INFORMATION AND FALL 2015 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

INFORMATION: Please read carefully before going in for advising.

Advising – Please sign up for advising time with your major advisor. Advising begins Monday, March 23. Your advisor will indicate that you are eligible to register AFTER you have met with him/her. This indication in BannerWeb is required in order to register for classes online. Registration begins Monday, March 30.

Department Meeting With New and Current Political Science Majors – There will be a department meeting for majors on Monday, March 23, at 12:00 pm in the Brown-Alley Room.

Major Requirements – Ten units in Political Science, at least six of which must be at the 300 or 400 level. The GPA of the coursework in Political Science comprising the major must be at least 2.00 with no course grade below C-. The requirements for the major are:

- PLSC 220 - Introduction to American Government
- Two units of the following -
  - PLSC 240 - Introduction to Comparative Politics
  - PLSC 250 - Introduction to International Relations
  - PLSC 260 - Introduction to Public Policy
- One unit of the following -
  - PLSC 311 - Classical Political Thought
  - PLSC 312 - Modern Political Theory
  - PLSC 315 - American Political Theory
- PLSC 270 – Social Science Inquiry
- PLSC 400 - Senior Seminar
- Four elective units at the 300 level.

Political Science 388 (Individual Internship) and 390 (Independent Study) – These courses require departmental approval. Student and academic supervisor should fill out a contract form (available at department office or http://polisci.richmond.edu/research/index.html or http://polisci.richmond.edu/internships/index.html) before the end of Friday of the first week of the semester so that the department can grant the approval student needs for registration in these classes.

Political Science 400 (Senior Seminar) – Four sections will be offered, two in the fall and two in the spring. Registration in senior seminar requires departmental approval. Students should sign up their preferences with Ms. Howard, who will then give the authorization for students to register. Students will need to select two choices, and will be notified of which seminar they get. ALL SENIORS MUST SIGN UP FOR A SEMINAR.

Summer School – See http://spcs.richmond.edu/summer/schedule.html for more details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 220</td>
<td>Intro to American Government</td>
<td>Dr. Ted Ritter</td>
<td>2 sections (1 online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 250</td>
<td>Intro to International Relations</td>
<td>Dr. Stephen Long</td>
<td>1 section (online)</td>
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<td>Dr. Jimmy Kandeh</td>
<td>1 section</td>
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<td>PLSC 270</td>
<td>Social Science Inquiry</td>
<td>Dr. Rick Mayes</td>
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<td>PLSC 348</td>
<td>Politics of Africa</td>
<td>Dr. Jimmy Kandeh</td>
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<td>PLSC 350</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>PLSC 365</td>
<td>U.S. Healthcare Policy</td>
<td>Dr. Rick Mayes</td>
<td>1 section</td>
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Post-graduate Opportunities - Dr. Dan Palazzolo and your advisor are available to advise students on graduate programs in political science and related fields. See also bulletins and brochures for graduate programs in political science, public administration, public policy, international studies, court management, and urban affairs. This material, along with information about employment opportunities, is located in the department lounge. For information on other professional opportunities, see also the Political Science Department Bulletin Board. Pre-law advising is currently handled by Dr. Stephen Simon.


Pi Sigma Alpha - Criteria for the political science honor society are as follows:

- A minimum of five units in political science taken at UR, at least two of which must be at or above the 300 level, by the end of the spring semester of the junior year
- Overall GPA of 3.3 or better and a political science GPA of at least 3.5
- Must be a junior or senior

FALL 2015 COURSES

Note: For the exact times and locations of classes, see the Schedule of Classes for the Fall Semester 2015.

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Simpson
If your high school American or United States government class was anything like mine, and it may not have been, you studied the three branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, and elections. My class rarely discussed current events, uncomfortable political debates, or why we should care about political life. I left high school with little or no understanding of the theories that drive politics. I could not make connections between the world of “what’s happening now” and the inner-workings of institutions, elections, interest groups, or policy formation. I designed this course to fill that gap by including material on ideology and the writings of leading thinkers. Events, processes, ideas, and political outcomes are the focus of class discussions. It is required for a political science major. (PLSC 220 is a pre-requisite for 300-level American government courses.)

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS Bakich
The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the analytical tools needed to study domestic politics cross-nationally, as well as acquaint them with the political arrangements of various regions of the world. In particular, this course will introduce you to three topics: (1) the major themes of comparative politics (e.g., the origins of modern state, social movements, and democratization); (2) the major concepts used in comparative politics, and (3) the methodologies political scientists use to evaluate rival theories. By comparing how political systems develop and function in different countries, we will theorize about the historical development and future trajectories of domestic politics in the various parts of the world. FSSA

PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Datta, Long, Kandeh
This course is designed to assist the beginning student in developing a coherent framework for the analysis of international relations. Particular emphasis is given to the nature of the international political system and to the implications of this system for a world of increasing complexity, interdependence and rapid change. The goals pursued and the methods used by nation-states and other actors are also examined, as are critical issue areas which create problems for world order. (PLSC 250 is a prerequisite for 300-level international relations courses.) FSSA
PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

This course introduces students to some of America’s more pressing domestic problems (such as the federal deficit, crime, poverty, and health care), government policies and proposed solutions aimed toward solving those problems, and the methods used to analyze public policy. The student plays the role of policy analyst operating within the broader context of the American policy making process. The course combines lectures and class discussion. Students will be evaluated on the basis of exams, papers, and classroom participation. (PLSC 260 is a prerequisite for 300-level public policy courses.)

FSSA

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PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY

This course introduces students to the process of inquiry and research in the social sciences. Students will learn how to form research questions and hypotheses, prepare literature reviews, design research studies, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data.

McGowen

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PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL

This course introduces students to trial advocacy and concepts such as direct and cross examinations, openings, closings, and objections in the context of the courtroom. This course will develop critical thinking and analytical skills for students as they take a set of facts and develop compelling legal and logical arguments in support. Students will also learn how to think quickly on their feet and give an effective oral presentation. Students in this course will compete in various tournaments against teams from other universities and colleges for awards, and ultimately the national intercollegiate mock trial championship. Some travel is required. This is a pass/fail course. Permission of the instructors is required for those wishing to register for this course.

Ritter, Patterson

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PLSC 311: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

Enduring basic issues in political theory studied through writings of Plato, Aristotle and other thinkers from ancient Greece through the Renaissance.

Cherry

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PLSC 316: REASON, RHETORIC, AND LEADERSHIP

Consideration of the relationship between rhetoric and leadership. Focus will be on such examples as Thucydides' "History of the Peloponnesian War," the Declaration of Independence, "The Federalist Papers," and the oratory of Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill. Primary focus historical.

McDowell

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PLSC 331: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Role of United States Supreme Court in American politics studied through examination of landmark constitutional decisions pertaining to distribution of governmental powers. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or permission of instructor.

Bowie

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PLSC 337: THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

Analysis of structure, processes, and personnel of American legal system. Emphasis on decision making of private parties, judges, juries, and attorneys in context of civil litigation and criminal prosecution. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or permission of instructor.

Bowie
PLSC 348: POLITICS OF AFRICA  
Kandeh

Comparative study of state formation, nation-building, political economy, social structure/movements, selected regions and countries in Africa. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 240 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 351: GLOBALIZATION  
Pribble

Analysis of the political, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of globalization. Considers how globalization has affected the nation state, interstate relations, and the democratization and development of countries around the world. Students will evaluate different definitions of globalization; analyze to what extent globalization limits the autonomy of national governments; and consider whether the effects of globalization vary across different regions of the world. (Same as International Studies 351.) Prerequisite(s): PLSC 240 or 250 or IS 210.

PLSC 355: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST  
Carapico

The international relations of southwest Asia and northeast Africa with an emphasis on issues related to war, peace, and power, including the role of European empires and the United States in the formation of the regional nation-state system; contemporary conflicts in the Persian Gulf and Israeli-Arab arenas; the political economy of oil; terrorist attacks and counter-terror strategies; and American foreign policy toward the region. Prerequisites: PLSC 250.

PLSC 356: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY  
Wang

Politics, processes, and institutions underlying contemporary global economic interdependence, with special focus on international trade, finance, and assistance; alternative theoretical models for understanding these events, processes, and institutions. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 362: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY  
Eisen

Examines legal aspects, both regulations and case law, of environmental policy. Central issues are whether legal responses (1) effectively address the needs of the parties most affected; (2) properly weigh such facts as economic efficiency, protection of nonhuman species, and the possibility of unintended consequences; and (3) are diluted by the political process. (Same as ENVR 362.) Prerequisite: PLSC 260 or ENVR 201.

PLSC 366: POVERTY AND POLITICAL VOICE  
Erkulwater

Examines how well our nation’s antipoverty policies alleviate the hardships faced by residents of these communities and assesses the ability of the poor to mobilize for effective social change in their communities. Includes a required community-based learning component. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or 260 or SOC 101 or LDSP 205

PLSC 379: AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES  
Roof

This course will look at the history and development of American parties, party systems of competition, and party ideologies from the founding of the country through contemporary clashes between the Republicans and Democrats. It will explore the growth of party polarization and its influence on the policy making process and the government's ability to address pressing national problems.
PLSC 379: CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS     Bakich

By far, the most consequential international relationship in the 21st century is, and will continue to be, that between the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China. This course examines the relationship between the United States and China (cooperative, competitive, or something in between) along different dimensions: military-security, regional-security and alliances, economic, domestic political, and grand strategic.

PLSC 388: INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP (.5-1)

Credit may be given for an academic program undertaken with faculty supervision in conjunction with part-time (paid or unpaid) employment. Prerequisites: a clear proposal, accepted by the faculty supervising the work; and permission of Department Chairperson.

PLSC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (.5-1)

Independent study is generally approved only when a qualified student has a project that lends itself to this particular form of research. Students interested in independent study should pick up a copy of the "Guidelines for Political Science 390 A, B, and C" from the Department Secretary. An "Independent Study Agreement Form" must be signed by the student and the faculty member agreeing to supervise the independent study. Prerequisite: Permission of Department Chairperson and supervising faculty member.

SENIOR SEMINARS FALL 2015

PLSC 400-01: HUMAN RIGHTS     Datta

This course analyzes human rights, at home and abroad, with a special emphasis on some of the most pressing human rights issues of the day, such as crimes against humanity, torture, human trafficking, gay marriage, and women’s rights. The course will take a U.S.-centric view toward such matters, given that the United States still dominates much of the international system. The course will begin with an exploration of questions such as: What valid basis is there for the assertion of universal rights? Which rights can be justified and which cannot? Why have governments accepted formal obligations and established international mechanisms to monitor and enforce those obligations, even at considerable sacrifice of domestic sovereignty? In what way have rights been translated into major international legal obligations under the United Nations and various treaties? Which governments resist this trend and why?

Substantively, in this class you write your senior seminar paper. This will be achieved over the entirety of the semester, in which I guide you to work on: (1) the research question; (2) the literature review; (3) establishing a hypothesis to test; (4) doing research to test the hypothesis, most likely involving the use of on-line research and interviews with professionals in the field, and (5) writing up your findings.

PLSC 400-02: UNDERSTANDING WAR     Long

This course is an advanced seminar course examining the causes and patterns of international conflict. Rather than covering specific conflicts in depth, we will take a theoretical, analytical approach to international conflict. In so doing, we will discuss empirical evidence supporting various theories from the international relations about why wars break out, why some are more severe than others, why some spread while others remain localized, and what tools are most effective at preventing war. This course presupposes knowledge of international relations on at least the level of Political Science 250, and preferably on the 300 level. It also presupposes that you have taken the Political Science methods course, as most of the assigned readings will include some form of quantitative analysis.
SPRING 2016 COURSES (Tentative)

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
McGowen

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the structure and function of American national government. It emphasizes the institutional roles of the presidency, the Congress, and the Supreme Court as well as the more informal political roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and elections. It is required for a political science major. (PLSC 220 is a pre-requisite for 300-level American government courses.)

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
Bakich

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PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY  
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This course introduces students to the process of inquiry and research in the social sciences. Students will learn how to form research questions and hypotheses, prepare literature reviews, design research studies, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data.

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required. This is a pass/fail course. Permission of the instructors is required for those wishing to register for this course.

PLSC 312: MODERN POLITICAL THEORY  
Dagger

Ideas of major political philosophers of late 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, such as Rousseau, Burke, Hegel, Marx, J.S. Mill, and Tocqueville.

PLSC 315: AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY  
Cherry

Political thought in America from colonial times to present with an emphasis on issues relating to liberty, equality, federalism, community, and national purpose.

PLSC 323: MONEY, POLITICS, AND PRISONS  
Simpson

The connections between the economy, politics, and the prison system in the United States are important for understanding concepts of justice in a democracy. Explores links between privatization of prisons, political incentives, and theories of justice. Prerequisites: PLSC 220.

