

# POLITICAL SCIENCE (POL)

## Course Descriptions

### **POL 101 American Politics 3 Credit Hours**

This course examines the national institutions and political processes of American government. Potential topics include: the Constitution, the Founding, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, federalism, elections, voting, public opinion, interest groups, political parties, civil rights, civil liberties, or public policy. (F, W).

### **POL 300 Political Analysis 4 Credit Hours**

Introduction to research design, data collection and analysis, sampling, and statistics for social scientists. (F,W).

### **POL 302 The Theory of the Law 4 Credit Hours**

A comprehensive introduction to the theoretical foundations and the political functions of law, with special emphasis on the different moral justifications of law; the relation between law and justice; the relation between law and freedom; due process and fairness in any legal system. This course is designed to have special relevance for those considering law as a career. (OC).

### **POL 303 Justice 4 Credit Hours**

An analysis of theories of justice. The relation between morality and political power is considered. (AY).

### **POL 304 American Political Thought 4 Credit Hours**

The principal American contributions to political theory. (OC).

### **POL 306 Political Ideologies 3 Credit Hours**

An examination of significant modern ideologies, especially liberalism, conservatism, and Marxism. (YR).

### **POL 308 Moral and Political Dilemmas 4 Credit Hours**

The course focuses on the tensions and relations between personal morality and political action by examining the moral aspect of contemporary policy issues such as the right to life, environmental policy, and discrimination. (YR).

#### **Restriction(s):**

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore

### **POL 309 Ancient Political Theory 4 Credit Hours**

An examination of seminal ancient and classical thinkers and texts such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Bible on significant themes pertaining to justice, government, religion, and philosophy. (YR).

### **POL 310 Modern Political Theory 4 Credit Hours**

The course studies the origins of modern political theory and practice, and the development of "modern" democratic liberalism. (YR).

### **POL 311 Int Group and Pol Process 4 Credit Hours**

An examination of the structure, techniques, and internal politics of interest groups, their role in policy making and relationship with political parties, legislative and executive bodies, and administrative agencies. (AY).

### **POL 312 Legislative Process 4 Credit Hours**

We explore deeply the roles, structures, and operations of governmental legislative bodies. While focusing on the U.S. Congress, we also consider state, local, and international examples. Our overarching goal is to understand how these bodies and their members affect policymaking and represent societal interests. (W, YR).

### **POL 313 American State Government 4 Credit Hours**

A comparative analysis of politics, political processes, and governmental institutions in American state and local governments. (AY, W).

### **POL 314 Issues in Amer Pol Thought 4 Credit Hours**

Fundamental and recurring issues in American political thought, as they appear in the most influential and representative works on public affairs since the end of the Civil War. Topics may include Social Darwinism and its progressive critics, "revisionist" critiques of the Constitution, political aspects of philosophic pragmatism, the "revolt against formalism" in law, political doctrines of Progressivism and the New Deal, mid-century changes in progressive liberalism, the revival of classical liberalism and its "fusion" with traditional conservatism, political-philosophical aspects of environmentalism, the political thought of the civil rights movement and its critics, feminism and its diversification, and the capacities of American political culture and institutions to conduct a sustained opposition to terrorism. The course concentrates on analyzing extended works of reasoning in books, essays, judicial opinions and other public documents. POL 304, American Political Thought, is recommended as a forerunner to this course.

#### **Restriction(s):**

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

### **POL 315 The American Presidency 4 Credit Hours**

The course examines the expansion of presidential powers, focusing on the constitutional and political development in the president's role as chief executive, legislative leader, and administrative head of state. Topics include: separation of powers, presidential selection, impeachment, relations with Congress and bureaucracy, emergency powers, presidential character, and leadership. (YR).

### **POL 316 The American Judicial Process 4 Credit Hours**

An analysis of American legal institutions, processes and doctrines, and their relationship to the formulation of public policy and the solution of social problems. (AY).

### **POL 322 Michigan Government, Politics, & Public Policy 4 Credit Hours**

We will use contemporary policy debates in Michigan as a lens for understanding the institutions, processes, and individuals driving Michigan government and politics. We will examine both the formal structural dimensions of Michigan government and the informal environmental elements affecting how those structural elements function. (YR).

### **POL 323 Urban Politics 4 Credit Hours**

A survey of the political process in urban areas giving special attention to the changing role of cities in American politics. (YR).

### **POL 325 Environmental Politics 4 Credit Hours**

An examination of policy making about problems affecting the environment, at a global, national, and local scale. (AY).

### **POL 327 Pol Parties and Elections 4 Credit Hours**

A basic survey of American political party organization and the American election system. The course sometimes includes an examination of parties and elections in comparative perspective. (YR).

### **POL 328 Pub Opinion and Press Groups 4 Credit Hours**

A study of the nature and formation of public opinion, the techniques for its measurement, and its role in the political system. (AY).

### **POL 329 Politics and the Media 4 Credit Hours**

This course investigates the relationships between the news media and our major political institutions; the structure of the modern media; their influence on public opinion; their effects on our party and electoral system; their role in defining political reality and agenda setting; and their influence upon our political institutions and the policy-making process. (YR).

**POL 334 Organizing and Advocacy 4 Credit Hours**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the theory and practice of local democratic action. The course draws on the history, practices, and lessons of the American community organizing tradition and the civil rights movement and relates those past experiences to current issues. In collaboration with local community partners, students learn about effective methods of civic engagement and leadership, as currently practiced in metropolitan Detroit. (YR).

**POL 350 Pol of the Developing Areas 4 Credit Hours**

A comparative study of political development, political and governmental structures, and conflict patterns, especially of an ethnic nature. (AY).

**POL 355 Religion and Politics 3 Credit Hours**

The primary focus of the course is on political movements or systems that take a religious form or have a religious base or use a religiously-rooted ideology. Possible themes or cases covered include the Catholic Church as a political system, Evangelical politics in America, religious uprisings, and Islamic political movements. (AY).

**POL 360 American Policy Process 4 Credit Hours**

Using real-world examples and the insights of experts in the field, this course explores how public policy is made in the federal government. We will examine deeply the interaction of people, institutions, rules, and contextual variables that determine what policies are enacted and how. We will seek to understand the complex, often maddening, process of decision-making in the federal government and the policies that result from it. (YR).

**POL 361 American Foreign Policy 4 Credit Hours**

Survey of American foreign policy in various regions of the world. Instances of policy making, such as the Cuban missile crisis, are explored in detail. (OC).

**POL 362 Women, Politics, and the Law 4 Credit Hours**

An examination of the political behavior of women in American politics. Included is an analysis of the legal and legislative demands of American women. (F).

**POL 365 Energy Policy 4 Credit Hours**

The course reviews the important elements in energy policy and a brief history of that development. It also considers what factors have been important in those developments. Finally, there is discussion of the potential for policy developments at all levels of government. (OC).

**POL 371 Problems in Intl Politics 4 Credit Hours**

Present-day problems in world politics, with particular emphasis on the great powers and on areas and events of political conflict in the contemporary world. (YR).

**POL 375 Great Pwrs Comp and Conflict 4 Credit Hours**

This course focuses on the foreign policies of major international powers, such as China, Russia, and the Western European democracies. Attention is also paid to the causes of the rise and decline of major powers. (OC, YR).

**POL 381 Democracy and Wellbeing 4 Credit Hours**

This course provides an overview of democracies around the world, their many variations and institutions, and their relationship(s) with multiple dimensions of wellbeing, in both theory and practice. (AY).

**POL 385 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 4 Credit Hours**

The course focuses on the Israeli-Palestine conflict in its domestic, regional, and world-wide dimensions. (W, YR).

**POL 390 Topics in Political Science 3 Credit Hours**

Examination of problems and issues in selected areas of political science. Title as listed in Schedule of Classes will change according to content. Course may be repeated for credit when specific topics differ. (OC).

**POL 390J Topics in Political Science 3 Credit Hours**

Topic: Freedom of Religion in America. This course is designed to explore a variety of historical and contemporary issues dealing with freedom of religion as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. Special attention will be given to the landmark decisions of the Supreme Court interpreting the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment and the legal and political controversies raised by these decisions. The course is designed to lead to a greater understanding of the symbiotic relationship between religion and politics, the importance of religious liberty to democracy, and the inevitable tensions between religious groups, and between church and state in a free society.

**Prerequisite(s):** HIST 365

**POL 398 Independent Studies 1 to 4 Credit Hours**

Readings or analytical assignments in Political Science in accordance with the needs and interests of those enrolled and agreed upon by the student and instructor.

**POL 399 Independent Study 1 Credit Hour**

readings or analytical assignments in political sciences in accordance with the interests and needs of students enrolled and agreed upon by the instructor and student. Written permission of instructor required.

**POL 413 American Constitutional Law 4 Credit Hours**

A major theme of this course is the development of the Constitution as shaped by the Supreme Court, Congress, and the president. The course examines the constitutional interpretation of government authority which includes such topics as judicial review, appointments, executive privilege, war power, federalism, commerce power, taxing and spending power, and substantive due process. (AY).

**Restriction(s):**

Cannot enroll if Class is

**POL 414 Civil Rights and Liberties 4 Credit Hours**

An analysis of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, with particular emphasis upon recent landmark or controversial Supreme Court decisions dealing with freedom of speech and religion, rights of criminal defendants; cruel and unusual punishment, right to privacy; civil rights and equal protection clause; and apportionment. (YR).

**Restriction(s):**

Can enroll if Class is Junior or Senior

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

**POL 417 Constitution&National Security 4 Credit Hours**

This course focuses on the issue of national security and how the federal government has used power to protect its citizens. It analyzes relevant national security issues in order to understand how government action is constrained by the Constitution and social norms. The course examines the historical development of national security in the United States including habeas corpus, wiretapping, military tribunals, state secrets, and extraordinary rendition. Particular close attention is paid to the modern development of national security. The emphasis in reading will be on cases, executive orders, congressional hearings, and statutes. For graduate credit elect POL 517.

**Restriction(s):**

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore

**POL 445 Environmental Law 3 Credit Hours**

A survey of common law theories and analysis of environmental statutes from a functional perspective. The course also includes environmental law aspects of constitutional law, administrative law and criminal law, as well as the public trust doctrine and public lands. Student cannot receive credit for both ENST 350 and ENST/POL 445.

**POL 450 Revolution 4 Credit Hours**

A consideration of violent political change and the conditions which promote it. The course covers both revolutionary theories and empirical research. Specific revolutions are considered. (OC).

**Restriction(s):**

Cannot enroll if Class is

**POL 466 Politics&Policies Soc Welfare 4 Credit Hours**

The course examines the relationship between politics and public policy as related to the provision of social welfare programs in the United States. (YR).

**Restriction(s):**

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman

**POL 467 Food Politics and Policy 4 Credit Hours**

How do politics affect our food at the global, national and urban/local scale? This course examines close historical relationships between politics and food; the politics of conventional agriculture and food policy; and alternative agriculture movements and food systems, with a particular emphasis on urban food policy and urban food systems.

**POL 484 Revitalizing Cities 4 Credit Hours**

What have we done to address decline in city neighborhoods and downtowns? Why? How has it worked? Why? What's the hope for the future? This course uses a public policy lens to engage students in a quest for answers to these questions. (YR)

**POL 487 Comparative Environmental Policy 4 Credit Hours**

This course explores environmental policy decisions around the world, applying major comparative politics frameworks to understand similarities and differences across countries and governments. POL 101 is recommended before taking this course.

**Restriction(s):**

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore

**POL 491 Seminar in Political Science 4 Credit Hours**

Selected topics in political science. Title as listed in Schedule of Classes changes according to content. Course may be repeated for credit when topics differ. (OC).

**POL 4910 Capstone in Political Science 4 Credit Hours**

This course provides students with a culminating and integrative experience within political science. In particular, it is designed to ensure students discuss, critically evaluate, and actively engage with important issues and questions within the discipline. Students will be required to design and carry out significant research project(s).

**Restriction(s):**

Can enroll if Class is Junior or Senior

**POL 495 Politics, Policy and Law Internship 4 Credit Hours**

Field study placements in national, state, county, local government or private agencies. For the academic part of the internship, students keep journals, prepare papers and reports, and do other written work. Primarily for junior or senior political science concentrators or other qualified applicants. (YR).

**POL 496 Canada Internship 3 to 4 Credit Hours**

The course is primarily for rising junior or rising senior students with interests in political science or international relations, but students from a variety of majors are welcome.

**POL 497 Washington, D.C. Internship 3 to 6 Credit Hours**

Field placements in Washington, D.C. Course is offered only in summer semester. Primarily for junior or senior political science concentrators or other qualified applicants. Only six hours of internship credit is allowed toward concentration requirement.

**POL 498 Directed Studies 1 to 6 Credit Hours**

Directed individual study of any subject agreed upon by the student and the instructor. May not duplicate a formal course offering. (OC).

**POL 499 Directed Studies 1 to 6 Credit Hours**

Directed individual study of any subjects agreed upon by the student and the advising instructor, which shall not duplicate a formal course offering.

\*An asterisk denotes that a course may be taken concurrently.

**Frequency of Offering**

The following abbreviations are used to denote the frequency of offering: (F) fall term; (W) winter term; (S) summer term; (F, W) fall and winter terms; (YR) once a year; (AY) alternating years; (OC) offered occasionally