INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS
FALL 2021

Please read carefully before meeting with your advisor.

Meeting with New and Current Political Science Majors – This semester, due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be holding our annual Majors Meeting in person; the meeting will take place over Zoom with the link distributed by email. You will find all of the PLSC courses offered for Fall 2021 here, including descriptions of senior seminars.

Advising – Begin by making an appointment with your major advisor. Pre-registration advising begins – Wednesday, March 31st. Your advisor will indicate on BannerWeb that you are eligible to register AFTER you have met with him/her; without this notice, you will not be able to register for classes online. The registration rotation is available at: https://registrar.richmond.edu/registration/undergraduate/rotation.html. If you have registration-specific questions, please contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@richmond.edu.

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<th>FALL 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>Priority: M Apr 12-F Apr 23</td>
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<td>(Spring 2021 for</td>
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<td>Extended: M Apr 26-F Jun 4; 9 a.m. July 12-3 p.m. July 22</td>
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<td>Continuing Students</td>
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<td>M-F Jun 7-25</td>
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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 specific requirements 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
- PLSC 270 – Social Science Inquiry
- One unit of the following –
  - PLSC 311 - Classical Political Thought
  - PLSC 312 - Modern Political Theory
  - PLSC 315 - American Political Theory
- 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. The student and academic supervisor must fill out a contract form available at the department or [http://polisci.richmond.edu/research/index.html](http://polisci.richmond.edu/research/index.html) or at [http://polisci.richmond.edu/internships/index.html](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 the student needs for registration in these classes.

Summer School – Please see: [https://spcs.richmond.edu/classes/summer/admissions-enrollment/index.html](https://spcs.richmond.edu/classes/summer/admissions-enrollment/index.html) for more details.

### 2021 PLSC Summer School Available Courses

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<tr>
<th>Subj</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Date (MM/DD)</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>INTRO TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>Anthony Sparacino (P)</td>
<td>05/17-06/19</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>INTRO TO INTERNATIONAL RELATNS</td>
<td>Stephen Long (P)</td>
<td>05/17-06/19</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>POLITICS OF AFRICA</td>
<td>Jimmy Kandeh (P)</td>
<td>05/17-06/19</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY</td>
<td>Stephen Long (P)</td>
<td>05/17-06/19</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>205U</td>
<td>INTRO TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>Anthony Sparacino (P)</td>
<td>06/21-07/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>INTRO TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>Anthony Sparacino (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>INTRO TO INTERNATIONAL RELATNS</td>
<td>Stephen Long (P)</td>
<td>06/21-07/24</td>
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<td>PLSC</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY</td>
<td>Kevin Cherry (P)</td>
<td>06/21-07/24</td>
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<td>PLSC</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>POLITICS OF CULTURAL PLURALISM</td>
<td>Jimmy Kandeh (P)</td>
<td>06/21-07/24</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>POLITICS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS</td>
<td>Jimmy Kandeh (P)</td>
<td>06/21-07/24</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
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Senior Seminars - Political Science 400 – (Seminar Descriptions begin on page 6) Senior seminars are required for all rising seniors who are not enrolled in the Honors Program (PLSC 492). Typically, over the course of the year we offer seminars in a variety of political specialties. Four sections will be available, two in the fall and two in the spring.

To select a senior seminar, rising seniors should sign up via this link: [https://forms.gle/4xskMBXC5hL6QrYZ6](https://forms.gle/4xskMBXC5hL6QrYZ6). Please list your top two preferences. Students who do not sign up for a seminar on the link will not be issued an override to add PLSC 400 during pre-registration period.

Requirements for seminars –
- PLSC 270 – Social Science Inquiry
- Must be a declared PLSC Major
- Must sign up for a seminar (see the link above)

Registration –
- After you sign up for a seminar, the Department will issue you an override to register for a seminar during the fall pre-registration period. We make every effort to give students their first choice of seminar, but in some circumstances, this is not possible.
- If you run into any difficulties registering, let Sandra Brockway know at sbrockwa@richmond.edu.
Honors Program – See [http://polisci.richmond.edu/major-minor/honors.html](http://polisci.richmond.edu/major-minor/honors.html) for more details. Please see our honors advisor, Dr. Roof (troof@richmond.edu), if you are interested in enrolling in the Honors program.