PLSC 325: RACIAL POLITICS  
Simpson

Comparative examination of the history, problems and political role of minority groups in the U.S., with a concentration on the African-American political experience. Prerequisites: PLSC 220.

PLSC 333: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES  
Bowie

Analysis of contemporary legal status and interpretation of constitutional rights and liberties. Emphasis on landmark Supreme Court decisions involving various provisions of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 339: JURISPRUDENCE IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICS  
Simon

Explores basic questions about the nature and function of law as an instrument of state power that are deeply interconnected with a wide range of political and legal problems. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 341: HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS  
Joireman

The 21st century has brought changes to the nature of state and international responses to internal conflicts within states. In this class we will address the changing international legal framework regarding humanitarian interventions, survey the literature addressing the effectiveness of external interventions, discuss the justifications and consequences of intervention, and apply what we have learned to contemporary conflicts. In the course of the semester we will discuss changing ideas of sovereignty and the ramifications of state decisions to intervene in the internal affairs of other states.

PLSC 343: POLITICS OF ASIA  
Wang

Study of historical, cultural, and social forces shaping contemporary politics of Asia. Comparative survey of major political systems and critical examination of key issues. Attempts to link Asian studies with mainstream political science. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 240 or permission of instructor.
PLSC 346: POLITICS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS  
Kandeh
Comparative examination of politicization of race, ethnicity, religion, and caste in contemporary world. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220, 240, or 250 or IS 290 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 349: POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Pribble
Influence of historical, social, and cultural forces on contemporary politics of Latin America and the Caribbean. Effects of social structure and underdevelopment on processes of democratization, institution building, national integration, and economic development. Case studies of selected countries illustrate major themes and issues explored. Prerequisites: PLSC 240 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 350: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY  
Long
Analyzes the traditions, processes, substance, and goals of American foreign policy, in addition to exploring national security and defense policy, foreign economic policy, international diplomacy, and foreign policy ethics. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 359: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE  
Datta
This course will expose the student to selected topics in global governance: human trafficking, terrorism, climate change, and the drug trade. We will devote equal weight toward theory and policy in this course.

PLSC 365: U.S. HEALTHCARE POLICY AND POLITICS  
Roof
Examination of political and economic evolution of the American healthcare system: doctors, hospitals, managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, health insurance, public health, epidemiology, mental health, pediatric health, tort reform, and psychopharmacology, among other topics. Includes comparative analysis of other countries' healthcare systems.

PLSC 388: INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP (.5-1)
Credit may be given for an academic program undertaken with faculty supervision in conjunction with part-time (paid or unpaid) employment. Prerequisites: a clear proposal, accepted by the faculty supervising the work; and permission of Department Chairperson.

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PLSC 395: LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP  
Palazzolo
Combines weekly seminar on the state legislative process with work as assistant to a state legislator, government agency, interest group, or press during session of the Virginia General Assembly. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 and permission of instructor.
SENIOR SEMINARS SPRING 2016

PLSC 400: AMERICAN DEMOCRACY Cherry

Although Federalist 10 draws a distinction between democracies and republics, praising the latter, most Americans consider their country to be a democracy. So, too, did one of the most important political theorists ever to study America: Alexis de Tocqueville. In this seminar, we will read Tocqueville's seminal work Democracy in America and consider whether the picture he paints of American democracy is accurate and whether it is positive. In addition to reading some of the authors on whom Tocqueville draws, we will also evaluate more contemporary analyses of American democracy, comparing and contrasting them with Tocqueville. Students will be responsible for leading and participating in class discussion, short papers, and, of course, a senior thesis developing one of the main themes in Tocqueville.

PLSC 400: THE ANATOMY OF A MODERN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN Mcgowen

Campaigns and elections are two of the most imperative and influential aspects of American politics. Not only are they the primary way in which we express our preferences for government, their conduct can tell us a lot about American values and cultural norms. In this class, students will become familiar with the academic research on many campaign topics including, candidate selection processes, voter behavior, public opinion, and campaign strategy. Special attention will be paid to the 2016 presidential election, especially how the current campaign relates to previous iterations and its applicability to previous scholarship. In the end, students will be required to conduct an original research project that will advance previous research theories and feature established qualitative and/or quantitative methodological tools.