Political Science

Chair
• Brian H. Lai

Undergraduate major: political science (B.A., B.S.)
Undergraduate minor: political science
Graduate degrees: M.A. in political science; Ph.D. in political science
Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/people/faculty
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/polisci/

The Department of Political Science offers undergraduate majors and minors as well as graduate degree programs. In addition to the programs of study in political science, it offers the B.A., B.S., and minor in international relations, and the undergraduate Certificate in Political Risk Analysis. It collaborates with other departments to offer the Certificate in Social Science Analytics. The department also offers several courses that undergraduate students in all majors may use to fulfill GE CLAS Core requirements and a First-Year Seminar designed for entering undergraduate students.

Related Certificate

Social Science Analytics

The growth of big data and informatics calls for a new set of skills for social science students and an increased understanding of the logic of data collection and analysis. The certificate focuses on the application side of data analysis and allows focus to be on the specific research methods and quantitative skills using data-driven methods effective for more understanding in an increasingly complicated social-political world. The certificate offers an opportunity for interdisciplinary training on how data can be used to address important questions in the social sciences. The Department of Political Science collaborates with the Departments of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, Sociology and Criminology, and Statistics and Actuarial Science to offer the undergraduate program in social science analytics; see Social Science Analytics in the Catalog. The Department of Political Science [p. 1] administers the certificate.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Major in Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)
• Major in Political Science (Bachelor of Science)

Minor
• Minor in Political Science

Graduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Master of Arts in Political Science
• Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

Courses

Courses numbered below 2000 are introductory undergraduate courses. Course POLI:1000 First-Year Seminar does not count toward the major or the minor in political science.

Courses numbered 2000-4999 are considered advanced for undergraduates. Course POLI:4900 Government and Politics Internship and course POLI:3124 Political Science Des Moines Internship Program do not count toward the major or the minor in political science; they are offered only satisfactory/fail.

Courses numbered 5000-6000 are graduate core courses; those numbered 7000 or above are advanced graduate courses.

Political Science Courses

POLI:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

POLI:1001 Introduction to Politics 3 s.h.
Introduction to selected processes, institutions, or behaviors central to the study of politics.

POLI:1050 Big Ideas: Introduction to Information, Society, and Culture 3 s.h.
What is information? What does it teach us about societies and cultures? How is information used to shape societies and even personal preferences? What types of information are there and how can we understand and use them? Students work with faculty from multiple disciplines to investigate these questions using inquiry-based activities to build success in critical thinking and teamwork. GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning. Same as RELS:1050.

POLI:1100 Introduction to American Politics 3 s.h.
Structure and processes of American national government; how the United States manages political conflict; impact of the U.S. Constitution; effect of public opinion, interest groups, and media on government; role and evolution of Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and Supreme Court. GE: Social Sciences.

POLI:1200 Introduction to Political Behavior 3 s.h.
Patterns and basis of political behavior of American electorate; trends in voter turnout; vote choice; ideology, partisanship, and public opinion. GE: Social Sciences.

POLI:1300 Introduction to Political Thought and Action 3 s.h.
Common problems, literature, analytic techniques. GE: Social Sciences; Values and Culture.

POLI:1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3 s.h.
Politics worldwide, including all regions and levels of development; wide-ranging themes, including regime types, political change, political culture, public opinion, government structures, state-society relationship, electoral systems, public policy issues. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences.
POLI:1401 Introduction to Russian Politics 3 s.h.
Political dynamics in postcommunist countries of east-central Europe and Eurasia; imperial legacies, ideology and practice of communist politics, patterns of democracy and authoritarianism. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences.

POLI:1410 Introduction to Asian International Relations 3 s.h.
Examination of historical and current relationships between countries in Asia; conflict, cooperation, effect of international organizations, and role of non-Asian powers in the region (i.e., United States); North Korea-South Korea conflict; rivalry between Japan, China, and Korea; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); South China Sea dispute; rise of Asian economies; the United States pivot to Asia; how current explanations of international relations may or may not work in the context of Asia.

