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
How should we understand the relationship between the individual and the state? What gives a state authority, and what are the limits of that authority? What is liberty and what is the role of the state in protecting and promoting liberty? How should power be distributed? These are enduring questions in political thought. In this class we consider the ways that Western political thought has answered these questions, and raise alternative possibilities by considering perspectives such as feminism, indigenous traditions, socialism, and anarchism.
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 210 - RACE IN U.S. POLITICS
Race has played a central role in U.S. politics from colonial days through the present. This class considers the persistence of systemic inequity in the U.S. as well as resistance and liberation movements in response to social, political, and economic oppression. Contemporary issues are considered through the lens of historic and continued structural racism within the U.S., paying particular attention to the role of the state and political actors in creating and perpetuating systemic racial disparities through public policy and political rhetoric.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Course Notes: Open to freshmen., No additional credit given for 'RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICS

POS 220 - THE AMERICAN JUDICIARY
This course considers courts as political institutions and will examine the institutional features of the courts, judicial decision-making and factors that constrain it, the relationship between the courts and the other branches of government, and whether/how courts can be used to effect significant political change.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science

POS 241 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES
Every four years, both Democrats and Republicans hold an elaborate, year-long spectacle to choose their party's presidential nominee. Typically beginning with televised debates more than 6 months before the first contest, the primaries are fought across all 50 states, many of which use radically different procedures to choose delegates, and only conclude with the party's summer nominating convention. Where did this system come from? Why do both parties let Iowa and New Hampshire go first? How much influence do party elites have over the nomination process? Why do candidates tend to win their home states? What kind of voters turn out for these elections? In this course, we will critically analyze the history of American presidential primaries, from the early 20th century reform era to the crucial reforms of the 1970s. We will also build understanding of how nominees are chosen, and whether the U.S. primary process could stand another round of significant reform. And of course, we will spend considerable time analyzing the 2020 race for the Democratic and Republican nominations for president.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
Course Notes: Completion UWR

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 250B - URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
What is "environmental justice"? How is environmental justice different than "environmentalism" or "conservation"? How and why has use (and abuse) of the earth's resources in the US (and Chicago specifically) become unequal? How can individuals, governments, and communities restore greater justice? What are the stakes if we fail to do so? These are some of the questions we will engage this course, as well as generating new ones. Protecting rights may be the ultimate justification for government. Yet here and elsewhere, governments fail to protect, and often violate, basic rights. The US considers itself an exemplar of justice, but allows some parts of the population to consume huge amounts of the earth's resources, through systematic deprivation of other parts of the population. Residents of urban areas have been, traditionally, simultaneously the ones most likely to be exposed to environmental ills and the most unlikely to benefit from environmental goods (including safe drinking water, clean air, safe soil, uncontaminated watersheds, and safe outdoor spaces). This has created, for many communities, systematic and mutually reinforcing disadvantages. Increasing disconnection from nature can create greater atomism, lack of social capital, and lack of political power make it particularly hard to advocate for greater social and environmental justice for the very people who have most born the burdens of injustices. This state of affairs presents an inescapable practical and ethical challenge that we must meet. Therefore we will explore cases of environmental injustice here in the Chicago area, through site visits and partnerships with outside experts. The course will engage us in local-level investigations of global political and social trends.
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 characterize 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 292 - NORTH KOREA & NUCLEAR SECURITY
This course examines the controversy surrounding the nuclear program pursued by North Korea. Examining the history of diplomacy from the Agreed Framework of 1994 to the collapse of negotiations in the Bush Administration, students will explore issues of nuclear security and nuclear war as they apply to North Korea and around the world. By understanding the history of the conflict, as well as key concepts in the study of nuclear security, students will gain fluency in nuclear debates as well as understanding of the political dynamics guiding the renewed hostility between the Trump Administration and the regime of Kim Jong-un.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science

POS 295 - INDEPENDENT STUDY
Credits: 1-3

POS 301 - INTRO TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Overview of field and profession of public administration. Survey of social and historical environment of public agencies. See Padm 300.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 302 - PROBLEMS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY
Organization of US government for conduct of foreign policy. Case studies of military, economic, and political foreign affairs.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 or POS 102 or POS 103

POS 308 - SLAVERY, RACE, AND THE LAW
This course will explore the interaction of slavery, race, and the law in the United States from colonial times through Reconstruction. Politics, economics, culture, and the law all played a role in shaping the institution of slavery as well as modern conceptions of race. The course reading will include both secondary works and original documents, including excerpts of trial transcripts, Supreme Court decisions, state legal codes, and first-person narratives. We will focus on a number of larger issues, such as the role legal codes played in creating racial identities, how race shaped notions of citizenship, and how slavery influenced the Constitution.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 310 - APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH
This course guides students through an independent research project on a topic of their choosing. It ensures students are able to write a high-quality thesis using sophisticated research methods. Learning objectives include: research design, practical data analysis skills, critical and analytical thinking skills, sophisticated quantitative literacy, including the ability to critique social science methods. The course will prepare students to go beyond being consumers of knowledge to being producers of knowledge.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Honors Program, Social Science
Prerequisites: ENG 222
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: Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: 9 Credit Hours of Soc. Sciences

POS 319 - THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN: HAMILTON'S AMERICA
This course explores the political changes leading to the American Revolution along with the intellectual, cultural and social revolutions that occurred during the eighteenth century. Family relations, consumer behavior, even the way people spoke—all underwent profound transformations. While the American Revolution gave birth to a new political order, these other revolutions gave birth to a new way of being in the world, one that continues to shape our lives.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: (POS 101 and ENG 102) or 3 Credit Hours of History

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

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 104 or POS 329 or 3 Credit Hours of Philosophy

POS 325 - TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES ON WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS
In the US and the Netherlands, both democracies, the most basic processes of criminal justice too often fail due to flawed judicial processes and weaknesses in the structure of the criminal justice system. This state of affairs presents an inescapable practical and ethical challenge that we must meet. In order to do so, we must discover the unique challenges and opportunities presented by our own political context. We can only do this fully when we view our own context in comparative perspective. In this course we will explore, especially cases of wrongful conviction, here and abroad, through distance learning that virtually combines students and faculty at Roosevelt and the University of Tilburg, and will include in-person guest lectures on the part of each faculty member on the others' campus.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies
Prerequisites: POS 102 or POS 103
Course Notes: or instructor consent.

