

POLITICAL SCIENCE (PSCI)

PSCI 189. Individual Study. 1 Hour.

This course provides individual instruction. Students may repeat the course when topics vary. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

PSCI 2305. U.S. Government and Politics. 3 Hours.

This course is an introduction to the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, political participation, the election process, and public policy.

PSCI 2306. State and Local Government. 3 Hours.

This course familiarizes students with the politics, government, and administration of state and local government in the United States, with special emphasis on Texas.

PSCI 289. Individual Study. 1 Hour.

This course provides individual instruction. Students may repeat the course when topics vary. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

PSCI 300. Introduction to Political Theory. 3 Hours.

This course is an introduction to the history of Western political theory that surveys the work of major political thinkers from ancient Greece to the present. Along with introducing students to the classic literature of political thought, the course provides a vehicle for understanding political concepts such as justice, power, liberty, and equality.

PSCI 305. Introduction to Political Ideologies. 3 Hours.

This course is an introductory survey of selected ideologies. Topics may include liberalism, classical Marxism, communism, fascism, democratic socialism, conservatism, authoritarianism, African-American political thought, and gender ideologies. Ideologies' assumptions, justifications, and implications for political life will also be discussed.

PSCI 309. Popcorn Politics: Introduction to Political Science Through Film. 3 Hours.

This course surveys some of the major themes in Political Science and how they are explored in both classic and modern major motion pictures. More specifically, this class will explore three universal themes present in all modern of modern politics (man, the state, and human nature; how the state functions; the state and conflict). The primary goal of this course is to exercise critical thought while enjoying some of the best films Hollywood has to offer.

PSCI 310. Introduction to Political Documentaries. 3 Hours.

This course provides an introduction to political documentaries. These research-based films address citizenship and power. Students will review and analyze political documentary films.

PSCI 315. Washington DC Civic Engagement Field Study. 3 Hours.

This course explores civic engagement and public service in the United States through visits in Washington DC to national civic organizations and representative institutions, and meetings with national elected public officials and civic organization leaders.

PSCI 320. Introduction to Constitutional Law. 3 Hours.

This introductory course provides an overview of civil society and constitutional law in United States. The course will cover the founding, Constitution, and Bill of Rights, as well as the development of law in areas such as speech, press, religion, privacy, search and seizure, and punishment.

PSCI 331. Introduction to Public Administration and Leadership. 3 Hours.

This course introduces and assesses public administration concepts and scholarship.

PSCI 340. Introduction to Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.

This course familiarizes students with the field of comparative politics, its key concepts and major theoretical approaches. The bulk of the course is a broad introduction to the major types of political systems in the modern world, including advanced industrial democracies of the West, transitional systems of Communist and post-Communist countries, and economically less developed nations.

PSCI 350. Introduction to International Relations. 3 Hours.

An examination of changes in the nature of the international community from the Treaty of Westphalia to the present, this course emphasizes the forces that produce cooperation and conflict among nations.

PSCI 360. Peace Science. 3 Hours.

This course explores the current state of human rights research and policy and conflict management strategies including mediation, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding in international relations and domestic politics.

PSCI 390. Active Citizen Engagement (EL). 3 Hours.

This course provides a foundation for students to develop their civic participation skills by learning how to successfully improve society through the governmental process and working together to address existing political or social problems. This course integrates the principles of Experiential Learning (EL) and meets the criteria for undergraduate research.

PSCI 394. Survey of Political Science. 3 Hours.

This course will provide an overview of approaches, theories, and the evolution of the discipline of political science.

PSCI 395. Methods of Political Science Research. 3 Hours.

This course is an introduction to the discipline of political science, including an examination of the development of political science and the methods and approaches used by contemporary political scientists to describe, explain, predict, and evaluate political phenomena.

PSCI 410. American Political Theory. 3 Hours.

This course provides an analysis of American political thought from colonial times to the present.

PSCI 426. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. 3 Hours.

This course contributes to the student's understanding of U.S. citizens' constitutional civil rights and civil liberties.

PSCI 427. Public Law (EL). 3 Hours.

This course addresses and evaluates the establishment, justification, and development of U.S. constitutional law. This course integrates the principles of Experiential Learning (EL), and meets the criteria for undergraduate research.

