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

Advisory Prerequisite: One HIS course
3 credits

POL 102-F&4 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

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

POL 105-F&4 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 bureau-
cracy, 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

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of entrance 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 324-F American Political Parties and Pressure Groups
An examination of political party organization, political leadership, finance, campaign techniques, and legal controls over parties, the functions and methods of pressure groups and their interaction with policy makers; the historical origins and development of the American party system; the significance of parties and pressure groups for democratic ideology; and the problems of political leadership in a democracy. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105
3 credits

POL 325-F Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
A systematic treatment of leading Supreme Court decisions in such areas as freedom of speech, the press, and religion; the rights of criminal defendants; voting rights; the right to privacy; and discrimination on grounds of race, sex, poverty, illegitimacy, and alienage. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 320
3 credits

POL 326-F Politics of New York State
Analysis of parties, pressure groups, and the political process in New York State. Particular attention is paid to the legislative process in Albany. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 320 or 105
3 credits

POL 327-K Urban Politics
Covering the development of urban settlements from the early 19th century to the contemporary period, the course emphasizes both the formal and informal political institutions and processes in American cities and suburbs, including governmental structures, political parties, interest groups, and service delivery systems. Special attention is given to the multiethnic and multicultural context within which urban politics in the United States takes place. Among the topics examined is the historical development of urban settlements in the United States, studying both the growth of cities and suburbs and the ever-changing relationship between these types of settlements evident at different times in our history. Prerequisite: POL 102 or POL 105
3 credits

POL 328-F Criminal Law
A survey of substantive and procedural criminal law as it applies to traditional and contemporary penal systems, including a review of relevant U.S. and New York constitutional, statutory, and case law provisions. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 320
3 credits

POL 329-F Administrative Law
A study of substantive and procedural law as it applies to administrative actions at the federal, state, and local levels of government. Includes a review of relevant constitutional, statutory, and administrative acts; case law; and court rulings on some current administrative issues. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 320
3 credits

POL 330-K Gender Issues in the Law
A critical exploration of American law that specifically addresses the issues of (in)equality of women and men in the United States. The course surveys and analyzes case law from the pre-Civil War era to the end of the 20th century dealing with various manifestations of sex discrimination, decided in the federal court system, typically by the Supreme Court, and the state court system. The course considers how the political nature of the adjudicative process has ramifications for the decisions rendered by a court. This course is offered as both POL 330 and WST 330.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105 or WST 102 (formerlySSL/WST 102)
3 credits

POL 331-F Law and Political Representation
An examination of the leading federal court decisions relating to a citizen’s right to participate and be fairly represented in government. Topics include voter qualifications, legislative apportionment, political and racial gerrymandering, the evolution of the Voting Rights Act, and the rights of political parties and interest groups. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105
3 credits

POL 332-F Politics of Criminal Due Process
A survey of the procedural steps through which a criminal case passes commencing with the initial investigation of a crime, covering the laws and court rules governing arrest, search and seizure, bail and fair trial, and concluding with the unconditional release of an offender. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 102 or 105
3 credits

POL 333 Environmental Law
Survey of the origins of environmental law and the major legislation enacted by Congress and the state of New York. Special emphasis is placed on the application of environmental law to the problem of solid waste management on Long Island. This course is offered as both ENS 333 and POL 333. Prerequisites: ECO 108; POL 102
3 credits

POL 336-F U.S. Foreign Policy
An examination of the central problems in making U.S. foreign policy. The particular system and structure of foreign policy making as they have evolved from the constitutional and historical roots of the United States are the focus. An important central theme is the potential tension between the demands of effective foreign policy and democratic restraints. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 101 or 102 or 103 or 105
3 credits

POL 337-J The Politics of Africa
A study of nationalism, political thought, and political institutions in Africa. Consideration is given to the quest for unity, the problems of liberation, and the political implications of social change. This course is offered as both APS 337 and POL 337. Prerequisites: Two APS or POL courses
3 credits

POL 338-J Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy
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 domestic politics and foreign policy have great influence throughout the world. The course is offered as both AFS 338 and POL 338. Prerequisites: AAS 201 or POL 101, U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

POL 343-F Behavioral Assumptions of the Law
Evidence from social science research is used to examine some of the behavioral assumptions underlying the law and to assess their validity. The primary focus is on those aspects of the criminal justice system where social psychological factors, although formally extraneous to the legal process, can and do consistently influence legal outcomes and decisions. Prerequisite: PSY 103; U3/U4 standing
3 credits

POL 344-F American Political Ideology and Public Opinion
An examination of the nature of contemporary political ideology and public opinion in the United States. The goal is to understand political conflict and debate in the U.S. and the ways in which the public influences that debate. Major topics in public opinion include political tolerance and trust, attitudes toward women and African Americans, the role of the mass media, and the impact of political values and ideology on political campaigns and elections. Prerequisites: POL 102 or 105; C or higher in POL 201 or any other course satisfying the major’s methodology requirement
3 credits

POL 345 Changes in the World Order: International Politics Since 1945
An analysis and discussion of such terms and concepts as sovereignty, power, diplomacy, ideology, imperialism, containment, détente, disarmament, and pre-emptive defense, and how these terms can be useful in understanding international politics since the end of World War II. Students will use these concepts along with case studies, research projects, and presentations to make generalizations concerning events that have affected the international system of states since 1945. Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing and POL 101 or 103
3 credits

POL 346-F Political Psychology
Focus on the application of psychological concepts and measures to political behavior. Course topics include attitude measurement, stability and change, obedience to authority, learning theory, attention and problem solving, personality correlates of political activity, and stress and aggression. Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

POL 347-K Women and Politics
Analysis of the role of women in current American political participation, office seeking, and political beliefs—and policy issues that have special relevance to women. The course traces the history of American women’s political involvement and the historical trajectory of gender-related policy from the mid-19th century to today. This course is offered as both POL 347 and WST 347.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: POL 320 or 105
3 credits

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 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.

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 public policy formation and the broader connections between public policy and the American political process.

Prerequisites: POL 202 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 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, 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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: 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 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

POL 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

POL 392-J 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 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

POL 402 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

POL 403 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

POL 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

POL 406 Strategic Models of Politics

An introduction to formal political theory. Examination of strategic interaction of political actors in American politics, international relations, and public policy. The course primarily focuses on game theoretic and other quantitative models.

Prerequisite: U3/U4 standing and permission of instructor 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.

Prerequisite: 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

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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
0-6 credits, S/U grading

POL 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
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. Not for major credit.
Prerequisites: Political science major; U4 standing; permission of instructor
3 credits, S/U grading

POL 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member’s regularly scheduled classes. 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: POL 475; permission of instructor and department
3 credits, 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
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 and 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
Corequisite: POL 489
3 credits

POL 495, 496 Senior Honors Project in Political Science
First course of 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