

Political Science

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

The Political Science major is concerned with exploring the exercise of power in its myriad forms and consequences. Students in the major are encouraged to explore central issues, such as the ethical problems attendant to the exercise of power; the history of important political ideas, such as liberty, justice, community, and morality; the impact of historical, economic, and social forces on the operation of politics; the functioning and distinctive features of the US political system; the diversity of political systems and the significance of these differences; and the interactions among international actors and the causes of war and peace. Undergraduate courses in political science vary from large lectures of 325 students to small seminars of 18 students. The courses are challenging, often emphasizing critical reading and analytical writing.

Declaring the Major

To declare the major, students must have completed the minimum eligibility and must attend a declaration-orientation session. For information regarding minimum eligibility, please see the Major Requirements tab on this page. Transfer students may go to assist.org (<http://www.assist.org/web-assist/welcome.html>) for a list of California community college courses that satisfy University and major requirements. Upper division courses in the major are restricted to declared Political Science majors in Phase 1 of registration and usually fill before Phase 1 ends, so students should declare, if eligible, before the start of Phase 1 of registration.

Students must attend a Major Declaration Session to declare the major:

1. Pick a date from the calendar on the website linked below. Students will be eligible to attend a Major Declaration Session after they have completed the final for their second introductory Political Science course.
2. Gather transcript(s) and make copies of them to submit. See more on transcripts below.
3. Come early to secure a spot! The first 25 students who arrive at each session will be accepted to attend the session (unless indicated otherwise). Sessions held early and late in the semester as well as during the registration period are usually full. A sign-up sheet is available an hour before the session; there is no need to arrive earlier than an hour before the posted time.

Do not come to a declaration session without all needed transcripts. This includes transcripts (unofficial transcripts are okay) for courses taken at community colleges, other universities, and UC Berkeley. For UC Berkeley courses, students can print out their Academic Summary on Cal Central. One copy of each transcript is all that is required. Academic Progress Reports and Transfer Credit Reports from CalCentral are not acceptable. The department keeps the transcript, so students should bring a copy they can spare. (Transcripts for courses that do not count for the major are not needed.)

A declaration session takes about an hour and includes an orientation to the major and Q&A after which declaration forms are completed (forms are supplied — students supply the transcripts).

For a schedule of Major Declaration Sessions, please see the department website (<http://polisci.berkeley.edu/undergraduate-program/declaring-major/>).

Honors Program

Declared Political Science majors with a 3.5 grade-point average (GPA) in the major and a 3.3 overall GPA who have senior standing and have completed at least two letter-graded upper division political science courses at Berkeley are eligible to apply for the honors program. The honors program consists of a two-semester seminar, POL SCI H190A and POL SCI H190B (offered in fall/spring only), and culminates in the writing of an honors thesis. Students must also obtain the sponsorship of a member of the faculty who will guide the research. Applications can only be made online (<http://polisci.berkeley.edu/undergrad/opportunities/honors/>); please refer to the undergraduate program section of the website. Departmental honors are awarded upon completion of the honors seminar with a grade of B+ or better, a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major, and a 3.3 in overall work at Berkeley.

Minor Program

There is no minor program in Political Science.

In addition to the University, campus, and college requirements, listed on the College Requirements tab, students must fulfill the below requirements specific to their major program.

General Guidelines

1. All courses taken to fulfill the major requirements below must be taken for graded credit.
2. No more than two upper division courses may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and an additional major program. No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs, per the policy of the College of Letters & Science.
3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 must be maintained in both upper and lower division courses used to fulfill the major requirements.

For information regarding residence requirements and unit requirements, please see the College Requirements tab.

Summary of Major Requirements

Lower Division Prerequisites: Two Courses

Methods Requirement: POL SCI 3 or both Data C8 and POL SCI 88

History Requirement: One Course

Distribution Requirement: One Course

Subfield Specialization: Three Courses

Upper Division Requirements: A total of eight courses within the department

Lower Division Prerequisites

Select two courses from the following (one course should be in the student's intended subfield of specialization)

POL SCI 1	Introduction to American Politics	4
	or POL SCI N1. Introduction to American Politics	
POL SCI 2	Introduction to Comparative Politics	4
	or POL SCI N2. Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POL SCI 4	Introduction to Political Theory	4
POL SCI 5	Introduction to International Relations	4

Methods Requirement

POL SCI 3	Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods	4
or POL SCI W3	Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods,	
or DATA C8	Foundations of Data Science	
& POL SCI 88	and The Scientific Study of Politics	
Combination of Data C8 and Pol Sci 88, in which case PS 88 must be taken either concurrently with, or after taking, Data Science C8.		

History Requirement

Select one course from the following list of preapproved history courses.

AFRICAM 4A	Africa: History and Culture	4
or AFRICAM 4B	Africa: History and Culture	
AFRICAM 4B	Africa: History and Culture	4
AFRICAM 111	Race, Class, and Gender in the United States	3
CELTIC 70	The World of the Celts	4
AGRS 10A	Introduction to Ancient Greece	4
AGRS 10B	Introduction Ancient Rome	4
ECON 113	U.S Economic History	4
ECON 115	The World Economy in the Twentieth Century	4
ETH STD 10AC	A History of Race and Ethnicity in Western North America, 1598-Present (or XETHSTD 21AC)	4
ETH STD 21AC	A Comparative Survey of Racial and Ethnic Groups in the U.S	4
GEOG C55	Introduction to Central Asia	3
GERMAN 160A	Politics and Culture in 20th-Century Germany: A Century of Extremes	4
GERMAN 160C	A Divided Nation: Politics and Culture in Germany 1945-1990	4
GLOBAL 45	Survey of World History	4
HISTORY 1	Global History	4
HISTORY 4A	The Ancient Mediterranean World	4
HISTORY 4B	Medieval Europe	4
HISTORY 5	European Civilization from the Renaissance to the Present	4
HISTORY 6A	History of China: Origins to the Mongol Conquest	4
HISTORY 6B	Introduction to Chinese History: From the Mongols to Post-Mao China	4
HISTORY 7A	Introduction to the History of the United States: The United States from Settlement to Civil War	4
HISTORY 7B	Introduction to the History of the United States: The United States from Civil War to Present	4
HISTORY 10	African History	4
HISTORY 8A	Latin American History: Becoming Latin America, 1492 to 1824	4
HISTORY 8B	Latin American History: Modern Latin America	4
HISTORY 11	Introduction to the Civilizations and Cultures of South Asia	4
HISTORY 12	The Middle East	4
HISTORY 14	Introduction to the History of Japan	4
HISTORY 105A	Ancient Greece: Archaic and Classical Greek History	4
HISTORY 105B	Ancient Greece: The Greek World: 403-31 BCE	4

HISTORY 106A	Ancient Rome: The Roman Republic	4
HISTORY 106B	Ancient Rome: The Roman Empire	4
HISTORY 108	Byzantium	4
HISTORY 112B	Africa: Modern South Africa, 1652-Present	4
HISTORY 122AC	Antebellum America: The Advent of Mass Society	4
HISTORY 123	Civil War and Reconstruction	4
HISTORY 124A	The Recent United States: The United States from the Late 19th Century to the Eve of World War II	4
HISTORY 124B	The Recent United States: The United States from World War II	4
HISTORY 130	American Foreign Policy	4
HISTORY 131B	Social History of the United States: Creating Modern American Society: From the End of the Civil War	4
HISTORY 133A	The History of American Capitalism	4
HISTORY 137AC	Immigrants and Immigration as U.S. History	4
HISTORY C139B	The American Immigrant Experience	4
HISTORY C139C	Civil Rights and Social Movements in U.S. History	4
HISTORY C139D	From Civil Rights Era to the New Gilded Age	4
HISTORY 140B	Mexico: Modern Mexico	4
HISTORY 141B	Social History of Latin America: Social History of Modern Latin America	4
HISTORY 142	Cuba in World History	4
HISTORY 143	Brazil	4
HISTORY 149B	Medieval Italy: Italy in the Age of Dante (1000-1350)	4
HISTORY 150B	Medieval England: from the Conquest to 1485	4
HISTORY 151A	Early Modern Britain, 1485-1750: Reformation to Revolution, Island to Empire	4
HISTORY 151B	Britain 1485-Present: Britain, 1660-1851	4
HISTORY 151C	Maker of the Modern World? Britain since 1750	4
HISTORY 152A	Topics in the History of the British Isles: Ireland Since the Union	4
HISTORY 155A	Medieval Europe: From the Late Empire to the Investiture Conflict	4
HISTORY 155B	Medieval Europe: From the Investiture Conflict to the Fifteenth Century	4
HISTORY C157	The Renaissance and the Reformation	4
HISTORY 158A	Modern Europe: Old Regime and Revolutionary Europe, 1715-1815	4
HISTORY 158B	Modern Europe: Europe in the 19th Century	4
HISTORY 158C	Modern Europe: Old and New Europe, 1914-Present	4
HISTORY 159A	Course Not Available	4
HISTORY 159B	The Power of Ideas: The History of Economic and Social Thought	4
HISTORY 160	The International Economy of the 20th Century	4
HISTORY 162A	Europe and the World: Wars, Empires, Nations 1648-1914	4
HISTORY 162B	War and Peace: International Relations since 1914	4
HISTORY 164A	The Birth of Modern Thought: European Intellectual History, 1500-1800	4
HISTORY 164B	Modern European Intellectual History: European Intellectual History from Enlightenment to 1870	4

HISTORY 165A	Topics in Modern European History: The Reformations of Christendom	4
HISTORY 165B	The Enlightenment: Culture, Society, and Politics in Europe, 1680-1800	4
HISTORY 166B	Modern France: Renaissance to Revolution	4
HISTORY 166C	Modern France	4
HISTORY 167A	Modern Germany: Early Modern Germany	4
HISTORY 167B	Modern Germany: The Rise and Fall of the Second Reich: Germany 1770-1918	4
HISTORY 167C	Modern Germany: Germany 1914 to the Present	4
HISTORY 168A	Spain and Portugal: The Spanish and Portuguese Empires in the Golden Age: 1450-1700	4
HISTORY 169A	Modern Italy: Renaissance and Baroque Italy 1350-1800	4
HISTORY 170	The Netherlands	4
HISTORY 171A	Russia: Russia to 1700	4
HISTORY 171B	Autocracy and Society in Romanov Russia	4
HISTORY 171C	Russia: History of the Soviet Union	4
HISTORY 173B	History of Eastern Europe: The Habsburg Empire, 1740-1918	4
HISTORY 173C	History of Eastern Europe: History of Eastern Europe: From 1900 to the Present	4
HISTORY C175B	Jewish Civilization: Modern Period	4
HISTORY 177A	Armenia and Armenians from Ancient to Medieval Eras	4
HISTORY 177B	Armenia: From Pre-modern Empires to the Present	4
HISTORY 185A	Christianity: The Beginnings	4
HISTORY 185B	History of Christianity: History of Christianity from 1250	4
MELC 10	Middle Eastern Worlds: Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia	4
MELC C26	Introduction to Central Asia	3
MELC 109	Mesopotamian History: Stories of Ancient People and Places	3
MELC 147	The Rise of Islamic Civilization	4
MELC 175	History and Culture of Afghanistan	3
PACS 125AC	War, Culture, and Society	4
PORTUG 113	Brazilian Culture Through and Across the Arts and Media	4
SCANDIN 123	Viking and Medieval Scandinavia	4

