

POLITICS (POL)

POL-225 American Politics (4 credits)

The student examines the American national government from the perspective of the allocation of resources in society. She analyzes the political interrelationships of public and private institutions, interest groups, elected and appointed officials, and citizens. In addition, she studies the U.S. Constitution and the major ideological perspectives in American politics today.

Prerequisite(s): SSC-101 or PSY-110 or PED-150 completed.

POL-301 Social Theory (4 credits)

The student refines her own social philosophy by analyzing the ideas set forth by social theorists and critics. She compares different interpretations of social phenomena by examining their historical context, basic assumptions and interpretations, and societal implications.

Prerequisite(s): CM-225 or Communications Level 3 ICM completed., POL-225 completed or concurrent.

POL-330 United Nations & the World (4 credits)

Offered Fall term only. The student prepares for participation in a regional Model United Nations by learning about international issues and the role of international organizations. She learns conceptual tools in the analysis of the international system and becomes familiar with the capabilities and limitations of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in managing global challenges.

Prerequisite(s): For Sociology, Global Studies or Politics majors/supports: CLD-220 or SOC-220 or POL-225 or GLS-200 completed. For other majors/supports: Eff Citizenship Lev 3, Dev a Global Perspective Lev 3, Social Interaction Lev 3 and Comm Lev 3 ICM completed or permission of the instructor. Other majors need to contact the Registrar to register for this course. Offered Fall term only. Must attend simulation in Chicago Nov 17-20

POL-341 Geographic Information Systems (2 credits)

This hands-on course in which students are given beginning-level opportunities to process, analyze and visualize spatial data and information using commercially-available GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software. In the process, they are introduced to the principles of GIS and its usefulness as an analytical tool and as an effective communication technique in addressing global, environmental and social science questions. The course also explores ethical issues pertaining to confidentiality and privacy when gathering and using GIS data.

Prerequisite(s): WDC: SSC-101 and 2 courses from Natural Science/Math General Education requirements completed. WEC: LA 283 & LA 284 completed.

POL-342 American Political Behavior: Elections (4 credits)

Offered Fall Term only. Students will examine elections in the United States. Special emphasis will be placed on the 2008 Presidential election and the 2010 Congressional elections. Students will also study the roles that women play in elections, both as voters and as candidates. At the end of the course, we will attempt to forecast the 2012 Presidential election as well as we can.

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 completed.

POL-350 Topics in Political Science (4 credits)

The POL-350 Topics Course will be an upper-level course on domestic, international and global political topics and issues. As a Topics Course, it will allow the Political Science Program flexibility in offering a range of courses on various topics within the broad category of political science. Some courses might focus on the domestic American politics, on international political topics, and on global political topics that are not principally oriented around nation-states. As illustration, some potential courses could include: Domestic American Politics; African American Politics & Congress and the Presidency International Politics; American Foreign Policy and American Wars Since 1945 Global Politics Outside the Nation-State Paradigm; The Politics of Globalization and The Environment and Globalization

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 or LA 282 or HS-211 or HS-212 or HS-251 completed.

POL-351 Law & Society (4 credits)

In this course you will analyze the nature of law as a social institution: a complex array of roles, rules, and sets of interactive relationships established to provide the basic human need of societal regulation. All societies have had some type of law, in the form of traditions handed down and/or codified into documents, because all societies need some system for defining folkways and mores, what is right and wrong conduct and thought, teaching people those norms, and sanctioning those who disobey them. Law is also a carrier of deep cultural values: ideas about the true, good and beautiful that become criteria for making judgments about what is right and wrong. So law is often about past tradition and carrying on a heritage. But sometimes law makers -- influenced by various ideas, opinions, and interest groups -- can change a society's direction by setting out new values and norms for people to live by, setting new precedents to be enforced by the power of the government.

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 completed or permission of instructor.

POL-390 Political Practicum (1 credit)

The student participates in an off-campus political activity in which she works collaboratively with others to achieve a goal. Examples include working in a political campaign, participating in lobbying activities, or working with a community-based organization to effect change.

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 completed.

POL-397 Independent Study (3 credits)

The student wishing to pursue a special project in political science can do so in this course. She is expected to develop whatever abilities are required for the project, as determined by mutual agreement with her mentor. The student should consult with the instructor for specific information.

POL-398 Community, Power & Change (3 credits)

Offered Fall Term only This course examines the fundamentals of political power and ways in which it is exercised on local and state levels. The course also covers the unique character of democratic government in the United States and the role of women in politics, as well as networking with stakeholders, lobbying, and budgeting. In the process of learning about all these aspects of politics, the student forms a solid foundation for understanding ways in which individuals and groups can effect change through political action.

Prerequisite(s): CLD-220 completed

POL-399 Formal Introduction to Advanced Work (0 credits)

The Advanced-Level Event marks a significant accomplishment for each student as she proceeds into the work of her major department. When a department determines that a student is ready for advanced work within a discipline, the student is invited to participate in a ceremony that is both a celebration and an explanation of future requirements of the major and support areas. She registers for this experience at a point determined by her major department: for most majors the registration is connected to the taking of a particular course. Students and faculty gather for an afternoon during Mid-semester Assessment Days. Following a general program, students meet in departmental sessions with their faculty to discuss advanced outcomes, department courses, advising procedures, and so on.

Prerequisite(s): POL-225 completed or concurrent registration.

POL-410 Comparative Politics (4 credits)

The student uses comparative frameworks to study and compare political subjects and social policies from a variety of countries. She takes part in class discussions about the political systems and policies of major countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America.

Prerequisite(s): One 300-level course from HUM, GLS, POL or SOC completed.

POL-412 Community Development (4 credits)

Offered Fall term only. In this course, the student applies demographic, geographical, sociological, political, and economic frameworks to analyze local communities and the problems their residents confront. She learns to identify the resources community residents need to sustain their neighborhoods and to analyze community structures that control those resources. She becomes familiar with the role of for-profit, nonprofit, and governmental organizations in producing community change. She learns techniques of strategic planning to help communities effectively adapt.

Prerequisite(s): BSC-255 & POL-225 completed. Offered Fall term only.

POL-483 Advanced Internship (2 credits)

Advanced Internship

Prerequisite(s): Additional information: Contact your Advisor to register for this advanced internship.

POL-491 Advanced Seminar in Political Science (2 credits)

In this course, students in the disciplines of community leadership and development, political science, and sociology meet together. Each student synthesizes the abilities and knowledge she has acquired through disciplinary courses. She demonstrates advanced-level outcomes by independently analyzing issues within her particular discipline.

Prerequisite(s): POL-301 completed. Communication Level 4 ICM completed. Course offered spring terms only

POL-497 Independent Study (4 credits)

The student wishing to pursue a special project in political science can do so in this course. She is expected to develop whatever abilities are required for the project, as determined by mutual agreement with her mentor. The student should consult with the instructor for specific information.