
PoliSci 101 | American Politics

Jesse Rhodes

4 credits

Introduction to and overview of American government. Emphasis on understanding American political institutions such as the Congress, the presidency, and the courts in light of democratic theory and values. Examination of the electoral process; how government institutions respond to demands for public policies.

MW | 1:25pm – 2:15pm

+ Discussion Section

Gen Ed: SB

PoliSci 111 | Comparative Politics

Sayres Rudy

4 credits

An introductory exploration of political systems in several nation states in various parts of the world. Coverage differs depending on the specialties and interests of instructor. Students learn about generalized comparative approaches and political development, political processes and political institutions in each state covered.

MW | 4:00pm – 4:50pm

+ Discussion Section

Gen Ed: SB and DG

PoliSci 121 | World Politics

Sayres Rudy

4 credits

Introduction to the principles and practices of international relations in the political, military, economic, and environmental realms. Study of the development of the contemporary system to explore the effects of the structure of the international system, the institutions through which states conduct their relations, and domestic characteristics on the relations among states.

MW | 2:30pm – 3:45pm

+ Discussion Section

Gen Ed: SB and DG

PoliSci 171 | Introduction to Political Theory

Roberto Alejandro

4 credits

Introduction to the principles and practices of international relations in the political, military, economic, and environmental realms. Study of the development of the contemporary system to explore the effects of the structure of the international system, the institutions through which states conduct their relations, and domestic characteristics on the relations among states.

MW | 1:25pm – 2:15pm

+ Discussion Section

Gen Ed: SB

PoliSci 201 | American Politics Through Film

Michael Hannahan

4 credits

Movies are used to explore the development of American politics. The forces that shaped our politics early in the century (immigration, reform, religion), the rise of "big" government in the depression and World War II years (the new roles of the federal government, the enhanced presidency, internationalism, and anti-communism), and selected issues (race, gender, modern campaigns) prominent since the 1960s. The meaning of political democracy in America and how our understanding of it has adapted to changing times and conditions.

TuTh | 10:00am – 11:15am

+ Discussion Section

Gen Ed: HS

PoliSci 208 | Political Parties and Elections

Raymond La Raja

3 credits

Analysis of the roles of political parties in elections and in government. Emphasis on elections and democratic theory; voting behavior; party organizations, PACs, and money in congressional and presidential elections; political parties and the governmental process; and parties as sources of continuity and vehicles for change in American politics.

TuTh | 8:55am – 9:45am

+ Discussion Section

PoliSci 214 | Urban Government and Politics**Th | 5:30pm – 8:00pm****Alex Morse****3 credits**

An overview of city politics in the U.S. Focus on understanding urban political economy, including its relation to state and federal governments, the complexity of relations between public and private sectors, the structure of city governments, and decision-making processes. Includes such topical issues as education, housing, and economic development.

PoliSci 255 | American Foreign Policy**TuTh | 4:00pm – 5:15pm****Robert Musgrave****4 credits****Gen Ed: SB**

Principles of American foreign policy with an emphasis on the historical, political, and administrative sources of contemporary policies. Analysis of the foreign policy-making process with specific reference to illustrative case studies.

Recommended: PoliSci 101, PoliSci 121, or equivalent course.

PoliSci 280 | Public Policy**TuTh | 1:00pm – 1:50pm****Brenda Bushouse****4 credits****+ Discussion Section****Gen Ed: SB**

Focus on how public policies are made in the U.S., including the role of citizens, interest groups, and government institutions. Emphasis on the processes by which policies are made in various institutions, including the Presidency, Congress, bureaucracy, and courts. Examples cover numerous public policies, such as campaign finance reform, foreign policy, and the environment.

PoliSci 291N | Political Economy of the Modern Middle East and North Africa**MW | 11:30am – 12:45pm****Sayres Rudy****3 credits**

This course will examine the social, political, and economic bases of power in North Africa and West Asia ("Middle East") in comparative perspective. We will emphasize the elements and processes of contested sovereignty, such as class conflict, citizenship, protest movements, institutional centralization, material resources, and global encroachment. A core hypothesis of "political economy," seminally traced to Marxist analysis, is that material struggles and physical demands condition political outcomes, e.g., regime-type, rights-regimes, welfare provisions, ideological schema, institutional design, and gender arrangements. One "crude" version of this idea is that its unique oil-abundance and -dependence condemns the MENA region to authoritarian rule and weak civil society -- a "materialist" perspective that oddly bolsters "idealist" Orientalist depictions of Muslim culture as exceptionally bound by religious conformity. As political economists we will ask what specific outcomes, if any, cannot be explained by "universal" approaches to social analysis, particularly by developing a more inclusive notion of materialist political explanation. Thus while introducing the MENA region, the course will cultivate a critical appreciation of social-analysis: concepts in political research; reconstruction and critique of arguments; inferential logic in political-economy; and philosophical problems of causality, conditionality, evidence, and comparison, viz. qualitative methods.

