PSCI - Political Science

PSCI 201. Scope and Methods of Political Science. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
This course introduces students to the concepts and methodology of Political Science as well as the various fields of the discipline including American politics, comparative politics, international politics and political theory. Students will analyze political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems and policies in order to focus on and investigate political problems on a national and global level as well as define central concepts related to the study of political science.

PSCI 210IS. Introduction to American Government. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Examines the major institutions of national government and politics. Special emphasis on the constitution and other political rules of the game as shapers of public consciousness and government policy.

PSCI 230D. Introduction to International Relations. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F,S
A survey of the major global issues and the means nation-states use to resolve them. The students will explore the concepts of sovereignty, the elements of power, and the global trends of regionalism and internationalism.

PSCI 240. Introduction to Public Administration. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Implementation of public policy in American government. Topics include but are not limited to: bureaucratic politics, decision making, budgeting, personnel management, ethics, organization theory, and organization behavior.

PSCI 250. Introduction to Political Theory. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
This class provides an introduction to political theory as a tradition of Western thought and a foundational subfield within Political Science. We will examine methods of theoretical inquiry, as well as substantive questions related to power, identity and the state.

PSCI 291. Special Topics. 1-4 Credits. (1-4 Lec; 12 cr max) On Demand
PREREQUISITE: Course prerequisites as determined for each offering. Courses not required in any curriculum for which there is a particular one-time need, or given on a trial basis to determine acceptability and demand for requesting a regular course number.

PSCI 302. Media and Politics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) PREREQUISITE: Sophomore standing. Explores role of the media in the political process with special emphasis on various print media, television, film, and cyberspace.

PSCI 306. Legislative Process. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210 and junior standing or consent of instructor. Examines legislative decision-making in a constitutional, political, and comparative context. Special emphasis on how institutional rules and relationships shape the making of public policy at both the Congressional and state legislative level.

PSCI 310. Applied Political Analysis. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, Quantitative Reasoning CORE course and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Provides an introduction to methods and techniques in quantitative political statistics. Topics covered range from levels of measurement and descriptive statistics to logistic regression, using political science data sets and examples.

PSCI 323. Modern Political Thought. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 250 and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Examines issues of power, authority, legitimacy, community and freedom in the work of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche, among others. Recommended prerequisite for PSCI 354 (Contemporary Political Thought) and PSCI 455 (Politics & Virtue).

PSCI 331. International Relations Theory. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 230D and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Overview of the idealism versus realism debate during the first half of the twentieth century. Followed by theories formulated in the postwar period to study causes of war/conflict, problems of interdependence, and recent developments such as the end of the Cold War, global democratization, growing ethnic conflict, and a more active United Nations.

PSCI 337. Model United Nations. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) PREREQUISITE: Consent of instructor. This course introduces students to the workings of the global organization that is the United Nations. Students gain an understanding of international negotiations that unfold in the U.N. setting in the context of current international issues and events.

PSCI 338. Comparative Politics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
PREREQUISITES: PSCI 201 and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Comparative study of different types of governmental regimes, political systems, and political cultures throughout the world and the sources and consequences of these differences.

PSCI 359. Culture and Ideology: The Development of the Modern Prison. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) Su
This course examines cultural-historical studies of modern prisons as the dominant mode of state-inflicted punishment. It focuses on the relationships between cultures of penalty, ideologies of race/gender/class, and the transnational emergence of a Prison Industrial Complex.

PSCI 341. Political Parties and Elections. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) Other, PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210IS and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Examines the structure and function of political parties, interest groups, and the mass media in the electoral process. Special emphasis on electoral rules and citizen participation from a comparative democratic perspective.

PSCI 346. American Presidency. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210IS and junior standing, or consent of instructor. The American presidency as a government institution. Examination of the legal, political, administrative, and policy making roles of the president. Emphasis on recent issues of responsiveness to national needs and public accountability.

PSCI 353. British Politics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210IS and consent of instructor. While the US and the UK share a common origin and philosophical heritage, their political systems have diverged since the eighteenth century. This course investigates the similarities and differences in their political systems and the ramifications for politics and policy.