Distribution Requirement

Select at least one lower or upper division course from each of the five primary sub-fields below:

American Politics

POL SCI 1	Introduction to American Politics	4
	or POL SCI N1, Introduction to American Politics	
POL SCI 102	The American Presidency	4
POL SCI 103	Congress	4
POL SCI 103W	The Congress	4
POL SCI 104	Political Parties	4
POL SCI 105	The Politician	4
POL SCI 106A	American Politics: Campaign Strategy - Media	4

POL SCI 109 A–Z		
POL SCI 111AC	The Politics of Displacement	4
POL SCI 116J	Special Topics in Political Theory	4
POL SCI 150	The American Legal System	4
POL SCI 157A	Constitutional Law of the United States	4
POL SCI 157B	Constitutional Law of the United States	4
POL SCI 161	Public Opinion, Voting and Participation	4
POL SCI W164A	Political Psychology and Involvement	4
POL SCI 164A	Political Psychology and Involvement	4
POL SCI N164A	Psychology of Politics	4
POL SCI 166	Latinos and the U.S. Political System	4
POL SCI 167	Racial and Ethnic Politics in the New American Century	4
POL SCI 167AC	Racial and Ethnic Politics in the New American Century	4
POL SCI 169	Selected Topics in Political Behavior	4
POL SCI 171	California Politics	4
POL SCI 175A	Urban and Metropolitan Government and Politics	4
POL SCI 181	Public Organization and Administration	4
POL SCI 186	Public Problems	4

Comparative Politics

POL SCI 2	Introduction to Comparative Politics	4
	or POL SCI N2 Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POL SCI 137A	Revolutionary Change	4
POL SCI 138D	Market Governance in the Digital Age	4
POL SCI 138E	The Varieties of Capitalism: Political Economic Systems of the World	4
POL SCI 138F	Immigrants, Citizenship, and the State	4
POL SCI 138G	National Success and Failure in the Age of a Global Economy: from Pleats to Cleats	4
POL SCI 138M	Human Trafficking	4
POL SCI 138S	The Comparative Study of Genocide	4
POL SCI 138Z	The Politics of Immigration	4
POL SCI 139B	Development Politics	4
POL SCI C139	Urban and Sub-national Politics in Developing Countries	4
POL SCI 139D	Urban and Subnational Politics in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	4
POL SCI 139M	Political Economy of the Global South	4
POL SCI 140 A–Z		
POL SCI 141A	Russian Politics	4
POL SCI 141C	Politics and Government in Eastern Europe	4
POL SCI 142A	Middle East Politics	4
POL SCI 143A	Northeast Asian Politics	4
POL SCI 143B	Japanese Politics	4
POL SCI 143C	Chinese Politics	4
POL SCI 143T	Chinese Politics and Society	4
POL SCI 144	American Foreign Policy Toward Asia	4
POL SCI 144B	Politics of Divided Korea	4
POL SCI 145A	South Asian Politics	4
POL SCI 145B	South Asian Politics	4
POL SCI W145A	Understanding Political Developments in India	4
POL SCI 146A	African Politics	4

POL SCI 146D	Environment, Culture, and Peacebuilding	6
POL SCI N146C	Course Not Available	4
POL SCI 147F	Contemporary French Politics: The Republican Model in Transition	4
POL SCI 147G	The Welfare State in Comparative Perspective	4
POL SCI 147T	German History and Politics	4
POL SCI 148A	Latin American Politics	4
POL SCI 149 A–Z		
Empirical Theory and Quantitative Methods		
POL SCI 3	Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods	4
or POL SCI W3	Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods,	
or DATA C8	Foundations of Data Science	
& POL SCI 88	and The Scientific Study of Politics	
POL SCI C131A	Applied Econometrics and Public Policy	4
POL SCI 132B	Machine Learning for Social Scientists	4
POL SCI C135	Game Theory in the Social Sciences	4
POL SCI W135	Game Theory in the Social Sciences	4
Political Theory		
POL SCI 4	Introduction to Political Theory	4
POL SCI 111AC	The Politics of Displacement	4
POL SCI 112A	History of Political Theory	4
or POL SCI N112A	History of Political Theory	
POL SCI 112B	History of Political Theory	4
POL SCI 112C	History of Political Theory	4
POL SCI 112D	History of European Political Theory: The 20th Century	4
POL SCI 112L	Roman Law	4
POL SCI 117D	Democracy Ancient and Modern	4
POL SCI 117L	Jurisprudence	4
POL SCI N113A	Course Not Available	4
POL SCI 114A	Theories of Governance: Late 20th Century	4
POL SCI 116 A–Z		
POL SCI 117	Theories of Justice	4
International Relations		
POL SCI 5	Introduction to International Relations	4
POL SCI 122A	Politics of European Integration	4
POL SCI 123 A–Z		
POL SCI 124A	War!	4
POL SCI 124B	War in the Middle East	4
POL SCI 124D	Reconciliation After Atrocities	4
POL SCI 124G	The Comparative Study of Genocide	4
POL SCI 124H	The Politics of Human Rights	4
(PS 124A is a prerequisite for PS 124B)		
POL SCI 124C	Ethics and Justice in International Affairs	4
POL SCI 124M	The Scientific Study of International Conflict	4
POL SCI 125	Civil Conflict and International Intervention	4
POL SCI 126A	International Political Economy	4
POL SCI 128	Chinese Foreign Policy	4
POL SCI 128A	Chinese Foreign Policy	4

POL SCI 138F	Immigrants, Citizenship, and the State	4
POL SCI 144	American Foreign Policy Toward Asia	4

Subfield Specialization

Students must specialize in one of the five primary subfields by completing the introductory course and taking two upper division courses in that subfield (see above).

Upper Division Requirements

Students must complete a total of eight upper division courses within the Political Science Department from those numbered POL SCI 102–POL SCI 189, POL SCI 191, and POL SCI C196A (the UCDC program) but excluding PS 110B and PS 179. Upper division courses fulfilling the distribution and subfield specialization count toward these eight required upper division courses. Graduate-level political science courses may also count toward the upper division course requirements.

Undergraduate students must fulfill the following requirements in addition to those required by their major program.

For a detailed lists of L&S requirements, please see Overview tab to the right in this guide or visit the L&S Degree Requirements (<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/degree-requirements/>) webpage. For College advising appointments, please visit the L&S Advising (<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/home/>) Pages.

University of California Requirements

Entry Level Writing

All students who will enter the University of California as freshmen must demonstrate their command of the English language by fulfilling the Entry Level Writing requirement. Fulfillment of this requirement is also a prerequisite to enrollment in all reading and composition courses at UC Berkeley and must be taken for a letter grade.

American History and American Institutions

The American History and American Institutions requirements are based on the principle that all U.S. residents who have graduated from an American university should have an understanding of the history and governmental institutions of the United States.

Berkeley Campus Requirement

American Cultures

All undergraduate students at Cal need to take and pass this campus requirement course in order to graduate. The requirement offers an exciting intellectual environment centered on the study of race, ethnicity and culture of the United States. AC courses are plentiful and offer students opportunities to be part of research-led, highly accomplished teaching environments, grappling with the complexity of American Culture.

College of Letters & Science Essential Skills Requirements

Quantitative Reasoning

The Quantitative Reasoning requirement is designed to ensure that students graduate with basic understanding and competency in math, statistics, or computer/data science. The requirement may be satisfied by exam or by taking an approved course taken for a letter grade.

Foreign Language

The Foreign Language requirement may be satisfied by demonstrating proficiency in reading comprehension, writing, and conversation in a foreign language equivalent to the second semester college level, either by passing an exam or by completing approved course work taken for a letter grade.

Reading and Composition

In order to provide a solid foundation in reading, writing, and critical thinking the College of Letters and Science requires two semesters of lower division work in composition in sequence. Students must complete parts A & B reading and composition courses in sequential order by the end of their fourth semester for a letter grade.

College of Letters & Science 7 Course Breadth Requirements

Breadth Requirements

The undergraduate breadth requirements provide Berkeley students with a rich and varied educational experience outside of their major program. As the foundation of a liberal arts education, breadth courses give students a view into the intellectual life of the University while introducing them to a multitude of perspectives and approaches to research and scholarship. Engaging students in new disciplines and with peers from other majors, the breadth experience strengthens interdisciplinary connections and context that prepares Berkeley graduates to understand and solve the complex issues of their day.

Unit Requirements

- 120 total units
- Of the 120 units, 36 must be upper division units
- Of the 36 upper division units, 6 must be taken in courses offered outside your major department

Residence Requirements

For units to be considered in "residence," you must be registered in courses on the Berkeley campus as a student in the College of Letters & Science. Most students automatically fulfill the residence requirement by attending classes at Cal for four years, or two years for transfer students. In general, there is no need to be concerned about this requirement, unless you graduate early, go abroad for a semester or year, or want to take courses at another institution or through UC Extension during your senior year. In these cases, you should make an appointment to meet an L&S College adviser to determine how you can meet the Senior Residence Requirement.

Note: Courses taken through UC Extension do not count toward residence.

Senior Residence Requirement

After you become a senior (with 90 semester units earned toward your B.A. degree), you must complete at least 24 of the remaining 30 units in residence in at least two semesters. To count as residence, a semester must consist of at least 6 passed units. Intercampus Visitor, EAP, and UC Berkeley-Washington Program (UCDC) units are excluded.

You may use a Berkeley Summer Session to satisfy one semester of the Senior Residence requirement, provided that you successfully complete 6 units of course work in the Summer Session and that you have been enrolled previously in the college.