POS 326 - FOOD JUSTICE: FOOD POLICY IN US
This course considers the complicated politics of food regulation, production, distribution, and consumption. During the semester we will discuss how food policy is made and its practical impacts. We will look at the world of agricultural lobbying, subsidies, and policy making. We will consider consumer rights, worker rights, and environmental justice issues within food production. And, we will examine some of the various social movements that have emerged in response to these issues, including the growing food sovereignty movement.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: 9 Credit Hours of Soc. Sciences

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: POS 101 or POS 104
Course Notes: or consent; Political Science and/or Philosophy recommended

POS 334 - VOTING POLICY
This course examines voting from an operational perspective. The course provides students a working knowledge of theories and practices related to organizing elections and ensuring that votes are fairly cast and accurately counted. In addition, the course explores current trends such as redistricting and campaigning that affect the fairness of elections. Finally, the course considers the effect of partisanship, campaigns and media on voting decisions.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
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
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 103

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 341 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES
Every four years, both Democrats and Republicans hold an elaborate, year-long spectacle to choose their party’s presidential nominee. Typically beginning with televised debates more than 6 months before the first contest, the primaries are fought across all 50 states, many of which use radically different procedures to choose delegates, and only conclude with the party’s summer nominating convention. Where did this system come from? Why do both parties let Iowa and New Hampshire go first? How much influence do party elites have over the nomination process? Why do candidates tend to win their home states? What kind of voters turn out for these elections? In this course, we will critically analyze the history of American presidential primaries, from the early 20th century reform era to the crucial reforms of the 1970s. We will also build understanding of how nominees are chosen, and whether the U.S. primary process could stand another round of significant reform. And of course, we will spend considerable time analyzing the 2020 race for the Democratic and Republican nominations for president.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science, Women Gender Studies
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
Prerequisites: POS 102 (with a min grade of C) OR POS 203 (with a min grade of C)
Attributes: International Studies, Non-western Culture, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 102 or POS 203

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.
Credits: 3-6
Attributes: International Studies, Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 or POS 102 or POS 103

POS 344 - 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 345 - 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 and POS 103 or POS 203

POS 346 - 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
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 347 - HEALTH POLICY
Health policy examines the development by government and other policy makers of present and future objectives pertaining to health care and the health care system. It will focus on the articulation of arguments and decisions regarding these objectives in legislation, judicial opinions, regulations, guidelines, standards, and key health policy influences that affect health care and public health. This includes the role of economic, technological, social, cultural and other influences on policy development; and the effects of resulting policies, guidelines, standards and protocols.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
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: THE WIRE AND URBAN AMERICA
This course will use HBO’s The Wire as a lens for exploring various problems afflicting urban America today. We will study the show in its own right as an artistic product worthy of investigation (some critics have called it the greatest television show ever made), and we will use the show as a springboard for thinking about inequality, crime and punishment, work and labor markets, education, and politics. The assigned readings will analyze social, economic, political and cultural factors that shape the experiences of the urban poor and that have created the kind of urban landscape depicted in The Wire.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 (may be taken concurrently) or POS 102 (may be taken concurrently) or POS 103 (may be taken concurrently)
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
This course examines current trends in social movements, looking at examples in both the U.S. and international contexts. Emphasis is on radical social movements seeking systemic transformation of social, economic, and political institutions. We will consider not only the societal power dynamics these movements seek to change but the power dynamics at play within the movements themselves, paying particular attention to issues of intersectionality. Some questions the course addresses: How do movements emerge? What does it mean for movements to exist within a globally-networked world? How do movements that address different issues develop solidarity across movements? What are the implications for community organizing?
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Justice Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: 9 Credit Hours of Soc. Sciences
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 WW II, 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

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: or consent of the instructor.

POS 374 - UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
This course focuses on major aspects of American constitutional law, including the debates at the Constitutional Convention, the separation of powers, federalism, and other significant areas of constitutional debate. Particular attention is given to the Supreme Court’s interpretation of these issues.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Legal Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102

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

POS 381 - GLOBAL CHICAGO
Course explores the various forces shaping Chicago in the era of globalization and what this entails for the built environment, social policy and people’s everyday experience of the city. Central themes include: changes in urban economic development and labor markets, global city building, urban development and gentrification, public and affordable housing policies, new strategies of policing and surveillance, Green practices and environmental policy, immigration, and challenges confronting the education system.
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102
POS 385 - COLLAPSE OF THE POST-WAR POLITICAL ORDER
In the years following World War II, the United States experienced a period of unprecedented economic expansion, unrivalled world power, and a political consensus that American-style liberalism was leading the nation into an era of peace and prosperity. By the 1960s, though, the country faced a series of challenges to these optimistic assumptions. Attacks from the left and the right left the post-war liberal consensus in tatters and eventually led to a resurgent conservative movement. We will explore the collapse of the post-war order both domestically and internationally and attempt to understand the forces that have led to our current political moment.
Credits: 3
Attributes: International Studies, Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101

POS 390 - TOPICS: U.S. POLITICS
Topics vary by semester.
Credits: 3
Attributes: Social Science
Prerequisites: POS 101 and ENG 102

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