Political Science And Criminal Justice

Department Information

Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice website
https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/pscj/

Undergraduate Studies

The courses offered in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice are designed to achieve three important objectives:

1. To provide a broad and comprehensive education with exceptional social science training---promoting critical thinking, analytic, oral communication, and writing skills.
2. To help students advance toward professional careers in a diversity of fields including law enforcement; education; government; law; corrections; public policy; business; journalism; NGOs and non-profits; and more.
3. To prepare students to be leaders in their communities and to seize meaningful opportunities to effect positive changes locally, nationally, and globally.

Criminal Justice

The curriculum in Criminal Justice provides students interested in law enforcement, criminal law, corrections, and the criminal court system with a broad educational background emphasizing social science and the University's general education skills of critical thinking, writing, communication, and analysis. Students in the department acquire knowledge of the criminal justice field. The program addresses issues relating to the entire criminal justice system, from the nature of crime and delinquency to society's varied responses to crime. Such a focus includes the organization and operation of each of the components in the field.

Political Science

Political Science is a broad discipline that includes studies of governments, politics, and policies. Political scientists may focus on political behavior, decision making, processes, institutions, and public policies. Inquiry in political science addresses the domestic and international policies of the United States and all other countries and regions. Political scientists study the political values, attachments, and activities of people, individually and in groups. Political science examines both what preferences people share and how they differ according to their personal attributes and positions in the economy and society. Political science also studies how people regard and trust each other as well as their leaders and governments.

First Year Experience Requirement

All first-time freshmen must successfully complete CAS 100: First Year Experience as a degree requirement. Students must enroll during their first term at USA, except for summer-entry students who must enroll in the fall semester following entry.

Technological Competency Requirement

Research Methods (PSC 310/CJ 310) will satisfy the technology competency requirement for both political science and criminal justice majors. Enrollment in PSC 310 or CJ 310 is required for both political science and criminal justice majors.

Departmental Honors

The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice offers an opportunity for students in Political Science or Criminal Justice who are not in the University's Honors College to graduate with departmental honors. In order to graduate with departmental honors, the student needs to have at least a 3.50 grade point average (overall and in the major) and maintain that average upon graduation. In addition, the student must complete a two-semester departmental honors thesis project with a faculty mentor and a committee.

Graduate Studies In Public Administration

The Master of Public Administration degree (MPA) curriculum in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice is a professional degree program designed principally for present and future administrators, officers in government, other public related organizations, not for profit agencies, and agencies that interact with governmental institutions and funding. It is a broad discipline, open to qualified students after completion of their undergraduate degree.
Students entering the program come from varied academic and vocational backgrounds. Accordingly, no specific undergraduate major is required for admission to the MPA Program. However, certain course prerequisites must be satisfied prior to enrollment in any of the required core courses of the curriculum.

Requirements For Admission To The MPA Program
Students are admitted each semester. The following criteria supplement the Graduate School criteria (see Categories of Admission).

Regular Admission To The MPA Program
1. Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.5 on all undergraduate work (on a 4-point scale) or a GPA of 2.75 over the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.
2. Students must have taken PSC 130 Intro to US Government or its equivalent prior to taking core MPA courses. A minimum grade of C for this course is required. Students may be admitted to the program without having taken PSC 130, provided they enroll in the course in their first year.
3. Students are encouraged to apply in the fall semester, but are admitted each semester.

Areas Of Study

Criminal Justice (BA)
Minor in Criminal Justice
Minor in Political Science
Political Science (BA)
Public Administration (MPA)

Courses

Criminal Justice (CJ)

CJ 105 Intro to Criminal Justice 3 cr
An overview of crime in the U.S. and the three major criminal justice agencies: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. CJ majors must pass with a grade of "C" or better.

CJ 210 Policing and Society 3 cr
An overview of the police functions in U.S. society, including law enforcement, maintenance of order, and public service-and of police responsibilities, including organizational and managerial aspects of policing in our democracy. Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 215 Correctional Policies and Proc 3 cr
An overview of the policies and procedures of U.S. correctional systems, and the methods of treatment of offenders. Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 223 Intro to Forensic Science 3 cr
Survey of scientific crime detection methods; crime scene search, identification and preservation of evidence; uses of the laboratory for criminal investigation.

