

Political Science

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Major: A 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160; 235; 239; 461 (culminating experience); five others with at least three courses at the 300 level.

Cognate: Mat 217.

Comprehensive evaluation, with passing grade.

Total of 9 major courses + 1 cognate = 10 courses

Minor: A 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160; 239; any three others. Total of 5 minor courses. Minors may, if desired, emphasize American Politics, International Politics, or Political Thought.

PIS 115. Introduction to American Politics. A survey of the major concepts in political science with an emphasis on understanding politics in the United States.

PIS 117. Politics of the Modern Age. The character and politics of the modern West – its preconditions and presuppositions, its development and its current state, its universalizing quality and the resistance to it.

PIS 118. Comparative Politics. A survey of one of the major subfields of the discipline focusing on fundamental concepts explored in cross-national comparisons. Includes a substantial political economy component.

PIS 160. Special Topics.

PIS 161. Democracy. A survey of the ideas, institutions and controversies of political science. Special emphasis is given in this course to the example of the United States. Partially satisfies Modern Society LADR. Not open to students with prior credit in 115.

PIS 162. Modern Politics I: Power and Ideas. Examination of the political and economic ideologies of the modern West. Topics include democracy, capitalism, imperialism, nationalism, socialism and communism. Partially satisfies the Modern Societies LADR.

PIS 163. Politics, Society and Film. Explores modern social institutions, cultural controversies, and theories of politics as portrayed in movies and documentaries. Additional focus on the use of film as a political tool. Partially satisfies the Modern Society LADR.

PIS 166. Democracy and the Modern West. A survey of the ideas, institutions and controversies of political science. Special emphasis is given to the example of democracy in the United States. Partially satisfies the Modern Society LADR.

PIS 211. Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa. Studies history, politics, society, economy, and culture in contemporary Africa. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160 or permission of instructor. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

PIS 212. American Foreign Policy. Examines post-World War II American foreign policy and the challenges that lie ahead. Offered alternate years. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 213. Introduction to Public Policy. An introduction to the tools of analysis and challenges inherent in public policy formation. Cost benefit analysis and game theory are introduced as ways of understanding issues related to the environment, poverty, law, and freedom. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Fulfills an elective requirement for the major.

PIS 215. American Political Thought. Analysis of political thought from Puritans to present period.

PIS 217. Latin American Politics. Current Latin American politics studied within its historical, cultural, and international contexts. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

PIS 218. European Politics. An examination of the governmental process in the major European countries of Britain, France, and Germany, including frequent comparisons to American politics. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 219. Middle Eastern Politics. An examination of the political systems of the Middle East, including the role of Islam and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

PIS 222. U.S. Legislative Process. An examination of the Congress and the state legislatures in their governmental and political contexts. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 225. Women in the Developing World. Examines the effects of gender inequality in education, health, culture, economy, media, religion, and politics on women in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

PIS 226. Urban Politics. An examination of politics within cities, neighborhoods, and interpersonal networks, with special attention to social, human, and financial capital. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Offered in alternate years.

PIS 231. World Politics. The foreign policy-making process; problems of the world community and how nations attempt to deal with them. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

PIS. 232. The Problem of Order: Law, Politics. An examination of the uses and abuses of law, and of formal vs. informal systems of order. Case studies of the “lawless” 19th century Western U.S., modern Peru, and community rules. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 235. History of Political Thought. An examination of representative political theorists from Plato to Marx. Identical to Phi 338. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 236. Contemporary Political Thought. An examination of major political theorists of the recent past. Identical to Phi 236.

PIS 238. Tocqueville in America. An examination of Democracy in America, one of the most important works written about the conditions needed for democracy and the inevitable difficulties it faces. Some off-campus travel. Offered in Spring Term in alternate years.

PIS 239. Research Methods. The range of phenomena dealt with by political and other social scientists; methods of data collection and analysis.

PIS 260. Special Topics.

PIS 261. Africa and the Americas II: Literature and Society in the Americas. An interdisciplinary study of societies and cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean through intensive study of representative literary works, with some attention to the African sources of American cultures. Partially satisfies Modern Society LADR and satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

PIS 315. Political Sociology. An examination of the sociology of power and community at the national and international levels. Identical with Soc 315. Offered alternate Fall terms. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160 or a sociology gateway course.

PIS 320. American Political Thought, 1950 to Present. Analysis of contemporary U.S. political theory. The course will serve as an elective for non-majors. Offered Spring Term.

PIS 321. Natural Resources Policy. Application of current theories in collective action and policy formulation to evaluate various policy solutions. Case studies involving air, water, and endangered species. Prerequisite: any 100-level Political Science course except 160. Offered in alternate years.

PIS 322. Political Parties and Interest Groups. An examination of the role of political parties and interest groups in the U.S. political process, including candidate recruitment, campaign finance, and policy making. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 325. Campaigns and Elections. A study of the criteria voters use in making choices in elections, and how the electoral system structures these choices. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS. 326. Constitutional Law. An examination of the place of rights in U.S. society and the role of the courts as a constitutional contract and political institution. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 327. Field Study, Washington, D.C. Interviews with governmental, interest group, and political party officials and individual research. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Offered Spring Term in alternate years.

PIS 328. The Challenge of the American Founding. Examines the people, ideas, and institutions foundational to our current republic. Special emphasis is placed on the political theory of two monumental works from this time period: the *Federalist Papers* and Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. The tools of constitutional political economy and collective action theory are used to distill principles from the American founding that might guide future attempts to constitute a self-governing society. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 331. International Law and Organizations. Origin, nature, development, structure, and functions of international law and organization. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 335. International Political Economy. An examination of the political and economic forces shaping the international system today, centering on the issue of order vs. justice at the global level and exploring topics such as the changing role of the state, trade competition, technology transfer, aid and debt, the global ecology, revolution and counter-insurgency, and the changing international security (war) system. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160. Offered alternate years.

PIS 337. Field Study of the United Nations, New York. Briefings and independent study of the handling of world issues in and through the UN. Prerequisite: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160.

PIS 357. Internship. Participation in the operations of a governmental or nongovernmental political agency identified by the student in consultation with the department. Offered on demand.

PIS 359. Social Movements. An examination of theories of movements of protest, reform, and revolution, and of resistance to change. Comparison and contrast of case studies, including movements such as abolition, temperance, civil rights, and environmentalism. Identical to Soc 359. Alternate Fall Terms. Prerequisites: a 100-level Political Science course except Pls 160 or a sociology gateway course.

PIS 360. Special Topics.

PIS 370. Directed Study.

PIS 461. Senior Seminar. Discussion and writing on selected aspects of political science.

PIS 465. Capstone Seminar. Course content will reflect the topic for the annual Capstone. Open to all juniors and seniors and may be repeated once for credit. Students may enroll in only one Capstone seminar in a given term.

PIS 471. Independent Study. Supervised individual research and writing.

PIS 499. Comprehensive Evaluation.