

Political Science (POL)

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Degrees awarded: M.A. in Political Science; M.A. in Public Policy; Ph.D. in Political Science

Ph.D. Program in Political Science

The Ph.D. program in Political Science, in the College of Arts and Sciences, is characterized by several distinct features:

- A. Three areas of specialization:
 1. Political Psychology/Behavior
 2. Political Economy and Public Policy
 3. American Politics
- B. Close student/faculty interaction
- C. An emphasis on professional training of research-oriented students and the production of professional-quality articles and conference papers by Ph.D. students

Political Psychology/Behavior

The doctoral concentration in political psychology/behavior applies contemporary psychological theories, concepts, and research methods to the study of political behavior. Students are trained in topics and methods associated with psychology as well as political science. Methodological concerns focus on experimentation and survey research. In addition to formal training in methods appropriate to the psychological study of political behavior, students are apprenticed to ongoing research projects throughout their course of training. Students become familiar with the Department's extensive and well-equipped laboratories and the regular subject pool. Opportunities are also available to take part in ongoing survey research projects.

The substantive interests of the faculty in this area include voter decision-making processes, political socialization, political values and beliefs, the mass media, political cognition, group influence, and public opinion.

Political Economy and Public Policy

The concentration in political economy and public policy emphasizes the interaction between politics and the institutions (both public and private) that

shape economic policies. Students choosing this concentration analyze important issues by focusing on decision making and organizational behavior as shaped by individual incentives and institutional structures. In addition to the foundation course in public policy required of all students, elective seminars in this field include policy evaluation, organizational decision making, bureaucracy, regulation, institutional analysis, and urban politics.

The faculty have published research on issues such as the economic development of metropolitan areas, the political economy of suburbs, political controls over regulatory bureaucracies, and citizen responses to tax policies. A sample of other ongoing research projects in which incoming students may become involved includes the effect of market-like incentives in school choice, subsidy flows in the European Union, the role of social capital in environmental decision-making, and regulation of business by state governments. The economic approach is also used to investigate other political processes such as voting, party competition, and agenda setting.

American Politics

The American politics concentration provides a broad perspective on national political institutions and processes, with particular emphases on elections and courts. Courses focusing on political parties and elections, the legislative process, the American judiciary, electoral behavior, American political ideology, and public choice theory are offered. Students become familiar with the kinds of quantitative and formal analysis techniques most often applied to the study of American politics. Seminar papers allow students to go into detail on topics of special interest.

Members of the faculty are currently doing research on congressional and Supreme Court decision making, the role of economic forces in American national elections, voting in congressional elections, gender issues, and the dynamics of American public opinion.

Methodology

Since we believe that a strong background in research methods is essential for political scientists interested in empirical research, we provide a rigorous training in the application of statistical methods and formal models to political analysis. Coursework in methods includes introductory training in research design and elementary statistics, as well as more advanced work in statistical analysis, econometrics, time series analysis, and measurement. The Department recognizes that many undergraduates in political science come to graduate school without much background in statistics and math. Therefore, our courses therefore start at an introductory level and slowly develop the skills necessary to do publishable research in political science. In addition to the classroom work, these courses all involve analysis of actual data on personal computers. We believe, however, that it is the application of research methods, first as part of faculty and class research projects and then in a student's own dissertation research, that makes a qualified researcher with the skills required for success in research and academic careers.

Research Facilities

The Department has extensive research facilities equal to any in the country, most located on the same floor with faculty and student offices. Students routinely use the conveniently located computer facilities for writing and analysis as part of their professional training. The Social and Behavioral Sciences Data Laboratory on our floor provides access to state-of-the-art personal computers tied to a local computer network and providing connections to all computers on campus. The Stony Brook Instructional Networked Computer site one floor below the Department provides additional personal computers for classroom and research work. In addition, our data lab maintains a library of reference materials, holds classes on specific software packages, provides access to the extensive data archives available

through the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Resources, and employs computer consultants to help with student research projects. All of the resources of the data lab are available to graduate students.

The laboratories for political psychology research are designed for the experimental study of political behavior. One set of labs contains computerized equipment to monitor, control, record, and analyze multiple responses from subjects. Much of the recent work focuses on information processing and decision making—how citizens interpret, use, and recall political information. The other set of labs contains a large survey and experiment room equipped with computerized data collection stations. Students may also take advantage of our modern, fully equipped Survey Center for public opinion studies using computer-assisted, telephone interviewing.

