

Political Science Distribution Courses: Where they Fit

2017-18

Last Updated April 6, 2018

CULTURE and POLITICS: Culture is said to be a key factor in shaping our political lives. The courses below explore political culture in different ways and in different domains, but all share one or more of the following themes:

1. culture as norms informing policies, institutions, and behaviors;
 2. culture as influencing inequalities, movements, and change;
 3. culture as a politically created and contested terrain.
- POLSC 215 *Politics in Popular Culture*
 - POLSC 220 *Democracy for the Few? Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements*
 - POLSC 221 *Law, Courts, and Judicial Processes*
 - POLSC 228 *Government and Politics of China*
 - POLSC 232 *Government and Politics of the Middle East*
 - POLSC 235 *Government and Politics of Latin America*
 - POLSC 244 *The Politics of Memory*
 - POLSC 261 *United States–Latin American Relations*
 - POLSC 280 *The Tragedy of Citizenship*
 - POLSC 285 *American Political Thought*
 - POLSC 290: *Imagining New Political Futures*
 - POLSC 326 *Sports and the Politics of Race and Nation*
 - POLSC 329 *Islam, Migration & Race in Western Europe*
 - POLSC 332 *Government and Politics of Latin America*
 - POLSC 334 *Government and Politics in South Asia*
 - POLSC 336 *Politics and Culture in the Asia-Pacific*
 - POLSC 348 *Direct Action Organizing*
 - POLSC 355 *The Arab-Israeli Conflict*
 - ENGL 371/POLSC 371 *Politics and Literature*
 - POLSC 380 *Classical Political Thought*
 - POLSC 382 *Modern Political Thought*
 - POLSC 390 *Imagining New Political Futures*
 - POLSC 386 *Chinese Political Thought: From Confucius to the New Left*
 - POLSC 450 *The Politics and Psychology of Persuasion and Prejudice*
 - POLSC 457 *National Security Controversies*
 - POLSC 482 *Race and the American Political Mind*
 - POLSC 484 *American Conservatism*
 - POLSC 486 *The Death and Life of American Liberalism*

GLOBALIZATION and TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS: Studies of transnationalism focus on the effects of norms, ideas, people, policies, movements, networks, and institutions that cross national boundaries. Transnational phenomena increasingly challenge how political scientists think about economies, national boundaries, and sovereignty. Studies of globalization examine the intensification of transnationalism. In our classes on globalization and transnationalism, students will learn:

1. to investigate the ways that global or transnational forces shape the regional, national, and local arenas and vice versa;
 2. to analyze transnational and global phenomena as contested, uneven, and value-laden;
 3. to evaluate the costs and benefits of globalization for individuals and collectivities.
- POLSC 191/193 *Contentious Politics*
 - POLSC 226 *Government and Politics of Western Europe*
 - POLSC 240 *Political Economy*

- POLSC 242 *Immigration and Citizenship*
- POLSC 244 *The Politics of Memory*
- POLSC 245 *The Politics of Third World Development*
- POLSC 248 *Human Rights*
- POLSC 251 *U.S. Foreign Policy*
- POLSC 261 *United States–Latin American Relations*
- POLSC 325 *Rights in Comparative Perspective*
- POLSC 326 *Sports and the Politics of Race and Nation*
- POLSC 329 *Islam, Migration & Race in Western Europe*
- POLSC 330 *Megacities*
- POLSC 354 *War and Peace in the Middle East*
- POLSC 355 *The Arab-Israeli Conflict*
- POLSC 427 *The European Union*
- POLSC 459 *Civil Wars*
- ENVSC431/POLSC 460 *Global Environmental Politics*

INSTITUTIONS and PROCESSES

- POLSC 190 *Civil Society and Democracy in Comparative Perspective*
- POLSC 214 *Rural Politics*
- POLSC 217 *Women, Suffrage, and Political Participation*
- POLSC 219 *American Political Development*
- POLSC 221 *Law, Courts, and Judicial Processes*
- POLSC 226 *Government and Politics of Western Europe*
- POLSC 228 *Government and Politics of China*
- POLSC 232 *Government and Politics of the Middle East*
- POLSC 235 *Government and Politics of Latin America*
- POLSC 240 *Political Economy*
- POLSC 245 *The Politics of Third World Development*
- POLSC 255 *Law, Politics and Society in Comparative Perspective*
- POLSC 301 *Constitutional Law: Powers of Government*
- POLSC 317 *Political Parties and Elections*
- POLSC 318 *Politics and the Media*
- POLSC 320 *State and Local Politics*
- POLSC 321 *Urban Government and Politics*
- POLSC 330 *Megacities*
- ENVSC 347/POLSC 324 *Environmental Protection and Institutional Change*
- POLSC 327 *The Political System of Germany*
- POLSC 332 *Government and Politics of Latin America*
- POLSC 334 *Government and Politics in South Asia*
- POLSC 354 *War and Peace in the Middle East*
- ENVSC 390: *American Government and the Environment*
- POLSC 412 *U.S. Congress*
- POLSC 413 *U.S. Presidency*
- POLSC 427 *The European Union*
- POLSC 457 *National Security Controversies*
- POLSC 459 *Civil Wars*
- ENVSC 431/POLSC 460 *Global Environmental Politics*
- POLSC 453 *Deterrence Theory and Nuclear Defense*

POLICY STUDIES: Public policy is the formal realization of ideas, norms, and political objectives through governmental and international actions, rules, and the creation of new organizational forms. Public policy analysis uses methodologies such as case studies, game theory, and statistics to better understand the origin and delivery of public policy. In our classes on public policy, student will learn:

1. to evaluate the effectiveness of a policy and to compare systematically across policy options;

2. to trace the origin of and debate over public policies, looking at how legislative demands, interest groups, constituent interests, and political entrepreneurs all shape the eventual form that policy takes;
3. to assess the impact of policy on individuals, vulnerable groups, movements, and institutions, as well as on norms and political culture.

- POLSC 211 *Women and Public Policy*
- POLSC 213 *Health Policy in the U.S.*
- POLSC 214 *Rural Politics*
- POLSC 242 *Immigration and Citizenship*
- POLSC 248 *Human Rights*
- POLSC 251 *U.S. Foreign Policy*
- POLSC 255 *Law, Politics and Society in Comparative Perspective*
- POLSC 261 *United States–Latin American Relations*
- POLSC 303 *Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*
- POLSC 323 *Environmental Policymaking in the United States*
- ENVSC 347/POLSC 324 *Environmental Protection and Institutional Change*
- POLSC 325 *Rights in Comparative Perspective*
- ENVSC 390: *American Government and the Environment*
- POLSC 450 *The Politics and Psychology of Persuasion and Prejudice*
- POLSC 453 *Deterrence Theory and Nuclear Defense*
- POLSC 457 *National Security Controversies*
- POLSC 489 *Statistics and Data Analysis*

PROBLEMS IN DEMOCRACY: Democracy and the corollary “self-evident truth” that all human beings are created equal has become a widely accepted basis for legitimate government in the modern era. However, the meaning of democracy remains contested. Is democracy simply a form of government, or does it also include social, economic, and cultural practices and institutions? To what extent, and in what ways, does the health and survival of democracy depend upon the character and behavior of citizens? The establishment and preservation of democracy depends upon how we answer such questions, and for that reason, such questions continue to confront democratic theory and practice. In courses on the “problems of democracy,” students will learn:

1. to recognize and evaluate competing conceptions of democracy by developing arguments and using evidence
2. to identify and confront the challenges of establishing and preserving freedom, equality, and order through democratic practices
3. to recognize, confront, and where necessary rework the assumptions, values, and habits/behavior that shape our thinking about democracy and the responsibilities of democratic citizenship

- POLSC 190 *Civil Society and Democracy in Comparative Perspective*
- POLSC 191/193 *Contentious Politics*
- POLSC 217 *Women, Suffrage, and Political Participation*
- POLSC 219 *American Political Development*
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