Political Science

PSCI 3301 **Political Theory** (3 semester hours) An examination of perennial issues in political thought through a study of the work and research methods of selected theorists in the history of political thought. (3-0) Y

PSCI 3303 **Civil Liberties** (3 semester hours) An examination of the development of constitutional law in the area of civil liberties. (3-0) T

PSCI 3306 **Political Economy** (3 semester hours) Investigates various conceptual perspectives for understanding the relationship between economic processes and political institutions. Focuses particular attention on the normative and policy debates separating conservative, liberal, and radical schools of thought. (3-0) R

PSCI 3310 **Public Administration** (3 semester hours) Overview of management responsibilities, functions, and activities in government agencies within the framework of political values and organizational dynamics. (Same as PA 3310) (3-0) S

PSCI 3322 **Constitutional Law** (3 semester hours) Students will examine the methods used in legal research, the evolution of the Constitution of the United States, and the role of the Supreme Court of the United States in the development of the American constitutional system. (3-0) Y

PSCI 3323 **American Federalism** (3 semester hours) An examination of how local, state, and national governments share power in such important areas as education, environmental regulation, public finance, welfare, housing and community development, and criminal justice. There will also be discussions of recent innovations, such as judicial supervision and deregulation. (3-0) R

PSCI 3325 **American Public Policy** (3 semester hours) This course examines the making of public policy in the U.S. political system. Students will examine the various public policy models and case studies related to specific policy areas. All students are required to write a policy related term paper to fulfill the University's writing requirement. Prerequisites: GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302 or instructor consent required. (3-0) Y

PSCI 3326 **Politics and Business** (3 semester hours) An investigation of the role played by business in American politics. Particular attention will be focused on the regulatory process and the changing relationship between business and government in it. (3-0) T

PSCI 3327 **American Foreign Policy** (3 semester hours) Examines the way in which policy-making process structures the premises, concepts, and objectives of U.S. policy and the U.S. role in international politics. (3-0) R

PSCI 3328 **International Relations** (3 semester hours) This course explores the power relationships among national actors and organizations. Topics may include origins of the state system, international security, globalization, north-south relations, ecological security, and the implications of world demographic patterns. (3-0) R

PSCI 3333 **Political Behavior** (3 semester hours) This course addresses the questions of why some people vote but others do not, how individuals make political choices, and how people participate in other ways. It examines the behavioral approach to the study of government and politics, the major theories of political behavior, and the effects of long-term changes, socialization processes, media use and political attitudes and institutions. (3-0) Y

PSCI 3340 **Film and Politics** (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of one form of media in shaping political discourse. It examines the role of documentaries, drama, and comedy in shaping, exposing, and reflecting public political sentiments of the day. (3-0) R

PSCI 3350 **Comparative Politics** (3 semester hours) An analysis of political life in different cultural and national settings. Considers different theoretical approaches to comparative politics, and differences and similarities in types of political culture, political participation, political institutions, and citizen well-being and government effectiveness. (3-0) R

PSCI 3351 **Comparative Courts and Law** (3 semester hours) Examines the roles of constitutions and law across a wide range of countries. Relatedly considers theoretical approaches and research methodologies used to advance understanding of the courts. (3-0) R

PSCI 3353 **Law and Gender** (3 semester hours) Examines how legal equality and gender discrimination have been defined, implemented and challenged in both international and U.S. law and policy. We will examine such topics as the development of international norms of women's rights, hurdles in implementing legal norms in the domestic context, and the factors that influence compliance. We will examine both case studies and empirical research, from a U.S. and a comparative perspective. (3-0) R

PSCI 3355 **Legal Reasoning** (3 semester hours) Examines various theories of the philosophy of law and various case studies of the interaction between law and society. Students will develop the critical thinking and methodological skills necessary for success on the LSAT, success in law school and success in the legal profession. Prerequisite: Instructor consent required. (3-0) Y

PSCI 3362 **The American Political Institutions** (3 semester hours) This course examines the constitutional foundations and historical development of the congress, the presidency, the executive, and the courts. Attention will be paid to both the interactions of these institutions, research methodologies employed in examining these institutions, and the internal workings of each. Prerequisites: GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302 or instructor consent required. (3-0) Y