Admission

The Department of Political Science doctoral program admits only students who intend to complete the Ph.D., although students are eligible to receive the M.A. Applicants for admission to the Ph.D. program in political science must meet the following requirements:

A. Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Test scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytic)

B. Prior training that includes basic work in at least one of the following:

1. Political science
2. Psychology
3. Mathematics or statistics
4. Economics or sociology

C. A bachelor's degree with at least a B average in the major subject

D. Three letters of recommendation from instructors or academic advisors

E. In cases where the Departmental admissions committee deems it desirable, personal interviews with Departmental representatives may be necessary

Acceptance by both the Department of Political Science and the Graduate School is required.

Faculty

Distinguished Professors

Lodge, Milton G., *Emeritus*, Ph.D., 1967, University of Michigan: Political psychology; political cognition.

Schneider, Mark, Ph.D., 1974, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: Urban public policy; urban service delivery; administration and public policy.

Segal, Jeffrey A., *Chair*, Ph.D., 1983, Michigan State University: Judicial process and behavior; research methods; American politics.

Professors

Feldman, Stanley, Ph.D., 1978, University of Minnesota: American politics, emphasizing political psychology and socialization; public opinion; voting behavior and participation; methodology.

Huddy, Leonie, Ph.D., 1987, University of California, Los Angeles: Political attitudes; groups and politics; sociopolitical gerontology; women and politics.

Koppelman, Lee E., D.P.A., 1970, New York University: Comprehensive regional and urban planning; environmental policy; American federalism and intergovernmental relations; regional policy analysis; coastal zone planning.

Myers, Frank, Ph.D., 1965, Columbia University: Comparative politics; political theory.

Norpoth, Helmut, Ph.D., 1974, University of Michigan: Electoral behavior; public opinion

Salins, Peter D., *SUNY Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*, Ph.D., 1969, Syracuse University: Public policy; regional planning.

Associate Professors

Cover, Albert D., Ph.D., 1976, Yale University: American politics: congressional elections.

Lavine, Howard, Ph.D., 1994, University of Minnesota: Political psychology; cognition.

Taber, Charles S., *Graduate Program Director*, Ph.D., 1991, University of Illinois: International relations; political psychology; foreign policy; conflict modeling; computational modeling (AI).

Assistant Professors

Bartels, Brandon, Ph.D., 2006, Ohio State University: Judicial politics and decision-making; constitutional law; public opinion; congressional organization and behavior; political methodology

Basinger, Scott J., Ph.D., 2000, University of California, San Diego: Game theory; American political parties; American political development.

Lahav, Gallya, Ph.D., 1995, City University of New York: Political psychology; comparative politics.

Lebo, Matthew, Ph.D., 1999, University of North Texas: Political parties; public opinion; elections; political methodology.

Levitan, Lindsey Clark, Ph.D., 2007, University of Chicago: Social networks; attitudes; prejudice.

Lindstädt, René, Ph.D., 2006, Washington University: Political institutions; bureaucratic and legislative politics; American political development; political methodology and formal theory.

Simmons, Joel, Ph.D., 2007, University of Michigan: Comparative political economy; international political economy; political and economic development; political institutions; political parties; public goods provision; international relations; methodology.

Smirnov, Oleg, Ph.D., 2005, University of Oregon: Evolutionary game theory; computational and agent-based modeling; experimental economics; evolutionary psychology.

Number of teaching, graduate, and research assistants, Fall 2007: 23

Degree Requirements Requirements for the M.A. Degree

In addition to the minimum requirements of the Graduate School, the Department requires all candidates to complete 30 credits of approved graduate coursework in which a grade of B or higher has been received.

M.A. in Public Policy

The M.A. in Public Policy prepares students for entry and mid-level analytic and management positions in state, local, and federal agencies, in non-profit organizations that interact with government, and in corporations that deal with public policy. Courses are taught by members of the Department, as well as by outstanding local practitioners affiliated with the Center for Regional Policy Studies, headed by Dr. Lee Koppelman.

Admission

Applicants should have an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (out of 4.0), and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores indicating a potential for success in a rigorous graduate program. Consideration will also be given to letters of recommendation and work experience.

Program Tracks

M.A. Track

This track requires the completion of 30 credits of graduate coursework, typically distributed as follows:

Fall:

POL 501 Introductions to Statistics for Public Policy (three credits)

POL 535 Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation (three credits)

POL 509 Public Budgeting and Finance (three credits)

POL 537 Administrative Law for Public Analysts (three credits)

or

500-level elective approved by Graduate Director (only one elective permitted outside of Department of Political Science)

Spring:

POL 502 Intermediate Statistics for Public Policy (three credits)

POL 536 Public Management and Organizational Behavior (three credits)

POL 510 Personnel Systems for Public Policy (three credits)

POL 534 Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Delivery (three credits)

or

500-level elective (as approved)

Summer:

POL 599 Internship in Public Policy (six credits)

or

POL 597 Master's Paper (six credits)

Full-time students without past significant full-time public policy work experience are required to take the Internship in Public Policy. Part-time students can fulfill their capstone requirement by the Internship (POL 599), the M.A. Paper (POL 597), or two additional elective courses approved by the graduate program director.

B.A./M.A. Track

Stony Brook University students currently enrolled with a major in Political Science are eligible for the five-year B.A./M.A. program, in which up to six graduate credits are earned during the senior year, while also fulfilling the B.A. requirements. Consult the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for B.A. requirements. Upon admission to the program, the following two courses (or others approved by the graduate program director) are taken in the senior year and also satisfy the upper level undergraduate elective requirement:

POL 535 Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation (three credits)

POL 536 Public Management and Organizational Behavior (three credits)

The student then completes the remaining graduate requirements during the fifth year of full-time study.

Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

Candidates must meet the general requirements for the Ph.D. degree set by the Graduate School. Departmental requirements are as follows:

A. Core Courses

Students take four core courses:

1. POL 600 Research Project
2. POL 601 Public Policy and Political Economy
3. POL 605 American Government
4. POL 608 Political Psychology

B. Methods

Students are expected to master the methods necessary to engage in scholarly work:

1. All students take a three-course sequence in mathematics, statistics, and research methods (POL 602, 603, 604).
2. All students are required to take at least one advanced methods course either in this department or in a cognate field (e.g., economics). The student's choice of advanced elective(s) is decided in conjunction with the student's advisor.
3. In addition to requirements 1 and 2 above, political psychology students take POL 610, a graduate-level course in experimental design. Political economy and American Politics students must take POL 613, Public Choice.
4. Students who have attended the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods at the University of Michigan can have the advanced elective requirement waived.

C. Electives

Students take a minimum of four advanced seminars in their area of specialization and three in their minor area. The seminars are typically at the 600 level and can be within the Department or can be in cognate fields such as psychology, economics, or applied math. The course of study is selected by the student in consultation with his or her advisor and must be approved by the graduate program director.

D. Teaching and Research Apprenticeship

To ensure that all students become proficient in teaching and research, students work with the faculty on an individual basis. Funded students participate in faculty research projects and assist in teaching courses. Advanced students then prepare and teach their own undergraduate classes.

E. Evaluation

Graduate students in the Ph.D. program are formally evaluated at the end of each semester, based on grades received in the program and on evaluations by faculty familiar with the student's work.

The evaluation committee's charge is to make one of the following three possible determinations with regard to the student's progress: (1) recommend continuation of graduate study toward the Ph.D., (2) recommend that the student be allowed to continue toward a terminal M.A. but not to continue in the Ph.D. program, or (3) recommend that the student not be permitted to enroll in additional graduate courses in the Department.

The evaluation also serves as the basis for the decision as to whether the student is to receive financial support during subsequent semesters of graduate work.

F. Qualifying Examinations

1. **Timing of Examinations:** Students making normal progress toward the Ph.D. should anticipate taking qualifying examinations following the second year of coursework. Examinations in three fields compose the doctoral qualifying examinations.

2. **Examination Fields:** The Department's policy is to allow students to take exams only in those areas in which its faculty strengths allow in-depth training, including:

- a. Methods
- b. American Politics
- c. Political Economy and Public Policy
- d. Political Psychology/Behavior

All students are required to take the methods exam. Students then prepare two of the three other substantive areas for written examination.

3. **Preparation and Evaluation of Examinations:** The graduate program director appoints a committee (with a designated committee chair) responsi-

ble for each examination field. The committee prepares the written examination, providing sufficient options for questions on which students may write. The committee members read the student's examination and prepare an evaluation of that performance, which is reviewed by the Ph.D. committee.

G. Dissertation

Following successful completion of the qualifying examinations, the student begins the process of preparing his or her dissertation.

