

Undergraduate Political Science Courses for Spring 2010

PS 0825 – Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences

Prerequisite: Mathematics placement, a grade of C- or higher in Math 0701 (0045), or transfer credit for Math 0701 (0045).

Psychological, political, social, and economic arguments and knowledge frequently depend on the use of numerical data. A psychologist might hypothesize that I.Q. is attributable to environmental or genetic factors; a politician might claim that hand gun control legislation will reduce crime; a sociologist might assert that social mobility is more limited in the United States than in other countries, and an economist might declare that globalization lowers the incomes of U.S. workers. How can we evaluate these arguments? Using examples from psychology, sociology, political science, and economics, students will examine how social science methods and statistics help us understand the social world. The goal is to become critical consumers of quantitative material that appears in scholarship, the media, and everyday life.

Note: This course fulfills the Quantitative Literacy (GQ) requirement for students under GenEd and a Quantitative Reasoning (QA or QB) requirement for students under Core.

Students cannot receive credit for this course if they have successfully completed ANTHRO 0825, PSYCH 0825, or SOC 0825/0925.

PS 0832 – Politics of Identity in America

Gay or straight. Black or white. Male or female. What do these different group identities mean to Americans? How do they influence our politics? Should we celebrate or downplay our diversity? This course explores how we think about others and ourselves as members of different groups and what consequences it has for how we treat one another. Our fundamental social identities can be a source of power or of powerlessness, a justification for inequality or for bold social reform. Students learn about the importance of race, class, gender and sexual orientation across a variety of

important contexts, such as the family, workplace, schools, and popular culture and the implications these identities have on our daily lives.

Note: This course fulfills the Race & Diversity (GD) requirement for students under GenEd and Studies in Race (RS) for students under Core.

Students cannot receive credit for this course if they have successfully completed History 0832, SOC 0832 or Women's Studies 0832/0932.

PS 0859 – The Making of American Society: Melting Pot or Culture Wars?

Terrorism, illegal immigration, gay marriage, religious conflict, political infighting, corporate corruption, racial animosities, civil liberties assaults, media conglomeration, Wal-Mart goes to China and the rich get richer. America in the 21st century is a contentious society. How did we get to this place in time? Examine what makes American society distinctive from other advanced industrial democracies as we study the philosophical origins of America, the development of social and economic relationships over time, and the political disputes dominating contemporary American life. The course relies heavily on perspectives from History, Sociology and Political Science to explain the challenges facing contemporary American society.

Note: This course fulfills the U.S. Society (GU) requirement for students under GenEd and American Culture (AC) for students under Core.

Students cannot receive credit for this course if they have successfully completed any of the following: AMER ST 0859, History 0859, PHILOS 0859, or SOC 0859.

PS 0862 – Globalization Today

Use historical and case study methods to study the differences between rich and poor nations and the varied strategies available for development in a globalizing world. Examine the challenges facing developing countries in historical and contemporary context and analyze the main social, cultural, and political factors that interact with the dynamic forces of the world

economy. These include imperialism/colonialism, state formation, labor migration, demographic trends, gender issues in development, religious movements and nationalism, the challenges to national sovereignty, waves of democratization, culture and mass media, struggles for human rights, environmental sustainability, the advantages and disadvantages of globalization, and movements of resistance.

Note: This course fulfills the World Society (GG) requirement for students under GenEd and International Studies (IS) for students under Core.

Students cannot receive credit for this course if they have successfully completed any of the following: History 0862, GUS 0862, POL SCI 0962, or SOC 0862/0962.

PS 0866 – World Affairs

We live in a global age when events beyond our borders significantly affect our lives. Sharpen your understanding of international developments, including wars, economic globalization, wealth and poverty, the spread of democracy, environmental degradation, and global pandemics. This course offers an introduction to the study of world affairs that gives you the conceptual tools to deepen your understanding of how major historical and current trends in the world affect your life and that of others around the globe. Readings include historical documents, classic texts in the study of international relations, and current perspectives on the state of the world from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

Note: This course fulfills the World Society (GG) requirement for students under GenEd and International Studies (IS) for students under Core.