POLI:1445 Introduction to Asian Politics: China 3 s.h.
How sociopolitical life in China is shaped by political structure, economic modernization, and traditional political culture; topics include historical, political, economic, and social conditions in contemporary China; course objectives are to broaden student's horizon in global affairs by learning about a foreign country that seems completely different and to sharpen student's analytical and communication skills. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences.

POLI:1449 Introduction to European Politics 3 s.h.
Political institutions, processes of selected European countries. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences.

POLI:1500 Introduction to International Relations 3 s.h.
Survey of key issues in international relations, including causes of wars, different types of theories of international relations, international organizations, and global environmental problems. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences.

POLI:1501 Introduction to American Foreign Policy 3 s.h.
Foreign policies: goals, basic themes and general patterns, problems encountered by policy makers, means employed in dealing with other nations and international organizations, processes by which policies are formulated, factors that influence structure of policies. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences.

POLI:1600 Introduction to Political Communication 3 s.h.
Institutions, dynamics, issues of political communities considered as networks of communication; representative topics include political actors, ads, films, media, myths, news, publics, regulations, rhetorics, symbols. GE: Social Sciences.

POLI:1601 Introduction to Social Media and Politics 3 s.h.
Politics in news, culture, commerce, campaigns, and government with attention to current media (e.g., cinema, internet, print, television). GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

POLI:1700 Introduction to Political Analysis 3 s.h.
Tools necessary to analyze and solve puzzles in politics (i.e., Why do countries go to war rather than negotiate? Why do lifelong enemies become allies? Why do majorities act irrationally?); questions approached from a quantitative perspective (unlike most political analyses), in particular, game theory—a branch of mathematics that investigates how rational players act in situations (like those in politics) of strategic interaction. GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning.

POLI:1800 Introduction to the Politics of Class and Inequality 3 s.h.
Introduction to issues of class and economic inequality in the U.S. and other countries; what class and economic inequality are, debates surrounding these definitions, and attempts to measure both of these concepts; research and arguments on economic and political explanations of economic inequality; different policies aimed at reducing economic inequality and debates over them. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

POLI:1900 Introduction to the Politics of Race 3 s.h.
Introduction to politics of race in the U.S.; history of racial and ethnic groups in the U.S., their relationship with each other, and their interactions with different levels of government. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

POLI:1950 Introduction to the Politics of Religion 3 s.h.
Introduction to the complex relationship between religion and politics; examination of historical and contemporary effect of religion on a wide range of areas (e.g., political culture, political parties, political behavior, public policy); consideration of important policy debates (e.g., role of religion in public life, religious discrimination, various social issues). GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

POLI:2000 Designing Political Research 3 s.h.
How research is conducted on politics and government; students examine different research approaches (both qualitative and quantitative), learn how to read and understand published research on politics, demonstrate an understanding of different research approaches, and understand, interpret, and critically analyze published research on politics.

POLI:2415 Latin American Politics 3 s.h.
Governmental institutions, major interest groups; focus on area as a whole. GE: International and Global Issues; Social Sciences. Same as LAS:2415.

POLI:2416 Revolutions and Political Violence 3 s.h.
Analysis of protest, insurgency, and rebellion for political change; studies the drivers of participation, group organization, government responses, and outcomes of these movements (including both failed and successful revolutions); how and why does the use of political violence vary, and what are the political consequences of the use of violence; explores theoretical material and case studies from across the world.

POLI:2417 Comparative Environmental Policy 3 s.h.
Analysis of environmental policy and governance processes; case examples and analysis primarily focus on water governance in local contexts outside the United States; causes and consequences of environmental policy differences; effects of government structure, society, and natural resource conditions on policy development, implementation, and environmental outcomes.

POLI:3000 Analyzing Political Data 3 s.h.
Creating knowledgeable evaluators of current research in political science; interpretation of different quantitative techniques with examples from current political science research.

