

Learning Outcomes Political Science Courses

PSCI 200

Intro to Conducting Political Inquiry

The overall goal of this class is not to produce social science research specialists. It is to position you to be able to solicit research and evaluate a proposal.

1. Identify the fundamental differences between quantitative and qualitative research paradigms;
2. Understand the ethical considerations of conducting research;
3. Explain the relevance of and be able to conceptualize and operationalize a coherent research question(s);
4. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of various sampling techniques;
5. Understand how to identify and/or ensure Validity and Reliability in research;
6. Be able to understand the appropriate application and interpretation of basic statistical measures;
7. Be able to prepare a comprehensive research proposal;
8. Be able to work effectively as part of a successful, collaborative team.

PSCI 210

Intro to American Government

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Learn the basics of American government;
- 2) Improve your critical reading skills;
- 3) Hone your critical thinking abilities;

Expose you to a range of political perspectives and controversies

PSCI 214IS

Principles of Political Science

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. Understand the concept of interdisciplinary perspective and how it applies to policy
2. Understand the function of institutional structures and how they drive individual and organizational behaviors.

PSCI 220

Intro to Comparative Politics

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- (1) better understand why countries choose different mechanisms and institutions for governing and why these choices are important;
- (2) be better equipped to use the major theories, concepts, and tools of comparative political science in a careful and responsible manner;
- (3) better understand the relationships among political, social, and economic phenomena within countries and in the international environment;
- (4) better understand the political consequences of differing practices and historical paths across countries; and

(5) better appreciate the concept of democracy and how it is sustained.

PSCI 230

Into to International Relations

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- (1) Have a basic knowledge of the structures, substance, and context of contemporary world politics.
- (2) Know and understand the major theories and analytical perspectives policy makers and political scientists use to interpret and respond to events in world politics.
- (3) Understand the history of great power rivalry and imperialism and its aftermath, the interdependence of economic and security issues, and the growing role of non-state actors in world politics.
- (4) Have basic understanding of international law, human rights, and development as well as how political scientists produce knowledge through research on the causes of war and violence.
- (5) Know the role and function of major institutions and agreements regarding international trade and finance.

PSCI 302

Media and Politics

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. Help students understand the history of the mass media in the United States
2. Understand the economic and political pressures that journalists and journalism labor under
3. Understand how journalistic norms and economic consolidation of media outlets inform what content media consumers – i.e. *citizens* – ultimately receive
4. Help students think critically about the proper role of the media as the “fourth estate” of government within democratic polities
5. Provide students the opportunity to research and write on questions of interest to them related to the potentials and limits of the contemporary mass media information system

PSCI 310

Applied Political Analysis

The learning objectives of this course are to:

This course is an introduction to the way political scientists use statistical tools to understand politics. Whether you study policy, the American political institutions, public administration, or international relations, political science is largely an empirical discipline. That is, most of us studying politics do so because we are motivated by real world political events—historical, current, and future. We generally want to know why these things happen and how to make sense of them. Political *science* tries to make sense of them in a rigorous, empirical, and systematic

way. Data analysis is a crucial component of political science, serving two important purposes: (a) providing numerical descriptions or summaries of political phenomena, facilitating comparisons across time, countries, states, people, etc and (b) testing theories, models and hypotheses about politics.

The data sets we will access for learning applied political analyses are the General Social Survey and American National Election Studies. Specific objectives are

- (1) Use SPSS to *manage* data (i.e., recode variables, build scale variables, run statistics)
- (2) Use SPSS to *describe* quantitative data (e.g., measures of central tendency, dispersion)
- (3) Use SPSS to use statistical *inference* (i.e., Chi-square, t-tests, correlation and regression)
- (4) Understand the relationship between social science research and statistical analyses
- (5) Be able to write hypotheses
- (6) Be able to write interpretive sentences of the statistical results

PSCI 330

British Politics

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. To be able to articulate the common philosophical principles shared by the US and the UK;
2. To discuss key features of the political system of the UK and to compare it to the US;
3. Display understanding of the fundamental changes in the British constitution over the past 15 years and to analyze their implications;
4. To analyze the continuing impact of Britain's relationship with the European Union;
5. To demonstrate improved skills in the areas of critical reading, thinking, writing and analysis.

