Political Science

PSC 101 Intro Pol Sci - Honors - H 3 cr
This course offers an overview of government including its structures and systems; and of the political actors who shape government, including citizens, groups, and elites. The course canvasses U.S government; comparatives politics; international relations, and more.

PSC 130 Intro to US Government 3 cr
Stresses formation and principles of the United States Constitution and roles of Congress, the President, and the Courts in the American system of government. Considers popular participation in politics, rights and responsibilities of citizens, and current public problems. Core Course. PSC and CJ majors must pass with a "C" or better.

PSC 250 Comparative Politics 3 cr
This course examines government systems across the globe, including both democracies and authoritarian systems. It analyzes strategic interactions between political actors in a diverse set of contexts, as well as the key theories that helps us to understand politics.

PSC 270 International Relations 3 cr
This introductory course in the theory and practice of International Relations includes topics such as IR’s importance and principal actors, as well as causes of conflict and war, conflict resolutions, international law, globalization, global events, issues, and problems.

PSC 301 Public Policy 3 cr
This course provides an overview of policy and the policymaking process in the United States. Topics include what issues rise to the public agenda; how politicians, groups, and citizens shape and implement policy; and how political scientists can analyze public policy. Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 310 Research Methods-W 3 cr
This course examines research methodologies in the social sciences, covering the tools and techniques for designing and conducting research, including collecting and analyzing data, and presenting findings. (Cross-listed as CJ 310.) Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C) and (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 311 Classical Political Thought 3 cr
The course examines the central themes of classical Western political philosophy through the reading and discussing of the primary works of such thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, and Aquinas. (Cross-listed as PHL 311 and CLA 311) Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 312 Renaissance Political Thought 3 cr
The course examines central themes of Renaissance and modern Western political philosophy through the reading and discussing of the primary works of such thinkers as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau. (Cross-listed as PHL 312)
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 313 Modern Political Thought-W 3 cr
The course examines central themes of modern Western political philosophy through the reading and discussing of the primary works of such thinkers as Hegel, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche. (Cross-listed as PHL 313).
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 330 Judicial Process 3 cr
The study of the U.S. judicial process at both federal and state court levels. (Cross-listed as CJ 330) Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 331 Constitutional Law 3 cr
The study of the principles of constitutional powers and liberties examined through an analysis of decisions and opinions by the U.S. Supreme Court. (Cross-listed as CJ 331) Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 340 Race, Gender, & Politics 3 cr
This course is designed to provide students with a critical examination of race and gender in the political system. From the founding to the present, politics and government reflect ideological judgments about who gets what, when, and how. As such, government has legitimized only certain individuals as political actors, certain identities as politically relevant, certain relationships as important, and certain practices as the means by which one might change political status. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or above.

PSC 345 Women and Politics 3 cr
The central premise of this course is that politics cannot be fully understood without including gender as an analytical construct. From the founding to the present, politics and government reflect ideological judgments about who gets what, when and how. As such, government has legitimized only certain individuals as political actors and certain identities as politically relevant. This course sets out to discover how gender “matters” in U.S. politics.

PSC 347 Public Opinion and Polit Part 3 cr
The formation, composition, distribution, and measurement of public opinions and its effect upon public policy.
PSC 354 Media and Politics 3 cr
Examining the role and influence of mass media in politics, exploring how and why the media contribute to and shape democracy.
Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or CA 100 Minimum Grade of C or CA 101 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 360 Politics of Europe 3 cr
The course provides an overview of the political systems, institution, public policies, and actors in European Politics. Countries covered may include Germany, France, Great Britain, and Russia.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 363 Crime and Politics in LatinAm 3 cr
An examination of the violent crime epidemic affecting many parts of Latin America, with specific focus on the themes of democratic transition, political economy, and foreign relations with the United States. Same as CJ 363 and IS 363.
Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 or CJ 105 or IS 100).

PSC 365 Politics of the Middle East-W 3 cr
The course introduces to the Middle East. Besides a timeline of Middle Eastern history and a brief profile of the Middle Eastern countries, the course focuses on the political histories and current politics of a select influential Middle Eastern countries.
Pre-requisite: (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C) and (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 368 Politics of South Asia-W 3 cr
This course introduces and explains the importance of South Asia. While briefly profiling all South Asian countries, the course focuses on the political leaders, history, current politics, and sociocultural environments of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.
Pre-requisite: (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C) and (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 372 American Foreign Policy 3 cr
This course examines the political development and theories of U.S. foreign policy, from the Cold War to the present. Topics include power, nationalism; trade; defense; security and terrorism; and challenges in today's global society.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 270 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 390 Special Topics - 3 cr
Study of a significant topic or problem in political science. May be repeated up to two times when content varies.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 401 Public Administration 3 cr
The study of the implementation of public policy at the national, state, and local levels, and the study of the planning, organization and coordination of government operations.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 411 Criminal Justice Admin 3 cr
This course applies management and organization theories to a broad range of criminal justice institutions, actors, and agencies—including police, courts, and corrections, treatment centers, drug traffickers, and homeland security. (Cross-listed as CJ 411)
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 418 American Political Thought 3 cr
The course examines the central themes, issues, and evolution of American political thought, including how we understand our role and responsibilities in contemporary democracy. (Cross-listed as PHL 418)
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 432 State and Local Government 3 cr
An overview of U.S. state and local government systems, including an analysis of the politics, public policy, and administration within the U.S. states and localities.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 436 Politics of Urban Govt 3 cr
A study of urban growth with an analysis of the major problems facing large cities in this country. Political, administrative, social, and economic aspects will be covered.

