POL

Political Science

POL 101-F World Politics
Analysis of the basic concepts and issues of international relations in the contemporary international system. The behaviors of states and their decision makers are considered according to various models of national and international conflict. The relationship between the characteristics of nations and their foreign policies is studied on a comparative basis.

3 credits

POL 102-F Introduction to American Government
What the informed citizen and specialist should know about the organization of American government, including the Constitution and what it means today, the Congress, political parties, pressure groups, growth of the Presidency, the Supreme Court, judicial review, federalism, separation of powers, and the Bill of Rights. May not be taken for credit in addition to POL 105.

3 credits

POL 103-F Introduction to Comparative Politics
Analysis of political institutions and processes in the contemporary world, emphasizing the interaction of political structures and processes in a variety of political settings.

3 credits

POL 105-F Honors Introduction to American Government
An enriched introduction to American government. Topics covered include political participation, public opinion, voting and elections, parties, interest groups, federalism, Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, and public policy formation. This course requires more reading and more written work than does POL 102. May not be taken for credit in addition to POL 102.

Prerequisite: Permission of department; priority given to students in the University’s honors programs

3 credits

POL 201-C Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science
Elementary statistical methods in empirical political science, focusing on the analysis of public opinion, survey research designs, sampling, and probability. The course considers the application of descriptive and inferential statistics to testing hypotheses on various political issues. May not be taken for credit after AMS 102, ECO 320, PSY 201, or SOC 202.

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of entry skill in mathematics requirement

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 101 or 102 or 103 or 105

3 credits

POL 214-J Modern Latin America
From independence to the present: the evolution of 19th- and 20th-century Latin America. Emphasis on current social, economic, and political issues. This course is offered as both HIS 214 and POL 214.

Advisory Prerequisite: LAC 200

3 credits

POL 216-J History of U.S.-Latin American Relations
An examination of the impact of U.S. economic and political relations with Latin America from the mid-19th century to the present. The course considers changes in American policy toward Latin America, as well as the varying responses of Latin American nations to U.S. intervention and influence. This course is offered as both HIS 216 and POL 216.

Advisory Prerequisite: One HIS course

POL 287 Introductory Research in Political Science
May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits, but only six credits may count for major or minor requirements in political science.

Prerequisite: Permission of departmental research coordinator

0-3 credits, S/U grading

POL 302 Graphical Analysis in Political Science
Training in the use of graphical analysis to study politics, including research design, data collection and organization, methodology, and interpretation. Additional attention to the politics of measurement and the political impact of data. Formal analytical techniques are applied to substantive policy areas such as health, unemployment, and national security.

Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement

3 credits

POL 305-I Government and Politics of the United Kingdom
Examination of the political system of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the Constitution, Parliament, cabinet, political parties, and the policy-making process.

Prerequisites: POL 103; U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

POL 307-I Politics in Germany
An examination of governmental institutions and policy making in Germany with special emphasis on the development of democracy, the process of national unification, political culture, citizen politics, party government, and Germany’s role within the European Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 103

3 credits

POL 309-I Politics in the European Union
Why the European Union was created, how its institutions have evolved over time, and where the union is going.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 101 and 103

3 credits

POL 311 Introduction to International Law
Casebook approach to standard introductory course in international law, including the following topics: state jurisdiction and responsibility, individuals, international organization, and use of force.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing;

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 101

3 credits

POL 313-F Problems of International Relations
Analysis of the international system, its characteristic forms, and the principal forces making for conflict and adjustment. Examination of some prevalent analytical concepts, of major current problems and developments, and of prospects and alternatives for the future.

Prerequisites: POL 101; U3 or U4 standing

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement

3 credits

POL 316-F Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
Examination of the primary structure of American politics. The historical foundation and evolution of American federalism and the effects of a federal structure on civil rights and liberties, economic development, political representation, and public policy. Discussion of current topics in federalism and intergovernmental relations.

Prerequisite: POL 102 or POL 105

3 credits

POL 317-F American Election Campaigns
The politics of presidential nominations through primaries, caucuses, and conventions; the conduct of presidential general election campaigns; mass media coverage and opinion polling; the citizen’s involvement in campaign politics; voter attitudes toward parties, candidates, and issues; and the interpretation of electoral outcomes.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105

3 credits

POL 318-F Voters and Elections
An examination of how citizens make electoral decisions, including the decision to participate at all in elections. The course compares models of voter behavior and probes the influence of such factors as party identification, opinion on issues, ideological orientations, and candidate evaluations. In addition, the social and economic context of voting is explored, as is the importance of elections for policy making and the functioning of the political system.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105; POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement

3 credits

POL 319 Business Law
A study of the legal environment of business operations, covering such topics as the principle of contracts, commercial papers, partnerships, corporations, real property, estates, bankruptcy, antitrust laws, and environmental and civil rights regulations.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing or New Transfer student

3 credits

POL 320-F Constitutional Law and Politics: United States
A study of the role of the modern Supreme Court within the political and governmental process; its relation with Congress, the Presidency, state and local governments, parties, and interest groups; and the Court’s policy-making role in economic regulation.

