DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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The Department of Political Science offers a broad education focused on several enduring concerns in the study of political life: political theory, centering on the philosophical and moral foundation of political life; comparative and international politics, focusing on political developments and interactions around the world; American politics, concerning the study of American political institutions and processes; and law, studying legal institutions and practice in political and social life.

Teaching
In teaching, the Department of Political Science is dedicated to providing a rigorous liberal arts experience for undergraduates. Classes emphasize the development of critical reading, thinking, writing and speaking skills in addition to learning about politics. The department also encourages development of a commitment to public service, an understanding of active citizenship and the development of political organizational skills via internship programs and community-engaged scholarship. In addition, the department encourages students to participate in the Cherrington Global Scholars program, where students gain new perspectives at institutions abroad. For qualified students, a departmental honors program also allows students to engage in substantial research projects that are closely directed by department faculty members.

Research
Scholarly research—including publications in academic journals and books, as well as presentations at professional conferences—is an essential component of the mission of the department. The department views teaching and research as complementary activities, central to the undergraduate experience. Active research and engagement in the discipline encourage improvement in teaching methods and substance. Much of our research also provides an opportunity for advanced undergraduates to work with department faculty; faculty have sponsored many students through the Partners in Scholarship program. Faculty and student research has received support from the American Political Science Association, National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Fulbright Program and the European University Institute.

Political Science

Bachelor of Arts Major Requirements
(183 credits required for the degree [http://bulletin.du.edu/undergraduate/undergraduateprograms/traditionalbachelorsprogram/bachelorofarts])

40 credits in political science, with at least 28 credits at the 2000 or 3000 level.

| Code     | Title                                              | Credits |
|==========|====================================================|---------|
| Introductory Courses |                                                      | 8       |
| Complete two of four: |                                                      |         |
| PLSC 1000 | Introduction to American Politics                  |         |
| PLSC 1110 | Comparing Politics around the World                |         |
| PLSC 1610 | Introduction to Political Thought: Power, Liberty, and Justice | |
| PLSC 1810 | Introduction to Law and Society                    |         |
| Upper Division Sub-field Requirements |                                                        | 16      |
| Complete one course at the 2000 or 3000 level in each of the four departmental sub-fields: American Politics, Comparative and International Politics, Law, Political Theory. | |
| Electives |                                                      |         |
| Complete any two political science courses. |                                                      | 8       |
| Required Courses |                                                |         |
| PLSC 2901 | Political Inquiry                                  | 4       |
| PLSC 3290 | Capstone Seminar in Politics                       | 4       |
| Total Credits |                                              | 40      |

SECONDARY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

40 credits. Same requirements as for BA degree.
Minor Requirements
Minimum of 20 credits in political science, with at least 12 credits at the 2000 or 3000 level.

Departmental Internship Program
Internships for academic credit are offered in the concentrations of American politics and law; they require attendance in a seminar with other students completing an internship. Internships may be taken only after the completion of one course in the relevant concentration. No more than 4 credits earned in a departmental internship may be counted toward the 40 credits required of majors, though if a student earns more than four credits, those credits may be counted toward the maximum of 60 credits in political science.

Disciplinary Subfields
American Politics
This field contains courses that deal with the institutions, processes, concepts, and history of American politics.

Comparative and International Politics
This field contains courses dealing with the comparative study of politics around the world and during different historical periods.

Law
This field provides a strong foundation in the law, law’s relation to the state and to society, the judicial process and legal reasoning.

Political Theory
This field addresses fundamental concepts and issues that underlie the study of political life, both in the historical tradition and with regard to specific topics.

Distinction in the Political Science Major
This is open to students with a minimum 3.7 major GPA and a 3.5 cumulative GPA. It involves a yearlong thesis-writing project in the senior year for a maximum of 8 credits. Students electing to write an honors thesis must complete 48 credits in political science. See a political science adviser for details.

Courses
PLSC 1000 Introduction to American Politics (4 Credits)
Philosophical traditions, historical background, structure and functioning of American government, and political attitudes and behavior. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

PLSC 1110 Comparing Politics around the World (4 Credits)
This course introduces the basic concepts of comparative politics, emphasizing both history and theory, and it designed to give students the intellectual tools necessary to understand the forces that shape governance in countries at varied stages of political and economic development. The course's key questions include: are countries becoming more democratic, and will all states follow something akin to the model of the United States? Or are differences between countries becoming even more apparent, with old ethnic rivalries, styles of governance, and religious movements having an impact on the divergent evolution of regimes? The class compares politics primarily in four countries: the United Kingdom, Japan, China, and Nigeria. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

PLSC 1610 Introduction to Political Thought: Power, Liberty, and Justice (4 Credits)
This course presents an introduction to some of the key ideas and questions in the study of politics. As an introductory course, it cannot present a systematic overview of the entire study of politics; rather, it seeks to introduce students to some central concerns in the study of politics. In this course we learn about the basic principles of human conduct in social contexts and explain how social scientific methods are used to understand these underlying principles. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

PLSC 1810 Introduction to Law and Society (4 Credits)
This course introduces the relationship between law and society, exploring principles of legal conduct in social contexts and explaining how social scientific methods are used to understand these underlying principles. Questions discussed include what is the relationship between the “law-on-the-books” and “law-in-action,” and what can we learn from gaps between formal law and the “real” law that is experienced in society? Empirical examples may include international comparisons and the evolution of law over time. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

PLSC 2001 Law and Politics (4 Credits)
Introduces the relationship between law and politics, describing the basic principles of legal conduct in political contexts and explaining how social scientific methods are used to understand these underlying principles. Questions explored include the following: Where does the law come from? Whose interests does it reflect? Does formal legal change lead to practical political and social change? Why do we comply with the law? What are the limits of enforcement? This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement. It also satisfies the department distribution requirement in law. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.
PLSC 2050 Anarchy or Order? World Politics (4 Credits)
World politics is characterized by the absence of any overarching governmental authority; the “sovereignty” of individual states creates an international anarchy. This anarchy creates a permissive environment that influences how states and other global actors relate to each other. This course introduces the evolution of the modern international system and provides an overview of the major concepts and theoretical approaches used in the study of world politics. The principle aim of the course is to provide an analytical framework to understand and evaluate international events and issues. Satisfies department distribution requirement in comparative/international politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2200 Politics of China (4 Credits)
This course brings the contested notion of democratization into the East Asian context and tests its relevance for countries at various stages of political and economic development in the region. After introducing the general debates over what democratization is and tracing its emergence in Western Europe and North America, this class explores the rise of democratization movements in East Asia and examines the various forms of democratization in different political and economic settings. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in comparative/international politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2215 East Asia in World Politics (4 Credits)
This class focuses on East Asia and tests how accurately major international relations theories describe what is going on in this part of the world. The region is home to two of the world’s most influential players, namely China and Japan. South Korea, another key player in the region, is another global economic powerhouse. East Asia also has two potentially explosive issues, namely the Korean Peninsula and the Chinese sovereign claim over Taiwan. We discuss what the region’s economic might and security importance mean to the rest of the world and America, in particular. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in comparative/international politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2220 Comparative Democratization: East and West (4 Credits)
This course brings the contested notion of democratization into the East Asian context and tests its relevance for countries at various stages of political and economic development in the region. After introducing the general debates over what democratization is and tracing its emergence in Western Europe and North America, class explores the rise of democratization movements in East Asia and examines the various forms of democratization in different political and economic settings. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in comparative/international politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2225 European Political Economy (4 Credits)
Examines major challenges facing European political economies from the postwar era, including transformations in the welfare state, liberalization in light of market transitions and European integration, and global pressures. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2235 Politicized "Ethnicity": Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to the Study of Identity Politics (4 Credits)
What is ethnicity? Are ethnic identities more likely to influence political outcomes than other types of identity (e.g., gender, profession, class), and if so, why? This course introduces competing concepts of ethnic identity. We analyze what is useful or problematic about each approach, and use these insights to think critically about specific cases. Specifically, we engage readings, podcasts, videos and documentary footage from political science, sociology, evolutionary biology, cognitive psychology, and legal studies. Why take this course? Gaining insight into “ethnic” identity and its relation to politics has implications for everything from self-understanding and daily social life, to political campaigns, activist tactics, and episodes of political violence. The course is conceptual and comparative and does not focus primarily on the United States. Yet, the critical thinking, reading and writing skills that you hone in the course, in addition to your knowledge of world events and other cases, will enable you to make better sense of identity politics in the U.S., as well as instances of political conflict throughout world history. The course satisfies the departmental sub-field requirement for majors in comparative/international politics. Recommended before taking this course: one introductory level course in political science.

PLSC 2240 Political Economy: The Welfare State (4 Credits)
Explores the range of policies and programs associated with the contemporary welfare state in the U.S. and other postindustrial democracies, comparing the differentiated and private emphasis of the U.S. welfare state in contrast to more universal and public welfare states in Europe. Questions the class considers include the following: Are contemporary social programs sustainable? Who benefits the most from particular policies and how does this affect the political costs associated with reform? How effectively do welfare states reduce poverty and equalize opportunities for advancement? What justifies the redistribution of wealth inherent in the welfare state? Satisfies departmental sub-field major requirement in comparative/international politics.

PLSC 2250 Democratic Erosion: Comparing Experiences Across Countries and Over Time (4 Credits)
As the conclusion of the Cold War spurred a tidal wave of democratization around the globe, western policy makers and pundits often assumed that even in weak, poverty-impacted states attempts to democratize were bound to succeed – at least eventually. By 2008, however, the discourse of democratization had been transformed. “Celebrations of democracy's triumph are premature,” wrote a noted scholar of democratization; “in a few short years, the democratic wave has been slowed by a powerful authoritarian undertow.” Recently, both the quality and quantity of “democratic” states have declined. Even the world's oldest, most taken-for-granted liberal democratic regimes increasingly flout democratic norms and policies. We begin with a focus on the United States and then consider European cases and the cases of Venezuela and Zambia. Along the way, we engage theories of populism, political polarization, “stealth authoritarianism” (politicians’ use of seemingly democratic laws for antidemocratic purposes), and theories of gradual institutional change. Satisfies the departmental sub-field major requirement in comparative/international politics.

PLSC 2260 Politics of Japan (4 Credits)
How did Japan rapidly catch up with more advanced industrial powers? Can other developing countries copy the Japanese model? What was the “darker side” behind Japan’s economic miracle? How do we come to terms with the sudden burst of Japan’s “Bubble Economy?” Will Japan’s current economic recovery process, which started in 2002, be sustainable? Is a genuine international reconciliation between Japan and its neighbors possible? These are just some of the questions we will examine in this class. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Cross listed with ASIA 2601.
PLSC 2280 Comparative Social Movements (4 Credits)
Types of social/political issues and forms of interest intermediation represented by new social movements in Western industrial society. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2300 Public Policy (4 Credits)
This course explores the politics associated with the process of making and implementing public policy in the United States. Substantive topics vary with instructor. Sophomore standing required.

PLSC 2340 Political Economy of Development: From Smith to Sachs (4 Credits)
Free-market capitalism is supposed to improve people's lives, yet we know it is also associated with economic inequality and political instability. This is especially true in numerous developing countries that attempted to transition to free market, 'democratic' political systems after the end of the Cold War. We begin by examining the founding doctrines of free market capitalism during the industrial revolution and then jump forward in time to study the evolution of the current international foreign aid regime, and international financial institutions (i.e., the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank). Students are expected to devote substantial time to reading and writing in the course, and will use theory and history to examine issues related to 'development' and globalization. Additionally, as a part of the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture component of the core curriculum, students will learn to: (1) describe and examine core principles of human behavior, organization, and conduct across social and cultural contexts, and (2) describe, explain, and critique the use of social scientific methods to understand underlying principles of human functioning as they relate to political and social responses to economic change. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

PLSC 2360 Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Resistance in Three Continents (4 Credits)
This course explores historical and contemporary aspects of racialized power structures as they have specifically impacted indigenous peoples in Australia, the United States, and Latin America. How did the dynamics of imperialism, capitalism, liberal state-building, and racialist (and racist) ideology combine to devastate indigenous communities around the world? How did distinct perspectives on time, space, property, and community allow colonizing populations to conquer native populations even while advocating the most egalitarian political structures ever attempted? Satisfies department distribution requirement in comparative/international politics. Sophomore standing required.

PLSC 2370 Global Political Economy (4 Credits)
Global Political Economy (GPE) examines the interplay between politics and economics within and across nation-states in response to international politics and economics. The course explores the effect of political factors on international economic relations and the impact of international economic factors on domestic and international politics. The objective is to evaluate various theories of the global political economy through observation of the global political-economic system. Satisfies the department's distribution requirement in comparative/international politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2400 Political Behavior: Attitude and Public Opinion (4 Credits)
This course focuses on a core feature of democratic government: the mass public. It examines how political attitudes are formed and measured, how these broad public preferences are communicated to government, and what impact public opinion has on policy development. Sophomore standing required.

PLSC 2410 American Government Simulation (4 Credits)
This course explores American politics by simulating the legislative process of the federal government. Students play either a member of the House of Representatives or a member of the Executive Branch. The simulation requires that students seek the goals related to their position. By putting theory into practice, students gain a better understanding of Washington politics. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2415 Campaigns and Elections (4 Credits)
The U.S. holds hundreds of elections every year, but presidential elections stand alone as the only truly national contests. What influences presidential selection? What information can we gain as citizens and scholars from national presidential debates? These elections are guided by distinct rules (including nominations via primaries and caucuses, evolving campaign finance laws, and the strict requirements of the Electoral College) with ever-changing strategies to maximize support under these rules. This class provides students with the historic context and political science concepts and theories to better understand the many steps involved in electing U.S. presidents. This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

PLSC 2420 American Presidency (4 Credits)
Historical development and current role and powers of the U.S. presidency. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2425 Religion in American Politics (4 Credits)
This course offers a broad, critical overview of the relationship, and some of the tensions, between religion and politics in the United States. We first review how the historical presence of a variety of American religious groups and perspectives on the relationship between church and state have impacted the nation's often conflicted sense of identity as well as the tenor of our ongoing debates about - and within - religion in American politics. That gives us a foundation for exploring a number of current "hot button" issues like debates over "moral values" and faith-based initiatives. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2430 Political Parties & Interest Groups (4 Credits)
Evolution and structure of political parties; how they mobilize voters and provide leadership of political issues. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.
PLSC 2460 Re-Inventing Europe (4 Credits)
Politics, economics and culture of Europe of today including basics of parliamentary democracy, contemporary political economy and national identities of major European countries as well as developments in the European Union and Eastern Europe. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2470 State and Local Politics (4 Credits)
This course examines the general and the unique traits of the politics, institutions, and policy processes of state governments. We will, in addition, take advantage of our location and focus on the government and politics of Colorado. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2480 U.S. Congress (4 Credits)
Structure and functions of U.S. Congress and congressional behavior. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2500 Political Psychology (4 Credits)
This course examines the intersection of politics and psychology. Students will examine how emotion, cognition, and group psychology influence political actors and policy outcomes. Students will apply these concepts to voting, foreign policy decision-making, and the formation of belief systems.

PLSC 2510 American Political Thought (4 Credits)
Where do distinctly "American" values and beliefs come from and why are they so fiercely held? Are there viable alternatives to the classic ways in which Americans tend to address our social and political problems? This course offers an exploration of these questions through the historical canon of American political thought, with an eye to the competing strains of Jeffersonian and Hamiltonian philosophy that have influenced American thought for centuries. Starting before the Founding and continuing to political thinkers of the present day, this seminar-style course will examine the broad strains of liberalism, radicalism, and conservatism—and the unique ways they intersect—in American political speech and theory. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in political theory. Junior standing required.

PLSC 2520 Topics in Political Science (4 Credits)
Focuses on specific issues in political science. Depending on content, PLSC 2700 may be counted toward sub-field distribution requirements in the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2521 Topics in American Politics (4 Credits)
Focuses on specific issues in politics of the United States. PLSC 2701 satisfies the department's distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2522 Topics in Comparative Politics (4 Credits)
Focuses on topics in comparative and/or international politics. Satisfies the departmental sub-field requirement in comparative/international politics. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.
PLSC 2703 Topics in Law and Politics (4 Credits)
Focuses on topics in law from a political science perspective. Satisfies departmental distribution requirement in law. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2704 Topics in Political Theory (4 Credits)
Focuses on topics in political theory. Satisfies departmental sub-field requirements in political theory. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2708 American Political & Foreign Policy (4 Credits)
Contemporary American foreign policy; its formulation and implementation. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2815 Comparative Courts (4 Credits)
Who goes to courts, and what do courts achieve? This course examines the role of courts in a variety of legal traditions, comparing how constitutional, civil, and criminal disputes relate to political conflict and change in contemporary democracies. We then explore the role of courts in regime changes, including both the demise of democracy and transitions to democracy after experiences of colonialism, authoritarianism, fascism, and communism. Finally, we consider how international tribunals are transforming the nature of sovereignty. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2820 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties (4 Credits)
This course addresses major ideas and principles of U.S. constitutional law, with a focus on equal protection of the law, fundamental rights, and freedom of speech and religion. Within each of these areas, we will consider the development of court rulings over time, economic and political influences on court decision-making, and policy implications of these rulings. While PLSC 2860 complements this course, it is not necessary to take both courses. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in law. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2825 The Politics of Rights (4 Credits)
This course examines rights and rights-claims as complex and contingent resources for political actors. The class aims at equipping students to be better able to identify, understand, and critically evaluate how, why, and to what end rights claims are used in politics. Particular attention is paid to social and political movements that use rights-claims, as well as the various advantages, limitations, and problems that can accompany rights-based political appeals. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or above.

PLSC 2830 Judicial Politics (4 Credits)
This course considers the role of courts, especially the Supreme Court, in the U.S. political system. Topics include the potential dangers and benefits of allocating significant power to un-elected justices, judicial decision-making, Court-Congress interaction in developing public policies, the social and political effects of court rulings, and legal interest groups.

PLSC 2840 International Law & Human Rights (4 Credits)
Legal and philosophical status of human rights worldwide; socioeconomic barriers to achieving global human rights. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2855 Conservative Politics and the Courts (4 Credits)
This course focuses on the reasons for and uses of litigation and judicial politics in the pursuit of conservative ends. As such, the class critically examines the different major sub-groups that define modern American conservatism; how these subgroups compare to and interact with one another; the conditions that allow for political movements generally to use courts in pursuing policy ends; and the specific steps that various American conservative groups have taken in order to influence courts, law, and policy. Introduction to American Politics (PLSC 1000) is recommended, but not required.

PLSC 2860 Constitutional Law: Governmental Structures and Powers (4 Credits)
This course addresses major ideas and principles of U.S. constitutional law, with a focus on federalism, the growth of national power, and separation of powers. Within each of these areas, we will consider the development of court rulings over time, economic and political influences on court decision-making, and policy implications of these rulings. While PLSC 2820 complements this course, it is not necessary to take both courses. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in law. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

PLSC 2870 Theories of Law (4 Credits)
Approaches to law, courts and judges focusing of various theories of law including legal realism, feminist legal theory, law and society, law and economics, behavioralism. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2880 Taming Tyranny: How Constitutions Frame Freedom (4 Credits)
Comparative analysis of legal systems including constitution making, distribution of governmental powers, nature of individual rights and analysis of specific substantive areas such as abortion rights. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2901 Political Inquiry (4 Credits)
Introduces political inquiry within the discipline of political science, examining quantitative, qualitative, and historical research methods with a focus on basic principles of effective research design and data analysis; no previous mathematical background is necessary. By the end of the course, students are able to evaluate scientific research, frame a research question, and design a research study. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PLSC 2992 Directed Study (1-10 Credits)
PLSC 3290 Capstone Seminar in Politics (4 Credits)
This capstone seminar is required for all majors and explores theoretical and empirical issues of politics with application to specific political developments. Topics vary by section and instructor. All students complete a significant independent research paper based in part on analysis of primary source materials. Senior standing required. Political Science majors only.
PLSC 3701 Topics in Political Science (1-4 Credits)
PLSC 3702 Topics in Political Science (1-4 Credits)
PLSC 3703 Topics in Political Science (1-4 Credits)
PLSC 3704 Topics in Political Science (1-4 Credits)
PLSC 3982 Political Internship (1-4 Credits)
This is a hybrid on-line/in-class internship course. Students may work on political campaigns at the federal, state, or local level. Students will keep journals structured by questions from a faculty member, meet in a seminar with others doing an internship to reflect on service in their placement, respond to on-line assignments and writing prompts, and write a research paper integrating their experience with relevant scholarship.

PLSC 3985 Legal Internship (1-4 Credits)
Students may work in the local courts, advocacy organizations, the public defender's office, and the district attorney's office, to name examples of the most common sites. Students will keep journals structured by questions from a faculty member, meet in a seminar with others doing an internship to reflect on service in their placement, and write a research paper integrating their experience with relevant scholarship.

PLSC 3990 Honors Thesis (2-8 Credits)
Independent work on honors thesis. Prerequisite: senior standing.

PLSC 3991 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)
Independent scholarship on a theoretical or empirical project. Prerequisite: faculty approval.

PLSC 3992 Directed Study (1-10 Credits)