Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Chair: Dr. Robert Blanton

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration offers programs of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in political science as well as the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. Undergraduates with strong academic records can participate in our Advanced Bachelor/Masters (ABM) program, in which up to 12 hours can be used towards both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Political science is concerned with understanding the ways in which government can influence society. The curriculum in political science provides opportunities to systematically and critically study American government and politics, to compare various national political systems, to investigate conflict and cooperation among nation-states, to explore the historical development of political theory, to study human rights at the global and local levels, to analyze the organization and management of public affairs, and to master the methods of political research.

The political science major is an appropriate background for careers in law; social science teaching; state, local, and federal government; foreign diplomacy and international affairs; journalism; campaigns and electioneering; non-profit advocacy; and political research.

We offer different degree options to suit your particular interests and goals. The B.A. in Political Science allows you to take a broad variety of courses within the field of Political Science. For those of you who want to focus on a certain area within Political Science we offer three different concentrations, American Politics and Political Theory, Global Politics and Policy, and Human Rights and Social Justice.

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Political Science

A grade of C or better is required in all Political Science courses. In fulfilling the requirements below, students must have 17 hours at the 300-level or above, 9 of which must be at the 400 level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 101 Foundations of American Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 400 Data, Politics, and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one course from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 498 Capstone Public Affairs Internship</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 499 Capstone in Political Science and International Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 Level Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 418 Politics and Race in America</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 422 Gender, Politics, &amp; Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 431 American Constitutional Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 432 Law and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 440 American Political Thought</td>
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<td>PSC 443 Digital Democracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 444 Human Rights and Technology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 456 Revolution and Political Violence</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Select 24 credit hours from additional PSC courses: 24

- PSC 100 Public Service
- PSC 102 Foundations of Comparative Politics
- PSC 103 Foundations of International Relations
- PSC 104 Foundations of Political Theory
- PSC 120 Urban Politics
- PSC 170 Contemporary Political Issues
- PSC 221 American State and Local Government
- PSC 270 Law and Film
- PSC 271 Contemporary Political Issues
- PSC 310 American Public Policy
- PSC 316 Human Rights
- PSC 317 Religion and Politics
- PSC 319 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- PSC 320 Political Participation
- PSC 321 Public Opinion in American Politics
- PSC 322 Gender, Politics, & Policy
- PSC 323 Public Administration and Policy
- PSC 324 American Foreign Policy
- PSC 330 The American Judicial Process
- PSC 331 The U.S. Congress
- PSC 332 The American Presidency
- PSC 333 Political Parties and Interest Groups
- PSC 335 Memory Politics: Monuments, Museums and Human Rights
- PSC 341 Classical Political Thought
- PSC 342 Modern Political Theory
- PSC 350 African Politics
- PSC 351 European Political Systems
- PSC 352 Latin/South American Political Systems
- PSC 353 Asian Political Systems
- PSC 355 Politics of Development
- PSC 358 Health and Humanitarian Crisis
- PSC 359 Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity
- PSC 360 International Security
- PSC 361 North/South International Relations
- PSC 362 Diplomacy
- PSC 363 Nationalism in World Politics
- PSC 364 Gender in World Politics
- PSC 365 Politics of the Middle East and Northern Africa
- PSC 366 Women and War
- PSC 370 Politics and the Media
- PSC 372 Social Justice and Pop Culture
- PSC 379 Supreme Court Politics
- PSC 380 The Politics of Constitutional Law
- PSC 381 The Bill of Rights
- PSC 382 Political Networks
- PSC 383 International Conflict & Conflict Management
- PSC 384 Diamonds, Drugs, and Guns: The Illicit Global Economy
- PSC 386 Economics of Public Policy
- PSC 395 Special Topics in Political Science
Administration, nonprofit advocacy and legal studies. This concentration is a solid foundation for public relations divisions of corporations and the media. Students can also utilize this concentration to prepare for careers in law, research agencies, non-profit organizations, interest groups, governmental divisions of the federal, state, or local governments, including careers in government. This concentration prepares students for work in a variety of positions in

