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LaGrange College

Course Catalog - Political Science

B.A. in Political Science - B.A. in Political Science

Type:Major

In addition to the general education requirements, students completing the B.A. degree in Political Science must also complete the following program of study.

Students must take fifteen (15) semester hours, consisting of

[POLS 1101](#) U.S. Government in Global Perspective

or

[POLS 1102](#) Introduction to Political Science

(If both [1101](#) and [1102](#) taken, one can count towards a major elective)

[POLS 2210](#) Comparative Politics in Global Perspective

[POLS 2220](#) International Relations: States in the Global System

[POLS 3300](#) Research Methods in Political Science

[POLS 4430](#) Senior Seminar in Political Science

Students majoring in Political Science must also complete an additional 18 semester hours of elective courses chosen from among the three- and four-thousand-level courses listed for the program in this Bulletin (for a total of 33 semester hours).

At least one (1) of these additional elective courses must be in the field of American politics and public policy ([POLS 3310](#), [3311](#), [3312](#), [3313](#), [3314](#), or [3315](#)) and one (1) in the fields of international relations ([POLS 3320](#), [3321](#), [3322](#), [3323](#)) or comparative politics ([POLS 3350](#), [3351](#), [3352](#), [3353](#)).

Political Science internships ([POLS 4400](#)) can earn up to a full semester (12 hours) of credit toward graduation, but usually only three (3) hours will be credited toward completion of the major. This limit can be waived by the program's faculty under special circumstances. Completing the full semester program in the Capitol Hill Internship Program can be substituted for the required completion of [POLS 4430](#) with approval of the program's faculty.

Recommended Progression

Students who are interested in the B.A. in Political Science can review a [four-year course plan](#).

Minor in Political Science - Minor in Political Science

Type:Minor

Required sequence for the minor program in Political Science (POLS):

Nine (9) semester hours, consisting of

[POLS 1101](#) U.S. Government in Global Perspective

or

[POLS 1102](#) Introduction to Political Science

[POLS 2210](#) Comparative Politics in Global Perspective

[POLS 2220](#) International Politics: States in the Global System

Students minoring in Political Science must also complete an additional six (6) semester hours of elective courses chosen from among the three- and four-thousand-level

courses listed for the program in this Bulletin (for a total of 15 semester hours). In the minor course of study, political science internships cannot substitute for elective course credit.

POLS 1101 - United States Government in Global Perspective

An introduction to political science through an analysis of the political system of the United States. Topics considered include basic concepts of political science, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, basic governmental institutions, elections and public opinion, political parties and groups, and domestic and foreign public policy.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 1102 - Introduction to Political Science

An introductory course that focuses on the nature of the discipline of political science and deals with the way political scientists study politics through an overview of the major topics of the discipline.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 1113 - Introduction to Law

Introduction to Law, which would be offered alongside POLS 3313 American Judicial Institutions, is a course for Political Science majors. It would explain for students a number of basics, from the differences between civil and criminal trials, similarities and differences between state and national courts, selection of judicial nominees, structures of courts, the appellate court system, and an overview of the legal profession. We will also look at an overview of the Supreme Court history, landmark decisions, and judicial philosophies from John Marshall to the 2000s.

Grade Basis: L

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 2210 - Comparative Politics in Global Perspective

An introduction to comparative analysis of political systems. Topics considered include basic concepts of comparative theory, modern political history in developed and developing areas, the interaction of political and economic factors in developed and developing areas, politics and state institutions in selected countries, and comparative aspects of domestic and foreign public policy.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 2220 - International Politics: States in the Global System

An introduction to the interaction of nation-states in the global system. Topics considered include war and power, economic and social interdependence, and problems specifically associated with developing nations.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 2320 - Seminar on Ecological Sustainability and Policy

A survey of sustainability as a political, economic and socio-cultural part of our lives. The course is divided into three (3) major segments. First, it assays how our lives are conducted and considers the ecological cycles and processes that make life possible. Second, it examines the ground solutions to the issue of a sustainable lifestyle and attempts to implement this goal. Finally, it surveys the arena of ecological politics in order to engage the issue of how can we achieve this as a society.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3300 - Research Methods in Political Science

A study of basic social science research methods as applied in political science. Topics considered include research design and data collection, measurement and causality, fitting models to data with various methods, graphic analysis, and the use of statistical software.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3310 - State and Local Government

A study of state and local government in the United States. Topics considered include the political cultures and social environments of American states and communities, political processes in states and communities, the structure of state and local political institutions, and policy issues facing states and communities.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3311 - Congress and the Presidency

A study of the institutional interactions of the executive and legislative branches of the United States government. Topics considered include the President and policymaking, Congress and policymaking, institutional constraints on executive and legislative policymaking, foreign policy, civil rights policy, economic policy and budgeting, and social welfare policy.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3312 - Public Administration and Public Policy

An introduction to the study of public administration and public policy. Topics considered include theoretical approaches to the study of public administration; the historical and constitutional basis for public administration in the United States; the organization and management of public institutions; the social, political, and legal environments of public institutions; the role of political processes in public administration; the analysis and evaluation of public policy; and the ethical basis of public administration.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3313 - American Judicial Institutions

