POLITICAL SCIENCE - PSC

PSC 103 The American Constitution 3 Credits
Provides a thorough grounding in the U.S. Constitution, which is America’s founding document, and serves as the basis for its governmental system.
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)
Offered: fall & spring.

PSC 104 American Political Process 3 Credits
An introduction to American politics including political socialization, public opinion and ideologies, political participation in electoral systems and mass movements, political parties and interest groups.
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)
Offered: fall & spring.

PSC 111 Western Political Tradition 3 Credits
Development of Western political tradition from Machiavelli to present, emphasizing development of liberal, conservative and socialist traditions.
Fulfills College Core: Field 4 (History), Justice
Offered: fall & spring.

PSC 140 International Relations 3 Credits
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Global Awareness
Offered: fall & spring.

PSC 150 Comparative Government and Politics 3 Credits
Comparative analysis of foreign countries. Governments, ideologies, parties, elections, political culture, civil society and democracy in industrialized and developing countries.
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Global Awareness
Offered: fall & spring.

PSC 214 United States Government 3 Credits
Description of the central government, the courts, the executive branch, the legislative branch, party politics, and cultural and economic issues within the United States.
Offered: every fall.

PSC 215 National Issues and Public Policy 3 Credits
Selected policy issues and their relationship to the political process including health care, homeland security, welfare and housing.
Offered: fall of even-numbered years.

PSC 217 Research Methods 3 Credits
Basic, non-statistical treatment of current techniques and methodologies which characterize political science research.
Offered: every spring.

PSC 224 Congress and the Legislative Process 3 Credits
Survey of Congressional procedures and practices. Emphasis on recent changes within Congress, and the position of Congress in the U.S. political and governmental system.
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Oral Communication
Offered: fall of even-numbered years.

PSC 225 U.S. Presidency 3 Credits
Survey of the U.S. executive branch of government, including President, Vice President, White House staff, Executive office and the bureaucracy.
Offered: fall of odd-numbered years.

PSC 233 Interest Groups and Public Opinion in America 3 Credits
Development of the notions of opinion and interest, their transmission and their influence on decision-making.
Offered: spring of odd-numbered years.

PSC 236 Political Campaigning 3 Credits
Campaigning resources, techniques, strategies and goals. Practical and theoretical treatment. Field research.
Offered: fall of odd-numbered years.

PSC 237 State and Local Politics 3 Credits
The institutions and policies of state and local governments, with focus on New York State. State and local elections, gubernatorial politics, state legislatures, community politics.
Offered: fall of odd-numbered years.

PSC 241 Human Rights and Globalization 3 Credits
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Global Awareness
Offered: every fall.

PSC 242 International Organizations 3 Credits
International and transnational. Intergovernmental and non-governmental. Regional and global. Content areas: political, economic and humanitarian.
Fulfills College Core: Advanced Writing-Intensive, Field 5 (Social Sciences), Global Awareness
Offered: fall of odd-numbered years.

PSC 244 War: Causes and Consequences 3 Credits
Investigates the conditions, processes, and events that lead to the outbreak of war, and explores the political, strategic, and human consequences of wars. In-depth analysis of selected wars in history and in contemporary global politics.
Offered: spring of odd-numbered years.

PSC 245 American Foreign Policy 3 Credits
US foreign relations in political perspective, including diplomatic history since 1945, as well as government structure, decision-making processes, and controversial foreign policy issues.
Offered: every fall.

PSC 249 Protest, Politics, & the State 3 Credits
Examines contentious politics in global perspective, with a focus on nonviolent protest and social movements. Foreign, domestic, and transnational protests and their relationship with the state (U.S. and many others).
Offered: spring of even-numbered years.

PSC 250 Politics in Latin America 3 Credits
History of Latin America. Introduces the region's political, economic, and social characteristics. In-depth analysis of issues and countries in the region.
Offered: every spring.

PSC 252 American Constitutional Law I 3 Credits
Development of constitutional law in the U.S. from the founding to present. Use of case-study method with focus on judicial review, the separation of powers and federalism. The growth of executive authority and the emergence of the administrative state.
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Justice
Offered: every fall.

