

Political Science Course Learning Outcomes

POLI 101: American Government

- Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of the American political system
- Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas
- Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes in the United States
- Develop an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics

POLI 102: Contemporary Political Issues

- Students will become familiar with a number of contemporary political issues and better understand their make-up and importance
- Students will understand how different political issues are assessed by different philosophical and ideological traditions
- Students will be able to effectively write and develop arguments
- Students will be able to better comprehend other's views and formulate, defend their own positions

POLI 103: World Politics

- Demonstrate understanding basic facts about the world
- Demonstrate capacity to theorize or explain political outcomes
- Demonstrate familiarity with current political debates
- Demonstrate skills in critical thinking
- Demonstrate knowledge of social scientific inquiry norms and standards

POLI 104: World Regional Geography

- Explain what geographers do (i.e., introduction to the discipline as a whole)
- Identify and describe the world's major geographic regions and their distinct physical economic, and cultural characteristics
- Apply geographical concepts and the spatial perspective (geographer's approach) to study global interconnectedness and interdependences among places, as well as the resulting politics and economics in these places
- Interpret and extend current news events through a geographical lens

POLI 119: Special Topics in Politics

- This is an introductory level special topics course that would count as an elective in Political Science (not connected to any specific content area). Learning outcomes will change depending on the topic of the course.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the content area specified

POLI 150: Introduction to Political Thought

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of key thinkers and concepts
- Students will compare thinkers on similar concept
- Students will use concepts to analyze new situations

- Students will explain the nature and value of normative thinking

POLI 203: Criminal Justice

- Identify elements necessary to prove specific criminal activity
- Identify defenses to criminal charges
- Demonstrate basic understanding of criminal law in South Carolina
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to locate written law and reported criminal cases in Appellate Courts, Federal and State

POLI 205: Doing Research in Politics

- Identify and explain current academic research projects in politics
- Enhance critical and social scientific thinking skills to distinguish between scholarly and non-scholarly approaches
- Develop research questions that are answerable with a variety of methods
- Demonstrate some of the methods used by scholars of politics
- Develop skills in designing a research project

POLI 210: Introduction to Public Administration

- Students should demonstrate understanding of various activities of governmental administrators that fall under the rubric of public administration to include rule-making, rate-making, and other regulatory activities, policy making and the delivery of services and programs
- Students will understand the 20th century emergence of the modern administrative state as a result of the technological, social, economic and political pressures that have emerged in as the US industrialized and developed complex, interdependent systems.
- Students will have a summary understanding of public administration as a career field in government.

POLI 211: Introduction to Public Policy

- Understand the public policy process in the US
- Apply various public policy models to real world policy issues
- Analyze the merits of public policy debates
- Analyze the merits of alternative policy solutions to public problems

POLI 213: State and Local Politics

- Understand the significance and the role of state and local governments in the US federalist system
- Be able to apply the comparative method of analysis to state and local government research
- Develop a deeper understanding of the institutions, politics, processes and services of state and local governments
- Enhance oral and written communication skills

POLI 214: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Politics

- Students will have stronger reading comprehension skills
- Students will understand and be able to accurately describe processes of political change as they relate to LGBT politics in America
- Students will be able to conduct research, reach their own conclusions and write an effective research paper of 6-8 pages.

POLI 240: Introduction to Comparative Politics

- Students will have a stronger and more informed perspective on approaches to studying politics comparatively.
- Students will be familiar with the primary theories and concepts that form the building blocks of the subfield, especially as they apply to different states in the world.
- Students will develop their descriptive capacities and their ability to apply concepts to new country cases.
- Students will learn research methods and hypothesis writing, testing.

POLI 245: Cuban Revolution

- Students will be able to identify, describe, analyze and evaluate the major events of the Cuban Revolution.
- Students will be able to discuss and interpret the major texts and proclamations of the early period of the Cuban Revolution.
- Students will be able to relate and reflect upon the personal impact of visiting major Cuban revolutionary sites.

POLI 260: International Relations Theory

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems
- Apply theories and concepts to new situations

POLI 265: International Political Economy

- To demonstrate a generalized understanding of the dynamic relationship between politics and economics globally
- To recognize the direct and indirect connections between IPE processes and their daily lives – what it means to live in a globalized world.

