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. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

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. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

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. An examination of fundamental concepts in political science such as justice, democracy, obligation, freedom, and equality. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

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. Generally offered: Spring.

POL 2603. International Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The course focuses on the study of political processes and interactions between states and non-state actors in an interconnected world, and discusses basic theoretical frameworks like realist, liberal, constructivist and critical approaches; levels of analysis; international institutions; causes of war and peace; and effects of international trade. Other topics discussed may include transnational terrorism; human rights; humanitarian intervention and peacekeeping operations; development; globalization; multinational corporations; nuclear proliferation; climate change; international monetary and financial regimes; democracy promotion, etc. Generally offered: Fall.

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. (Same as PAL 2623. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 2623 and POL 2623.) Generally offered: Fall.

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 2693. Designing Research in Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. A practical introduction to understanding, interpreting, assessing, and developing research designs in Political Science. Students will be introduced to the different elements of research design and inquiry, including the development of research questions, techniques of operationalization and measurement, and methods of analysis. Topics may also include major theoretical approaches and philosophical debates related to social science inquiry to make students aware of the diversity of research approaches that characterizes Political Science in order to utilize and apply this knowledge in their curriculum. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

POL 2703. Quantitative Methods in Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to fundamental quantitative analysis geared to provide the student knowledge and skills applicable for graduation and beyond. Emphasis will be placed on literacy and basic proficiency in statistical topics and techniques (e.g., classic hypothesis testing, univariate through multivariate analyses); and, data management (e.g., entry and manipulation) and graphical presentation of analysis. Standard statistical software packages will be used. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.
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. (Same as PAL 3013. Credit cannot be earned for both PAL 3013 and POL 3013.) Generally offered: Fall.

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 PAL 3033. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3033 and GLA 3033.) Generally offered: Summer.

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. Contemporary Theories of Justice. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An exploration of competing contemporary accounts of the political, economic, and cultural components of a just society. Some of the following theories will be discussed: libertarianism, liberalism, socialism, Marxism, communitarianism, multiculturalism, feminism, critical race perspectives, and environmentalism. (Formerly titled "Political Ideology").

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. Generally offered: Spring.

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. Generally offered: Spring.

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 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, Cornell West, Shelby Steele, Clarence Thomas, Lani Guinier, Eldridge Cleaver, Barack Obama, and others.

POL 3223. Judicial Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: POL 1013. Topics may include political behavior of the major participants in the judicial process; the development of judicial institutions and processes; the political and administrative context of the judicial process; judicial-executive and judicial-legislative relations; and the impact of judicial decisions. (Same as PAL 3223. Credit cannot be earned for both PAL 3223 and POL 3223.) Generally offered: Spring.

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.) Generally offered: Fall.
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 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. Generally offered: Spring.

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.

POL 3313. The Supreme Court. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines the U.S. Supreme Court as a political and legal institution. Topics may include the colonial and English antecedents to the Supreme Court, its constitutional origins in the framing and ratification debates, major episodes in its development from the early republic to the present, its role within the federal judiciary, its impact on party politics and political culture, and its relationship to Congress, the executive branch, and the state courts. (Same as PAL 3313. Credit cannot be earned for both PAL 3313 and POL 3313).

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. Generally offered: Fall.

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.).

POL 3335. 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 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.) Generally offered: Spring.

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. Politics of Mexico. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course is an introduction to contemporary Mexican politics. It begins with a review of Mexico’s history since independence, and then moves on to study the key challenges in Mexican political development. The course focuses on identifying the key players and institutions involved in Mexican politics, and will evaluate the nature of Mexico’s recent democratic transition/consolidation process. (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.) Generally offered: Summer.

POL 3473. Latin America in the World. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: POL 1013 and one of the following: POL 3393, POL 3453, HIS 2533; or consent of instructor. Advanced survey of major theories and problems in Latin American political and economic development, theories of dependency, corporatism, bureaucratic authoritarianism, and transitions of democracy. Selected problems such as political stability, land reform, economic integration, multinational corporations, inflation, foreign debt, revolution and reform, and the military in politics. (Same as GLA 3473. Credit cannot be earned for both GLA 3473 and POL 3473. Formerly titled “Theories and Problems in Latin American Politics.”)

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: GLA 1013 or POL 1013. This course will examine the role and influence of international organizations in major issue areas such as security, development, human rights, and regionalism. Organizations examined include the United Nations system, regional organizations, alliance systems, and common markets. (Same as GLA 3513. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3513 and GLA 3513.) Generally offered: Fall.

POL 3523. Force in International Politics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course engages with experiences of violence in international relations. It provides an examination of modern research into the use of coercion in international relations with a focus on economic sanctions, war, and terrorism. Special emphasis will be placed on the causes, trends, and consequences of interstate wars. Topics may include armed conflict, trauma and suffering, laws of war, representation of war in media, peace movements, and the technologies of peace making. (Same as GLA 3523. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3523 and GLA 3523.)

POL 3533. 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.”) Generally offered: Spring.

POL 3553. 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 3553. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3553 and GLA 3553.)

POL 3563. 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 3563. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3563 and GLA 3563.)

POL 3573. Jurisprudence. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An inquiry into the nature of law and legal obligation with emphasis on relevant works of political philosophy and those of important jurists. Works covered in the course may represent natural law, positivist, realist, theocratic, and critical perspectives on law. (Formerly POL 4153. Same as PAL 3583. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 3583 and POL 4153 or PAL 3583.)

POL 3593. Topics in Latin American Security. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013 or GLA 1013. This seminar examines key questions for regional security in Latin America. Although drawing on scholarly and historical materials, this course focuses essentially on contemporary regional security and includes general topics, such as regional security, peace and war in Latin America, civil-military relations, drug trafficking, and public security. The cases are selected in part to provide geographical balance and contemporary relevance, but also to demonstrate the contrasts between traditional and emerging security questions in the region. (Same as GLA 3593. Credit cannot be earned for both GLA 3593 and POL 3593.)
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.) Generally offered: Fall.

POL 3643. Justice among Nations. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of different theories of justice between states and/or the citizens of different states. Topics may include just war theory; cosmopolitan and anti-cosmopolitan debates; theories of human rights and the challenges to them; multiculturalism; diverse religious or cultural views on justice in world affairs. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

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 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 toleration, 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.) Generally offered: Summer.

POL 3773. Experiments in Democratic Renewal. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: POL 1013 and GLA 1013 or POL 2603 or POL 2633. 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 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.) Generally offered: Fall.

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 PAL 4123. Formerly LGS 4123. Credit 
cannot be earned for both POL 4123 and PAL 4123 or 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. (Same as 
PAL 4153. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4133 and PAL 4153).

POL 4163. Model UN. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. 
Prerequisite: POL 1013. The course introduces students to the 
United Nations and the world of Model UN. The class will discuss 
the organization's history, structure, operations, and role in the international 
system. Applying this knowledge in educational simulation, the class will 
engage students in modelling the UN. This will include hosting a Model 
UN as well as competing nationally as delegates. As such, the class will 
soolidify substantial knowledge on the UN as well as provide logistical 
project management skills. Credit in GLA 3533 is not a perquisite but 
priority will be given to students who have who have taken GLA 3533. 
(Same as GLA 4163. Credit cannot be earned for both POL 4163 and 
GLA 4163.).

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. (Same as PAL 4323. Credit cannot be earned for both PAL 4323 
and POL 4323.) Generally offered: Spring.

POL 4853. Study Abroad: Political Science. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. 
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A lecture course associated with a 
study abroad program. Involves international travel and field trips. May be 
repeated for credit when the destination country varies.

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 2693, 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. 
Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

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.