

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Academic Year

2011-2012

## School

School of Humanities and Social Science [School Web site](#)

## School Dean

Janet Dizinno, Ph.D. [hssdean@stmarytx.edu](mailto:hssdean@stmarytx.edu)

## Department

Political Science

## Department Chair

Steve Neiheisel, Ph.D. [sneiheisel@stmarytx.edu](mailto:sneiheisel@stmarytx.edu)

## Description of Program/Major

Aristotle states: "The end and purpose of a polis [a civic community] is the good life, and the institutions of social life are means to that end." Individuals who appreciate politics, who desire to influence society, who enjoy debating ideas, and who like to organize people or events, should consider the political science major.

The Department of Political Science at St. Mary's University is committed to education, to the scholarly life, and to an approach that urges students to serve society. St. Mary's Department of Political Science fosters the building of an engaged community characterized by social justice and civic conscience.

Our goal is for political science graduates to apply the answers they formulate to their private lives and to their careers.

## Degree Requirements

### Core Curriculum (SMC)

#### St. Mary's University Core (30 Hours)

*All St. Mary's Core SMC13## "Reflection" courses must be completed before registering for SMC23## "Practice" courses. "Reflection" courses can be taken in any order followed by "Practice" courses in any order.*

SMC 1301	Foundations of Civilization	3
SMC 1311	Foundations of Reflection: Self (Formerly PL 1310)	3
SMC 1312	Foundations of Reflection: Nature	3
SMC 1313	Foundations of Reflection: Others	3

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SMC 1314	Foundations of Reflection: God (Formerly TH 2301)	3
SMC 2301	Foundations of Practice: Ethics (Formerly PL 2332)	3
SMC 2302	Foundations of Practice: Civic Engagement and Social Action	3
SMC 2303	Foundations of Practice: Fine Arts and Creative Process (Formerly FA 1101, FA 1102, FA 1103)	3
SMC 2304	Foundations of Practice: Literature	3
SMC 4301	Capstone Seminar: Prospects for Community and Civilization	3

## School Specific Core (SSC)

### School of Humanities and Social Sciences School Specific Core (30 Hours)

Speech	SE 1321 (for international students), SE 1341, SE 2333, SE 3391	3
Composition and Rhetoric (grade of "C" or better)	EN 1311, EN 1313 (for international students)	3
Mathematics	MT 1301, MT 1302, MT 1303, MT 1305, MT 1306, MT 1411, MT 2412	3
Foreign Languages	Six hours at the sophomore level (2311, 2312) in a Foreign Language previously studied for a minimum of one year; Or, 6 hours of introductory level (1311, 1312) in a Foreign Language not previously studied; Or, 12 hours of CLEP credit for a language previously studied.	6
History	HS 1301, HS 1302, HS 1303, HS 1351, HS 1352, HS 3312 (or any HS courses pending AC approval)	3
Science	BL 1301, BL 1302, BL 3311, BL 3312, CH 1303, CH 1304, CH 1401, CH 1402, EG 2300, ES 1300, ES 1303, ES 1304, ES 1373, PY 1300, PY 1310, PY 1401, PY 1402	3
Theology	Advanced Theology 33XX, HU 3303	3
Fine Arts	AR, DM, MU	3
Literature	EN 23XX	3

## Four Year Degree Plan

[Sample 4-year degree plan](#)

## Department Courses and Descriptions

### American National Government (3)

PO 1311

A study of the formal and informal structures and functions of American National Government. Emphasis is placed on the processes by which public policy is made with pertinent examples of that policy. (GOVT 2305)

### Texas State & Local Government (3)

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PO 1312

A study of the formal and informal structures of Texas State Government. Emphasis is placed on the processes by which public policy is made with pertinent examples of that policy. This course is required for Texas Teacher Certification. (GOVT 2306)

## **Understanding Global Politics (3)**

PO 1314

A study of basic political concepts, institutions, and behavior. Political organizations and influence are examined in the contexts of contemporary Western and Eastern political systems. Historical and contemporary political ideals are examined as influences on twentieth century political systems and movements.

## **High Technology & Society (3)**

PO 2300

This course will explore the social, economic, and political implications of modern science and technology. Among topics discussed will be the social, political, and ethical nature of scientific research and technological development. The domestic as well as international impacts of the new technologies will be discussed from a multi-disciplinary perspective. This course will also involve exploring a number of “hands on” demonstrations and exercises in super conductors, laser, fiber optics, etc.

## **Political Research Methodology (3)**

PO 2310

Introduction to the methods of political research. The focus is on designing research. Students will assess the state of scholarly literature, identify interesting questions, formulate strategies for collecting qualitative and quantitative data for answering those questions. They shall learn how to, and shall conduct a literature review on some substantive question. Successful completion of this course fulfills the information literacy proficiency requirements of the core curriculum.

## **Applied Research Methods (3)**

PO 2311

The second course of a two-course sequence on research methods in political science. The focus is on conducting and evaluating political science research. Students will assess the state of scholarly literature, identify interesting questions, formulate strategies for collecting qualitative and quantitative data for answering them, further hone methodological tools with which to conduct research, and learn how to write up publishable results. Substantive examples will be drawn from American politics, international relations, comparative politics, and public administration, which all rely on empirical evidence.

Prerequisites: PO 2310 or permission of the Instructor.

## **Topics in American/State/Local Politics (1)**

PO 3100

Study of one of the broad range of topics in federal, state, and local politics, including structures and functions of various institutions.

## **Topics in Political Behavior (1)**

PO 3110

Study of one of a broad range of topics in political behavior, including socialization, political

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participation, ethnic politics, and religion.

## **Topics in Public Policy (1)**

PO 3120

Study of one of a broad range of topics in public policy or public administration, including civil rights, immigration, school finance, social welfare, etc.

## **Topics in Political Thought (1)**

PO 3140

Problems, values, and uses of selected normative and empirical political thinkers. Topics vary.

## **Topics in International/Comparative Politics (1)**

PO 3160

Study of any one of the broad range of topics in International or Comparative Politics. To include such topics as peaceful resolution of international conflict, international human rights, and comparative institutions.

## **Topics in American/State/Local Politics (2)**

PO 3200

Study of one of the broad range of topics in federal, state, and local politics, including structures and functions of various institutions.

## **Topics in Political Behavior (2)**

PO 3210

Study of one of a broad range of topics in political behavior, including socialization, political participation, ethnic politics, and religion.

## **Topics in Public Policy (2)**

PO 3220

Study of one of a broad range of topics in public policy or public administration, including civil rights, immigration, school finance, social welfare, etc.

## **Topics in Political Thought (2)**

PO 3240

Problems, values, and uses of selected normative and empirical political thinkers. Topics vary.

## **Topics in International/Comparative Politics (2)**

PO 3260

Study of any one of the broad range of topics in International or Comparative Politics. To include such topics as peaceful resolution of international conflict, international human rights, and comparative institutions.

## **Topics in American/State/Local Politics (3)**

PO 3300

Study of one of the broad range of topics in federal, state, and local politics, including structures and functions of various institutions.

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## **The National Executive (3)**

PO 3301

Office and powers of the presidency, individual back grounds, evolution of the office, elections are explored. The President's part in the formulation and implementation of domestic and foreign policy are highlighted.

## **The Legislative Process (3)**

PO 3302

Every aspect of how our national legislature functions and what external and internal variables affect that function is the focus of this class. Both institutional arrangements and interpersonal relationships endemic to the Congress are explored. Consequently, the committee, seniority, party, and leadership systems are thoroughly discussed, together with the role the Congress plays in the overall national governmental scheme.

## **American Political Parties & Interest Groups (3)**

PO 3303

Analysis of the development of American political parties; growth and influence of interest groups; voting, elections and presidential campaigns; research in governmental and political events.

## **State and Local Politics (3)**

PO 3304

Study of American states, including structures and functions of state government, problems in federalism, political processes, elections, and public policy.

## **Topics in Political Behavior (3)**

PO 3310

Study of one of a broad range of topics in political behavior, including socialization, political participation, ethnic politics, and religion.

## **Political Behavior (3)**

PO 3311

A survey of the bases of political behavior: psychology, socialization, and participation.

## **US Latino Politics (3)**

PO 3312

This course will offer a political history of the diverse Latino populations in the United States. Topics to be covered will include racism, civil rights, political participation, and others.

## **Ethnicity, Race, and Class (3)**

PO 3313

The relationship between American society's class, race, and gender cleavage and public policies, at all governmental levels, is explored. Consequently, this course treats this relationship as a “two-way interaction”.

## **Religion and Politics (3)**

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PO 3314

The study of the impact of religion on politics; in particular, the emphasis is on the influence of religious institutions, attitudes and behaviors.