PoliSci 291U | UMass Women into Leadership**Tu | 5:30pm – 8:00pm****Michelle Goncalves****1 credit**

UMass Women into Leadership (UWiL) is a series of hands-on workshops designed to educate participants on the existence and causes of gender disparities in public service, to provide leadership training to prepare participants to enter public service careers, and to offer mentoring and networking programs to help launch public service careers.

PoliSci 297W | Introduction to Women and Politics in the USA

TuTh | 11:30am – 12:45pm

Maryann Barasko

3 credits

This course examines women's political incorporation in the United States primarily, but not exclusively, with respect to electoral politics. We explore women's pre-suffrage political activities before delving into the campaign for women's suffrage. We study the effects of achieving suffrage on women's political behavior during the period immediately following their achievement of the right to vote and beyond. The relationship between women and party politics will be probed before discussing the challenges women still face as candidates in state and federal legislatures in the U.S. The extent to which women's participation in campaigns and elections makes a substantive difference in policy making is considered. Subsequent discussions examine the role women's organizations currently play in expanding women's political representation in the U.S.

PoliSci 297XH | Science and Health Inequalities

TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm

Multiple Instructors

4 credits

This course offers a unique approach to the study and understanding of health inequalities in the United States - the fact that the burden of disease and death affects populations differently in the United States. A social gradient runs through health indicators such that the poor do worse than the middle class, who do worse than their more affluent counterparts. This is explained by individual level factors - diet, physical activity, environmental exposure - as well as more "macro" or structural level factors (like access to recreational space, nutritional foods, and clean environments). Both individual and structural risk factors are outcomes of the political and policy process. With a team-based learning design, six faculty from various disciplines will introduce students to the approach and methodology that each field brings to the study of health inequalities, as well as the political impediments to interventions that could address them.

PoliSci 308 | Public Opinion in Politics

TuTh | 10:00am – 11:15am

Scott Blinder

4 credits

Integrative Experience

This course explores the landscape of opinion on a variety of political topics to develop an understanding about how the public thinks about issues and why they think the way they do. It also examines how peoples' opinions influence their behavior, and whether or not political leaders follow the "will of the public" or manipulate public opinion to achieve their own aims. Objectives for this course are: To understand how surveys are conducted, including sampling and questionnaire design, and how to interpret their results; To become familiar with political science theories about how people form opinions and how those opinions change; To recognize when and how elites can manipulate public opinion; and to evaluate the role of public opinion in a democratic system.

PoliSci 345 | Revolutionary Nationalism and Imperialism in the Caribbean

TuTh | 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Carlene Edie

3 credits

Focuses on four countries often denied a Caribbean identity: Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti whose politics are assessed in regional Caribbean terms, identifying common factors in historical and contemporary development.

Recommended: PoliSci 245.**PoliSci 346 | Government and Politics of West Africa**

TuTh | 11:30am – 12:45pm

Carlene Edie

3 credits

Comparison of political economy of four former British colonies of West Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra Leone. Difficulties of nation-state formation, the politics of the military state, role of governments in promoting, altering or retarding economic growth; impact of IMF and other external institutions on development processes. The Gambia as deviate case: liberalism and electoral politics examined.

Recommended: PoliSci 111.

PoliSci 357 | International Organizations**TuTh | 10:00am – 11:15am****M.J. Peterson****3 credits**

The roles of intergovernmental organizations in the management of shared problems, particularly collective security, economic relations, use of common areas or resources, promotion of human rights, and protection of the environment. Contrasts the regional integration effort pursued in the European Community and the looser cooperation pursued through the UN system.

Recommended: PoliSci 121 or equivalent.

PoliSci 361 | Civil Liberties**Section 1: Sheldon Goldman****TuTh | 11:30am – 12:45pm****Section 2: Sheldon Goldman****TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm****3 credits**

Development of constitutional law in the civil liberties sphere. First Amendment freedoms of speech, press, and religion, and certain rights of the accused; the rights of African-Americans and other minorities and the rights of women and gays under the equal protection of the laws clause.

Prerequisite: Basic American politics course or equivalent.

PoliSci 361HH | Civil Liberties with Honors Colloquium**Section 1: Sheldon Goldman****TuTh | 11:30am – 12:45pm****Section 2: Sheldon Goldman****TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm****3 credits**

This course introduces students to how the Supreme Court works as a legal institution, by examining landmark civil liberties decisions of the Court within their political and historical contexts. As an Integrative Experience course, this course also connects knowledge and skills from multiple sources, helps build oral communication, collaboration, and critical thinking skills, and strengthens students' analytical understanding of how the Supreme Court works. Satisfies the Integrative Experience requirement for BA-POLSCI majors

Prerequisite: Basic American politics course or equivalent.