### Concentration Options:

#### American Politics and Political Theory

This concentration prepares students for a work in a variety of positions in the federal, state, or local governments, including careers in government agencies, non-profit organizations, interest groups, governmental relations divisions of corporations and the media. Students can also utilize this concentration to prepare for careers in law, research and teaching. This concentration is a solid foundation for public administration, nonprofit advocacy and legal studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Science Core</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses may only count once</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 101</td>
<td>Foundations of American Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 400</td>
<td>Data, Politics, and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 498</td>
<td>Capstone Public Affairs Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSC 499</td>
<td>Capstone in Political Science and International Studies</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSC Major Electives</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose 4 PSC courses from outside of the concentration</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Politics and Political Theory Concentration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select at least one course from 400-level</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 418</td>
<td>Politics and Race in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 431</td>
<td>American Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 432</td>
<td>Law and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 440</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 443</td>
<td>Digital Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 494</td>
<td>Special Topics in Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 497</td>
<td>Honors Research in Political Science</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select four courses from:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 100</td>
<td>Public Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 104</td>
<td>Foundations of Political Theory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Politics &amp; Policy Concentration</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This concentration prepares for work in the wide variety of public and private institutions that deal with global issues, including multinational corporations, governmental and international organizations such as the State Department and United Nations, and NGOs that deal with global issues.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Science Core</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses may only count once</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 101</td>
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<td>PSC 400</td>
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<td>Capstone Public Affairs Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSC 499</td>
<td>Capstone in Political Science and International Studies</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSC Major Electives</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select four PSC courses not included in the concentration</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration in Global Politics and Policy</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select one at least one from 400-level courses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 456</td>
<td>Revolution and Political Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 459</td>
<td>Politics of Transitional Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 461</td>
<td>International Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 465</td>
<td>International Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 466</td>
<td>The United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 490</td>
<td>Political Science Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 494</td>
<td>Special Topics in Political Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Concentration in Human Rights & Social Justice

This concentration prepares students to become advocates in social justice and human rights causes. It prepares students for a wide variety of positions in government agencies, nonprofit agencies and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who deal with social justice and human rights concerns.

**Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 101</td>
<td>Foundations of American Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 400</td>
<td>Data, Politics, and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 498</td>
<td>Capstone Public Affairs Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSC 499</td>
<td>Capstone in Political Science and International Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PSC Major Electives**

Select four PSC courses from outside of the concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 418</td>
<td>Politics and Race in America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 444</td>
<td>Human Rights and Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 456</td>
<td>Revolution and Political Violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 458</td>
<td>Human Trafficking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 459</td>
<td>Politics of Transitional Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Requirements**

A minor is required for this degree.

Students must take general electives to reach the 120 semester hours requirement.

In addition to the minor in Political Science, there are several minors that are often of interest to Political Science Majors: International Studies, Human Rights, Legal Affairs, and Women's and Gender Studies. Each of these minors builds upon courses and themes covered in political science coursework. However, the interdisciplinary nature of the minors provides provides students with a broader understanding of these issues and the multiple ways that they are approached.

### Minor in Political Science

A C or better is required in all courses applied to the minor. At least six hours of the minor must be completed at UAB, including three hours at the 300-level or above.

**Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 101</td>
<td>Foundations of American Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Political Science Electives**

Select 15 credit hours from Political Science courses, including at least two at the 300-level or above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 418</td>
<td>Politics and Race in America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 444</td>
<td>Human Rights and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 456</td>
<td>Revolution and Political Violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 458</td>
<td>Human Trafficking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

1. PSC 101 may also be eligible to count toward Core Curriculum Area IV; check the Core Curriculum for your particular major.
2. PSC 221 will count toward this requirement and may also be eligible to count toward Core Curriculum Area IV; check the Core Curriculum for your particular major.
### Minor in International Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSC 103</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLL 120</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| International Studies Electives | 12     |

Select twelve hours from the following courses, at least six hours must be taken at the 300 level or above:

- AAS 385 The History of Haiti
- ANTH 101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 104 Introduction to Peace Studies
- ANTH 231 Archaeology of the Origins of Civilization in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Mediterranean
- ANTH 245 Peoples of the World: Mediterranean
- ANTH 248 Peoples of the World: Latin America
- ANTH 318 Economic Development and Indigenous Societies
- ANTH 319 Food and Culture
- ANTH 320 Comparative Religion
- ANTH 357 Anthropology of Gender
- ANTH 360 Ecological Anthropology
- ANTH 407 Peace Ethology
- ANTH 408 Conflict Resolution in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- ANTH 413 Peace & Environmental Sustainability
- ANTH 418 The Power of Nonviolence
- ANTH 419 Religion, Reconciliation, & Forgiveness
- ANTH 432 Villains, Victims, & Vigilantes
- ANTH 447 Advanced Peace Studies
- ANTH 450 Advanced Cultural Anthropology
- ARA 201 Intermediate Arabic I
- ARH 101 The Art Experience
- ARH 203 Ancient and Medieval Art
- ARH 204 Early Modern-Contemporary Art
- ARH 206 Survey of Asian Art
- ARH 471 Post-Partition Identity in South Asian Cinema
- ARH 478 Seminar: Buddhist Arts of East Asia
- CHI 201 Intermediate Chinese I
- CJ 115 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
- EC 405 Economic Development and Growth
- EC 407 International Economics
- EH 217 World Literature I: Before 1660
- EH 218 World Literature II: 1660-Present
- EH 421 World Literature
- EH 422/522 African Literature
- EH 423/523 African Women's Literature
- FLL 121 Special Topics through World Cultures
- FLL 220 Foreign Literatures in English Translation
- FLL 485 Foreign Language Capstone Seminar
- FR 201 Intermediate French I
- GN 201 Intermediate German I
- HY 234 The World Since 1945
- HY 239 The Holocaust in History and Literature
- HY 245 Introduction to Latin American History
- HY 247 Indians, Spaniards & Creoles
- HY 248 Modern Latin America
- HY 251 Nineteenth-Century Europe
- HY 252 Twentieth Century Europe
- HY 262 Introduction to Early Modern Spanish History
- HY 263 History of the Russian Empire
- HY 264 Russian Revolution: 1917-1921
- HY 271 Traditional East Asian History and Culture
- HY 272 Modern East Asia
- HY 285 Mapping Our World
- HY 317 History of Ancient Greece
- HY 318 History of the Roman Empire
- HY 319 Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages
- HY 341 The U.S. and Latin America
- HY 342 Sex & Latin American Society
- HY 343 Modern Latin America
- HY 353 The Christians in History
- HY 355 The Reformation
- HY 357 Religion in Early Modern European History
- HY 370 End of the U.S.S.R.
- HY 371 Traditional East Asian History and Culture
- HY 375 The Pacific War, 1931-1945
- HY 419 The Second World War
- HY 421 The Vietnam Wars, 1945-1975
- HY 422 Ethnic Cleansing & Genocide 1912-2012
- HY 446 Nations of the Andes
- HY 447 Modern Mexico
- HY 453 Clash of Civilizations
- HY 454 Topics in Middle Eastern History
- HY 455 Renaissance and Reformation
- HY 456 Seventeenth-Century Europe: Absolutism, Revolution and Science
- HY 457 Nineteenth-Century Europe
- HY 458 Modern Europe
- HY 459 Spain and the Spanish Inquisition
- HY 461 English History: 1307-1660
- HY 463 Victorian Britain
- HY 464 Modern Great Britain
- HY 465 French Enlightenment
- HY 466 The French Revolution
- HY 467 Modern France 1815 - Present
- HY 468 Modern German History
- HY 469 Stalin and Stalinism
- HY 470 The Soviet Union Since 1953
- HY 471 Russian Intellectual History
- HY 472 Terror and Terrorism from French Revolution to Present
- HY 475 Modern China
- HY 476 Japan to the 19th Century
- HY 477 Modern Japan
- ITL 201 Intermediate Italian I
- ITS 482 Internship in International Affairs
- JPA 201 Intermediate Japanese I
- MU 366 Music in World Cultures
- MU 367 Introduction to Ethnomusicology
- PHL 239 Classical Thought of India China and the West
- PSC 102 Foundations of Comparative Politics
- PSC 104 Foundations of Political Theory
- PSC 266/466 The United Nations
- PSC 341 Classical Political Thought
### Minor in Human Rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 316</td>
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<td>HRT 485</td>
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<td>or HRT 482</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 9 hours at the 300-400 level</td>
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<td>AAS 200</td>
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<td>ANTH 351</td>
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<td>PHL 318</td>
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<td>PSC 266</td>
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<td>or PSC 36</td>
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<td>PSC 319</td>
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<td>PUH 322</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 18

1. A grade of "C" or better required for all courses.

### Minor in Legal Affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select three of the following courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJ 230</td>
<td>The Judicial Process in America: An Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 255</td>
<td>Journey to Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 330</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 331</td>
<td>Criminal Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 332</td>
<td>Criminal Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 334</td>
<td>Justice Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 270</td>
<td>Law and Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 380</td>
<td>The Politics of Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 381</td>
<td>The Bill of Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 432</td>
<td>Law and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 465</td>
<td>International Law</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select three of the following courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>AC 473</td>
<td>Fraud Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 333</td>
<td>Trial Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 343</td>
<td>Mock Trial Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC 302</td>
<td>Law and Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC 450</td>
<td>Economics, Institutions &amp; Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS 246</td>
<td>Legal Environment of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS 471</td>
<td>Legal Elements of Fraud Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG 413</td>
<td>Employment Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 120</td>
<td>Practical Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 135</td>
<td>The Rule of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 220</td>
<td>Introduction to Symbolic Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 435</td>
<td>Philosophy of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY 376</td>
<td>Psychology and Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 18

1. Courses from at least two different disciplines must be represented in the minor.

### Minor in Women's and Gender Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Women's and Gender Studies courses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies 1</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's and Gender Studies Electives 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select five of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 458</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARH 483</td>
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Proosed Program of Study for a Major in Political Science

Freshman

First Term  Hours  Second Term  Hours

EH 101  3  EH 102  3
MA 110  3  PSC 102  3
PSC 101  3  PSC 103  3
Core Curriculum Area IV: 3  Core Curriculum Area II:  
History  1  Humanities  3
Core Curriculum Area II: Fine  3  Core Curriculum Area IV:  
Art  2  History Sequence  3

15  15

Sophomore

First Term  Hours  Second Term  Hours

PSC 104  3  Core Curriculum Area  
3  Core Curriculum Area II: 
Core Curriculum Area II: 
3  Humanities  3
Core Curriculum Area  
III: Natural Science with  
Laboratory  4
Minor  3  General Elective  3
General Elective  3  General Elective  3

16  16

Junior

First Term  Hours  Second Term  Hours

PSC 400  3  Political Science (300 level or  
3  above)  3
Political Science (300 level or  
3  above)  3
Minor  3  Political Science Elective  3
General Elective  3  General Elective  3
General Elective  3  General Elective  3

15  15

Senior

First Term  Hours  Second Term  Hours

Political Science (400 level)  3  Political Science (400 level)  3
Political Science (300 level or  
3  above)  3
Capstone Course  3  Minor  3
Minor  3  General Elective  3
General Elective  3  General Elective  1-3

15  13-15

Total credit hours: 120-122

1  Select one course from HY 101, HY 102, HY 104, HY 105, HY 120 or  
HY 121.
2  Select one fine art from ARH 101, ARH 203, ARH 204, ARH 206,  
MU 120, THR 100, THR 105 or THR 200.
3  Select one from EH 216, EH 217, EH 218, EH 221, EH 222, EH 223  
or EH 224.

Honors Program in Political Science

Purpose

The Political Science Honors Program is designed to provide outstanding political science majors with the opportunity for advanced study of the political process. Honors students have the opportunity to complete an independent research project while working closely with a faculty member. The advanced study provided by the honors program accelerates a student’s preparation for graduate or professional training.

Eligibility

Criteria for entering freshmen are:

• A 3.25 high school GPA and ACT composite score of 28 (or  
equivalent SAT score).
• Declaration of political science as the student’s major.
• A letter of intent.
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Criteria for students already enrolled at UAB or transfer students are:

- Completion of nine semester hours of political science.
- A 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.25 GPA in political science (and maintenance of these minima).
- Declaration of political science as the student’s major.
- A letter of intent.

OR

- Junior standing.
- Completion of nine semester hours of political science.
- A 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.25 GPA in political science courses in the last 30 percent of coursework attempted (and maintenance of these minima).
- Declaration of political science as the student’s major.
- Letter of intent.
- Faculty approval.

Requirements

Students in the Political Science Honors Program are required to do the following:

- Enroll in the Honors Program.
- Complete PSC 497 (Capstone on PSC and ITS)
- Enroll in three semester hours of PSC 497, preferably after completion of the Capstone seminar, which will lead to the development of a substantial research paper.
- Present research project findings to a colloquium of other PSC 497 students and department faculty.
- Participate in Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.

Benefits

Honors students will benefit from one-on-one mentoring with faculty in the department, which will lead to a more thorough understanding of the field and practice of political science. This is particularly useful as students choose career goals, such as graduate school, law school, public service, the foreign service, or other opportunities. Additionally, students who complete the program will receive a certificate at the annual UAB Honors Convocation and will graduate “With Honors in Political Science.”

Contact

For more information and/or admission to the Political Science Honors Program, contact the Political Science and Public Administration Department Chair, 414 Heritage Hall, Birmingham, AL 35294-1152; Telephone (205) 934-2339.

Courses

PSC 100. Public Service. 3 Hours.
This course provides an introduction to public service values and career paths in political science and public policy. Students will learn of various career paths relevant to political science and international studies in public management and nonprofit organizations. A component of the course focuses on career preparation, resume building, professional networking, and interview strategies.

PSC 101. Foundations of American Government. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of the American political system. The course covers the constitutional foundations of the American political system. It explains how the institutions of American Government - Congress, the presidency, and the courts operate and how they interact with one another. Each section provides a foundation for future study. Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course. This course meets the Core Curriculum requirements for Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

PSC 102. Foundations of Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.
Compared to political cultures and institutions of various political systems around the world. Special emphasis upon the Communist and post-Communist states, religiously-based states, and countries in transition to democracy. (CP) This course meets the Core Curriculum requirements for Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

PSC 103. Foundations of International Relations. 3 Hours.
The introductory course in international relations is designed to be a survey of the problems and practice of global cooperation and conflict. Quantitative Literacy and Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course. This course meets the Core Curriculum requirements for Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

PSC 104. Foundations of Political Theory. 3 Hours.
This course surveys the intellectual origins and historical development of political theory from the ancient Athenian experiment in direct democracy to the contemporary American challenge of diversity in a representative government. We explore citizenship as a philosophical conversation about rights and duties, equality and liberty, and the ethical responsibility of the individual to the community.

