DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science cONTACTS
Sam Nelson, Chair and Undergraduate Adviser, Pre-law Adviser
Renee Heberle, Undergraduate Honors in Political Science
Jami Taylor, Internship Coordinator

Advanced Placement Program
Refer to the University of Toledo’s Registrar page at https://www.utol.edu/offices/registrar/student_records/advan_credits.html for specific information on minimum scores and credits awarded for Advanced Placement examinations administered by the College Board Advanced Placement Program.

Degrees Offered

- B.A. in Political Science (http://utoledo-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/ba-political-science)
- Minor in Political Science (http://utoledo-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/minor-political-science)

PSC 1200 American National Government
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An introductory survey of the institutions, processes and politics of the government of the United States and its relationship to state governments. (not for major credit)
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Core Social Sciences, Trans Mod Social Science

PSC 1710 Current International Problems
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
A course designed to give the student a perspective on world affairs through an examination of some contemporary international problems like war, human rights, democratization, regional politics, and global health and the environment.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Multicultural Non-US Diversity

PSC 1710A Multicultural US Diversity
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Core Social Sciences, Cross Cultural

PSC 2210 Women And Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
An exploration of women and gender relations in US political life. Special attention is paid to differences among women, their socializing experiences, political power bases, and legal status.
Multicultural US Diversity

PSC 2210 Multicultural Non-US Diversity
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Core Social Sciences, Trans Mod Social Science

PSC 2300 Principles Of Comparative Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 3, 0)]
How can we explain the vast array of political systems around the world? This course examines the political systems of various countries and the internal and external factors shaping their political decisions. We will focus on institutional arrangements at the country level and the shaping forces behind their design, as well as on broad global topics affecting national politics
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 2600 Principles of Comparative Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
An examination of the theoretical and methodological foundations of the international system. Through case studies, students will analyze and predict issues of cooperation and competition among states. For example, why does war occur? Why does the international system have particular international institutions rather than others? What best explains a state’s foreign policy?
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 2700 Principles Of International Relations
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course investigates core concepts in the history of political theory such as justice, liberty, and equality. We discuss how and why the influence of certain authors and ideas persists. Contemporary issues are interpreted using these authors and ideas in order to strengthen critical thinking skills and broaden students’ thinking about politics.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 2800 Principles Of Political Theory
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course introduces the student to academic writing and research techniques in the political science discipline. Topics covered include: research ethics, scholarly literature review, peer-review process, research questions and research design, methodological approaches, and data analysis, among others.
Term Offered: Spring

PSC 2900 Principles Of American Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
A study of the political processes and institutions of American state and local governments, with attention given to selected areas of public policy and intergovernmental relations.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer

PSC 2900 Multicultural US Diversity
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Core Social Sciences, Cross Cultural

PSC 2900A Multicultural Non-US Diversity
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Core Social Sciences, Trans Mod Social Science

PSC 3150 Research and Writing in Political Science
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course introduces the student to academic writing and research techniques in the political science discipline. Topics covered include: research ethics, scholarly literature review, peer-review process, research questions and research design, methodological approaches, and data analysis, among others.
Term Offered: Spring

PSC 3200 Political Parties
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Why are political parties central to organizing democracy? This course examines how they set the terms of public debate, mobilize citizens, inform voter preferences, and shape policy.
Term Offered: Spring

PSC 3210 Principles Of Comparative Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
An introduction to international relations and intergovernmental relations.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 3250 Public Opinion
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course explores the role of public opinion in American politics. It also develops data analysis skills and familiarizes students with survey development.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 3270 Campaign and Elections
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Campaigns and elections are vital components of democracy in the United States. In this course, we examine how candidates, parties, and citizens participate in the electoral process. Topics covered throughout the semester include candidate recruitment, voting behavior, advocacy groups, campaign finance, and the impact of new technology on voter mobilization.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall
PSC 3280 Race and American Politics
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This course examines the role that race plays in the development of American politics. The class investigates definitions of race, how they have evolved, and how they continue to influence policy debates. This seminar assesses the impact that different racial groups, and their struggles for equality, have had on American democracy. This course examines the leading theoretical frameworks and empirical findings to analyze the relationship between race and American political development.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
Multicultural US Diversity

PSC 3410 Principles of Public Policy
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course is an introduction to public policy. It is focused on the factors that affect policymaking in the United States.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 3500 Principles Of Law
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
An overview of the politics of law. We examine such questions as the sources and existence of law, the legal process in civil and criminal cases, the nature of rights and the search for justice through participation in the legal system. Addresses specific issues such as plea bargaining and jury trials, personal injury lawsuits, national security and police powers, and the nomination and confirmation of federal judges.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 3510 Constitutional Law I
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Examines the political and institutional role of the U.S. Supreme Court in the development of the American legal system, the separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government, and the relationship between the federal government and the states. The course focuses on the analysis of Supreme Court cases as well as political science and legal scholarship.

