Ph.D. in Political Science Course Descriptions

POLI 5140  Politics & Religion  3 cr.
This course will examine how religion and religious institutions affect political outcomes and vice versa. Emphasis will be placed on understanding and evaluating social-scientific theories regarding the influence of religion on politics.

POLI 5170  The Politics of Public Policy  3 cr.
An examination of the American public policy process and policy theory, covering the major concepts, controversies, and states of policy making as well as policy content.

POLI 5310  U.S. State Politics  3 cr.
This course is designed to familiarize students with the roles and responsibilities of state governments and provide insight into the complex dynamics of state politics through a comparative approach.

POLI 5410  American Constitutional Law  3 cr.
Prerequisite: POLI 2200 or consent of department. A study of the law of the Constitution and the place of the Supreme Court in the American political system; critical examination of separation of powers, judicial review, federalism and federal powers.

POLI 5420  The American Constitution and Civil Liberties  3 cr.
Prerequisite: POLI 2200 or consent of department. An examination of the political relevance of major federal constitutional limitations, property rights, First Amendment freedoms, the rights of criminal defendants and ethnic minorities.

POLI 5440  Urban Judicial Process  3 cr.
Prerequisite: POLI 2200 or consent of department. A study of judicial processes involved in metropolitan development and in the application of environmental controls to urban areas.

POLI 5600  Political Parties & Politics  3 cr.
This course focuses on the role and behavior of political parties, a key institution in U.S. politics and in other democracies. It examines how parties have changed, and what these changes imply for the operation of U.S. politics. Emphasis is placed on the normative debate over the desirability of political parties and the role they play in democracies.

POLI 5601  Voters and Elections  3 cr.
This course examines electoral behavior in the U.S. Topics include the role that partisanship, issues, economic conditions, and candidate image play in voter turnout and vote choice, and how money and media influence elections. It also explores why citizens are disengaging from the electoral process.

POLI 5610  U.S. Interest Group Politics  3 cr.
This course examines the role of interest groups in I.S. politics and government. It covers both the theories and empirical research of group formation, maintenance, lobbying, and electioneering.

POLI 5621 Public Opinion 3 cr.
This course introduces the student to the contemporary study of public opinion, with an emphasis on the measurement, formation and expression of public opinion, where the public stands on major issues, and whether political leaders pay attention to or manipulate public opinion.

POLI 5630 The U.S. Presidency 3 cr.
This course covers presidential elections, presidential power, and presidential relations with the people of the U.S. and with the rest of the world.

POLI 5640 U.S. Congress and the American People 3 cr.
What are the sources of partisan gridlock, corruption, and special interest influence in Congress? What can we do to make it more representative of the American people?

POLI 5650 Southern Politics 3 cr.
This course focuses on politics in the South, especially since the mid-twentieth century, emphasizing the following themes: race and politics; the impact of the civil rights movement; the evolution of party competition; and the influence of industrialization and urbanization.

POLI 5653 Political Socialization 3 cr.
This course investigates how individuals acquire political attitudes, beliefs, identities, and behaviors, with an overview of the processes and agents of political socialization. A variety of socialization factors will be explored, including education, SES, family, peers, and religion, along with the role of media and technology in the political socialization process.

POLI 5670 Women and Politics 3 cr.
A study of feminist political thought, and of women's political movements, political issues, and political behavior and attitudes in the United States and in other countries.

POLI 5700 Latin American Government and Politics 3 cr.
An analysis and survey of the governmental and political processes of Latin America and their contributions to modern government.

POLI 5710 Politics of the Developing Areas 3 cr.
An analysis of issues relevant to politics in the developing nations with emphasis on the relationship of politics to rapid economic and social change and evaluation of policies intended to promote development.

POLI 5770 Modern Political Systems 3 cr.
A comparative analysis of selected institutional and functional problems of both modern democratic and modern authoritarian political systems.
POLI 5780  Comparative Democratization  3 cr.
An exploration of the nature of democracy and the challenges of democratization drawing on
experiences with democratization in Southern Europe, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Africa.
Experiences with and prospects for further democratization in other regions also are considered.

POLI 5800  Concepts and Patterns of International Politics  3 cr.
A systematic study of interaction between nation states, including a survey of the principal theories
concerning international society.

POLI 5820  International Organization  3 cr.
A review of the origins and types of international organizations, both intergovernmental and
international non-governmental, and their role in the contemporary international system. The
challenges and theoretical implications of issues such as humanitarian aid, peacekeeping, and economic,
social, and political development will be discussed.

