

Political Science (POLS)

Courses

POLS 122 Political Science (3 Hours) †

This course provides students the opportunity to explore the discipline of political science and to discover how political scientists study politics in the contemporary world.

POLS 124 American National Government (3 Hours) †

This course examines the components of the public policy-making process. Topics of study include American political culture, constitutional principles, intergovernmental relations, public opinion, political parties, interest groups, media, the influence of the constant campaign of candidate-centered politics, budget construction, bureaucracy, and decision-making institutions.

POLS 126 State and Local Government (3 Hours) †

This course examines the executive, legislative, judicial and service functions of state and local government in the United States in general and in Kansas in particular. The course includes guest lectures by elected officials, government personnel and community activists.

POLS 132 Introduction to Comparative Government (3 Hours) †

This course compares the different political structures of many of the world's most important countries, including economic development, patterns of government and administration, party structures and policy formation.

POLS 135 International Relations (3 Hours) †

This course analyzes the conflict and cooperation among nation-states. Students will study contemporary problems and how they relate to power, war, terrorism, diplomacy, international organizations and the future of the nation-state system.

POLS 175 Environmental Policy and Law (3 Hours)

This is a survey course in environmental regulation and will provide an overview of key environmental laws and policies including major provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and The Endangered Species Act (ESA). 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

POLS 192 Political Theory (3 Hours)

This course examines the relationship between citizens and government, and competing justifications for political authority. We will focus on the Western political tradition, in particular Plato, Locke, Mill and Marx. Most of class work consists of participation in historical simulations involving Ancient Athens and Revolutionary America, with some attention to other periods. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

POLS 200 Model United Nations (3 Hours)

This course is designed for students who are interested in understanding international organizations, global issues, and diplomacy, and participating in competitive intercollegiate Model United Nations simulations. Students learn about the history, structure, and function of the United Nations, the foreign policy concerns of selected member states, and the processes by which member states pursue their policy objectives. Students further develop leadership skills as they represent selected members states in Model United Nations simulations.

POLS 220 Introduction to Public Policy (3 Hours)

This course introduces the policymaking process. It provides an overview of key theories of public policymaking and of the actors involved in the policymaking process; it examines incentives, enhancements, and constraints that shape the policymaking process; and it equips students with the tools to analyze and evaluate the impact of public policy. Several public policy areas are examined.

POLS 245 Introduction to Public Administration (3 Hours)

This course introduces students to the administration of policy, including the role of administrative agencies and administrators in the American political system, organizational arrangements, administrative functions, the public servants and human capital, policy and decision-making processes, public finance and budgeting, accountability, and community participation.

POLS 270 Political Science Internship* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites : Department approval.

Students augment their academic course work with an internship in an appropriate setting under instructional supervision. Internship projects are cooperative efforts between appropriate supervisors in state, local or national government settings or not-for-profit organizations and college staff and students. Internships give students the opportunity to participate in the real-world application of their academic studies. In addition, this synthesis of classroom study with practical experience provides students with skills and insights useful in selecting a career or avocation in community service. The student spends the equivalent of 10 hours per week performing internship duties over the course of the semester or a total of 150 hours. This is a repeatable course and may be taken more than once for credit.

POLS 291 Independent Study* (1-7 Hour)

Prerequisites : 2.0 GPA minimum and department approval.

Independent study is a directed, structured learning experience offered as an extension of the regular curriculum. It is intended to allow individual students to broaden their comprehension of the principles of and competencies associated with the discipline or program. Its purpose is to supplement existing courses with individualized, in-depth learning experiences. Such learning experiences may be undertaken independent of the traditional classroom setting, but will be appropriately directed and supervised by regular instructional staff. Total contact hours vary based on the learning experience.

POLS 292 Special Topics: (1-3 Hour)

This course periodically offers specialized or advanced discipline-specific content related to the study of political science, not usually taught in the curriculum, to interested and qualified students within the program. This is a repeatable course and may be taken more than once for credit.