POLI:3001 Hawkeye Poll 3 s.h.
Basics of survey design, sampling, question wording, interpreting responses, and writing press releases; students work together to help design questions as part of the Hawkeye Poll, a collaborative teaching and research enterprise in the Department of Political Science.
POLI:3035 Careers in Political Science and International Relations 3 s.h.
Presentation of different careers students can do with a degree in political science or international relations; how material learned is applied in various careers; while there are more than 15 possible careers, one career is presented each week and includes visits from UI political science alumni working in that career, the type of work that someone in that career does, how to pursue that career, and the kinds of skills that employers in that area are looking for; assignments simulate work that someone in that career may do.

POLI:3050 Problems in Methods arr.
Problems in political science research methods; data collection, interpretation, analysis.

POLI:3100 American State Politics 3 s.h.
Approaches to analysis of political behavior in American state governments; emphasis on cultures, parties, actors, processes, issues.

POLI:3101 American Constitutional Law and Politics 3 s.h.
Role of U.S. Supreme Court in American political system; emphasis on analysis of Supreme Court cases.

POLI:3102 The U.S. Congress 3 s.h.
History of Congress, how congressional elections shape what legislators do, how laws are made in Congress, rules and maneuvers that shape these laws, and the future of Congress as one of the major institutions of American government; gain an understanding of Congress and why Americans continue to be confused and fascinated by this complicated branch and its politics.

POLI:3104 Immigration Politics 3 s.h.
United States immigration policy and political consequences of Latina/o/x population growth; contrast of political experiences of Latina/o/x with groups and ideals of democratic political systems; analyses of past immigration policies; studies of public opinion, voter turnout, and campaign tactics. Same as LAS:3104, LAT5:3104.

POLI:3107 Writing in Political Science: Writing for 'Science' and for 'Politics' 3 s.h.
Examination of principles used in writing for science and writing for politics: science writing clearly explains its ideas to promote understanding, and political writing advocates for its ideas by highlighting and obscuring different pieces of information and 'spinning' its findings to promote persuasion; students produce and analyze examples of both forms of writing.

POLI:3109 Fixing America’s Electoral System 3 s.h.
What's wrong with American politics and what can be done to fix it; overview of major problems facing American democracy from polarized political parties and money in politics, to low voter turnout and trust in government, to growing gap between super rich and middle class; focus on problem solving, including movement towards digital politics and new media, participatory democracy, reform of congressional elections and non-partisan redistricting, presidential elections (Electoral College), presidential nomination process, campaign finance, voter registration and voting, proportional representation. Requirements: no prior enrollment in POLI:3150 with subtitle Election Reform.

POLI:3110 Local Politics 3 s.h.
Models of city government, relation to state and federal governments; rights, liabilities of municipalities; city elections, campaigns, issues; role of pressure groups.

POLI:3111 American Public Policy 3 s.h.
Functions and policies of national government; emphasis on domestic policy making, impact of public policy.

POLI:3113 Research in Judicial Politics 3 s.h.
Applied research training in courts and judicial politics. Prerequisites: POLI:3121 or POLI:3120 or POLI:3101.

POLI:3114 Women and Politics in the United States 3 s.h.
Involvement of women in the U.S. political system; topics include political theories about women's involvement in politics and government, women and constitutional law, public policies that affect women, women's participation in politics at the mass and elite levels.

POLI:3116 The Presidency 3 s.h.
Constitutional foundations, subsequent development, current status of the office of the presidency; evolution of presidential selection process; powers, structures, functions of the office; role of president as legislative, executive, and public leader.

POLI:3117 Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration 3 s.h.
Examination of the federal bureaucracy from political, theoretical, and practical perspectives; what we mean by ‘federal bureaucracy,’ how it developed over time, how it performs its tasks, and how it affects American policy and politics.

POLI:3118 Interest Groups 3 s.h.
Theory, organization, and structure of interest groups; how they influence Congress, executive branch, courts, elections.

POLI:3120 The Criminal Justice System 3 s.h.
Role of actors, institutions that constitute and participate in the American criminal justice system.

POLI:3121 The Judicial Process 3 s.h.
Role of courts, lawyers, judges, interest groups in the American political system.

POLI:3123 State Politics in Iowa 3 s.h.
Introduction to Iowa government and politics; emphasis on Iowa Constitution, founding and history, political institutions, voting, political parties, mass movements and interest groups; evangelical movement in Iowa, immigration, and Iowa's role in national politics given the state's first-in-the-nation caucus.

POLI:3124 Political Science Des Moines Internship Program 1-9 s.h.
Supervised professional work experience in government and nongovernment organizations, as well as private industry. Requirements: sophomore or higher standing.

POLI:3126 Environmental Policy 3 s.h.
Analysis of environmental problems through an interdisciplinary approach drawing from economics, environmental economics, political economy, and political science; how environmental resources differ from other goods that economists study (usually there is no market for them); government policies that are needed to maintain and improve environmental quality; how governments are influenced by voters' policy preferences and by policy preferences of special interest groups; three main areas of political economy as it relates to environmental policy.

POLI:3127 Legislative Policy Seminar arr.
Policy research for the Iowa Legislature.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3128</td>
<td>Politics of the U.S. National Park System</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Examination of politics surrounding the U.S. National Park System and other federally managed lands; debates about the founding of the U.S. National Parks system; expansion, environmental effects, and current issues; role of important actors, such as the President, Congress, bureaucracies, land owners, and nongovernmental organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3150</td>
<td>Problems in American Politics</td>
<td>1-3 s.h.</td>
<td>Problems in studying American system; structures, functions, behavior.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3160</td>
<td>Research Task Force: Solving Policy Problems</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>How policy research assists elected officials and government bureaucrats to design and implement effective public policies; introduction to process of conducting policy research and preparing summary reports; students examine various theories and methods of policy research, then apply what they have learned by conducting original policy research on local, state, national, and international issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3202</td>
<td>Political Psychology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Political phenomena from psychological perspective; political behaviors of individuals, including decision making by elites and masses, evaluations of political candidates, mass mobilization, response to mass media; psychological concepts including stereotyping, social cognition, attitude, group identification.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3203</td>
<td>Campaigns, Elections, and Voting Behavior</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Determinants of voting behavior; correlates of political participation, political apathy; political socialization processes; nature and functions of elections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3204</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Role in making public policy; formation, change of political attitudes and opinions; political ideology; measurement of public opinion; how opinion polls are conducted; experience with interviewing and conducting public opinion research. Same as SOC:3525.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3300</td>
<td>Postmodern Political Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Major writers and intellectual trends, from 19th century to World War II.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3302</td>
<td>Current Political Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Thinkers or schools of thought, from World War II to present.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3305</td>
<td>Modern Political Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Major writers and intellectual trends in political thought from Renaissance and Reformation to 19th century.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3306</td>
<td>Problems of Democracy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Theory and practice of democracy; democratic ideals and the institutions and practices necessary for those ideals to work in everyday politics—power, equality, majority rule, participation, trust, representation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3350</td>
<td>Games of Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Active learning component to many theories and concepts learned in political science and international relations; multitude of simulations (games) that provide a hands-on learning element to these concepts and theories; topics include alliances, balance of power, inequality, public opinion, gerrymandering, and policy making; students read materials connected to the specific weekly topic, complete a simulation tied to that topic, discuss links between topics; and complete a variety of assignments that tie these items together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3400</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Economic reasoning applied to political issues, including evolution of institutions, voting, leadership, interest groups, bargaining tactics, federalism, bureaucracy, fairness and compensation for wrongs, legitimacy of democracy, electoral cycles in economic policy, revolutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3405</td>
<td>Authoritarian Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Political dynamics in countries with authoritarian governing regimes; how those dynamics differ from their counterparts in democracies; how decisions are reached and get enforced; forms political struggles take; how interest groups pursue influence; ways individuals deal with the government; tension between regime control and societal progress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3408</td>
<td>Chinese Politics and Society</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Comprehensive introduction to modern Chinese history; current Chinese political system and political culture; public policy issues.</td>
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<td>POLI:3410</td>
<td>Russian Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Russia’s behavior as a major economic, military, and diplomatic power in the world and what shapes that behavior; Russians’ perceptions of other countries; Russian national interests; capabilities and domestic political dynamics; implications for foreign policy of the United States and other countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3411</td>
<td>Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Diverse contemporary understandings and practices of democracy; worldwide democratization trends; what political, economic, cultural and transnational factors shape those trends; how elites and citizens struggle to promote or retard democracy; the news full of people around the world taking action to demand democracy and what this term, so highly prized, really means; what is known about when democracy will replace authoritarianism; how can democracies more fully live up to their promise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3413</td>
<td>Russian Politics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Institutions and processes of governing this large world power; Russian political dynamics, including struggles to unify or diversify power; political responses to major economic, technical, and social challenges. Recommendations: POLI:1401.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3418</td>
<td>Governance in the Middle East</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Institutions and social systems that are affected by political behavior; ways in which Islam, oil production, and international forces shape political evolution in the region; comparative political inquiry of the operation of government institutions in the context of specific historical legacies, economic structures, and population characteristics in Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3420</td>
<td>Southeast Asia: Politics and Development</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
<td>Eleven states of Southeast Asia; governance, development strategies, domestic politics, approach to democracy and national identity; regional politics and important transnational issues; role of ASEAN, terrorism, trans-Pacific trade and investment issues, China’s looming presence, impact of ongoing and historic conflicts; briefings, discussions, presentations.</td>
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POLI:3422 Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues 3 s.h.
Eight states in the Horn of Africa region; important transnational and regional issues; governance, development strategies, domestic politics, social and civic dynamics of countries in the region; wildlife trafficking, piracy, fight against HIV/AIDS, imprint of colonialism, secession, ethnic and national identities, democratization, role of women in society, impact of ongoing and historic conflicts; briefings, discussions, presentations.