POLI 5850  The Politics of International Economic Relations  3 cr.
An introduction to the field of international political economy focusing on four issues: the relationship
between politics and markets, postwar developments in relations among advanced industrial societies,
the relationship between advanced industrial and developing societies, and the impact of globalization
on both developed and developing societies.

POLI 5860  International Law  3 cr.
The course focuses on the development and foundations of international law; the sources of
international law; enforcement; the meaning of treaties; conflicts between domestic and international
law; sovereignty; the problems and exercise of jurisdiction; and peace, war, and other methods for
resolving international disputes. The course also emphasizes international law both from the
perspectives of the U.S. and other nations.

POLI 5870  American Foreign Policy  3 cr.
A study of the national interest as the guiding consideration in the development of American foreign
policy from the beginning to the present. The importance of the constitutional framework, presidential
and congressional leadership, pressure groups and public opinion, the changing world environment and
the American response to it, particularly in recent years.

POLI 5885  Issues in Conflict and Diplomacy  3 cr.
An examination of the interaction of conflict with diplomacy. Conflict and diplomacy are studied
analytically and operationally in terms of their limitations and possibilities in advancing and/or
defending states' interests.

POLI 5970  Media and Politics from a Comparative Perspective  3 cr.
Prerequisites: credit in POLI 2151, 2200, 2600, 2700 or 2900. This class is an introduction to the media
and politics from a comparative perspective. We will learn about the media's political role in society;
how they act or fail to act as a watchdog for citizens; and how they may influence public opinion and
citizen activism in the United States, in other democracies, and in authoritarian countries. We will examine biases in the media, the media's influence on campaigns and elections, and the media's role in wars and revolutions around the world.

POLI 5990  Special Topics in Political Science  3 cr.
Topic may vary from semester to semester. Students may register for this course more than once to a maximum of nine hours. POLI 3995, 3998, 4990, and 4991 may not be taken, either singly or jointly, for more than a total of 12 credit hours.

POLI 6001  Introduction to Political Research  3 cr.
Introduction to the philosophy of science and research design. (Required of all graduate students.)

POLI 6002  Methods of Political Research I  3 cr.
Techniques of data analysis with an emphasis on the general linear model and an introduction to maximum likelihood estimation. (Required for all graduate students.)

POLI 6003  Methods of Political Research II  3 cr.
Prerequisites: POLI 6001 and POLI 6002. Techniques of data analysis with an emphasis on maximum likelihood estimation and time series. (Required of Ph.D. students.)

POLI 6100  Theories of Public Policy  3 cr.
An examination of a variety of models of the public policy making process from agenda-setting through evaluation and feedback, with particular attention to explanations of policy stability and policy dynamics. Examined theories include rational choice, incrementalism, neo-institutionalism and path dependency, multiple streams, punctuated equilibrium, advocacy coalition framework, and political strategy, among others.

POLI 6210  Seminar on Urban Political Systems  3 cr.
A review of the literature dealing with urban political processes. Topics will include metropolitan fragmentation and integration, intra-jurisdictional structural characteristics, urban policy makers, structures of community power, and the city within the federal system.

POLI 6245  Seminar in American Foreign Policy and National Security Affairs  3 cr.
This seminar will explore the theoretical concepts relating to the process of policy-making, the interface between domestic, foreign, and national security policies and politics, the role of bureaucratic politics and the thrust and content of American foreign and security policies.

