Political Science (POL)

Political Science (POL) Courses

POL 1013. Introduction to American Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = GOVT 2305)
This course provides an introduction to American politics. The course centers on the fundamental role played by the institutions of American government including Congress, the Presidency, Federal Judiciary, and the Bureaucracy in understanding political dynamics in the United States. The course also examines public opinion and participation as inputs to the institutions of American government, and the mediating role of organizations such as interest groups, the news media, and political parties. Considerable time is devoted to thinking about how these components fit together, and how they shape the nature and importance of citizenship and civic engagement. The course also makes connections between politics at the federal level of government and the political institutions and processes of the state of Texas. This course is required to fulfill the Core Curriculum requirement in Government-Political Science.

POL 1133. Texas Politics and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = GOVT 2306)
This course involves the analysis of Texas government institutions, political behavior, civic engagement and their political and philosophical foundations. Topics may include discussions of the Texas and U.S. Constitutions; the role of state in the federal system; the diverse demographic, economic, and cultural bases of state politics; elections, interest groups, and elites; and legislative, executive, judicial, urban, and county politics. Considerable time is devoted to thinking about how these components fit together, and how they shape the nature and importance of citizenship and civic engagement in Texas. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Government-Political Science.

POL 1213. Civil Rights in Texas and America. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = GOVT 2306)
This course presents the central elements of traditional introductory political science courses on Texas politics using an alternative, contextual method that teaches students to understand broader political and legal subjects through the lens of civil rights issues and struggles. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Government-Political Science. (Formerly titled “Studies in Texas and American Politics.”)

POL 2503. Introduction to Political Theory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The fundamental concepts and problems of politics as viewed by the classical political philosophers and contemporary theorists: justice, power, authority, obligation, freedom, and equality.

POL 2513. Politics and the Administrative Process. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The role of bureaucratic agencies in the formulation and implementation of public policy. Organization theory and administration in the public sector. While the approach of the course is comparative, special emphasis is placed on bureaucracy in the United States. (Formerly titled “Public Administration and Public Policy.”)

POL 2533. Introduction to Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = GOVT 2304)
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to the discipline of political science, with particular emphasis devoted to its development from 1880 to the present. Topics may include types of political institutions, uses of political science, participation by political scientists in public affairs or public policy, and career options available to political science majors.

POL 2603. International Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course offers an opportunity for broad study of issues such as North-South and East-West conflicts; international aid and trade through transnational enterprises; economic development and debt; military conflicts and nuclear weapons; new frontiers of oceanic resources, tropical forests, and space; cross-cultural communications; American and foreign values; language issues; and investigations of issues related to a particular nation and culture. (Formerly INS 2403. Same as GLA 2603. Credit cannot be earned for more than one of the following: POL 2603, GLA 2603, or INS 2403.)

POL 2623. Law and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the nature of law, its role in sociopolitical systems, and the institutional components of legal systems. Theories and systems of law examined may include natural, constitutional, common, civil, customary, socialist, and theocratic law. May employ a comparative or historical framework for understanding the variety of institutional arrangements through which systems of law are implemented.

POL 2633. Comparative Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. A comparative examination of the diverse forms, goals, styles, and practices of government in democratic and authoritarian states. Several major polities will be studied in detail. (Same as GLA 2633. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 2633 and GLA 2633.)

POL 2703. Scope and Methods in Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to methods of conducting and interpreting research in political science. Topics include principles of the philosophy of science; research designs, statistical concepts and techniques (conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement), and data-gathering procedures; data analysis; and qualitative methods. May also include standard computer packages and secondary data analysis.

POL 3013. The American Legal Process. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to how the United States legal system is organized and functions. A broad overview of the system and its actors is combined with a focus on particular areas of the law such as domestic relations, personal injury liability litigation, criminal procedure, and alternative dispute resolution.

