



**THE ACADEMY EDUCATES, TRAINS AND INSPIRES MEN
AND WOMEN TO BECOME OFFICERS OF CHARACTER.**

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Suggested Course Sequence

3rd- Class Year	2nd-Class Year	1st-Class Year
Chem 200	Aero Engr 315	Academy Opt
ECE 315	BehSci 310	AstroEngr310
Econ 201	Biology 315	English 411
English 211	Math 300	Mgt 400
EngrMech 220	Philos 310	MSS 415/416
History 300	Pol Sci 300	Pol Sci 491
Law 220	Pol Sci 301	Pol Sci Basket
MSS 200	Pol Sci 302	Pol Sci Opt
Physics 215	Pol Sci Basket	Pol Sci Opt
Pol Sci 211	Pol Sci Basket	SocSci/Hum Opt
SocSci 212	Pol Sci Opt	
STS E/S Opt	Pol Sci Opt	
POLITICAL SCIENCE (Pol Sci)		

Offered by the Department of Political Science (DFPS).

Pol Sci 211. Politics, American Government and National Security. Introduces students to the study of politics and government and examines the basic ideological, structural and procedural choices faced by any political system. Gives special emphasis to an understanding of the foundations and traditions of American democracy and the structure, decision processes and policy outcomes, especially defense policy outputs, of the American political system. Students examine current policy issues that affect the military.

Pol Sci 211S. Politics, American Government, and National Security. This course is the Scholar's version of the Pol Sci 211 course. This course introduces students to the study of politics and government and examines the basic ideological, structural, and procedural choices faced by any political system. Special emphasis is given to an understanding of the foundations and traditions of American democracy and the structure, decision processes, and policy outcomes (especially defense policy outcomes) of the American political system. Students will examine current policy issues that affect the military. Critical thinking on these matters is encouraged through use of primary texts and seminar-style class discussion.

Pol Sci 300. Introduction to Political Science: Overview and Methods. Provides an introduction to the discipline. Introduces students to the methods used in political science, emphasizing the process of research design—from coming up with a hypothesis, to determining how to test that hypothesis, to how to present the conclusions of the research. Research approaches presented are essential to the political science major and of great benefit to students in other majors that require the systematic examination of research questions.

Pol Sci 301. Political Theory. An overview of political thought from the ancient Greeks to the present. Philosophers studied include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Marx and Nietzsche. Examines debates important for Airman-scholars and the political science major: human nature, the best regime, justice, equality, freedom, community, natural rights, and between religion, and comparative and national security politics.

Pol Sci 302. American Foreign and National Security Policy. Explores the evolution of American foreign and national security policy within a rapidly changing global environment; sets American national security policy in a broader context of American foreign policy interests and instruments of state power. Prepares for advanced electives in international relations through an examination of how the U.S. pursues its objectives when the structure of the international environment and the nature of state power are in flux; prepares for advanced electives in comparative politics by examining how the U.S. attempts to shape the political and economic institutions of other states using a broad array of foreign policy tools; prepares for advanced electives in American politics by examining the domestic political, institutional, and constitutional sources of U.S. foreign and national security policy. Complements professionally oriented courses on contemporary global and security issues by providing the context for how the U.S. defines and pursues grand strategy in the modern world.

Pol Sci 390. International Relations Theory. Introduces the basic concepts of international relations. Major theoretical approaches to the analysis of international politics (realism, liberalism and globalism) are used to explore the nature of the international system and various aspects of state behavior in their historical and contemporary settings. Among the subjects examined within this framework: the formulation of foreign policy, mechanisms of conflict and cooperation, the origins of war, issues of international interdependence, international political economy and questions of international ethics.

Pol Sci 392. American Political System and Theory. Explores the origin and development of American political ideas and institutions. Examines the notion of American exceptionalism and the design and operation of the American system. Topics include: American constitutional design and its consequences; the expression of preferences; the analysis of institutional behavior; and the policy process.

Pol Sci 394. Comparative Government and Politics. Introduces major theoretical approaches to the comparative study of politics. Applies these approaches to topics like government institutions, political participation and social change as they relate to various state and nonstate actors.

Pol Sci 421. International Security: Political Violence and Terrorism. Applies theories of international security to the roots and forms of political violence in a globalized era. Examines the sub-national and transnational sources of conflict as well as the impact of globalization on the character of collective violence. Investigates the emergence, motivations and strategies of violent nonstate actors with emphasis on ethno-political groups, militant religious movements, transnational criminal organizations, warlords and insurgencies. Focuses on the use of terrorism to achieve political objectives.

Pol Sci 423. War Crimes, Genocide and Human Rights. Explores historical, legal and political perspectives on the law of armed conflict and the development of human rights law. The Nuremberg Tribunals, the Holocaust, the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides, the My Lai incident and experiences of prisoners of war are used as case studies within this framework. Resistance movements are also examined. Course is team taught by members of the political science, law and history departments and can be used as a social science elective or an elective in any of these three departments.

Pol Sci 444. International Political Economy. Explores the theory and practice of how economic motives affect political decisions and how most political decisions have economic repercussions, both domestically and internationally. Specific topics include the development of the international monetary system, international trade policy, the effects of multinational corporations, foreign direct investment, development of the Global South and contemporary issues such as the recent Asian financial crisis.