POLI:3423 The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy 3 s.h.
Nineteen states and entities of North Africa and the Middle East; issues of governance, development strategies, domestic politics, and approach to democracy and national identity; regional politics and important transnational issues; role of political Islam; impacts of the Arab Spring, terrorism, oil, role of women in society, ongoing and historic conflicts; briefings, discussions, presentations.

POLI:3424 Global Development 3 s.h.
Exploration of political and social causes and consequences of economic development; two important questions asked—Why are some countries rich while others are poor? What can be done to encourage growth in underdeveloped countries?

POLI:3425 South Asia: Politics, Identity, and Conflict 3 s.h.
Survey of the eight countries in the South Asia region; examination of governance in the eight countries; students explore the interaction of politics, identity, and conflict within and across the regional states; ethnic, religious, caste, class, and other identities that have long competed for primacy with national identities in South Asia, sometimes leading to armed conflict within countries and sometimes sparking war between countries, and the question—Am I first a Sri Lankan or a Tamil? What do I feel like most?

POLI:3450 Problems in Comparative Politics 3 s.h.
Structures, functions, behaviors of different political systems.

POLI:3501 International Organization and World Order 3 s.h.
Different conceptualizations of world order; multiple sources of world order including force, power, norms, international institutions; International order and main sources; question peace being the same as world order.

POLI:3503 Politics of Terrorism 3 s.h.
Strategies of terrorists, insurgents, guerrillas, and other non-state actors; terrorists' use of the media; suicide attacks; al Qaeda and the U.S.-led War on Terrorism; counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism; self-starters and transnational terrorist networks; drone strikes and data-mining operations as counter-terrorism tools and the associated political controversies.

POLI:3504 Globalization 3 s.h.
Introduction to multidisciplinary literature on political economy and culture of globalization; major topics of debate on globalization.

POLI:3505 Civil Wars 3 s.h.
Causes, duration, management, and consequences of civil war; factors that create more frequent, longer civil wars (e.g., greed, grievance, ethnic conflict, state capacity); conflict management strategies for ending civil wars and minimizing long-term negative consequences.

