

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES OF STUDY

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 101.AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

This course provides an introductory study of major topics in American politics including political parties, elections, and public opinion. The course includes instruction on the institutions of the U.S. government and documents critical to the American experience. (General Education – Behavioral and Social Perspectives). *Three credit hours.*

POLS 101R.AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

This course provides an introductory study of major topics in American politics including political parties, elections, and public opinion. The course includes instruction on the institutions of the U.S. government and documents critical to the American experience, including (but not limited to) the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, five essays in The Federalist Papers, the Emancipation Proclamation, and one document foundational to the African American experience. This course is in compliance with the REACH Act (S.C. Act 26 of 2021). (General Education – Founding Documents of the United States and Behavioral and Social Perspectives). *Three credit hours.*

POLS 103.INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS

This course is an introduction to contemporary world politics through examination of selected major topics such as globalization, clashes within and across civilizations, nationalism, the North-South gaps, and environmental and human rights issues. A cultural framework is used to explore the impact of power differentials as they relate to practices, beliefs, histories, traditions, and/or lived experiences around the world. This course enables students to interpret current world events and prepares students for upper-level courses in comparative politics and international relations. (General Education – World Cultures and Behavioral and Social Perspectives) *Three credit hours.*

POLS 200.INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Introduction to the study of political science, including an examination of key concepts in the discipline, methods, and approaches to research in the various subfields, and skills and techniques of importance to the political science student. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 217.INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

This course is an introduction to government bureaucracy and an overview of the study of public administration. Case studies will examine the relationship between politics and administration and comparisons between public and private (business) administration. Special focus is on bureaucratic structures, public personnel management, communications, leadership, budgeting, and policy. Prerequisite: “C” or better in POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 221.UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

In this course students engage in a faculty-directed research project or assist with faculty research. This course may be repeated for additional credit as the topic of the research project changes. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. Graded pass/fail. *One credit hour.*

POLS 250.INTRODUCTION TO HOMELAND SECURITY

This course is an introduction to the various dimensions and definitions of homeland security, its concepts, and local, state, and national-level governmental institutions. Emergency preparedness and mitigation are covered as part of efforts to align preparedness, incident management, and response plans from governmental and non-governmental actors responding to man-made and natural disasters. (General Education – Behavioral and Social Perspectives) *Three credit hours.*

POLS 260.BRITISH POLITICS AND CULTURE

This course is an introduction to British politics and culture. The course will introduce politics and British culture by focusing on the British system of government, political institutions, and political behavior informed by British history and the United Kingdom’s role in shaping the globalized world. The course also explores Britain’s position and relationship with global institutions and other countries. (General Education – World Cultures). *Three credit hours.*

POLS 271.TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Exploration of topics and issues not currently included in the political science curriculum. This course is designed as an in-depth study of topics of political interest. May be taken for additional credit as topic changes. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. *One to three credit hours.*

POLS 302.POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

This course examines the political behavior of the general public. Topics include elections, voter choice, voter turnout, and activist recruitment. Prerequisites: "C" or better in POLS 101 and sophomore status or above, or instructor permission. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 303.INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This course helps students develop the ability to analyze and evaluate the actions of states and non-state actors in contemporary world affairs through comparison of Western and Non-Western societies. It addresses questions of why nations go to war and how they make peace and showcases cultural explanations from theories of international relations. The course explores the impact of power differentials in the relationships between states as they relate to practices, beliefs, traditions and histories and examines challenges to the state-centric systems such as terrorism, politicized religion, imperialism, and ideology. Prerequisites: ENGL 102 and any three-hour Behavioral and Social Perspectives general education course. Junior/Senior status recommended. (General Education –World Cultures). *Three credit hours.*

POLS 305.EUROPEAN POLITICS

This comparative politics course focuses on the diverse peoples, cultures, and governmental systems of Europe. Special attention is given to the history and processes of European integration, the role of Europe in the world, and transatlantic relations. This course enables students to make sense of the current European experience. Prerequisites: ENGL 102 and any three-hour Behavioral and Social Perspectives general education course. Junior/senior status recommended. (General Education –World Cultures) *Three credit hours.*

POLS 307.PUBLIC OPINION

The course examines public opinion in the context of American politics. Topics include the formation, structure, and measurement of public opinion; the levels of stability and change in public opinion; and the relationship between public opinion and democracy. Special attention is devoted to some of the factors influencing public opinion such as party identification, ideology, political socialization, psychological dispositions, and political knowledge. The course will help students gain an appreciation for the multifaceted nature of public opinion and its importance in the American political system. Prerequisites: "C" or better in POLS 101 and sophomore status or above, or instructor permission. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 308.LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

This course examines various approaches to the law, including philosophical, sociological, political, and historical. Topics include elements of legal reasoning, institutions, functions of the law, and the effects of the law in American society. Prerequisite or co-requisite: POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 311.CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

This course is a study of American federalism, political power of the judicial branch, judicial review, and limitations on the power of the courts. Special emphasis is given to the Supreme Court of the United States. Cross-listed with LEG 311. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 312.CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

This course provides a study of rights guaranteed to American citizens under the Constitution of the United States. This course focuses on court decisions which interpret and protect individual rights and freedoms. Cross-listed with LEG 312. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 313.JUDICIAL PROCESS

This course will focus on the operation and workings of the courts and the people involved in or behind them, thereby analyzing the courts not just as formal institutions that are affected by an outside world of politics, but as major and integral parts of state and national politics. Cross-listed with LEG 313. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 318.PUBLIC BUDGETING

This course focuses on the key steps in the development of state and local government budgets. This course will examine the budget process, identify the primary actors, their roles in the budget process, and their ability to influence the budget outcome. Budget concepts will be examined to include line-item budgets, zero based budgets, performance budgets, and capital budgets. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 101, or instructor permission. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 325.INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND TERRORISM

This course focuses on conflict in world politics, specifically the study of war, the use of force, and terrorism. Topics include both interstate wars and civil wars as well as military transformations related to technology, weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), political violence, ethnic conflicts, and humanitarian disasters. The course also examines the modern science and technology of nuclear weapons since 1945. Junior/senior status recommended. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 331.POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

This course focuses upon the origin and development of the key concepts which have molded our modern world by using original works of political philosophy, covering theorists as diverse as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Descartes, Hobbes, Rousseau, Mill, Foucault, Arendt, and Marcuse. Each course offering will have some variation with respect to these and other authors. The goals of this course are: (1) to improve the student's own analytic-philosophical reasoning; (2) to gain a solid foundation of these key thinkers; and (3) to apply their concepts to the "modern" world. Sophomore status or above is recommended. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 350.POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Political psychology examines the interaction between politics and psychology to understand various phenomena in the political world. The course focuses on how psychological processes influence the political behaviors and attitudes of individuals, groups, leaders, and the masses. Some of the commonly examined topics of the course include the roles of personality in politics, the processing of political information, individual and group decision making processes, intergroup conflict (based on factors such as ethnicity, race, nationalism, and religion), and collective violence. Prerequisites: POLS 101 or POLS 103 or POLS 200 and sophomore status or above, or instructor permission. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 360.CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY

This course examines the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government. The constitutional and political powers of Congress and the president are addressed as well as their interaction in the policymaking process. Prerequisites: "C" or better in POLS 101 and sophomore status or above, or instructor permission. *Three credit hours*

POLS 361.TOPICS IN WORLD CULTURES

This course explores the diversity of human experience in politics with focus on politically oriented issues of interest either globally or specifically within the non-western world in contemporary world affairs. The course deepens the student's ability to analyze and evaluate the leading issues within specific cultural contexts and explores the impact of power differentials in the relationships between states as they relate to practices, beliefs, histories, traditions, and/or lived experiences of select societies. Prerequisite: ENGL 102. Junior/Senior status recommended. (General Education –World Cultures) *Three credit hours.*

POLS 366. INTERNATIONAL LAW

This course looks at the historical evolution, development, and functions of international law. It explores how Western culture created the foundations of international law and illustrates how today's diversity of human experience contributes to controversies in international law, particularly in issues and conceptions of justice and human rights. The course will showcase how law emerges from specific religious and cultural traditions that connect with the history and politics of societies. Students will gain the tools to analyze international law and explore the impact of power differentials between states as they relate to practices, beliefs, histories, traditions, and/or lived experiences of select societies around the world. Junior/Senior status recommended. Cross-listed with LEG 366. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 371.SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

This is a special theme course that may include experimental and interdisciplinary courses, special trips, and research topics. Sophomore status or above is recommended. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. *One to three credit hours.*

POLS 379.EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This course examines emergency management and preparedness for disaster mitigation, planning, response, and recovery. The course will address disaster risks, threats, and hazards. It covers intergovernmental relations as part of efforts to integrate and coordinate actions by governmental actors at the national, state, and local level, but also discusses ties to non-profit organizations and the private sector. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 386.STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Study of state and local governments in the United States, with a focus on South Carolina. Topics on state government include state political culture, institutions, and bureaucratic structures. Topics on local government include local government structures, functions, and roles. Special focus will be given to the topics of federalism and intergovernmental relations within the American federal system. Prerequisite: POLS 101. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 390.THE POLITICS OF GLOBALIZATION

This course examines the politics of globalization and the development and management of the contemporary global economy. Topics, such as foreign aid, poverty, and the globalization of the American South, will be selected to analyze the interaction between international politics and international economics. The course deepens the student's ability to analyze and evaluate how globalization shapes and informs the leading issues in contemporary world affairs. The course also explores how globalization impacts the power differentials in the political and economic relationships between states and non-state actors as they relate to practices, beliefs, histories, traditions, and/or lived experiences of select societies around the world. Junior/senior status recommended. Cross-listed with INTL 390. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 103. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 391.HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY

This course surveys the processes and legal issues involved in homeland security policy. It examines the evolution and evaluation of homeland security policy in the United States. Policy areas may include counterterrorism/anti-terrorism, emergency management, border security, and cybersecurity. Prerequisites: POLS 250 with a "C" or better; sophomore status, or instructor permission. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 407, 408, 409.RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

These courses involve students engaging in a student-directed research project on a topic of political interest and are offered on demand to qualified students. Students may count a maximum of three credit hours of Research in Political Science (POLS 407, POLS 408, or POLS 409) toward major requirements. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. *One to three credit hours.*

POLS 445.AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

This course involves description and analysis of American foreign policy. The primary focus is upon how foreign policy is made, including the roles of the president, executive departments, Congress, intelligence community, public opinion, and the media. The course includes coverage of diplomatic, military, and foreign economic policy tools, and encourages evaluation of America's role in the world. Junior/senior status recommended. Prerequisite: "C" or better in POLS 103. *Three credit hours.*

POLS 499.CAPSTONE SENIOR SEMINAR

This course provides an opportunity for majors in political science to synthesize the knowledge they have learned as a political science major, examine the role of political science and political scientists in society today, and learn strategies for putting a political science degree to work in a post-collegiate context. Prerequisite: Successful completion of 15 hours of POLS courses and instructor permission. *Three credit hours.*