Modified Senior Residence Requirement

Participants in the UC Education Abroad Program (EAP), Berkeley Summer Abroad, or the UC Berkeley Washington Program (UCDC) may meet a Modified Senior Residence requirement by completing 24 (excluding EAP) of their final 60 semester units in residence. At least 12 of these 24 units must be completed after you have completed 90 units.

Upper Division Residence Requirement

You must complete in residence a minimum of 18 units of upper division courses (excluding UCEAP units), 12 of which must satisfy the requirements for your major.

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Political Science major requirements before making a program plan. For more detailed information regarding the courses listed below (e.g., elective information, GPA requirements, etc.), see the College Requirements and Major Requirements tabs.

Freshman		
	Fall Units	Spring Units
POL SCI 1, 2, or 5 (Social and Behavioral Studies Breadth)		4 POL SCI 2, 1, or 4 4
Reading & Composition A		4 Reading & Composition B 4
International Studies Breadth		3 Biological Science Breadth 4
Lower Division Elective		4 Lower Division Elective 3
	15	15
Sophomore		
	Fall Units	Spring Units
POL SCI 3		4 Philosophy & Values Breadth 4
History for Major (Historical Studies Breadth)		4 American Cultures Requirement 4
Arts & Literature or Physical Science Breadth		4 Lower or Upper Division Elective 4
Physical Science or Arts & Literature Breadth		3 Lower or Upper Division Elective 3
	15	15
Junior		
	Fall Units	Spring Units
Upper Division Political Science: 1 of 2 Specialization Requirements		4 Upper Division Political Science: 2 of 2 Specialization Requirements 4
Upper Division Political Science: 1 of 2 Distribution Requirements		4 Upper Division Political Science: 1 of 4 Electives 4
Upper Division Non-Political Science Elective		3 Upper Division Non-Political Science Elective 3

Lower or Upper Division Elective	4 Lower or Upper Division Elective	4
15		15
		Senior
	Fall Units	Spring Units
Upper Division Political Science: 2 of 2 Distribution Requirements	4 Upper Division Political Science: 3 of 4 Electives	4
Upper Division Political Science: 2 of 4 Electives	4 Upper Division Political Science: 4 of 4 Electives	4
Lower or Upper Division Elective	4 Lower or Upper Division Elective	4
Lower or Upper Division Elective	3 Lower or Upper Division Elective	3
15		15
Total Units: 120		

- ¹ This is a sample program plan. This plan assumes that the student has completed the Entry Level Writing, American History and Institutions, Quantitative Reasoning, and Foreign Language requirements prior to admission.
- ² Students are strongly advised to work with an academic adviser to determine a personal program plan. Your program plan will differ depending on previous credit received, your course schedule, and available offerings.
- ³ Students could also do the Honors program in their last year, but may need to adjust their 4-year plan accordingly to accommodate the extra workload of their senior thesis by taking electives or concentration classes in the summer OR by taking more units than indicated in the first six semesters.

Accelerated Program Plans

For students considering graduating in less than four years, it's important to acknowledge the reasons to undertake such a plan of study. While there are advantages to pursuing a three-year degree plan such as reducing financial burdens, they are not for everyone and do involve sacrifices; especially with respect to participating in co-curricular activities, depth of study, and summer internships, which typically lead to jobs upon graduation. All things considered, please see the tables for three and three and a half year degree options.

3.5 Year Plan (<http://polisci.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/3.5%20Year%20Degree%20Pathway.pdf>)

3 Year Plan (<http://polisci.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/3%20Year%20Degree%20Pathway.pdf>)

Learning Goals for the Major

1. Exposure to the core subfields of political science:
 - American politics
 - Comparative politics

- Political theory
- International relations

2. Opportunities to explore areas that crosscut traditional political science subfield boundaries:
 - Political behavior
 - Public law and jurisprudence
 - Public policy and organization
 - Empirical theory and quantitative methods
3. Specialization in one subfield of political science: minimum of three courses taken in either one of the four core subfields (American politics, comparative politics, political theory, international relations) or one of the other departmental areas that generally crosscut traditional subfield boundaries (political behavior, public law and jurisprudence, public policy and organization, empirical theory and quantitative methods).

Skills

1. Methodological skills
 - Ability to understand and deploy the methods that political scientists use to answer questions about the operation of politics: causal inference, qualitative analysis, statistical analysis, experimentation, game theory, and modeling.
 - Capacity to use critical thinking and evidence to understand and evaluate rival theories.
2. Research and presentation skills
 - Writing skills: Ability to formulate a well-organized argument supported by evidence.
 - Oral presentation skills: Ability to present a compelling oral argument supported by evidence to a group or public audience.
 - Research skills: Ability to conduct political science research using materials such as primary, secondary, and online sources or databases in support of an original argument.

Major maps are experience maps that help undergraduates plan their Berkeley journey based on intended major or field of interest. Featuring student opportunities and resources from your college and department as well as across campus, each map includes curated suggestions for planning your studies, engaging outside the classroom, and pursuing your career goals in a timeline format.

Use the major map below to explore potential paths and design your own unique undergraduate experience:

View the Political Science Major Map. (<https://discovery.berkeley.edu/getting-started/major-maps/political-science/>)

Political Science

POL SCI 1 Introduction to American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

An introductory analysis of the structure and operations of the American political system, primarily at the national level.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 1 after completing XPOLSCI 1. A deficient grade in POL SCI 1 may be removed by taking XPOLSCI 1.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Institutions requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 4 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI N1AC Introduction to American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session

Politics is the art and noise of collective governance under conditions of scarce resources, conflicting interests, diverse beliefs, uncertain outcomes, and unequal power. In 1AC, we learn about the institutions, ideologies, and processes that constitute politics in the U.S. In fulfilling the AC requirement, we further examine how power, equality, and diversity are configured and contested in our politics. The course emphasizes active research- and group-based learning.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: POL SCI N1AC will still fulfill all the requirements that PS1 fulfills (e.g., major, American Institutions) but now also fulfills the "American Cultures" campus requirement. Students who wish to repeat PS1 and replace their grade must specifically retake PS1, not PS N1AC. PS N1AC will not replace the grade for PS1.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures and American Institutions requirements.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 2 Introduction to Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course deals with the basic problems and processes that all political systems face and examines their particular expression in Western, Communist, and Third World settings.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 2 after completing POL SCI S2, POL SCI S2X, or XPOLSCI 2. A deficient grade in POL SCI 2 may be removed by taking XPOLSCI 2.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI N2 Introduction to Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2017 Second 6 Week Session

This course aims to furnish students with the tools necessary to study political processes and outcomes in comparative perspective. It is divided into three parts. The first introduces the basic concepts and methods of comparative analysis and examines our principal unit of analysis: the state. The second surveys the range of political regimes under which people live around the world. The third examines three key variables that both influence political outcomes and are influenced by political processes: institutions, identity, and agency. Throughout the course we will use a wide variety of country examples, but will not focus exclusively on any particular set of countries.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Political Science N2 after taking Political Science 2. Students will receive no credit for Political Science 2 after completing Political Science N2. A deficient grade in Political Science 2 may be removed by taking Political Science N2.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 3 Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Analytical and methodological problems of political inquiry, with an emphasis on quantification and measurement.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 3 after completing POL SCI N3, or POL SCI W3. A deficient grade in POL SCI 3 may be removed by taking POL SCI W3.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI N3 Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2018 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2017 First 6 Week Session

Analytical and methodological problems of political inquiry, with an emphasis on quantification and measurement.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Political Science N3 after completing Political Science 3. Students will receive no credit for Political Science 3 after completing Political Science N3. A deficient grade in Political Science 3 may be removed by taking Political Science N3.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI W3 Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods, 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

This course provides an overview of some of the methods employed in political science research. Its purpose is to familiarize you with the scientific study of politics, and to teach you how to pose and answer empirical research questions using appropriate evidence and arguments. Along the way we will learn about how to formulate and evaluate theories, how to design research to discover whether a particular theory holds up empirically, and some basic research strategies. By the end of the course you should have the tools to critically evaluate the kinds of social science arguments found in everyday life and be able to conduct your own independent research.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- * Distinguish among different types of social science methodologies
- * Solve basic 2x2 games
- * Describe the logic of the experimental method
- * Interpret basic descriptive statistical results
- * Formulate and test hypotheses
- * Explain and apply bivariate OLS regression

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: There are no prior course requirements other than high school level mathematics

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Political Science W3 after completing Political Science 3 or Political Science N3. A deficient grade in Political Science 3 or POL SCI N3 may be removed by taking Political Science W3.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 2 hours of web-based discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 2 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 4 Introduction to Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

An approach to the understanding of politics through the perspectives and language of the political theorist.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 5 Introduction to International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is designed to introduce students to the major theoretical approaches to international politics, to explore important historical and contemporary questions and debates in international affairs, and to teach students to think critically about international relations. It is a prerequisite for most upper division international relations courses in Political Science.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 18AC Race, Culture, and Politics in the Golden State 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2001 10 Week Session, Summer 2000 10 Week Session, Summer 1999 10 Week Session

This course will study the historical processes of racial formation and transformation in California. Students will develop an understanding of the dynamic nature of racial and ethnic cultures and identities, and use these tools to better understand their own cultural position. Two periods are studied: 1848-1882 and 1964-1988. The course will consider the experiences of Asian Americans, Chicano/Latinos, African Americans, European Americans, and Native Americans.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 24 Freshman Seminars 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2005

The Berkeley Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Berkeley Seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

POL SCI 39B Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Spring 2006

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Priority given to freshmen and sophomores

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

POL SCI 41 Freshman Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Fall 2007, Fall 2005

Topics, experimental in nature, will vary from year to year.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit under special circumstances: Course may be repeated for credit with consent of department.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 41C Pathways: Democracy Ancient and Modern 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024

Dēmokratia, democratia, democracy. What did this term mean to the ancient Greeks who coined it, to the Romans who borrowed it, to the early modern Europeans who discussed it—and what does it mean today? Who or what was the original dêmos, how did it rule, and how different is the interpretation of “rule by the people” that now predominates? Starting with the first attestations of da-mo in the 12th century BC and ending with the recent attempts by Iceland and Chile to reform their constitutions by crowdsourcing and a citizen convention respectively, this course offers a chronological exploration of the idea and practice of democracy, intended to broaden our imaginative horizons with respect to what democracy has been, is, and could become.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 84 Sophomore Seminar 1 or 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2004

Sophomore seminars are small interactive courses offered by faculty members in departments all across the campus. Sophomore seminars offer opportunity for close, regular intellectual contact between faculty members and students in the crucial second year. The topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 sophomores.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: At discretion of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-6 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 2.5-5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

POL SCI 88 The Scientific Study of Politics 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

We will focus on the theoretical side of political science. The main goals here are to understand what makes a good political science theory, and to give a brief overview of how game theory and related tools make up a powerful way to construct theories. This side of the class will be less data-focused, we will also see how the programming tools you learn in Data 8 can be used in this part of the scientific process. We will pivot to the empirical side in the second part of the class, we will cover how political scientists and other social scientists think about the challenges of causal inference, and the tools we use to overcome them.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must have already taken DATA8 or take it concurrently with PS 88

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 98 Directed Group Study for Lower Division Students 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Lectures and small group discussion focusing on topics of interest that vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit under special circumstances: Course may be repeated for credit with consent of department.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 98BC Berkeley Connect 1 Unit

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Berkeley Connect is a mentoring program, offered through various academic departments, that helps students build intellectual community. Over the course of a semester, enrolled students participate in regular small-group discussions facilitated by a graduate student mentor (following a faculty-directed curriculum), meet with their graduate student mentor for one-on-one academic advising, attend lectures and panel discussions featuring department faculty and alumni, and go on field trips to campus resources. Students are not required to be declared majors in order to participate.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 99 Supervised Independent Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2006, Fall 2005, Spring 2005

Supervised Independent Study and Research for lower division students, pursuant to the Regulations of the Berkeley Division, Section A230.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Completion of two Political Science courses and a 3.3 GPA

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 102 The American Presidency 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Analysis of principal institutions, functions, and problems of the Presidency and the federal executive branch. Special attention will be given to topics of presidential leadership, staffing, executive-legislative relations, and policy formation. Comparative reference to executive processes in other political systems.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 103 Congress 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Nomination and election, constituent relations, the formal and informal structures of both houses, relations with the executive branch, policy formation, and lobbying.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 1 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-3 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 103W The Congress 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2009, Fall 2006, Spring 2006

This course will explore the Congress--the first branch under the Constitution--and its role in our political system. It will leverage our environment in Washington by featuring frequent guest speakers and seeking connections to current policy and political debate. In addition to surveying the pathways of lawmaking, we will ask how Congress and its members relate to the other branches of government, to the press, and to the public.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admittance to UC Berkeley-Washington Program. For details see <http://ucdc.berkeley.edu>

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 104 Political Parties 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2008

The institutional environment within which American politics takes place. Concept and history of parties in the American context: their nature and function, origin and development. Party organization and structure. State, national, and local party systems and their variations. Nominations and elections.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 105 The Politician 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Spring 2012, Spring 2011

The nature of politics, the education of politicians, the structure of ambition, and the ethical values of social behavior in the political world. Sessions with elected officials and party workers on their vocation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 106A American Politics: Campaign Strategy - Media 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

An inside look at how political campaigns operate from the viewpoint of the media, taught by the people who run them. Class material will be directed towards students who are interested in direct involvement in campaign politics or who are looking for a greater understanding of the political process. Students will be required to develop a complete written campaign strategy document in order to fulfill class requirements. Students will be expected to follow political and campaign news via the media and be prepared to discuss those developments in class.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109 Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1999 10 Week Session, Summer 1998 10 Week Session, Summer 1997 10 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

POL SCI 109A Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2013, Spring 2011

See department web site for specific course details.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 109B Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Summer 2024 First 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109D Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2005

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109E Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Summer 2005 10 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109G Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2012

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109H Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2009

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109L Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2011

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109M Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109P Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109Q Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109R Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2012 10 Week Session, Summer 2012 First 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109S Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2020

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 109W Selected Topics in American Politics-UCDC 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2012, Summer 2011 8 Week Session

Topics will vary.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to UC Berkeley-Washington Program. For details see <http://learning.berkeley.edu/ucdc>

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 108W

POL SCI 109Z Special Topics in American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2018

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 110B Cal-in-Sacramento 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

The purpose of this course is to provide Cal-in-Sacramento interns and other interested UC Berkeley students with a rudimentary understanding of our state government. We will focus on the state legislature and executive branch, exploring both the policy-making process and the politics in Sacramento, which we will learn are quite closely related to one another.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Limited to summer Cal-in-Sacramento interns

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit under special circumstances: Course may be repeated for credit with consent of department.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 111AC The Politics of Displacement 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

In this class, the revolution against traditional political authority embodied in Jefferson's and Thomas Paine's attack on the British crown, the rise of slavery, and the conflict with Native America are seen as coherent parts of a cultural and social development that emerges in 18th- and 19th-century America. Using both original antebellum materials, including biographies, history, and literature, and contemporary images from American popular culture such as film, news and magazine articles, and music, we will compare and contrast the experiences of antebellum Native Americans, European immigrants, and African slaves as a connection between the past and the present emerges.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 112A History of Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

Major theories from the ancient Greeks to the modern period. Ancient and medieval political thought, including Plato, Aristotle, and St. Augustine.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 112B History of Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session

Early modern political thought up to the French Revolution, including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 112C History of Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2019

Nineteenth and twentieth century political thought, including Burke, Utilitarianism, Marx, and contemporary theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 112D History of European Political Theory: The 20th Century 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Fall 2008

This is a survey course that will examine developments in 20th-century European Political Theory. It will focus on theorists' contributions and reactions to various major political and intellectual shifts, including Marxism (as "Western Marxism" and Critical Theory, as well as institutionalized Soviet communism in its heyday); psychoanalysis; and fascism.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 112L Roman Law 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The first part of the course will cover the history of Roman law and substantive doctrines of Roman private law – Persons, Guardianship, Property, Successions per universitatem, Obligations ex contractu and ex delicto, and Actions. The second part of the course will then examine the 'Second Life of Roman Law' – the reception of Justinianic Roman law in modern legal and political thought, its integration into medieval and modern legal systems (e.g., canon law, Roman-Dutch Law, Scots Law, the French Code Napoleon, the German Civil Code), in Latin America, Africa, and East Asia (as well as Louisiana).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: It is strongly recommended that Students have completed the equivalent of an introductory course in a relevant subfield of Political Science, PS 112A or PS 112B (or an equivalent)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI N112A History of Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session

Major theories from the ancient Greeks to the modern period. Ancient and medieval political thought, including Plato, Aristotle, and St. Augustine.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Political Science N112A after taking Political Science 112A. Students will receive no credit for Political Science 112A after completing Political Science N112A. A deficient grade in Political Science 112A may be removed by taking Political Science N112A.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 114A Theories of Governance: Late 20th Century 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Fall 2014, Spring 2013

What is governance? How should we explain its emergence? What are its implications for public policy and democracy? This course uses debates about contemporary governance to examine four approaches to political science and political theory. The approaches are rational choice theory, institutionalism, Marxism, and poststructuralism. The course looks at the narrative that each approach provides of the origins and workings of governance since 1979, and at the way these narratives embody theoretical commitments about rationality and power, structure and agency, and democracy. It thus promotes an awareness of the way questions about contemporary governance are inextricably linked to philosophical and normative commitments.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 116 Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Summer 2004 10 Week Session, Spring 2004

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

POL SCI 116A Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116B Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116C Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2019

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116D Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116E Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116F Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116G Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116H Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116I Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116J Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 116J after completing POL SCI 116. A deficient grade in POL SCI 116J may be removed by taking POL SCI 116.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116K Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116L Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116M Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2012 10 Week Session, Summer 2012 Second 6 Week Session

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116N Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116O Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2020

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116P Power, Freedom, and Democracy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Summer 2014 Second 6 Week Session

This course explores ideas of individual ethics and political community, the ethics of political rule, freedom and slavery, popular sovereignty and democracy, and equality and inequality in political thought. Readings will be drawn from both canonical and contemporary authors, including Sophocles, Douglass, Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, and Tocqueville. This is an introductory course, which emphasizes both thematic and historical approaches to political theory.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 116P after completing POL SCI 116P. A deficient grade in POL SCI 116P may be removed by taking POL SCI 116P.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116Q Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116R Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017 Second 6 Week Session

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116S Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 116T Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116U Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116V Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116W Ancient Greek Politics and Political Thought 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022

This course explores the varieties of political experience and ideas in the ancient Greek world,

focusing on the Classical era. We'll consider different regime types (kingship, tyranny, democracy, oligarchy), places (Athens, Sparta, Crete, Syracuse, and beyond Hellas, Persia, Carthage, and Egypt), political forms (city-state, nation, alliance, empire), institutions (assembly, council, courts, offices) and persons (political leader or "demagogue," citizen, woman, foreign resident, slave). The readings are broadly chronological and include a wide variety of sources: epic and elegiac poetry, tragic and comic drama, history, inscriptions, speeches, pamphlets, and philosophy.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: Familiarity with a wide variety of interesting and important examples of ancient Greek political ideas and practices; a sense of their similarities to and differences from related aspects of modern political thought and practice; ability to analyze some ancient Greek political texts closely and to discuss how they fit into the bigger intellectual and historical picture.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116X Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116Y Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 116Z Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013

Intensive study of one topic, problem, or intellectual movement in political theory. See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 117 Theories of Justice 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 1998

Major perspectives in social and economic thought, e.g., natural law, natural right, laissez faire, "possessive individualism," contractualism, pluralism, and social equality as they affect contemporary discussion of "higher law," fairness, civic competence, and distributive justice.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: POL SCI 117 and LEGALST 107 are similar in content. Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 117 after completing LEGALST 107, and vice versa. Students will receive no credit for LEGALST 107 after completing POL SCI 117. A deficient grade in POL SCI 117 may be removed by taking LEGALST 107.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 117D Democracy Ancient and Modern 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

Dēmokratia, democratia, democracy. What did this term mean to the ancient Greeks who coined it, to the Romans who borrowed it, to the early modern Europeans who discussed it—and what does it mean today? Who or what was the original dêmos, how did it rule, and how different is the interpretation of “rule by the people” that now predominates? Starting with the first attestations of da-mo in the 12th century BC and ending with Iceland’s recent attempt to crowdsource its constitution, this course offers a chronological exploration of the idea and practice of democracy intended to broaden our imaginative horizons with respect to what democracy has been, is, and could become.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 117L Jurisprudence 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2024
Jurisprudence is the formal academic study of the theory of law. For centuries, law students in the Western world were traditionally introduced to the topic of Jurisprudence through the study of classical Roman law - the most important legal system and the ancestor to most major modern legal systems in the world today. Following this tradition, students in this course will be introduced to Jurisprudence by following the classical approach in Part I of the course. Part II will then investigate the major modern schools of Jurisprudence.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 118AC Three American Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Summer 2007 10 Week Session, Summer 2006 10 Week Session

The course will examine three American cultural forms. The focus of the course is to be comparative; readings will center around first-person accounts, written by members of the ethnic groups most immediately involved in each of the cultural forms. The theme is that of identity, seen politically as well as culturally: examining how the various ethnic groups involved came to forge a collective identity for themselves. The three groups studied will vary by instructor. See departmental listings for more specific information.

