

Political Science Department / Summer 2022 Courses

NUMBER	TITLE	MODE	INSTRUCTOR
First Session [May 23 — July 1]			
100	Political Theory	online	Schumacher
101	American Politics	online	Blackmond-Larnell
103	Comparative Politics	online	Maboudi
Second Session [July 5 — August 12]			
300A	Politics and Hollywood	online	Savage
300A	Inequality and American Democracy	online	Condon

PLSC 100 / Political Theory / Professor Michael Schumacher



A requirement for PLSC majors that also satisfies the Tier 2 Philosophical Knowledge component of the Core Curriculum, this course takes a thematic approach to introduce students to the subfield of political theory. The theme for this course is “violence.” Are humans violent by nature? Is politics necessarily violent? We will address questions like these from a philosophical perspective by engaging with historic debates from preeminent thinkers about morality, values, and justice. This course will be online and completely asynchronous with no scheduled class or exam times.

PLSC 101 / American Politics / Professor Twyla Blackmond-Larnell



Let’s talk U.S. politics!!! We will examine various aspects of American national government, politics, and policy-making, including public opinion and political participation, elections, news media, as well as the various elected/appointed offices. Students will review lectures asynchronously and complete exams online but meet periodically (via Zoom) to discuss how the course materials relate to current political and policy events. Office hours will be conducted daily. This course is a Tier 2 option in the Societal & Cultural Knowledge Area of the Core Curriculum.

PLSC 103 / Comparative Politics / Professor Tofigh Maboudi



Why are some states democratic and others not? Why do democracies tend to be more economically prosperous than authoritarian regimes? Where and how do democracies emerge or fail? More broadly, what are the consequences of different forms of government? These are some of the questions we will review in this class. Focusing on different political institutions and practices, this course examines various aspects of governments from a comparative perspective. This class will be completely asynchronous, with Zoom office hour meetings.

PLSC 300A / Politics and Hollywood / Professor Amanda Savage



Politics has always been a major theme for the American film industry. In this course you will watch and analyze some of the most iconic political films from the last several decades to see what they teach us about politics, political culture, and the place of the movie industry in American politics. Each week will focus on films about a different major political event in the past century, including: the Cold War, Watergate, Civil Rights and the War on Terror. Most of this class will be asynchronous but we will meet online for about an hour each week to discuss the films.

PLSC 300A / Inequality and American Democracy / Professor Meghan Condon



Economic inequality is at a record high in the US. This class explores the political causes and consequences of this phenomenon. Why has the gap between the rich and the rest grown so much? What, if anything, do Americans want government to do about it? Students will explore cutting-edge research on economic divides, public opinion trends, and policy solutions. This course will also pay particular attention to the social experience of inequality and what shapes our perceptions of others whose life circumstances differ from our own in a democratic society.