

PS 201 – Intro to US Government and Politics (Solberg)

Understanding the operation and influence of government on our daily lives is critical. Without an aware and educated citizenry, a government by and for the people is a myth. Additionally, those criticizing the government without such understanding do so unfairly. Criticism with such knowledge can be powerful and effective. Therefore this course will provide you with the basic tools necessary for understanding and participating in our representative democracy, as well as criticizing governmental efforts judiciously. This course will begin at the beginning by examining our Constitution—how it was constructed and why. The Constitution then provides our blueprint for the rest of the course. Articles I, II, and III define the institutions of our government, the powers and the limitations. We will spend the term studying the executive branch or presidency, the legislative branch or Congress, and the judicial branch or the courts. As we examine each institution, we will take a systematic approach dissecting each branch so that we gain a solid understanding of its structure, its role in government and society, and the current controversies that surround each branch.

PS 204 – Intro to Comparative Politics (Li)

This course examines the political systems of three major advanced industrial democracies (Great Britain, France, and Germany), two post-communist regimes (Russia and China), and a third-world democracy (India). In order to understand how each political system operates today, three subject areas are to be examined: the impact of the history, key institutions, and political processes.

PS 205 – Intro to International Relations (Below)

This class is designed to introduce students to the study of international relations and the concepts and processes that influence inter-state relations. Via course readings, lectures, discussions and a negotiation simulation we will focus on the factors that facilitate inter-state conflict, cooperation, integration, and peace. In doing so we will analyze international, national, and individual-level motives and constraints and explore similarities and differences between states (i.e., level of development, power/strength, trade and technology, environmental conditions). Scholars will acquire a better understanding of how and why national decision makers make the policy choices they do and, ultimately, better understand international events they hear in the news.

PS 206 – Intro to Political Thought (Valls)

This class is an introduction to political philosophy and to the ideas of selected political thinkers. We focus on the issue of justice: what it is, what it means, what it requires of a society in general and also how it applies to particular public policy issues. Among the questions to be addressed are: to what extent should the market determine distributive outcomes, and to what extent may the state play a role? What should the goal of public policy be in this arena—to establish equality of outcomes, equality of opportunity, provide for a minimum social safety net? What must society tolerate, and what may it forbid or restrict? What fundamental moral principles should guide us as we consider these issues? We explore these questions through engagement with both historical and contemporary thinkers and texts.

PS 300 – Political Analysis (Golya)

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental aspects and to specific methods of doing social science and public policy research. We will begin with a discussion of "methodology" (the philosophy behind research) and then move on to specific "methods" (techniques) of research. The primary focus of the course will be on research design, but considerable attention will be paid to elementary data analysis.

This class fulfills the Writing Intensive Course requirement for a degree in Political Science. It requires the completion of at least two of the PS intro classes: PS 201, PS 204, PS 205 or PS 206.

PS 322 – Constitutional Law (Solberg)

This is the second of a three-course sequence in American Constitutional Law; however, each course stands independently. PS 322 focuses primarily on important doctrines pertaining to the First, Second and Fourteenth Amendments. In the second course of the sequence, we turn our attention to the freedom of speech, of expression, of the press and of the exercise. We will also take some time to investigate the right to bear arms and the prohibition against governmental establishment of religion. The second half of the course is devoted to issues of discrimination and the reach of the 14 amendment's equal protection clause. We end the term by investigating the right to privacy. We cover topics such as under what conditions the government censure speech or expression; does the equal protection clause reach to issues of sexual orientation; and whether same-sex marriage is covered under the doctrine of privacy. The approach is case-oriented, with an emphasis on class discussion and mini-simulations. Course objectives include an understanding of crucial aspects of constitutional doctrine, and increasing development of analytical skill and rigor.

There will be two examinations, and in-class simulation and additional short writing assignments. PS 201 is recommended.

