

Internships

Political Affairs, Legal Affairs, or other specially designed internships are available for qualified majors and other students for Political Science or Interdepartmental credit. Additional information may be obtained from the Department Chair, and for information on the Albany Semester, State Legislative, or Washington Programs, see the section on Political and Legal Affairs Internships in this bulletin.

Preparation for Public Service

Information can be obtained from the department.

Political Science Courses

PLSC 110 S/U/American Politics

An analysis of the American system of government, focusing on the relationships among national government institutions and on intergovernmental relations among the nation, the states, and the cities. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 120 S/Comparative Politics

An introduction to the comparative study of political behavior and institutions. Brief consideration of individual cases suggests concepts and insights which will facilitate the study and criteria for judgment of differing types of political systems in differing environments and at different stages of development. Includes elementary explanation of "types," "environments," and the concepts of "development." Prepares the entering student for more intensive studies of particular geographical and institutional areas. Major examples considered are drawn from areas other than the United States; however, students are encouraged to apply newly introduced concepts to the politics of the United States. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 140 S/International Politics

An introduction to the concepts and relationships characterizing the modern international system. Based on a review of historical and contemporary developments, students will be challenged to evaluate issues of continuity and change, states and non-state actors, conflict and cooperation, and power and principles. Approaches to international order, such as international law and organizations, the balance of power, and integration

will be addressed, along with contemporary problems in the post-Cold War world. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 202 M/World Religions & Contemporary Issues

The insights and teachings of major living religions will be analyzed by a study of their basic texts and teachers: Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Comparison of how their teachings apply to such contemporary issues as war and peace, the environment, gender, race, sexual orientation, and economic justice. (Cross listed with PHIL 202.) Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once a year

PLSC 211 U/Political Parties and Interest Groups

An analysis of the changing role and function of parties and the expanding influence of interest groups in American politics. Topics to be covered include the role of political parties in a democratic society, the development of parties in the United States, and the role of interest groups with particular emphasis on Political Action Committees. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 213 Political Participation and American National Elections

Analysis of presidential and congressional elections, including nomination processes. Analysis of the behavior of candidates, voters, parties, and campaign contributors in the American electoral system. Causes and consequences of variation in electoral rules in developed democracies will also be

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conducted. The implications of the American electoral system for American democracy will be explored. Also, examination of the variety, determinants, and causes of different forms of participation in American politics. Hence, variations in voter participation, protest activity, letter-writing, associational activity, and financial contributions are considered. Addresses question of why some Americans participate while others do not, as well as the political consequences of these variations in participation for American Democracy. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 215 Community, State, and Regional Politics

A survey of the interrelationships between local governments, states, and metropolitan regions. Particular emphasis is focused on the key political and policy problems affecting intergovernmental cooperation and conflict, how such problems are developed into issues of national interest, and what alternatives are available for solutions. Also focuses upon specific policy issues such as taxation, environment, land use, structural reform, and transportation, which require interdisciplinary solutions in the federal system. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 216 Presidential Politics

A study of contemporary presidential performance within the American political system. Particular attention is given to alternative chief executive choices and values in selecting appropriate courses of action in response to perceived public needs. Topics include political selection processes, political leadership, the presidential advisory system, the public policy presidency, the role of the press, and evaluating presidential power. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 217 Public Administration

A general survey of public administration, including a comparative perspective on theories of bureaucracy, organization, and responsibility. Theories and principles are applied to functions of governmental agencies in implementing public policy with reference to management, personnel, budgeting,

and reorganization. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 218 Politics of Judicial Process

An analysis and evaluation of the administration of justice as an integral part of the American political process. The legal system, adjudicatory processes, the roles and behavior of the participants involved in litigation, the influence of judicial decision-making, and the impact of judicial decisions are studied. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 219: Social and Political Philosophy

