POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLS)

POLS 2304  Introduction to Political Science
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the scope and methods of the field, and the substantive topics in the discipline including the theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions and how political systems function.
TCCNS: GOVT 2304

POLS 2305  U.S. Government and Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A basic survey of American government, including fundamental political institutions, with special attention to the United States and Texas Constitutions.
TCCNS: GOVT 2305

POLS 2306  State and Local Government
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The politics, government, and administration of American states, counties, cities, and special districts, with special emphasis on Texas.
TCCNS: GOVT 2306

POLS 2311  Mexican American and Latinx Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The study of Mexican American and Latinx politics within the American political experience. Topics include historical, cultural, socioeconomic, and constitutional issues that pertain to the study of Mexican Americans and other Latinx populations in the United States. Other topics such as political participation, governmental institutions, electoral politics, political representation, demographic trends, and other contemporary public policy debates will also be addressed.
TCCNS: GOVT 2311

POLS 2318  Politics, Groups, & Society
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course explores the role of groups in political and social change in society. In doing so, the course explores the formal and informal institutions which aid and constrain group effectiveness. An emphasis is placed on contemporary examples.

POLS 2319  Religion and Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The course will examine the intersection of religion and politics historically and during contemporary times with an emphasis on beliefs, behaviors, institutions, and policies.

POLS 2324  Immigration Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will focus on immigration in the United States but will also briefly examine it from a cross-national perspective. Some of the topics covered will include the causes and effects of migration, public opinion on immigration, and contemporary state and local immigration policies. The purpose of this course is to inform students on salient aspects of immigrations within the United States and its consequences on the political system. We will use a variety of tools including classroom discussions, lectures, student response systems, in-class activities, and writing assignments to achieve this goal.

POLS 2325  Political Psychology
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Political psychology is interdisciplinary using psychology to explain political behavior. This course exposes students to a range of theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of political behavior ranging from voting behavior to nuclear deterrence, from the politics of race to the politics of genocide. We explore topics including leadership, group behavior, voting, media effects, race, ethnicity, nationalism, political extremism, social movements, genocide, and war and deterrence.

POLS 2326  Politics of Love
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
In this course, we will be exploring the relationship between politics and love. At first blush, politics does not seem to be “lovely.” On closer examination, however, love is found to be an inextricable part of politics. When speaking about politics, we often discuss love of country, honor, freedom, justice, power, glory, victory, and one’s own tribe, people, and opinion. How does love mix together with politics? Which, if any, is the most important of loves? Does it depend on the regime? What is the best regime? To answer these questions we will need to know more about love itself. What is it? How and why is it connected to politics? Does love shape our ideas of politics? Do our political ideas shape our ideas about love? Both? Is love inherently political? What is the relationship between romantic love and politics? In our quest to gain clarity on these questions, we will examine some of the most serious considerations of the relationship between politics and love in the study of political philosophy.

POLS 2327  The Politics of War
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will examine the politics of war from ancient times to the present. Included in this survey are great generals and military strategists, from Sun Tzu to Napoleon to generals of the American Civil War. Students will study concepts of international law, the law of nations, and the laws of war. The course further examines military strategy and tactics of the 20th century.

POLS 3303  Contemporary Political Analysis
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Analysis of current problems in national and international politics. Emphasis is on methods of analysis, particularly the use of computers. Includes a segment on career opportunities for political science majors.

POLS 3311  Women and Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The course will examine public policies affecting women, political participation, women in public office, and political attitudes of women.

POLS 3312  Campaigns and Elections
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A survey of the literature on campaigns and elections including theories of voter choice; effects of mass media and campaign finance regulations on the conduct and outcome of elections; effects of elections on policy; emphasis on U.S. national elections.

POLS 3313  The Legislative Process
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Survey and description of the legislative process in the United States Congress with relevant comparisons to practices within the several states and foreign nations. Emphasis upon the law-making process explained in terms of structure, participants, groups, associations and power relationships.
and the influence of politics on implementation is analyzed. Functions and behavior. The role of bureaucracy in public policy making is examined. The concept of the political role of the bureaucracy and the controversies. A survey of the policy process in the United States. The course will focus on the interrelatedness of governmental units through budgeting. Impact of mass media coverage on American political institutions, the election process, and public opinion in general and the appropriate role of media and news in a society.

POLS 3303 Seminar in Political Science 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) Capstone course for political science majors, examines significant developments and issue in American politics as they are addressed in the professional literature of political science. Offers the opportunity of an intensive study of as selected topic. Emphasis on supervised research on selected topic. Prerequisite: POLS 3303.

POLS 4311 Urban Politics 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) The institutions, political processes and policy issues of urban areas of the United States.

POLS 4312 Government Budgeting and Finance 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) Study of the politics and processes of governmental budgeting at local, state, and federal levels with emphasis on the interrelatedness of governmental units through budgeting.

POLS 4314 Media and Politics 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) Impact of mass media coverage on American political institutions, the election process, and public opinion in general and the appropriate role of media and news in a society.

POLS 4320 The Politics of the European Union 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) Examination of the institutional, economic and political forces that led to the creation and development of the European Union. Emphasis on the impact the European Union has had on world affairs.

POLS 4321 Comparative Politics of Developing Nations 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) Analysis of contemporary issues within and amongst developing nations. Examines various institutions, political processes, and public policy debates in some or all of the following regions: Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, or Asia.

POLS 4322 Transitions to Democracy 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours) Analysis of transitions to democracy from authoritarian rule. Various stages of the transition process and theories of democratization are assessed. Emphasis will be placed on "third wave" transitions to democracy.
POLS 4325  Politics in Latin America  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Latin American governments and politics as related to such topical 
problems and processes as land reform and expropriation.

POLS 4361  American Political Thought  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A survey of the major developments in American political thought from 
the Colonial period to the present, followed by an analysis of important 
recent theoretical developments in American political thought.

POLS 4390  Topics in Political Science  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

POLS 4396  Directed Individual Study  
1-3 Semester Credit Hours (1-3 Lecture Hours)  
See College description.

POLS 4398  Applied Experience  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
NCD.