PSC 437 US Congress and Policymaking 3 cr
An inside view of the U.S. Congress centered on the process for passing laws and policymaking, including an examination of influential legislation.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 438 US Presidency 3 cr
A study of the U.S. presidency covering the political development and organization of the office; executive powers and responsibilities; elections and campaigns; and presidential communication.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 440 Adv Studies in Pub Policy 3 cr
Advanced study in the field of public policy.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 450 Adv Study Comparative Pol 3 cr
Advanced study in the field of comparative politics.
Pre-requisite: PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.
PSC 452  Politics of the Muslim World  3 cr
This course introduces students to the Muslim World. Subjects covered will include Islam, Islamic civilization, Islamism, and a timeline of Muslim political history. It also profiles the most influential Muslim countries, Islamists, and Islamic organizations.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 453  Campaign and Election Comm.  3 cr
Focuses on political communication in the context of U.S. campaigns and elections. Same as CA 453.
Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 or CA 100 or CA 101).

PSC 456  Social Media and Politics  3 cr
An examination of how and why digital information technologies are used by citizens, activists, journalists, and politicians to shape and influence individual's political participation and engagement and public policy and society.
Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 or CA 100 or CA 101).

PSC 469  Criminal Justice Policies  3 cr
This course examines how public policy has shaped both the criminal justice system and its results, with particular emphasis on crime control.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 or PSC 130.

PSC 470  Adv Study Intl Relations  3 cr
Advanced study in the field of international relations.
Pre-requisite: PSC 270 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 481  Public Policy and Aging  3 cr
This course examines government responses to the growing number of older Americans. Topics include retirement and pensions, health care, housing, social services, intergenerational issues, and policy advocacy for the elderly.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 489  Leadership and World Leaders  3 cr
An overview of the definitions, characteristics, and typologies of leadership, with a focus on lives and legacies of global influential political leaders over the past century.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 490  Special Topics  3 cr
Study of a significant topic or problem in political science. May be repeated up to two times when the content varies.
Pre-requisite: PSC C Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 491  Seminar on Terrorism  3 cr
This course will introduce students to the meaning, characteristics, typology, history, and causes of terrorism. The course will also summarize the biographies of the most prominent terrorists, past and present, and conclude, with a discussion of counter-terrorism strategies. Cross-listed with IS 491.
Pre-requisite: EH 101 Minimum Grade of C and EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 492  PSC Capstone Seminar-W  3 cr
The Capstone course brings together key components from across political science. As part of the course, students will write a research paper, present their research, and take a comprehensive exam. PSC majors must earn a grade of C or better for graduation.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C and PSC 250 Minimum Grade of C and PSC 270 Minimum Grade of D and (PSC 310 Minimum Grade of D or CJ 310 Minimum Grade of D) and (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).

PSC 494  Directed Studies  1 TO 3 cr
Students will pursue directed research or readings on an approved topic in political science.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 496  Internship  3 cr
An opportunity to gain experiential learning through a supervised internship offered by a variety of political science and government related agencies.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 499  Honors Thesis - W  3 TO 6 cr
The research and writing of a major paper in the field of political science. Registration is open to political science majors in the Honors College or those pursuing Department Honors.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 500  Pub Admin-Org Theory Pub Mgmt  3 cr
A review and examination of the several principal, traditional, and contemporary theories of organization, policy, and administration. Field problems and case studies are stressed.

PSC 501  Public Administration  3 cr
The study of the implementation of public policy at the national, state and local levels, and the study of the planning, organization, and coordination of government operations.
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 510  Intergov-Interorg Relations  3 cr
A review of the political, fiscal, and administrative relationships between various levels of government in America. In addition, the emerging nexus to 3d sector non-profit organization will be examined.

PSC 511  Crim. Justice Admin.  3 cr
This course applies classical and modern management and organization theories to a broad range of institutions, actors, and agencies, including police, courts, and corrections, as well as drug traffickers, sexual offender treatment centers, and homeland security agencies.
PSC 520 Research Methods and Design 3 cr
Social science research methodologies will be used to help students develop skills for policy analysis and decision making in the public service. Stresses the understanding of research methods and data collection in a Public Administration setting. Theoretical development and elaboration, and an overview of the variety of research designs used in social science research will be included.