PSCI 428. Intergovernmental Politics. 3 Hours.

This course addresses how the different levels of government (federal, state, and local) interact and accomplish practical goals, and how people participate in our intergovernmental political system.

PSCI 440. Civil Wars. 3 Hours.

This course examines political conflicts worldwide; focusing mainly upon contemporary issues, the course also explores the history and development of conflict and its scientific study. It is recommended PSCI 340 and PSCI 395 be taken before enrolling in this course. Prerequisite: None.

PSCI 442. Disputes in International Relations. 3 Hours.

This course examines modern issues in International Relations focusing on nation/state disputes, their origins, resolution processes, and theoretical methodologies explaining them. This course is reading and writing intensive; therefore, students must have college-level competency in written and spoken English, and PSCI 350 is recommended. Prerequisite: None.

PSCI 445. Public Opinion. 3 Hours.

This course is an accounting of the role of public opinion in the democratic politics of the United States.

PSCI 450. Politics and Gender. 3 Hours.

This course is meant to acquaint students with the core concepts, processes, and issues of politics and gender. The first portion of the course explores essential concepts: the actors, how gender politics are made, and the distribution of political power. The remaining sections of the course examine contemporary and future issues in the politics of gender. This is not a course in current events, although some reference will be made to current events in discussing the theories and topics covered in the course.

PSCI 455. Political Behavior. 3 Hours.

This course examines key aspects of American electoral politics and democracy.

PSCI 456. Politics and Religion. 3 Hours.

This is an introduction to a hotly debated topic in many political systems: the interaction between religion and politics. During the course, the student will examine the attempts by religious groups, movements, and interests to influence politics through agenda setting, lobbying, demonstrations, and electoral activities.

PSCI 460. Political Parties and Elections. 3 Hours.

This course provides a comprehensive review of American political parties and elections. Students will examine the historical development and contemporary nature of the major political parties. Exploration of the presidential election system will cover the different phases of the process, influences of money, the media, third parties, and possible reforms.

PSCI 464. Congress. 3 Hours.

This course provides an examination of the U.S. Congress. Areas of consideration will include the development of the legislative branch, congressional elections, representation, legislative structures and processes, leadership, and the making of public policy.

PSCI 465. The Executive. 3 Hours.

This course is a review of the executive branch of the United States, including the historical development, primary responsibilities, and decision making processes of the office, as well as contemporary relationships with the public, Congress, and policy making and implementation.

PSCI 480. Violent Politics. 3 Hours.

This course is an examination of historic and current trends in violent civil disruption from domestic and international sources.

PSCI 481. Cyber-crime, Cyber-terror, and Hacktivism. 3 Hours.

This course will provide the student with an overview of how digital crime and digital terrorism are framed within the network of our society. Our society has become so dependent of the virtual world that it has lent itself to be both the target and gateway for criminals, terrorists, and pranksters. The course will give the student an empirical examination into the politics on all sides of these issues.

PSCI 489. Individual Study. 3 Hours.

This course provides individual instruction. Students may repeat the course when topics vary.

PSCI 490. Political Science Internship (EL). 3-6 Hours.

The political science internship course is designed to offer students an opportunity to work in the offices of local, state, or federal governments. Students will learn the kinds of services provided by the offices, expectations the electorate has of their public officials, and activities that occur in these offices. Students will be engaged in meaningful assignments that contribute to their understanding of democratic government. Prerequisite: To qualify for the internship program, a student must have a grade point average of 2.75 or higher, be currently enrolled in a degree program at A&M-Texarkana, and complete the internship application process. This course integrates the principles of Experiential Learning (EL) and meets the criteria for internship. The student also needs to have successfully completed PSCI 320, PSCI 331, PSCI 426, PSCI 427, or PSCI 428.

PSCI 497. Special Topics. 3 Hours.

Instructors will provide an organized class designed to cover areas of specific interest. Students may repeat the course when topics vary.

PSCI 501. Readings in the Political Science Canon. 3 Hours.