Students cannot receive credit for this course if they have successfully completed any of the following: History 0866, GUS 0866 or POL SCI 0966.

PS1101 – The American Political System

An introduction to American politics. Focuses on the values, institutions, and processes of politics and government in the United States. Introduces the concepts and techniques of political science.

Note: (1) This course is required of all Political Science majors. (2) This course can be used to satisfy the university Core American Culture (AC) requirement. Although it may be usable towards graduation as a major requirement or university elective, it cannot be used to satisfy any of the university GenEd requirements. See your advisor for further information.

PS 1103 – The Individual, Race and American Political Life

This course focuses on the relationships between individuals and their government in the United States, investigating how government has handled the issue of insuring individual equality under democracy. It will explore the ways in which the exclusion and incorporation of various groups in American society have been affected by race and class.

Note: (1) Political Science majors should consult with an advisor about enrolling in this course. (2) This course can be used to satisfy the university Core Studies in Race and Individual & Society (RN) requirements. Although it may be usable towards graduation as a major requirement or university elective, it cannot be used to satisfy any of the university GenEd requirements. See your advisor for further information.

PS 1201 – Foreign Governments and Politics

This course considers the values, institutions and processes of politics and government in selected developing and developed countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Note: (1) For both non-majors and majors. (2) This course can be used to satisfy the university Core International Studies (IS) requirement. Although it may be usable towards graduation as a major requirement or university elective, it cannot be used to satisfy any of the university GenEd

requirements. See your advisor for further information. Mode: Simulations and films.

PS 1301 – International Politics

This course is an introduction to the nature of the international system, the determinants and instruments of foreign policy, and the problems of international conflict and cooperation.

Note: This course can be used to satisfy the university Core International Studies (IS) requirement. Although it may be usable towards graduation as a major requirement or university elective, it cannot be used to satisfy any of the university GenEd requirements. See your advisor for further information. Mode: Class discussion and possibly simulations of current international problems.

PS 2102 – American State & Local Politics

This course considers government and politics of subnational units including states, counties, cities, towns, and townships in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Further topics include the relationship of state and local policy to citizens, other governmental units, and the American political system.

PS 2103 – US Public Policy Making

This course examines selected policy areas in a variety of national settings and the relationship of political cultures and policymaking structures to policy outputs.

PS 2231 – Comparative Political Systems of Latin America

A comparative consideration of selected Latin American political systems.

PS 2341 – US Foreign Policy

Prerequisite: POL SCI 1301 (C053) or permission of instructor.

Analysis of U.S. foreign policy from three perspectives: (1) competing explanations for patterns, tendencies and events in U.S. foreign policy; (2) history of U.S. foreign policy from independence to the end of the Cold War, (3) issues in contemporary U.S. foreign policy in light of the first and second-hand perspectives.

PS 2432 – American Political Thought

This course examines significant political ideas from the American colonial period to the present and the influences of these ideas on contemporary American political institutions.

PS 2496 – Introduction to Political Philosophy

Prerequisite: English 1002 (C050) or English 0802.

Reading of selected works by several classical and modern political philosophers, such as Aristotle, Hobbes, and Marx; study of their relevance to contemporary political issues.

Note: Capstone writing course in the major.

PS 3103 – American Supreme Court

An examination of judicial decision making and the interrelationships between the Court and other aspects of the political process.

PS 3111 – Media and the Political Process

This course considers the relationship between the mass media and American politics, government regulation of the mass media, media coverage of public affairs, political effects of entertainment programming,

and the uses and influence of the media in the election process. Both print and broadcast media will be considered.

PS 3123 – American Constitutional Principles II: Civil Rights in America

Civil rights in America, including the Constitutional protections of freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion.

PS 3131 – Urban Politics and Problems

This course presents an overview of the politics of urban areas: electoral politics, government structure, race, finance, education, housing, neighborhoods, and economic and historical forces on politics in urban areas.

PS 3134 – The Politics of Inequality

Who are the poor? Should they be helped? Who should help them? These questions are complicated because people are more aware of the individual costs of taxation than they are of the collective benefits of an educated work force. This course will evaluate how the U.S. government has traditionally divided the poor between the deserving and the undeserving poor and which groups have been left out and why.

PS 3152 – US Environmental Policy

An analytical examination of the development and execution of governmental policies in such areas as air and water pollution control, control of atomic energy, and planning of space exploration program.

PS 3265 – International Environmental Policy

Cross Listed with Environmental Studies 3265.

International negotiations and agreements on environmental problems, and comparisons of domestic environmental policymaking among selected countries. Special attention to negotiations on atmospheric and oceanic policies, international regulation of nuclear materials, and environmental aspects of international trade agreements.

3201. Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Politics

When the U.S. was founded as the first modern nation-state, it set in motion a global transformation of the state system that has still to run its course. The class will study, with the aid of film, the causes, theories, and projections of this development.

PS 3296 – Politics of Modern Capitalism

Since the early 1970s, all advanced industrial democracies have faced challenges in adjusting to a changing international economy. We will examine how different countries, including the United States, Japan, Britain, France, and Germany, have tried to meet these challenges. The main question guiding the course is: why do countries respond to roughly similar problems in different ways, and what do these responses reveal about politics in these countries? Topics covered will include macroeconomic policy, trade and industrial policies, industrial relations, business-government relations, and the welfare state.

PS 3422 – Marxism and Politics

This seminar will attempt both to examine closely the original writings of Karl Marx and also debates within and between the socialist and communist movements since his time over questions of political democracy; the proper functions of a socialist political party; socialist attitudes toward morality and justice; the role of the state in both capitalist

and socialist societies; and the relationship among class, gender and race. We will also look at the Marxist-inspired analyses of the structural inequalities of contemporary global capitalism.

PS 3441 – African American Political Theory

This course is an intensive introduction to African American Political Theory. Our goal will be to explicate and evaluate the theoretical claims that have shaped, and continue to shape, black political practice in the United States. The structure of the course is both historical and thematic.

PS 4210 – Seminar in Comparative Politics: Comparative Public Policy (Suarez)

The seminar will focus on the factors that explain political outcomes and their consequences in comparative perspective. The three basic issues we will explore are: 1) How do policies differ?; 2) Why do policies differ?; and 3) What impact do different policies have? Scholars have divergent views regarding which factors account for different policies and analyses of their impact is regularly colored by ideological positions that may or may not have anything to do with the real policy goals.

The topics we will study include: Why do different religions seem to have a different impact on a country's economic success? What is the role of political leaders during transitions to democracy or during passage of difficult legislation in democratic polities? Under what circumstances can a corrupt policy be prosperous and an honest one poor? Are diamonds and oil a curse or a blessing for countries? Some of the countries we will be

studying include England, France, Ireland, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, United States, and Venezuela.

PS 4220 – Seminar in Comparative Politics: China in the Age of Globalization (Hsueh)

The rise of China in the age of globalization has grabbed media headlines in recent years. Popular commentary describes China's incredible economic growth and the political economic system that has sustained such growth as "socialism with Chinese characteristics." Pundits and scholars alike predict drastically different futures for China. While acknowledging the skyscrapers and industrial parks of Shanghai and Beijing, some scholars argue that the increasing social economic divide across regionally and between social classes in China, a consequence of rapid economic growth, will lead to the disintegration of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Others paint a more sanguine picture for the future of the Chinese state: the internal consolidation of political power by the CCP, which has created an economic miracle within the span of less than thirty years, combined with the state's foreign diplomatic strides, will propel China into a global power. Among those who predict an integrated China, whether China will be a democracy or remain authoritarian remains in debate. Using the international and comparative political economy literature as guide, this course examines the theoretical debates and ideological commitments implicit in these opposing analyses about the role of the Chinese state in confronting the forces of globalization since China's Open Door Policy in 1979. Course requirements include class participation, midterm, final, and two short papers.

