the tools of game theoretic analysis, with reference to the use of game theory in political science. Intended for those desiring a basic familiarity with the theory, and for those planning further work in formal modeling.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 836 – FORMAL MODELS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS
3 credits.

Provides an overview of formal, i.e., game-theoretic, models of domestic politics. This course builds directly upon the material presented in Political Science 835.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2022

POLI SCI 837 – FORMAL MODELS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
3 credits.

Provides an overview of the formal theory literature in international relations, including international security and international political economy.
Requisites: POLI SCI/A A E 835
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2021

POLI SCI 839 – FIELD SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY
3 credits.

An overview of approaches to interpreting, teaching, and writing about political theory.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze different understandings of political theory as a subfield of political science
Audience: Graduate

2. Analyze different methods and schools of studying political theory
Audience: Graduate

3. Analyze different approaches to teaching works of political thought
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 840 – COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY
3 credits.

Survey of field of comparative political economy and in-depth study of political economy of democratic and non-democratic capitalist systems. Key themes include: business and labor relations, globalization and its impact on domestic political economies, rise of emergent powers.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024

POLI SCI 843 – THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT
3 credits.

We examine why some countries are rich, and others are poor. Selected topics include the role of institutions, regime type, corruption, the resource curse, ethnic differences and state capacity. We focus on the cutting edge of the empirical literature on development, and pay close attention to measurement and causal inference.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop theoretically grounded and testable hypotheses about the political economy of development.
Audience: Graduate

2. Formulate and implement clear research designs to evaluate hypotheses.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 844 – DEMOCRATIC IMPERFECTIONS
3 credits.

Democracies frequently depart from their ideal type. We focus on select problems with democracy, and examine their causes and effects, and remedies for them. Topics vary from year-to-year, and include inequalities in political representation and participation, a lack of accountability and ethnic voting.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop theoretically grounded and testable hypotheses about the causes and effects of, and remedies for, inequalities in political representation and participation.
Audience: Graduate

2. Formulate and implement clear research designs to evaluate hypotheses.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 846 – RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY: CAUSES AND EFFECTS
3 credits.

Focuses on the causes and effects of racial and ethnic diversity in a range of contexts across different countries. Includes the following topics: 1) definitions of diversity and how ethnic and racial diversity is measured; 2) the causes of diversity including migrations and state actions such as ethnic cleansing and colonialism, and later processes of immigration and segregation; 3) the effects of diversity or segregation, including on social relations, conflict, public good provision, and political behavior; and the effects of ethnic and racial diversity in organizations; and 4) considers ways of increasing diversity including affirmative action and quotas, and the effectiveness of diversity training. Readings will include cases studies from different countries and different time periods and will include a range of different racial and ethnic groups around the world.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Gain an understanding of the meaning and measurement of racial and ethnic diversity.
Audience: Graduate

2. Become familiar with the social science literature on the causes and effects of ethnic and racial diversity and segregation.
Audience: Graduate

3. Identify and learn about research methods used in the study of racial and ethnic diversity.
Audience: Graduate

4. Develop critical reading, writing, collaboration, and presentation skills.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 850 – RELIGION AND POLITICS
3 credits.

Examines the meanings of, and interactions between, religion and politics in comparative politics, international relations, and American politics. Explores the impact religion has on wide range of politically relevant outcomes and the mechanisms through which religion shapes those outcomes. Provides an overview of the main theoretical, conceptual, and empirical studies of religion and politics.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Comprehension of selected theories related to religion and politics
Audience: Graduate

2. Critical assessment of theories related to religion and politics
Audience: Graduate

3. Application of theories related to religion and politics to general questions in political science
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 851 – CONTENTIOUS POLITICS
3 credits.

Why do people mobilize outside of routine political channels or institutions to pursue political change? How do we explain moments when people take to the streets or take up arms to accomplish their political goals? At the heart of these questions is one that has long formed a core of social science inquiry: how do scholars explain collective action, particularly in the face of often serious risks. Examine these questions through exploring leading theoretical themes in the study of social movements, revolutions, and riots. Explore how a variety of factors affect the where's, why's and how's of movement dynamics.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand, analyze, explain, and critique theoretical approaches to contention.
Audience: Graduate

2. Understand, analyze, explain, and critique explanations for the emergence of social mobilizations, including revolutions and riots.
Audience: Graduate

3. Understand, analyze, explain, and critique explanations for a variety of dynamics of contention.
Audience: Graduate

4. Explain the role of culture and emotions as well as social and political structures in processes of contention.
Audience: Graduate

5. Understand and critique various methodological approaches to studying contention including which methods are best suited for which questions.
Audience: Graduate

6. Apply methodological and theoretical approaches to contention through independent research.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 853 – COMPARATIVE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
3 credits.