Rules & Requirements

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 122A Politics of European Integration 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2020

The European Union is the world's most advanced experiment in governance beyond the level of the traditional nation-state. Through the European Union, the main members countries have pooled their national sovereignty and created new ways political authority, economic competition, social cohesion, and cultural identity. While specialists in comparative politics focus on the separate countries, scholars in international relations emphasize the construction of supranational institutions and transnational identities. This course seeks to synthesize the comparative and international approaches by examining the economic, political, and cultural aspects of integration.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123 Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2004, Fall 2003
See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

POL SCI 123A Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Spring 2009, Spring 2007
See department web site for specific course details.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Political Science 5 highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123C Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2007
See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123F Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2019
See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123G Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2011
See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123H Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2013

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123J Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Summer 2018 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2018

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123L Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Spring 2021

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 123L after completing POL SCI 123. A deficient grade in POL SCI 123L may be removed by taking POL SCI 123.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123M Conflict Management 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

The goal of this class is to familiarize students with the various ways in which actors can manage and resolve their conflicts. Conflict management in both international and civil conflicts will be discussed. Students will learn about negotiation, mediation, arbitration and adjudication, sanctions, military intervention, peacekeeping, nation-building, and the design of peace agreements. We will also talk about the role of the United Nations, regional organizations, and major powers like the U.S. in conflict management. While the main goal of the class is to familiarize students with central concepts and theories of conflict management, we will also take a look at cases that illustrate when, how and why different strategies work.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 123P Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

POL SCI 123R Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123S Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123W Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 123Y Special Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2017

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 120A highly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124A War! 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

War, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing! Is this necessarily true? Wars are brutal and horrific events, but are they all necessarily the result of miscalculation, accident, or fanaticism? Can war serve a rational purpose? Are wars governed by rules and do states care about these rules? This course is designed for upper-level undergraduate students.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124B War in the Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

This class begins with a historical overview of war in the region. The second part of the class introduces theories that complement and elaborate on theories from PS124A: arguments about the relationship between war and resources, religion, authoritarianism, civil military relations, territorial disputes, sovereignty, and power. In the third part of the course, we will explore current policy concerns related to conflict in the region: Nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the civil war in Syria, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, drone warfare, and the U.S. role in the region.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: POL SCI 124A ("War!") is a prerequisite for this class. Political Science 124A

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124C Ethics and Justice in International Affairs 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

Should nations intervene in other countries to prevent human rights abuses or famine? On what principles should immigration be based? Should wealthy states aid poorer states, and if so, how much? Who should pay for global environmental damage? Answers to these moral questions depend to a great degree on who we believe we have an obligation to: Ourselves? Nationals of our country? Residents of our country? Everyone in the world equally? We will examine different traditions of moral thought including skeptics, communitarians, cosmopolitans, and use these traditions as tools to make reasoned judgments about difficult moral problems in world politics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124D Reconciliation After Atrocities 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

It is increasingly recognized that for societies to move on after widespread human rights and humanitarian abuses some kind of reconciliation process is necessary. What does reconciliation mean at the national vs. personal level? What institutions and processes work best to encourage reconciliation? What role do truth commissions and trials play in this process? Are these processes best dealt with nationally or should they be led by an international body? This course will start by examining the concept of reconciliation and then look at case studies including Germany and Japan after WWII, Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge, Argentina and the Dirty War, Chile after Pinochet, South Africa and Apartheid, the Rwandan genocide, and war in Yugoslavia

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 124G The Comparative Study of Genocide 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

This course will examine the origins and forms of what a legal scholar once called an "odious scourge": genocide. For years, genocide mainly referred to the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews during World War II. However, since the end of the Cold War events in Eastern Europe, Central Africa, and elsewhere have drawn scholars' attention to genocide as a political phenomenon that may be studied across regions and time periods. Although ethical and policy concerns will underlie the discussion, as they do whenever genocide is the topic of study, our main objective will be to examine the determinants of genocide and related forms of mass violence.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124H The Politics of Human Rights 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022

This course is an introduction to the central concepts, laws, and debates in the field of international human rights. In the first half of the course, we will examine fundamental questions in the field, such as: What are human rights? What are the philosophical, religious, and historical foundations of human rights? What are the main international human rights agreements? What are some problems with those agreements? What are the main international institutions that handle human rights? How are human rights enforced outside of the U.N. system? What are regional human rights systems? Are human rights universal? And what role do non-governmental organizations play in this field?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124M The Scientific Study of International Conflict 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022

The goal of this upper-level seminar is to familiarize students with the scientific approach to studying international conflict, provide them with a deep understanding of the basic factors that exacerbate or mitigate international conflict, and sharpen students' analytical and research skills.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 124R The Global Politics of Climate Change 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of our generation. This in-person, undergraduate lecture investigates the political dimensions of that challenge. Over the course of the semester we will explore a number of key questions, such as: Why is it so challenging for nations to cooperate on climate change? Why are some governments more climate-friendly than others? What leads firms and individuals to be more or less supportive of green policies? What are possible solutions to the problem? And, finally, which of these solutions shows the most promise?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 124W Globalization and Me 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Globalization isn't just an abstract concept—it's something we experience every day in the way we eat, shop, work, and connect with others. This course will take a Political Science approach to globalization while keeping the focus on you and the ways political systems shape our personal and professional lives. Together, we'll explore how governments, international organizations, and global policies influence everything from our digital privacy to the food on our plates.

Through lively discussions, collaborative projects, and personal reflections, you'll uncover how political structures, institutions, and power dynamics operate on a global scale—while directly impacting your everyday choices.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 125 Civil Conflict and International Intervention 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2020

This course is designed to help you: (1) understand the existing theory and evidence about (a) the causes, strategies, and outcomes of civil conflict, and (b) the ways in which international actors intervene, (2) broaden your theoretical and empirical framework in international relations more generally, (3) think critically about the existing work in the field, and (4) begin to consider engaging in research on civil conflict and international intervention.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Political Science 123I

POL SCI 126A International Political Economy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Economic concepts in the study of international political behavior. Political concepts influencing the choice of economic policies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: College-level economics course (macro, micro, trade, etc) required. Students who have NOT taken any economics should NOT take the class

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 128 Chinese Foreign Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2012, Spring 2011

This course covers the history and analysis of Chinese foreign policy since the inception of the People's Republic of China 1949. Some attention is devoted to pre-1949 Far Eastern international relations, but only as a background to the study of the contemporary period. Emphasis is placed on Sino-American and Sino-Soviet relations, on the domestic determinants of Chinese foreign policy, on the changing nature of China's relations with her Asian neighbors, and on important substantive issues.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 128A Chinese Foreign Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2008, Spring 1996

Chinese foreign policy from the inception of the People's Republic of China in 1949 to the present. This course aims at providing the student with a sufficient factual base, alternative theoretical approaches and some of the methodological tools useful in studying Chinese foreign policy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI C131A Applied Econometrics and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

This course focuses on the sensible application of econometric methods to empirical problems in economics and public policy analysis. It provides background on issues that arise when analyzing non-experimental social science data and a guide for tools that are useful for empirical research. By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of the types of research designs that can lead to convincing analysis and be comfortable working with large scale data sets.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 140 or 141 or consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students who completed Econ C142 receive no credit for Econ N142.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-0 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 2-0 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Also listed as: ECON C142/PUB POL C142

POL SCI 132B Machine Learning for Social Scientists 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 1996

Social scientists and policymakers increasingly use large quantities of data to make decisions and test theories. For example, political campaigns use surveys, marketing data, and previous voting history to optimally target get out the vote drives. Governments deploy predictive algorithms in an attempt to optimize public policy processes and decisions. And political scientists use massive new data sets to measure the extent of partisan polarization in Congress, the sources and consequences of media bias, and the prevalence of discrimination in the workplace. Each of these examples, and many others, make use of statistical and algorithmic tools that distill large quantities of raw data into useful quantities of interest.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: This course introduces techniques to collect, analyze, and utilize large collections of data for social science inferences. The ultimate goal of the course is to introduce students to modern machine learning techniques and provide the skills necessary to apply the methods widely.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must have taken PS 3 and Data 8 (or have equivalent coursework)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 132C Berkeley Changemaker: Algorithms, Public Policy, and Ethics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024

This course will cover a broad range of topics on the use of predictive and related algorithms in public policy. This will include specific case studies, how data are used in these tools, their possible benefits relative to status quo procedures as well as their limitations, and the potential harms and ethics surrounding their use (e.g. issues of algorithmic bias). The course will include instruction on both concepts and methods. Students will learn about the use of algorithms in public policy (and related topics) through a conceptual and the-oretical lens, through illustrative case studies, and through data science applications and exercises.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must have taken PS 3 or Data 8 (or have equivalent coursework)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required, with common exam group.