At the end of the term, students will be able to identify, evaluate, and analyze the key texts and readings in the broader Political Science literature, and associate those with general theoretical schools, specific theoretical approaches, scientific assessment, and how all of the preceding has developed and the continuing controversies in political science scholarship.

PSCI 502. The Scope and Methods of Political Science. 3 Hours.

At the end of the semester, students will be able to demonstrate the appropriate understanding of how modern Political Science scholarship is initiated, performed, reported, and critiqued. The course presents a general background of the methods used by political scientists in the empirical study of their discipline. The background provides the knowledge necessary to conduct objective investigations of empirical phenomena on our own or to better understand and evaluate the research of others.

PSCI 503. Quantitative Methods. 3 Hours.

The application of quantitative methods to problems faced by modern researchers and practitioners. Topics include regression analysis and the use of probability theory as they apply to decision making for policy makers.

PSCI 528. State and Local Governance. 3 Hours.

This course addresses how state and local governments operate and interact to accomplish practical goals. We consider basic structures and relationships of state and local governance, such as how people participate in government, constitutional powers of government, scope of conflict, relationships among different levels of government, and administration of services.

PSCI 540. Seminar in Comparative Politics: Methods, Theories, Approaches. 3 Hours.

This course is a survey of the classic literature in the field of Comparative Politics. The course introduces students to the history of the field, fundamental theories, concepts, approaches and theories, major themes and topics, and methodological diversity.

PSCI 550. Leadership and Organizational Theory. 3 Hours.

This course prepares the student to apply different theoretical models within the culture of an organization. The emphasis is on developing the ability to create collaborative relationships, provide leadership to affect change, and improve organizational functioning in the provision of public services.

PSCI 551. Leadership in Management. 3 Hours.

The course examines models of leadership in organizations and allows the student to explore leadership in personal, group, strategic, and global contexts. The course uses a flexible leadership model to help students and practicing managers understand and apply the principles of leadership.

PSCI 552. Public Strategic Planning. 3 Hours.

This course covers practical knowledge and application of strategic planning in the public sector. This includes the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategic planning.

PSCI 553. Public Organizational Behavior. 3 Hours.

This course reviews the scholarship and applications of this research in the management of public organizations. Topics address group dynamics, organizational development, motivation, decision-making, leadership, and personal development.

PSCI 555. Conflict Management. 3 Hours.

This course focuses on theories of conflict management and discusses several of the tools used to prevent or mitigate conflict in various situations. These tools include but are not limited to practices such as negotiation and mediation.

PSCI 556. Public Human Resources Management. 3 Hours.

This course reviews the principles, policies, and practices of human resources management. Topics address the processes of planning and implementing organizational training systems, assessing educational and developmental needs of employees, and various applications to enhance employee performance.

PSCI 557. Public Budgeting and Finance. 3 Hours.

This course covers budgeting and financial issues that confront public administrators. It is designed for students who will eventually use, rather than prepare, budgets and financial reports.

PSCI 560. Political Parties and Elections. 3 Hours.

This course is an in-depth examination of American political parties and elections. The course considers the historical development of parties, connections between parties and elections, and state of parties today in relation to organization, voting behavior, and governing. The course explores the presidential election system, reviewing the various procedural stages, the role of money, media and third parties, and areas for reform.

PSCI 565. The Presidency. 3 Hours.

This seminar explores the U.S. presidency. It applies different approaches including individual-level and institutional-level to study the office of the president. Analysis will cover specific dimensions of presidential activity, including political party relationships, public communication, staffing and management, legislative relations, and foreign policy.

PSCI 580. Thesis I. 3 Hours.

Each student will conduct faculty-supervised research culminating in a thesis prospectus. Prerequisite: 2nd year grad student and instructor permission.

PSCI 589. Individual Study. 3 Hours.

This course provides individual instruction. Students may repeat the course when topics vary.

PSCI 590. Internship. 3 Hours.

The internship course offers students an opportunity to work in the offices of local, state, and federal governments and non-profit organizations. Students will learn the kinds of services provided by the offices, expectations the electorate has of their public officials, and activities that occur in these offices. Students will be engaged in meaningful assignments that contribute to their understanding of representative democratic government. Prerequisite: 2nd year grad student and instructor permission.