PS 343 – Russian Politics (Henderson)

In 1991, the USSR's sudden collapse was met with initial euphoria, as many initially assumed that democracy and capitalism would naturally follow. Instead, in the ensuing two decades, Russia struggled to establish stable political institutions, a functioning market economy, and many would argue the quality and quantity of Russia's institutions has further declined in the past decade. This course surveys the tortured and tumultuous path of Russian political, economic, and social reform following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In part, this class takes an in-depth look at one country's disintegration and subsequent struggle to radically reform its political, economic, and social structures. In addition, by looking at the case of Russia, we learn larger lessons about the breakdown of authoritarian regimes, the nature of democratic transitions, and the difficulties of achieving democratic (or even political) consolidation, particularly in countries with significantly different historical traditions from those of the West.

PS 361 – Classical Political Thought (Andersen)

This course is an in depth examination of key political theorists and texts in the early western tradition. We will move from the ancient Greeks (Pericles, Plato and Aristotle), to the Romans (Cicero), to medieval Christian thinkers (Augustine and Aquinas), and through the Italian Renaissance (Machiavelli) – all in an effort to understand and critically examine these canonical works both in their respective historical contexts and in relation to contemporary political issues.

The course requires that you have previously taken PS 206.

PS 415 Politics and the Media (Kneis)

For most citizens, access to politics is primarily mediated through various forms of communication and representation: be they newspapers, radio, television, films, web sites, blogs, facebook, etc.: In order to access political knowledge and to gain knowledge over politics, these media need to be consulted, consciously or subconsciously. This course analyses various forms of cultural representations of politics in different media. First, we will discuss some theories of media and representation, and then apply these theories to different media examples. Students are provided with a selection of such examples, but are required to find some source materials of their own.

PS 454 - International Law and Organizations (Clark)

This course examines the role of *international law*, *international organizations*, and *non-governmental organizations* in global politics. Initially, we trace the historical development of law and organization in the context of the primacy of states and sovereignty. The disagreements among the dominant theories of international relations over the significance and place of international law and organization frame our examination of major examples and cases including the United Nations system, the International Criminal Court, the Law of the Seas, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and International Humanitarian Law. Reading, writing, and class workshops will focus special attention on multilateralism in humanitarian intervention, human rights prosecutions, responses to pandemics, and sustainable human development.

Texts include:

THE UNITED NATIONS AND CHANGING WORLD POLITICS by *Weiss, et. al.*

PIONEERS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND PEACE by *Sherrill Wells*

WAR LAW: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict by *Michael Byers*

THE JUSTICE CASCADE: How Human Rights Prosecutions are Changing World Politics by *Kathryn Sikkink*

PS 457/557 – US-China Relations (Li)

The U.S.-China relationship has been the most important bilateral relationship for the United States in recent decades and will continue to be such for the foreseeable future. In this course, we examine the evolution of the U.S.-China relationship both historically and thematically, with a focus on the period since President Nixon's visit to China in 1972. We discuss the complex nature of the U.S.-China relationship, which includes areas of competition, cooperation, and interdependency with regard to economic, cultural, diplomatic, military, and other regional and global issues. With a more "assertive" China brandishing a more "muscular" foreign policy, and with President Obama's "pivot" back to Asia, the question arises as to whether the U.S. and China are on the road to conflict in Asia.

PS 458/558 – International Political Economy (Bernell)

This course examines the realm in which international politics intersects with economic issues. We will look at problems involving the WTO and global trade, the international financial and monetary system, economic development, multinational corporations, and globalization. We will also look at the history of international political economy and how it has changed over the last several decades, as well as the financial and economic challenges of recent years involving places such as the United States, the Eurozone, and China. A background in economics is not necessary to take this class.

PS 477 – International Environmental Politics and Policy (Below)

This course examines regional and global environmental problems and how nations work in concert to address them, either bilaterally, multilaterally or internationally. It begins with an historical look at cooperation and evolves to focus on current issues and problem-solving attempts. Building off a foundation of basic environmental and international political concepts, this course will include readings and discussion of specific environmental issues and attempts to address them, including a look at the actors involved. General topics include: population growth, sustainable development, managing the global commons, environmental regimes, development and poverty, resource scarcity and environmental security.

There are no prerequisites for this course, though PS 205 is highly recommended.