POL SCI 133 Selected Topics in Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2017, Spring 2013

For more information see course description on department web site when course is offered.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: A previous course in statistics or data analysis

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI C135 Game Theory in the Social Sciences 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023

A non-technical introduction to game theory. Basic principle, and models of interaction among players, with a strong emphasis on applications to political science, economics, and other social sciences.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students receive no credit for PS C135/PEIS C135/ECON C110 after taking ECON 104. If PS C135/ECON C110/PS W135/ECON N110 is taken and with a passing grade, students can't take the other versions of the course for additional credit. If PS C135/ECON C110/PS W135/ECON N110 is taken and not passed, students can take the other versions to replace grade.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit under special circumstances: PS C135/ECON C110, PS W135 and ECON N110 are similar in content. See Restriction Description.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Economics C110, Political Economy of Industrial Soc C135, Political Science C135

Also listed as: ECON C110

POL SCI W135 Game Theory in the Social Sciences 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

This course provides an introduction to game theory and its application in social science, especially political science and economics. The purposes of the course are to give students a sense of the field of game theory and how political scientists use it in making arguments about how government and politics work, to develop students' intuition about strategic situations in everyday life, and to develop students' analytical capabilities generally. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to depict social situations as simple game theoretic models, analyze those models to understand how the behaviors of the individuals involved are mutually reinforcing, and apply computer-based tools to evaluate under conditions of uncertainty.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Political Science W135 after completing Political Science C135/Economics C110 or Economics N110. A deficient grade in Political Science C135/Economics C110 or Economics N110 may be removed by taking Political Science W135.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 2 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 136B Advanced Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2005

This course provides a deep dive into comparative political science. It takes the form of a "great books" course that focuses on outstanding, recently published texts. We will investigate how the authors formulated their research questions, conducted their field research, developed their causal explanations, found inspiration to persevere, and dealt with methodological challenges. We will also delve into the substantive issues that the books tackle, which include some of the most urgent issues in global politics. Each book we will study is an exemplary, inspiring work, and taken together the texts cover a vast range of substantive topics and geographical regions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 137A Revolutionary Change 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008, Fall 2007, Fall 2006

Theories of revolutionary violence, rebellion, and revolution. Strategies of revolution, terrorism, sources of revolutionary action.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 137H Causes and Consequences of Revolutions 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

Why do people rise up, and what outcomes emerge when governments are overthrown and new forces take power? Drawing on studies of events in Russia, Cuba, Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, and a range of other cases, we will ask why revolutions emerge in some settings and not others, why people do (and do not) mobilize for change in their societies, and why some uprisings succeed in taking power while others are defeated. We will then ask about the changes that revolutions bring in the social, economic, and political realms do we see greater freedom and equality in post-revolutionary society, or do revolutions fall short of their promises? And what explains the consequences that we observe?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 137L Democracy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

Many are concerned with the state of democracy in the United States and throughout the world. To better understand these concerns, we will study how global democracy has changed over time through questions including - How should democracy be defined and measured? What are the causes of democratization and democratic erosion? Do factors like inequality, polarization, and immigration pose a major threat to democratic progress? How will recent technological developments like social media and AI affect the future of democracy? "Data intensive course". While the main emphasis is on deepening our understanding of democracy and democratic change, most assignments will have at least some component of collecting, analyzing, and/or interpreting data.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Prerequisite of PS 3 or PS 88

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 138C The Political Economy of Gender 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2000, Spring 1999

This course provides a political economy framework to understand the origins and persistence of global gender inequality. We will look at variation in gender equality indicators to systematically address how women's socio-economic status and political power have varied across time (in historical perspective) and place (in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas). We will employ three analytical lenses to help us interpret what we see: biology, markets, and power. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the way gender intersects with other identities, such as race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexuality, class, and partisanship.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 138D Market Governance in the Digital Age 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2004

This course will examine how government, firms, and individuals interact to govern markets by surveying debates over specific substantive issues in the advanced industrial countries, especially the United States. Topics include labor regulation, antitrust policy, financial regulation, and intellectual property rights.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One economics course (such as Economics 1 or 2) and one Political Economy course (such as Political Science 126A or Political Economy 101) strongly recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 138E The Varieties of Capitalism: Political Economic Systems of the World 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

This course examines the interaction between politics and markets, both in theory and in practice, explicitly linking classic works on political economy with current policy debates. We study how political systems and markets are organized in a wide range of different national settings, looking at both history and contemporary issues. Topics include: 1) early industrialization in Britain and the United States, 2) late industrialization in continental Europe and Japan, 3) the varieties of capitalism in contemporary industrialized countries, 4) the newly industrializing economics of Latin America and East Asia, 5) the problems of development, and 6) the transition from communism to a market economy in Eastern Europe and China.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 138F Immigrants, Citizenship, and the State 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Summer 2008 10 Week Session, Summer 2008 Second 6 Week Session

This course will examine international migration from a historical and comparative perspective, looking at why people migrate, how citizens respond to the migration, and how states respond to migration. The first part of the course looks at the changing relationship between the state, immigrants, and citizenship. Turning to case studies, we will examine five different types of receiving states, each confronted with a different form of migration: a traditional immigrant state, a post-colonial state, a non-traditional immigrant state that imports migrant workers, a highly industrialized latecomer state, and a newly industrialized state.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4-4 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 138G National Success and Failure in the Age of a Global Economy: from Pleats to Cleats 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

In the present era political, economic, and social organization powerfully influence national capacity to assure economic success, real and rising incomes for the population, and political success, basic survival, and the projection of its purposes and values. This course looks at the continual process of international competition and transformation, and examines which factors separate the winners from the losers. We will gain leverage into these questions by examining critical moments in the 20th and 21st centuries and analyze according to national responses. What choices signal success? Can the failures be avoided? The course will discuss whether globalization is shunting aside national political choice, or whether globalization is in fact a sequence of national and regional stories played out on a larger stage. We will consider how economic constraint structures political choice and national response to the global economy. But we will also examine how political developments shape market dynamics and national innovations. We will learn about all sorts of things from the politics of French fashion to why Japanese make good cars.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Zysman

POL SCI 138J The Politics of What We Wear 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

In this course, we will think critically about the history of clothing in the world, how choices about clothing have shaped political, economic, and social outcomes across the world, and how the choices we make every day when we get dressed relate to the broader world around us. In doing so, we will explore the role(s) of clothing in global history, the history of industrialization, the political uses of clothing, and current interactions between the political economy of fashion and the environment. Students should come to the course ready to engage critically with their everyday decisions and the wider implications of these choices.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

POL SCI 138M Human Trafficking 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024

This class will introduce students to the complex phenomenon of human trafficking (also referred to as a form of modern day slavery) as defined in the United Nations Anti-Trafficking Protocol as well as the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and its subsequent reauthorizations. In this class, we will discuss trafficking in human beings in its historical, legal, economic, political and social contexts, identifying the scope of the global problem, different forms of human trafficking, regional trends and practices, including trafficking in the United States, and the different actors involved at all levels.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: PS120A highly recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 138M after completing POL SCI 123C.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 138S The Comparative Study of Genocide 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course will examine the origins and forms of what a legal scholar once called an “odious scourge”: genocide. For years, genocide mainly referred to the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews during World War II. However, since the end of the Cold War events in Eastern Europe, Central Africa, and elsewhere have drawn scholars’ attention to genocide as a political phenomenon that may be studied across regions and time periods. Although ethical and policy concerns will underlie the discussion, as they do whenever genocide is the topic of study, our main objective will be to examine the determinants of genocide and related forms of mass violence.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 138S after completing POL SCI 124G. A deficient grade in POL SCI 138S may be removed by taking POL SCI 124G.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 138Z The Politics of Immigration 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024

This course starts by exploring such migration reasons and the scholarly understanding of the politics of immigration. We then move to discussing the processes of immigrant incorporation—do immigrants and their children enter the mainstream societal institutions, what are the policies that promote the social, economic and political participation of immigrants, and what are the conditions that hinder immigrants participation; including nativistic reactions to immigration and demographic change. The course ends with a discussion of policy interventions designed to ameliorate the conditions hindering immigrants’ incorporation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 139B Development Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Summer 2013 10 Week Session, Summer 2013 Second 6 Week Session

Politics of economic development in developing countries. Comparative analysis of the theories and practice of development in the light of contemporary experience. Political strategies of agrarian, industrial, educational, and regional development and their impact on autonomy, welfare, justice, and human development.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 139D Urban and Subnational Politics in Low- and Middle-Income Countries 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

Over half of the world's population is now urban. As urban populations swell, metropolitan areas in both the developed and the developing world struggle to provide basic services and address the negative externalities associated with rapid growth. Sanitation, transportation, pollution, energy services, and public safety typically fall to sub-national governments. Yet local sub-national institutions face difficulties as they tackle these challenges because development tends to spill over political boundaries and resources are limited. Such difficulties are particularly acute in the developing world due to tighter resource constraints, weak institutions, and the comparative severity of the underlying problems.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 139M Political Economy of the Global South 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course tackles a series of big questions about economic growth and development. What hinders progress towards wealth and wellbeing in the Global South? What models of development are available to these states and what role does the Global North play in shaping their opportunities for growth? How do leadership, corruption, and violence impede these processes? And what prospects and challenges do climate change, technology and migration hold for citizens of the countries?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI C139 Urban and Sub-national Politics in Developing Countries 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2013

Over half of the world's population is now urban. As urban populations swell, metropolitan areas in both the developed and the developing world struggle to provide basic services and address the negative externalities associated with rapid growth. Sanitation, transportation, pollution, energy services, and public safety typically fall to sub-national governments. Yet local sub-national institutions face difficulties as they tackle these challenges because development tends to spill over political boundaries and resources are limited. Such difficulties are particularly acute in the developing world due to tighter resource constraints, weak institutions, and the comparative severity of the underlying problems. Moreover, democratization and decentralization suggest that urban governance and service delivery may have become more democratic, but present challenges with respect to priority setting, coordination, and corruption.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Post

Also listed as: CY PLAN C139

POL SCI 140E Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2018
See department web site for specific course offerings.
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140F Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2012 10 Week Session, Summer 2012 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2011
See department web site for specific course offerings.
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140L Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
See department web site for specific course offerings.
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140M Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2021
See department web site for specific course offerings.
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140O Projecting Power 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
The course will cover ethnic politics, broadly conceived with a particular focus on social movements, protests, civil disobedience and political violence. Related topics may include immigration, crime and the state, and urban politics. We will consider a range of questions including, how do stories influence our sense of self, community and nation? How do filmmaking techniques influence which people and issues become salient? How do aesthetic and narrative choices affect attitudes about the social order and who is deserving of power? Through close readings of films, social science, and media studies scholarship, this course will enable students to study key political science concepts, the institution of cinema, and how stories make meaning.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 140R Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008
See department web site for specific course offerings.
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140S Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2015 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2013 First 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140W Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 140Z Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2017

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI N140G Selected Topics in Comparative Politics: Political Parties and Party Systems 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The rise of right-wing populists marks contemporary politics. In this course, we discuss how populists achieve enough support to win power, particularly when entrenched political parties oppose them. To understand the rise of populists, we delve into the origins of political parties, their support base, and their organization. We then discuss the influence of a crisis of representation on the electoral success of populists in democratic contests. Is their success linked a large segment of the population feels underrepresented by the existing political parties? Course must be taken simultaneously with PS N149G.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI N140G after completing POL SCI 140G. A deficient grade in POL SCI N140G may be removed by taking POL SCI 140G.