A study of judicial institutions in the United States. Topics considered include the functions of legal and judicial institutions, the structure and powers of national and state court systems, the legal profession, judicial selection, judicial procedure, court administration, and policy formation by judicial institutions.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3314 - American Constitutional Law: Institutions

An introduction to the study of constitutional law as it applies to government institutions in the United States. Topics considered include basic concepts of constitutional analysis, historical development of present legal institutions and regimes, judicial policy decisions in different areas of law, and the social, political, and economic factors affecting those decisions.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3316 - American Constitutional Law: Individuals

An introduction to the constitutional rights accorded American citizens. Topics considered include basic concepts of constitutional analysis; historical development of present legal interpretations and regimes; judicial decisions in different areas of law; the social, political, and economic factors affecting those decisions; and their effect on governing in the United States.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3320 - Analysis of Foreign Policy

An introduction to how structures, institutions, outside actors, and political culture produce American foreign policy. Topics covered include recent history of U.S. foreign relations; the roles played by both the President and the Congress; the roles, functions and structures of U.S. State Department, the Defense Department, intelligence agencies, and the National Security Council; the policy making process and the measurement of outcomes; roles played by the public, interest groups, and other actors. Current major foreign policy issues will be discussed and examined as case studies.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3321 - International Political Economy

A study of international economics and trade through the analysis of the factors influencing past and present changes. Topics covered include current and past international finance systems and mechanisms of exchange; the role of the state and other actors; an examination of comparative advantage; various strategies states employ, such as import substitution or export promotion; the nature and impact of formal and informal barriers to trade; the GATT and WTO; the problems, failures, successes, and prospects of the international economic system; and its impact on domestic politics.

Grade Basis: AL
Credit hours: 3.0
Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3322 - International Organizations

A study of the current international system. Topics covered include the nature of “systems”; the recent history of global affairs and the evolution of the international system to its present state; selected theoretical analyses of international systems; the nature, roles, and functions of the various actors in the system; how advances in technology have fundamentally changed the world; and the evolving roles of both states and supranational institutions.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3323 - International Conflict

A study of the conditions that produce war and peace in international relations. Topics considered include an examination of recent conflicts in the international system, theories concerning the potential sources and determinants of war (with an emphasis on the theory of realism and competing theories), and theories of war settlement and potential sources of future interstate tension.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3324 - Terrorism

TBD

Grade Basis: L

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3340 - Themes in Political Philosophy

An introduction to the basic ideas of political philosophy. Topics considered include the social and historical context of political theory; the development of major ideas in political philosophy; critical analysis of theoretical arguments; and the relation of political theory to contemporary politics. This course is also cross-listed as PHIL3420.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3341 - Modern Political Theory

An overview of liberalism, communism, and fascism, the three primary political ideologies that have shaped contemporary history.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3350 - The Politics of Development

A comparative study of the political systems in developing countries. Topics considered include basic comparative political theory, modern history of developing societies, and an overview of theories explaining economic and political change in developing countries.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3351 - States and Politics of Europe and the European Union

A comparative study of the political systems of developed societies. Topics considered include basic comparative theory, modern history of developed societies, political systems of selected states, and the interaction of political and economic factors in developed societies. (This course can be taken for credit toward the European Union Certificate.)

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3352 - States and Politics in Latin America

A comparative study of political systems in Latin America. Topics considered include basic comparative political theory, modern history of Latin American societies, politics of selected Latin American states, and the interaction of economic and political factors in Latin America. This course is also cross-listed as LAST3210.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 3353 - States and Politics in Africa

A comparative study of political systems in Africa. Topics considered include basic comparative political theory, modern history of African societies, politics of selected African states, and the interaction of economic and political factors in Africa.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 4400 - Political Science Internship

A supervised internship opportunity for students to work for approved public or private organizations. Credits may vary.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 1.0

Lecture hours: 1.0

POLS 4410 - Selected Topics in Political Science

This course examines particular issues related to topics in political science selected by program faculty.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 4420 - Directed Study in Political Science

A supervised course of independent study available to selected students. The course provides an opportunity for close cooperation between program faculty and students on research projects and presentations.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 4430 - Senior Seminar in Political Science

A seminar course on a major subject of national or international concern, based on individual research and assigned readings.

Grade Basis: AL

Credit hours: 3.0

Lecture hours: 3.0

POLS 4550 - Internship

(1-6 Hours) An opportunity for students to gain added applied experience and insight in approved off-campus settings. Internships consist of at least 40 working hours per credit hour in areas related to the discipline. Assignments may include selected readings, public presentation, and a final portfolio containing essays, weekly journal, and supporting material. Advisors, program coordinators, department chairs, and the internship coordinator (or designee) must approve the internship before a student begins their work. Internships will be taken as pass/no credit.

Grade Basis: P

Credit hours: 3.0

Lab hours: 3.0

Last updated: 05/21/2022

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