PSC 530 Quantitative Analysis 3 cr
Focus is on application of statistical analysis techniques to Public Administration problems and issues. Computer analysis and interpretation of descriptive statistics will be emphasized. Topics will include fundamentals of probability, sampling, hypothesis testing, point estimation, association, correlation, and multi variate analysis.

PSC 532 State and Local Government 3 cr
An overview of U.S. state and local government systems, including an analysis of the politics, public policy, and administration within the U.S. states and localities. Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 537 Legislative Process in the US 3 cr
Principles, procedures, and problems of law making, with special attention to the U.S. Congress.

PSC 540 Public Hum Resource Mgt 3 cr
This course will cover contemporary topics in public administration, including public-employee unionization, relevance of the traditional civil-service approach, the challenge of employee productivity and motivation, equal opportunity, and public service ethics.

PSC 541 Leadership Theory and Practice 3 cr
The course will provide the analytical and intellectual thought, careful examination and reflection of the core issues in the practice of leadership. Models and influence on leadership will be critically examined.

PSC 550 Managing the Public Budget 3 cr
This course emphasizes the political management and public-policy implications of budget reform. The conceptual framework for program and performance budgeting will be explored, as well as the increasing congressional role in federal budget policy.

PSC 560 Comparative Public Admin 3 cr
A study of the operation of government systems throughout the world—their history, features, similarities, and differences.

PSC 570 Administrative Law 3 cr
This course emphasizes the relationship between administrative processes of government and the legal system. Attention is given not only to the administrative process involving formal adjudication, rule making, and judicial review, but also to those processes involving formal and unreviewed discretionary action. Students propose legal resolutions to contemporary administrative issues.

PSC 572 Environmental Law 3 cr
This course will introduce the student to some of the fundamental concepts of environmental law. It will utilize the philosophy and history of environmental law as it has developed from the Common Law of England to provisions of a Municipal Code.

PSC 576 Adm Issues CJ Men Health 3 cr
An overview of the relevant federal and state laws, federal regulations, and court rulings that address the issues of criminal justice for preserving the rights of those citizens who suffer from mental illness.

PSC 580 Public Pol Analysis and Eval 3 cr
A practical introduction to policy and program evaluation including a general overview of conceptual frameworks by which evaluation are conducted and an examination of the various qualitative and quantitative techniques by which policy outcomes and programs are analyzed. Designed to develop skills necessary for conducting evaluations and assessing the validity and credibility of evaluations conducted by others. Pre-requisite: PSC 520 Minimum Grade of B and PSC 530 Minimum Grade of B.

PSC 581 Public Policy and Aging 3 cr
This course examines government responses to the growing number of older Americans. Topics include retirements and pensions, health care, housing, social services, intergenerational issues, and policy advocacy of the elderly. Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 582 Crim. Just. Policy Evaluation 3 cr
This course examines the most effective and commonly used forms of policy and program evaluation and applies them to criminal justice system. It explores policy and program evaluation related a number of subfields, including policing, drug policy, and gun control, recidivism, and police use of force. Pre-requisite: PSC 520 Minimum Grade of C and PSC 530 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 585 Health Policy 3 cr
This course focuses on two distinct aspects of American Health Policy. First, the policy making process is examined in the context of health care and the major decision making powers (Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and special interests). Second, existing health care policies are examined with an emphasis on the implications for access, financing, and quality of care. Finally, existing U.S. health policies are compared and contrasted with those of similar and dissimilar political systems.

PSC 586 Health Administration 3 cr
Applications of management principles to health care organizations with a focus on governance and leadership, human resources, control systems, strategic planning, and accountability.
PSC 587  Health Politics & The Elderly  3 cr
This course focuses on the health policy process and issues impacting the elderly with particular attention given to the politics of legislation, financing mechanisms, and strategies for reform.

PSC 590  Special Topics -  3 cr
Study of a significant topic in Public Administration. May be repeated for credit when the content varies.

PSC 594  Dir St -  1 TO 6 cr
Under the guidance of a faculty member, student will pursue directed study of approved topics in public administration. For non-thesis students.

PSC 596  Prof St - Intern Publ Admin  3 TO 6 cr
Relates the participants' classroom studies to occupational and professional experiences in an approved public agency. Written reports required. May be taken for a total of nine hours. (For further details, see section on Internship.)

PSC 599  Thesis  3 TO 6 cr
Completion and oral defense of a master's thesis based upon original research. May be repeated for up to six hours credit. A minimum of six hours credit is required to meet degree requirements. Prerequisite: Approval of research prospectus including IRB or Animal Use and Care Committee approval if applicable.