POL

Political Science

POL 101-F World Politics
Analysis of the basic concepts and issues of interna-
tional relations in the contemporary international sys-
tem. 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, includ-
ing 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
temporary world, emphasizing the interaction of
political structures and processes in a variety of politi-
cal 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 vari-
ous 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
countries to U.S. intervention and influence. This course
is offered as both HIS 216 and POL 216.
Advisory Prerequisite: One HIS course
3 credits

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 department research
coordinator
6-9 credits, SU/grading

POL 302 Graphical Analysis in Political Science
Training in the use of graphical analysis to study poli-
tics, 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 tech-
niques 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
An examination of the political system of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland, including the Constitution, par-
liament, cabinet, political parties, and the policy-mak-
ing process.
Prerequisites: POL 105; 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 gov-
ernment, 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 institu-
tions 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, inter-
national 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 develop-
ments, and of prospects and alternatives for the future.
Prerequisites: POL 101; U3 or U4 standing.
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 201 or any other course sat-
isfying the major’s methodology requirement
3 credits

POL 316-F Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
Examination of the primary structure of American poli-
tics. The historical foundation and evolution of
American federalism and the effects of a federal struc-
ture on civil rights and liberties, economic develop-
ment, political representation, and public policy.
Discussion of current topics in federalism and inter-
governmental relations.
Prerequisite: POL 102 or POL 105
3 credits

POL 317-F American Election Campaigns
The politics of presidential nominations through pri-
maries, caucuses, and conventions; the conduct of
presidential general election campaigns; mass media
coverage and opinion polling; the citizen’s involve-
ment in campaign politics; voter attitudes toward par-
ties, 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 deci-
sions, 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 ori-
entations, 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 opera-
tions, covering such topics as the principal of con-
tracts, commercial papers, partnerships, corporations,
real property, estates, bankruptcy, antitrust laws, and
environmental and civil rights regulations.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing or New Transfer stu-
dent
3 credits

POL 320-F Constitutional Law and Politics: United States
A study of the role of the modern Supreme Court with
in the political and governmental process; its relation
with Congress, the Presidency, state and local gov-
ernments, 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 crim-
inal law systems in the United States: the adversary
proceeding, the legal profession, the judiciary, 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 338-J Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy (Post-1947)

Study of the forces shaping India’s post-independence history, domestic politics, and foreign diplomacy. As the world’s largest democracy, second most populous nation, and Asia’s second fastest growing economy, its impact on the international scene in the coming years will be carefully analyzed. The course, taught by a former Ambassador, will also focus on emerging trends in Indo-U.S. relations and the impact of the Indian diaspora. This course is offered as both AAS 338 and POL 338.

Prerequisites: AAS 201 or POL 101; U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

POL 348-F Political Beliefs and Judgments
Following a review of the literature on political attitudes, the course applies psychological concepts and experimental approaches to the study of the content and structure of political beliefs and judgments.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement
3 credits

POL 349-F Social Psychology of Politics
A survey of social cognition theory and research as applied to the study of mass politics. The course takes an information processing approach to understanding how people form impressions of others. Political applications focus on how citizens perceive and evaluate political candidates, voters make decisions, and the mass media shape candidate impressions.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement
3 credits

POL 350-I Contemporary European Political Theory
Analysis of major writings in European political thought throughout the 20th century, focusing on four important ideological groupings: liberalism, socialism, fascism, and conservatism, with consideration of their historical antecedents.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Completion of D.E.C. category F
3 credits

POL 351 Social Surveys in Contemporary Society
An interdisciplinary course on the history, uses, design, and implementation of the social survey. Emphasis is given to the use of surveys in politics, the media, and business.
Prerequisites: POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement; U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

POL 357-J India’s Foreign Policy
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 359-F Public Policy Analysis
A course analyzing the connection between the administrative processes of government in the United States and the public policy process. It focuses on the analysis of policy formulation and the broader connections between public policy and the American political process.
Prerequisites: POL 102 or 105; U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

POL 364-F Organizational Decision Making
Decision processes are examined in public and private organizations to understand common problems arising from limited decision-making capabilities, conflicts among organizational members, and uncertainty and ambiguity in the organization’s environment. Several concepts are introduced to analyze normative and behavioral issues arising from the organizational context of political life.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

POL 365-F Economy and Democracy
An examination of the interplay between economics and politics in Western democracies. Topics include the economic theory of democracy; the political business cycle; political parties and economic policies; the economy and voter choices in elections; economic performance and government (especially presidential) popularity; and the formation of economic expectations.
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 366-F Government Regulation of Business
An examination of the scope of government regulation of business in the United States today—regulation at both the federal and state levels, regulation by both economic and social agencies. The course also compares alternative explanations for regulatory agency failures as well as possible explanations of why some regulatory agencies perform better than others. Finally, the course considers proposed reforms, such as clearer legislative standards; curbs on “revolving door” practices, greater citizen participation in agency proceedings, and deregulation.
Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105; U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

POL 367-F Mass Media in American Politics
Competing theories of the power of the press are tested by examining the literature on mass media effects on what the public thinks and what the public thinks about. Various explanations of why news organizations behave as they do are also assessed. Conflicts between freedom of the press and such values as privacy, national security, and the right to fair trial are discussed. The relationships between freedom of the press and the public’s right to know are also explored.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105
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 373-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 20th-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.
Prerequisite: 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 descriptions 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 descriptions when course is offered. Topics may include, for example, politics during the time of the French Revolution, or contemporary Italian politics. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic relating to Western civilization. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the development of the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, and culture of Western civilization, and relate it to that of other regions in the world. 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.
Prerequisite: 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 delivery 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-I 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 336; 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.
Prerequisites: 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 credits 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 NY 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
Corerequisite: POL 489
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 NY 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
Corerequisite: POL 489
3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS