POL

Political Science

POL 501: Introduction to Statistics for Public Policy
This course acquaints student with statistics. It begins with the basics of applied statistical analysis, including probability and hypothesis testing, and builds to simple regression analysis. Requires use of computer packages. Prerequisites: Some elementary mathematics/statistics background helpful.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 502: Intermediate Statistics for Public Policy
This course utilizes multivariate regression analysis and explores violations of the linear model. Requires use of computer.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 504: Research Design
This course will cover a variety of research methods that can be used to study attitudes and opinions: Experimental methods (in laboratory and field settings), quasi-experimental designs, surveys and questionnaires, and methods for studying various psychological characteristics of attitudes such as reaction time and lexical decision tasks.
Offered Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 509: Public Budgeting and Finance
This course develops the rationale for public taxation and spending programs. It examines the role of public finance in the economy, and explores the use of program and functional budgets, capital and operating budgets, intergovernmental expenditures, etc. Focuses on state and local governments (Fall) or National and International Finance (Spring).
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

POL 510: Personnel Systems for Public Policy
his course examines the development of civil service and other bureaucratic personnel systems in American government. It focuses on the knowledge that managers must have to utilize human resources appropriately in the constrained public sector environment. Focuses mainly on state and local government.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 530: Topics in Public Affairs
Specially organized seminars are offered on topics of particular importance to students of public affairs. These courses are led by distinguished experts in those policy areas.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

POL 531: Topics in Public Affairs: Planning
This course addresses the planning process as a decision-making tool in the implementation of public policy in housing, land-use, transportation, and environmental management. The course also investigates intergovernmental relations and the impact of citizen participation on policy changes.
Offered in Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

POL 534: Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Delivery
The examination of the formulation, implementation, and impact of intergovernmental policy are the core concepts to be covered in this course. Several policies are examined in-depth, including grant-in-aid programs, General Revenue Sharing, housing and community development, and employment programs. The historical, economic, and political foundations of intergovernmental policy delivery systems are examined.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 535: Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation
This course concentrates on the strategies and methods of public policy analysis and evaluation. Students debate the merits of proposed solutions to various policy issues and discover the political constraints on the policy making process. Skills stressed in the course include cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation, and basic microeconomics.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 536: Public Management and Organizational Behavior
This course examines how public sector organizations work and how managers can operate in the public sector environment. A range of theoretical perspectives, including sociological, economic, and institutional, will be employed as real public organizations are examined and analyzed. Public agencies will also be compared to their private sector counterparts, and the nature of organizational efficiency will be explored.
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 537: Administrative Law for Policy Analysts
This course examines the role of administrative law in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policy. The role of legislation such as the Administrative Procedures Act is explored. Actual cases are analyzed, as well as the broader set of precedents that have emerged in federal, state, and local administrative law proceedings.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 538: The Politics of Local Economic Development
This course examines the process of local economic development with an emphasis on the interaction of political and economic factors. It explores the extent to which local (as compared to state and federal) officials can influence business location decisions, the specific strategies often utilized, and the way they have changed over time. It also considers the winners and losers from the "economic development game" with a focus on New York and Long Island.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 540: Data Applications in Public Policy
This course studies the strategic use of data to support public policy proposal design and implementation. With a focus on U.S. domestic policy, the class will gain proficiency in the application of data to identify policy problems, determine causative factors, develop and implement persuasive policy proposals, and evaluate the policy effectiveness.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 541: Survey Research for Public Policy
This course studies the techniques of survey research and their application in the development of public policies. Topics include survey design, survey population sampling, use of survey data to frame policy choices and attitudes towards existing policies.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 542: Regional Planning
This course addresses the planning process as a decision-making tool in the implementation of public policy in housing, land-use, transportation, and environmental management. The course also investigates intergovernmental relations and the impact of citizen participation on policy changes.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
POL 543: Environmental Politics and Policy
Federal environmental policies, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Federal Pure Waters Management Act are examined in this course. The policies, politics and administrative activities of federal, state, and local levels are considered. Finally, the interaction of the public sector, the private sector, and citizen groups in the implementation of environmental policy is discussed. This course is offered as both CES 553 and POL 543.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

POL 544: Human Behavior as Rational Action
Rational behavior means choosing among possible actions those that are most efficient in meeting one's goals. Whether people do so is one of the oldest unresolved disputes in philosophy and the social sciences. We will trace the main positions in this dispute as they have evolved in philosophy, psychology, economics, anthropology and sociology.