PSCI 3364 **Campaigns and Elections** (3 semester hours) An examination of the electoral process and the changing role that political parties have played in the development of American political institutions and public policy. (3-0) T

PSCI 4305 **Political Research** (3 semester hours) Introduces students to how to develop and answer interesting questions about citizenship, governance, and politics. Covers basic research skills and their application to real world political questions and problems. Course is recommended for students pursuing independent study or theses in the political and social sciences, or those considering law and professional programs. Prerequisite: EPPS 3405 or equivalent. (3-0) Y

PSCI 4307 **Predicting Politics** (3 semester hours) This course covers how social scientists understand and predict political events. We will examine how to predict and explain events like riots, civil wars, intra- and inter-state conflict, terrorism, and elections. There is a growing need in the policy, human rights, and foreign policy communities for these types of forecasts for early warning systems, humanitarian aid allocation, human rights monitoring, foreign policy decision-making, and conflict mediation. The course focuses on understanding, applying, evaluating, and validating commonly used prediction methods of political events. All students are required to complete assignments that fulfill the University's writing requirement. Prerequisite: EPPS 3405. (3-0) T

PSCI 4311 **The Political Economy of Modern Texas** (3 semester hours) This course offers an advanced analysis of the political and economic trends that shape modern Texas. Students will explore the roots of the current political and economic framework in addition to the contemporary challenges that the state confronts by examining academic works and interacting with state policymakers. Instructor consent required. (3-0) Y

PSCI 4312 **Politics of East Asia** (3 semester hours) This course examines and compares the politics of East Asian nations in their political institutions, actors and issues. Students will study extensively the history, political geography, political economy, development and democratization of the countries in the region. (3-0) R

PSCI 4313 **Politics of China** (3 semester hours) This course focuses on China's political history, the three political systems of modern China and how it is connected with the world, in particular the United States. Students will study China's political and economic development, its role in the global economy and the potential for a new world order. The course addresses special issues, especially the democratization of Greater China including Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao and China's own democratic experiments in local village elections. (3-0) R

PSCI 4314 **Political Economy of East Asia** (3 semester hours) This course examines the political economy of East Asia with primary focus on China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. Students will study the region's development models, institutions and international organizations and analyze the rapid growth of its economy and political influence. (3-0) R

PSCI 4321 **Media and Politics** (3 semester hours) This course will give students a background in the development of the press as a political institution and the logistics of news-making and coverage. We will examine the theoretical and actual roles played by the press in public affairs to develop understanding of current and persistent problems of press performance, such as bias, independence, manipulation by government and special interests, and the quest for profits at the expense of public service. (3-0) R

PSCI 4326 **Political Parties and Interest Groups** (3 semester hours) Studies the development and organization of political parties and interest groups, and their activities in campaigns and policy making and implementation, in the United States. Political and legal issues in the regulation of nominating processes, campaign finance, lobbying, redistricting, and related areas are addressed. (3-0) R

PSCI 4329 **Global Politics** (3 semester hours) This course will introduce students to the study of global politics. It will explore the teachings from comparative politics and international relations in examining changing global relationships and power structures, and the research methodologies used in this analysis. (3-0) Y

PSCI 4330 **The Bible and Politics** (3 semester hours) An investigation of the Bible as a political text. Includes discussion of the political context and themes of the Bible and analysis of political theories based upon biblical perspectives. (3-0) R

PSCI 4331 **Mexican Politics** (3 semester hours) This course explores the changing face of the Mexican political economy. Topics will include the evolution and decline of the PRI, the revolt in Chiapas, NAFTA, Mexico's role in Latin America, and the changing nature of its relations with the U.S. (3-0) T

PSCI 4332 **Latin American Politics** (3 semester hours) After a brief review of the region's history from conquest and independence up to the 20th century, the course will include discussions of current issues confronting the region. These issues may include U.S./Latin American relations including NAFTA, demographic changes, religion, guerilla groups, revolution, and the transition from authoritarianism to democracy. (3-0) T

PSCI 4341 **Politics of the Judicial Process** (3 semester hours) The study of judicial decision making, the political impact of court decisions, and the role of lawyers and judges at the local, regional, and national levels. (3-0) T

PSCI 4342 **Legislative Decision Making** (3 semester hours) This course examines the politics of the Texas Legislature in detail. It is offered only during legislative sessions and uses the session as a backdrop to examine policy making and politics in this branch of state government. Instructor consent required. (3-0) T

PSCI 4343 **Congress and Public Policy** (3 semester hours) This course explores the history and development of both the place of Congress in the Constitutional order and the internal structures and behaviors of the legislative process. Topics include congressional-presidential relations, elections, representation, committees, parties and leadership, collective action and coalition building, and Congress' capacity to deliberate and make public policy "in the public interest." (3-0) T

PSCI 4344 **Race and Redistricting** (3 semester hours) Examines the politics and process of redrawing congressional and state legislative district lines, notably how this process is influenced by politics as well as by important principles and laws. Reviews the history of redistricting in the U.S. House of Representatives and considers recent redistricting and the role of race in this process. (3-0) R

PSCI 4345 **Negotiation and Conflict Resolution** (3 semester hours) This course will introduce students to the theory and practice of negotiations in the public sector. Students analyze the parties, issues, and strategies in negotiations and will take part in many negotiation simulations to develop their skills in issues identification and problem resolution. The course will begin with the study of two-party negotiations and progress to multi-party, multi-issue negotiations. (Same as PA 4345) (3-0) T

PSCI 4346 **War and Peace** (3 semester hours) This course examines the processes of conflict resolution and peacemaking in the modern world by analyzing emerging trends and patterns in global conflict, and the prospects for peace in an evolving world order. The course will consider the roles of the individual; social movements and institutions; culture and values; and state, regional and international institutions in making war and peace. In addition, it will examine the causes and prevention of war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, and security issues. (3-0) T

PSCI 4347 **The War on Drugs** (3 semester hours) This course examines the war on drugs within the context of democratic stability. Alternative state responses to the drug trade will be covered, with attention to the consequences of those policies on democratic stability. Substantively, we will deal with these questions within the context of individual democracies in Latin America and in other regions. (3-0) T

PSCI 4348 **Terrorism** (3 semester hours) This course, focusing on cases of domestic terrorism, examines terrorism within the context of democratic stability. Alternative state responses to these crises will also be covered, with attention to the consequences of those policies on democratic stability. Substantively, we will deal with these questions within the context of individual democracies in Latin America and in other regions of the world. (3-0) T

PSCI 4349 **The Politics of the Bureaucratic Process** (3 semester hours) This course analyzes the role of administrative agencies in democratic policy making. Discusses the internal, procedural determinants of policy decision making as well as the interactions between administrative agencies and other branches of government. Topics may include the development of the contemporary administrative state, administrative rule making, and control of administrative processes by Congress, the president, and the Judiciary. (3-0) R

PSCI 4352 **Modern Individualism** (3 semester hours) An investigation of the development and criticism of the modern concept of the individual in political philosophy. Among the issues to be considered are the relationship between the mind and the body in the individual, the nature of reason, passions, and instincts, the origins of morality and justice, the nature of political obligation, and the relationship between the individual and society. Prerequisite: Instructor consent required. (3-0) T

PSCI 4354 **Contemporary Political Thought** (3 semester hours) Investigates the moral and political controversies shaping contemporary political thought. Considers such issues as legitimacy, justice, distribution, and representation. (3-0) R

PSCI 4356 **International Political Economy** (3 semester hours) Focuses on the interaction of global politics and economics, including international trade, the underpinnings of international currency exchange, multinational corporations, globalization, and other topics. Prerequisite: PSCI 3328 or PSCI 4329 or undergraduate coursework in international economics. (3-0) R

PSCI 4357 **Human Rights and the Rule of the Law** (3 semester hours) This course focuses on the development of norms involving international human rights and law as well as major and competing theories that sometimes weigh against the development of universal human rights. Also examines the effectiveness of the courts and law, including international courts and truth commissions, in the area of human rights. (3-0) R