POLI 6310  Seminar in State and Local Government  3 cr.
A seminar in state and local government with special emphasis on comparative state politics and political systems.
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 6420</td>
<td>Seminar on Appellate Courts</td>
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<td>This seminar is designed to familiarize students with the literature on appellate courts (including the US Supreme Court, the US Court of Appeals, the state courts of last resort, and the Constitutional Courts of other countries). It will cover decision-making, judicial selection, the effects of public opinion on courts and the effect of courts on public opinion, impact and compliance, and interest-group influence. The courts will be studied as political institutions and policymakers peopled by political actors as opposed to the common view that they are formal, legal, and nonpolitical entities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 6430</td>
<td>Seminar on Trial Courts</td>
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<td>A seminar dealing with the literature on the scientific study of lower courts and criminal justice.</td>
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<td>POLI 6600</td>
<td>Seminar in American Politics</td>
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<td>POLI 6610</td>
<td>Seminar in Political Parties</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>POLI 6620</td>
<td>Seminar in Voting Behavior and Participation</td>
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<td>An analysis of contemporary research on vote determinants, partisanship, issues and elections, economic influences, voter turnout, and political participation.</td>
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<td>POLI 6625</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Opinion</td>
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<td>An analysis of contemporary research on individual and contextual sources of public opinion.</td>
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<td>POLI 6641</td>
<td>Research on Minority Politics</td>
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<td>A research-oriented seminar in minority politics. Inferential techniques employed in the analysis of minority politics will be examined, and students will be required to engage in original research endeavors.</td>
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<td>POLI 6650</td>
<td>Seminar in Women and Politics</td>
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<td>A study of feminist political thought and research on the importance of gender in social movements, political attitudes and behavior, political leadership, and public policy.</td>
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<td>POLI 6680</td>
<td>Seminar in Legislative Behavior</td>
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<td>This course will seek to provide an overview of contemporary research on legislative behavior. Most of the existing literature focuses on the national Congress but the course will also be concerned with state legislatures as well. The seminar will include an extensive review of the literature and statistical analysis of legislative roll call voting.</td>
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<td>POLI 6700</td>
<td>Seminar in Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
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<td>POLI 6720</td>
<td>Seminar in Developed Political Systems</td>
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<td>Criteria of development, structural-functional approach to analysis of developed political systems, communications models, interest articulation and aggregation, institutional frameworks.</td>
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<td>POLI 6730</td>
<td>Seminar in Political Change and Development</td>
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<td>Theories of development; relationship between political and economic development, the revolution of rising expectations, political infrastructure, levels of development.</td>
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<td>POLI 6740</td>
<td>Seminar in Latin American Politics</td>
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<td>The major alternatives for change: democratic reform or violent revolution; political infrastructure, interest aggregation and the acceleration of demands; the changing role of the military; the rise of urban terrorism; political heritage; personalism; dictatorship; role of the church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 6790</td>
<td>Seminar in Comparative Media and Politics</td>
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<td>This class surveys the literature on media and politics from a comparative perspective. It examines the factors that affect the professionalism and openness of the media across political regimes and also explores the role of the media in affecting public opinion, political behavior, and policy outcomes.</td>
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<td>POLI 6810</td>
<td>Seminar in International Relations Theory</td>
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<td>This course will provide an overview of contemporary research on international relations. It is organized around points of common interest to scholars of international relations, including such concepts as the underlying nature of the international system, the causes of conflict between states, and possible sources of cooperation between states.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 6850</td>
<td>Politics of International Economics Relations</td>
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<td>This seminar is an introduction to the field of international political economy. Topics may include but are not limited to major approaches to political economy and international political economy in political science, cooperation and regime theory, trade and finance, globalization, regional integration, and the use of economic sanctions in international politics.</td>
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<td>POLI 6885</td>
<td>Seminar in International Conflict</td>
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<td>The purpose of this course is to analyze the most important theories regarding the causes of international war and conflict. It will introduce students to a wide range of research on international conflict. Topics may include polarity, power transition theory, hegemony, arms races, alliances, deterrence theory, diversionary theories, regime types, rivalry, civil wars, the escalation and diffusion of wars, and trade and military conflict.</td>
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<td>POLI 6890</td>
<td>Seminar in Civil Conflict</td>
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<td>This course examines theories regarding the causes and effects of civil conflicts. Topics include the roles of ethnicity, ideology, natural resources, institutions, and government repression.</td>
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<td>POLI 6910</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar in Political Science</td>
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<td>Topics for this seminar will vary from semester to semester. This course may be repeated twice with departmental permission, for a total of up to 9 hours.</td>
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POLI 6990 Independent Research 3 cr.

Independent research in the graduate student’s area of specialization, under the direction of a designated member of the graduate faculty.

POLI 7000 Thesis Research 1 min cr. - 9 max. cr.

To be repeated for credit until thesis is accepted. Section number will correspond with credit to be earned.

POLI 7040 Examination Or Thesis Only 0 cr.

Open to students in a thesis program who have only (other than application for degree) the final typing and acceptance by the Graduate School of their thesis or dissertation or to students in a non-thesis program who have only (other than application for degree) to pass the final examination to complete graduation requirements.

POLI 7050 Dissertation Research 1 min cr. - 9 max. cr.

Preparation of dissertation by Ph.D. candidate under direction of major professor and dissertation committee. Section number will correspond with credit to be earned. To be repeated for credit until dissertation is accepted.