PSCI 354. Contemporary Issues in Political Theory. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 250, PSCI 323 or PSCI 356, and junior standing, or consent of the instructor. Examines questions of knowledge, discourse, power, and identity in the works of contemporary (often ‘postmodern’) critics, including: Foucault, Althusser, Butler, de Beauvoir, Kahn, Rorty, Rawls, Chomsky.

PSCI 356. Classical Political Thought. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
PREREQUISITES: PSCI 250 and junior standing or consent of instructor. Explores justice, virtue, freedom, and ‘the good life’ (ethics). Texts include early Greek poetry, theatre, classic works by Plato and Aristotle, and some contemporary criticism. Recommended prerequisite for PSCI 354 (Contemporary Political Thought) and PSCI 455 (Politics & Virtue).

PSCI 362. Natural Resource Policy. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210IS and junior standing or consent of instructor. Public lands policy and the economic and political issues that emerge. Special emphasis is placed on the National Parks and federal public lands of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

PSCI 390R. Research Methods. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) PREREQUISITES: Students should complete ALL of the lower division political science foundation block before taking PSCI 390R. This includes PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, and PSCI 250 and Junior standing. This course introduces students to the qualitative and quantitative research methods used in the social sciences generally and political science.

PSCI 407. Public Policy Analysis. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: Junior standing or consent of instructor. Analysis of impact of public decisions with emphasis placed on secondary data sources and interpretation.

PSCI 414. Drug Trafficking and Governance in the Americas. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITES: Consent of Instructor This course offers an introduction into the impact of drug trafficking and related activities on democracy and governance in Latin America and the U.S. The course takes a multi-disciplinary, comparative country and regional approach and looks at public policies throughout the region.

PSCI 415. The Political Economy of Energy. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) PREREQUISITES: PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, and Junior Standing or consent of instructor. We examine the interface between politics and economics for energy issues at the international, national, state and local level. The dynamics of the international oil and gas markets, US energy dependence, alternative energy and state and local energy policies are key topics.

PSCI 418. The Politics of War & Peace. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 230D, and junior standing or consent of instructor. Combines two well-established subjects in the area of political science concerned with the study of international relations: the causes of war and the study of war and peace (emphasis of class). Covers a broad range of theorizing, research, and practice in both areas and will consider the relationship between them in constructive and critical ways.
PSCI 423. Politics of Development. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210S, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Consideration of explanations for global development patterns, the political economy of development, broader measures of development, approaches for evaluating policy effectiveness, and examples of policy success. Examination of region-specific development challenges and concerns.

PSCI 429. National Security Policy Decision-Making. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) On Demand
PREREQUISITES: PSCI 230D and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Engage in simulations and case studies of security decision making at the highest level of the US government, taking on role of National Security Council Members. Learn about the organization, analysis of security challenges, and considerations posed by Congress, the media and interest groups.

PSCI 434. International Law. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 230D and junior standing, or consent of instructor. The nature and origin of modern public international law and its role in contemporary world politics. Topics include the rights and duties of states, human rights, law pertaining to armed conflict, aggression and international crimes, and the role of international law in conflict management.

PSCI 436. Politics of Food & Hunger. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) On Demand
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 230D and junior standing, or consent of instructor. The role of civil society, government and multilateral organizations are examined in a comprehensive analysis of food and hunger, including the issues presented by agricultural policy, famine, biotechnology and food safety, domestic and international food aid, and the right to food.

PSCI 437. International Political Econ. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) On Demand
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 230D and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Political and economic perspectives are integrated in an analysis of the issues affecting the domestic and international economy and their interface. International institutions, trade, exchange rates and the monetary system, regionalism and development are critiqued with different political perspectives.

PSCI 439. International Human Rights. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 230D and junior standing, or consent of instructor. The development of human rights in legal and political context of the pre-WWII period. Civil and political rights of due process; political participation and fundamental democratic freedoms; as well as social, cultural, and economic rights including basic human needs, self-determination, gender equality, and cultural integrity. National and International implementation is also considered.

PSCI 446. Congressional Campaign. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITES: PSCI 201, PSCI 210S and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Examines the structure of the modern congressional campaign, with specific attention to fundraising, advertising, polling practices, and voter mobilization. Special emphasis on linking political science theory to the practice of campaigning.

PSCI 451. State and Local Government Policy Making. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) Su
PREREQUISITES: PSCI 210S, PSCI 240 and junior standing, or consent of instructor. An examination of the institutions, actors, and issues relevant to state and local governments in the United States, with a particular emphasis on Montana.

PSCI 454. Cinema and Political Theory. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) Su
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 250 and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Explores the intersection of political theory with topics such as civil society, bureaucracy and public policy through the use of film. Special attention given to both descriptive and prescriptive applications of modern and contemporary political theory to these topics.

PSCI 455. Politics & Virtue. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) S
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 250 and PSCI 323 or PSCI 356, and junior standing, or consent of instructor. What is virtue? What different sets of virtues exist in the history of Western thought? What is the nature of contemporary political debates about specific virtues? Course will focus particularly on humility, solidarity, civility, empathy, autonomy, humaneness, temperance, and forgiveness.

PSCI 461. Administrative Law. 3 Credits. (3 Sem) S
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210S, PSCI 240, and junior standing, or consent of instructor. This course serves as an introduction to the legal and procedural environment of public administration. Students will explore the legislation and case law associated with contemporary administrative law in order to understand its impact on administrative practices and democratic governance.

PSCI 465. Public Administration and Policy. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210S, PSCI 240, and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Examines the major political and strategic processes of public policy development and implementation. Topics covered include agenda setting, stakeholder influence, use of political narratives, decision making and implementation strategies.

PSCI 471. American Constitutional Law. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Odd Years. PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210S and junior standing, or consent of instructor. Explores the relationship between law, individual rights, and public policy. Legal research and case law approach are stressed. Topics will include, but are not limited to, the aspects of the Bill of Rights and the 14th and 15th Amendments.

PSCI 490R. Undergraduate Research. 1-6 Credits. (1-6 Ind; 12 cr max)
PREREQUISITE: Junior standing, cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, consent of the instructor and approval of the department head. Students propose, develop, and complete an individual research project under the direction of a faculty mentor. Written and oral presentation of the results are expected. Course will address responsible conduct of research. May be repeated.

PSCI 491. Special Topics. 1-4 Credits. (1-4 Lec; 12 cr max)
On Demand 1 - 4 cr. Maximum 12 cr. PREREQUISITE: Consent of instructor. Course prerequisites as determined for each offering. Courses not required in any curriculum for which there is a particular one-time need, or given on a trial basis to determine acceptability and demand before requesting a regular course number.

PSCI 492. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits. (1-3 Ind; 6 cr max)
On Demand 1 - 3 cr. IND Maximum 6 cr. PREREQUISITE: Junior standing, cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, consent of the instructor, and approval of the department head. Directed research and study on an individual basis.

PSCI 494. Seminar/Workshop. 1-3 Credits. (1 Lec; 2 Sem; 4 cr max)
3 cr. SEM 3 PREREQUISITE: Junior standing. Topics offered at the upper division level which are not covered by catalogued courses. Students are expected to do individual research projects leading to an oral and written report of each student’s findings.

PSCI 498B. Internship. 2-12 Credits. (2-12 Int; 12 cr max)
PREREQUISITE: Junior standing, cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, consent of instructor, and approval of department head. An individualized assignment arranged with an agency, business, or other organization to provide guided experience in the field.

PSCI 499R. Senior Project/Thesis. 3 Credits. (3 Sem)
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210S, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, Senior standing and Political Science Major. Senior capstone course. Required course for graduation. Students examine the major concerns and issues in the discipline of political science in a mentored research project.

PSCI 520. Government Leadership & Ethics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: Graduate Standing. This course exposes students, using the most current theoretical and empirical literature, to the essential competencies need for ethical management and leadership roles in public and non-profit organizations.

