

# POLITICS

Professors Cloyd and King  
Associate Professors Barth and Maslin-Wicks (chair)

## MAJOR

Eleven courses distributed as follows:

- POLI 100 *Issues in Politics*
- POLI 400 *Research Methods*
- POLI 497 *Senior Research Seminar*
- Political Theory: TWO from
  - POLI 240 *History of Western Political Thought*
  - POLI 245 *American Political Thought*
  - POLI 300 *Feminist Political Thought*
  - POLI 410 *Topics in Political Theory*
  - HIST 370 *Communism, Fascism, and Democracy*
- American Politics: TWO from
  - POLI 130 *American State and Local Government*
  - POLI 205 *Southern Politics*
  - POLI 220 *American Political Parties and Elections*
  - POLI 230 *Public Administration*
  - POLI 235 *Public Policy*
  - POLI 305 *Arkansas Politics: Seminar*
  - POLI 306 *Arkansas Politics: Practicum*
  - POLI 310 *American Presidency*
  - POLI 321 *American Constitutional Law: The Federal System*
  - POLI 322 *American Constitutional Law: Individual Rights and Liberties*
  - POLI 340 *U.S. Congress*
  - POLI 380 *Gender, Sexuality, and American Politics*
  - POLI 390 *Race and American Politics*
  - POLI 420 *Topics in American Politics*
- Comparative/Global Politics: TWO from
  - IRGS 400 *Senior Seminar*
  - POLI 250 *Global Politics I*
  - POLI 251 *Global Politics II*
  - POLI 260 *Political Economy*

POLI 372 *China and East Asia*  
POLI 373 *Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East*  
POLI 430 *Topics in Comparative Politics*  
POLI 440 *Topics in Global Politics*

- Electives: TWO additional courses numbered 200 and above.

### Senior Capstone Experience

The Senior Capstone Experience for the politics major consists of the successful completion of POLI 497 *Senior Research Seminar*. The grade for the Senior Capstone Experience is based on the grade in POLI 497 *Senior Research Seminar*.

### MINOR

- POLI 100 *Issues in Politics*
- one course each from the Political Theory, American Politics, and Comparative/Global Politics subfields
- plus any two other courses in Politics numbered 200 and above.

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### General Topics Courses

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#### **POLI 100 *Issues in Politics* (SB)**

This course is designed to introduce students to the variety of ways that political phenomena can be studied systematically. The faculty member will select a topic as the focus of the course that will then be examined through the lens of the primary subfields the department covers: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and global politics. Finally, students will gain an introduction to the process of social science research as they participate in a research project related to the topic of the course. Students will receive early exposure to the full scope of the politics discipline as well as begin the process of preparing themselves for research in politics.

#### **POLI 400 *Research Methods* (SB)**

This course examines the methods by which political scientists attempt to better understand political phenomena, with a focus on quantitative methodologies.

**POLI 497 *Senior Research Seminar* (SB, W2)**

This seminar course during the senior year is centered around students' independent research projects in the discipline. Departmental faculty and other seniors will give input and critiques as a student completes a significant piece of original research, with a view to formally presenting it at a research conference, e.g., at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or at a professional political science meeting. *Prerequisite: POLI 400.*

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Political Theory Courses

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**POLI 240-T *History of Western Political Thought* (VA)**

A selective survey from ancient times to the 21st century of the political thought of seminal political thinkers in the Western tradition. Selected thinkers may include, for instance, Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Rousseau, Locke, Mill, Marx, Arendt, Foucault, Nietzsche, Rawls, and Habermas. See instructor for definitive selection in any given year.

**POLI 245-T *American Political Thought* (VA, W2)**

A variety of works will be examined to learn how influential American thinkers have conceptualized political ideas and how their views on the proper organization of American society have changed over time. Particular attention will be paid to the development of the concepts of democracy and equality and to political protest movements in the U. S.

**POLI 300-T *Feminist Political Thought* (CW, VA)**

An upper level course examining works of political thought that focus on the role of gender in the social and political arenas.

**POLI 410-T *Topics in Political Theory* (VA, W2)**

This course will include an in-depth treatment of a selected list of issues from the history of political thought and the relevant thought of seminal political thinkers. Issues and theorists might include democratic theory, cyberpolitics, Hannah Arendt, Manuel Castells, Marxism, Postmodernism, the State. *Prerequisite: None.*

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## American Politics Courses

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**POLI 130-A *American State and Local Government* (SB)**

An introductory examination of American state and local government and politics, with an emphasis on the study of particular public policy areas in the state and local arena.

**POLI 205-A *Southern Politics* (SB)**

A study of the political history and contemporary political characteristics of this distinctive region of the U. S. Topics covered will include the demographic changes that have altered the region's political culture, the persistent impact of race on the South's politics, and the changing role of the region in national politics.

**POLI 220-A *American Political Parties and Elections* (SB)**

An examination of the role and activities of voters, political parties, and the media on the electoral process in the United States.

**POLI 230-A *Public Administration* (SB, CW)**

This course examines some of the key issues confronted by a society that has become dependent upon bureaucracy to a substantial degree. As such, we will examine personnel, organization, budgeting, leadership, and privatization.