POL 3033. International Governance. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. International law, organizations, regimes, hierarchies, and norms such as sovereignty govern the international system. These factors help create a world order that limits armed conflict, regulates the world economy, advances environmental protection, and sets human rights standards. This course explains theories of international governance, and compares these perspectives to the analysis of political scientists on the past record and likely future of world order. (Same as GLA 3033. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3033 and GLA 3033.)

POL 3043. International Human Rights. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course explores the philosophical and political meaning of fundamental human rights: cases of human rights violations (such as genocide in the Holocaust, Rwanda, Kosovo, and Cambodia; the death penalty; female genital mutilation; violations of workers’ rights; and torture); and the role that states, international organizations and individuals can play in ending human rights abuses. Course readings may include contemporary theories of human rights and case studies on the enforcement of rights around the world. (Same as GLA 3043. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3043 and GLA 3043.)
POL 3093. Mexican American Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An opportunity to study Mexican American participation in the electoral process, political and economic institutions, labor organizations, and alternative modes of political action.

POL 3103. Political Ideology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines the theories of justice and political ideologies that shape contemporary political debate. Theories may include liberal, libertarian, socialist, communitarianism, neoconservatism, feminism, multiculturalism, environmentalism, and critical race perspectives. Authors may include Rawls, Nozick, Sandel, Okin, Kymlicka, and others.

POL 3113. American Political Thought. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Consideration of American political thought with an emphasis on primary sources. Readings may include the works of Winthrop, Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, Tocqueville, Calhoun, Lincoln, Melville, Twain, Douglass, DuBois, Addams, Croly, Wilson, Roosevelt, MLK, Malcolm X, and other diverse works of a political, philosophical, or literary nature. May be organized chronologically or topically.

POL 3123. Political Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Political psychology seeks to explain the behavior of political leaders and mass publics by focusing on the psychological underpinnings of such behavior—their personalities, identities, values, attitudes, and feelings. Attention will be given to the interaction of these factors within different political environments. Topics may include political socialization; personality and political leadership; the psychology of small group decision making; the psychology of mass participation; and affect and cognition in political judgment.

POL 3133. Political Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The major works of Western political philosophy from ancient times to the Renaissance. Writers examined may include Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Augustine, and Machiavelli.

POL 3143. Political Philosophy: Modern. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The major works of political philosophy from the Renaissance to the 19th century. Writers examined may include Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Mill.

POL 3153. Political Philosophy: Contemporary. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Political thought from the late 19th century to the present. Topics examined may include contemporary Marxism and critical theory, analytic political theory, positivism and social science, phenomenological approaches, existentialism, and contemporary ethics.

POL 3163. Introduction to Feminist Theory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. A reading-intensive, upper-level lecture course for political science majors and women’s studies majors and minors, introducing students to feminist approaches to theory. Covers feminist critiques of some of the dominant traditions in Western political and social theory as well as ways in which women have begun to construct theories from their own distinctive perspectives within the intersecting hierarchies of race, class, and gender.

POL 3173. Justice and Social Policy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines social policies relating to the family, education, health care, old age, poverty, and other issues from a normative or social justice perspective. Questions that this course addresses may include: What role, if any, should the state play in the family? What should be the goals of a just education system? Should the United States support universal health care? What responsibility, if any, does society have toward the poor?

POL 3183. Women in Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the roles and forms of participation of women in contemporary American politics. Topics may include the fight for civil rights and equality; media portrayals of women in politics; women as candidates and as voters; women as elected officials, activists, and political professionals; and women in the military, including theories of gender and war.

POL 3203. African American Political Thought. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines the political thought of African Americans from the ante-bellum era to the present. May include the works of Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Marcus Garvey, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Cornel West, Shelby Steele, Clarence Thomas, Lani Guinier, Eldridge Cleaver, Barack Obama, and others.