Even if individuals do act rationally, can we assume that the large scale social patterns that result are necessarily effective? Readings will consider the topic abstractly, but also in the concrete settings of small intimate groups, formal organizations, and primitive and modern economic, social and political systems in both stable and revolutionary situations.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 553: Foundations: Comparative, International
Survey and evaluation of the major theoretical approaches, issues, and problems in comparative political analysis. The course examines such areas as political development, empirical democratic theory, or political socialization, along with a detailed examination of one or more selected non-American political systems.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 560: American Democracy: Its Critics and Defenders
This course will examine the central components of American democratic government. Critics and defenders of the over 200 year-old Constitution (Congress, President, Supreme Court) will be discussed, as will arguments surrounding the role of political parties, pressure groups, and the bureaucracy. Most readings will be from contemporary authors and reference sources.

This course is offered as both CEI 560 and POL 560.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 565: Thinking and Emotion in Public Opinion
In studying public opinion, people often focus on the arguments, information, and overt attempts to persuade. In doing so, we neglect the impact of the social environment in which an individual is situated. Friends, family, and aspects of the broader social environment all deeply influence the attitudes people hold, the tenacity with which they hold them, and the political behaviors they engage in. Rather than focusing on direct persuasion, this course emphasizes the effect social context can have upon people's opinions even without overt argumentation or even information exchange. Students will learn about the influence of 1) other individuals (e.g. socialization, social network influence), 2) social roles (e.g. power, obedience) 3) societal influence (e.g. normative influence, conformity, deviance & rejection), and 4) influence from other environmental sources (e.g. priming).
Offered
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 566: Passionate Politics: Mobilization, Interest Groups, and Social Movements
This course discusses political mobilization: the factors that motivate political involvement and the consequences that high levels of public engagement have on elections and the development of public policy. The course begins with several high profile examples of citizen engagement that have had noticeable impact on American politics. This first section also includes a discussion of the various ways in which Americans can be mobilized from involvement in election campaigns to the distribution of political information via social networks. The course then shifts focus to cover the psychology of political mobilization in detail, including the importance of group memberships and identities, emotions, and values. An entire unit of the course is devoted to psychology of group membership in which the mobilizing power of identities and the role of politically motivating emotions are discussed at length. Finally the last section of the course is devoted to specific examples of political mobilization in the U.S. in the environment/green movement, issue groups such as the right-to-life movement, racial politics, and highly polarized partisan politics. Overall, the course is designed to illuminate the psychology of political mobilization and apply these principles to contemporary American politics.
Offered
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 563: Thinking and Emotion in Public Opinion
This course reviews recent research in cognitive, social, and political psychology on the interplay between cognition and emotion in explaining social and political behavior. Traditionally, political science has viewed thinking as a conscious cognitive process of intentional deliberation. Emotions and other feelings have been ignored or seen as interfering with rational thought. Moreover, until recently there has been almost no consideration of what psychologists call implicit or unconscious thought processes in understanding public opinion. Psychologists and communications researchers now understand that implicit events and processes (e.g., symbol or music cues in political advertising) can have profound effects on how citizens evaluate political candidates, groups, and issues. We will examine the traditional approach to political cognition and consider how this recent research may alter our understanding of the formation of public opinion.
Offered
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 564: Social Influences
In studying public opinion, people often focus on the arguments, information, and overt attempts to persuade. In doing so, we neglect the impact of the social environment in which an individual is situated. Friends, family, and aspects of the broader social environment all deeply influence the attitudes people hold, the tenacity with which they hold them, and the political behaviors they engage in. Rather than focusing on direct persuasion, this course emphasizes the effect social context can have upon people's opinions even without overt argumentation or even information exchange. Students will learn about the influence of 1) other individuals (e.g. socialization, social network influence), 2) social roles (e.g. power, obedience) 3) societal influence (e.g. normative influence, conformity, deviance & rejection), and 4) influence from other environmental sources (e.g. priming).
Offered
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 565: Persuasion and Propaganda
Politics at its core is about persuasion. It is about argumentation and debate, and about bringing citizens to a particular way of thinking about an issue, candidacy, or event. Given its centrality in the political process, understanding the dynamics of political persuasion should be a high priority.
for the discipline. In a more theoretical vein, the concept of "attitude" is among the most indispensable in the social sciences. This course is intended to provide a survey of contemporary theory and research on attitude formation and change. It is not intended to be a general course on the mass media, but rather is concerned only with mass media research as it pertains to individual-level political attitude processes. The course is divided into the following three sections: (1) A consideration of basic concepts (e.g., what is an "attitude"), methodological challenge, and recent developments (e.g., the distinction between implicit and explicit attitudes); (2) An overview of major psychological theories of persuasion that attempt to answer Harold Lasswell's classic question: Who says what, in which channel, to whom, and with what effect? (3) An examination of the major agents of political persuasion - the mass media, political elites, social context, and interpersonal processes.