PSC 120. Urban Politics. 3 Hours.
This course is a critical examination of the institutions of urban government, focusing on intergovernmental relations, official decision makers, and the role of group and electoral politics in metropolitan environments. (AG/PT).

PSC 170. Contemporary Political Issues. 1-3 Hour.
Selected topics of current political importance and interest. Interests identified in current schedule of classes. May be repeated with permission of department chair.

PSC 221. American State and Local Government. 3 Hours.
This course is a critical study of the institutions, functions, and processes of the state and local levels of American government. (AG/PT) This course meets the Core Curriculum requirements for Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

PSC 225. Contemporary Issues in Science Policy. 3 Hours.
Our rapidly changing world faces significant, multi-faceted problems at the nexus of technology and society. The response to these socio-scientific issues will impact the future of the human condition. The scientific process has a role to play in finding timely, effective, and evidence-based solutions. This course is an introduction to cutting-edge science, medicine, and technology as well as the difficult political and ethical concerns they raise. This course provides students practical training in cross-disciplinary learning while engaging in discourse about difficult, controversial, and critical questions related to science and policy. It emphasizes the role of dialogue and communication in shaping responses to socio-scientific issues.

PSC 266. The United Nations. 3 Hours.
Organization framework, evolving experiences and continuing problems of United Nations system for maintenance of international peace and security and for international economic and social cooperation. (IR/CP).
PSC 270. Law and Film. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on the portrayal of courts, cases, lawyers, and law in major motion pictures. The course examines the extent to which films that focus on law are affected by the legal, political, and pop culture at the time of their production as well as the extent to which films shape society’s perceptions, whether correctly or incorrectly, of law and the legal profession. (AG/PT).

PSC 271. Contemporary Political Issues. 3 Hours.
Issues of current interest in political science.

PSC 272. Model Arab League. 1 Hour.
Preparation for participation in Model Arab League simulations around the country. Individual research on the Arab League and cooperative efforts to represent an assigned country and its foreign policy on committees, such as political affairs, economics, social affairs, and others.

PSC 310. American Public Policy. 3 Hours.
This course covers the policy process at local, state, and federal levels of government, as well as the specific facets of the public policy process, including problem identification and definition, policy formulation and enactment, policy implementation and evaluation, and policy termination.

PSC 316. Human Rights. 3 Hours.
This course examines the definition and major facets of human rights, key issues and controversies related to human rights, as well as groups and institutions related to the promotion of human rights. Specific issues include state repression and torture, genocide, the rights of women and children, and economic rights.

PSC 317. Religion and Politics. 3 Hours.
This course investigates the relationship between religion and the American political community. Topics examined will include: the influence of religion on Early Settlement thought; the role of religion in shaping the 1st Amendment; the political evolution of Christian, Jewish and Islamic sects in the US; the court and the issue of “church and state”; religion and political activism; faith-based organizations and the implementation of public policy. (AG/PT).

PSC 319. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights. 3 Hours.
This course examines the role of the Supreme Court in defining the fundamental rights and liberties of citizens in the United States. We analyze the inherent tension in supporting individual rights when they conflict with the will of the democratic majority.

PSC 320. Political Participation. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on forms of political participation in American national politics, including individual level public opinion, voting behavior, and the role of groups in public life. It explores the causes and consequences of individual participation in campaigns and elections, parties and interest groups, and protest movements. Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course. (AG/PT).

PSC 321. Public Opinion in American Politics. 3 Hours.
This course is an in-depth study of public opinion and the factors that shape it, including media effects, socialization, and group formation and advocacy. Students will examine the effects of public opinion on elections and policy, and explore the methods of public opinion measurement. (AG/PT).

PSC 322. Gender, Politics, & Policy. 3 Hours.
This course analyzes the history, theory and public policy of women as U.S. citizens from the colonial era through suffrage toward a woman in the White House. We examine the struggle for political rights, educational opportunity and economic equality, and gender roles in the family. We evaluate poll data, public policy debates, electoral strategies and leadership styles for women candidates for local, state, and federal office. (AG/PT).

PSC 323. Public Administration and Policy. 3 Hours.
This course surveys the principles and practices of governmental management and administration, including organization, procedures, personnel management, budgeting, and control.

PSC 324. American Foreign Policy. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools necessary to analyze and evaluate how foreign policy decisions in the U.S. are formulated and implemented.

PSC 330. The American Judicial Process. 3 Hours.
This course examines the purpose and structure of American courts; the selection of judges; the role of juries; how federal courts set agendas, decide cases, and impact legal policy; the role of interest groups and public opinion on judicial behavior. This course is writing-intensive; students will produce a central research project that asks and answers an empirical question about the judicial system, broadly described. Writing is a significant component of this course. (AG/PT).

PSC 331. The U.S. Congress. 3 Hours.
This course is an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Congress. Students will explore the internal organization of Congress and the rules and norms that govern the legislative process. Students will also examine the roles of the president, the court, interest groups, and political parties in the legislative process. (AG/PT).

PSC 333. Political Parties and Interest Groups. 3 Hours.
This course covers engagement and governing in American politics through the institutions of participation - political parties and interest groups. Topics include parties and political organizations in their varied forms - trade associations, membership groups, social movements and others, and the role of these organizations shaping outcomes. (AG/PT).

PSC 335. Memory Politics: Monuments, Museums and Human Rights. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the field of memory politics and focuses on the memorials, monuments, museums, and sites of historical significance. We will examine the politics of how governments and different segments of society decide to memorialize historical human rights abuses, the perpetrators of those abuses, and the individuals who were directly affected by those abuses.

PSC 341. Classical Political Thought. 3 Hours.
This course analyzes the development of Western political thought in classical period from Plato to Augustine. We trace the emergence of democratic government and the political culture of the polis as represented by the philosophers and playwrights of the ancient world from Athens to Rome. (AG/PT).
PSC 342. Modern Political Theory. 3 Hours.
This course surveys the development of Western political though from early modern era to contemporary debates from Machiavelli to King. We examine the innovation of social contract theories and the revolution in origins of modern democracies as we analyze philosophical arguments for individual consent, political authority, personal liberty, and legitimate government. (AP/PT).

PSC 350. African Politics. 3 Hours.
Following the African tradition of communication of political philosophies through narrative, our study of African politics will incorporate storytelling (in film, fiction, and poetry) as well as more standard methods of political analysis. The course addresses social, economic, and political dimensions of Africa - Northern, Southern, and Sub-Saharan - from pre-colonial era to the present. We will also examine Africa's regional and international relations today. (CP/IR).

PSC 351. European Political Systems. 3 Hours.
Comparative analysis of politics in European nations. (CP/IR).

PSC 352. Latin/South American Political Systems. 3 Hours.
Comparative analysis of politics in Latin and South American Societies. (CP/IR).

PSC 353. Asian Political Systems. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of the relationships between state and society in contemporary Asia, with particular emphasis on India, Pakistan, China and Japan. Also included are a presentation of Pan-Asian relation, environmental problems, current armed conflicts and political culture. (CP/IR).

PSC 355. Politics of Development. 3 Hours.
Analysis of social, economic and political problems confronting the world's poor countries. Topics examined include national responses to the following problems: child soldiers and child labor; government corruption and transparency; ethnic conflict; environment destruction; social inequality; globalization; and cultural preservation. (CP/IR).

PSC 358. Health and Humanitarian Crisis. 3 Hours.
This course examines the concepts, actors, analytic frameworks and dilemmas related to humanitarian action. Specific issues include the changing nature of conflict, coordination difficulties among humanitarian actors, evidence shortcomings, food security, public health crises, and efforts made to reform and professionalize the humanitarian sector.

PSC 359. Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. 3 Hours.
In this course, we examine the political, legal, psychological, cultural, and societal roots of genocide and assess the ways in which global and national institutions have responded to it.

PSC 360. International Security. 3 Hours.
Analysis of arms race, process of arms control negotiations, and diffusion of nuclear weapons. (IR/CP).
Prerequisites: PSC 103 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 361. North/South International Relations. 3 Hours.
Relations between advanced industrial countries and underdeveloped countries, focusing on changing dynamics of these relations. (IR/CP).
Prerequisites: PSC 103 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 362. Diplomacy. 3 Hours.
Origins, institutions, functions and rules of modern diplomatic and consular practice and roles of diplomacy as instrument of national policy. (IR/CP).

PSC 363. Nationalism in World Politics. 3 Hours.
The primary objective of this course is to examine the political basis and implications of nationalism, as an idea and a political movement, in world politics. (IR/CP).
Prerequisites: PSC 103 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 364. Gender in World Politics. 3 Hours.
This course is an investigation of contemporary women's and LGBT issues in world politics, with particular emphasis on cultural politics and women and development. There is also an investigation of masculinities and conflict.

PSC 365. Special Topics in Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.
Selected topics in Comparative Politics.

PSC 366. The United Nations. 3 Hours.
Organization framework, evolving experiences and continuing problems of United Nations system for maintenance of international peace and security and for international economic and social cooperation. (IR/CP).

PSC 367. Politics of the Middle East and Northern Africa. 3 Hours.
The course will examine relevant theories of comparative and international politics and apply them to the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region. Concepts and issues examined include authoritarian rule, uprisings, religious extremism, violence and war. The course will also discuss the calls for change to the political, economic and social environment in the region.

PSC 368. Women and War. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of gender and armed conflict from a global perspective. In the first third of the class, we will learn about theories of gender and war. In the second third, we will apply these theories to case studies of women and war. We will also examine the roles of women in terrorism. The last third of the course concerns women and peacemaking.

PSC 370. Politics and the Media. 3 Hours.
This course covers how significant changes in communications media have affected our ability to address our political problems and make public policy. It covers the interactive relationship between real world politics and communications media, where and how we learn about candidates, elected and appointed officials, and policy issues.
Prerequisites: PSC 101 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 372. Social Justice and Pop Culture. 3 Hours.
This course uses popular culture to introduce students to ideas and concepts related to social justice in the context of race, class, gender identity and other forms of difference and exclusion. Using various types of media (e.g. social media, music, television shows, movies etc.), this course will illuminate the ways in which decision-making, policies, practices, and behaviors are used to maintain inequity and inequality for underrepresented groups and communities through interlocking systems of oppression, privilege and power.

PSC 375. Special Topics in Political Theory. 3 Hours.
Special Topics in Political Theory: selected topics in Political Theory.

PSC 379. Supreme Court Politics. 3 Hours.
In this course, you will learn how the United States Supreme Court was established and how it subsequently helped to define the other branches of the U.S. Government (Legislative and Executive). The course will focus not only on the external politics of the Court but the inner political workings of the Court as well. After covering the mechanics of the Court and how it interacts with other sovereigns (both domestically and abroad), students will have the opportunity to examine the political drama that results when the Court exercises its authority over various pieces of American life.
PSC 380. The Politics of Constitutional Law. 3 Hours.
Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court as related to the development of important doctrines of constitutional law. Role of judiciary; extent of federal executive and legislative power; federal taxing and commerce powers. (AG/PT).
Prerequisites: PSC 101 [Min Grade: C]

PSC 381. The Bill of Rights. 3 Hours.
Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court as related to the development of important doctrines of constitutional law. Guarantees of Bill of Rights regarding both national and state governments; 14th Amendment. (AG/PT).
Prerequisites: PSC 101 [Min Grade: C]

PSC 382. Political Networks. 3 Hours.
The way we connect to others affects how we behave and think, even politically. The course explores how traditional and new (through social digital media) connections between individuals, groups, and institutions affect political behavior and policy outcomes both in domestic and international politics. The course also covers computational tools used to study social networks.

PSC 383. International Conflict & Conflict Management. 3 Hours.
Who fights whom, where, when, and how? And what can be done to resolve conflicts? This course investigates the causes of conflict between states, groups, and individuals. It reviews and evaluates the effectiveness of the political and legal tools at our disposal to manage conflict, including negotiation, various forms of mediation, peacekeeping and peace enforcement.

PSC 384. Diamonds, Drugs, and Guns: The Illicit Global Economy. 3 Hours.
Systematic analysis of the illicit global economy, including the causes of the leading illegal markets, the various organizations involved and key concepts used to analyze illicit markets. Particular attention is paid to the role of the state, as well as international organizations, in responding to these markets.

PSC 385. Special Topics in International Relations. 3 Hours.
Selected topics in International Relations.

PSC 386. Economics of Public Policy. 3 Hours.
The primary focus of this course is the role of government in the economy, specifically when and why the government intervenes, how it does so, and the effect of these interventions. Key economic concepts are brought to bear on leading public issues including safety and environmental policy, health policy, and social insurance.

PSC 389. Special Topics in Political Science. 3 Hours.
Special topics in political Science. The specific content can vary with individual courses.

PSC 400. Data, Politics, and Policy. 3 Hours.
From big data to focus groups and “small world networks,” this course explores the use and misuse of data in the policy process and in political analysis. It emphasizes strategies for using data to test hypotheses about domestic and international politics.
Prerequisites: PSC 101 [Min Grade: C]

PSC 401. Seminar in American Government. 3 Hours.
There are multiple theoretical approaches employed in the study of American political culture, behavior, institutions, and policy making. This course covers those approaches and the significant literature on the central topics in American government and politics (AG/PT).
Prerequisites: PSC 101 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 402. Seminar in Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.
This seminar is an exploration of core themes, debates, and concepts of world politics. (CP/IR).
Prerequisites: PSC 102 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 403. Seminar in International Relations. 3 Hours.
From civil war and terrorism to human rights and climate change, this capstone seminars deals with how important issues in world politics can be understood and analyzed from a multitude of theoretical perspectives. The seminar has significant writing, quantitative, and civic engagement components.
Prerequisites: PSC 103 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 404. Seminar in Political Theory. 3 Hours.
Multiple approaches employed in study of political theory and their usefulness in forming normative judgements. (PT/AG).
Prerequisites: PSC 104 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 418. Politics and Race in America. 3 Hours.
Politics and Race in America is an advanced level course about racial politics in the United States. This course focuses on tensions between separatism and assimilation, electoral politics and protest politics, and cooperation and competition among underrepresented groups in America. The goals of the course are for you to (a) grasp the complex dynamics of racial stratification in America and the role of politics in contributing to these dynamics and (b) pinpoint the similarities and differences of the agendas and strategies adopted by underrepresented groups, but to indicate the interaction between “racial” politics and American politics as a whole. The study of race in America provides a window into the soul of America; by learning about race in America, we learn enduring lessons about the foundations, institutions, participation, and policy in American government. After completing this course, you will be able to understand the race in America and be able to develop your own analyses about race in America.