POL 3213. Business and Politics in the Third World. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Business-government relations in Third World nations at a time of deep policy changes initiated in the 1980s. Major theories of business-government relations and their explanatory validity for Third World nations. Particular emphasis may be given to Latin America and Asia and their dynamic emerging markets.

POL 3223. Judicial Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Political behavior of the major participants in the judicial process: judges, attorneys, juries, defendants, and litigants; the political and administrative context of the judicial process; judicial-executive and judicial-legislative relations; the impact of court decisions.

POL 3244. Mass Media and Public Opinion. (3-2) 4 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Explores the acquisition of political attitudes, the role of the mass media in society and politics, and the relationship between political attitudes and values, the mass media, and public policy. (Formerly POL 3243. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3244 and POL 3243.)

POL 3253. Participation and American National Elections. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to fundamentals of American electoral politics. Topics will include psychological, sociological and economic models of participation, the presidential primary process, the effectiveness of presidential and congressional campaigns on the vote, psychological/sociological and economic models of the presidential and congressional vote, the incumbency advantage in congressional elections, spending in congressional elections, candidate entry, and comparison of House and Senate elections.

POL 3273. Introduction to Global Analysis. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An overview of global conditions and events traditionally subject to analysis by American and international organizations, such as defense and security concerns, economic development, natural resources, human migration, terrorism, arms transfers and weapons proliferation, natural disasters, and international cooperation. Provides an overview of how government and private sector organizations respond and how they engage in defense, diplomacy, intelligence, etc. Discusses the role and operations of analytical functions in government and private organizations. May be taught from different perspectives depending upon faculty expertise and interests. (Same as GLA 3013. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3273 and GLA 3013.).
POL 3283. The American Presidency. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The U.S. president's role in the American political system. Topics may include the constitutional framework and historical development of presidential powers, presidential personality, and legislative, foreign policy, and war-making powers.

POL 3293. Political Movements. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines the origins, mobilizing tactics, and goals of political movements. Movements that may be investigated are the movements of labor, students, women, blacks, environmentalists, and others.

POL 3303. Race, Ethnicity and Public Policy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The objective of this course is to familiarize students with a range of discourses to understand the complexities of racial and ethnic inequalities in the United States as well as the history and current state of racial and ethnic politics. The course examines the politics and experiences of several groups, such as African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, and Asian Americans. It also reviews the wide range of public policy issues as they affect, and are affected by, racial and ethnic considerations. (Formerly SSC 3253. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3303 and SSC 3253.).

POL 3323. Constitutional Law I. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of constitutional questions arising from the institutional features of American government, including electoral processes, separation of powers, and federalism. Emphasizes judicial opinions and other primary sources. May be organized chronologically or topically. (Same as LGS 3323. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3323 and LGS 3323.).

POL 3333. Constitutional Law II. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of constitutional questions arising from the protection of rights and liberties in the American political system. Topics may include religious liberty, free speech, voting, property rights, due process, equal protection, and rights of the accused. Emphasizes judicial opinions and other primary sources. May be organized chronologically or topically. (Replaces POL 3023 Civil Liberties in American Law and Practice. Same as LGS 3333. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3333 and LGS 3333.).

POL 3353. Leadership and Elites. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of national political executives in parliamentary and presidential democracies and in authoritarian states. Topics examined may include the selection process, decision making, leadership and bureaucracy, executive-legislative relations, and neocorporatism.

POL 3363. Political Parties and Interest Groups. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the purpose of political parties in the political process. Interest groups and their roles in government and public policy.

POL 3373. The Legislative Process. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the functions, structures, and politics of legislatures and their relationships to their constituencies and other branches of government.

POL 3383. East European Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course provides an overview of politics in Eastern Europe broadly understood as the region of East Central and Southeastern Europe, and the post-Soviet space. It traces the evolution of nation building since the interwar period and the system of communist rule, with a focus on key dimensions of the post-communist transformation of the region. Thematic coverage may include constitutions, political culture, party politics, and Euro-Atlantic integration. (Same as GLA 3383. Credit cannot be earned for POL 3383 and GLA 3383.).