Term Offered: Fall

PSC 3520 Constitutional Law and Politics II
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Examines the political and institutional role of the Supreme Court in the development of the U.S. system of civil liberties, the relationship between judicial decisions and state actions affecting rights such as free speech, religion, and privacy, and the underlying theories of civil liberty in a democratic society. The course focuses on the analysis of Supreme Court cases as well as political science and legal scholarship.

Term Offered: Spring

PSC 3600 Fascism and Populism in Comparative Perspective
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
A comparative survey of historical fascist regimes and contemporary populist governance, mainly in Europe and Latin America. Contemporary populist rule is frequently equated with fascism but the differences are significant. In this course we will examine the differences and similarities between the two regime types.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 3690 Peasant Politics
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
The study of political science has become increasingly urban but peasant movements remain a significant political force around the world, particularly in less-developed regions. In this course we will study peasants and their politics worldwide from both a historical and contemporary perspective.

PSC 3730 American Foreign Policy
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
An examination of the American foreign policy-making process as well as an analysis of the major problems facing the United States in its interaction with the international environment.

Prerequisites: (PSC 1200 with a minimum grade of D- or PSC 1300 with a minimum grade of D-) or (PSC 1400 with a minimum grade of D- or PSC 1710 with a minimum grade of D-) or PSC 2700 with a minimum grade of D-

PSC 3800 Sexual Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course critically examines gender, sex and sexuality as identities, practices, and relationships. Through readings in feminist political theory and history, we study state practices, social norms, and historical movements for change to understand why and how various forms of gender, sex and sexuality become normal or are challenged in unexpected ways.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 3820 Contemporary Political Ideas
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Surveys developments and themes in political theory since the early 20th century. Particular issues addressed include bureaucracy, mass society, state and civil violence, and identity politics.

Term Offered: Spring

PSC 3850 Sports, Politics and Policy
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This course explores the intersection of sports with politics and policymaking. Topics covered include sports and nationalism, sports and international diplomacy, globalization and sports, economic development and sport stadiums, baseball and antitrust law, Title IX and women's athletics, college athletics and race, and athletes and political advocacy.

PSC 3990 Independent Study For Honors Students
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Individual reading and research in selected topics for honors students.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
PSC 4220 Advocacy Groups in US Politics
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course investigates the role of advocacy groups in American politics. It develops practical lobbying skills through experiential learning and covers topics such as the role of advocacy groups in campaigns and elections, grass roots mobilization, and agenda setting.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 4230 Presidency
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Presidents enjoy special prominence in the American political system. However, they are strongly influenced by their interactions with other political institutions, such as Congress, courts, the bureaucracy, and political parties. This course examines the presidency’s original design and how the office has developed over time. We also investigate contemporary cases and controversies in presidential power.
Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 4280 U.S. Congress
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Despite its key role in our political system, the U.S. Congress is not well understood by the public. This course examines how it works: the committee system, parties, and arcane legislative procedures. We consider topics like the impact of party polarization on congressional gridlock, the impact of divided government on policymaking, and how to improve representation.
Term Offered: Spring

PSC 4300 Principles of Public Administration
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course provides an overview of public administration. It addresses organization theory, decision making, budgeting, public policy, and the changing role of public institutions. It covers important democratic, professional, ethical and human values that are central to public administration.

PSC 4320 Urban Policy And Administration
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
What does it take to govern a city and its environs? In this course, we examine the balance between the pressing needs of a city and the many economic and political constraints that citizens, leaders, and experts must navigate to achieve their goals.
Term Offered: Fall

PSC 4340 Environmental Policy
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Policy for air and water pollution control, hazardous wastes, nuclear wastes. Examination of EPA, Congressional committees, state and city agencies. Some international issues.
Term Offered: Fall

PSC 4520 The Politics of Development and Underdevelopment
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
This course examines political and economic development through a comparative lens. We focus on developing regions of the world to explore successes, possibilities, outcomes, and setbacks in their path towards achieving "developed" status.

PSC 4530 Civil Rights
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Examines the role of the US Supreme Court, judicial policy-making, and administrative implementation in the development of policies involving race, gender, sexual orientation, and the family. Issues covered include equal protection, voting rights, and affirmative action.
Term Offered: Summer, Fall

PSC 4550 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LAW AND POLITICS
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Examines current controversies in US law and politics drawing on recent research in political theory, constitutional history, and legal doctrine. Includes issues such as freedom of speech, presidential war powers, and religious freedom.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 4580 International Law
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
A course focusing on the foundations of international law and the current use of international law in cases covering a wide range of issues such as war, weapons, diplomacy, the environment, economics, and human rights.

PSC 4590 Law, Policy, And The Politics of Sexuality
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course explores the public policies that affect the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in the United States and in other countries. It examines the factors that affect policymaking in this area.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 4640 The European Union
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An analysis of the evolution, institutional structure, and operation of the European Union. Issue areas include human rights, trade, migration and refugees, international and domestic law, and foreign policy.
Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 4660 Politics of Africa
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An examination of political behavior in selected African states using a case method to examine alternative courses of action available to decision makers.
Term Offered: Fall

PSC 4680 Politics of Latin America
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course provides a survey of the Latin American region, its political transformation, and place in international politics. It covers an array of issues that have shaped and continue to shape the region: its history, its people, institutions and politics, and social and economic issues. Themes are approached both from a regional and country-level perspective.

PSC 4720 International Organization
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
A study of the background, general concepts and problems of international organizations including the United Nations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. Issues covered include war, security, human rights, trade, international law, and global health.
Term Offered: Fall
PSC 4740 International Relations Middle East
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
An examination of political, economic and geographic actors affecting international relations of the Middle East, including the role of the major world and regional powers. Recommended: PSC 1710 or PSC 2700.

PSC 4750 Terrorism in International Relations
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
This course will give students a comparative historical, empirical, and theoretical overview of the causes, strategies, and goals of terrorist and counter-terrorism. The primary focus of the course is on the comparative and international nature of terrorism. Global and regional case studies will be used to better understand issues related to terrorism.

PSC 4770 Human Rights
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
What are human rights? How are human rights created? Why do states protect or repress human rights? This class answers these questions by examining both the theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of human rights from the social sciences and law. In addition, human rights best (and worst) practices are considered.

Term Offered: Spring

PSC 4810 Environmental Justice
[3 credit hours (3, 0, 0)]
Environmental Justice examines the unequal distribution of environmental benefits and burdens among vulnerable communities. This course will examine the challenges and solutions associated with environmental justice, both as a social movement and as a public policy initiative. We will discuss several different policy areas like health, pollution, hazardous waste siting, climate change, food, and natural disasters; and strategies applied by NGOs and interest groups, to understand the patterns of environmental inequality and injustice.

PSC 4900 Politics of Asia
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Asia is the largest of all continents and hosts more than half the world’s population. This course will apply a comparative framework to explore the historical, cultural, and social forces shaping the politics of Asia. We will explore the similarities and variations across countries, regional influences of countries on one another, and the role of the international community, with special focus on U.S. - Asia relations (such as North-South Korea, Japan, India, China).

PSC 4940 Applied Politics Internship
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
A study of electoral politics, public decision-making or policy implementation through internships with candidates, political parties, public officials or governmental or nonprofit agencies.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 4990 Independent Study in Political Science
[1-3 credit hours (0, 0, 0-3)]
Individual study and research in a selected political science topic under mentorship of a faculty member.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

PSC 4980 Current Topics in Political Science
[3 credit hours (0, 0, 3)]
Timely examination of emerging issues within the various segments of the discipline of political science.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

PSC 4990 Independent Study in Political Science
[1-3 credit hours (0, 0, 0-3)]
Individual study and research in a selected political science topic under mentorship of a faculty member.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

Departmental Honors prepares majors for post-graduate study, for law school, for advanced work in policy research, and for other professional pursuits. It emphasizes intellectual organization and concept formation through the processes of research and writing. Honors work fosters intellectual growth through independent study, involves students in research, prepares students for the intellectual rigor of graduate study, and makes students more competitive for the best employment opportunities upon graduation.

These are the skills you will need in many professional positions—whether in governmental service, non-profit organizations, or the private sector. Departmental Honors offers the opportunity to specialize in one of the sub-disciplines of Political Science and to work closely with faculty in the Student’s areas of interest.

If you aspire to do the kind of work required for Departmental Honors, we encourage you to contact the Honors Adviser (Dr. Heberle). Judge for yourself whether this individualized, intensive program is right for you.

Departmental Honors work is distinct from the University Honors Program, but works closely with it. You must have an overall UT GPA of at least 3.0 and a GPA of 3.3 or higher in the major and be in your third year of study to sign up for honors work. You must also complete PSC 4960 Senior Honors Thesis. PSC 3150 Research and Writing in Political Science is strongly recommended no later than Spring semester of your junior year.