Comparative theoretical and empirical analysis of political institutions, including electoral systems, legislatures, executives, executive-legislative relationships, political parties, party systems, federalism, economic governance, and link between institutions and internationalization.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

POLI SCI 854 – NATIONALISM AND ETHNIC CONFLICT
3 credits.

Comparative analysis of nationalism, national identity, and ethnicity and their impact on domestic and international conflict. Examines relationship between nationality, citizenship, and minority rights; territoriality and identity, contemporary religious nationalism; relationship between globalization and nationalism.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

POLI SCI 856 – FIELD SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS
3 credits.

Introduction to leading concepts and theories in the field of comparative politics, including those relating to states, nations, regimes and development. Includes work on many different regions and countries employing a range of research strategies and methodologies.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Understand, analyze and evaluate concepts and theories in Comparative Politics
Audience: Graduate

2. Identify and understand research methods and strategies and their implications
Audience: Graduate

3. Identify political science publication norms in top journals and university presses
Audience: Graduate

4. Develop critical reading, writing, collaboration, and presentation skills
Audience: Graduate

5. Become acquainted with UW-Madison faculty in Comparative Politics
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 857 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES
3 credits.

Analysis of the major theories on the functioning of the international political system and the behavior of nations within it.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 862 – STATE AND SOCIETY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
3 credits.

Reviews a range of approaches that focus on civil society, social movements, ethnic and religious based mobilization, as well as gender and class based approaches to state-society relations.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI 864 – INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
3 credits.

Analysis of key classical and contemporary theories in international political economy.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

POLI SCI/ENVIR ST/PUB AFFR 866 – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE
3 credits.

In-depth examination of the political and policy challenges posed by global environmental degradation. Analysis of international institutions for managing the global environment.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2024

POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 871 – PUBLIC PROGRAM EVALUATION
3 credits.

Compares the conceptual, statistical, and ethical issues of experimental, quasi-experimental and non-experimental designs for program evaluation. Definitions of outcomes, sample size issues, statistical biases in measuring causal effects of programs, and the reliability of findings will be emphasized using case studies selected from current public programs.
Requisites: PUB AFFR 818
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 873 – AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
3 credits.

Reviews major approaches to analyzing political parties and understanding their developmental changes. Examines the parties in operation and the relationship of parties to the state and society.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI/PUB AFFR/URB R PL 874 – POLICY-MAKING PROCESS
3 credits.

Examines the political, social, and economic contexts that shape and are shaped by policy making processes. Though the focus is on the US, international comparisons will be made, and students are encouraged to think about the American context through comparative and international perspectives. Familiarizes students with dominant theories and models of policymaking process and policy change, starting with the model of the policy cycle. Focuses in on key topics and issues in policy making, specifically, agenda setting, implementation, and the relationships between policymaking and democracy. Reflects on contemporary and emerging issues and dilemmas of the politics of policy making.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify important contextual aspects of policy making processes, of dominant theories, models and conceptual frameworks of policy processes, and of key issues and topics in policy making.
Audience: Graduate

2. Critically analyze theories and evidence presented in readings and describe debates, past and present, surrounding public policy making processes.
Audience: Graduate

3. Read and comprehend academic research, data, and writing as well as journalistic writings on relevant issues of public policy processes and politics.
Audience: Graduate

4. Communicate summaries and analyses of topics, issues and key readings in class discussions, presentations, and writing assignments. Use clear written language and draw on theories, concepts, and evidence to support their arguments and ideas.
Audience: Graduate

5. Maintain fidelity to objective social science-based research methods.
Audience: Graduate

6. Prepare a high-quality presentation and communicate effectively as a speaker.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/PUB AFFR/URB R PL 878 – PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
3 credits.

Role of administration in American government; problems of organization, bureaucracy and control; public policy as the output of the administrative process.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 885 – ADVANCED PUBLIC MANAGEMENT: CRAFT, CONSTRAINTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY
3 credits.