The third year includes developing a directed reading course under the supervision of a dissertation director. Through the readings the student will explore specialized research literature in the area of a proposed dissertation, develop an initial bibliography, and formulate a specific question for research. The second half of the year includes working with the dissertation director and selecting a dissertation committee consisting of four faculty members—three from the Department of Political Science and one with whom the student has worked outside of the Department. The third year culminates with a presentation of the dissertation proposal by the student and its acceptance by the dissertation committee.

Should the dissertation committee reject the proposal, a candidate is allowed to revise the proposal for a subsequent defense. If this second defense also results in failure, the student's program is terminated.

Upon successful conclusion of research, the student defends the completed dissertation to the committee and the University community at large.

Courses

M.A. in Political Science with Emphasis on Public Policy

Required courses (POL 501, POL 502, POL 509, POL 510, POL 535, POL 536) are open to qualified students from other programs with permission of the graduate program director. Elective courses are open to all graduate students.

Ph.D. Program

The required courses for first-year students are given every year; electives are generally offered every other year. Courses are open to qualified students from other programs with permission of the graduate program director.

POL 501 Introduction to Statistics for Public Policy

This course acquaints student with statistics. It begins with the basics of applied statistical analysis, including probability and hypothesis testing, and builds to simple regression analysis. Requires use of computer packages. *Prerequisites: Some elementary mathematics/statistics background helpful*
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 502 Intermediate Statistics for Public Policy

This course utilizes multivariate regression analysis and explores violations of the linear model. Requires use of computer. *Prerequisites: POL 501 or equivalent*
Spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 509 Public Budgeting and Finance

This course develops the rationale for public taxation and spending programs. It examines the role of public finance in the economy, and explores the use of program and functional budgets, capital and operating budgets, intergovernmental expenditures, etc. Focuses on state and local governments.
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 510 Personnel Systems for Public Policy

This course examines the development of civil service and other bureaucratic personnel systems in American government. It focuses on the knowledge that managers must have to utilize human resources appropriately in the constrained public sector environment. Focuses mainly on state and local government.
Spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 530 Topics in Public Affairs

Specially organized seminars are offered on topics of particular importance to students of public affairs. These courses are led by distinguished experts in those policy areas.
3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit

POL 531 Topics in Public Affairs: Planning

This course addresses the planning process as a decision-making tool in the implementation of public policy in housing, land-use, transportation, and environmental management. The course also investigates intergovernmental relations and the impact of citizen participation on policy changes.
3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit

POL 534 Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Delivery

The examination of the formulation, implementation, and impact of intergovernmental policy are the core concepts to be covered in this course. Several policies are examined in-depth, including grant-in-aid programs, General Revenue Sharing, housing and community development, and employment programs. The historical, economic, and political foundations of intergovernmental policy delivery systems are examined.
3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 535 Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation

This course concentrates on the strategies and methods of public policy analysis and evaluation. Students debate the merits of proposed solutions to various policy issues and discover the political constraints on the policy making process. Skills stressed in the course include cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation, and basic microeconomics.
Prerequisites: Permission of graduate studies director;
3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 536 Public Management and Organizational Behavior

This course examines how public sector organizations work and how managers can operate in the public sector environment. A range of theoretical perspectives, including sociological, economic, and institutional, will be employed as real public organizations are examined and analyzed. Public agencies will also be compared to their private sector counterparts, and the nature of organizational efficiency will be explored.
Spring, 3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 537 Administrative Law for Policy Analysts

This course examines the role of administrative law in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of public policy. The role of legislation such as the Administrative Procedures Act is explored. Actual cases are analyzed, as well as the broader set of precedents that have emerged in federal, state, and local administrative law proceedings.
3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 538 The Politics of Local Economic Development

This course examines the process of local economic development with an emphasis on the interaction of political and economic factors. It explores the extent to which local (as compared to state and federal) officials can influence business location decisions, the specific strategies often utilized, and the way they have changed over time. It also considers the winners and losers from the "economic development game" with a focus on New York and Long Island.
3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 543 Environmental Politics and Policy

Federal environmental policies, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Federal Pure Waters Management Act are examined in this course. The policies, politics, and administrative activities of federal, state, and local levels are considered. Finally, the interaction of the public sector, the private sector, and citizen groups in the implementation of environmental policy is discussed. This course is offered as both CES 553 and POL 543.
3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 544 Human Behavior as Rational Action