POLI 266: International Diplomacy Studies

- Demonstrate knowledge of African political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons why people behave in diverse political roles and spaces, especially in diplomatic relations.
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective

POLI 292: Topics in Gender, Theory and Law

- Demonstrate knowledge of the issue around which class is organized (e.g. sexual harassment)
- Analyze legal cases
- Apply theoretical frameworks to new issues

POLI 293: Ethics and Politics

- Demonstrate an understanding of various theoretical perspectives on ethical responsibilities in public life
- Demonstrate an understanding of common ethical problems that arise in contemporary politics
- Demonstrate an understanding of the components of sound ethical judgment
- Demonstrate an understanding of the social, psychological, and organizational pressures that can undermine sound ethical judgment

POLI 294: Sustainability

- Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical literature on sustainability
- Analyze complex problems
- Apply theories about sustainability to practical problems
- Develop skills in communication

POLI 295: Law and Society

- Master the language of basic contract law (or other area of legal doctrine)
- Demonstrate their ability to engage in the legal method of problem solving
- Develop effective oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills, focusing on the ability to develop and articulate particular perspectives and assess competing perspectives
- Organize several key concepts into a larger theory that provides insight into aspects of society

POLI 301: Bureaucratic Politics and Policy

- Demonstrate fundamental understanding of legal rational systems of domination, how they reflected in rational economic analysis, how they shape language, policy and culture. In particular, show awareness of the differences between instrumental and value rationality.
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the role that the administrative state plays in the US Constitutional system of checks and balances, including its historical evolution.
- Understand the pressures to create bureaucratic systems that come from a capitalist economic system and a political system based on democratic principles – and how those stand in tension in modern political discourse.

POLI 304: American Foreign Policy Process

- Students will have a fuller appreciation for how American foreign policy is made (including the different perspectives held by scholars on elements of the process)
- Students will gain insights into the intricacies of policy deliberation and negotiation, learn how to work more effectively with others when seeking to solve a collective problem, and appreciate the importance of being informed and the advantages of being able to articulate ideas clearly and concisely (in oral and written form) as part of any deliberative process
- Students will better comprehend the views of others and articulate and defend their own position on issues
- Students will demonstrate effective research skills

POLI 305: Urbanization and Urban Geography

- Paraphrase key urban concepts and planning theories
- Generalize the relevance of these key concepts beyond the readings to the cities and sub-contexts in which we live and work every day. This means students should be able to identify contemporary examples in their own lives or in the news that illustrate the concepts
- Organize several key concepts into a larger theory that provides insight into some aspect of the social world (i.e. this is the purpose of the term paper)
- Critically examine the literature to determine the point of view, biases, and values present in the work and the author's argument.

POLI 306: Urban Policy

- Outline the foundational process of forming urban policy
- Identify and explain principles that can be used to critique urban policies
- Discuss the major issues that have dominated urban policy for the past 50 years

POLI 307: Environmental Policy

- Demonstrate knowledge of systems, processes, and institutions involved in environmental policy making
- Demonstrate critical analysis skills
- Critically investigate environmental problems and issues
- Demonstrate knowledge of research process

POLI 308: Education Policy

- Ability to conduct quantitative and qualitative public policy research on the relationship between federal policy and local institutional organization in fostering student achievement
- Clearly understand and be able to articulate impact of federal policies on local expectations regarding student achievement
- Draw valid conclusions about the impact of federal policy decisions on local policymaking

POLI 309: Health Policy

- Ability to conduct quantitative and qualitative public policy research on achieving access to quality and affordable health care
- Clearly understand and be able to articulate impact of federal health policies on reducing and/or increasing access to health care
- Draw valid conclusions about the impact of federal policy decisions on state effectiveness in achieving adequate health care for its population

POLI 310: Urban Applications of Geographic Information Systems

- Students will be able to define several foundational concepts useful for solving real world urban problems
- Students will be able to use the ArcGIS 9.x software to explore these concepts and study contemporary issues in cities
- Students will also be able to explain the limitations of GIS software

POLI 311: Policymaking in State Legislatures

- Understand the theoretical and practical roles of state legislatures as policymaking institutions
- Understand the factors and influences that drive policymaking at the state level, the processes and procedures by which public policy decisions are made and objectives achieved
- Understand the effects of structured and unstructured public opinion on legislative policymaking
- Understand the relationship between legislatures and bureaucracies

POLI 319: Special Topics in Public Policy

- Demonstrate knowledge of the policy process (specifics will change based on course)

POLI 321: Civil Liberties

- Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental civil rights and liberties guaranteed by the United States Constitution

- Demonstrate knowledge of the “case method,” in which they learn to extract legal rules and principles from specific, fact-based situations
- Apply theories of judicial decision-making to evaluate the legal persuasiveness of the Court’s opinions
- Critically examine extant arguments for their accuracy and persuasiveness and to construct counter-arguments