POL 3393. Latin American Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of political institutions and their relationship to social and economic change in Latin America. Profiles of major Latin American countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Cuba. (Same as GLA 3393. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3393 and GLA 3393.).

POL 3403. European Governments. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The interplay of politics with the changing social and economic environment in the advanced industrial societies of Western Europe. Elites, participation, governmental structures, party systems, interest groups, and public policy will be examined in several selected polities and the European Union. (Same as GLA 3403. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3403 and GLA 3403.).

POL 3413. The Politics of Urban Development. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An opportunity to pursue a political-economic analysis of the metropolis, focusing on the problems and conflicts stemming from urban growth and stagnation. Topics examined may include uneven development, planning, industrial development policy, taxation, and intergovernmental rivalry. Case studies may be drawn from societies other than the United States.

POL 3433. Governments and Politics of Southeast Asia. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. A comparative examination of the political systems of selected Southeast Asian countries and their efforts to deal with political, economic, and social change. Countries studied may include Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. (Same as GLA 3433. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3433 and GLA 3433.).

POL 3443. Governments and Politics of East Asia. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. A comparative examination of the political systems of selected East Asian countries and their efforts to deal with problems of political, economic, and social change. Countries studied may include the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of China, and South Korea. (Same as GLA 3443. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3443 and GLA 3443.).

POL 3453. The Politics of Mexico. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Background to the contemporary political system of Mexico, including independence, foreign intervention, the Diaz regime, and the 1910–1917 revolution. Other topics may include the constitution, the structure of government, political parties, the presidency, economic development and policy, contemporary leadership, and elites. (Same as GLA 3453. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3453 and GLA 3453.).

POL 3463. Politics of the Third World. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The political system of various Third World nations. An inquiry into the political and economic problems of these countries, such as development, instability, and political change. (Same as GLA 3463. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3463 and GLA 3463.).
POL 3483. International Political Economy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course is an introduction to the institutions and policies that govern international economic relations. Students will study the development of the international economic system as well as controversies over money, trade, and governance. (Same as GLA 3483. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3483 and GLA 3483.)

POL 3493. Politics of the Middle East. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the past, present, and future of Middle East politics, with an emphasis on culture, politics, religion, and conflicts in the area; the international relations of Middle Eastern countries as well as superpowers’ involvement. (Same as GLA 3493. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3493 and GLA 3493.)

POL 3503. American Foreign Policy since World War II. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Major private interests and public institutions involved in American foreign policy making; public opinion and foreign involvement; specific policies toward international organizations and major world regions. (Same as GLA 3503. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3503 and GLA 3503.)

POL 3513. International Organizations in World Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Major issues involving international organizations: nationalism and globalism, financing problems, international staffing, voting patterns, peace-keeping, and international conferences. Organizations examined include the United Nations system, regional development banks, alliance systems, cartels, and common markets. (Same as GLA 3513. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3513 and GLA 3513.)

POL 3523. Force in International Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of modern research into the use of coercion in international relations, specifically economic sanctions, war, and terrorism. Special emphasis will be placed on the causes, trends, and consequences of interstate wars. Peace movements and the technologies of peace making will also be covered. (Same as GLA 3523. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3523 and GLA 3523.)

POL 3553. The Welfare State in Comparative Perspective. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. History and development of social policies in modern societies. Policy areas covered may include pensions, health care, income maintenance, housing, education, training, and child care. (Formerly titled “Social Policy in Modern Welfare States.”)

POL 3563. Current Issues in World Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the issues that divide the people of the world. The structure of contemporary world problems will be studied and possible strategies for the reduction of international conflict will be assessed. Topics may include nuclear proliferation, world hunger, revolution and intervention, transnational enterprises, competing ideologies of international relations, and global ecology. (Same as GLA 3563. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3563 and GLA 3563.)

