

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Mission

It is the mission of the Social Science program to prepare social studies teachers as future leaders in secondary education. In doing so, the program seeks to foster critical thinking and inquiry skills, and an interdisciplinary understanding of the social sciences. Furthermore, the program prepares future teachers to effectively communicate knowledge and ideas to students in the secondary education environment, and to design effective lesson plans and learning units within the social sciences.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate competence in the following skills outcomes of the Social Science program:

1. Historical Interpretation
 - 100 - Illustrate how historians make interpretations of the past.
 - 300 - Distinguish broad trends in historical interpretations (historiography).
 - 400 - Synthesize multiple historical interpretations.
2. Scholarly Argument
 - 100 - Identify authors' arguments.
 - 300 - Distinguish between authors' main arguments and secondary points.
 - 400 - Evaluate authors' arguments and evidence.
3. Scholarly Sources
 - 100 - Learn how to analyze/question a source.
 - 300 - Evaluate sources and contrast diverse and conflicting sources.
 - 400 - Formulate relationships among multiple sources.
4. Thesis Statement
 - 100 - Develop thesis statement supported by evidence using appropriate standards of evidence.
 - 300 - Create an argument, marshal evidence from multiple sources, and use endnotes, footnotes, and bibliography.
 - 400 - Select problem of study, find appropriate resources, and use endnotes, footnotes, and bibliography.
5. Social Sciences
 - 100 - Demonstrate the connections among cognate social studies areas.
 - 300 - Integrate perspectives from multiple cognate social studies areas.
 - 400 - Evaluate the applicability of cognate social science areas.
6. Communication
 - Display clear and cogent written and oral communication.

In addition, students will demonstrate competence in the following outcomes particular to the cognate social science:

1. Articulate essential knowledge and concepts in the social sciences.
2. Interpret quantitative and qualitative evidence.
3. Apply the scientific method to answer well-formulated research questions.
4. Evaluate the utility of contending analytical perspectives.

- Bachelor of Science – Field Endorsement in Social Studies (Grades 6-12) (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/social-science/bs-field-endorsement-social-science-7-12/>)
- Bachelor of Science – Middle Level Education Academic Area in Social Studies (Grades 5-9) (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/social-science/bs-middle-level-education-academic-area-social-sciences-5-9/>)
- Political Science (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/social-science/political-science/>)

PS 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE³ 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.

PS 110 U.S. POLITICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT³ Credits

Institutional and cultural approaches to American government and politics. Students will engage in inquiry about the nature of government and democracy and study the founding of the United States system of government as they evaluate their personal ideological and political values and seek opportunities to contribute positively to a more democratic society.

PS 237 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 the economic, social, and political implications as they influence the development of a rule of law. Historical and contemporary legal controversies will be examined.

Cross-Listed: CJ237/LS237/PS237

Prerequisites: Sophomore or above status

PS 310 POLITICS AND ECONOMICS³ Credits

Analyzes 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 310/PS 310

Prerequisites: Sophomore or above status

PS 321 U.S. POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT³ 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.

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

PS 332 GLOBAL POLITICS3 Credits

The structure of the nation-state system and the processes of political activity both within and between states with an emphasis on historical perspectives of global political development. Processes of governance, conflict within and between states and non-state actors, economic development, globalization, and ideologies from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives. This course combines traditional political science subfields of comparative politics and international relations.

Prerequisites: PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

PS 333 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW3 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 390 INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE1-12 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/RESEARCH1-3 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 POLITICS1-3 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.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 410 POLITICAL INQUIRY3 Credits

Survey of qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry in political science. Students will learn the foundations of research design in political science and when, how, and why to use different research methodologies by developing their own research design.

Prerequisites: PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

PS 420 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT3 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 will developments in the post-WW II era.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 430 TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE1-3 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 THOUGHT3 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.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

PS 434 CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY3 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 SCIENCE3 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

PS 439 DEMOCRACY: U.S. AND THE WORLD3 Credits

The concept of political democracy will be critically analyzed in both historical and contemporary discourses. The emergence and evolution of political democracy will be covered with an emphasis on American political culture and institutions and frequent comparisons to other advanced democracies and developing democracies around the world.

Prerequisites: PS 101 and Sophomore or above status

Dual-listed: PS 539

SS 223 LAW AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY3 Credits

A study of the nature and function of the American legal system and its interrelationship with our social, political and economic institutions. This course examines the nature, functions, and limits of law and its impact on economic, political, and social institutions. Emphasis will be placed on debates of current legal issues.

Cross-Listed: LS223/SS223

SS 390 INTERNSHIP IN SOCIAL SCIENCE1-12 Credits

Provides practical experience in social science in a social or governmental agency. Open to upper division students majoring in one of the social sciences.

Prerequisites: Sophomore or above status

Add Consent: Department Consent

Notes: 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 the availability of a suitable work position, the qualifications of the applicant and the work hours.

SS 395 SEMINAR IN WORLD HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES3 Credits

Required for all History, History Education, and Social Science majors. Students will understand World History through Social Science methodologies and skills developed over the curriculum. Culminates the interdisciplinary focus of the program and produces a synthetic understanding of a topic/problem that is demonstrated in original scholarly research.

Cross-Listed: HIST 395/SS395

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

SS 400 INDEPENDENT STUDY/RESEARCH1-3 Credits

Study or research in an area of special interest.

Add Consent: Instructor Consent

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

Requirements: Permission of instructor, Dean and Academic Vice President is required.

SS 430 TOPICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE1-3 Credits

Special topics in Social Science.

Prerequisites: Junior or above status

Notes: May be repeated with a change of emphasis.