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
Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Consideration of explanations and problems of democracy, growing ethnic conflict, and a more active United Nations.

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
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 & Politics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate Odd Years 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 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or Consent of Department. 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, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250; and Q-CORE course; or consent of department. 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 201, 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240; and PSCI 250; or Consent of Department. 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 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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) S
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) S
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 341. Political Parties and Elections. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate even years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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 210 and consent of instructor. While the US and the UK share a common origin and philosophical heritage, their political systems have diverged since the revolution. 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 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, and PSCI 323 or PSCI 356, or consent of department. Examines questions of knowledge, discourse, power, and identity in the works of contemporary (often "postmodern") critics, including: Foucault, Althusser, Butler, de Beauvoir, Kuhn, Rorty, Rawls, Chomsky.

PSCI 356. Classical Political Thought. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
S PREREQUISITES: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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 PCI 455 (Politics & Virtue).

PSCI 362. Natural Resource Policy. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 210IS, PSCI 240, and Junior standing. 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) F S PREREQUISITES: Students should complete the lower division political science foundation block before taking PSCI 390R. This includes PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, and PSCI 250. This course introduces students to the qualitative and quantitative research methods used in the social sciences generally and political science.

PSCI 406. The Political Economy of Energy. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
Other PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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 407. Public Policy Analysis. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Analysis of impact of public decisions with emphasis placed on secondary data sources and interpretation.

PSCI 418. The Politics of War & Peace. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S Alternate Odd Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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 210IS, 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)
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITES: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Engage in simulations on national 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 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. 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)
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Examines structure of the domestic political economy with a focus on 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)
Alternate Even Years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Engage in simulations on national 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 435. American Constitutional Law. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) F
Alternate odd years PREREQUISITE: PSCI 201, PSCI 210IS, PSCI 230D, PSCI 240, PSCI 250, or consent of department. Examines major theories of public policy development and implementation. Engage in simulations on national 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 553. Research Methods II: Data Analysis. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) 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. Organization Dynamics. 3 Credits. (3 Lec) S
PREREQUISITE: PSCI 554 and 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: PSCI 554 and 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 Ind) F, S
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) F, S, 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) F, S
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) F, S, Su
An individualized pre-professional assignment arranged with an agency, business, or other organization.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.