**POLI 235-A *Public Policy* (SB, CW)**

An introduction to the process of formulating, implementing, and evaluating public policy in the United States with particular attention to policy devoted to air pollution. A variety of substantive policy areas, such as health care, education, and welfare, will also be examined.

**POLI 305-A *Arkansas Politics: Seminar* (SB)**

A seminar course focusing on political history, contemporary political patterns, governmental structures, and key public policy debates in the state of Arkansas. Actors in the state's politics and government will provide their perspective to the students both on these issues, during the intensity of a session of the Arkansas General Assembly, and on their vocational choices. *Corequisite: Must be taken in conjunction with POLI 306 Arkansas Politics: Practicum.*

**POLI 306-A *Arkansas Politics: Practicum* (SB)**

An off-campus learning experience in which students have ongoing duties with an entity directly involved in the legislative process in Arkansas (an individual legislator, a political party caucus, an interest group, a media outlet, etc.) during a regular session of the Arkansas General Assembly. *Corequisite: Must be taken in conjunction with POLI 305 Arkansas Politics: Seminar.*

**POLI 310-A *American Presidency* (SB)**

An upper level course examining the origins and development of the American presidency, as well as the challenges faced by more recent officeholders.

**POLI 321-A *American Constitutional Law: The Federal System***

This course considers the contemporary state of constitutional doctrine after 200 years of judicial decisions. Emphasis is placed on theories of constitutional interpretation and on the development of case law in the realms of federalism, the regulatory power of Congress, and the separation of powers among the three federal branches of government.

**POLI 322-A *American Constitutional Law: Individual Rights & Liberties***

A continuation of POLI 321, with emphasis on those decisions concerned with the rights of individuals in such areas as speech, press, religion, privacy, and equal protection of the law. *Prerequisite: POLI 321 or consent of instructor.*

**POLI 340-A *U.S. Congress* (SB, W2)**

An upper level course analyzing the Congress as an institution and its attempt to perform two fundamentally contradictory functions: legislating and representing.

**POLI 380-A *Gender, Sexuality, and American Politics* (CW, W2)**

An upper-level seminar course focusing on the impacts of gender and sexuality on politics in the American context. A focus will be on the histories of the women's rights and gay rights movements, examining their similarities and differences.

**POLI 390-A *Race and American Politics* (CW, HP)**

An upper-level seminar course focusing on the persistent, yet changing, impact of race on American politics since the Reconstruction era. The course will focus on the interaction between race and electoral politics and the contemporary role of race in shaping American public policy in a variety of realms.

**POLI 420-A *Topics in American Politics* (SB, W2)**

A seminar course focusing on a particular topic in the field of American politics or public law of interest to faculty and students in the department.

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Comparative/Global Politics Courses

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**POLI 250-G *Global Politics I* (SB, CW, W2)**

Combining a variety of theoretical approaches to the study of global politics with in-depth analyses of a selection of contemporary global issues, this course and its companion, POLI 251, aim to equip students with an understanding of the expanding array of topics, problems, and issues that now crowd the global agenda. Such topics may include weapons of mass destruction and their proliferation, globalization, the environment, indigenous peoples, democratization, and much more.

**POLI 251-G *Global Politics II* (SB, CW, W2)**

Building on POLI 250, this course adds topics, problems, and issues not already addressed in that course. *Prerequisites: POLI 250 or consent of instructor.*

**POLI 260-G *Political Economy* (SB, CW, W2)**

Combining the history of the development of political economy globally with an in-depth analysis of contemporary developments and future prognostications, this course aims to arm students of politics with an understanding of how economics intersects with the political world, broadly defined. While the course focuses on politics and economics, it necessarily branches out to touch many other disciplines, from history and religion to sociology and business. The course is relevant for students of both American and global politics. *Prerequisites: None.*

**POLI 372-G *China and East Asia* (SB, CW, W2)**

This course will focus primarily on Chinese politics but will also include consideration of the politics of other selected countries in Asia as well as regional issues. *Prerequisite: None, but POLI 260 or an Economics course is highly recommended.*

**POLI 373-G *Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East* (SB, CW, W2)**

This course will focus primarily on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict but will also include consideration of the politics of other selected Mid-East countries as well as regional issues. *Prerequisite: None, but POLI 260 or an Economics course is highly recommended.*

**POLI 430-G *Topics in Comparative Politics* (SB, CW, W2)**

An occasional course that will examine the politics of selected countries around the world not usually treated in either POLI 372 or 373, e.g., the European Union, Cuba, South Africa. *Prerequisite: None, but POLI 260 or an Economics course is highly recommended.*

**POLI 440-G *Topics in Global Politics* (SB, CW, W2)**

Building on POLI 260, 250, and 251, this occasional course will explore in more depth issues already treated in these courses or address new ones that relate to them. Possible topics might include Technology and Politics, Revolution, Kosovo, Information Age Warfare, Peace and Conflict Resolution. *Prerequisite: Either POLI 260, 250 or 251, or consent of instructor.*