POL 3583. Jurisprudence. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An analytic inquiry into the normative, empirical, and ideological underpinnings of law. The functions, nature, and utilities of law in various social and conceptual schemes. Alternatives to formal law and jural dispute settling. (Formerly POL 4153. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3583 and POL 4153.)

POL 3633. Political Economy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The political, legal, and ethical context of modern commercial society is explored through the evolution of conceptions of the economy, the individual, and the state. Topics may include the institutional foundations of market societies, ethical and legal impact of business practices, comparisons of national economic policies, the interaction of modern government and economic activity, and the impact of markets on concepts of public and private life. (Same as GLA 3633. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3633 and GLA 3633.)

POL 3743. Politics in Film. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines the role of film in the political process and in the broader political development of the United States and other countries. Students will study how American and international films operate as information, propaganda, and entertainment.

POL 3753. Latino/a Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines political developments in Latino communities. Topics may include political history and organization, Latino naturalization, patterns of participation, political attitudes, and policy-making influence.

POL 3763. Globalization. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines normative and empirical issues in globalization debates, such as the role of states and nonstate actors, the emergence of global civil society, patterns of international development, the influence of international integration on security, health, violence, and intercultural tolerance, and the status of institutions for global justice. (Same as GLA 3763 and INS 3763. Credit cannot be earned for more than one of the following: POL 3763, GLA 3763, or INS 3763.)

POL 3773. Experiments in Democratic Renewal. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: POL 1013 and POL 2633 or equivalent. This course examines experiments with popular participation around the world that try new forms of collective action to solve public problems. The setting of these experiments is the double movement of globalization of production and the decentralization of government which have placed a premium on learning processes in contrast to the bureaucratic welfare state and market-based decision-making. The course examines cases in the United States as well as other countries, such as Brazil, Mexico, Canada, India, and others. The course will examine debates about the foundations for as well as the efficacy of new decision-making procedures. Policy cases may include schooling, environmental protection, policing, housing, drug rehabilitation, sweat shop labor, community finance, women’s development, and public budgeting.

POL 3783. Democracy and World Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines theories of democratic transition and focuses on the problematics of democratic change throughout the world. Case studies may include political change after the end of the Cold War in the former Communist states, democratic transitions in Latin America, patterns of change in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and south Asia. (Same as GLA 3783. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3783 and GLA 3783.) (Formerly titled “Comparative Democratization.”)

POL 3823. Politics of Congressional Elections. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to the politics of congressional elections. Topics include determinants of national election outcomes, campaigning for Congress, strategic behavior, primary elections, the incumbency advantage, money in congressional elections, Senate versus House comparisons, and representation.
POL 4003. Comparative Foreign Policy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013 or consent of instructor. This course is an in-depth comparative examination of the worldviews, institutional processes, political actors, and outcomes of foreign policy-making of several major nation-states. Themes that may be covered are comparative policies for international security, international governance, economic competition, humanitarian action, and regional crises such as the Middle East and African development. (Same as GLA 4003. Credit cannot be earned for both GLA 4003 and POL 4003.)

POL 4013. The Intelligence Community and World Affairs. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Discusses the historical and political developments of intelligence as a component of defense and security policy, mainly in the post-World War II era. Examines the legal foundations of the American national security and intelligence functions, including discussion of accountability and control measures. Emphasizes the role of intelligence in national security policy making, principally conducted by the Executive and Legislative branches in democratic societies. Discusses the main functions of intelligence. (Same as GLA 4013. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4013 and GLA 4013.)

POL 4023. Techniques in Global Analysis. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Examines various techniques for collecting, analyzing, and communicating information by government and private sector organizations engaged in global analysis. Stresses methodologies for analyzing informational inputs, including strengths and weaknesses of various analytical applications. Studies analytic cultures and pathologies associated with information collection and interpretation, legal and political oversight, accommodation of dissenting views in interpretation and policy debate, and economic, political, and cultural implications of analytical findings. Compares and contrasts analytical methods employed by public and private organizations. May be taught from different perspectives depending upon faculty expertise and interests. (Same as GLA 4123. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4023 and GLA 4123.)