Offered
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 566: The Psychology of Voting
The course examines the key motivations, attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs that guide voters in the process of making up their minds in choosing candidates in elections, including the decision to turn out at all in elections. The list of topics includes party identification (acquisition, genetic basis, development over the life cycle, and historic change); opinions about policy issues and the conceptualization of politics in ideological terms; the impact of valence issues (the economy and national security); perceptions of candidates (personal as well as political qualities); group influence on individual decisions, particularly racial attitudes; and the impact of the campaign (media ads, debates etc.) on vote choices.

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 567: Culture, Values, and Public Opinion
This course investigates the evolution of values, cleavages, political space, and issues in cross-national perspective (with particular focus on the advanced industrialized countries of the US, Europe, Israel, Japan, and Australia). We begin our study with the analysis of traditional socio-economic cleavages in determining issue positions, and the end of ideology# theses propounded by comparative political scientists, such as Daniel Bell and Francois Fukuyama, and elaborated by scholars of the behavioral revolution such as Inglehart, Dalton, and Franklin. We then explore the strengths and weaknesses of paradigm shifts to values, buttressed by public opinion data. Bringing in cultural and neo-institutional explanations of political behavior and change, the course weaves individual level analysis and group behavior theories with rigorous empirical testing. We will look at cross-national and longitudinal data sets to examine the evolving political space stemming from new politics, identity politics, immigration, and "new security" threats in a global era. Finally, the course will conclude by looking at how different levels of analyses (individual, group, and institutions) contribute to explain contentious politics, "boundary-making ("us" and "them"), and the politics of difference across cultures.

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 568: Master's Thesis
This course entails a student thesis paper under supervision of a faculty member on a research project related to methods used to study the dynamics of public opinion.

1-6 credits,

POL 569: Internship in MA in Political Science
The internship for the Political Science M.A. is designed to provide first-hand experience with the major research methods used to study the dynamics of public opinion. The student is expected to work in the organization and prepare a daily journal of activities, as well as paper at the conclusion of the course, apply program knowledge to the internship activities. Permission of Program Director is required.

1-6 credits,

POL 571: Moral Politics
Many political issues ranging from capital punishment to same-sex marriage to wealth redistribution are moral issues. This course will use moral psychology to better understand public opinion, political debates, and political behavior. We will examine how moral judgement differs from judgments based on self interest and altruism. We will address the role of moral condemnation in political debates and how moral accusations clash with arguments based on non-moral considerations such as economics, group loyalty, or authority.

Topics include alternative moral frames, liberal-conservative differences, moral metaphors, and moral emotions. We will apply these concepts to understand public opinion about political issues surrounding property, fairness, sexuality, religion, and violence.

