POLITICAL SCIENCE (POS)

POS 101 - UNITED STATES POLITICS
The processes and functions of US governmental institutions; Constitutional framework; relationship between politics and the economy; relationship between the states and the national government; political culture; participation and representation; contemporary public policy problems.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science

POS 102 - INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
Diverse governments and political systems; how to understand and compare them. Various methods for analyzing developing and industrialized countries.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science

POS 103 - INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Major international problems of our day. Power; American foreign policy; problems in the Third World. Principles underlying international relations; reliable research resources.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science

POS 104 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
Evolution of political thought and ideology from ancient Greeks to present; vital contemporary issues, such as relation of theory to power in modern world.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science

POS 110 - INTRODUCTION TO POLICY STUDIES
This introductory course offers an understanding of common policy areas and the analytical tools needed to understand policy issues commonly discussed in the public arena. Readings center on on exploring definitions, media portrayals, and the politics of public policy. Class discussions will focus on exploring how public policy shapes the sociopolitical landscape and offers the legal framework for aspects of public/private life. Understanding policy is a broad endeavor, yet includes considerations of cultural norms, political power struggles and legal frameworks.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science

POS 200 - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDIES
Various ways of conceptualizing social justice; how the social sciences can be used to understand questions of social justice; case studies in collective action for social justice.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: ENG 101
Course Notes: Completion UWR

POS 206 - SIMULATING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
This “active learning” course introduces students to the subfield of international security studies by giving students the opportunity craft foreign policy for their country in a hypothetical international system. Substantively, the course will cover how scholars and policy makers have addressed the management of the international system, causes of conflict and cooperation among countries, the creation and maintenance of alliances, and the development of national security strategies. Students will apply what they learn through a course-long simulation where teams of students interact to secure their country in an uncertain international system. This course is designed both for advanced POS/INTS majors as well as students with no previous experience in the field.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Grounds for Change, Honors Program, International Studies, Social Science

POS 210 - RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS
This course examines ways in which issues of race manifest in the public sphere in the United States. The class pays particular attention to considering contemporary issues through the lens of historical and continued structural racism within the U.S., exploring issues of social justice, structural discrimination, and privilege in the politics surrounding the framing and implementation of public policy in the United States.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Course Notes: Open to freshmen.

POS 220 - THE AMERICAN JUDICIARY
Course Notes: Open to freshmen.

POS 227 - POST COLONIAL POLITICS: LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA
This course tries to understand the politics of developing countries by looking through a post-colonial lens at two regions (Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa) that experienced an array of different types of European colonization (Spanish, Portuguese, British, French, etc.). Thus, the course will cover modern-day experiences of development, democracy, authoritarianism, and human rights in a historical lens. We’ll ask how colonization and local resistance re-shaped these societies and structured the political institutions they inherited. We’ll do so through two mainstream but opposing theoretical perspectives (ie. modernization theory and dependency theory), as well several critical perspectives.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Non-western Culture, Social Science
Course Notes: Counts as: 200-level requirement for POS;, either Track A or Track B for International Studies

POS 242 - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LAW
This course covers global governance and international organizations in the area of security, economics, regional integration, and law (e.g., UN, IMF, World Bank, EU, International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court). We will cover why they exist, how they work, what effects they have, and why some don’t work as promised. We’ll also cover why some efforts to create more robust organizations, regional integration, and law are unsuccessful.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
POS 250 - TRANSIT IN TRANSITION
We tend to think of urban transit schemes as responses to a fixed set of problems – how do we get people from point A to point B? But the structure of urban transit systems, from suburban rail to subways to networks of highways, often determines where and how people live, rather than the other way around. In this course we will examine how U.S. cities came to be criss-crossed with interstate highways, and how the particular pattern of highway growth manifested itself in Chicago. Is Chicago designed for the car or the train? How and why did Chicago embark on building the El – one of the densest urban rail systems in the world? What are the politics of its maintenance, expansion and ridership? Finally, we will look at the politics of bicycling, and how riders have convinced urban planners in places like Chicago to yield-sought-after pieces of the road to cyclists. Most importantly, we will ask how these decisions impact the scale, equality and sustainability of human development in the city and the suburbs. In this intensive honors course, students will combine classroom learning with hands-on engagement with all of the city’s structures of transit, with the goal of fostering a new appreciation for the relationship between forms of transit, structures of power, and modes of living.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Grounds for Change, Social Science
Prerequisites: ENG 102 and MATH 110 (may be taken concurrently)