## **Political Communication, Media & Elections (3)**

PO 3315

Study of trends in American voting behavior; relationship of political communication and media campaigns, elections and voters' choices; analysis of media in conveying political information; finance and elections; use of survey research in analysis of voting behavior and campaigns; election simulation.

## **Gender Politics (3)**

PO 3316

This course examines and assesses the role and participation of women in American political life. Topics include: women and men as voters, candidates and office holders, the Women's Movement, civil rights, grass roots participation, and key policy issues that have particular relevance to women.

## **American Thought and Culture (3)**

PO 3317

A study of American ideas and how those ideas are expressed in literature, art and architecture.

## **Topics in Public Policy (3)**

PO 3320

Study of one of a broad range of topics in public policy or public administration, including civil rights, immigration, school finance, social welfare, etc.

## **Public Administration (3)**

PO 3321

An examination of administration and politics, administrative legislative relationships, budgetary processes, personnel administration, administrative rule-making, organization, and policy development.

## **Public Policy Analysis (3)**

PO 3322

Exploration of various methods used by public agencies to evaluate the economy, efficiency, and/or effectiveness of their operations, with applications to contemporary public policies. PO 2310 preferred but not required as prerequisite.

## **Urban Politics (3)**

PO 3323

Concentration on the origins, evolutionary processes, and dynamics of cities and their attendant political institutions and processes. Investigation of the externalities resulting from the decisions and non-decisions of the political and bureaucratic processes of urban governments.

## **The Post Modern City (3)**

PO 3324

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## **Intro to Organizational Leader (3)**

PO 3325

An introduction to organizational life and the development of the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective leader.

## **Violence Against Children & Public Policy (3)**

PO 3326

The course covers identification of types of child abuse and their consequences, prevention and intervention strategies and options, and paths to healing and recovery. Students will identify and utilize resources available regarding knowledge of, intervention in, prevention of, healing and recovery from abuse so as to be better prepared to respond to child abuse if and when it is encountered in students' professional lives.

## **Topics in Law (3)**

PO 3330

Study of a broad range of topics in law, including race, gender, behavior, civil rights, international law, and comparative judicial systems.

## **Judicial Process (3)**

PO 3331

The study of the development of the U.S. Supreme Court. Analysis of the American court system including the structure and function of the judicial process.

## **Topics in Political Thought (3)**

PO 3340

Problems, values, and uses of selected normative and empirical political thinkers. Topics vary.

## **Classical Political Thought (3)**

PO 3341

Development of political thinking from the ancient Greeks to the medieval period. Critical analysis and evaluation of original sources.

## **Early Modern Political Thought (3)**

PO 3342

Development of political thinking from Machiavelli to Marx. Critical analysis and evaluation of original sources.

## **20th Century Political Thought (3)**

PO 3343

Basic issues and questions of value in political thought with emphasis upon Lenin, Marx, fascism, existentialism, and contemporary political thought.

## **American Political Thought (3)**

PO 3344

Basic issues and questions of value in American thought from colonial times to the present; relevance of political thought for contemporary prospects and problems.

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## **Topics in International/Comparative Politics (3)**

PO 3360

Study of any one of the broad range of topics in International or Comparative Politics. To include such topics as peaceful resolution of international conflict, international human rights, and comparative institutions.

## **International Relations (3)**

PO 3361

The course examines the themes of international relations, power, order, justice, war and peace, in the context of theory and of contemporary world politics.

## **European Politics (3)**

PO 3362

This course will focus on the comparative analysis of the political systems of Europe. The discussion and analysis will focus on the governmental institutions, political cultures, interest groups, and political parties of these countries. The impact of these factors, along with domestic and foreign policy problems, on political stability and instability will be the major focus of research and writing in the course.

## **Latin American Politics (3)**

PO 3363

This course provides a general overview of the political problems associated with the quest for greater socio-economic development in Latin America. Among the problems and perspectives examined are colonial legacies, governmental systems, political cultures, interest groups and political parties, and contemporary problems. In addition to these themes there will be a brief analysis of contemporary events and political environments in the major countries of this region

## **Middle Eastern Politics (3)**

PO 3364

The political systems of the Middle East, the Maghreb, and the Horn of Africa. Islamic culture, the politics of oil, international relations, and analysis of contemporary issues are discussed.

## **Third World Politics (3)**

PO 3365

The political systems of Third World states in the post-colonial and post-Cold War world, with emphasis on the effects of culture and socio-economic development upon political formation.

