PUBLIC SERVICE AND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

https://manchester.unh.edu/academics/degree-programs/public-service-and-nonprofit-leadership

Overview

Developing agents of change in the classroom and in the field

The bachelor of science degree in public service and nonprofit leadership provides an interdisciplinary, applied approach to the study of public and not-for-profit institutions and actors. Students explore the ways that leaders and citizens work in and around governments to address the complex problems confronted by N.H. and the U.S. today.

All students choose a path that enables them to complete an accelerated Masters in Public Policy or Masters in Public Administration, where they take their most advanced courses in the Major alongside graduate students in the UNH Carsey School of Public Policy. Those courses count as 12 credits toward their BS degree and as 9 credits toward a UNH-Carsey MPP or MPA, should a student choose to continue on to a Masters. Most students entering as first-year students will be able to complete a combined BS/MPA or BS/MPP within five years.

Programs

- Public Service and Nonprofit Leadership Major (B.S.)
- Political Economy Minor
- Political Science Minor
- Public History Minor

Courses

Politics and Society (PS)

PS 402 - Practical Politics
Credits: 4
With particular attention to the development and evolution of US political institutions over time, this course seeks to help students understand how national politics affects them and their communities and how they can, in turn, use that insight to affect national politics. We will work to develop not just new knowledge, but to foster tools and practices of civic engagement.
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc)
Mutual Exclusion: No credit for students who have taken POLT 402.

PS 400 - Wicked Problems: Puzzles in Public Policy
Credits: 4
Meaningful change in the US is difficult under the best of circumstances, and it’s almost never the best of circumstances. As a result, the richer your understanding of the complex and often irrational US policy-making system, the better the chance that you will be able to understand why certain policies are made (or not made), why they take the form that they do, and how to alter them.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course
Mutual Exclusion: No credit for students who have taken POLT 500.

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)

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 politics issues.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)
Equivalent(s): POLT 407, POLT 407H

PS 500 - Wicked Problems: Puzzles in Public Policy
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Attributes: Social Science (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

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.
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Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)

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 world's 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 psychological 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 hands-on learning through service learning project at a local organization. Policy areas may include immigration, environmental conservation, women's issues and more.

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 of 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)
Equivalent(s): POLT 508

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: World Cultures(Disc) Equivalent(s): POLT 553

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, Tech Society(Disc)

PS 511 - Women and War
Credits: 4
Explores impact of war on women as both victims (i.e. refugees, rape victims) and participants (i.e. warriors). Covers issues such as women in combat as soldiers and terrorists, women's rights, sexual violence and rape during warfare, women's roles during peace-building etc. Case studies include Bosnia, Liberia, Afghanistan, USA, Colombia, and more.
Attributes: World Cultures(Disc)

PS #512 - People on the Move: Immigration and Refugee Policy in Global Perspective
Credits: 4
Migration affects nearly every country in the world. It is an important dimension of globalization and compels us to reflect on notions of state sovereignty, nationhood, citizenship, human rights, tolerance and international relations. This course offers a multi-disciplinary, comparative overview of current issues in the field of international migration, including refugee policy. It aims to help students develop the knowledge and analytical tools to participate in today's often contentious debates about people on the move.

PS 513 - Politics of Red Tape: Bureaucracy & Policy
Credits: 4
Bureaucrat, someone is reported to have once said, is the only word in the English language that can be hissed even though it has no "s." The labyrinthine workings of government itself—the bureaucracy—are a seemingly constant source of fear, anger, frustration and indignation. Why does the public sector seem to generate such antipathy? We will explore this question, and examine how administrative agencies can be effectively and democratically managed. No credit if taken POLT 509.

PS 514 - Model United Nations
Credits: 4
The highlight of this experiential learning course is a trip to participate in a Model United Nations conference. Students will develop solutions to contemporary global problems (including human rights, terrorism, climate change, etc.), and will learn the art of debate and compromise. The class will serve as a particular country's delegation during a simulation of the United Nations, where it will promote the UN, the issues before the UN, and the assigned country's role in global affairs. Open to students of all majors. Instructor permission required. Contact Prof. Negron-Gonzales, melinda.negron@unh.edu. Special fee.
PS 515 - New Hampshire Politics in Action
Credits: 4
A hands-on course on New Hampshire politics and policymaking, in which students will identify a Bill currently active in the NH General Court and develop and execute a step-by-step plan for helping get it enacted or defeated. Periodic travel to the State Capitol in Concord will be required. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

PS 520 - Globalization: Politics, Economics and Culture
Credits: 4
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 in business to the global hip-hop phenomenon to the problem of international terrorism, and many other issues.
Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery)

PS 595 - Research for Political and Policy Action
Credits: 4
This course offers an overview of how the social sciences—political science especially—decide which questions to ask and how to design the research projects that will help them develop answers to those questions. As we explore these methods of inquiry and analysis, students undertake their own multi-methods research project to better understand something that interests or puzzles them while experiencing first hand the challenges inherent in sound research.
Attributes: Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course
Mutual Exclusion: No credit for students who have taken POLT 595.

PS 651 - Selected Topics: Public Service
Credits: 4
Interdisciplinary treatment of selected topics in politics and society. Topics may include democracy, empire and war, gender roles in electoral process, the sociology and psychology of terrorism, the political economy of hunger and poverty, the social origins of dictatorship and democracy, and others. Topic: Empire, Democracy, and War is Writing intensive.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

PS 651W - Selected Topics Politics and Society
Credits: 4
Interdisciplinary treatment of selected topics in politics and society. Topics may include democracy, empire and war, gender roles in electoral process, the sociology and psychology of terrorism, the political economy of hunger and poverty, the social origins of dictatorship and democracy, and others. Topic: Empire, Democracy, and War is Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

PS 695 - Public Service Independent Study
Credits: 1-4
Independent study on specific topics in Politics and Society. Project must be approved by the project supervisor Politics and Society Program.
Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.

PS 701 - Senior Seminar/Internship in Public Service
Credits: 4
Students undertake internships or other approved field projects with organizations such as political campaigns, media organizations, government offices, business or community groups. The seminar component enables students to share and analyze these experiences, employing readings, discussions, collective behavior games, and speakers. Permission required. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

PS 702 - International Relations: Interdisciplinary Approach
Credits: 4
This course explores International Relations Theory as developed by political scientists, subjected to critical insights from other disciplines, including psychology, anthropology, political economy and history. Course first surveys the historical development of International Relations Theory, beginning with Thucydides and Machiavelli, and proceeding through 20th and 21st century realist, liberal, Marxist and constructivist theories. These theories are then examined critically in the light of insights from psychology, anthropology and political economy. Pre or Coreq: PS 501 or PS 401 or permission of instructor. Special fee.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

PS #703 - Dictatorship and Democracy
Credits: 4
This course examines the theoretical debates in comparative politics and political sociology regarding the social and economic bases of dictatorship and democracy, as well as the transition from authoritarianism to democracy. The course considers different conceptualizations of democracy, as well as competing theoretical arguments regarding the causes of democratization. Readings draw on case studies from different regions, including Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
Equivalent(s): POLT 798C

PS 750 - Poverty & Inequality Past and Present
Credits: 4
This course will help students develop the knowledge and tools, using the best available data and research from across disciplines, to describe the scale and scope of need in the US. It will also help you develop understanding of the causes of poverty, inequality, and homelessness, and the consequences of them too – not just upon individuals and families, but ultimately upon entire neighborhoods, communities, and the nation as a whole.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Mutual Exclusion: No credit for students who have taken POLT 750.

Faculty

Public Service and Nonprofit Leadership Faculty