

Political Science

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Contact Information:

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Administration:

Head of the Department: Evan McKenzie
Director of Graduate Studies: Yue Zhang

Program Codes:

20FS0343MA (MA)
20FS0343PHD (PhD)

The Department of Political Science offers work leading to the Master of Arts in Political Science and the Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science. Interdepartmental concentrations in Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Survey Research Methodology, and Violence Studies are available to students in these programs.

Admission and Degree Requirements

- MA in Political Science (<http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/pols/ma>)
- PhD in Political Science (<http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/pols/phd>)

POLS 401. Data Analysis I. 3 or 4 hours.

Statistical inference for the social sciences. Emphasis on univariate and bivariate statistics. Course Information: Same as PPA 401. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): POLS 200 and POLS 201; or graduate standing.

POLS 405. The Problem of Justice. 3 or 4 hours.

Pre-modern, modern and non-western views of justice and their practical utility in analyzing legislative, executive, and judicial programs for enhancing or restricting justice. Course Information: Same as CLJ 405. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): CLJ 101, plus two 200-level courses in CLJ or two 200-level courses in POLS.

POLS 451. Law and Public Policy. 3 or 4 hours.

The role of law and legal institutions in the development and implementation of public policies. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

POLS 459. Advanced Topics in Urban Politics. 3 or 4 hours.

Seminar exploring urban politics theory through readings, discussion, and original research. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): POLS 210; or graduate standing; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 465. Topics in Sociology of Politics. 3 or 4 hours.

Intensive examination of a specialized topic announced when the class is scheduled. Course Information: Same as SOC 465. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): 6 hours of upper-division sociology or consent of the instructor.

POLS 467. Public Opinion and Political Communication. 3 or 4 hours.

Nature of public opinion and political communication systems. Patterns of opinion distribution and its measurement. Forces shaping public opinion and its impact on public policy. Course Information: Same as COMM 467. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): POLS 200 or the equivalent or consent of the instructor.

POLS 469. Advanced Topics in American Politics. 3 or 4 hours.

Seminar exploring American politics theory through readings, discussion, and original research. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Grade of B or better in POLS 101 and Grade of B or better in POLS 329; or graduate standing; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 478. Advanced Topics in International Relations. 3 or 4 hours.

Seminar exploring international relations theory through readings, discussion, and original research. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Grade of B or better in POLS 184; and Grade of B or better in POLS 281 or Grade of B or better in POLS 283 or Grade of B or better in POLS 284; or graduate standing; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 479. Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics. 3 or 4 hours.

Seminar exploring comparative politics theory through readings, discussion, and original research. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Grade of B or better in POLS 130 and Grade of B or better in POLS 349; or graduate standing; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 482. Theories of Democracy and Representation. 3 or 4 hours.

Democracy as a procedure of government and value commitments associated with this form of government. Special attention paid to classical and modern democracies. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or consent of the instructor.

POLS 485. Gender and Politics. 3 or 4 hours.

Impact of gender on basic categories of western political thought. Distinctions between reason and emotion, public and private, among others, examined from feminist perspective. Course Information: Same as GWS 485. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite(s): POLS 190 and one 200-level course in political theory; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 489. Advanced Topics in Political Theory. 3 or 4 hours.

Seminar exploring political theory through reading, discussion, and original research. Course Information: 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated if topics vary. Prerequisite(s): Grade of B or better in POLS 290 or Grade of B or better in POLS 291; or graduate standing; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 494. Topics in Political Science. 3 or 4 hours.

Selected Topics in Political Science. Topics vary and may cover American politics, law, urban and global politics, cultural, ecological or methodological issues. Course Information: May be repeated up to 1 time(s). Prerequisite(s): POLS 190 and POLS 200; or consent of the instructor.

POLS 497. Directed Readings in Political Science. 4 hours.

Intensive readings on a topic not covered in regular curriculum. Course Information: May be repeated with approval. Approval of the graduate director required to repeat course. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing and consent of the instructor.

POLS 498. Independent Research in Political Science. 2-6 hours.

Research on special problems not included in course offerings. May not duplicate work done in POLS 598 or POLS 599. Course Information: May be repeated with approval. Approval of the graduate director required to repeat course. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing and consent of the instructor.

POLS 500. Introduction to Policy and Governance. 4 hours.

Introduces the intellectual traditions and current debates that have characterized the study of politics and the social order. Society-centered and state-centered explanations for policy will be explored. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the department required for nondegree graduate students.

POLS 501. Data Analysis II. 4 hours.

Interpretation and application of multivariate methods of analysis in the social sciences. Regression specification and diagnostics, limited dependent variable models, measurement issues. Course Information: Same as PPA 501. Prerequisite(s): POLS 401 or PPA 401.

POLS 502. Time Series Analysis for Political Science. 4 hours.

Single series (ARIMA) models, event history analysis, Vector autoregression (VAR), panel and pooled models. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): POLS 402 or consent of the instructor.

POLS 504. Seminar in Political Theory. 4 hours.

A graduate introduction to Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment theories of politics and society in the North Atlantic world. Course Information: Same as PHIL 504. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the department required for nondegree graduate students.

POLS 505. Research Design and Methods. 4 hours.

Overview of the methods and conduct of research in political science. Issues of inference, measurements, data collection, hypothesis testing and ethics.

POLS 507. Qualitative Research Methods. 4 hours.

Explores techniques, uses, strengths, and limitations of qualitative research methods including case studies, fuzzy sets, boolean analysis, analytical narratives, and various other methods.

POLS 510. Seminar on Teaching Political Science. 4 hours.

Teaching methods and technology applicable to community colleges, four-year, and universities are explored. Course Information: Complements the Preparing Future Faculty Program. The format will include guest speakers from area community and four-year colleges.

POLS 541. Policy Formation, Implementation and Evaluation. 4 hours.

Introduction to political science theories of how elections, interest groups and state structure affect the formulation of public solutions to societal problems. Course Information: Same as PPA 541. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the department required for nondegree graduate students.

POLS 542. Distributive/Redistributive Public Policy. 4 hours.

Seminar on the politics of enacting and maintaining distributive policies. Focus is on the parochial and community-wide efficiency of such policies.

POLS 544. Regulatory Public Policies. 4 hours.

Exploring the nature and determinants of public policymaking with respect to the regulation of the economy.

POLS 549. Topics in Public Policy Analysis. 4 hours.

A research seminar on some aspects of public policy analysis not otherwise covered in the regular curriculum.

POLS 551. Seminar in Urban Politics. 4 hours.

Explores relationships between private economy and public policies in American cities; causes of urban decline and uneven development; and urban redevelopment and human capital policies.

POLS 553. Urban Public Policy. 4 hours.

Explores the problems of poverty, race, education, transportation policy, and housing in America's cities, with a special emphasis on Chicago.

POLS 557. Research Topics in Urban Politics. 4 hours.

Readings and original research on selected topics in urban politics. Course Information: May be repeated.

POLS 558. Graduate Student Field Experience in Political Science. 1-8 hours.

Graduate student intern experience. Placement with government agencies, community organizations, or civic organizations, in conjunction with a seminar class and directed readings. Course Information: May be repeated up to 8 time(s). Students may register in more than one section per term. Field work required.

POLS 559. Topics in State and Local Government. 4 hours.

Case analysis and research in selected problems dealing with structure, functions and administrative processes of American state and local governments. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): POLS 500 and POLS 541.

POLS 560. Seminar in American Politics. 4 hours.

Introduction to the basic models of research employed in the study of American government and public policy. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

POLS 562. Seminar on Legislation and Public Policy. 4 hours.

Review of recent theories and research on structure and policy formation in American legislatures. Emphasis on theoretical development in this field. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): POLS 541.

POLS 563. Executive Process. 4 hours.

Presidential elections; presidential decision-making; the powers of the president; presidential leadership; the distributive state; policy implementation; federalism and administration; the politics of budgeting. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Admission to the M.A. or P.P.A. programs or consent of the instructor.

POLS 564. Seminar in Judicial Process. 4 hours.

The judicial process, as part of political and policy processes. Demands made by, and policy impacts on, individual and organizational litigants and other political actors. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): POLS 460.

POLS 566. Interest Groups. 4 hours.

Pluralism: the distributive state; radical group theory, public-interest groups; collective actions; corporatism; statism; structural Marxism; social movements and interest groups.

POLS 567. Topics in Political Communication. 4 hours.

Intensive study of selected aspects; organizational communication in public institutions, urban political communication patterns, communication elites. Independent research using a variety of community research techniques. Course Information: Same as COMM 567 and PA 567. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

POLS 569. Research Topics in American Politics. 4 hours.

A research seminar on some aspect of American political process. Topics vary. Course Information: May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): POLS 560.

POLS 570. Seminar in Comparative Politics. 4 hours.

Introduces students to the main tools of research and contours of debates in comparative politics. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

POLS 571. Seminar in International Relations. 4 hours.

State-building and challenges to state authority, democratization and regime change, political economy, environment, war, regionalism and globalization, social movements and international governance.

POLS 572. International Political Economy. 4 hours.

Exploration of competing perspectives on nation states and economic systems. Course Information: Previously listed as POLS 472.

POLS 573. Transitions to Democracy. 4 hours.

Game-theoretic view of democracy. Process and outcomes of transitions to democracy in capitalist and in communist countries. Civil-military relations in the process of transition. Case studies.

POLS 578. Research Topics in International Relations. 4 hours.

Advanced graduate seminar exploring international relations theory through readings, discussion, and original research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): POLS 571.

POLS 579. Research Topics in Comparative Politics. 4 hours.

Advanced seminar on selected topics in comparative politics. Topic(s) will vary from semester to semester. Course Information: May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): POLS 570; and consent of the instructor.

POLS 582. The Philosophy of the Social Sciences. 4 hours.

The ontological and epistemological foundations of alternative approaches to the study of human beings. Naturalistic, hermeneutic, and critical approaches are addressed and assessed.

POLS 589. Research Topics in Political Theory. 4 hours.

Detailed analysis of a political theorist or type of political theory, especially designed to meet programmatic and graduate needs. Course Information: May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

POLS 590. Advanced Public Policy Workshop. 4 hours.

Interdisciplinary workshop on preparing a dissertation proposal for public policy analysis students. Course Information: Same as PPA 590. Prerequisite(s): Advanced standing in the Ph.D. in P.P.A. program and completion of P.P.A. core courses.

POLS 591. Publishing Research in Political Science. 4 hours.

Interdisciplinary workshop on preparing manuscripts for submission to publishers. Course Information: May be repeated. Prerequisite(s): Completion of the first year of the MA or PhD in Political Science; and consent of the instructor.

POLS 593. Independent Research for Master's Degree. 2 hours.

Under the supervision of two faculty members, students will complete a major research paper that combines a review of relevant literature of a political science topic with analysis of original data or research materials. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): POLS 401 and POLS 505 and POLS 482. Open only to Master's degree students; and approval of the department.

POLS 596. Advanced Readings in Political Science. 1-4 hours.

Intensive readings on an advanced topic not covered in the regular curriculum. Course Information: May be repeated with approval. Students may register in more than one section per term. Approval to repeat course granted by the graduate director. Prerequisite(s): POLS 401 and POLS 404 and consent of the instructor.

POLS 598. Thesis Research. 0-16 hours.

Individual study required of all students pursuing advanced degree in political science under thesis option. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Open only to degree candidates.

POLS 599. Dissertation Research. 0-16 hours.

Individual study required of all students pursuing Ph.D. degree with specialization in political science. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Open only to degree candidates.