POLI:3506 Consequences of War 3 s.h.
War's enduring effects: war's impact on individuals, including combatants and noncombatants; war's impact on states, including states' development, economic, political, and social effects; war's effects on the international system.

POLI:3509 International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics 3 s.h.
Introduction to important international courts including (Permanent) International Court of Justice, European Court of Justice, International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and International Criminal Court; the formation, design, and expansion of international courts from political and legal perspectives; states' capabilities, regime type, and war; intersection of domestic and international law, emphasizing the major legal systems in the world (civil law, common law, Islamic law).

POLI:3512 International Conflict 3 s.h.
International conflict as the primary ingredient of international politics; sources, causes, and effects of conflict, alliance structures, power distribution, geography, arms races, deterrence.

POLI:3514 Regional Peace and Security 3 s.h.
Analysis of the causes of peace and conflict between countries in various regions of the world; theories of zones of peace, security communities, regional security complexes.

POLI:3516 The Politics of International Economics 3 s.h.
Politics of international trade and financial systems, including rise of free trade in 19th century and breakdown between the two world wars, postwar trading system framed around the World Trade Organization, different types of international monetary systems, relations between rich countries and poor countries, and global environmental politics.

POLI:3517 Global Justice 3 s.h.
Introduction to normative issues in international politics (i.e., Under what conditions are wars just? When is intervention justified? Do wealthier nations owe anything to those elsewhere who are in need?); theoretical works on global justice by Rawls, Kant, Pogge, Walzer, and others; normative theories analyzed against background of empirical examples, such as recent humanitarian interventions, contemporary wars, current trade regime, global environmental problems; seminar. Requirements: no prior enrollment in POLI:3550 with subtitle Global Justice.

POLI:3518 Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation 3 s.h.
How climate change may aggravate shortage of freshwater in water-stressed regions, producing warnings of conflict over international river basins or ‘water wars’; recent U.S. intelligence assessment notes that water may be used as a weapon between or within states, or to further terrorist aims in the future; management of international water resources including conflicts over cross-border rivers and maritime areas; common property resources, piracy, maritime security, peaceful and militarized conflict management of water-based conflicts, climate issues, natural disasters, United Nations Law of the Sea Convention.

POLI:3519 Politics of Aging 3 s.h.
Core concepts and methods related to aging and policies that address the needs of older persons; demographic measures of population health and aging, including incidence and distribution of specific conditions relevant in older age; theories of public policy and involvement of older persons in the political process; key historical and current policies, at both the federal and state/local levels, that influence service provision and the well-being of older persons in the United States. Same as ASP:3519.
POLI:3521 Twenty-first-Century Technology and Warfare 3 s.h.
Interplay between technological change and military strategy; changes in warfare brought about by information revolution; cyber weapons and other features of war in computer age; unmanned systems including aerial drones and ground-based robots; moral considerations associated with military robotics; anti-missile systems; predicting future changes in technology and military strategy.

POLI:3522 Ending Wars and Keeping Peace 3 s.h.
When are international and civil wars ripe for resolution? What determines intervention strategies for third parties, and why do attempts at conflict resolution so frequently fail? Students will investigate these questions and consider the process by which conflicts reach cease-fires and peace agreements, why some agreements last when others do not, and what can be done to make peace more durable; considering post-conflict societies and the lingering problems they face; topics include peacekeeping, mediation, the role of regional and international organizations, and post-conflict justice.

POLI:3523 Non-State Violent Actors 3 s.h.
Emergence, organization, behavior, and demise of violent non-state actors, including rebel groups, terrorist organizations, and drug cartels; focus on recent academic research on non-state violent actors, as well as current events.

POLI:3524 Politics and Multinational Enterprises 3 s.h.
Relationship between business and politics by examining the operation of multinational business enterprises; how corporations interact with countries, subnational governments, interest groups, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations.

POLI:3530 Diplomacy Lab arr.
Students work in teams under the supervision of a faculty member on projects created by the U.S. Department of State; class meetings are arranged and most work will occur outside of the classroom; experiential learning course in partnership with the U.S. Department of State.

POLI:3550 Problems of International Politics 3 s.h.
Problems in studying international system, structures, functions, behavior.

POLI:3560 Public Policy and Persuasion 3 s.h.
Students build a professional skill set in the area of public policy; creation of a portfolio of professional materials including a policy briefing to an actual client; assignments geared toward developing concise and effective writing as well as presentation styles adapted to different audiences. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as RHET:3560, SJUS:3560.

POLI:3601 Politics of Film 3 s.h.
Issues in the popular politics of aesthetics, communication, culture, and myth, explored through analysis of films.

POLI:3603 War and Film 3 s.h.
Exploration of one of the most significant political phenomena, war, as it is represented and understood through film; various film genres including classic war films, historical and historical fiction, documentary (e.g., Battle of Algiers, Triumph of the Will, Invisible War), comedy-drama (e.g., Life is Beautiful), and dark comedy or satire (e.g., The Mouse that Roared, Tropic Thunder); scholarly writings on international conflict; students discover and investigate themes related to nature of war, its underlying causes, and its consequences.

POLI:3604 New Media and Public Opinion 3 s.h.
How do citizens give voice to their interest in and concerns about governing? New media and public opinion, measured by surveys, supplement each other, each with strengths and weaknesses; parallel moves of the two in elections and when important political decisions are made.

POLI:3701 Special Topics in Politics 1-2 s.h.
Presentations by distinguished lecturers on topics in the study of politics not covered in other courses. One or two weeks.

POLI:4000 Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics 3 s.h.
Examination of big ideas in the study of politics and government that cut across the fields of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. Requirements: honors standing in political science.

POLI:4100 Honors Seminar on American Politics 3 s.h.
Ideas, issues, methods in selected area. Requirements: junior or senior honors standing in political science.

POLI:4400 Honors Seminar on Comparative Politics 3 s.h.
Exploration of a selected topic in comparative politics, its cross-national patterns, strategies used to study it, and major debates among scholars; study of politics by comparing two or more countries or other political units; new light on how societies are divided on major issues (whether state regulation of economy or role of religion in society), how people behave politically (from voting to demonstrations to revolution), role played by political institutions (e.g., legislatures, courts, political parties). Requirements: junior or senior honors standing in political science.

POLI:4500 Honors Seminar on International Politics 3 s.h.
Ideas, issues, methods in selected area. Requirements: junior or senior honors standing in political science.

POLI:4600 Honors Research Project 3 s.h.
Special research assistance to political science faculty. Requirements: junior or senior honors standing in political science.

POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis 3 s.h.
Supervised research and writing. Requirements: honors standing in political science and more than one semester before graduation.

POLI:4700 Independent Study arr.
Supervised special projects.

POLI:4701 Undergraduate Research Tutorial 3 s.h.
Individual training in applied research.

POLI:4702 Senior Research Project/Paper 3 s.h.
Supervised research and writing. Requirements: political science major and more than one semester before graduation.

POLI:4800 Senior Seminar in International Relations 3 s.h.
Completion of final research project as a culmination of student's work in the major; research supervised by a faculty member; required for international relations major. Recommendations: taken during one of student's final two semesters at the University of Iowa.

POLI:4801 Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations 3 s.h.
Honors capstone course for international relations majors.

POLI:4802 International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation 1 s.h.
Preparation for international relations senior seminar.
M.A. or Ph.D. standing in political science.

Approaches to study of international politics. Requirements: POLI:5500

Introduction to quantitative techniques in political science; set theory, probability distributions, estimation, testing; emphasis on acquiring mathematical skills for more advanced quantitative work in political science. Requirements: POLI:5001.

Techniques of data analysis; statistical models and their relationship to hypotheses tested. Requirements: doctoral standing in political science and one semester of intermediate statistics.

Major literature of American politics, emphasis on comparative, systemic, behavioral studies. Requirements: M.A. or Ph.D. standing in political science.