PSCI 4359 **Globalization and International Conflict** (3 semester hours) An examination of how recent trends in globalization affect the use of force in international relations, with particular emphasis on whether globalization makes war less likely. The course examines how the calculus of war is affected by economic interdependence, social and cultural integration, environmental pressures, demographic shifts, non-state actors, democratization, and attempts at global governance. Concludes with case studies of recent conflicts. (3-0) T

PSCI 4360 **The Political Economy of Multinational Corporations** (3 semester hours) In addition to the historical rise of international firms, the course covers the economic theory of the firm, MNCs as political actors, the dynamics of foreign direct investment, and the relationship of MNCs to developing countries. The aim of the course is to understand the causes and effects of the behavior of transnational corporations, particularly in regard to economic policy. All students are required to complete assignments that fulfill the University's writing requirement. (3-0) T

PSCI 4364 **Civil Rights Law and Society** (3 semester hours) Examines the development of civil rights law, and how social ideologies are reflected and reproduced in race and sex discrimination law. Explores how power is exercised through law, and how legal change is pursued as a strategy for social reform. Topics include antislavery and the judicial process, the Reconstruction Amendments, the role of the Supreme Court in U.S. society, school segregation cases, and hate speech. (3-0) Y

PSCI 4365 **Law and Medicine** (3 semester hours) Examines the relationship between law and medical ethics. Emphasis is placed on court cases involving reproductive privacy, wrongful life, informed consent, the right to treatment, and the right to refuse treatment. (3-0) T

PSCI 4368 **Leadership** (3 semester hours) This course examines the topic of political leadership. Students examine traditional and contemporary theories of political leadership and interact with current political leaders through seminar discussions. Instructor consent required. (3-0) T

PSCI 4370 **Policy Making Process** (3 semester hours) A multidisciplinary exploration of the history, ideas, and institutions that set the stage for politics. This course is part of the Archer Program and is restricted to Archer Fellows. Prerequisite: Permission of Director of Archer Program required. (3-0) R

PSCI 4372 **Advocacy in Applied Settings** (3 semester hours) This is a course on communication and advocacy. Students examine how people make cases for their needs in organizations, especially governmental and political ones. This course is part of the Archer Program and is restricted to Archer Fellows. Prerequisite: Permission of Director of Archer Program required. (3-0) R

PSCI 4373 **Beyond Congress and White House** (3 semester hours) This course explores the sources and use of power in Washington. It focuses attention upon such issues as the constitutional and technological limits to power, power and the media, and the struggle for control over national memory and language. This course is part of the Archer Program and is restricted to Archer Fellows. Prerequisite: Permission of Director of Archer Program required. (3-0) R

PSCI 4396 **Selected Topics in Government and Politics** (3 semester hours) Subject will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) R

PSCI 4v66 **Mock Trial** (1-6 semester hours) Examines a hypothetical case. Students will learn the Rules of Evidence and will simulate an actual trial with attorneys and witnesses. Students compete with Mock Trial teams from other universities at regional and national tournaments. Instructor consent required. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). (3-0) Y

PSCI 4v67 **Moot Court** (1-6 semester hours) Course examines a hypothetical case which contains two constitutional issues. Based on approximately 20 actual precedents, students are expected to prepare arguments supporting both the petitioner and respondents on each constitutional issue. Students compete in tournaments against advocates from other universities. Instructor consent required. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). (3-0) S

PSCI 4v76 **Archer Center Washington Internship** (3-6 semester hours) This course is part of the Archer Program and is restricted to Archer Fellows. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Permission of Director of Archer Program required. ([3-6]-0) R

PSCI 4v97 **Independent Study in Government and Politics** (1-6 semester hours) Independent study under a faculty member's direction. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). Instructor consent required. ([1-6]-0) S

PSCI 4v98 **Internship** (1-6 semester hours) May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). Instructor consent required. This course can only be taken credit/no credit. ([1-6]-0) S

PSCI 4v99 **Senior Honors in Government and Politics** (1-6 semester hours) For students conducting independent research for honors theses or projects. Instructor consent required. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) S

Updated: April 6, 2014 - Visitor: 3342