Semesters offered- Fall and Spring Must be a student in POLMA program

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
The application of statistical and mathematical models to the analysis of political data; introduction to the research process and to topics in measurement, basic descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 603: Applied Data Analysis II
The application of statistical and mathematical models to the analysis of political data: regression analysis.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 604: Applied Data Analysis III
The application of statistical methods to the analysis of political data. The emphasis is on diagnosing and dealing with violations of assumptions of statistical models. Topics covered include advanced regression, models for discrete dependent variables, systems of equations, and selection bias.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 605: Foundations: American Politics
A review of the basic political science literature on American politics, with emphasis on American political institutions.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 606: Time Series Analysis
This seminar will consider statistical models for political processes observed over time. The major topics will include cointegration, time varying parameter models and duration models.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 607: Social Survey in Contemporary Society
This course on political socialization focuses on continuity and change in political attitudes and behavior across the life span. Topics include the stability of political attitudes—contrasting the greater durability of political partisanship and basic values with the relative instability of issue positions; the social psychology of attitude change, which lends some insight into the conditions under which attitudes are most likely to change; the importance of political period or era as a determinant of political attitudes and behavior; and the existence and coherence of distinct political generations. Some attention is also given to the political changes that accompany old age, including changes in attitude and behavior linked to growing dependency on the Social Security and Medicare systems.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 608: Foundations: Political Psychology, Behavior
A review and analysis of the political behavior literature, including such topics as attitude formation and change, belief systems, political socialization, demographic and small group influences on political beliefs and conduct, political leadership, electoral behavior, elite vs. mass politics, decision making, personality and politics, political conformity, and protest.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 609: Advanced Research Design
A practical application of topics in the philosophy of science to research design. Students prepare their dissertation proposal as a part of this course.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 610: Foundations II: Experimental Design and Methods
An overview of experimental research with an emphasis on experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation. Students develop the ability to critically evaluate experimental research. Students also participate in the development, implementation, and analysis of a laboratory experiment.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 611: Game Theory for Political Science
Introduction to formal models of strategic behavior in static, dynamic, and repeated games. Technical emphasis is formulation and solution of games of complete and incomplete information; a variety of equilibrium concepts will be introduced. Substantive applications include spatial models of candidate behavior in elections; agenda control and bargaining in legislatures; lobbying by interest groups; common pool resource problems; and cooperation between rivals.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 612: American Judicial Process
A seminar on judicial process and behavior. Emphasis is placed on the Supreme Court, but trial courts and other appellate courts are examined as well. Topics include constitutional interpretation and both legal and extra-legal models of decision making. Students should possess basic methodological skills.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 613: Legislative Process
A seminar on the legislative process, focusing on current research on the United States Congress.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 614: American Judiciary
A seminar on judicial process and behavior. Emphasis is placed on the Supreme Court, but trial courts and other appellate courts are examined as well. Topics include constitutional interpretation and both legal and extra-legal models of decision making. Students should possess basic methodological skills.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 615: Legislative Process
A seminar on the legislative process, focusing on current research on the United States Congress.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 616: Political Parties and Groups
A seminar on parties, campaigns, and elections in the United States. Topics covered include party organization and leadership, nomination and general election campaigns, and the role of parties in government.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 617: Electoral Behavior
Models of voting choices; key attitudes such as party identification, issue orientations, and ideology; the impact of group affiliations, economic conditions; campaign strategies of candidates; congressional vs. presidential elections; historical change, e.g., party realignments.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 618: American Political Ideology
This course examines American political ideology as it is reflected in public opinion, political debate, and public policy. The goal is to understand the underlying bases of conflict and consensus in American politics and the ways in which they influence and constrain debate over public policy. The course traces the development of political conflict in the United States and examines the basis of contemporary political debate.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 620: 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 and by both economic and social agencies. The course compares market vs. regulatory policies as well as possible explanations for why some regulatory agencies change over time. Finally, the course considers proposed reforms, such as clearer legislative standards, curbs on "revolving door" practices, greater citizen participation in agency proceedings, and deregulation.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 621: Theories of Policy Making
An introduction to theories of policy making, especially policy formulation, stressing reading and thinking about classics and acquiring skills necessary for theorizing, including mathematical modeling and formal theory. Laboratories focus on improving special skills (e.g., optimization) and theorizing about particular policy areas (e.g., pork barrel politics).