POLI 323: The Congress

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of the U.S. Congress
- Evaluate Congress’s dual roles as a policy-making body and a representative institution
- Analyze and critically assess the effects of recent Congressional elections
- Articulate and defend – both written and orally – critical arguments about the organization of U.S. Congress

POLI 324: The Judiciary

- Demonstrate understanding of the policies and processes of the US Judiciary system
- Evaluate the operation of the judiciary
- Demonstrate familiarity with the various theoretical perspectives that have informed scholarly work on the judiciary
- Apply these theories to new contexts and structures

POLI 325: The Presidency

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history and organization of the U.S. executive branch
- Evaluate recent presidential election processes and outcomes
- Analyze and critically assess at least one significant aspect of the US chief executive
- Articulate and defend – both written and orally – critical arguments about the organization of the US presidency

POLI 326: American Politics and Mass Media

- Analyze the influence of mass media on political institutions and the public
- Critically examine the concepts of objectivity and bias
- Demonstrate an ability to assess diverse perspectives on the importance of the media and its role in democracies

POLI 327: Political Parties

- Identify and explain the historical development and contemporary structure of American political parties
- Evaluate the evolution, functioning and consequences of political parties in the United States
- Demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills related to political parties in the United States
- Demonstrate an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics

POLI 328: Campaigns and Elections

- Identify and explain how electoral rules and procedures in the US affect election outcomes
- Evaluate and critically analyze the US electoral system with respect to theories related to political representation
- Compare and contrast theories of voting behavior

- Relate historical developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes related to campaigns and elections in the US
- Demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills related to campaigns and elections in the US

POLI 329: Public Opinion in American Politics

- Identify and explain the central elements of the origins, nature and impact of public opinion in American politics
- Evaluate the impact of public opinion on American democracy in both a historical and contemporary context
- Formulate skills related to the quantitative measurement of public opinion through polling and survey research methods
- Develop an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics

POLI 330: Southern Politics

- Understand the significance and the role of southern states in the US political system
- Understand the concept of realignment and discuss how the southern electorate has realigned in the last fifty years
- Discuss state-by-state differences in the South in the context of comparative analysis methodology
- Improve critical thinking skills

POLI 331: Geography of Native Lands and Indian Law

- Recognize key cases that comprise the canon of Indian law; outline indigenous methods of governance and tribal law; describe Indigenous knowledge of ecosystems
- Apply knowledge of Indian case law to contemporary conflicts
- Analyze issues in legal/environmental geography
- Describe and defend solutions to legal and environmental problems

POLI 332: Women and Politics

- Articulate the philosophical origins of women's equality claims and explain how liberalism advances and constrains women's progress toward full inclusion in the American political system
- Analyze women's role as citizen, voter, candidate, and policymaker recognizing how the historical context conditions the contemporary role
- Evaluate women's interests in a variety of public policy contexts
- Understand women's equality claims and resulting action agendas across time in order to create a contemporary action plan

POLI 333: Suburbia; People, Place, and Politics

- Outline the historical development of suburbia in the US and explain the role of government policy and American culture in this process
- Connect the historical development of suburbs to contemporary conditions, illustrating both recurring patterns as well as points of divergence
- Articulate an informed argument about what the future of suburbia may look like

POLI334: Political Campaign Communication

- Understand the role of both visual and verbal communication in political campaigns

- Use political communication to develop a historical understanding of American political goals and values
- Be able to critically assess the effectiveness, truth value, and consequences of campaign communication

POLI 335: Religion in American Politics

- Explain the role of religion in American politics and processes in both a historical and contemporary context
- Apply broad theories and concepts of religion and American politics to contemporary events, such as recent elections
- Appraise opposing viewpoints and defend one's own position in argument and counter-argument
- Demonstrate critical thinking, writing and research skills related to the interaction of religion and politics in the US
- Demonstrate an analytical, social scientific disposition toward American politics

POLI 339: Special Topics in American Politics

- As a special topics course the learning outcomes will change depending on the course. But every POLI 339 will have students demonstrating knowledge about some aspect of American politics

POLI 340: Politics of Latin America

- Students will demonstrate the ability to produce reasoned critiques of social science literature by being able to identify the thesis of a work and formulate their own evaluations of it and defend their positions
- Students will be able to recognize at least two approaches to the study of historical and contemporary Latin American political and economic development and compare and contrast them
- Students will be able to relate and analyze Latin America's two century long struggle with authoritarianism and explain and assess the establishment of democratic regimes in the late 20th century throughout the region
- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate current Latin American political events and relate them to the approaches to Latin American development studies in class

POLI 342: Politics of Africa

- Demonstrate knowledge of African political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons why people behave in diverse political roles and spaces, especially in African countries
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Demonstrate mastery of the independent research process

POLI 343: Politics of East Asia

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, effectively write papers

- Apply theories and concepts to new situations

POLI 344: Politics of the Middle East

- Students will have a stronger and more informed perspective on the Middle East region, its politics, economics, cultures and societies
- Students will better comprehend the specific nature of comparative political inquiry and know how to begin applying concepts and theories comparatively in order to deepen knowledge of an issue related to the region that is of particular interest to them
- Students will demonstrate effective, concise writing and development of critical analysis
- Students will develop research skills, including formulating research questions, hypothesis writing and testing, literature reviews

POLI 345: Politics of China

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, effectively write papers
- Apply theories and concepts to new situations

POLI 346: Southeast Asian Politics

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems in Southeast Asia
- Apply theories and concepts to new country cases in Southeast Asia

POLI 347: International Development: Theories and Practices

- Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, effectively write papers, increase the quality of student's reading, writing, debate and critical thinking skills
- Improve student's understanding of how different theories define and approach the issue of development
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons why people behave in diverse political roles and spaces

POLI 348: Politics of Protest and Revolution

- Students will demonstrate the ability to produce reasoned critiques of social science literature by being able to identify the thesis of a work and formulate their own evaluations of it and defend their positions
- Students will be able to identify, explain, and compare the rise of liberal, socialist and nationalist revolutionary movement
- Students will be able to analyze, critique and evaluate the effectiveness of liberal, socialist and nationalist theories of revolution
- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate current revolutionary and social movements and compare and contrast them with historical movements and revolutionary theory

POLI 350: Comparative Gender Politics

- Demonstrate knowledge of various ideas of gender cross-nationally
- Illustrate connections between and think about differences across the experiences of women in diverse countries and location

POLI 351: Politics of Contemporary Brazil

- Students will formulate a research thesis or question on one topic in Brazilian political development and produce an in-depth analysis of that topic
- Students will be able to summarize and analyze the major social, economic and political developments in Brazil from the colonial period through the First Republic
- Students will be able to explain and appraise the construction of Brazilian national identity during the Estado Novo
- Students will be able to describe, analyze and evaluate the unique participatory institutions of contemporary Brazil

POLI 352: Geographies and Politics of the European Union

- Demonstrate knowledge of EU political systems, including their institutions, processes, and laws
- Understand the logic of EU enlargement and its impacts on the geographies and politics of the EU
- Apply theories and concepts to new situations
- Enhance reading comprehension

POLI 353: Geographies and Politics of Food

- Identify and explain major political philosophies, western and non-western, and their origins
- Apply theories and concepts related to food to new situations, including personal and societal aspects of food
- Demonstrate knowledge of the variety of methods used by scholars of politics and understand which approaches are appropriate for particular tasks
- Enhance reading comprehension

POLI 359: Special Topics in Comparative Politics

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Student learning outcomes will change depending on the particular course. Courses that count for special topics under the comparative politics designation would connect to our department learning outcome 1

POLI 360: International Human Rights Law

- Demonstrate knowledge of human rights law and theory
- Apply theories and concepts to new legal situations

POLI 363: International Law and Organization

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective
- Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, effectively write papers
- Apply theories and concepts to new situations

POLI 364: International Environmental Politics

- Students will have a stronger and more informed perspective on the evolution of international environmental politics, the actors and issues involved and the ways institutions and actors have sought to address global challenges

- Students will develop a more sophisticated conception of different kinds of international environmental problems and develop a facility for using competing international relations theories to explain the emergence and evolution of these issues
- Students will develop abilities to comprehend the views of others and articulate, defend one's own position
- Students will develop effective, concise writing abilities and refine critical analysis skills.