PSCI 525. Non-Profit Management. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Odd Years. PREREQUISITE: Graduate Standing. This course provides students an introduction to the legal, social, political and structural operation of nonprofit organizations in contemporary environments. Students, through a combination of lecture, discussion, written work (essays and project reports) and, where possible, service learning opportunities, will develop both an understanding of the role and operation of nonprofit organizations, as well as a sense of the function they serve in the wider community.

PSCI 530. Tools of Public Administration. 3 Credits. (3 Lec; 6 cr max)
PREREQUISITE: Graduate Standing. This course encompasses two content areas needed for public managers: tools for human resource management and decisions and public budgeting. Topics regarding human resources include historical development of public personnel, position classification, recruitment, selection, equal opportunity, affirmative action, collective bargaining and flexible employment relationships under more limited and decentralized government. Topics regarding public budgeting include the politics of the budgeting process, budgeting forms and processes at the federal, state and local levels, and revenue projection and expenditure decisions.

PSCI 551. Research Methods for Public Administrators. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: Graduate Standing. A survey of the research process as a means of acquiring knowledge that is reliable and relevant to the making of public management decisions. Students will prepare and submit a research design that meets social scientific standards.

PSCI 552. Public Policy Processes. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITES: Graduate standing. This course explores the major theories of public policy development and implementation.

PSCI 553. Research Methods II: Data Analysis. 3 Credits. (3Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 551 Students will get an introduction to qualitative and quantitative data collection, management, and analysis techniques. This fast-paced course will prepare graduates for their research theses and professional papers.
PSCI 554. Foundations of Public Administration. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing. An introduction to the theoretical, historical, intellectual foundations of public administration and the relationship between public administration theory and practice, the political context and the intellectual heritage of the field. Examines basic functions and processes of public administration, the relationship between public administration and contemporary issues of governance facing the public sector.

PSCI 555. Human Resources Management. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate odd years. PREREQUISITE: PSCI 554 and Graduate standing. A survey of the development of the concept of 'public service' in the United States. Topics include historical development of public personnel, position classification, recruitment, selection, equal opportunity, affirmative action, collective bargaining and flexible employment relationships under more limited and decentralized government.

PSCI 558. Public Organization Dynamics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing. A survey of organization theory in governance organizations. The class explores major theories of organization and their contribution to effective organization performance.

PSCI 559. Program Evaluation. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate even years. PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing. A survey of methods of program evaluation and policy analysis for public programs. Quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis are contrasted. Implementation, utilization, and political context of the analysis and evaluation process are examined. Philosophical and ethical issues underlying alternative methods are explored.

PSCI 560. Ethics and Public Service. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Alternate even years. PREREQUISITE: PSCI 554 and Graduate standing. The course explores ethics as applied to issues in public service and policy making through theoretical and case study approaches.

PSCI 575. Directed Professional Research Project. 3-6 Credits. (3-6 Independent Study) FS
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 551 Research Methods I; and PSCI 553 Research Methods II recommended. This is an applied, hands-on course in which students will get an introduction to qualitative and quantitative data collection, management, and analysis techniques. This fast-paced course will prepare graduate students for their research theses and professional papers. Classroom sessions take place in a computer lab for active instruction and data analysis practice.

PSCI 589. Graduate Consultation. 1-3 Credits. (1 Ind; 3 cr max) ES,Su
PREREQUISITE: Master’s standing and approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. This course may be used only by students who have completed all of their course work (and thesis if on a thesis plan) but who need additional faculty support.

PSCI 591. Special Topics. 1-4 Credits. (1-4 Lec; 12 cr max) On Demand
1 - 4 cr. Maximum 12 cr. PREREQUISITE: Upper division courses and others as determined for each offering, consent of instructor. Courses not required in any curriculum for which there is a particular one time need, or given on a trial basis to determine acceptability and demand.

PSCI 592. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits. (1 Ind; 6 cr max) ES,Su On Demand
PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing, consent of instructor, approval of department head and Dean of Graduate Studies. Directed research and study on an individual basis.

PSCI 598. Internship. 3-12 Credits. (3 Ind; 12 cr max) ES,Su
An individualized pre-professional assignment arranged with an agency, business, or other organization.