POLITICS AND SOCIETY (PS)

PS 407 - Politics, Law and Contemporary Society
Credits: 4
This course examines the foundation and structure of the American legal system and the complex relationship between law, politics, and contemporary social structures, including the philosophical and historical origins of law and the concept of sovereignty. Using case studies and United States Supreme Court decisions, the course considers the philosophical, historical, economic, environmental, and sociological underpinnings of contemporary legal and political issues.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)

PS #501 - Social and Political-Economic Theory
Credits: 4
Classics of sociological and political economic theory, as well as contemporary thinking in conservative, classical liberal, modern liberal, and radical political economy. Emphasis on the historical context in which these ideas emerge, and the links among them. Readings and discussions include such thinkers as Comte, Spencer, Weber, Durkheim, Locke, Marx, Smith, Riccardo, J.S. Mill, Shumpeter, Keynes, Hayek.
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc)

PS 502 - Political Psychology
Credits: 4
Political opinion, identity, and belief-formation and reinforcement. The roles of cognition and emotion in how political identities, opinions and beliefs form, change and resist change. The implications of idea- framing in the acceptance and rejection of political concepts and ideologies. The role of social contexts and the media in creating conceptual boundaries in contemporary politics.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

PS #503 - Political Theory and Historical and Social Context
Credits: 4
Course analyzes and evaluates the roles of political philosophy and historical circumstances in politics through the readings of selected works by political philosophers and political leaders whose writings combine political philosophy with historical analysis. Special attention given to the nature of argument, choice, and leadership in political behavior. Authors studied include Machiavelli, Madison, Marx, and Lincoln. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc); Writing Intensive Course

PS 504 - Empire, Democracy and War
Credits: 4
The United States, the worlds oldest and most prominent constitutional democracy, is frequently characterized as an American empire, and empire maintained not only by its political ideals and its economic strength, but also by war. Through the reading of selected ancient and modern works by major political philosophers, historians, and political leaders, this course examines empire, democracy, and war as recurrent political concerns and as the actual experience of different regimes throughout history, including the United States. Works by, among others, Aristotle, Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Kant, Clausewitz, and Lincoln are supplemented by selected historical studies and by analyses of American policy since World War II.
Attributes: Humanities(Disc)

PS 505 - Political Violence and Terrorism
Credits: 4
This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of political violence and terrorism. It covers the psycholgical and sociological roots of terrorism, the organizational patterns of cells, groups and networks, and the role of ideology and identity in shaping goals, targets, and tactics. No credit for students who have previously taken PS 651 Special Topics: Political Violence and Terrorism.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)

PS #506 - Civil Society and Public Policy
Credits: 4
Explores how grassroots advocacy organizations and social movements mobilize human and material resources in order to shape public policy and what tactics and organizational and communication strategies lead to success. Provides students with hand-on learning through service learning project at a local organization. Policy areas may include immigration, environmental conservation, women's issues and more. Instructor permission required.

PS 507 - Justice Law and Politics
Credits: 4
This course examines the relationships among law, politics, and social structures and how much relationships shape our conceptions of justice. We explore philosophical and historical origins of US law and such concepts as due process and sovereignty. We examine the foundations and economic, environmental, and sociological underpinnings of contemporary legal and political issues.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)

PS 508 - Supreme Court in US Society
Credits: 4
This course examines Supreme Court legal holdings from the creation of the American Republic to the present, with attention to the social and historical contexts in which holdings have been made. We examine Constitutional issues, the process by which the Court examines such issues, the ways in which political and social context has framed and influenced Court decisions, as well as how the Court has influenced politics and the broader society.
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc)

PS 509 - Political and Social Change in Developing Countries
Credits: 4
Overview of the pressing social, political, and economic issues in the developing world. Analysis includes: political development, including different forms of authoritarianism and democracy; international political economy and models of macro-economic development; international and national aid programs aimed at reducing poverty. Case studies include China, India, Iraq and more.
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc)

PS 510 - Politics of Food
Credits: 4
This course examines the politics of how food is produced, marketed and distributed in the United States, with attention to how the American food system has changed since World War II. The ethics and nutritional and public health implications of current agricultural policies and practices are looked at carefully, as are the environmental impacts of current practices. The impact on international food prices and markets and world hunger are also examined.
Attributes: Environment, TechSociety(Disc)
Globalization is a complex web of interwoven processes that affect virtually all facets of our daily lives, from pop culture to economics to politics and everything in between. But what exactly is globalization, anyway? And does increased interconnectedness and interdependence do more harm than good? What are the effects of globalization on our society and on others around the world? How can we solve problems, such as climate change, that transcend national boundaries? This course covers different dimensions of globalization, exploring everything from free trade and global supply chains to the global hip-hop phenomenon to the problem of international terrorism, and many other issues.

Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery)