

4902 Similarities in Physics (2 sem. hours). Analysis of the similarities that occur in many diverse fields of physics by oral and written presentations. Also includes presenting information processed from physical literature. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

4912 Senior Seminar (2 sem. hours). A continuation of the theme in Similarities in Physics. Emphasis is placed on a unified approach to problem solving. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

Political Science

Professor:

Richard A. Smith, Ph.D.

Associate Professor:

Iren Omo-Bare, Ph.D., Chair

Assistant Professor:

Michael Reinhard, Ph.D.

Ashleigh S. Powers, M.A.

Requirements for major: Students may complete a major in political science with a minimum of ten courses from departmental offerings or courses of study approved by the department. These courses must include the following: Introduction to American Government, Comparative Government, Political Theory, International Relations, Research Methods in Political Science, Senior Seminar, and any other four courses.

Requirements for minor: Students may elect a minor in political science with five courses, including Introduction to American Government, Comparative Government or International Relations, and any three other courses in the department.

General Information

No grade lower than a C will be accepted in any course to fulfill a major or minor in political science.

Internship, directed readings, and fieldwork courses may be used to fulfill no more than two of the four departmental electives (no more than one from each category).

Political science majors who choose to concentrate on foreign area studies may use courses taken in approved study abroad programs to fulfill up to a maximum of three of the required ten courses.

One Core 6 (Social and Behavioral Science) IDST course may be counted toward the major or the minor in political science with permission of the chair of the department. In general, Introduction to American Government is a prerequisite for all other courses in American politics, namely Political Science 2010, 2100, 2120, 2130, 2150, 3140, 3150, 3200, and 3250. Comparative Government is a prerequisite for all other courses in comparative politics and international relations, namely Political Science 2400, 3300, 3310, 3350, 3400, 3410, 4300, 4400, and 4500. Exceptions by permission of the instructor.

Courses

- 1000 Introduction to American Government (4 sem. hours).** A systems analysis of the American political environment and decision-making agencies, including study of federalism, state and local government, political parties, Congress, the presidency, and the judiciary.
- 1300 Comparative Government (4 sem. hours).** General comparative theory applied to developed and developing nations.
- 2010 American Public Policy (4 sem. hours).** Analysis of civil liberties, civil rights, and fiscal, regulatory, social, defense, and foreign policies. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000.
- 2050 Women and the Law (4 sem. hours).** This course examines the development of the legal rights of women in American jurisprudence. Analyzing current issues affecting women, such as marriage, family, reproductive rights, employment, and sexual harassment, the course focuses on federal policy in the second half of the 20th century.
- 2100 The U. S. Congress (4 sem. hours).** This course examines the roles and functions of Congress in American governance. Recruitment is analyzed, as are formal and informal structures and processes, interbranch relations, and legislative reform. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000. Offered in alternate years.
- 2120 The U.S. Presidency (4 sem. hours).** This course analyzes the institutional nature, roles, and functions of the American presidency. Questions of selection, the nature of leadership and executive power, formal and informal duties of office, evolution of the presidency, and performance evaluation are also explored. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000. Offered in alternate years.
- 2130 The U.S. Judiciary (4 sem. hours).** The nature and functioning of the judicial branch of American government is examined. This course analyzes judicial recruitment and selection, decision making, court organization, and management in courts from the U.S. Supreme Court to the municipal magistrate. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000. Offered occasionally.
- 2150 Urban/Metropolitan Politics (4 sem. hours).** The nature of urban, suburban, and metropolitan governance is examined. Questions of urban policy, the future of cities, and quality of urban/metropolitan management are explored. Policy questions such as community and economic development, housing, and growth management and planning are analyzed. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000. Offered occasionally.
- 2200 Economic Policy Issues (4 sem. hours).** The course investigates various aspects of the public policy regarding economic issues. Both macro and micro policy issues may be considered. Prerequisites: Economics 2000 and sophomore standing. (This course is the same as Economics 2200.)
- 2400 International Relations (4 sem. hours).** Consideration of issues, strategies, and theories of international politics, including the concepts of national interest, national defense, imperialism, balance of power, economics, and international cooperation and law. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300.

- 2500 Political Theory (4 sem. hours).** An inquiry into the basic principles of social and political organization, with special emphasis on concepts of government, justice, punishment, family, property, work, and peace. (This course is the same as Philosophy 2010.) Offered in alternate years.
- 2550 Research Methods in Political Science (4 sem. hours).** Examination of the fundamental issues involved in conceiving and executing a research project in the social sciences. Several research methodologies are covered: interviews, surveys, archival research, and case studies. Also includes introduction to statistical analysis of data.
- 3140 Constitutional Law (4 sem. hours).** An analysis, including historical background and philosophical evolution, of Supreme Court interpretations of constitutional provisions relating to the structure of the federal government and relationships between the different branches and with the states. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000 and junior standing.
- 3150 Civil Liberties (4 sem. hours).** This course examines individual constitutional rights of expression, religion, “fundamental rights” (such as privacy and travel), and equal protection as developed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Constitutional rights of the accused in the U.S. judicial system as developed through Supreme Court cases are studied, as well as the role of the Supreme Court in American government.
- 3200 Political Parties and Interest Groups (4 sem. hours).** Examination of history and current structure and functions of American political parties and interest groups in American politics. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000. Offered occasionally.
- 3210 Mass Media and Political Communication (4 sem. hours).** This course examines the legal environment, history, and content of the press in America. The course covers several aspects of media law including patterns of media ownership and antitrust policy, prior restraint, libel, privacy, and hate speech. Media coverage of various topics such as U.S. elections, crime, foreign affairs, crises, and state and local issues are analyzed.
- 3220 Public Opinion and Voting Behavior (4 sem. hours).** Examines approaches to the study and content of American public opinion on politics and selected issues and examination of American voters—why they vote (or do not vote) the way they do. Offered occasionally.
- 3250 Public Administration (4 sem. hours).** Theory and application of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting, and budgeting in public agencies. Prerequisite: Political Science 1000. Offered occasionally.
- 3300 Western European Government and Politics (4 sem. hours).** Examination of politics and government in Western Europe by means of country studies and comparisons. Sections of the course will be devoted to the general topic of European integration and related concepts such as regionalism, functionalism, and integration theory. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered in alternate years.
- 3310 African Government and Politics (4 sem. hours).** Examination of politics and government in Africa by means of country studies and comparisons. Sections of the course will be devoted to the examination of issues of development and underdevelopment. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered in alternate years.

3350 The Politics of Race and Ethnicity: A Comparative Perspective (4 sem. hours).

Examination of issues of race and ethnicity in selected countries. Sections of the course are devoted to the comparative study of the causes and consequences of ethnic and racial strife, as well as the examination of race and ethnic-specific policies in selected countries. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered occasionally.

3400 U.S. Foreign Policy (4 sem. hours). Diplomatic, military, and economic aspects of foreign policy considered within the context of current issues. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered in alternate years.

3410–3412 International Organizations/Model United Nations (2 or 4 sem. hours).

Examination of recent trends in the globalization and regionalization of political, social, and economic issues. A substantial part of the course will focus on the United Nations system. Through research and role-play (including participation in model UN situations), the course will examine several different areas of the UN's work.

3700–02 Directed Readings in Political Science (1, 2, or 4 sem. hours). Directed readings in political science. (No more than one directed reading course may be included in the list of courses for the major.)

3800–02 Political Science Internship (1, 2, or 4 sem. hours).

4300 Developing Nations (4 sem. hours). Comparative theory applied to developing nations. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered in alternate years.

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4400 Peace, Conflict Resolution, and International Security (4 sem. hours). This course will focus on issues of peace and international security. The course will seek to stimulate a wider awareness and appreciation of the search for peaceful resolution to strife in all its forms. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered in alternate years.

4500 Political Sociology (4 sem. hours). This course will employ the political-economy perspective to examine the various political ideologies and the diverse economic systems in the contemporary world. The course will also include an overview of theories of development and underdevelopment and a discussion of social change within both specific societies and the world system. Prerequisite: Political Science 1300. Offered occasionally.

4600-02 Special Topics in Political Science (1, 2, and 4 sem. hours). Areas of interest not covered in regular courses; unusual opportunities to study subjects of special interest.

4900 Senior Seminar (4 sem. hours). Survey of historical development of the discipline, examination of contemporary issues in major subfields of the discipline, and examination of some examples of current uses of political science knowledge.