PSC 253 American Constitutional Law II 3 Credits
The historical origin and development of the Bill of Rights. Close examination of Supreme Court decisions interpreting and expanding rights. Freedom of speech and religion, due process and equal protection. Current controversies over the right to privacy, affirmative action and gender equality.
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Justice
Offered: spring of even-numbered years.

PSC 255 Elections and Voting Behavior 3 Credits
The various types of elections and electoral procedures and their relationship to voter turnout and voter choice.
Offered: spring of even-numbered years.
PSC 334 Public Administration  

Prerequisite: PSC 103 or PSC 104 or permission of instructor.  
Offered: every spring.

PSC 335 Political Parties  

Development and present conditions of political parties. What they do and why they do it. Parties’ past and present roles, as well as their future prospects.  
Offered: occasionally, currently scheduled for spring 2018.

PSC 336 Urban Government and Politics  

Structure, function, operation and politics of local government. Machine and reform models, power and participation. Significant policy issues to be addressed include schools, finances, land use, planning and crime.  
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)  
Offered: fall of even-numbered years.

PSC 345 Transnational Crime After 9/11  

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Global Awareness  
Offered: spring of even-numbered years.

PSC 346 National Security Council  

Role-play simulation of the National Security Council. Student “policymakers” conduct briefings, develop initiatives and debate policy positions and proposals concerning U.S. national security. Emphasizes strategic, ethical and moral dilemmas in foreign policy decision-making.  
Prerequisite: PSC 140 and PSC 245. Juniors and Seniors only. Students must also complete a brief survey by May 1 or they will be dropped from the course.

PSC 355 European Union  

History of European integration. Structure, process and politics of EU policies. Optional co-curricular international, intercollegiate simulation of the EU and travel (EuroSim).  
Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Global Awareness, Oral Communication.  
Offered: fall of odd-numbered years.

PSC 360 Political Economy of the Developing World  

Reviews the main theories on development. Explores the relationship between international and domestic factor in fostering development.  
Offered: every spring.

PSC 370 Domestic Conflicts & Peace  

Examines the factors that account for domestic conflicts. Explores the different mechanisms for their resolution and the challenges faced by post-conflict societies.  
Fulfills College Core: Advanced Writing-Intensive, Field 5 (Social Sciences)  
Offered: fall of even numbered years.

PSC 401 Political Science Capstone  

Focuses on professional development and career planning related to the major, including law, government, politics, lobbying, security, international affairs, teaching, and business. Classroom sessions and online assignments to prepare students for post-graduate success. Offered with cooperation of career planning experts in the GriffCenter.  
Offered: every fall.

PSC 420 The Constitution, The War on Terror and Civil Liberties  

Civil liberties issues in the war on terrorism. Treatment and rights of detainees, enhanced interrogation, ethnic and racial profiling, use of the war power including drone strikes, data collection, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; U.S. citizens as enemy combatants. Military detention and trial of terrorist suspects.  
Offered: spring of odd-numbered years.

PSC 436 Seminar in Presidential Campaigning and Advance Work  

Political advance work in the context of contemporary American presidential campaigns.  
Prerequisite: permission of instructor.  
Offered: occasionally, currently scheduled for fall of 2019.

PSC 442 Seminar in International Relations  

Theoretically informed perspectives on global affairs explored through selected topics and issues unified by a central theme, such as leaders and leadership in international politics.  
Prerequisite: senior International Relations major, or permission of instructor. Restriction: must be an International Relations major or obtain permission of instructor.  
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone  
Offered: every spring.

PSC 452 Politics of Identity in Europe  

Restriction: seniors only.  
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone  
Offered: spring of odd-numbered years.

PSC 498 Internship  

A variety of opportunities are available locally, as well as in Washington, DC and Albany. Internships arranged by faculty members in government, law offices and non-profit organizations. Prior to seeking approval, a student must work with a faculty member to develop a syllabus of learning goals, written outputs and deadlines. Pass-Fail. Does not apply as a major elective.  
Prerequisite: permission of chair of the political science department & associate dean.  
Offered: fall & spring.

PSC 499 Independent Study  

Research and/or directed reading under direction of faculty members associated with the Political Science department. Prior to seeking approval, a student must work with a faculty member and his/her on-site supervisor to develop a syllabus of learning goals, written outputs and deadlines. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.  
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.  
Offered: fall & spring.