PSCI 331

International Relations Theory

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- (1) Understand the role of theory in the production of knowledge about the social world.
- (2) Be able to identify theories about international relations when they function as underlying world views in policy makers' narratives (speeches, writing, policies, and justification for policies)
- (3) Understand the three great debates in IR theor
- (4) Understand how narratives work to structure power relations, and how to identify and challenge the myths that enable narratives to work in this way
- (5) Understand how theories and narratives produce political order

PSCI 346

The American Presidency

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Learn and explore the American presidency;
- 2) Improve your writing skills;
- 3) Improve your critical reading skills;
- 4) Hone your critical thinking abilities;
- 5) Engage in the collective enterprise of building scholarly knowledge.

PSCI 356

Classical Political Thought

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. Teach students to read classical works of political theory for the key concepts and themes that ground the Greek ethico-political worldview
2. Teach students to put classical texts into dialogue with contemporary political problems in a reflective way
3. Train students to be clear and concise writers, who can analyze concepts and organize arguments in a persuasive way
4. Facilitate the development of oral communication and to help students practice engaging in face-to-face debate with their peers
5. Help students think more deeply about the demands of engaged citizenship, the concept of justice, the tension between the individual and the community, the question of power, and the relationship between ethics and politics

PSCI423

The Politics of Development

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- (1) better comprehend the multidimensional nature of development;
- (2) be able to discuss factors responsible for differing levels and types development;
- (3) be able to analyze the connections among political, economic, and social processes and development;
- (4) be aware of methods for identifying potentially effective development strategies;
- (5) better understand development issues as they apply to different regions of the world; and
- (6) show improved skills in the areas of critical reading, thinking, writing, and analysis.

PSCI 437

International Political Economy

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. Articulate key measures and trends for income inequality in the US and the world;
2. Identify the political and economic factors, policies and events that have increased income equality in the United States and globally;

3. Write a essay identifying personal values about social and economic mobility, and key policies that impacting their achievement;
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the causes and impact of financial crisis, articulate the link to income inequality and critique policies to address it;
5. Identify the major global institutions that govern the world economy and their purpose, history and critiques;
6. Critique a book in terms of the coherence of its stated objectives, methods, data and conclusions;
7. Demonstrate a high level of research skills, the construction of persuasive argument, and oral communication skills while participating in a simulation exercise.

PSCI 552

Public Policy Processes

The learning objectives of this course are to:

1. Understand the primary processes by which public policy is developed and implemented in the United States,
2. Understand the discourse of public policy as it is associated with agenda setting, policy selection and implementation, and
3. Recognize the mechanisms by which the public policy development and analysis can be studied and shaped.

PSCI 554

Foundation of Public Administration

This course is designed to assist students in developing an understanding of public administration as a field of academic study and an area of professional practice. Specifically, it focuses on the evolution of public administration as an academic discipline, the context in which public administration takes place, and the meaning of public service in a democratic society. The course will be conducted as a seminar. Students must be prepared to discuss reading assignments.

The specific competencies developed in this course are:

1. To learn the basic vocabulary of the field of Public Administration.
2. To gain an overview of the field of Public Administration and to learn about the major topic and issue areas in the field.
3. To gain understanding of the process of learning itself and the relationship between theory and practice.
4. To develop an awareness of public service values: personal ethics, professional ethics, citizen responsiveness, social responsibility.
5. To begin to articulate the models and theories you use when making administrative decisions and to compare them to those of experts in the field.
6. To develop and improve analytic and written communication skills necessary for graduate education and the competent practice of administration.

PSCI 555

Human Resources

This course introduces students to many the central topics of public sector Human Resources Management in the context of public management and organizations. The objective of the course is to familiarize students with the major issues, concerns and activities associated with HR management from the perspective of a program manager or staff administrator including:

- Personnel Systems (Classification and Compensation) Structure and Features
- Human Resources Planning Approaches
- Basic Procedures for Recruiting, Hiring, Performance Appraisal, Discipline and Termination