Hours & Format

Summer: 4 weeks - 10 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 141A Russian Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2018

This course presents a broad introduction to contemporary politics and society in Russia. What was the Soviet Union, and why did democracy fail in Russia after the USSR fell apart? What kind of regime has Vladimir Putin constructed, and what are the limits of his power? How did Russia reemerge as a global power and how does it challenge the West and democracy around the world? How may we understand the nature of Russian nationalism and the quest for a secure national identity? How does the Russian economy work? What do we know about public opinion and the lives of ordinary Russians? Does the recent rise in social protest and state repression portend major political change? The course is recommended for juniors and seniors but is open to all

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Political Science 129B

POL SCI 141C Politics and Government in Eastern Europe 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Summer 2022 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2020
Modern politics and government in the states of Eastern Europe presented within a broader cultural, historical, and sociological framework. Problems of economic underdevelopment and national fragmentation. Comparisons of the pre-Communist, Communist, and post-Communist periods.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-9 hours of lecture and 2-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 142A Middle East Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Summer 2017 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session
The Middle East in world affairs, international relations and domestic policies of contemporary states in the Middle East; policies and strategy of major powers; supranational movements, regional political and security organizations. The area comprises Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Israel, and the Arab countries.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 143A Northeast Asian Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016
The structure and evolution of political institutions in China, and China's relations with neighboring states such as North Korea and South Korea. Emphasis upon such topics as nationalism, political modernization, and ideology.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 143B Japanese Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2017
The structure and evolution of political institutions in Japan. Emphasis upon such topics as political parties, the bureaucracy, social change, and contemporary policy issues.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 143C Chinese Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015
An overview of Chinese politics since the fall of the Qing Dynasty. Emphasis on the People's Republic of China and post-Mao reforms.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: O'Brien

POL SCI 143E The Political Economy of China 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Fall 2016
China's extraordinary growth has in some respects confirmed the power of free markets, but at the same time, it has challenged social scientists to think more deeply about the foundations and limits of the market economy. Furthermore, China's ever-increasing economic freedom and prosperity has been accompanied by only limited steps toward greater political freedom, running counter to one of the most consistent patterns of comparative politics and history. This class will cross conventional boundaries between political and economic analysis in order to address these issues.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Lorentzen

POL SCI 143T Chinese Politics and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2002 10 Week Session

This course offers the opportunity to learn about contemporary Chinese politics and society while visiting both famous and ordinary places to see and hear first hand how the Chinese people have experienced over five decades of dramatic change. The course has two components. The first week will be spent on the Berkeley campus and will involve an intensive introduction to the major strands of scholarly work on Chinese politics since the Communist revolution. During this time, students will also have a chance to become familiar with the basic outlines of recent Chinese history. The remaining 3 weeks of the course will be held in the Peoples Republic of China with an emphasis on experiential learning. Lecture and discussions will be on-going during and following field work and tours. In addition to lecture and discussions, two essays will be required.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 15-20 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 144 American Foreign Policy Toward Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2017

This course is designed primarily for students interested in exploring in depth the relationship between U.S. foreign policy and developments in East Asia. This course will explore the historical and contemporary foreign policies of the United States toward Asia with an eye toward analyzing the ways in which Asia has been shaped by American, and in turn American policies have been shaped by events in Asia.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4-4 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 144B Politics of Divided Korea 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

An overview of modern Korea divided into the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The course will compare the two Koreas in terms of political, social and economic institutions, culture, political elites and modernization strategy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 145A South Asian Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

A comparative analysis of development and change in the political systems of contemporary South Asia.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Political Science 145A and Political Science W145A are similar in content. Students will receive no credit for Political Science 145A after completing Political Science W145A. A deficient grade in Political Science W145A may be removed by taking Political Science 145A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 145B South Asian Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 1998, Spring 1997

A comparative analysis of development and change in the political systems of contemporary South Asia.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI W145A Understanding Political Developments in India 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

This class focuses mostly on the "domestic" politics of India. In addition to providing an overview of political developments in India since independence, this online course assesses the nature of democratic participation and representation in contemporary India - the world's largest democracy.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Political Science W145A and Political Science 145A are similar in content. Students will receive no credit for Political Science W145A after completing Political Science 145. A deficient grade in Political Science 145 may be removed by taking Political Science W145A.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 2 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 146A African Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Introduction to politics in the states of contemporary sub-Saharan Africa. Comparative study of political institutions and regime transitions; economic crisis and development; political violence and civil conflict.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 146D Environment, Culture, and Peacebuilding 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2010 10 Week Session

The course begins at the global level and moves to the local level in examining the nexus of politics, environment, and culture where conflicts ensue. These conflicts can lead to violence and hardship. They can also result in creative adaptations and solutions based in political and administrative institutions and processes that build peace. The first three weeks of the course examine global trends and institutions; the last three weeks examine the specific dynamics involving land and resource conflict in Kenya. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to social science and environmental science perspectives. Students will be exposed to the analytical tools of political economy, history, and political ecology. The class will consist of students from the University of California, Berkeley and Kenyatta University. It will be led by faculty from both institutions.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructors: Arriola, Kanogo, Olukoye

POL SCI 147F Contemporary French Politics: The Republican Model in Transition 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2019

French political life has long gravitated around a "Republican model" marked by an unmediated relationship between the citizen and the state, socialization into French values through secular public education, a special vocation for France on the international stage, and an activist state. Recent developments have called the Republican model into question. This course will examine the transformation of France's Republican model - its origins, operations, and responses to contemporary challenges.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 147G The Welfare State in Comparative Perspective 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2020

Comparison of welfare states in Western Europe and North America. Origins of welfare states. Varieties of welfare states. Relationship between welfare states and the economy. Impact of changing social, economic, and family structure states. Contemporary welfare reform.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 147T German History and Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course provides an introduction to German history, from ancient times to the post-reunification period. Special emphasis will be placed on the history of the city of Berlin. Except for a few preparatory activities in Berkeley, the course will be conducted in Berlin, offering lectures as well as hands-on visits to important places of German history. This is a four-week travel-study course.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sperlich

POL SCI 148A Latin American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2022

Political institutions, groups and parties in Latin American countries. Basic characteristics of political processes in Latin America; problems of political development and modernization and political change. Comparative study of political systems, institutions, groups and political culture.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-3 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149 Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008, Spring 2006, Fall 2004

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

POL SCI 149B Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2013, Fall 2010

See department web site for specific course details.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149E Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

See department web site for specific course details.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149F Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149I Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2012, Summer 2011 Second 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149K Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 149K after completing POL SCI 141A, or POL SCI 129B. A deficient grade in POL SCI 149K may be removed by taking POL SCI 141A, or POL SCI 129B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 0 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149M Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2017 Second 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149N Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149P Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2010

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149R Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2018

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149S Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 149W Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Summer 2024 First 6 Week Session

See department web site for specific course details.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 9 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI N149G Special Topics in Area Studies: Contemporary Catalan and Spanish Politics 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course main goal is to help students to become familiar with contemporary Spanish and Catalan politics. Students will gain familiarity with the historical background and main institutional features of Spanish democracy, with a specific focus on the Catalan region and the issue of territorial integration within Spain. We will also cover some of the recent developments. Throughout the course we will use the Spanish case to motivate broader discussions on some key topics of comparative politics: civil wars, democratization, secessionism, terrorism and political violence and party system formation.

Course must be taken simultaneously with PS N140G.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI N149G after completing POL SCI 149G. A deficient grade in POL SCI N149G may be removed by taking POL SCI 149G.

Hours & Format

Summer: 4 weeks - 10 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 150 The American Legal System 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Summer 2016 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2015
The nature of the American legal system; the interrelationships of judges, lawyers, police, political officials, bureaucrats, press, and general public; the political and social aspects of the legal process.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 152A Selected Topics in Public Law 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2008, Spring 2006

In contemporary democracies, law, courts, and other legal institutions (law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, administrative tribunals, the legal profession) play an ever-increasing role in the government of society. This course will examine the political science, legal and sociolegal literature on topics related to the design, staffing, and operation of legal institutions, the formulation of law, and the struggle for political power. See department web site for specific offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 157A Constitutional Law of the United States 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2018

Fundamental principles of constitutional law, leading cases, causes, and consequences of legal decisions and their role in influencing, shaping, and constraining the American political system. Judicial Review and the Limits to National Power.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 157B Constitutional Law of the United States 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Spring 2009, Spring 2008

Fundamental principles of constitutional law, leading cases, causes, and consequences of legal decisions and their role in influencing, shaping, and constraining the American political system. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Political Science 157A or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 161 Public Opinion, Voting and Participation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The nature of public opinion, attitude formation, electoral turnout and choice; political cleavages; the role of the mass public.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 164A Political Psychology and Involvement 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Fall 2020

What can psychology tell us about why believe what they believe about current events, vote the way they do, or even perpetrate atrocities? This class explores the sources of public opinion and political behavior through the application of psychological theories about personality, cognition, social influence, and identity. The course focuses on both underlying psychological theories and concepts and their political implications. This class will largely focus on applications in United States politics and society, but I will include examples from other countries as well. There are no prerequisites.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 164A after completing POL SCI N164A, or POL SCI W164A. A deficient grade in POL SCI 164A may be removed by taking POL SCI W164A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 6 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI N164A Psychology of Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 First 6 Week Session

This course explores the sources of political beliefs and actions through the application of psychological theories about personality, learning, cognition, and group dynamics. The course begins by briefly considering a number of alternative analytic approaches to linking human nature and politics and then considers such problems as political ideology, persuasion, compliance, protest, violence, and leadership in terms of these approaches. The course considers both mass and elite political behavior. The readings include both quantitative materials drawn from survey research and experiments and more impressionistic and clinical studies.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Political Science N164A after taking Political Science 164A. Students will receive no credit for Political Science 164A after completing Political Science N164A. A deficient grade in Political Science 164A may be removed by taking Political Science N164A and vice versa.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

POL SCI W164A Political Psychology and Involvement 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 8 Week Session, Summer 2022 8 Week Session, Summer 2021 8 Week Session

What can psychology tell us about why believe what they believe about current events, vote the way they do, or even perpetrate atrocities?