This course will consider some of the foundational issues we face in our search for the best group-living arrangements. Such issues will include, but not be limited to, the conflict between individual liberty and social equality, the criteria for just distribution of wealth, and the proper role and form of government. We will consider how questions about these issues have been addressed historically by philosophers since Plato and Aristotle. We will also explore how contemporary political works by Rawls, Nozick, and others might help us understand and try to solve our own political and social problems. Cross-listed with PHIL 219 Credits: 3 (3-0). Offered every year

PLSC 221 Democratization

Democracy as both a political ideal and institutionalized system is relatively new in historical terms: the eighteenth century counted only three such polities (The US, the French Republic, and the Swiss Cantons). This number has increased steadily over time, even leading some to predict a trend toward near-total democratization globally. In what is termed the third wave of democratization, over 80 countries around the world have moved from authoritarian to democratic systems, albeit sometimes slowly and in partial measure, just since the mid-1970s. However, there is no single clear path toward democratization, and the methods for - or even possibility of - assisting countries toward democratic goals remains a topic of acute political controversy. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered every fall

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PLSC 222 Politics of East Asia

This course examines the domestic and international politics of East Asia. How have historical and political factors shaped such varied polities, including a communist country contending with massive socioeconomic and political change and a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system? How successful have the countries of the region been in addressing the political and socioeconomic aspirations of their populations? Which countries have emerged as regional or global powers, and with what effect on the international system? Two major Asian powers, China and Japan, are studied in detail, and the considerable diversity of the region is explored through additional country studies. In addition, each student has the opportunity to pursue study of a pertinent topic of special interest throughout the individual project requirement. The course does not presuppose prior knowledge of East Asian history and politics. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered fall, odd years

PLSC 223 Politics of South Asia

This course explores the major political and socioeconomic forces shaping contemporary South Asia. We begin with an overview of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, and Afghanistan), emphasizing subcontinental factors such as the impact of colonization and anti-colonial freedom struggles; international relations; and regional conflicts such as Kashmir and the nuclearization of the Indo-Pakistani relationship. We then turn to the ways in which newly independent states have contended with challenges of governance, national unity, and socioeconomic development, through case studies of the states of the region. The major focus of the course is the evolution and nature of democratic and authoritarian regimes in the region. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered every fall

PLSC 224 Government and Politics in Africa

The course analyzes the major determinants of social and political change and conflict in the states of Sub-Saharan Africa (i.e. the countries of the region south of the

North African Arab-Islamic Region, including South Africa). Focus is directed to the nature and effects of the pre-colonial and post-colonial economic, social, and political institutions on contemporary politics. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 225 Politics of East Central Europe

A comparative examination of the establishment and development of the former Communist systems in East Central Europe, including the revolutions which brought political change to these regimes. Topics considered include changes in the role of the Communist party and bureaucracy, the economic problems associated with marketization, issues of nationalism and political fragmentation, and the international context of democratization. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 226 Politics of Western Europe

A comparative analysis of political, economic, social, and foreign policy issues of countries in Western Europe. Special attention is given to the growing importance of the European Union. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 227 Civil War and Conflict Resolution

This course examines the phenomenon of civil war using a range of philosophical and theoretical approaches, as well as an abundance of empirical data about the incidence, characteristics, causes, duration, and cessation of civil war. We will focus our analysis on a few key questions: What are the major causes of civil war today? What comparative approaches best help us explain the prevalence of civil war? What special obstacles do civil wars present for conflict resolution? What means exist for countries caught in civil war to reach acceptable resolutions, reassert the rule of law and accountability, and allow their societies to overcome divisions and reconcile? Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 228 S/M/Developing World Politics

A survey of conditions and politics in areas of the world generally referred to as "developing." Why is political instability so common? How does chronic poverty affect politics in

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the developing world? What are the prospects for change? A variety of historical models, theoretical approaches to political development, and contemporary cases will be used to examine these and similar questions. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 230 Political Theory