PoliSci 364 | Gender and Race in US Social Politics**W | 5:30pm – 8:00pm****Elizabeth Sharrow****3 credits**

What are the problems associated with developing equitable and just policy? Why does social policy in the United States continue to be marked by tensions between the principle of equality and the reality of inequalities in social, political, and economic realms? How might policy subvert or reinforce these differences and inequalities? This class examines the history of social policy in the United States, particularly those policies affecting concerns of gender, race, and class. We will examine a wide range of social policies, focusing on those affecting groups such as: women, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBT people, and low-income people. We will study primarily empirical work, while asking questions about how political culture, interest groups, social movements, government institutions and other factor influence U.S. social policy.

PoliSci 376 | What is Politics?**Tu | 4:00pm – 6:30pm****Frederic Schaffer****4 credits**

What is politics, really? To answer this deceptively simple question, students engage thinkers such as Aristotle, Weber, Arendt, and Schmitt; read about the evolutionary origins of politics among the primates; go out and "do politics;" and reflect on their own political awakenings.

PoliSci 377 | Interpretation and Analysis of Political Science

Section 1: Marissa Carrere

Section 2: Instructor TBD

Section 3: Instructor TBD

3 credits

TuTh | 10:00am – 11:15am

TuTh | 4:00pm – 5:15pm

MW | 5:30pm – 6:45pm

Junior Year Writing

Satisfies Junior Year Writing requirements for Political Science majors, through assignments practicing the types of writing used by citizens, policy advisers, and politicians in public debates about contemporary issues.

PoliSci 391E | Rules of War

Charli Carpenter

4 credits

W | 1:25pm – 3:55pm

This course evaluates the role of international ethical norms in regulating the practice of organized political violence. We will begin by considering how to think analytically about the effects of ethical norms on international policy-making. We next consider the origins and evolving dynamics of the laws of war, explore why political actors so often violate these rules and the conditions under which they follow them, and examine the political and ethical dilemmas involved in enforcing them. Specific topics covered include weapons bans, terrorism, protection of noncombatants, and war crimes tribunals. The course will conclude with an assessment of continuity and change in global security norms post 9/11.

PoliSci 393M | Media in American Politics

Scott Blinder

3 credits

TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm

The media have been known as the "fourth branch" of the American political system, and not without reason. This course examines the changing role of media in American politics. Key issues include how media shapes citizens' thinking about politics, how politicians and citizen activists try to advance their goals through media, and how media outlets themselves shape what is considered news. We will also consider how entertainment media shapes people's understandings of public affairs, and the rise of new media from 24-7 cable news to blogs and social media, and whether these new forms of communication can enhance democratic governance or simply accelerate the fragmentation of media and polarization of the American public. The focus is on the US but at times the course may compare American media and politics to systems elsewhere in the world.

PoliSci 394DI | Protest and Dissent

Barbara Cruikshank

3 credits

MW | 4:00pm – 5:15pm

Integrative Experience

This course explores ideas and practices of political protest and dissent through a range of cases drawn from around the globe and utilizing the comparative method. We will explore such questions as, why do people protest? Against whom or what is protest directed? To achieve what ends? What forms of protest are employed? While political activism, marches, riots, strikes, and other tried-and-true forms of protest are easily recognizable, what are the other ways in which individuals and groups might register or express political dissent? What makes a particular act of protest or dissent political? We will utilize a wide range of sources, including scholarly writings, memoirs, primary documents, films, art, and more, to examine protest and dissent activities in a wide range of contexts.

PoliSci 394FI | Family and the State

Diane Curtis

3 credits

TuTh | 10:00am – 11:15am

Integrative Experience

Why and how is the state involved in the definition of families, access to marriage, and intervention on behalf of children? This course will address these and other questions as we explore the ways in which the legal boundaries and connections between government and family have evolved over the last century in the United States. Issues of gender, race, class and sexual orientation will naturally play a significant role in these explorations.

PoliSci 395A | Constitutional Amendment Workshop**TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm****Diane Curtis****3 credits**

What if a Constitution drafted in the 18th century is inadequate to the needs of a 21st century nation? How should we amend it? In this hands-on course blending team-based learning and discussion-based classes, students will jointly identify a small number of perceived deficiencies in the US Constitution, research the history, interpretation, and application of the operative provisions, explore alternative models from other constitution, and develop proposed amendments for presentation to and discussion by the entire class.

PoliSci 453 | Political Network Analysis**TuTh | 2:30pm – 3:45pm****Meredith Rolfe****3 credits**

The study of networks in political science, the social sciences and beyond has grown rapidly in recent years. This course is a comprehensive introduction to methods for analyzing network data. We will cover network data collection and management, the formulation of network theory and hypotheses, network visualization and description; and methods for the statistical analysis of networks. The course will introduce multiple applications of political network analysis in the real world.