Examines how managers in public and not-for-profit agencies can secure and utilize legal authority, human resources, and funds to accomplish organizational goals. Includes strategies for establishing and maintaining effective external relations and for working through other organizations to accomplish objectives.
Requisites: URB R PL/POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 878
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023

POLI SCI 900 – TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
1-3 credits.

An umbrella course for variable credit topic courses, such as colloquia series, workshops, intensive summer courses, half-semester courses, etc.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI 904 – SEMINAR-AMERICAN POLITICS
3 credits.

In-depth examination of selected topics on American politics and governmental institutions.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 917 – TIME SERIES ANALYSIS
3 credits.

This course introduces students to time series methods and applications, including ARMA models, error corrections models and reduced form specifications. Course also discusses co-integration and fractional integration.
Requisites: POLI SCI 812 and 813
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 919 – SEMINAR-ADVANCED METHODOLOGY
3 credits.

Design of research and adaptation of advanced methods to solve particular methodological problems in original analyses of political data.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 930 – SEMINAR IN MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
3 credits.

Exploration of themes from modern political thought.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments made by thinkers in the history of modern political thought
Audience: Graduate

2. Analyze modern political and ethical theories
Audience: Graduate

3. Assess political and ethical theories made by thinkers in the history of modern political thought
Audience: Graduate

4. Apply course concepts to analysis of contemporary political and ethical debates
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 931 – SEMINAR-POLITICAL THEORY
3 credits.

Analysis of and research on problems of theorizing in and about political life.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 932 – SEMINAR IN EARLY MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
3 credits.

Study of selected topics or themes in early modern (c. 1500-1750 CE) political thought.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Master the state of existing research on a topic in early modern political theory through the study of primary and secondary sources.
Audience: Graduate

2. Develop expertise in methods of political inquiry, specifically the study of the history of political thought.
Audience: Graduate

3. Design, conduct, and complete original research dealing with early modern political theory.
Audience: Graduate

4. Communicate effectively, in both speech and writing, complex concepts and arguments related to early modern political theory to multiple audiences.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/GEN&WS 933 – FEMINIST POLITICAL THEORY
3 credits.

Focuses on how specific schools of feminist thought redefine the political, spanning historical and contemporary feminist political theory.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2021
Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe how contemporary feminist theorists understand "politics" including the meaning of political oppression and political resistance.
Audience: Graduate

2. Identify the key tensions and contradictions that undergird how contemporary feminist theorists understand political oppression and political resistance.
Audience: Graduate

3. Critically interrogate how these understandings shape and are shaped by racism, patriarchy, classism, and other hierarchies of power.
Audience: Graduate

4. Apply feminist political theorizing to their own, independent intellectual projects.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 935 – SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY
3 credits.

Exploration of themes in contemporary political theory.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments made by thinkers in the history of political thought
Audience: Graduate

2. Analyze political and ethical theories, both historical and contemporary
Audience: Graduate

3. Assess political and ethical theories made by thinkers in the history of political thought
Audience: Graduate

4. Apply course concepts to analysis of contemporary political and ethical debates
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 936 – SEMINAR IN CONTINENTAL POLITICAL THOUGHT
3 credits.

Exploration of themes central to study of continental political thought.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments made by thinkers in continental political thought
Audience: Graduate

2. Analyze continental political and ethical theories, both historical and contemporary
Audience: Graduate

3. Assess political and ethical theories made by continental thinkers
Audience: Graduate

4. Apply course concepts to analysis of contemporary political and ethical debates
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 937 – SEMINAR IN LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY
3 credits.

Exploration of themes in legal and/or constitutional theory.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments in legal and/or constitutional theory
Audience: Graduate

2. Analyze legal and/or constitutional theories.
Audience: Graduate

3. Assess legal and/or constitutional theories.
Audience: Graduate

4. Apply course concepts to analysis of contemporary legal and/or constitutional debates.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 940 – DOMESTIC POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
3 credits.

Examines how domestic institutions and processes influence the international system. Also examines how international forces influence domestic politics in the areas of foreign policy, international political economy and security.
Requisites: POLI SCI 857
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 945 – SEMINAR-NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
3 credits.

Contemporary military strategy, the interaction of military and political factors in international politics, and the processes and content of defense policies, with emphasis on the United States.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI 948 – SEMINAR: TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS
3 credits.

Research seminar on specific topics in comparative politics.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 950 – PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
3 credits.