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 622: Bureaucracy and the Policy Process

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An examination of bureaucracy as part of the policy-making process. This course reviews theoretical explanations for the bureaucracy as a political institution and implications of its rapid growth since the New Deal. It also looks inside bureaucratic organizations, examining factors that influence the exercise of discretion and policy implementation.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 625: Ecological Rationality

Students will learn about the major theories of ecological rationality and how they compare to classical conceptions of rationality and to bounded rationality. Students will learn how this approach has influenced research in political science, psychology, and economics. Course topics will include: theoretical foundations of ecological rationality, political decision making as a manifestation of ecological rationality, application to heuristics, the relationship between ecological rationality and prospect theory, applications to risk-taking, applications to behavioral economics, applications to trust and cooperation. At its core, ecological rationality is a vision of human psychology. Thus, this course provides a foundational perspective for our students who are emphasizing political psychology in their studies. The nature of human rationality is also a core topic in behavioral economics and political economy. Thus, this course is also foundational for students emphasizing BPE.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 626: Social Networks

The course is designed to introduce students to the process of analyzing interdependent political actors. We will ultimately discuss using whole network data to conduct social network analysis. These networks need not be social; they could be international networks of countries, for example. It is important to realize, however, that whole network data is often not available and, further, it is very difficult to collect. We begin, therefore, by considering methods that take account of the interdependence of political actors without analyzing the entire network within which those actors operate. The different methods and measures we discuss in this class could be incorporated into almost all areas of political science. Thus, the ultimate goal of this class is to give students and a lexicon and a toolkit to use in their own research.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 629: Experimental Game Theory

Surveys experimental tests of formal models derived from political economy and game theory, and applies behavioral and social-psychological theories to explain deviations from equilibrium behavior. The methodologies of psychological and economic experiments are contrasted and explored. Substantive applications include social trust, bargaining power, agenda control, committee decision making, common pool resource problems, and political persuasion.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 631: Political Cognition

Surveys the contemporary psychological literature on human memory and cognition, with emphasis on applications to political information processing.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 632: Mass Communication and Political Persuasion

In-depth examination of the role of mass media in the political process and the psychological dynamics of media influence. Effects of the media on public opinion and voting. Implications of media influence on democratic theory.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 633: Social Influence and Group Processes in Political Decision Making

Review of contemporary theories of social influence processes and group decision making, with emphasis on applications to decision making in politics. Special focus on small-group methods and research applications.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 634: Behavioral Decision Theory

Emphasizes psychological theories of judgment and choice and prediction of the errors that individual decision makers are likely to make. These ideas are applied to a variety of political contexts.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 635: Political Economy I

An intense examination of major substantive and methodological concerns involved in the study of political economy.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

May be repeated for credit.

POL 636: Political Economy II

Reading and research in the area of political economy.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 637: Political Psychology/Behavior I

Reading and research in the area of political psychology and behavior.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 638: Directed Study

Individual studies under the guidance of a faculty member. Subject matter varies according to the needs of the student.

1-6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

May be repeated for credit.

POL 639: Directed Study

Individual studies under the guidance of a faculty member. Subject matter varies according to the needs of the student.
POL 690: Research Colloquium
Students participate in weekly departmental colloquia where they serve as discussants of research reports presented by individual faculty members or outside investigators reporting on current research.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 691: Research Practicum I
A course actively involving students in an ongoing research project under the direction of a principal investigator. Students participate in all stages of the research project and are required to prepare a research report on one aspect of the project.
3 credits, S/U grading

POL 692: Research Practicum II
A continuation of POL 691. Students actively participate in either a second research project, where they will again prepare a research report, or continue their participation in the same project, where they are then assigned a subset of data for analysis or carry out a specific research aim of the project.
3 credits, S/U grading

POL 693: Practicum in Teaching

POL 699: Dissertation Research on Campus
Dissertation research under direction of advisor.
Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G5); permission of graduate program director.
Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab.
Fall, Spring, and Summer, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

POL 700: Summer Research
May be repeated for credit.

POL 701: Dissertation Research off Campus - International
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan and may also enroll in MEDEX. International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed. International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver be second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if other plan is deemed comparable.
All international students must received clearance from an International Advisor.
Fall, Spring, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

POL 800: Summer Research
May be repeated for credit.