Rational behavior means choosing among possible actions those that are most efficient in meeting one's goals. Whether people do so is one of the oldest unresolved disputes in philos-

ophy and the social sciences. We will trace the main positions in this dispute as they have evolved in philosophy, psychology, economics, anthropology, and sociology, paying special attention to the argument between economics and other social sciences as to whether economic behavior exhibits strictly economic rationality or is heavily affected by noneconomic obligations and aims. Another important topic is the relationship between individual nationality and social institutions. Even if individuals do act rationally, can we assume that the large scale social patterns that result are necessarily effective? Readings will consider the topic abstractly, but also in the concrete settings of small intimate groups, formal organizations, and primitive and modern economic systems and political systems in both stable and revolutionary situations. Knowledge of elementary economics is helpful but not required.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 553 Foundations: Comparative, International

Survey and evaluation of the major theoretical approaches, issues, and problems in comparative political analysis. The course examines such areas as political development, empirical democratic theory, or political socialization, along with a detailed examination of one or more selected non-American political systems.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 560 American Democracy: Its Critics and Defenders

This course will examine the central components of American democratic government. Critics and defenders of the over 200-year-old Constitution (Congress, President, Supreme Court) will be discussed, as will arguments surrounding the role of political parties, pressure groups, and the bureaucracy. Most readings will be from contemporary authors and reference sources. This course is offered as both CEI 560 and POL 560.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 595 Internship Public Policy

3-6 credits, ABCF grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 596 Directed Policy Research

Student works under supervision of faculty member on research project related to public policy.

1-6 credits, ABCF grading

POL 597 Master's Paper in Public Policy

This course is primarily for students already employed in the related field. In lieu of internship, a student writes a Master's Paper, that goes beyond his or her normal employment duties to apply theory and methods to a particular policy issue.

Prerequisite: Permission of graduate program director

6 credits, ABCF grading

POL 598 Thesis Registration

1 credit, S/U grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 599 Internship in Public Policy

This course is an applied internship in a public, not-for-profit, or private sector organiza-

tion that deals with public policy. The student works in the organization and prepares a daily journal of activities, as well as a paper at the conclusion of the course, applying program knowledge to the internship activities.

Prerequisites: POL 535 and permission of graduate program director

3-6 credits, S/U grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 600 Research Project

A two-semester introduction to research for first-year students. The course introduces issues of research design through lectures and presentations of current research by faculty members. Each student designs his or her own research paper under the guidance of a faculty member familiar with his or her area of interest. Final papers are due in the beginning of May.

3 credits, ABCF grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 601 Foundations: Public Policy and Political Economy

A systematic introduction to the principles of political economy. Develops a microeconomic model and approach to public policy analysis. A major part of the course is devoted to student projects that analyze the political economy of a governmental policy.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 602 Applied Data Analysis I

The application of statistical and mathematical models to the analysis of political data: introduction to the research process and to topics in measurement, basic descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 603 Applied Data Analysis II

The application of statistical and mathematical models to the analysis of political data: regression analysis.

Prerequisite: POL 602 or equivalent

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 604 Applied Data Analysis III

The application of statistical methods to the analysis of political data. The emphasis is on diagnosing and dealing with violations of assumptions of statistical models. Topics covered include advanced regression, models for discrete dependent variables, systems of equations, and selection bias.

Prerequisite: POL 603 or equivalent

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 605 Foundations: American Politics

A review of the basic political science literature on American politics, with emphasis on American political institutions.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 606 Duration and Panel Models

This seminar will consider statistical models for political processes observed over time. The major topics will include duration models and methods for pooled cross-sectional (panel) data.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 607 Social Survey in Contemporary Society

This course on political socialization focuses on continuity and change in political attitudes and behavior across the life span. Topics include the stability of political attitudes—contrasting the greater durability of political partisanship and basic values with the relative instability of issue positions; the social psychology of attitude change, which lends some insight into the conditions under which attitudes are most likely to change; the importance of political period or era as a determinant of political attitudes and behavior; and the existence and coherence of distinct political generations. Some attention is also given to the political changes that accompany old age, including changes in attitude and behavior linked to growing dependency on the Social Security and Medicare systems.

