POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Jules Boykoff, Chair; Jim Moore, Jeff Seward, Paul Snell

Politics and government explore the processes by which a community decides what common goals it wants to achieve, what its rules will be, and how those policies and rules will be carried out or enforced. Nothing is more important to a healthy society. We are fascinated by the political process in the United States and in the world and concerned about its outcome and we welcome all students who share that interest.

While our program provides an excellent foundation for graduate study in political science, the primary focus of the department is to provide skills and habits of mind useful in a wide range of professions. Recent graduates of the department have found jobs and careers in law, politics, business, teaching, journalism, and government service. Some of our graduates continue their educations in professional programs in law, business (MBA), international affairs, education, public administration, and other fields. Many work directly after college (often as staff members for elected officials or government agencies) before going on to graduate school.

Program Learning Outcomes
The curriculum is focused on a variety of approaches to political analysis, practical hands-on experience, and student research. Given this goal, we aim to:

- Develop in students a broad knowledge of political phenomena, practical skills of analysis and communication, and an understanding of theoretical approaches to politics
- Apply political theories and concepts to gain analytical leverage over historical and contemporary political events
- Critically analyze political texts through criticism, constructive engagement, and lateral comparison and contrast
- Defend and challenge preconceived notions about politics
- Publicly present and defend a political research projects in an engaging, cogent way

Program
The curriculum is focused on a variety of approaches to political analysis, practical hands-on experience, and student research. An internship or study abroad is strongly recommended for all majors as a useful part of their study. The required senior thesis may take a variety of forms, ranging from a project based on field research to statistical analysis of quantitative data to an abstract theoretical treatment of a problem in political philosophy.

Internships and Study Abroad
While it is not a requirement, the department strongly encourages all majors to include in their program a semester-long, off-campus experience.

Many of our majors find internships, most commonly in the Oregon Legislature or Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. Other possible internship sites include social-service agencies, government agencies, interest groups, or law firms. Internships for credit involve close collaboration with a faculty advisor and are limited to one semester. Only six credits of internship credit is directly applicable to the requirements of the major.

Pacific offers many study-abroad possibilities in England, France, Germany, China, Japan, Ecuador, Mexico, and a number of other countries. These programs are described in detail in the International Programs section of the catalog. Students going abroad should include internships in their course plans as soon as possible in order to ensure coursework can still be completed.

The goals of our curriculum are to develop in students a broad knowledge of political phenomena, practical skills of analysis and communication, and an understanding of theoretical approaches to politics. Graduates will know how to analyze policy problems in a clear and logical way.

Politics and Government: Requirements for the Major
A major in political science must complete the following core courses with a grade of C- or better and maintain a 2.0 average for all POLS courses. These same standards apply to the minor.

Required Courses:

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 140</td>
<td>Introduction to US Politics</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>POLS 180</td>
<td>The US in World Affairs</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<td>POLS 399</td>
<td>Theory and Methodology in Political Science</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 498/499</td>
<td>Senior Seminar and Thesis</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
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Electives: Must include credits in each of the following areas, plus two additional upper-division courses

American Politics

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<tr>
<td>POLS 301</td>
<td>Politics and The Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 302</td>
<td>Parties and Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 304</td>
<td>Community Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 306</td>
<td>Presidency and Congress</td>
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<td>POLS 321</td>
<td>Protest, Dissent, &amp; Social Change</td>
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<td>POLS 322</td>
<td>The Suppression of Dissent</td>
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<td>POLS 325</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
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<td>POLS 328</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
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International Politics

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 330</td>
<td>National Systems &amp; Global Challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 331</td>
<td>Modern Dictatorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 340</td>
<td>Security, Rights &amp; Globalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 345</td>
<td>International Political Economy</td>
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Political Philosophy

POLS 209  Ideas in Action
POLS 212  Conservatism & Its Critics
POLS 213  Socialism & Its Critics
POLS 310  Markets, Politics & Justice

Up to six credits of POLS internship credit may be counted toward the major, but these six credits may not be counted toward any of the specific upper-division requirements listed above.

TOTAL: 45 Credits

Political Science: Requirements for the Minor

At least one course in American Politics at 300-level...
POLS-232 Current Events in the Middle East
Whatever is in the news about the Middle East, we will cover it in this two-week course taught during Winter term. The central issues of Israel-Palestine and of oil's role in the region are constants. The course will explore the role of religion, culture, politics, and international interest in the region as well as particular geographic areas (e.g. Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran). Counts toward core requirement: International Perspectives. 2 credits.