POS 250B - URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Credits: 3
Attributes: Grounds for Change, Social Science

POS 250C - PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES & IDEAS
This course provides students with an understanding of concepts and tools for measuring health in populations. In addition they will be able to comprehend and characterizes the relationship of the public health system with medical care and other elements of the overall health system and identify the government’s unique contributions through federal, state, and local public health agencies. Public health broadly involves an array of biological, environmental, social, cultural, behavior, and service utilization factors that are all associated with health. Underlying this is an understanding that the success or failure of the collective actions and decisions thus we are all accountable to each other in order to produce the best results. To that end the class, through case studies, will also focus on ways in which positive changes can be made in order to improve these systems and individuals within them in order to move them towards improved quality and quantity of health for all.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Grounds for Change
Prerequisites: ENG 102

POS 280 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Topics vary, check schedule
Credits: 3
Course Notes: .
POS 311 - POVERTY POLICY
This course focuses on the policy processes, historical context, and sociocultural issues surrounding antipoverty policy in the United States, including how poverty is defined and applied. In understanding poverty and antipoverty policy in the United States this course pays particular attention to issues of place, gender, and race.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102

POS 320 - UNITED STATES CONGRESS
Give students an understanding of the US Congress and its nature of representation within a representative democracy. It will examine the origin and development of Congressional institutions. It will also explore the effects of parties, committee leadership, lobbying, elections, the bureaucracy, media, and constituent’s demands on Congress. Additionally, will cover the impact of the other branches of government such as the judiciary and executive branches in relationship to how Congress governs.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 321 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT
This course explores emerging (and re-emerging) political theories that seek to challenge and offer alternatives to contemporary Western neoliberal political economy. We will focus on theoretical works that are grounded in a relational perspective, drawing from theorists working in or influenced by feminist, ecological, indigenous, anarchist, process and pragmatist traditions.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 104 or 9 Credit Hours of Soc. Sciences

POS 324 - POLITICS & LITERATURE
Works of literature that explore significant political themes, such as alienation, revolutionary movements, utopias, and anti-utopias and the development and expression of political, social, economic, religious, and philosophical ideas.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 202
Course Notes: Cross-listed with PHIL 324

POS 327 - SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
Contemporary issues of gender and sexuality in international human rights theory, law, and practice.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science, Women Gender Studies
Prerequisites: (POS 101 and POS 102) or (POS 103 or POS 201 or POS 203) and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent.

POS 329 - PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
Philosophic issues and theories concerning the nature of law, the role of the judiciary, justifications of punishment, types of liability, and considerations of justice. Practical application of theory is made to cases considering such policy topics as the death penalty, equal protection, workplace discrimination, and class-based discrimination.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Legal Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: 9 Credit Hours of Soc. Sciences
Course Notes: or consent; Political Science and/or Philosophy recommended

POS 334 - TOPICS IN POLICY MAKING
Content varies. Please select the red CRN in Course Schedule for a description of this course.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Course Notes: Content varies. Please select the red CRN, for a description of this course.

POS 338 - FIELD INTERNSHIP IN POLITICS AND LAW
Students work in Chicago-area political and legal organizations. Required paper based on relevant readings and analysis of work experiences. Early consultation necessary to arrange appropriate placement.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science, Transformational Service Learning
Course Notes: Six courses in major and consent of instructor.