Prerequisites: POL 602 and POL 603

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 608 Foundations: Political Psychology, Behavior

A review and analysis of the political behavior literature, including such topics as attitude formation and change, belief systems, political socialization, demographic and small group influences on political beliefs and conduct, political leadership, electoral behavior, elite vs. mass politics, decision making, personality and politics, political conformity, and protest.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 609 Advanced Research Design

A practical application of topics in the philosophy of science to research design. Students prepare their dissertation proposal as a part of this course.

Prerequisite: Permission of graduate program director

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 610 Foundations II: Experimental Design and Methods

An overview of experimental research with an emphasis on experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation. Students develop the ability to critically evaluate experimental research. Students also participate in the development, implementation, and analysis of a laboratory experiment.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 612 Classics of American Politics

Reading and discussion of a selection of the most frequently cited works in the field of American politics, with emphasis on relatively contemporary authors.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 613 Game Theory for Political Science

Introduction to formal models of strategic behavior in static, dynamic, and repeated games. Technical emphasis is formulation and solution of games of complete and incomplete information; a variety of equilibrium concepts will be introduced. Substantive applications include spatial models of candidate behavior in elections; agenda control and bargaining in legislatures; lobbying by interest groups; common pool resource problems; and cooperation between rivals.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 614 American Judiciary

A seminar on judicial process and behavior. Emphasis is placed on the Supreme Court, but trial courts and other appellate courts are examined as well. Topics include constitutional interpretation and both legal and extra-legal models of decision making. Students should possess basic methodological skills.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 615 Legislative Process

A seminar on the legislative process, focusing on current research on the United States Congress.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 616 Political Parties and Groups

A seminar on parties, campaigns, and elections in the United States. Topics covered include party organization and leadership, nomination and general election campaigns, and the role of parties in government.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 617 Electoral Behavior

Models of voting choices; key attitudes such as party identification, issue orientations, and ideology; the impact of group affiliations, economic conditions; campaign strategies of candidates; congressional vs. presidential elections; historical change, e.g., party realignments.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 618 American Political Ideology

This course examines American political ideology as it is reflected in public opinion, political debate, and public policy. The goal is to understand the underlying bases of conflict and consensus in American politics and the ways in which they influence and constrain debate over public policy. The course traces the development of political conflict in the United States and examines the basis of contemporary political debate.

Prerequisites: POL 605 and permission of instructor

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 620 Government Regulation of Business

An examination of the scope of government regulation of business in the United States today—regulation at both the federal and state levels and by both economic and social agencies. The course compares market vs. regulatory policies as well as possible explanations for why some regulatory agencies change over time. Finally, the course considers proposed reforms, such as clearer legislative standards, curbs on “revolving door” practices, greater citizen participation in agency proceedings, and deregulation.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 621 Theories of Policy Making

An introduction to theories of policy making, especially policy formulation, stressing reading and thinking about classics and acquiring skills necessary for theorizing, including mathematical modeling and formal theory. Laboratories focus on improving special skills (e.g., optimization) and theorizing about particular policy areas (e.g., pork barrel politics).

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 622 Bureaucracy and the Policy Process

An examination of bureaucracy as part of the policy-making process. This course reviews theoretical explanations for the bureaucracy as a political institution and implications of its rapid growth since the New Deal. It also looks inside bureaucratic organizations, examining factors that influence the exercise of discretion and policy implementation.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 623 Urban Politics

This course concentrates on urban and suburban growth, the decentralization of metropolitan areas, land-use policy, and reforming metropolitan policy making. Specific policy areas such as education, finance, and police are considered. Political phenomena, including parties and ethnic groups, are also discussed. This course is offered as both CES 545 and POL 623.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 624 Decision Making in Organizations

A seminar on decision procedures in public and private organizations. The course begins with the rational choice model developed primarily in economics and policy analysis, then considers common problems of decision-making arising from limited capabilities, conflicts among organization members, and uncertainties and ambiguity in the organization's environment. Readings are from several disciplines.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 629 Experimental Game Theory

Surveys experimental tests of formal models derived from political economy and game theory, and applies behavioral and social-psychological theories to explain deviations from equilibrium behavior. The methodologies of psychological and economic experiments are contrasted and explored. Substantive applications include social trust, bargaining power, agenda control, committee decision making, common pool resource problems, and political persuasion.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 631 Political Cognition

Surveys the contemporary psychological literature on human memory and cognition, with emphasis on applications to political information processing.