Prerequisites: POL 102 or 105; U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

POL 321-F Law and Politics
The major institutional structures of the civil and criminal law systems in the United States: the adversary proceeding, the legal profession, the judiciary, juries, and patterns of fault and punishment. Each aspect is placed in the setting of American politics, i.e., in the context of legislative, executive, party, and community behavior.

Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105

3 credits

POL 322-F The Presidency in the American Political System
How presidential power developed historically; from what sources the powers of the modern Presidency emanate; how decisions are made in the presidential institution; and how to what degree presidential power may or ought to be controlled.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105

3 credits
The document contains course descriptions for various courses offered by the university, including:

- **POL 323-F U.S. Congress**
- **POL 324-F American Political Parties and Pressure Groups**
- **POL 325-F Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**
- **POL 326-F Politics of New York State**
- **POL 327-K Urban Politics**
- **POL 328-F Criminal Law**
- **POL 329-F Administrative Law**
- **POL 330-K Gender Issues in the Law**
- **POL 331-F Law and Political Representation**
- **POL 332-F Politics of Criminal Due Process**
- **POL 333 Environmental Law**
- **POL 336-F U.S. Foreign Policy**
- **POL 337-J The Politics of Africa**
- **POL 343-F Behavioral Assumptions of the Law**
- **POL 344-F American Political Ideology and Public Opinion**
- **POL 346-F Political Psychology**
- **POL 347-K Women and Politics**
- **POL 348-F Political Beliefs and Judgments**
- **POL 349-F Social Psychology of Politics**
- **POL 350-I Contemporary European Political Theory**
- **POL 351 Social Surveys in Contemporary Society**

The document also includes information on course prerequisites, requirements, and credits.
POL 357 India's Foreign Policy
[Effective Fall 2005; new course]
A critical analysis of the foreign policy of India since Independence in 1947, especially Non-alignment and relations with major powers. The factors behind India's entry into the nuclear club and its impact on her international relations within the subcontinent and beyond. Analysis of issues such as Kashmir, terrorism, India’s quest for a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council, economic reforms, and role of Indian diaspora to the country’s relations with the countries of their adoption. This course is offered as both AAS and POL 357.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing or permission of instructor
Advisory Prerequisites: AAS 201 and 348

3 credits

POL 368-F American Political Development
The development and evolution of the American political system. Consideration of the evolution of institutions such as the party system, Congress, and the bureaucracy and how they explain policy developments and shape our political life. Attention to how historical approaches to American politics help explain current dilemmas in the American political system.
Prerequisites: POL 102 or 105; U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

POL 372-J Politics in the Third World
Analysis of problems and prospects of nonindustrialized nations that are experiencing political and economic development. Particular attention is paid to the impact of colonialism, social problems, economic modernization, and foreign policy orientations of Third World nations.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 101 or 103

3 credits

POL 374-F Global Issues in the United Nations
An overview of key issues and contemporary debate in the United Nations toward an understanding of its formal and informal operations. Issues include peace and security; human rights; development and trade; and the global environment. Consideration of perspectives of people from outside the United States and the West; the major obstacles to effective international cooperation in the U.N. and the ways these obstacles might be overcome; and how democratic governance is affected by the rise of global institutions and governance.
This course offered as both POL and SOC 374.
Prerequisite: SOC 105 or POL 101 or 103

3 credits

POL 377 Contemporary Political Philosophy (II)
A critical examination of selected issues in contemporary political philosophy, for example, the nature and justification of basic rights, the legitimation of political authority, and the various relations between ideals of social justice and democratic rule. Readings represent contemporary views such as libertarianism, liberalism, socialism, communitarianism, and feminism, and include selections by authors such as Rawls, Nozick, Dworkin, Walzer, Habermas, and Pateman. This course is offered as both PHI 377 and POL 377.
Prerequisites: Two courses in philosophy
Advisory Prerequisites: PHI 105 or 277 or 375; one upper-division political science course

3 credits

POL 382-J Politics and Political Change in Latin America
An examination of revolutionary and reformist movements that have shaped the political, social, and economic contours of twentieth-century Latin America. Topics include the Mexican and Cuban revolutions, populism, urban squatter movements, and guerrilla warfare. This course is offered as both HIS 382 and POL 382.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: HIS 213 or HIS/POL 214 or HIS/POL 216 or LAC 200

3 credits

POL 390, 391 Topics in Political Science
Semester supplements to this bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one POL course announced with topic

3 credits per course

POL 392-I Topics in Political Science and the European Tradition
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one POL course announced with topic