Designed around substantive topic areas, including reputation, personality, and emotions. Covers the broad patterns of scholarship in political psychology over the last 50 years. The larger methodological issues around political psychology and International Relations (IR) (how do you study this? what tradeoffs do the various approaches entail?) will form a backdrop to most of our discussions.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments made by prominent scholars in political psychology and international relations
Audience: Graduate

2. Assess a variety of research designs on several dimensions
Audience: Graduate

3. Apply course concepts to analysis of current research and contemporary social scientific debates
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 959 – SEMINAR-INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
3 credits.

Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI 960 – SEMINAR-INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
3 credits.

Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2021

POLI SCI 978 – AUTHORITARIAN POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS
3 credits.

Introduction to scholarship on authoritarian regimes and institutions, the most prevalent type of government throughout history. Deals with the conceptual and operational differences between authoritarian and democratic regimes. Discusses autocrats' 'menu of manipulation' to maintain power and minimize both external and internal threats. Focuses on tools such as establishing legislatures, holding elections, controlling the dissemination of information, and power-sharing with political opponents as well as the regime allies. Discusses dictators' strategies to alienate the opposition and to hold power while minimizing external threats from the public, the military, and/or disgruntled political elites. Discusses how and under what conditions autocrats instrumentalize women's rights and on democratic backsliding and the future of global governance.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2026
Learning Outcomes: 1. Differentiate between democratic and authoritarian regimes and become familiar with the different types of authoritarian rule.
Audience: Graduate

2. Recognize how authoritarian governments exercise and maintain power.

Audience: Graduate

3. Review sophisticated analytical frameworks and methodologies. Critique cutting-edge research in comparative politics and identify gaps in existing research.
Audience: Graduate

4. Identify the intersection of authoritarianism and gender and the role of women in shaping political outcomes from a comparative perspective.
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI/A A E/ANTHRO/C&E SOC/GEOG/HISTORY/LACIS/PORTUG/SOC/SPANISH 982 – INTERDEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN AREA
1-3 credits.

Interdisciplinary inquiry in Latin American society and culture.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2025

POLI SCI/AFRICAN/ANTHRO/ECON/GEOG/HISTORY 983 – INTERDEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR IN AFRICAN STUDIES TOPICS
3 credits.

Interdisciplinary inquiry in African societies and cultures.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. Develop in-depth knowledge in a sub-field of specialization within African studies
Audience: Graduate

2. Acquire and demonstrate understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, currently informing African studies
Audience: Graduate

3. Understand your process of learning and possess the capacity to intentionally seek, evaluate, and learn from information, and to recognize and reduce bias in thinking.
Audience: Graduate

4. Gain firm knowledge of existing research in African studies
Audience: Graduate

5. Develop and improve speaking, readings, listening, and writing skills
Audience: Graduate

6. Write and speak across disciplinary boundaries
Audience: Graduate

7. Analyze texts from various theoretical and critical perspectives
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 986 – POLITICAL THEORY WORKSHOP
1-3 credits.

Presentation and evaluation of political theory research in progress by members of the workshop and invited speakers.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI 987 – COMPARATIVE POLITICS COLLOQUIUM
1-3 credits.

Presentation and evaluation of comparative politics research in progress by members of the workshop and invited speakers.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025

POLI SCI 988 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COLLOQUIUM
1-3 credits.

Presentation and evaluation of International Relations research in progress by members of the workshop and invited speakers.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2024
Learning Outcomes: 1. Explain important concepts and arguments made by prominent scholars in political psychology and international relations
Audience: Graduate

2. Assess a variety of research designs on several dimensions
Audience: Graduate

3. Apply course concepts to analysis of current research and contemporary social scientific debates
Audience: Graduate

4. Provide apt, concise and helpful feedback to works in progress
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 989 – AMERICAN POLITICS WORKSHOP
1 credit.

Presentation and evaluation of American politics research in progress by members of the workshop and invited speakers.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2025
Learning Outcomes: 1. gain an awareness of cutting-edge research in American politics
Audience: Graduate

2. learn and practice how to constructively critique research in American politics
Audience: Graduate

3. gain experience in how to present research in professional settings
Audience: Graduate

4. practice how to receive constructive criticism and engage with criticism of one's work
Audience: Graduate

POLI SCI 990 – RESEARCH AND THESIS
1-3 credits.

Under the direction of faculty.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026

POLI SCI 999 – INDEPENDENT WORK
2-3 credits.

Under the direction of a staff member.
Requisites: Graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Spring 2026