Post-graduate Opportunities – The Chair of the Department, Jennifer Erkulwater (jerkulwa@richmond.edu), and your advisor are available to advise students on graduate programs in political science and related fields. See also the bulletins and brochures in the departmental lobby for graduate programs in political science, public administration, public policy, international studies, court management, and urban affairs. For information on other professional opportunities, see also the Political Science Department Bulletin Board. For information about law school and legal careers, see the Pre-Law Advisor, Dr. Jennifer Bowie (jbowie@richmond.edu).

Pi Sigma Alpha – For information about Pi Sigma Alpha, contact Dr. Monti Datta (mdatta@richmond.edu). 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
- Standing as a junior or senior

**FALL 2021 COURSES**

PLSC 220: **INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT** – (Sparacino)
This course introduces students to the structure and functions 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. The course is required of political science majors. (PLSC 220 is a prerequisite for 300-level American government courses.)

PLSC 240: **INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS** – (Sznajder Lee, El Kurd)
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 the 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. (PLSC 240 is a prerequisite for some 300-level courses in comparative politics.) FSSA

PLSC 250: **INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** – (Allarakia)
This course assists 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 that pose problems for world order. (PLSC 250 is a prerequisite for 300-level international relations courses.) FSSA
PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY – (Root)
This course introduces students to some of America’s pressing domestic problems (such as the federal deficit, crime, poverty, and health care), government policies and proposals 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 and law courses.) FSSA

PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY – (McGowen, Datta)
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 270 is required of all Political Science majors.)

PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL – (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 311: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT – (Cherry)
This course examines enduring basic issues in political theory studied through the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and other thinkers from ancient Greece through the Renaissance. (PLSC 311 fulfills the major requirement for political theory.)

PLSC 328: AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES – (Sparacino)
This course 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. PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor required.

PLSC 331: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – (Miller)
This course covers the role of United States Supreme Court in American politics studied through examination of landmark constitutional decisions pertaining to distribution of governmental powers. PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor required.

PLSC 333: CIVIL RIGHTS/LIBERTIES – (Bowie)
This course provides an 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. PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor required.
PLSC 339: JURISPRUDENCE/CONTEMP POLITICS – (Simon)
This course provides an 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.

PLSC 344: EUROPE TODAY – (Sznajder Lee)
This course offers 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. PLSC 240 or permission of instructor required.

PLSC 349: POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – (Pribble)
This course covers the 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.

PLSC 362: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY – (Miller)
This course 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. PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor required. (Same as Environmental Studies 362.)

PLSC 379: ST: CRITICAL RACE THEORY – (Simpson)
Over thirty years ago, an intellectual movement began that had roots in the field of critical legal studies. This movement, Critical Race Theory (CRT), evolved into an expansive field of study that includes analysis from a number of scholars that represent other minority groups. Other disciplines are engaged in the methodological innovations of CRT. CRT advances two central intellectual and political commitments: One is that the liberal legal tradition fails to consider how laws, for example civil rights legislation, reconstitute systemic and institutional racism. The second is that while law is a powerful tool, it has not been able to address structural and institutional racism. Our learning goals are to develop a sophisticated understanding and knowledge of CRT, and to learn how to engage with the concepts and methods to produce independent and original research.

PLSC 379: ST: RACE AND ETHNIC POLITICS – (McGowen)
As swift as has been the racial and ethnic diversification of the United States, the study of the subject in Political Science has evolved at an even more rapid pace. Once dominated by the study of African American relations with whites, racial and ethnic studies have made tremendous strides in our theories and data about Latinos, Asian Americans, and other minority groups. This course will focus on the early theories of race, including the psychological influences of group identity and social construction. It will also examine the current research on the most studied minority groups, African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans with a particular focus on how these groups are similar and different and how that influences what we know about race in America.
UPCOMING SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES – SPRING 2022

PLSC 379: ST: POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST – (El Kurd)
This course will help students understand the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region from a comparative politics and international relations perspective. We will cover the region’s history, including colonialism and the birth of the Arab states, as well as variations in political systems. We will also address such issues as democratic movements including the Arab Spring, international intervention, political Islam, and civil war and conflicts. Students at the end of this course will have a working knowledge of the MENA region, be able to consume the news with the appropriate historical context in mind, and relate current events to political science concepts and theories. As such, the course will rely on working with data, written assignments, and hearing from voices in the region using novels, films, and music.