POLS-239 Latin America I: Conquest-Independence
Survey of Latin American history from 200 C.E. to 1810 C.E. with a focus on the pre-Columbian Mayan, Aztec, and Inca civilizations; the conquest and settlement of Mexico, Central America, and South America by the Spanish and Portuguese; and the colonial institutions in Spanish America and Brazil up to the beginnings of the movements toward independence. Special emphasis will be given to the clash of indigenous and European religious/spiritual outlooks, political economy, and the interaction of issues of race, class, and gender in the emergence of syncretic New World societies. Also listed as HIST 239. Counts toward core requirement: International Perspectives. 4 credits.

POLS-241 Latin America II: Independence-Present
Survey of Latin American history from 1810 to the present with a focus on the independence struggles and the first century of independence; the rise of populism, socialism, and economic nationalism; the collapse of populist democracies and the rise of bureaucratic authoritarian military regimes; and recent transitions to democracy combined with economic liberalization. Course will also include attention to issues of class, race and gender, over the course of these political and economic transformations and the history of US-Latin American relations in the 19th and 20th century. Counts toward core requirement: International Perspectives. 4 credits.

POLS-255 Special Topics
Go to https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/centers-institutes/advising-center/new-topics-travel-class-descriptions or see the Advising Center.

POLS-275 Internship
See department for details. Internship contract required. 1-4 credits.

POLS-295 Independent Study
See department for details. Independent study contract required. 1-4 credits.

POLS-301 Politics and The Media
Examines the impact of the media upon the political process; the relationship between the press and politicians; and whether the press is a "neutral" force in American politics. Biennially. 4 credits.

POLS-302 Parties and Elections
The development of political parties and their organization, function and campaign methods. Analysis of interest groups and their effect on government and political parties. Public opinion and propaganda. Involvement in a political campaign required. Counts toward core requirement: Civic Engagement. Biennially. 4 credits.

POLS-304 Community Politics
An exploration of how community politics works in the United States. The class will look at issues of representation, participation, public funding, and taxation. Analysis will focus on state and local governments and interest groups. Through participant observation and readings in the field, the class will also explore why and how politics function and practice in community politics groups. Counts toward core requirement: Civic Engagement. 4 credits.

POLS-306 Presidency and Congress
This course explores the relations between the U.S. presidency and Congress, and how these relations have evolved over time. Students will examine long-term trends in this relationship and will consider compelling, instructive anomalies as well. Students will study the formal and informal powers of both Congress and the president and also explore case studies of conflicts between the two branches in the realms of both domestic and foreign policy. They will also carefully follow congressional-presidential relations as they unfold over the course of the semester, closely tracking the news as it emerges from Washington, DC. 4 credits.

POLS-310 Markets, Politics & Justice
An examination of political economy (the interaction of politics and economics) with respect to topics such as macroeconomic policy-making, industrial policy, income distribution, development strategies, and the welfare state plus the political dimensions of economic ideologies including classical liberal, Marxist, and social democratic perspectives. ECON 101 or ECON 102 strongly recommended. 4 credits.

POLS-321 Protest, Dissent, & Social Change
This course examines the causes and history of widespread movements that use protest to promote political change. Topics include theories of social movements and case studies that may include the labor movement, the civil rights movement, the women's movement, the environmental movement, and the recent rise of conservative Christian activism. Also listed as PSJ 321. Counts toward core requirement: Civic Engagement. 4 credits.

POLS-322 The Suppression of Dissent
This course explores how the state, mass media, and other forces suppress dissent. Students will first gain a theoretical foothold in the field of social-movement studies, along the way exploring the following questions: What is dissent? What is citizen dissent? How, when, and why does the state suppress dissent? What role do the mass media play in the suppression of activism? Students will also study specific historical instances of political suppression, such as the suppression of the American Indian Movement, civil rights movement, environmental movements, and the Global Justice Movement. 4 credits.

POLS-325 Constitutional Law
An introduction to the judicial process, legal reasoning and interpretation of the Constitution through analysis of court cases. Subjects include federalism, property, race, gender, and privacy. Also listed as DS 325. Biennially. 4 credits.

POLS-326 Civil Liberties
This course examines the development of civil liberties in the United States by focusing on the role of the Supreme Court. Subjects include freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, and the rights of the accused. Biennially. 4 credits.

