Political Science (POLS)

Courses

POLS 1100. American Government. 3 Hours.
Fulfills the General Education American Institutions (Utah State Code R470) requirement. Surveys the founding of the U.S. Government; the U.S. Constitution; and the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government. Also covers politics and elections, international relations, and national security. Helps students acquire a greater understanding of the federal system and of federalism. Employs a wide variety of instructional methods including lectures, student reports, discussions, and audio-visual materials. Successful students will demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the history, principles, form of government, and economic system of the United States. Prerequisite: Reading placement score 17 or higher, or ENGL 1470. FA, SP, SU.

POLS 2100. Introduction to International Relations. 3 Hours.
Global and Cultural Perspectives course. Examines the military, economic, social, and political interactions between nations, including how realist, liberal, and idealist theories describe and explain the causes of war and peace, the issues concerning trade and globalization, the content and purpose of international law, and the importance of international institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union. Students will read widely and write analytically to gain a deep understanding of these theories and issues. FA.

POLS 2200. Intro to Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.
Global and Cultural Perspectives course. For students interested in politics or planning to major in political science. Examines political activities within individual countries by looking at the politics of a diverse set of nations such as the United States, England, Russia, China, Japan, Mexico, Iran, Nigeria, etc., in order to compare the political institutions and patterns in one country with those in other countries. The focus is on each country's internal politics, with a view to making generalizations about how politics work in a variety of national settings. This will allow students to understand many democratic styles and how democratic politics compares with the politics in authoritarian governments. Students will read widely and write comparatively about various government structures in various countries. SP (odd).

POLS 2300. Intro to Political Theory. 3 Hours.
For students interested in politics or planning to major in political science. Examines the ideas about government from Plato to John Rawls, including Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbs, Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Hume, Burke, Kant, Mill, and Marx. Covers ideas about the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed; about the nature of the good life and the role of government in achieving it; about ideas of how those who govern are to be chosen; about the necessity of limits, if any, on those who govern; and about the correct balance between freedom for the individual and the authority of the state. Students will read from the works of the great political thinkers and write criticisms and comparisons of those thinkers' ideas. SP (even).

POLS 2990. Seminar in Political Science. 0.5-3 Hours.
For students wishing instruction that is not available through other regularly scheduled courses in this discipline. Occasionally, either students request some type of non-traditional instruction, or an unanticipated opportunity for instruction presents itself. This seminar course provides a variable credit context for these purposes. As requirements, this seminar course must first be pre-approved by the department chair; second, it must provide at least nine contact hours of lab or lecture for each credit offered; and third, it must include some academic project or paper (i.e., credit is not given for attendance alone). This course may include standard lectures, travel and field trips, guest speakers, laboratory exercises, or other nontraditional instruction methods. Note that this course in an elective and does not fulfill general education or program requirements. Fees may be required for some seminar courses and instructor permission will be optional at the request of the instructor.

POLS 3030. State and Local Government. 3 Hours.
Surveys the politics, structure, and activities of state and local governments, including intergovernmental relations, legal and theoretical concerns, political processes, and administrative issues, with special attention given to the Utah experience. Prerequisite: POLS 1100. Offered based on sufficient student need.

POLS 3100. Global Issues. 3 Hours.
Examines critical international issues such as peace, economic prosperity, regional stability, and citizenship by studying the US government's role in global affairs. This course will explore foreign policy strategies designed to alleviate existing and potential threats to these key international issues. SP (even).

POLS 3200. Introduction to Law and Politics. 3 Hours.
Examines law as a means of social ordering, social and political functions of civil and criminal law, organization and functions of courts and the legal profession. Special emphasis will be given to applying political and moral theory to legal analysis of the Anglo-American legal tradition. FA (odd).

POLS 3320. Introduction to Public Policy and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Examines theoretical approaches to the study of public policy with special focus on elements such as, agenda setting, policy formulation and implementation and oversight. This course also discusses aspects such as, federalism, crime, lobbying, civil rights, foreign policy, and national security. This course will aid students in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the policy making process, as well as, the effect of policy upon Americans, their government and the world. Students will be instructed through a variety of methods such as, lectures, student debate papers, discussions, and audio-visual means. Successful students will demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the various aspects involved in the formulation and augmentation of policy. FA (odd).
POLS 3400. Global Law. 3 Hours.
Studies the historical evolution of the traditions in comparative perspective with emphasis on France and Germany in the civil law and on the United States and the United Kingdom in the common law. Develops the skills needed for comparative analyses and evaluation of global societies and regions by understanding the foundations of the legal systems on which they stand. SP.

POLS 3500. War and Terrorism. 3 Hours.
Develops logical analyses and critical thinking in the context of War and Terrorism. Applies doctrines of conflicts within our past, to the contemporary conflicts and those within our future. Explores the real cost and effectiveness of war, its true value and impact on the global society, and its real meaning. FA.

POLS 3960. Special Topics. 3 Hours.
Specialty subjects in which topics/themes will be developed based upon the research specialties of department faculty. Repeatable for nine credits subject to graduation restrictions. Offered upon sufficient student demand.

POLS 4400. Introduction to Islam. 3 Hours.
Introduces students to the history, politics, and culture of Islam in order to increase the understanding of the contemporary dimension of this world religion. Dual listed with POLS 4400 (students may take only one course for credit). SP.