An examination of the methodological and normative assumptions of the major competing schools of political theory. Particular stress is placed on the modes of analysis employed by these schools concerning such issues as the relation between freedom and equality, the problem of history, the status of politics as a science, the distinction between philosophy and ideology, the relation between theory and practice, the question of value-free political analysis, and the problems concerning revolution and political change. Prerequisites: one 100-level course in political science. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered three semesters out of four

PLSC 240 M/Asia in the Global Setting

This course covers controversial issues of diplomacy, politics, and economics faced by the regions of East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Countries emphasized include the People's Republic of China, Japan, North and South Korea, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Singapore. Special attention is given to problems of development, regional cooperation, the relationships between domestic and foreign policy and Asia's role in world politics. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 241 Politics of Genocide

This course investigates the main causes and roots of evil and cruelty that are examined through learning about genocide in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Students will use the case method to study genocides and mass murders including the Armenia Genocide, the Holocaust, the Cambodian Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 246 S/U.S. Foreign Policy

An examination of the international and domestic setting of US foreign policy, plac-

ing contemporary policy in the context of US traditions. The role of actors in the policy-making process will be analyzed, along with problems and choices confronting the US in the post-Cold War world. Individual crises and case studies may be used to illustrate decision-making processes. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 248 The European Union

This course will review the origins and historical development of the European Union after World War II, describe the roles and functions of the EU institutions, and analyze the impact of the EU on various policy areas, domestic and foreign, of the European space. Theoretical perspectives on the process of regional integration will be incorporated in analyzing the prospects for European integration. Prerequisites: PLSC 120 or PLSC 140. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once a year

PLSC 250 Women and Politics

Sex (like class, race, ethnic identity, religion, or nationality) is treated as a fundamental factor, crucial to political analysis. Explores the politics of male-female relations in individual and social dimensions and in geographically and historically comparative perspective. Examines the political behavior of women in the context of formal, political institutions. Also analyzes the impact of male-dominated structures and culture upon women's consciousness and actions. In short, represents an aspect of the politics of inequality and the mechanisms of dominance and dependence. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 251 R/Modern Political Analysis

The purpose of this course is to introduce Political Science majors to the methods of modern political science research. The course will include a presentation of the scientific approach as practiced by Political Scientists, focusing on both theoretical and methodological issues. The purposes of research, measurement problems, and other data management problems in political science research will be discussed. Students will be introduced to basic statistical techniques

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of data analysis including: dispersion and central tendency, correlation coefficients, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, Chi-Square tests, student t-tests, and simple regression analysis. (Students may not receive credit for more than one 200-level statistics course, including credit for more than one of the following courses: BIOL 250, ECON 205, GEOG 278, MATH 242, MATH 262, PLSC 251, PSYC 250, and SOCL 211.) Prerequisites: PLSC 110, PLSC 120, or PLSC 140. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered three semesters out of four

PLSC 291 Enduring Issues in Comparative and International Politics: (subtitle)

Topics may cover a wide spectrum of issues, problems, themes, ideas, and areas related to international and comparative politics. Incorporates knowledge and materials from other disciplines within a political science framework. (May be taken for credit no more than twice.) Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 311 Public Opinion and the Mass Media

An examination of American political attitudes and opinions relevant to the functioning of democratic government. Consideration will be given to the extent that the American public fulfills the requirements of democratic theory. Topics include mass media and public opinion, American tolerance for dissent, trust in government, survey research, political efficacy, presidential approval ratings, political ideologies, and partisan change. The determinants of political attitudes and important trends in public opinion will be examined. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 312 American Social Welfare Policy

This course presents an analysis of U.S. policy responses to poverty within the framework of the public policy process. The course will examine how definitions of the deserving and undeserving poor and Americans' attitudes toward the causes of poverty influence the types of public policy implemented.