## **Asian Politics (3)**

PO 3366

A comparative analysis of the political systems of Asia with focus on government, current domestic and foreign policies, political cultures, interest groups. Depending on the topic, the course will deal with East Asia (Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan), South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal) or South East Asia (the ASEAN countries). The topic will be indicated on the student's transcript.

## **African Politics (3)**

PO 3367



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A survey of the political systems of sub-Saharan Africa: government structures, leadership, the role of the military, party systems, international relations, and movements toward democratization.

## **Government Leadership (3)**

PO 3370

This course compares and contrasts the different styles required for effective government leadership within each of four types of government organizations: legislative leadership, executive leadership, bureaucratic leadership and judicial leadership.

## **Social & Civic Leadership (3)**

PO 3375

This course begins with an examination of the role of social and civic organizations in democratic society and proceeds to more specific study of how to lead nonprofit organizations, the mission-driven vehicles of social and civic work. Topics include social ecology, mission development, structure and organizational design, fundraising, board recruitment and governance, volunteer motivation, strategic planning, executive leadership and social entrepreneurship.

## **Business, Government & Public (3)**

PO 4325

A study of how businesses, workers, public interest groups, consumers and government agencies interact and shape public policies and how those interactions and public policies affect society.

## **Constitutional Law I (3)**

PO 4332

Analysis of the American constitutional system, including its institutional aspects such as judicial review, federalism, and the presidency. In addition, a study of fundamental rights such as voting rights and a right to privacy will be examined. Constitutional Law II is not required.

## **Constitutional Law II (3)**

PO 4333

Analysis of the constitutional system, including political and civil rights such as speech, press, assembly, religion, race discrimination, gender discrimination, and affirmative action. PO 4332 is not a prerequisite.

## **International Political Economy (3)**

PO 4368

The examination of various value assessments and ideological perspectives about the structure and political problems of contemporary international economic issues. The course also analyzes the interplay of domestic and international forces in deciding on and implementing economic policies in both advanced and less developed societies.

## **World Security Problems (3)**

PO 4369

A general overview of the theories, causes, and strategies of contemporary international security problems and policies. This course will include the consideration of such topics as nuclear proliferation, conventional weapons and their transfers, terrorism, and security issues. This course also examines various security agreements, proposals, and prospects for international peace and cooperation.

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## **United States Foreign Policy (3)**

PO 4370

The focus of this course is on the relationship between U.S. foreign policy making and implementation and vital national and global interests. Among the perspectives examined are the roles of values, images, and institutions in shaping U.S. foreign policy. The course also considers specific U.S. policies vis-à-vis other countries and regions of the world, as well as important general international issues.

## **Directed Readings and Research (1)**

PO 5199

Special studies designed for selected undergraduate students with permission of instructor and chair person. Prerequisite: Senior standing .

## **Directed Readings and Research (2)**

PO 5299

Special studies designed for selected undergraduate students with permission of instructor and chair person. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

## **Internship Political Science (3)**

PO 5300

Experience-based education in the context of an acceptable pre-professional and/or political activity, to include work under the supervision of an elected, administrative and/or judicial official or in some other political context approved by the department. Ordinarily junior or senior status preferred. Credit of 3, 6 semester hours upon recommendation of Internship coordinator. To obtain 3 or 6 semester hours, it is generally recommended that one must spend 10 hours per week to obtain 3 hours credit and 20 hours per week to obtain 6 hours credit. A research paper is required. A reflection paper or weekly log may also be required.

## **Senior Seminar in Political Science (3)**

PO 5301

A required capstone course for senior political science majors. Synthesized theories, research, and ethical issues in the field of political science and clarifies the connections between the different sub-fields of the discipline. Prepares students for graduate studies, law school, or careers appropriate for political science majors by emphasizing critical reading, writing, and oral communication skills. Writing intensive course.

## **Directed Readings and Research (3)**

PO 5399

Special studies designed for selected undergraduate students with permission of instructor and chair person. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

## **Internship Political Science (6)**

PO 5600

Experience-based education in the context of an acceptable pre-professional and/or political activity, to include work under the supervision of an elected, administrative and/or judicial official or in some other political context approved by the department. Ordinarily junior or senior status preferred. Credit of 3, 6 semester hours upon recommendation of Internship coordinator. To obtain 3 or 6 semester hours, it is

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## **Department Faculty**

[Political Science Faculty Website](#)

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