3 credits

POL 401, 402, 403, 404 Seminar in Advanced Topics
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing

3 credits per course

POL 405 Colloquium in Comparative Politics and Political Theory
Close reading and discussions of selected classic and modern texts in the area of comparative politics and political theory.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

POL 406 Strategic Models of Politics
A survey of the political science literature on strategic interaction and an analysis of different forms of strategic behavior in a variety of political contexts. Topics include strategic voting in elections and legislatures, principal-agent relationships, advocacy and protest tactics, agenda-setting, and international conflict.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

POL 411-H Science, Technology, and Arms Control
A study of the application of scientific technology to national defense, covering nuclear weapons and deliver systems, chemical and biological weapons, conventional weapons systems, defense research and development, arms control and disarmament negotiations, and international technology transfer. This course is offered as both EST 411 and POL 411.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one D.E.C. category E course

3 credits, S/U grading

POL 412 Intelligence Organizations, Technology, and Democracy
The role of intelligence organizations in decision making through analysis of agency practices in support of U.S. national security policy. The course also explores the roles of intelligence agencies and practices in democratic societies. This course is offered as both EST 412 and POL 412.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; POL 101 and 102; one D.E.C. category E course

3 credits

POL 413-J Asian Security and Technology Issues
An examination of international security issues, such as technology transfer and arms sales, arms control, environmental stress, and emerging regional conflicts among Asian nations. A case study approach is used. Recent cases have included China and Nuclear Weapons Tests; The Japanese Constitution and Japan’s Self Defense Forces; The Three Gorges Dam; Development, Democracy, and Human Rights.
Prerequisites: POL 311, 313 or 356; U3 or U4 standing

3 credits
POL 434-F Supreme Court Decision Making
A comprehensive examination of Supreme Court decision making, aided by analysis of a computer database on the court. The course covers various stages of the judicial process, including the decision to grant certiorari, the decision on the merits, majority-opinion assignment, and majority-opinion coalitions. 
Prerequisite: POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement; U3 or U4 standing.
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 320
3 credits

POL 447 Directed Readings in Political Science
Individually supervised readings in selected topics of the discipline. May be repeated, but total credit may not exceed six credits.
Prerequisites: Political science major with U3 or U4 standing; 15 credits in political science; permission of instructor and department
1-6 credits

POL 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member’s regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. In POL 476, students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served. Not for major credit.
Prerequisites to POL 475: Political science major; U4 standing; permission of instructor
Prerequisites to POL 476: POL 475; permission of instructor and department
3 credits per course, S/U grading

POL 487 Directed Research
Qualified advanced undergraduates in political science may carry out individual research projects under the direct supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated but total credit may not exceed six credits.
Prerequisites: Political science major; 15 credits in political science; permission of instructor and department; permission of departmental research coordinator may be substituted.
0-6 credits

POL 488 Internship
Participation in a local, state, or federal governmental agency or community organization. Students are required to submit progress reports to their department sponsor and a final report on their experience to the department faculty. May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits.
Prerequisites: Political science major or minor with 3.00 g.p.a.; 15 credits in political science; permission of instructor and department
0-6 credits, S/U grading

POL 489 Washington or Albany Internship
Designed so that students can participate in Washington, D.C., at the Washington Center as interns in private or public sector organizations and agencies, or in Albany, as interns in the New York State Assembly or Senate Program. Students are supervised by selected practitioners within the organization or agency. Students are required to submit journals of experience and observation which, together with the supervisor’s report, become the basis for a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade. Only three credits may be applied to major requirements.
Prerequisites: Completion of pre-application orientation; admission to Washington Center or New York State Assembly or Senate Program; POL major or minor; 3.00 g.p.a.; 15 credits in POL; sponsorship of a political science faculty member
Corequisite: POL 490
12 credits, S/U grading

POL 490 Washington or Albany Seminar
Seminar offered in Washington, D.C., as part of the internship program of the Washington Center, or in Albany, as part of the New York State Assembly or Senate Internship Program. The seminars are taught by people with experience in public and private agencies, public policy formulation, and relevant academic and professional experience. Students are offered work in several program areas designed to complement their internships, such as law and justice, congressional studies, policy studies, community urban service, and studies in government.
Prerequisites: Completion of pre-application orientation; admission to Washington Center or New York State Assembly or Senate Program; POL major or minor; 3.00 g.p.a.; 15 credits in POL; sponsorship of a political science faculty member
Corequisite: POL 489
3 credits

POL 495-496 Senior Honors Project in Political Science
A two-semester project for political science majors who are candidates for the degree with honors. Arranged in consultation with the department, the project involves independent study and the writing of a research paper under close supervision of a faculty member. Students enrolled in POL 495 are obliged to complete POL 496. Students receive only one grade upon completion of the sequence.
Prerequisite: Admission to the political science honors program
3 credits per course

Accurate as of Fall 2005