POS 339 - POLITICAL VIOLENCE & TERRORISM
This course explores the nature, causes and effects of contemporary terrorism. What is terrorism and who defines it? Is terrorism modern or is it a recurring feature of global political history? What are the goals of terrorism, and who is the audience? What causes terrorism, and what strategies have governments and organizations pursued to diminish or end it? The course addresses the long history of terrorism, the role of states in promoting and fighting it and then focuses primarily on the global rise of terrorism beginning in the 1960s through 9/11 and the "War on Terror."
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 or POS 203 or POS 103 or POS 201 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 340 - THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY
Contemporary and historical perspectives on the presidency. Elements of presidential power; presidential selection; politics of the presidency; presidential personality; president and media; relations of president with courts, Congress, and bureaucracy. See Libs 340.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102

POS 342 - CONTEMPORARY CIVIL WARS
This course introduces students to the scientific study of modern civil wars, with specific focus on their inception, the dynamics of violence, and the challenge of political order. In the process, the course will address the principal debates of the subfield, including, but not limited to, the role of class, ethnicity, regime type, and repression. Although principally within political science, the course draws on theory and scholarship from related disciplines, especially sociology and economics.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Non-western Culture, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 102 (with a min grade of C) OR POS 203 (with a min grade of C)

POS 343 - TOPICS: ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN URBAN SETTING
Examination of selected human rights problems and efforts to address them in Chicago, followed by comparisons with conditions and efforts in another city abroad. Comparisons are used by students to generate solutions to difficult local problems. For more details, please click the highlighted CRN for this course on the specific term schedule.
Credits: 3-6
Attributes: International Studies, Social Justice Studies, Social Science, Transformational Service Learning
Prerequisites: POS 101 or POS 102 or POS 103
POS 344 - POLITICS OF INDIA
This course seeks to understand the politics of India by couching it in the study of comparative politics. It applies the primary theories and approaches from comparative politics to India and makes direct comparisons to other countries in the region and elsewhere. In the process, the course covers the historical development of India's political and economic institutions as well as its contemporary politics, policies, and problems.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Non-western Culture, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 102 or POS 227

POS 345 - GLOBAL DIGITAL ACTIVISM
Global Digital Activism offers students an exploration of global digital activism through campaigns and mobilizations - including the Arab Spring and recent cases like #BringBackOurGirls. Students will study the history of the digital public sphere, grapple with questions about the cat-and-mouse game between authoritarian governments and opponents, and explore theories and ideas about the importance of social media technologies in both democratic and non-democratic contexts.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science, Women Gender Studies
Prerequisites: POS 102 or POS 203 and ENG 102
Course Notes: or instr. consent

POS 347 - ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
This course examines the relationship between poverty, development, and environmental sustainability in a variety of national settings. It examines examples of sustainable and unsustainable development and analyzes the outcomes of different developmental paths. Finally, it explores responses through both national and international conservation movements.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and POS 103 or POS 203

POS 348 - POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
This course examines the domestic and international causes of, and responses to, climate change. We will discuss international legal and scientific responses, battles over control of the scientific agenda, responses within both developed and developing nations, and proposed strategies of adaptation.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 or POS 103

POS 349 - POLITICS OF CONSERVATION
This course examines the politics of the domestic and transnational conservation movement, as well as the costs and benefits of conservation efforts. We will discuss international legal and scientific responses, and responses within both developed and developing nations.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science, Transformational Service Learning
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 351 - POLITICS OF CHICAGO
Relation of City of Chicago, State of Illinois, forms of local government, party machines, judicial organization; interrelationships between Chicago politics and reform movements.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 355 - US AND IL ELECTIONS
Course offered in Presidential election years, covering statewide (Illinois) and Presidential elections: how campaigns are mounted; the role of money and elections; voter decision making and voting blocs; primary and general elections procedures.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 358 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST
Exploration of the international politics of the Middle East, tracing the development of Western interests in the region. Instead of exploring the region from the perspective of the West, however, the course will take seriously the foreign policy histories and goals of the states of the Middle East, exploring regional rivalries, energy politics, the rise and fall of pan-Arab nationalism, the so-called "War on Terror", and the enduring significance of the Arab-Israeli conflict for regional politics.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Non-western Culture, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 103
Course Notes: or consent.