Income maintenance programs, policies to encourage work, health insurance for low-income and elderly Americans, programs to meet basic needs, and how U.S. policy provides for children being raised in poverty will be examined. The course will also consider the changing relationship between the national and state governments and a comparison of the U.S. social safety net to that available to residents of the European nations. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered spring, odd years

PLSC 313 Political Leadership

A study of different varieties and approaches to political leadership in governmental systems, with special consideration given to the structures, origins, and accomplishments of specific political leaders serving under different social conditions. Case studies of selected political leaders will be included, drawing upon a variety of biographical and interdisciplinary sources. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 314 American Public Policy

An introduction to the policy-making process in American government with special emphasis on the development of national domestic and defense policies from World War II together with the analysis of decision approaches taken by the President, Cabinet, Congress, various federal agencies, and pressure groups. The reordering of national priorities is considered within the context of selected policy decisions, the participation of groups affected, and the implications for national goals. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or PLSC 217 or permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 315 Legislative Process

An appraisal of the legislative process in the United States emphasizing the origin, passage, and administration of American public policy. The influence of public and private participants -- Congress, the President, the Courts, bureaucracy, political parties, interest groups, and the press -- in the legislative

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process is studied. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 316 Political Power in American Cities

A study of American city politics from administrative, social, and political perspectives. Emphasis is placed on the relationships between local government institutions and urban change, the nature of political decisions and leadership in cities, and resolution of conflicts resulting from the urban crisis, including civil disorders, poverty, welfare, housing, and education. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 318 Constitutional Law

A study of the character and implications of American constitutional principles as developed by the United States Supreme Court, with emphasis on the development of judicial review and its impact on our political system, principles of the separation of powers, the problems of federalism, and the powers of Congress and the President. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 319 Constitutional Rights and Liberties

A study of the nature and scope of American constitutional rights and liberties, their development, their limits, and the issues and problems surrounding their application. Particular attention is given to due process of law, equal protection of the laws, rights of the accused, and the First Amendment freedoms. Prerequisites: PLSC 110 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 320 Theories of Comparative Politics

An exploration of the theoretical approaches to understanding comparative politics. The course addresses the dimensions and requirements of good theory as well as emphasizing the comparative politics research methodologies. Theoretical issues explored will include classical theory, institutional,

cultural, and rational choice approaches, social movements, political change (including democratization), the state, and civil society. Prerequisites: PLSC 120, PLSC 140, senior standing, and permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once every two to three semesters.

PLSC 321 State and Society in the Non-western World

This course examines state-society relations in comparative politics, focusing on the interplay among ideologies, institutions, interests, and identities in the nonwestern world. Readings include both theoretical works exploring these concepts and critical case studies. We begin with exploration of the adoption and adaptation of various political ideologies, sometimes arising from Western traditions and interactions with Western powers, that resulted in extremely varied political institutions throughout the nonwestern world. For example, parliamentary democracies have emerged in countries with remarkably different histories, including formerly fascist Japan and a number of former colonies. And yet other newly independent countries facing similar initial conditions adopted political systems as dissimilar as communism, democracy, and military authoritarianism. Prerequisites: PLSC 120. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered every spring

PLSC 322 Germany from the Nazis to the Present

This course will explore the origins, history, and legacy of Nazi Germany, the development of domestic and foreign policies of the two Germanies during the Cold War, and the causes and process of the East German revolution in 1989. Based on this background, the course will address and analyze various policy problems--political, social, economic, and foreign-facing contemporary Germany. Major debates about Germany, such as the reasons for the Nazi seizure of power, responsibility for the Holocaust, themes of continuity and change, coming to terms with the past, and comparisons and relations with the U.S. will highlight the course. (Crossed listed with HIST 322). Prerequisites: PLSC 120 or permission of the instructor Credits: 3(3-0). Not offered on a regular basis

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PLSC 325 Politics of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean

Examines the profound changes (political, economic, and social) which are presently shaking and transforming these nations. Examines the various routes (military-authoritarian, civil-democratic, capitalistic, Marxist, revolutionary) to modernization undertaken by several of the Latin American nations north of South America, and assesses the implications of the choices for these nations and for U.S. foreign policy. Emphasizes the overwhelming role of the U.S. in this part of the world, the dependency relationship that this implies, and the response of the U.S. to accelerating revolutionary pressures. Also examines Latin American political economy and economic development. Prerequisites: PLSC 120 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 326 Government and Politics of South America

This course introduces students to the comparative political study of South America as well as the political development, political institutions, political economy, and political culture in several South American states. The course explores broad themes that are characteristic of the region's politics such as authoritarianism, economic development and underdevelopment, political institutions, the impact and role of the United States, armed conflict, and democratization. The course examines why democracy struggled to take root in South America until the late twentieth century and how democracy across the continent reflect the types of democratic transitions each state underwent. The course also examines individual \ Prerequisites: PLSC 120. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered Once every 2 or 3 semesters based upon demand

PLSC 328 Politics of the Middle East

This course examines key issues in the domestic politics and international relations of major countries of the Middle East. These include intra-Arab conflicts, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and religious conflicts. Prerequisites: PLSC 120 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once yearly

PLSC 329 Politics of Russia and Eurasia

A survey of political, economic, and social change in the former Soviet Union as a world superpower of major significance to the United States. Attention is paid to the historical, cultural, ideological, and political inheritance of the former Soviet system, focusing on the reform process. Prerequisites: PLSC 120 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once every four semesters

PLSC 336 The American Founders

An examination of the political and constitutional thought of four of the principal American founders: Jefferson, Madison, Adams, and Hamilton. Such issues as liberty, consent, union, federalism, basic rights and separation of powers will be explored. Prerequisites: PLSC 110. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 337 Major Political Philosophers

This course focuses on a single political philosopher or pair of philosophers (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Rousseau, Marx, Strauss, Arendt, Voegelin, Bay). Political philosophers to be studied will vary from term to term. Student presentations of commentaries on the texts comprise a significant part of the course. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once every four semesters

PLSC 338 Twentieth Century Political Criticism

An analysis of the literature of contemporary political criticism. Materials to be analyzed deal with critiques of bureaucratic sociopolitical structures, mechanisms and processes of political change, political atomization and alienation, and visions of alternative political futures. Specific works examined include samples from neo-Marxian, libertarian, elitist, neo-Freudian, behaviorist, humanist, existentialist, anarchist, and utopian and counter-utopian political evaluation and criticism. An attempt is made to use an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the contemporary political imagination. Prerequisites: PLSC 230 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

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PLSC 340 International Law and Organization

The course examines the development, structure, legal basis, and politics of international organizations, with particular emphasis on the United Nations and the principal regional organizations such as the European Union, the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Prerequisites: PLSC 120, PLSC 140 or permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 341 Democracy and International Relations

What is the connection between democracy and international politics? Would a more democratic world be a more peaceful world? Are democracies inherently more peaceful than nondemocracies? This course examines the concept of the democratic peace, beginning with Kant's notion of the democratic pacific union. We then examine major contemporary works on democratic peace theory, arguments modifying our understanding of the democratic peace, and important critiques of this concept. Prerequisites: PLSC 140. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered every fall

PLSC 342 Human Rights in a Global Perspective

A study of the philosophical, cultural and theoretical bases of human rights institutions, practices, problems, and problems at the international and domestic levels with special focus on the Third World. The course will define and analyze the causes of human rights violations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and assess the efficacy of such international and regional organizations as the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and the Organization of African Unity in protecting and promoting these rights. Prerequisites: PLSC 140 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 345 Theories of International Relations

An exploration of the theoretical approaches to understanding international relations and to explaining outcomes in international rela-

tions. The course addresses the dimensions and requirements of good theory. Theoretical approaches employed include realism, interdependence and integration, national values and domestic structure, bureaucratic politics and transnational relations, dependency and Marxist approaches, and psychological approaches. These theoretical approaches address historical and contemporary cases. Prerequisites: PLSC 120, PLSC 140, PLSC 246, senior standing, and permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0).