POLI 365: International Relations of the Middle East

- Students will gain a stronger and more informed perspective on where the region called the "Middle East" has fit into the dynamics of contemporary international relations
- Students will emerge with a stronger foundation in international relations theory and appreciate how different theories posit explanations for the events and interactions states in this region have had with the rest of the world
- Students will learn how to apply theories of international relations and/or foreign policy to an issue related to the region's international relations of particular interest to them
- Students will develop effective, concise writing and critical analysis skills

POLI 367: Geography of International Conflict

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Identify and explain major political philosophies, western and nonwestern, and their origins
- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons why people behave in diverse political roles and spaces, particularly in conflict and conflict resolution settings
- Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, effectively write papers

POLI 368: Political Geography

- Demonstrate knowledge of political systems including their institutions, processes, laws and constitutions and the relations between and among nations
- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons why people behave in diverse political roles and spaces
- Apply theories and concepts to new situations
- Demonstrate knowledge of the variety of methods used by scholars of politics and understand which methodological approaches are appropriate where and choose their own methodological approaches in papers

POLI 369: Politics of Globalization

- Demonstrate a generalized understanding of the capitalist ideas, values, norms and practices governing and guiding the process of globalization
- Recognize and explain how and why the successes and problems accompanying globalization affect them directly and indirectly in their daily lives

POLI 379: Special Topics in International Relations

- Students learning outcomes will vary for this class. As a special topic that falls under Global Politics and Spaces and more particularly under the category of international relations the expectation is that the learning outcome connects to the idea of IR under a thematic approach to international politics. For example, the syllabus under consideration as a catalogue course, IR of the Middle East (POLI 365) was most recently taught under the special topics in international relations.

POLI 380: Jurisprudence

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical evolution common law and the Western legal tradition
- Demonstrate an understanding of theories of jurisprudence, including natural law, legal positivism, utilitarianism, realism, and moralism
- Demonstrate the ability to distinguish competing theories of statutory interpretation

POLI 387: American Political Thought

- Students will demonstrate understanding of key primary documents
- Students will analyze contemporary interpretations of key documents
- Students will interpret contemporary social movements

POLI 390: Contemporary Liberalism

- Students will demonstrate understanding of Rawls and his critics
- Students will explicate analyze theoretical concepts
- Students will analyze secondary scholarship on Rawls and his critics
- Students will apply concepts to contemporary political issues

POLI 391: Utopia/Dystopia

- Students will identify key utopian and dystopian texts and themes
- Students will evaluate utopian and dystopian criticism and prescriptions
- Students will design an utopian community
- Students will analyze utopian and dystopian texts

POLI 395: Global Political Theory

- Demonstrate understanding of readings, analyze texts critically, effectively write papers, increase the quality of student's reading, writing, debate and critical thinking skills
- Improve student's understanding of how different theories define and approach the issue of development
- Distinguish their own views from those of others and can defend their own perspective

POLI 397: Environmental Geography

- Knowledge: Describe key issues in environmental geography
- Comprehend: Explain environmental politics in the context of broader social and political geographies
- Application: Illustrate the multi-scale nature of resource use and the political struggles for control of resources
- Analysis: Analyze the multi-scale environmental problems using geographical methods and theories, often called "political ecology" approaches
- Synthesis: Develop skills in critical reading, research, and oral presentation to construct, communicate and present complicated ideas to a lay public audience
- Evaluate: Compare and justify different research methodologies from the social and natural sciences, and choose methods that would be most effective in creating interdisciplinary knowledge of social-environmental phenomena

POLI 399: Special Topics in the Politics of Ideas

- As a special topics course the particular learning outcomes of the course will change. But we would expect courses in this subfield to connect to department outcomes concerning knowledge of political theory and applying theories to new situations
- Demonstrate knowledge of theories addressed
- Apply theoretical frameworks to new situations

POLI 400: Tutorial

- Student will demonstrate understanding of readings and analyze texts critically
- Student will develop their own views of materials and skillfully defend their own perspectives
- Student will demonstrate understanding of why people behave as they have in diverse settings

POLI 401: Reading and Independent Study in Political Science

- Vary depending on independent study. But all independent studies will include students:
- Demonstrating understanding of texts
- Applying theories/ideas to new situations

POLI 402: Field Internship

- Conduct qualitative research including ethnography and interviews, in an organizational setting
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history, organizational mission, and political environment of the internship organization
- Reflect on their own talents and interests in light of their internship experience
- Critically assess an aspect of the contemporary US labor market

POLI 405: Capstone Seminar

- Students will demonstrate mastery of the independent research process
- Students will display skills in critical analysis and effective communication

POLI 499: Bachelor's Essay

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of methods used by scholars of politics and select a method appropriate to their project
- Students will demonstrate mastery of the independent research process, including all its phases
- Students will be able to enter into scholarly dialogue with professionals in their area of work and find their own voice in that conversation, as well as substantiate their ideas.