

**INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS
2017-2018**

INFORMATION: Please read carefully before going in for advising.

Advising – Please sign up for advising time with your major advisor. Advising begins Monday, March 20. 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 27.** Registration rotation can be found at <http://registrar.richmond.edu/registration/undergraduate/rotation.html>.

Department Meeting with New and Current Political Science Majors – There will be a department meeting for majors on Wednesday, March 15, 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

PLSC 220	Intro to American Government	Dr. Ted Ritter	2 sections (1 online)
PLSC 250	Intro to International Relations	Dr. Stephen Long	1 section (online)
		Dr. Jimmy Kandeh	1 section
PLSC 348	Politics of Africa	Dr. Jimmy Kandeh	1 section
PLSC 350	American Foreign Policy	Dr. Stephen Long	1 section (online)

Honors Program – See <http://polisci.richmond.edu/major-minor/honors.html> for more details.

Post-graduate Opportunities - Dr. Richard Dagger 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 2017 COURSES

Note: For the exact times and locations of classes, see the Schedule of Classes for the Fall Semester 2017.

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

McGowen, Palazzolo

We are living in the midst of serious challenges to our democracy. We are working out what it means to be an American. Are there guiding principles to which we must adhere despite fears of terrorism and the breaching of our borders? How do current policies clash with the Bill of Rights? Are we able to stay true to the ideals on which the nation was founded? From the “Ninety-nine Percent” to “BlackLivesMatter”, the United States is in the midst of a transformation. This transformation could determine how the nation responds to external threats and the demands of allies. In this class, current events drive discussions on political institutions and processes. We will address the role of interest groups, movements, media, and advocacy groups. At the end of the semester, you will have a foundation for higher level courses that address these issues. (PLSC 220 is a pre-requisite for 300-level American government courses.)

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Pribble, Staff

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, Staff

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**Roof**

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**

PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY**Sznajder Lee**

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.

PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL**Ritter, Patterson**

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.

PLSC 310: STATESMANSHIP**McDowell**

Focus on statesmanship through historical and biographical case studies of such figures as the American founders, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston Churchill. Also will seek to understand ways in which constitutional, legal, and political institutions can encourage, thwart, or direct leadership on a grand political scale. Primary focus historical. (Same as Leadership 378.)

PLSC 312: MODERN POLITICAL THEORY**Staff**

Ideas of major political philosophers from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, such as Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Hegel, Marx, Tocqueville, and J. S. Mill.

PLSC 326: U.S. CONGRESS**Palazzolo**

Organization and functions of American Congress. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 331: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**Bowie**

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 260 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 346: HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS**Joireman**

Addresses the changing international legal framework regarding humanitarian interventions. Surveys the literature addressing the effectiveness of external Interventions. Discussion of the justifications and consequences of intervention. Application to contemporary conflicts. Reviews changing ideas of sovereignty and the ramifications of state decisions to intervene in the internal affairs of other states. Prerequisites: PLSC 240 or 250 or IS 290 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 346: POLITICS OF CULTURAL PLURALISM**Kandeh**

Comparative examination of politicization of race, ethnicity, religion, and caste in contemporary world. Prerequisites: PLSC 220, 240, or 250 or IS 290 or permission of instructor.

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 356: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**Joireman**

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 361: POLITICS OF SOCIAL WELFARE**Erkulwater**

Study of the development and effectiveness of programs in the United States that seek to promote economic equality and alleviate need. A focus on programs for both the poor and the middle class. Fall 2017 topics will be: the welfare backlash against immigrants, the demise white working class, inequality and higher education, and middle-class economic insecurity. Prerequisites: PLSC 220, 260, or SOC 101 or permission of instructor.

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 Administrative Coordinator. 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 2017**PLSC 400-01: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR IN AMERICAN POLITICS****McGowen**

This senior seminar will build upon your previous substantive and methodological coursework and culminate in the execution of an original quantitative empirical data analysis project using a public opinion survey of your choice. At the end of the course, students will have completed an academic research paper, including original literature review, research design, and data analysis, complete with graphical and tabular presentation. In addition, students will learn how to use the R statistical package (coveted by many prospective employers) and conduct advanced statistical techniques common in the field. Readings will give a broad survey of the methods and canonical questions so students can produce a project that will advance our body of knowledge. Emphasis will be placed on political behavior in American Politics; however, the exact subject matter or particular quantitative survey for analysis will be open to the student.

PLSC 400-02: UNDERSTANDING WAR**Long**

PLSC 400: 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 2018 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 **Sznajder Lee, Staff**

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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 325: AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES**Roof**

Examines American political parties as organizations and their role in elections, government, and public policy. Also explores how parties have changed over time and the causes and effects of growing party polarization. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 OR 260.

PLSC 337: AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM**Bowie**

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. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 OR 260 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 344: EUROPE TODAY**Sznajder Lee**

An examination of political, social, and economic developments in Europe (both western and east-central) since World War II. Topics include European integration and the development of the European Union institutions, post-communist transitions and their consequences, and the domestic politics of selected European states. Prerequisites: PLSC 240 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 347: POLITICS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS**Kandeh**

Comparative analysis of political, social, and economic development or modernization of nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Topics include influence of ideology, revolution and reform, national integration, neo-imperialism and dependency, and economic growth and equality. Prerequisites: PLSC 240 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 350: EUROPE TODAY**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. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or 250 or permission of instructor.

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 379: SELECTED TOPICS**Pribble****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 2018

PLSC 400-01: 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. 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 400-02: CHALLENGES TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

Erkulwater

Americans have long prided themselves on living in a country in which anything is possible. First coined by historian James Truslow Adams in 1931, the phrase "the American Dream" captures the sense of promise that characterized a nation that supposedly lacked the rigid class boundaries of Europe and beckoned to immigrants in search of a better life. Yet today that vision of America is vigorously contested, as Americans not only harbor grave doubts about whether attaining the American Dream is possible, but also argue bitterly about what that dream is and to whom it belongs. This seminar focuses on political, economic, and social transformations that have stressed the social welfare policies designed to promote upward mobility and economic security. Students will learn the political science literature on the post war liberal welfare state in the United States, and complete a thesis that contributes to this ongoing scholarly conversation.