CJ 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 PSC 310). Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C) and (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 321 Public and Private Security 3 cr
An overview of security in modern society, including public and private security, covering the role and administration of security and security personnel. Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 330 Judicial Process 3 cr
The study of U.S. judicial process at both the federal and state court levels. (Cross-listed as PSC 330) Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C).
CJ 331 Constitutional Law 3 cr
The study of the principles of constitutional powers and liberties examined through a analysis of decisions and opinions by the U.S. Supreme Court. (Cross-listed as PSC 331)
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 332 Criminal Law 3 cr
An overview of what constitutes crime and of the body of law governing the punishment of crime.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 336 The Law and Legal Theory 3 cr
Explores issues and problems in the area of law, including the nature and rule of law, the aims and roles of legal systems, morality and law, obligations to obey to law and systematic injustices related to race, ethnicity, and gender. (Cross-listed as PHL 336)
Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 337 Liability and Punishment 3 cr
Explores theoretical issues and problems in the areas of law--especially criminal law--concerning liability and punishment. Topics to be examined include diminished capacity, theories of punishment, and capital punishment. (Cross-listed as PHL 337)
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 360 Theories of Offending 3 cr
A study of theories of criminal behavior and delinquent behavior.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 363 Crime and Politics in Latin Am 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 PSC 363 and IS 363.
Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 or CJ 105 or IS 100 ).

CJ 372 Gender and Criminal Justice 3 cr
This course examines the experiences of women in the criminal justice system--as criminals, as crime victims, and as criminal justice professionals--together with social values and institutions that shape perceptions and outcomes.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or GS 101 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 374 Race, Ethnicity, and Crim Just 3 cr
The study of the role and impact of race and ethnicity in the development and evolution of the criminal justice system. Topics include criminal victimization, the treatment of criminal offenders, and the impact of race and ethnicity on those in the criminal justice system.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or AFR 101 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 380 Drugs and Crime 3 cr
An examination of different types of illegal and legal drugs, their effects on the human body including additions, and the relationship of drug abuse and crime.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 or CJ 205.

CJ 389 Special Topics - 3 cr
Study of a significant topic or problem in criminal justice. May be repeated up to two time when content varies.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 403 Sexual Violence 3 cr
This course focuses on the perpetration and experience of sexual violence in the United States and incorporates perspectives from criminal justice, gender studies, sociology, and psychology.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or GS 101 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 440 Community Based Corrections-W 3 cr
Examine alternatives to incarceration for offenders with emphasis on current research.
Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 205 Minimum Grade of C) and (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).
CJ 455  Juvenile Justice Admin Policy  3 cr
An examination of the policies, programs, and practices of crime involving youth and the administration of juvenile justice.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 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 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 471  Criminal Justice and Community  3 cr
A presentation of current research on a wide range of topics that impact on the relationship of police and the community.
Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 205 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 472  Comparative CJ Systems  3 cr
An examination of differences and similarities in criminal justice systems globally, including criminal law, crime rates, crime control and law enforcement.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 490  Special Topics-  3 TO 9 cr
Study of a significant topic, problem, or issue in criminal justice. May be repeated up to two times when the content varies. Only 6 credit hours may be applied to the criminal justice major.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 .

CJ 491  Seminar on Terrorism  3 cr
This course will examine the meaning, characteristics, typology, history, and causes of terrorism. The course will also summarize the biographies of prominent terrorists and conclude with a discussion of counter-terrorism strategies. Cross-listed with PSC 491 and IS 491.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

CJ 492  Capstone Seminar CJ-W  3 cr
The Capstone course brings together key components form across the criminal justice curriculum. As part of the course, students will write a research paper, present their research, and take a comprehensive exam. CJ majors must earn a grade of C or better for graduation.
Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C) and (PSC 130 Minimum Grade of D) and (CJ 220 Minimum Grade of D or CJ 320 Minimum Grade of D) and (CJ 240 Minimum Grade of D or CJ 340 Minimum Grade of D) and (CJ 310 Minimum Grade of D or PSC 310 Minimum Grade of D) and (CJ 330 Minimum Grade of D or PSC 330 Minimum Grade of D) and (CJ 360 Minimum Grade of D) and (EH 102 Minimum Grade of C or EH 105 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 494  Directed Studies -  1 TO 3 cr
Students will pursue directed research or readings on an approved topic in criminal justice.
Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 496  Internship  3 cr
An opportunity to gain experiential learning through a supervised internship offered by a variety of criminal related agencies.
Pre-requisite: (CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C).

CJ 499  Honors Thesis W  3 TO 6 cr
The research and writing of a major paper in the field of criminal justice. Registration is open to criminal justice majors in the Honors College or those pursuing Department Honors.
Pre-requisite: CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C.

Political Science (PSC)

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 histories, leaders, 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 other threats; and prospects 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 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  
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 and IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.

PSC 492 PSC Capstone Seminar-W  
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 D 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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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.  
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  
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  
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  
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  
Principles, procedures, and problems of law making, with special attention to the U.S. Congress.

PSC 540 Public Hum Resource Mgt  
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  
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  
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  
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.

Faculty

BOWERS JR., DAVID A.
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PHD, University of Texas- Austin

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