Prerequisite: POL 608

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 632 Mass Communication and Political Persuasion

In-depth examination of the role of mass media in the political process and the psychological dynamics of media influence. Effects of the media on public opinion and voting. Implications of media influence on democratic theory.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 633 Social Influence and Group Processes in Political Decision Making

Review of contemporary theories of social influence processes and group decision-making, with emphasis on applications to decision making in politics. Special focus on small-

group methods and research applications.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 634 Behavioral Decision Theory

Emphasizes psychological theories of judgment and choice and prediction of the errors that individual decision makers are likely to make. These ideas are applied to a variety of political contexts.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 635 Advanced Topics: Political Socialization

An interdisciplinary course on political socialization that focuses on continuity and change in political attitudes and behavior across the life span. Readings cover research and theorizing on conditions under which political attitudes are most likely to change. Dual emphasis is placed on attitudes that prove to be exceedingly stable over time and others that seem to have undergone considerable change over the past few decades.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 664 Advanced Institutions

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 670 Advanced Topics: Public Policy Analysis I

An intensive examination of major substantive and methodological concerns involved in the investigation of the public policy process.

Prerequisite: Permission of graduate program director

3 credits, ABCF grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 671 Advanced Topics: Public Policy Analysis II

A continuation of POL 670.

3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 673 Advanced Topics: American Politics I

A seminar in American institutions and processes, focusing on current research in such areas as Congress, the Supreme Court, the presidency, political parties, or bureaucracy.

Prerequisite: POL 605

3 credits, ABCF grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 674 Advanced Topics: American Politics II

A continuation of POL 673.

3 credits, ABCF grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 675 Advanced Topics: Comparative Politics I

Readings and research papers on topics in comparative politics. Particular attention is given to concepts and methods identified with the field.

Prerequisite: POL 553

3 credits, ABCF grading

May be repeated for credit

POL 676 Advanced Topics: Methods I

A course reviewing the literature and methodology of specific areas of political science research. The course relates directly to research applications and provides students with an opportunity to apply advanced research tools to selected substantive problems.

Prerequisite: Permission of graduate program director
 3 credits, ABCF grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 678 Political Decision Making

Review of the literature and methods related to a topic or problem in contemporary political science, voting behavior, issue formation, interest groups, political economy, or personality.
Prerequisite: POL 605, 608
 3 credits, ABCF grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 679 Advanced Topics: Political Psychology/Behavior II

A continuation of POL 678.
 3 credits, ABCF grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 680 Directed Study

Individual studies under the guidance of a faculty member. Subject matter varies according to the needs of the student.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and graduate program director
 1-6 credits, ABCF grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 681 Directed Study

Individual studies under the guidance of a faculty member. Subject matter varies according to the needs of the student.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and graduate program director
 1-9 credits, S/U grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 690 Research Colloquium

Students participate in weekly Departmental colloquia where they serve as discussants of research reports presented by individual faculty members or outside investigators reporting on current research.
Prerequisite: Permission of graduate program director
 3 credits, ABCF grading

POL 691 Research Practicum I

A course actively involving students in an ongoing research project under the direction of a principal investigator. Students participate in all stages of the research project and are required to prepare a research report on one aspect of the project.
 3 credits, S/U grading

POL 692 Research Practicum II

A continuation of POL 691. Students actively participate in either a second research project, where they will again prepare a research report, or continue their participation in the same project, where they are then assigned a subset of data for analysis or carry out a specific research aim of the project.
Prerequisite: POL 691
 3 credits, S/U grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 693 Practicum in Teaching

1-3 credits, S/U grading

POL 699 Dissertation Research On Campus

Dissertation research under direction of advisor.
Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G5); permission of Graduate Program Director; major portion of research must take place on SB campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at Brookhaven National Lab
 Fall, spring, and summer, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 700 Dissertation Research Off Campus—Domestic

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5); major portion of research will take place off campus, but in the U.S. and/or U.S. provinces (Brookhaven National Lab and Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on campus); all international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor
 Fall, spring, and summer, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 701 Dissertation Research Off Campus—International

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5); major portion of research will take place outside the U.S. and/or U.S. provinces; domestic students have the option of the health plan and may also enroll in MEDEX; international students who are in their home country are not covered by a mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed; international students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance (if they are to be covered by another insurance plan, they must file a waiver by the second week of classes; the charge will be removed only if the other plan is deemed comparable); all international students must receive clearance from an International Advisor
 Fall, spring, and summer, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
 May be repeated for credit

POL 800 Summer Research

0 credit, S/U grading
 May be repeated for credit