PSC 422. Gender, Politics, & Policy. 3 Hours.
This course analyzes the history, theory and public policy of women as U.S. citizens from the colonial era through suffrage toward a woman in the White House. We examine the struggle for political rights, educational opportunity and economic equality, and gender roles in the family. Students will design and research a paper on the impact of women elected and appointed leaders on law and public policy. (AG/PT).

PSC 431. American Constitutional Law. 3 Hours.
This is a course on constitutional interpretation. Although the focus is on the Constitution of the United States, comparisons with the texts and experiences of other nations and of the several states of the United States will be used to define and illustrate frames of interpretation.
Prerequisites: PSC 101 [Min Grade: C] or PSC 380 [Min Grade: C]

PSC 432. Law and Society. 3 Hours.
This course examines law as a social institution, and assesses its relationship to other institutions in society, including the federal government, law enforcement, and the media.

PSC 440. American Political Thought. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on the origins and evolution of American political theory from the colonial period to post-modernity. Investigates the philosophical legacy of the American founding and the civic republican tradition on contemporary theories of liberty, equality, and civic engagement in public life. Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course).
PSC 443. Digital Democracy. 3 Hours.
The advent of the internet and digital media has fundamentally transformed the way humans connect, communicate, and share information. This class will look at the democratization of information as a result of the “information revolution” - i.e the internet and digital medium as a game changer in communications, politics, health, education, citizenship, and many other sectors. Additional topics will include net neutrality, protection of consumer rights, and a touch of behavioral economics in digital commerce.

PSC 444. Human Rights and Technology. 3 Hours.
The goal of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of the impact of technology on human rights and how human rights law and policy have been shaped by these developments.

PSC 456. Revolution and Political Violence. 3 Hours.
This course examines political violence within states, ranging from protests to civil wars. We will focus particularly closely on post-WWII resistance and revolutions in North Africa.

PSC 458. Human Trafficking. 3 Hours.
The goal of this course is to address issues regarding modern slavery and human trafficking. Specifically, we will investigate the types of slavery, such as bonded labor and forced prostitution, the political, legal, economic and social dimensions of global slavery and human trafficking, and ways in which a broad variety of international and nongovernmental organizations respond to this crisis.

PSC 459. Politics of Transitional Justice. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the field of transitional justice and focuses on the political aspects of how governments, citizens, and the international community respond to human rights abuses, especially those committed during conflicts and dictatorships.

PSC 461. International Political Economy. 3 Hours.
The course examines global economic processes, such as trade and finance, as well as the key actors involved, including states, societal actors, multinational corporations, and international organizations. Key issues of contention, including trade disputes, financial crises, and problems associated with globalization, are also assessed (IR/CP). 
Prerequisites: PSC 103 [Min Grade: D]

PSC 465. International Law. 3 Hours.
The course covers the sources, foundational principles, and main institutions of public international law. It explores international law concerning boundaries and territory (including the high seas and outer space), diplomatic relations, the use of force, conflict resolution, human rights, and the environment. (IR/CP).

PSC 466. The United Nations. 3 Hours.
Organizational framework, evolving experiences and continuing problems of United Nations system for maintenance of international peace and security and for international economic and social cooperation. (IR/CP).

PSC 471. Political Propaganda in Film. 3 Hours.
This course analyzes the ethics and rationale for using and abusing the film medium to relate to, undermine, or support political authority. The class employs a critical analysis of the explicit or implicit forms of political propaganda messages transmitted to popular culture in order to manipulate policy and public opinion. The films are drawn from four nations: United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia.

PSC 495. Directed Research in Political Science. 1-6 Hour.
Directed research in political science with department faculty. Open to Political Science majors only. Requires instructor approval.

PSC 496. Independent Studies and Special Projects. 1-3 Hour.
Directed reading under supervision of member of PSC faculty.

PSC 499. Capstone in Political Science and International Studies. 3 Hours.
This is the capstone course for all majors in political science and international studies. The course is designed to provide students with a culminating capstone experience. In this course, we will discuss a diverse set of readings that provide a comprehensive overview of the major theories and methods in Political Science or International Studies. This is a writing intensive course in which a discipline-based research paper or research project is developed and presented.
Prerequisites: PSC 400 [Min Grade: D]