PLSC 379: ST: POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA – (Chen)
China’s rise and its deep connections with the world have consequential implications for global politics. This course is designed to help students understand and analyze issues in contemporary Chinese politics and to facilitate intellectual and professional pursuits in related areas. Students will learn to approach politics of contemporary China by examining both the politics of authoritarian rule and the policies of the reform era, while attending to the profound implications for social relationships, national identity, popular culture, and morality.

PLSC 379: ST: COMPARATIVE AUTHORITARIANISM – (Allarakia)
The study of authoritarian regimes has until recently been reduced to a discussion over survival and democratization. This narrow lens can often obscure our understanding of the internal dynamics of authoritarian regimes. In this course, we aim to open the black box of authoritarian regimes, examining 1) why and how authoritarian regimes are different from democratic ones, and 2) why and how varieties of authoritarianism regimes and structures exist. The course will survey formal institutions in authoritarian regimes, including ruling institutions (the ruling party, military, and ruling family), the bureaucracy, the courts, and semi-democratic institutions like legislatures. It concludes with an examination of policy making in authoritarian regimes.

SENIOR SEMINARS FALL 2021

PLSC 400: MACHIAVELLI’S POLITICAL THOUGHT – (Cherry)
For some he is a teacher of evil. For others he is the guide to effective democratic political life. As far back as Shakespeare’s reference to the "murderous Machiavel," his name conjures up images of political leaders corrupted by their desire for power, choosing to be feared rather than loved. In this course, we will consider the two major political works of Niccolo Machiavelli and the various ways scholars have interpreted them. Students are expected to write a senior thesis on some aspect of Machiavelli’s political thought, either on its own or in connection with another political theorist (or, perhaps, work of literature or film). Although no prior knowledge of Machiavelli is required, it is helpful to have completed at least one of the department’s 300-level political theory survey courses.
PLSC 400: AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM AND AMERICAN POLITICS – (Roof)
Since its founding, the U.S. has always been perceived as different and exceptional among other Western nations. Scholars of “American exceptionalism” have investigated distinctively American traits and institutions such as the cultural emphasis on both egalitarianism and individualism, the degree of ethnic diversity and regional divisions, the strength of the American economy and the weakness of Socialism, and America’s unique role on the world stage. This class uses the lens of American exceptionalism to explore the evolution of American political values, institutions, and policy. Particular emphasis will be given to the development of the limited American welfare state and the unique operation of our political institutions. Students are expected to write a senior thesis in the area of American public policy, values, or political institutions with the option of including comparative analysis with other comparable countries. It is helpful to have completed some coursework in American government or policy.

SENIOR SEMINARS SPRING 2022

PLSC 400: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR – (McGowan)
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: POPULISM IN EUROPE IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE – (Sznajder Lee)
This course explores the recent rise of populism in Europe and examines it from a comparative perspective. The course will discuss the challenges of defining, operationalizing, and measuring populism and consider populism’s relationship to democracy. We will also survey myriad demand- and supply-side explanations for the rise of populism that consider the role of economic crisis, globalization-related economic change, identity politics, the role of technocracy and the EU, and changes in political party systems. Subsequently, we will examine the means through which populists come to power and analyze the interplay between leadership and social mobilization. We will also consider the role of the media. We will read scholarship that tells us how populist voters are activated and examine the consequences of populist rule. In the last part of the course, we will turn to country case studies to analyze the theoretical insights in finer detail through the lens of specific country cases from Europe and other regions of the world. The seminar serves as a capstone course for the political science major and as such, it requires the completion of a thesis on a question of student’s choice related to the central theme of the course. Even though the course focuses on populism in Europe, it also incorporates developments in the United States, Latin America, Africa and Asia, and papers exploring non-European cases are welcomed. Completion of PLSC 344 Europe Today is helpful but not necessary.