PLSC 346 Global Issues

The course will focus on selected problems which face the global community such as AIDS, terrorism, and land mines. Students will analyze the background of these problems and debate options for dealing with them. Prerequisites: : PLSC 120, PLSC 140, PLSC 246, senior standing, and permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered every other semester

PLSC 347 Terrorism and National Security

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of terrorism's past, present, and future. Students will explore numerous features of the subject including, but not limited to: definitional dilemmas; the origins and evolution of terrorism; tactical and targeting innovation; the psychology and characteristics of terrorist actors, including women; case studies; and counter-terrorism strategies. Prerequisites: PLSC 140. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered once every two to three semesters, based upon demand

PLSC 348 Politics of International Economic Relations

A survey of the international economy, exploring particularly the interrelationship with politics. The course introduces major theoretical perspectives in international political economy; discusses the historical development of the modern international economy; and examines the functioning of the trade, monetary, and investment systems in the post-World War II period. Challenges to the liberal international order from competition among Western economic powers, the developing world, the process of mar-

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ketization in centrally-planned economies, and technological change are addressed, as well as scenarios for the future. Prerequisites: PLSC 140 or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered when demand is sufficient

PLSC 351 Failed States

State failure presents serious problems for the international community. Failed states generate destabilizing refugee flows, contribute to regional instability, damage prospects for economic development, and can become harbors for terrorists and other international criminal organizations. This course surveys the literature on state formation and collapse, with particular emphasis on causes and consequences, detailed examinations of individual cases, and the international community's response. A case study approach will be employed, focusing on four states (possibilities include Rwanda, Somalia, Congo, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and other states should events warrant). By examining the various processes at work in failed states, the international response, and the tools for reconstruction, we will draw conclusions regarding the potential for early warning systems and appropriate policy remedies. Prerequisites: PLSC 140 or permission of instructor. Credits: 3(3-0). Offered once every four semesters

PLSC 353: Religion, Church and State in Contemporary Europe

The course will investigate the role of religion and churches in contemporary Europe, East and West, focusing on the different models of church-state relations – separation, establishment and pluralism – and the churches as political actors. The role of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches in the context of communism, democratization and Europeanization since 1991 will be analyzed. Historical, transnational, sociological and attitudinal/behavioral aspects of religion will be addressed, including the challenge of integrating Islam into contemporary Europe. Prerequisites: PLSC 120 or 140 Credits: 3(3-0)

Offered every other year.

PLSC 354: Government and Politics of Latin America

This course focuses on the functioning of democratic politics in Latin America. Its main objectives are to consider: first, how government institutions interact with a variety of historic and contemporary political actors across the region; and second, how this interaction affects issue such as representation, political stability, and economic development. As such, we will investigate the role that the military, the Catholic Church, social movements, and political parties play in promoting political interests throughout Latin America, while also examining how institutional arrangements such as the presidency, legislatures, and electoral systems affect the representation of those interests. Students will have the opportunity to conduct an in-depth investigation of the politics of a single Latin American country in a final research paper. The prerequisite for this course is PLSC 120, or approval of course instructor. Credits: 3(3-0). Offered once every year.

PLSC 390 Senior Seminar

This course will focus on a special topic within the discipline of Political Science of the instructor's choosing. Students will produce a research paper, and participate in weekly discussions on readings assigned by the instructor. Limited to 20 students. Prerequisites: PLSC 110, PLSC 120, PLSC 140, PLSC 230, PLSC 251, and senior standing. Credits: 3(3-0)

PLSC 393 Honors Thesis

A major structured research project in Political Science that will cap a student's experience in the major. Students will work with an individual faculty member and complete a major research paper of 30-40 typed pages (on average). An oral report of the paper will be presented in a public form that is approved by the thesis advisor. Enrollment by invitation of the Department. Credits: 3(3-0) Offered by individual arrangement