POS 362 - URBAN POLITICS
Historical development of political economy of major cities; political institutions and participation; changing conceptions of urban crisis; contemporary issues, especially economic development; study of community power.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 363 - URBAN POLICY
Policies and policy-making processes at all levels of government that shape quality of life in metropolitan areas; relationship between political and market processes; class, gender, racial, and regional consequences of different policies.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102

POS 367 - SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Central analytical problems in the study of social movements; dynamics and significance of social movements in contemporary US politics and society.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: 9 Credit Hours of Political Sci.
Course Notes: with minimum grade of a C. Instructor consent.
POS 368 - OIL AND TROUBLE: AMERICA IN THE MIDDLE EAST
This course examines the policy history of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, since 1945, seeking to understand the economic, ideological and geostrategic importance of the region to American interests. Since the end of WWII, the U.S. has become progressively more involved in the politics of the Middle East, from Eisenhower’s intervention in Lebanon in 1958 to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Drawing on theories of international relations and foreign policymaking, this course is designed to help students understand why this happened, why leaders made the choices they did, and to sort through the consequences. Students will also develop the policy analysis skills sought by leading government agencies and non-profit organizations in the field.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Non-western Culture, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 or POS 102 or POS 103
Course Notes: consent

POS 372 - ISSUES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC POLICY
Interaction of policy making and implementation; selected issues in public policy; impact of politics on administration.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 374 - UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
This course focuses on two major aspects of American constitutional law; separation of powers (relationship between and limits on the legislature, executive, and judiciary) and federalism (relationship between and roles/limits of the federal and state governments). Particular attention is given to how the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Constitution shapes these relationships.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Legal Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 375 - CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES
This course examines the relationship between the government and individuals by focusing on the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Bill of Rights and includes consideration of topics such as discrimination on the basis of race or sex, freedoms of speech and religion, and the right to privacy.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Legal Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 380 - INTERNATIONAL LAW I: HUMAN RIGHTS
Theoretical and institutional basis for a modern understanding of human rights and liberties. The philosophical justifications for a concept of human rights and the idea and practice of international law as a whole.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and POS 201 and ENG 102
Course Notes: consent

POS 388 - INTERVENTION AND PEACEKEEPING
This course introduces students to the study of international conflict resolution as viewed through the lens of civil wars (i.e., violent conflict by armed organizations within a recognized state). We address the obstacles to conflict resolution, why some civil wars last longer than others, and international attempts (e.g., UN, US, NATO, EU, etc) to build sustainable post-conflict peace. We nest international peacemaking within the context of global politics and use the main theoretical perspectives therein (e.g., realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, among others).
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: (POS 102 or POS 203) and (POS 103 or POS 201)

POS 390 - TOPICS: AMERICAN POLITICS
Topics vary by semester.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: 9 Credit Hours of Political Sci.
Course Notes: with min grade of C.

POS 392 - TOPICS: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
Topics vary by semester.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 103

POS 393 - WRITING ABOUT POLITICS
Writing About Politics is an intensive writing workshop that explores various forms of political writing – op-eds, magazine profiles, first-person essays and long-form essays – that appear in the pages of the world’s most well-read publications, including The New Yorker, the New York Times Magazine, the London Review of Books, The Atlantic and more. Students will gain first-hand experience writing for different audiences, using a broad variety of styles and approaches. The class itself will combine discussion of prominent examples of these forms with a writing workshop where the learning community will discuss student essays and articles together in a supportive environment dedicated to respectful dialogue and thoughtful feedback.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: Sr.Sem.

POS 395 - INDEPENDENT STUDY
Individual projects pursued under an instructor’s supervision.
Credits: 1-4
Attributes: Social Science

POS 397 - INDEPENDENT STUDY
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science