### PS 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

**3 Credits**

Learn how political scientists study and understand the world of politics. Major concepts in the discipline will be learned and applied from a comparative perspective. Different methodological approaches to studying politics will be investigated, as well as the different analytical frameworks political scientists employ. Students will also learn about the various subfields within the discipline, including Comparative Politics, International Politics, American Politics, Political Behavior, and Political Economy.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

### PS 210 POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

**3 Credits**

Analyses the relationship between politics and economics. The class investigates this relationship by examining an array of institutions, to include the sub-national, the nation-state and the supra-national. Students will acquire knowledge of basic economic concepts and theories and develop methodological literacy needed to understand political and economic research. Further, students will understand the role of political economy in historical explanation.

**Cross-Listed:** HIST 210/PS 210

### PS 231 AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

**3 Credits**

Fundamentals of the federal system of government in the United States, including background, organization, processes, functions, political thought, public opinion in relation to politics, and politico-economic relations.

### PS 321 U.S. POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

**3 Credits**

U.S. constitutional system, political process, and governmental institutions from an historical perspective. Emphasis will be placed on American political development. Topics include constitutionalism, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, public opinion, mass political behavior, campaigns and elections, the legislative process, presidential powers, and judicial powers. While the focus is on national politics, special attention will be paid to Nebraska politics and government.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

**Prerequisites:** ENG 135, ENG 136 or 19 on ACT English test and Sophomore or above status

### PS 325 RURAL AND FRONTIER POLITICAL ECONOMY

**3 Credits**

This course explores the economies, societies and governments of rural America, and the politics relevant to center-periphery relations. Furthermore, it places rural and frontier political economy in comparative perspective through the study of these topics in selected countries.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**Notes:** This course is required for Political Science minors and is an elective for Social Science majors.

### PS 332 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**3 Credits**

The structure of the nation-state system and the process of international political activity with an emphasis on the questions: How do states behave toward one another? Why do they behave these ways? Topics treated are diplomacy, ideology, economic and security objectives of states, disarmament, international law, international organizations with emphasis on the United Nations, war and prospects for peace, and current international problems.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #10

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

### PS 333 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

**3 Credits**

A study of the development of the American governmental system through judicial interpretation of the Constitution. This class is rooted in the conviction that constitutional interpretation is an intricate blend of politics, economics, history, and competing values. This class will emphasize the institutional development of the Court, the evolving role of the judiciary, legislative and executive branches, the dominant theories of constitutional interpretation, the politics of judicial selection, and the ongoing relevance of constitutional interpretation.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ333/LS333/PS333

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

### PS 337 INTRODUCTION TO LAW3 Credits

A study of the American legal system, legalism in society and the relationship between law and justice. This course examines the structures of our legal system and considers economic, social, and political implications as they influence the development of a rule of law. Historical and present legal controversies will be examined.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ337/LS337/PS337

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

### PS 341 COMPARATIVE POLITICS

**3 Credits**

Examines various types of political systems in the world today, including parliamentary democracy, authoritarian rule, theocratic and communist government. Looks at larger transnational and global trends, such as the population explosion in the developing world and the rise of multinational corporations. The governments of countries such as China, France, Mexico, and India will be covered.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #8

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

### PS 369 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: THEORY AND PRACTICE

**3 Credits**

Theories of civic engagement and patterns of civic participation with a focus on the United States. They will also engage in experiential learning through one of several possible opportunities to contribute to their communities. In doing so, students will further develop their own ideas in collaboration with others as to their roles as citizens.

**Essential Studies:** SLO #9

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

### PS 390 INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

**1-12 Credits**

Provides practical experience in political science in a state or federal agency or other relevant office.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Department Consent

**Notes:** Open to upper division students majoring in one of the social sciences or a minor in political science; interested students should contact the Internship and Career Services Office to secure application materials; application should be made prior to the semester the internship will be started; the amount of credit will be based on availability of a suitable work position, the qualifications of the applicant and the work hours.

### PS 400 INDEPENDENT STUDY/RESEARCH

**1-3 Credits**

Study or research in an area of special interest.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent

**Notes:** The number of credit hours is determined by the topic and the amount of work required.

**Requirements:** Permission of the Instructor, Dean and Academic Vice President is required.
PS 401 STUDY ABROAD IN POLITICS 3 Credits
This course provides students the opportunity to study politics abroad. In addition to the experiential component of the course, students will 1) produce either a reflection essay that places their study abroad experience within some aspect of the political science literature, or 2) compose a research paper that includes field-work and other research methods. The number of units for this course will vary based on the scope of the work additional to the study abroad experience.

Essential Studies: SLO #10
Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 420 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT 3 Credits
The main lines of American political thought and ideology will be examined. The Founding era, especially the debates between the Federalists and the Antifederalists, will be emphasized, as well as developments in the post-WW II era.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 421 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES 3 Credits
Most important contemporary political ideologies will be examined with an emphasis upon those most prevalent in the United States. Central ideologies discussed will include social conservatism, libertarianism and populism.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 424 GLOBAL POLITICS AND RELIGION 3 Credits
The influence of religion on politics and of politics on religion will be explored. This course will take a comparative approach to understanding how political actors employ religious ideas, practices, and symbols for political purposes, and how the political use of religion shapes religious institutions and beliefs.

Essential Studies: SLO #10
Prerequisites: ENG 135, 136 or 19 or above on ACT English test and Junior or above status

PS 425 POWER, PROSPERITY, AND POVERTY 3 Credits
The role that political power plays in shaping material well-being will be examined in this course. Students will analyze the role of domestic and international governing institutions, and their actors, in fostering prosperity and poverty. The relative influence of politics on economics well-being will be weighed against other explanations of poverty and prosperity, especially historical determinism, dependency theory, geographical determinism, and cultural theories.

Essential Studies: SLO #10
Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 430 TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 1-3 Credits
Special topics in Political Science.
Prerequisites: Junior or above status
Notes: May be repeated with a change of emphasis.

PS 431 HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT 3 Credits
Various themes in political philosophy will be covered, such as political obligation, rights, freedom and justice. Major philosophers covered will include Plato, Locke and Rousseau.

Essential Studies: SLO #7
Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 434 CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY 3 Credits
This course will examine the structures and processes of Congress and the Presidency, and how the two institutions interact with one another. Topics will include constituency and partisan influences, organizational structures, and decision-making processes in both branches of government. The course will highlight the independent and dynamic nature of inter-branch relations, with an emphasis on the evolving constitutional system of the United States.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 436 FIELD STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 3 Credits
This course provides an opportunity for direct observation of governmental officials and other political participants. A typical session is a two-week stay in Washington, D.C. examining the activities of the federal government.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status
Add Consent: Instructor Consent