PS 4410 – Seminar in Political Philosophy: Feminist Political Theory (Fogg-Davis)

In this seminar we shall investigate a wide range of theoretical frameworks that have been employed in the fight for sexual justice in the United States. Two overarching goals will guide our study. We begin with the deceptively straightforward task of defining gender, sex, politics, and theory. We then move into an investigation of the theoretical frames invoked to address sexual injustice at particular historical moments. How have feminists

responded to core political theories such as liberalism, Marxism, conservatism, psychoanalysis, and utopianism? How might recent multicultural, postmodern, gay and lesbian, and queer theories be used to explicate and address lingering and new feminist issues? Students will be asked to weigh the merits and deficiencies of both the descriptive and prescriptive arguments offered by a variety of theorists en route to developing their own judgments.

PS 4581 – Cooperative Education Project Political Science I

Provides political science majors with work experience relating to their academic training.

Note: Juniors and seniors with a minimum overall average of 3.0 are accepted subject to approval by the departmental co-op committee chair.

PS 4681 – Cooperative Education Project in Political Science II

Provides political science majors with work experience relating to their academic training.

Note: Juniors and seniors with a minimum overall average of 3.0 are accepted subject to approval by the departmental co-op committee chair.

PS 4781 – Cooperative Education Project Political Science III

Provides political science majors with work experience relating to their academic training.

Note: Juniors and seniors with a minimum overall average of 2.0 are accepted subject to approval by the departmental co-op committee chair.

PS 4891 – Directed Research and Field Study

Prerequisite: Four courses in Political Science.

Supervised individual readings, research projects, and field work.

Note: Students may not enroll for more than one Directed Research & Field Study course in a single semester. Students are to arrange study with a faculty member in the department of Political Science.

PS 4896 – Capstone Seminar

This topical seminar focuses on a broad theme of theoretical, substantive, or practical interest within a subfield of political science. The specific content will vary with individual instructors. This is a writing-intensive course designed to integrate all the skills learned in the major. Each seminar will focus upon close oral and written analysis of major readings in a particular area of political science. Such analyses will take students beyond basic exegesis of analytic arguments towards critical evaluation of contrasting forms of social science investigation and argument. A research project is required. Required of all majors. To be taken during the senior year.

This semester you may choose from four seminars:

PS 4896 (section 1) – Capstone Seminar: COMPARATIVE PARTIES AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (Kolodny)

This capstone seminar will explore the substantial differences in political party systems across the globe. We will think about the role of political parties as a link between citizens (organized or not organized) in civil society and the state where they are represented. Can political parties represent all relevant interests? Should they? Electoral systems are the rules in which elections are conducted and the winners and losers are determined. Why do different states choose different ways to calculate representation numbers in the government? Students will be required to complete research papers either comparing the party and electoral systems

in two or more countries or investigating how a party type (socioeconomic, religious, ethnic, etc.) has fared in two or more countries.

PS 4896 (section 2) – Capstone Seminar: Political Geography (Hagen)

Much of American politics is organized geographically. Most elected officials are chosen by constituencies that are defined geographically, for example. In this seminar we will explore the roots and premises of this way of thinking about politics, and its consequences. We will draw examples from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the U.S., and elsewhere to consider how different political systems connect citizens and government differently. Students will be required to complete a research project.

PS 4896 (section 3) – Capstone Seminar: Political Psychology (Arceneaux)

This seminar will explore the intersection of political science and psychology. Because this is a broad and wide-ranging field, we will confine ourselves to a survey of major themes in the area of political psychology. How do people process political information and form attitudes about political issues and public figures? How do people form political and group identities and do these identities shape people's attitudes and the ways they behave in political settings? What is the interplay of cognition and emotion in the psychological process? Does human evolution and biology play a role? Students will be required to complete a research project.

PS 4896 (section 4) – Capstone Seminar: Is the United States and Imperial Power (Hooper)

This course is organized around a question: Is the United States an Imperial Power? Each student is required to develop an answer to this question in a semester writing project on the basis of assigned readings and additional reference materials of the student's choice. In the writing

project, the student is required to develop a conception of imperialism; secondly, to look at U.S. involvement in the affairs of other nations from the point of view of the student's conception of imperialism; and thirdly, to develop a normative approach to U.S. involvement in the affairs of other nations. All students are required to give oral presentations on each phase of the project. In addition, oral presentations are required from each student on current topics of the student's choice related to the course theme. In addition to the paper and oral presentations, there will be a final exam.