Introduction to study of public policy in the United States; development of analytical skills necessary to better understand and explain contemporary policy debates and public policy decision making that takes place at the local, state, and national levels in the United States; topics include a mix of theoretical approaches and substantive policy areas to better understand how policy is made, manipulated, and maintained; examination of demands and supports, institutional, and environmental variables that drive American public policy. Same as PBAS:5111.

Examination of the federal bureaucracy from political, theoretical, and practical perspectives; what we mean by “federal bureaucracy,” how it developed over time, how it performs its tasks, and how it affects American policy and politics. Same as PBAS:5117.

Approaches to analysis of political behavior in American state governments; emphasis on cultures, parties, actors, processes, issues. Same as PBAS:5200.

Methods of political theory, epistemological and moral foundations of political inquiry; terms of political discourse (e.g., power, legitimacy, equality, ideological foundations of politics); schools of thought and current controversies in political theory. Requirements: M.A. or Ph.D. standing in political science.

Conceptual, theoretical, and methodological issues in comparative study of politics; developments in comparative politics subfield. Requirements: M.A. or Ph.D. standing in political science.

Approaches to study of international politics. Requirements: M.A. or Ph.D. standing in political science.

Use of formal mathematical models; current modeling techniques, applications in American politics, comparative politics, international politics. Requirements: M.A. or Ph.D. standing in political science.


Application of advanced statistical techniques in political science; limited dependent variable regression techniques, simulation methods, missing data techniques, history/rare event analysis and maximum likelihood, and topics tailored to students’ research; focus on learning how and when to apply these techniques.

Introduction to regression techniques for limited dependent and quantitative variables in political science; logit, probit, multinomial logit and probit, ordered logit and probit, event history models, event count models; emphasis on understanding how and when to apply these models.

Exploration of how well formal models explain the real world and how the fit between models and world can be improved.

Problems in study of American political system; structures, functions, behavior.

Political attitudes and beliefs in mass publics; voting behavior; how electoral systems function.

Concepts and practice of scholarly integrity, responsible conduct of research, and research ethics in political science; data management, mentor/trainee responsibilities, publication practices and responsible authorship, peer review, collaborative science, human subjects, animal welfare, research misconduct, and conflict of interest and commitment. Requirements: enrollment in political science M.A. or Ph.D. program.

Rival understandings and practices of democracy and authoritarianism, including challenges of quantifying them for comparative analyses; major theoretical and empirical approaches to studying democratization and other forms of regime change.

Introduction to important questions and puzzles in the study of political parties; party formation and development, the role of parties in society, how parties are organized, party systems, electoral systems, party strategy and behavior, development of new parties, whether parties are still relevant, regeneration of communist parties in post-communist regimes, ethnic parties, failure of party consolidation.

Problems in study of comparative political systems; structures, functions, behavior.

Foreign policy making and international behavior in relation to theories, findings from selected countries.
POLI:7502 International Institutions and Cooperation 4 s.h.
Literature of international systems and international organization; major schools of thought in international relations theory, their utility in explaining evolution of the international system and recent developments in international organization and global governance.

POLI:7503 International Conflict and Cooperation 4 s.h.
Recent theoretical and empirical debates in international relations literature; emphasis on formal and quantitative research.

POLI:7550 Problems in International Politics 4 s.h.
Issues of international politics, emphasis on problems of theoretical analysis.

POLI:7604 Responsible Research in Political Science: Postdocs 1 s.h.
Concepts and practice of scholarly integrity, responsible conduct of research, and research ethics in political science; data management, mentor/trainee responsibilities, publication practices and responsible authorship, peer review, collaborative science, human subjects, animal welfare, research misconduct, conflict of interest and commitment. Requirements: postdoctoral research scholar/fellow in political science.

POLI:7701 Dynamic Models of International Politics 2-4 s.h.
Overview of several dynamic modeling techniques used to study international relations; modeling assumptions, the kinds of information models can provide, evaluation of models.

POLI:7900 Readings Tutorial arr.
Independent study.

POLI:7901 Research Tutorial arr.
Individual training in applied research.