This class explores the sources of public opinion and political behavior through the application of psychological theories about personality, cognition, social influence, and identity. The course focuses on both underlying psychological theories and concepts and their political implications. This class will largely focus on applications in United States politics and society, but I will include examples from other countries as well. There are no prerequisites.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI W164A after completing POL SCI 164A, or POL SCI N164A. A deficient grade in POL SCI W164A may be removed by taking POL SCI 164A, or POL SCI N164A.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 2 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 166 Latinos and the U.S. Political System 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2016

This course examines the past and present of Latino politics in the US. The course reviews the history of conquest, colonization, and immigration that gave rise to the Latino population in the US, the differences and similarities in the contexts of reception of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and Central American, the cultural and institutional determinants of Latino identities, and the historical and institutional contexts shaping the contemporary political attitudes, behaviors, and representation of Latino voters.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 1-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 167 Racial and Ethnic Politics in the New American Century 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018

Students will explore, discuss, and understand the relationship between racial/ethnic group formation, group-based beliefs and behavior, and politics. Our focus is on the US today, but with an appreciation of how the racial politics of the here and now is rooted in history and human psychology. We cover Black Politics, Latinx Politics, Asian American Politics, Native American Politics and White Politics, general concepts of identity, immigration, citizenship, class, and intersectionality. We examine both how race and ethnicity affect politics, as well as how politics can shape the boundaries, definitions and behaviors of groups. These behaviors include voting, elite decisions, civic engagement, protests, and media content and usage.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 167 after completing POL SCI 167AC.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 167AC Racial and Ethnic Politics in the New American Century 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

Some of the most enduring and violent conflicts in America center on race. The goal of this course is to explore, discuss, and better understand the relationship between perceptions of racial identity, attributions of racial difference, and politics, broadly defined. We focus on the recent and persistent debates about racism, identity, rights, representation, citizenship, conflict, and coalitions. A repeated theme of this course is the question whether racial order and inequality are essential to, or an exception from, the liberal democracy in the U.S. This is a lecture course with intensive readings, written assignments, and in-class discussion.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 167AC after completing POL SCI 167.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 169 Selected Topics in Political Behavior 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2014

See departmental announcements.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit under special circumstances: Course may be repeated for credit with consent of department.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 171 California Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

An inquiry into the political environment of the state--historical, economic, geographic, and social; its political institutions--government, parties, interest groups, and citizens; and the policies resulting from the interaction of environment and institutions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 173S Political Economy of the California Crisis 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2006, Fall 2004, Spring 2004

This course examines the emergence and crisis of California's political economy. An analytical framework is developed that encompasses the secular growth and cyclical variability of California's income, expenditure, and revenue levels. California's economic growth and political development since 1875 will be analyzed. Specific topics covered include the Edmund G. (Pat) Brown era; Proposition 13 and the Ronald Reagan governorship; California's demographic transformation; challenges of minority economic development and political representation; the 2003 gubernatorial recall and the 2002-04 fiscal crisis. Course is part of the University of California Center Sacramento Program and is located in Sacramento.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Dymski

POL SCI 175A Urban and Metropolitan Government and Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Spring 2012, Spring 2011

The roles of various levels of government--local, regional, state, and national--in politics and policy-making in metropolitan regions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 179 Undergraduate Colloquium on Political Science 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Political issues facing the state of California, the United States, or the international community.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of colloquium per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 181 Public Organization and Administration 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The methods used to manage the power of the bureaucracy in the American political system. An introduction to theories of organizational behavior. The effects of administrative structure upon the creation and distribution of public benefits.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 186 Public Problems 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

This course explores the way societies try to address and solve difficult and seemingly intractable public problems. Can we attribute success or failure to institutions and their capacity to solve problems? Are problems difficult to solve because they are complex or because of a failure of political will? What are the characteristics of organizations or communities that are able to solve problems? How are public problems framed and how are they used to mobilize constituencies? The course draws on literature in public administration, public policy studies, and democratic theory to try to better understand some of the major social, political, environmental, and economic problems of our contemporary world.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Ansell

POL SCI 188 Policy Design and Implementation: People, Power, and Public Administration 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Public policy is often studied as a set of laws, regulations, and incentives, but it is ultimately designed and implemented by people—policymakers, bureaucrats, front-line workers, and public managers. This course explores how policy ideas take shape, how they are designed with (or without) implementation in mind, and how public agencies and officials turn policies into reality.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI H190A Honors Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

H190A is the first of a two-semester research seminar designed to provide support and structure to political science seniors writing an honors thesis. To receive department honors, students must maintain the minimum GPA for honors and complete H190B with a B+ or better. For additional details, please consult the Undergraduate Advising Office or <http://www.polisci.berkeley.edu>.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to the Political Science Honors Program. Must be a declared political science senior with a 3.5 GPA in the major and a 3.3 GPA overall. Eligible students must have taken Political Science 3 and at least two letter-graded upper division Political Science courses at Berkeley

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam required.

POL SCI H190B Honors Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

H190B is the second of a two-semester research seminar designed to provide support and structure to political science seniors writing an honors thesis. To receive department honors, students must maintain the minimum GPA for honors and complete H190B with a B+ or better. For additional details, please consult the Undergraduate Advising Office or <http://www.polisci.berkeley.edu>.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Political Science H190A. Must be a declared political science senior with a 3.5 GPA in the major and a 3.3 GPA overall. Eligible students must have taken Political Science 3 and at least two letter-graded upper division Political Science courses at Berkeley

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI 191 Junior Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The seminars will generally be led by ladder-rank faculty members in the subfields of Political Theory, Area Studies, American Politics, International Relations, and Comparative Politics. These intense writing seminars will focus on the research area of the faculty member teaching the course. The seminars will provide an opportunity for students to have direct intellectual interactions with faculty members while also giving the students an understanding of faculty research.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students are allowed to take one seminar per semester.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI 192 Pipeline Initiative in Political Science (PIPS) 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

This initiative is designed to help students learn about what it means to earn a PhD

in political science and how to prepare for and apply to PhD programs.

The goal is to build a

community of undergraduate scholars who will be connected with each other and with faculty and

graduate students at Berkeley. Students will learn about political science research, ways to prepare

to be a competitive PhD applicant, and receive support, advice, and mentoring on the application

process. Students who are selected for the program will participate in a series of workshops throughout the semester, will be

advised on pursuing research opportunities as an undergraduate, and will have the opportunity

to receive mentoring from graduate students and faculty.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 1 time.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Alternative to final exam.

POL SCI C193A Challenge Lab: Building Bridges between Democracy and Technology for a Better Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

This experiential course prepares technical, business-minded, and policy-oriented students to build and plan the implementation of a product, startup, or policy innovation from scratch. This course is meant for students who seek a challenging, interactive, team-based, and hands-on learning experience in entrepreneurship and technology. Students can expect to work in an interdisciplinary team to develop novel products and solutions to address existing problems in the realm of democracy and technology.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Also listed as: ENGIN C183F

POL SCI 196 Special Research Project 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014

Independent study of an advanced topic resulting in a substantial research paper.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of faculty sponsor and department chairman

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 196S UC Sacramento Internship and Research Seminar 9 - 13 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2007, Spring 2006, Spring 2005

This seminar will introduce students to the theory and practice of policy analysis and development as it relates to legislative action at the state level to maximize students' internship experience. The internship component of the course will provide students with a challenging opportunity to engage in experiential learning in some aspect of the political, policy-making, or governmental processes in California's state capital. This course will permit students to develop a systematic understanding of the public policy and political process in California and to develop analytical writing skills to produce a 25-30 page research paper developing and reflecting on this understanding. This course is part of the University of California Center Sacramento Program and is located in Sacramento.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Unit credit will be based on the number of hours of the internship.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 24-36 hours of internship per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Dymski

POL SCI 196W Understanding the Congressional World: A Field Research Seminar 10.5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 1997, Spring 1997, Fall 1996

This research seminar will explore the workings of Congress and its role in making public policy. It combines elective coursework with the original scholarship requirements of a UCDC research seminar and is designed for students in Congressional internships and those considering Congressional staff positions after graduation. In addition to studying the pathways of lawmaking, we will ask how Congress and its Members relate to the other branches of government, the press, and the public.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to UC Berkeley-Washington Program

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar, 1 hour of colloquium, 3 hours of fieldwork, and 18 hours of internship per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

POL SCI C196A UCDC Core Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012

This course is the UCDC letter-graded core seminar for 4 units that complements the P/NP credited internship course UGIS C196B. Core seminars are designed to enhance the experience of and provide an intellectual framework for the student's internship. UCDC core seminars are taught in sections that cover various tracks such as the Congress, media, bureaucratic organizations and the Executive Branch, international relations, public policy and general un-themed original research.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: C196B (must be taken concurrently)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 4.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Also listed as: GWS C196A/HISTART C196A/HISTORY C196A/MEDIAST C196A/POLECON C196A/SOCIOL C196A/UGIS C196A

POL SCI C196B UCDC Internship 6.5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

This course provides a credited internship for all students enrolled in the UCDC and Cal in the Capital Programs. It must be taken in conjunction with the required academic core course C196A. C196B requires that students work 3-4 days per week as interns in settings selected to provide them with exposure to and experience in government, public policy, international affairs, media, the arts or other areas or relevance to their major fields of study.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: C196A (must be taken concurrently)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 20 hours of internship per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Also listed as: GWS C196B/HISTART C196B/HISTORY C196B/MEDIAST C196B/POLECON C196B/SOCIOL C196B/UGIS C196B

POL SCI C196W Special Field Research 10.5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

Students work in selected internship programs approved in advance by the faculty coordinator and for which written contracts have been established between the sponsoring organization and the student. Students will be expected to produce two progress reports for their faculty coordinator during the course of the internship, as well as a final paper for the course consisting of at least 35 pages. Other restrictions apply; see faculty adviser.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 12 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 25 hours of internship per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of seminar and 60 hours of internship per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar and 50 hours of internship per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 196W

Also listed as: GWS C196W/HISTART C196W/HISTORY C196W/MEDIAST C196W/POLECON C196W/SOCIOL C196W/UGIS C196W

POL SCI 197 Field Study in Political Science 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

Supervised experience relevant to specific aspects of Political Science in off-campus organizations. Regular individual meetings with faculty sponsor and written reports required. Enrollment is restricted by departmental regulation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of faculty sponsor and department chair

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0-2 hours of fieldwork per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-7.5 hours of fieldwork per week

8 weeks - 1.5-5.5 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 197S Field Study in Political Science 0.5 - 2.5 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Supervised experience relevant to specific aspects of Political Science in off-campus organizations. Regular individual meetings with faculty sponsor and written reports required. Enrollment is restricted by departmental regulation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of Faculty Sponsor or Department Chair

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-5.5 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 198 Directed Group Study for Undergraduates 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Submission of study proposal by faculty sponsor to the department chairman one month in advance of the semester to be offered. Group studies of selected topics which vary from year to year.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-3 hours of directed group study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 198BC Berkeley Connect 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Berkeley Connect is a mentoring program, offered through various academic departments, that helps students build intellectual community. Over the course of a semester, enrolled students participate in regular small-group discussions facilitated by a graduate student mentor (following a faculty-directed curriculum), meet with their graduate student mentor for one-on-one academic advising, attend lectures and panel discussions featuring department faculty and alumni, and go on field trips to campus resources. Students are not required to be declared majors in order to participate.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

POL SCI 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research for Undergraduates 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

Enrollment is restricted by departmental regulation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to juniors and seniors

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.