POLS-330 National Systems & Global Challenges
Survey of national political systems in the context of the challenge of globalization. Countries studied and compared will include most or all of the following: United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Egypt, Iran, and the European Union (as emerging or quasi-state). Issues analyzed will include competing theories of the origins and consequences of different political institutions, the relationship between domestic political arrangements and the ability to cope with globalization, transitions to democracy, and the consolidation of democracy and the future of the nation-state. Counts towards core requirement: International Perspectives. 4 credits.
POLS-331  Modern Dictatorship  
A survey of non-traditional, 20th century dictatorships and the theoretical concepts and explanations political science has developed to categorize and explain them, including especially controversial surrounding the concepts of “authoritarianism” and “totalitarianism.” Cases examined will include some or all of the following: the USSR, Nazi Germany, the People’s Republic of China, Latin American military dictatorships, and the Iranian quasi-theocracy. 4 credits.

POLS-340  Security, Rights & Globalization  
Nationalism and cultural identity; the international system and world organization; problems of conflict and war; issues of human rights and democracy; economic globalization and development; and security issues such as the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Counts towards core requirement: International Perspectives. 4 credits.

POLS-345  International Political Economy  
This course explores the post-WWII world economy, the place of the United States in that economy, the role of theory and differing world views, and possibilities for future economic realities. Particular emphasis is placed upon understanding U.S., European and Japanese, and post-Communist international economic policy and business decisions. POLS 180 and ECON 101 strongly recommended. Counts toward core requirement: International Perspective. 4 credits.

POLS-350  Special Topics in Political Science  
Courses of varying formats on specific topics not included in the regular curriculum. Past examples include Contemporary Mexico, the Salmon Crisis, and Oregon Forest Policy. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. 2-4 credits.

POLS-351  Social Policy & Social Justice  
This course provides an examination of both the historical and contemporary context of social welfare policies and programs. The course will examine how legislation is developed, enacted, and implemented in our society, including how policies have emerged in response to social problems at the local, national, and international levels. Issues of social justice, and how policies and programs affect populations at risk, will be emphasized. U.S. social welfare policy will be examined in a global and human rights context. Also listed as SOCWK 351 and PH 351. Prerequisite: SOCWK 201 with a minimum grade of C-. 4 credits.

POLS-352  Politics and Sports  
In this course, students explore the intersection of politics and sports. Topics include: the political economy of sport; sport and social class; how race and ethnicity affect participation in, reactions to, and media coverage of sports; how gender and sexuality affect both media portrayals of sport and our understanding of athleticism. Students examine the politics of both professional and amateur sports as well as mega-events like the Olympics and soccer World Cup. The course also involves discussing contemporary connections between politics and sports as they unfold in real time, bringing modern-day events into conversation with the course texts. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or above (30 or more completed credits). 4 credits.

POLS-355  Special Topics  
Go to https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/centers-institutes/advising-center/new-topics-travel-class-descriptions or see the Advising Center.

POLS-395  Independent Study  
Student-conducted individual research/theoretical project. Faculty supervised. Independent study contract required. 1-4 credits.

POLS-399  Theory & Methodology in POLS  
A required junior seminar for POLS majors that focuses on key concepts, theories, and methodologies in political science to prepare majors for the senior capstone experience. Exercises in course will culminate in a formal proposal for the senior thesis. Prerequisite: Junior standing or above (60 or more completed credits). 4 credits.

POLS-475  Internship  
Off-campus placements in political settings can be undertaken for credit. Requirements vary. See Department Chair for more information. Internship contract required. 1-14 credits.

POLS-495  Independent Research  
Student-conducted individual research/theoretical project. Faculty supervised. Independent study contract required. 1-4 credits.

POLS-498  Senior Seminar & Thesis I  
In this course, students define their thesis project, gather necessary information, carry out original research, and write their senior thesis. The seminar will also meet four hours a week to discuss selected readings in research methods, theories of power, and approaches to policy analysis. This course is required of all majors in their final year. Prerequisite: Senior standing (60 or more completed credits), POLS 399, and declared Politics & Government major. 4 credits.

POLS-499  Senior Seminar & Thesis II  
In this course, students refine their thesis and prepare to present it publicly. In addition to completing their written thesis, students will prepare their public presentation of the thesis for Senior Projects Day. This course is required of all majors in their final year. Prerequisite: POLS 498. 1 credit.