POL 4123. Legal and Philosophical Reasoning. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An intensive analysis of selected philosophical texts focusing on law and justice. Students are challenged to develop critical reading and thinking skills by studying the texts of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Dworkin, Hart, and/or others who outline difficult arguments and unfamiliar ideas. Emphasis is placed on drawing reasoned conclusions, advocating positions, and expressing oneself in oral and written forms. (Same as LGS 4123. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4123 and LGS 4123.)

POL 4133. Politics, Law, and Literature. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Examination of fundamental questions of political theory as treated in works of literature. Topics may include authority, law and discretion, the individual and the community, church and state, criminality, and the nature of freedom, especially as these issues emerge in different political orders. Potential works include Greek tragedy and comedy, Dante, Shakespeare, Dostoyevsky, Hawthorne, Melville, Twain, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Flannery O’Connor, Robert Penn Warren, Walker Percy, Saul Bellow, and others.

POL 4143. The European Union. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013, POL 2633, POL 3403, or consent of instructor. This course focuses on the historical, political, and intellectual sources of the European Union, the evolution of its institutions, and the effectiveness of its system of governance. Emphasis will be placed on the influence of regional integration on politics and democracy within Europe. The course will consider the construction of united Europe in the context of relations between the EU and member states, European institutions and citizens, and the EU and the world system of politics. (Same as GLA 4143. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4143 and GLA 4143.)

POL 4203. Current Topics in Global Analysis. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study of topics in such areas as domestic security planning, politics of national defense budgets and products, terrorism, arms transfers and controls, natural disaster preparedness, peacemaking, nuclear weapons proliferation and negotiations, international trade agreements and policies, national security economics, and civil liberties controversies. (Same as GLA 4203. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4203 and GLA 4203.)

POL 4323. Administrative Law. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. A survey of those aspects of public law of particular relevance to public administration, analyzing such problem areas as the delegation of authority; formal accountability; open records and confidentiality; and responsiveness to democratic value in decision making.

POL 4911. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.
Prerequisites: Independent Study Course Form signed by the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

POL 4912. Independent Study. (0-0) 2 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Independent Study Course Form signed by the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

POL 4913. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Independent Study Course Form signed by the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

POL 4933. Internship in Political Science. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Consent of internship coordinator and Department Chair. Supervised experience relevant to political science within selected community organizations. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through the internship.

POL 4936. Internship in Political Science. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Consent of internship coordinator and Department Chair. Supervised experience relevant to political science within selected community organizations. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through the internship.
POL 4953. Special Studies in Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Studies may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

POL 4973. Seminar in Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: POL 1013, POL 2703, and 15 semester credit hours in POL, or consent of instructor. The opportunity for an intensive study of a selected topic. Primary emphasis on supervised research on various aspects of the topic. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors majoring in political science.

POL 4983. Research Practicum. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) of the instructor, the student’s advisor, and the Department Chair. The practicum provides students with the opportunity to focus on a specific research issue having practical applications in geography, governance, politics, or policy. Students participate in a hands-on research experience on the issue in a collective research environment.

POL 4993. Honors Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: A minimum grade point average of 3.0 at UTSA, a 3.5 grade point average in the major, and recommendation by a member of the Political Science and Geography faculty. Supervised research and preparation of an honors thesis. May be repeated once with advisor’s approval. Students who are approved will enroll in the appropriate honors thesis courses during their final two semesters at UTSA. To earn honors, the thesis must be passed by an Honors Committee that will be formed with the recommending faculty and another faculty member. Students interested in enrolling should contact the Department Undergraduate Advisor of Record for additional information.