

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department is likely to offer some courses, or sections of a course, in “hybrid,” that is partly online and partly face-to-face, or entirely online. During registration please consult course listings in PeopleSoft where such courses are identified.

Lower Division

PLSI 1018 American Government and Politics (3) (Formerly PLSI 101)

An examination of the ways in which those who practice political science view the American political system. Students can expect to gain a basis for systematic, informed thinking about the processes by which Americans govern each other and govern themselves, the manner in which those processes affect the policies we adopt in response to issues, and the way in which issues influence changes in the decision making processes. Prerequisite: GE A3. Satisfies general education requirement American Institutions-Government.

PLSI 1020 World Politics (3) (Formerly PLSI 102)

An examination of the basic elements influencing global politics. Central themes of the course include the emergence of the modern nation state system, the origins of international law and organization, and the impact of technology and globalization on society in the 21st century. The course concludes by focusing on contemporary world problems such as the threats posed by nuclear war and proliferation, environmental degradation, climate change, global inequality, and international financial crises.

PLSI 2770 Special Topics (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 277)

An examination of selected contemporary political problems. Subjects vary from term to term but might include such topics as the politics of Black America, the politics of student protest, the politics of ecology, etc. Consent of instructor. May be repeated once for credit.

PLSI 2890 Experiential Prior Learning (variable units) (Formerly PLSI 289)

Evaluation and assessment of learning which has occurred as a result of prior off-campus experience relevant to the curriculum of the department. Requires complementary academic study and/or documentation. Available by petition only, on a credit, no-credit basis. Not open to postgraduate students. Interested students should contact the department office. Consent of instructor.

Upper Division

PLSI 3010 Political Inquiry (3) (Formerly PLSI 300 and PLSI 380)

An analysis of political science methods and the design of political research. Includes an examination of social problems, formulation of research hypotheses, and an introduction to social science statistics. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Required of all majors.

PLSI 3020 Theories of Power (3)

This course examines power as a central concept in politics from three angles, normative, theoretical and pragmatic. It addresses several questions: What is power? How is the concept operationalized or expressed? Who or what has power? Who are its beneficiaries, and what are their consequences? How is power resisted? What are the benefits and perils of power? The theoretical lens includes Liberal, Marxist, Feminist, Post-structuralist, Post-modern and Post-colonial. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Course is required of all majors.

PLSI 3030 Political Philosophy and Thought (3) (Formerly PLSI 333)

This course examines various theories of the nature of social and political life. Significant contributions to Western political philosophy, especially those from Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Marx, and Rawls, will be examined along with the concepts of rights, equality, justice, obligation, liberty and utility. Additional readings may contribute to analysis of the development of political institutions and civil society in the West and their effects on non-European nations and cultures. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Required of all majors.

PLSI 3040 International Relations (3) (Formerly PLSI 304)

An examination of theories and logic behind nation-state strategies with regard to power, defense, stability, and economic development, among other issues. This course examines the theories that explain how states prioritize goals by analyzing state actions via individual, state, and international levels of analysis. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Required of all majors.

PLSI 3140 Judicial Power and the Constitution (3) (Formerly PLSI 314)

An examination of the judicial role in American constitutional adjudication, both historical and contemporary. Particular emphases on federalism, separation of powers, and other topics on the exercise and extent of national power. Prerequisite: One course in PLSI. Carries Credit in Pre Law Emphasis.

PLSI 3150 American Political Theory (3) (Formerly PLSI 335)

This course investigates the theoretical foundations, the functional processes, and contemporary critiques of the American Regime. Students investigate the political and social institutions established under the U.S. Constitution, review important changes in relations between government and citizens. Taken as a whole, the themes explored in this course lie at the intersection of politics, philosophy, history, and sociology, and should appeal to students wishing to pursue a career in teaching civics or social studies at the secondary school level, or in the legal profession. Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Pre Law Emphasis.

PLSI 3170 Legal Reasoning (3) (Formerly PLSI 370)

Discussion and practice in the logic, analysis, data interpretation, and writing that characterizes Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence. Special topics taken from contemporary issues include torts and remedies, administrative authority, freedom of speech, death penalty, entertainment law, and antitrust policy. Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Pre Law Emphasis.

PLSI 3210 Congress (3) (Formerly PLSI 316)

An examination of Congressional decision making and the factors that shape legislative processes. Students will analyze the history of the institution, the electoral process that leads to service in the national legislature, and the rules and norms that govern its internal processes. Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries credit in the Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3220 The Presidency (3) (Formerly PLSI 317)

An examination of the constitutional design and practical operation of the American Presidency. This course includes investigations into the nature of executive leadership, the constitutional and administrative powers of the president, legislative-executive relations, and the impact of public opinion, and the role of personality as expressed in presidential character. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3230 Latinos and Blacks in U.S. Politics (3) (Formerly PLSI 329 and PLSI 340)

Focus on political experiences of Latinos and African Americans, with comparisons to ethnic whites, Asians, and others. This course examines the major theories explaining American politics in light of race and ethnicity. Particular emphasis on intra- and intergroup conflict and cooperation, and the nature and dynamics of American political values, discourse, leadership, organizations, institutions, and policies, when analyzed from the perspectives of the two largest U.S. ethnic and racial groups. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3248 Women in Politics (3) (Formerly PLSI 339)

The course presents a general understanding of feminist concepts and gender cultural differences that affect American and international politics. For American politics, the emphasis is on how gender ideas affect public opinion, voting patterns, campaigning, and women and leaders. This course also applies a gender lens to basic questions of international relations, such as national security questions, economic development, and foreign policy. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of JYDR. Satisfies general education Quality of Life and upper division Area D. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3250 Electoral Behavior and Political Parties (3) (Formerly PLSI 313)

An examination of the organization and activities of political parties and electoral behavior in America combined with an analysis of the political, social, and psychological factors that promote and inhibit individual and group participation in electoral activity. Within the context of voting behavior, this course explores political parties in America and how they attempt to win popular control of government through the electoral process. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3260 Small Group Dynamics (3) (Formerly BEHS 311)

Application of principles of social psychology to the understanding of small groups; experimentation and observation in group situations. Lectures and three hours of laboratory. This may be a service learning course. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3270 Community Politics (3) (Formerly BEHS 321)

An examination of mobilization and policy at sub-national levels. Emphasis is on American metropolitan communities. Major concepts are space, structure, participation, leadership, and change. Policy analysis from the literature and local sources. Lecture/discussion. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Parallel listing in Sociology. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3290 Political Sociology (3) (Formerly BEHS 331)

Examination of the cultural and social bases of political processes in organized groups and social systems, with an emphasis on the growing role of minorities in politics. Lectures/discussion. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Parallel listing in Anthropology and Sociology. Carries Credit in Power and Justice Emphasis.

PLSI 3320 Government and Politics of China (3) (Formerly PLSI 308)

Examination of institutions, participants, and processes of government in China. This course examines the impact of ideology and leadership in the processes of modernization and liberalization in contemporary China. Since the 1990s China has undergone significant changes. The course will focus on how these changes, especially in the economic realm, have shaped the tensions within Chinese society and the conflicts between state and society. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PLSI 3330 Global Security Issues (3) (Formerly PLSI 303)

An examination of the theoretical and pragmatic factors relevant to the formulation and execution of U.S. national defense policy. The course will focus on factors such as executive, legislative, public opinion, military, etc. in the defense policy-making process. This course also focuses on both international and domestic security problems. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

PLSI 3340 Government and Politics of Latin America (3) (Formerly PLSI 309)

A comparative analysis of selected nations in Latin America, with a primary focus on the Southern Cone region (especially Argentina, Brazil, and Chile) and Central America. Emphasis is on social and economic structures as determinants of contemporary politics and policy change in Latin American society. Challenges to development are also examined within the contemporary “neoliberal” policies currently emphasized throughout the region. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

PLSI 3350 Government and Politics of the Middle East (3) (Formerly PLSI 323)

An examination of contemporary conflicts and policies among nations in the Middle East and adjacent areas. Emphasis is on religion, nationalism, political sovereignty, and economic modernization affecting regional relations. The role of the United States will also be analyzed. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

PLSI 3360 Politics of Mexico (3) (Formerly PLSI 324)

An analysis of the historical and social roots of Mexican politics and contemporary policy issues in Mexico. Particular emphasis is given to U.S.-Mexican relations, challenges of development and peasant economies, the history of one party rule in the 20th century, NAFTA, and the key issues surrounding “post-PRI” Mexico. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore standing or higher to take this course. Carries credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

PLSI 3370 Political Geography (3) (Formerly PLSI 332)

Lectures, analysis and field work on the relationships between physical and cultural geography and power in nations, states, and communities. Case studies in both U.S. and other nations and GIS exercises. Satisfies the Geography requirement for Liberal Studies. Prerequisite: Must be a sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

PLSI 3380 Politics of International Terrorism (3) (Formerly PLSI 376)

This course will examine terrorism from both the historical and international politics perspectives. The historical and ideological roots and development of terrorism will be explored, along with the different types of terrorism, such as domestic terrorism, state sponsored terrorism, and rebel terrorism. Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries credit in Global Politics Emphasis.

PLSI/PHIL 3418 Philosophy of Democracy

This course explores the philosophy of democracy, with special attention to how democratic structures inform the quality of life of its members. Topics may include the historical development of the concept of democracy, the problem of democratic citizenship, the ideal kind of legislative institution, the limits of democratic authority, and the tension between liberty and equality in contemporary pluralist democracies. Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of JYDR. Satisfies general education Quality of Life and upper division Area C.

PLSI 3420 California Politics and Public Policy (3) (Formerly PLSI 319)

An examination of the issues, institutions, and processes that affect public policy in California. Topics include the constitution, the history and political culture, and the impact of policies regarding such matters as taxes, energy, education, criminal justice, immigration, and home rule for local governments. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Carries Credit in Pre Law and Power and Justice Emphases.

PLSI 3450 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (3) (Formerly PLSI 315)

An examination of the principles, reasoning, and politics of private and individual rights in American constitutional adjudication. Emphasis on Equal Protection, Criminal Justice Due Process, Freedom of Expression, and Right to Privacy. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Carries Credit in Pre Law and Power and Justice Emphases.

PLSI 3470 Environmental Politics (3) (Formerly INST 369)

Analysis of federal, state, and local administration of environmental laws. Includes study of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and litigation under that act in the courts. Special attention paid to California. Comparison of the environmental regulation policies of California and other oil-producing states. Case studies of legislation, adjudication, and political conflict in the environmental issues and justice area. Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Parallel listing with Economics and Environmental Resource Management. Carries Credit in Pre Law and Power and Justice Emphases.

PLSI 3510 International Organizations (3) (Formerly PLSI 371)

By the end of the 20th Century, international organizations challenged the nation-states' political authority and power on many levels. The subject matter of this course focuses on how the growing network of international organizations (IO) redefines global politics. Two types of international organizations are examined in this course: inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries credit in Pre Law and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 3610 American Foreign Policy (3) (Formerly PLSI 302)

An analysis of the major schools and approaches in the study of U.S. Foreign policy. Particular attention is paid to historical, ideological, and economic influences on the decision-making process. Includes a survey and evaluation of the major developments in U.S. foreign policy from the Cold War to the current Post-Cold War system. Prerequisite: Must be sophomore or higher to take this course. Carries Credit in Power and Justice and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 3620 Media, Propaganda, and Public Opinion (3) (Formerly PLSI 328)

An examination of the psychological processes involved in the formation and change of public opinion. Attention focused on the role of propaganda and attitude acquisition and change. Several examples of political propaganda and mass appeals will be examined. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Carries Credit in Power and Justice and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 3630 Political Psychology (3) (Formerly BEHS 330)

The study of Ideology, values, extremism, affiliation, leadership, and personality factors in politics. Included are psychological profiles of prominent political leaders, as well as traditional theories of voter behavior and media impact in elections. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 1018. Parallel listing with Psychology. Carries Credit in Power and Justice and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 3648 Food Politics and Policy (3) (Formerly PLSI 349)

Study of food politics at national and international levels. This course thus examines the politics of the production, distribution, and consumption of food and addresses issues related to environmental sustainability particularly critical in the context of global environmental change, as well as issues of social responsibility. Case studies of food industry politics and trade conflicts in the United States, the European Union, Mexico, Japan, and India, along with examination of the role of multi-national corporations, the World Trade Organization, and financial institutions. Consideration of cultural influences

on food markets. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Satisfies general education Sustainability and Justice upper division Area D. Carries Credit in Power and Justice and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 3770 Special Topics (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 377)

An intensive examination of issues of current political concern with attention to the evaluation of a political, economic, or social problem, and alternate ways of responding to these challenges. The issues examined vary from term to term but include political corruption, the political implications of multinational corporations, terrorism and political subversion, etc. Course credits can also be applied for the Model United Nations experience or other instructional experiences outside the classroom. May be repeated for different course content. May carry credit in one or more emphasis, depending upon content. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Consent of instructor.

PLSI 4080 Directed Research Seminar in Political Science (3) (Formerly PLSI 480)

Work in an interactive group setting, students conduct and write up analyses under faculty supervision. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 3010 or consent of instructor.

PLSI 4081 Directed Research in Political Science (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 481)

Student conducts and writes up a research project under faculty supervision. Typically, there will be regularly scheduled meetings with additional course time working independently, but in one-on-one consultation with faculty. Prerequisite: Completion of PLSI 3010 or consent of instructor.

PLSI 4410 U.S. Immigration Law and Policy (3) (Formerly PLSI 411)

This course explores how the laws enacted in the U.S. impact the politics, demographics, economics, and security issues of immigration to the United States. A historical overview of immigration laws and policies in the U.S. with a special focus on current laws and procedures. Special consideration of rights of non-citizens and immigration laws affecting refugees and asylum seekers. Comparisons to immigration and refugee laws and policies in other developed nations. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Carries credit in Pre Law and Power and Justice Emphases.

PLSI 4640 International Political Economy (3) (Formerly PLSI 404)

An examination of the international political economy focusing on the structures and patterns of trade and trade agreements. Particular emphasis is given to international banking, currency exchange, problems of international lending, debt management in developing countries and the former Soviet bloc, and multinational corporate approaches to economic development. Agreements and protocols of the post-WWII period and the

POLITICAL SCIENCE

World Trade Organization are emphasized throughout. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Carries credit in Power and Justice and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 4650 Myth of the Free Market

This course reviews the arguments that drive the classic free market perspective and the reality behind how markets operate on a daily basis. Drawing from history, we look at how those who champion “free enterprise” have distorted our understanding of how modern markets actually work by ignoring how the modern state creates the conditions under which wealth is created. Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Carries Credit in Power and Justice and Global Politics Emphases.

PLSI 4770 Selected Topics in Political Science (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 477)

Current concerns challenging the discipline’s theories and methods. Topics include governmental regulation of innovation in medical treatment, ethics in the intelligence community, the impact of development on ideology, politics and mass media, etc. Offered periodically to respond to student and faculty interests. May be repeated for different course content. Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

PLSI 4850 Individual Study (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 499)

This course provides for individual study that does not fit into PLSI 4770, 4080, 4081, 4860, or 4870. Its most common format is a readings course designed to expand students’ immersion in the discipline, especially with the intention to pursue graduate studies. Consent of instructor.

PLSI 4860 Internship in the Political Process (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 496)

Students are assigned to either public or private agencies involved in the public choice process. Supervision of internship is shared by agency director and the course instructor. Assigned readings and projects where appropriate. Consent of instructor. Up to three units may be applied to elective requirements in the major. With departmental approval, additional units (up to a total of six) may be used if the internship experience generating the additional units is in a different institutional setting or involves a significantly greater responsibility on the intern’s part. Requires a minimum of CSUB GPA 2.0. Offered on a credit-no credit basis only.

PLSI 4870 Cooperative Education (3) (Formerly PLSI 497)

The Cooperative Education program offers a sponsored learning experience in a work setting, integrated with a field analysis seminar. The field experience is contracted by the Cooperative Education office on an individual basis, subject to approval by the department. The field experience, including the seminar and reading assignments, is supervised by the cooperative education coordinator and the faculty liaison (or course instructor), working with the field supervisor. Students are expected to enroll in the course for at least two semesters.

The determination of course credits, evaluation, and grading are the responsibility of the departmental faculty. Offered on a credit, no-credit basis only. (See statement on credit under PLSI 4860 above.) Consent of instructor.

PLSI 4890 Experiential Prior Learning (variable units) (Formerly PLSI 489)

Evaluation and assessment of learning which has occurred as a result of prior off campus experience relevant to the curriculum of the department. Requires complementary academic study and/or documentation. Available by petition only, on a credit, no credit basis. Not open to postgraduate students. Interested students should contact the department office. Consent of instructor.

PLSI 4890 Experiential Prior Learning (variable units) (Formerly PLSI 489)

Evaluation and assessment of learning which has occurred as a result of prior off campus experience relevant to the curriculum of the department. Requires complementary academic study and/or documentation. Available by petition only, on a credit, no credit basis. Not open to postgraduate students. Interested students should contact the department office.

PLSI 4900 Senior Seminar (3) (Formerly PLSI 490)

This course reflects on the nature of the discipline of Political Science. Synthesis and integration of coursework is the focus of this course. The seminar format facilitates discussions of theories and research questions including those that cross boundaries between the disciplines. Analysis and policy essays, along with other assessment activities that demonstrate a set of competencies in political science. Required of all majors. Prerequisite: PLSI majors must complete core courses (PLSI 1018, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040) and senior standing. Non-majors must get consent of instructor.

Graduate Courses

PLSI 6850 Individual Graduate Study (1-3) (Formerly PLSI 699)

Investigation of an approved project leading to a written report. Project selected in consultation with professor in area of major interests; regular meetings to be arranged with professor. Consent of instructor. May be repeated once for additional credit.