Pol Sci 445. Global Governance and International Institutions. Examines the roles and relationships of international institutions, including transnational organizations, regimes, and networks, by which states and non-state actors address a broad spectrum of challenges for global governance. Studies pertinent global issues related to

security, trade, and international justice including conflict resolution; peacekeeping and peacemaking; nuclear non-proliferation; international finance; world trade; development aid; refugee problems; climate change; and human rights.

Pol Sci 451. American Political Thought. Surveys basic themes in American political thought beginning with the 17th century European origins of American political thought and extending to modern attempts to strike a balance between individual rights and social needs. Focuses on the difficulties of translating principles into practice.

Pol Sci 460. Comparative Security Policy and Civil-Military Relations. Studies the security policies and policy-making processes of various world regions as well as the national and regional implications of both traditional and nontraditional security issues. Examines the relationship between civilian authorities and the military establishment and the implications for governance. Specific cases help develop individual skills in analyzing national security priorities in the post-Cold War world.

Pol Sci 462. Politics and Intelligence. Explores the character of secrecy in the American democratic system. Investigates the role of intelligence in the development and implementation of U.S. national security policy. Focuses on the key players in the intelligence community, the capabilities of intelligence systems, the tradecraft of spying and the core intelligence functions of collection, analysis, covert action and counterintelligence. Includes examination of the roles and contributions of military intelligence and current issues in the intelligence field.

Pol Sci 463. Comparative Political Theory. Compares selected texts in Western and Eastern political thought with a focus on the ultimate foundation(s) for basic political principles such as justice and order. Focuses specifically on the relationship between reason, religious faith, and custom as sources of authority in political thinking and action. Major Eastern traditions and texts will include Islam, Hinduism, and Confucianism interspersed with Western texts on religion, philosophy, and sources of political authority along with readings from classic Eastern texts, 20th century political works by Eastern thinkers, and contemporary scholarship. Possible texts include from Islam—Al Farabi, Ibn Rushd, Ibn Sinna, Qutb, and Khomeini; from Hinduism—the Vedas and Gandhi; from the Chinese tradition—Confucius and neo-Confucian scholarship; from the Western tradition—Plato, Aquinas, and Locke. A seminar course, emphasizing discussion and written essays.

Pol Sci 464. Regime Change: Coups, Revolutions and Democratization. Regime change is the high drama of comparative politics: from the “shot heard round the world” in 1776, to Boris Yeltsin standing atop a Soviet tank in 1991, to the Arab Spring of 2011. This course examines how countries transition from one type of regime to another, to include military coups and social revolutions. It will pay particular attention to the global phenomenon of democratization—the movement from authoritarianism to democracy—which has been the major political event of our generation.

Pol Sci 465. U.S. National Space Policy. Examines the evolution, major influences on, and consequences of U.S. national space policy. Focuses on the relationships among politics, policy-making processes, law and technology as related to civil, military, commercial and intelligence space sectors. Addresses rights and responsibilities of states in the use of outer space. Topics include NASA space strategies; military space missions; commercial space trends; intelligence function; international agreements; sovereignty over air, space and celestial bodies; and government liability.

Pol Sci 466. Cyber Security Policy and Politics. Examines the policies, politics, and ethics of cyber security. Covers the national security implications of cyber—including how low cost of entry, limited chance of attribution, and the ubiquity of the domain create unique defense challenges. Discusses the domestic politics of cyber security—including how American values, culture, organizations, and laws will determine roles and responsibilities

for government and the private sector. Concludes with a section on the international politics of cyber security—the applicability of deterrence, sovereignty, collective security, institutions, and treaties in cyberspace.

Pol Sci 469. Politics of Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Examines historic, cultural, economic, social and geographic traits that distinguish Russia and its neighbors and shape their domestic political processes and interstate relations. Critically compares the politics, governments and orientations of post-Soviet states. Surveys contemporary regional issues such as ethnic conflict, nationalism and politico-economic reforms, with a particular emphasis on security concerns.

Pol Sci 471. Politics of Europe. Examines historic, cultural, economic, social and geographic traits that distinguish this region and shape its domestic political processes and interstate relations. Critically compares the politics, governments and orientations of European states and important regional powers. Surveys contemporary issues such as democratization, arms control and regional integration, with a particular emphasis on security concerns.

Pol Sci 473. Politics of Asia. Examines historic, cultural, economic, social and geographic traits that distinguish this region and shape its domestic political processes and interstate relations. Surveys the governments of selected countries. Examines in particular the influence of Japan and China on regional and global affairs. Includes a survey of contemporary multilateral issues salient in the region, with particular focus on regional security concerns.

Pol Sci 475. Politics of Latin America. Examines historic, cultural, economic, social and geographic traits that distinguish this region and shape its domestic political processes and interstate relations. Selected Latin American political systems are explored in detail. Issues such as political stability, civil-military relations and democratization are treated as well, along with politico-economic concerns such as developmental strategies, debt relief and trade relations. Includes a survey of contemporary multilateral issues salient in the region, with particular focus on regional security concerns.

Pol Sci 477. Politics of the Middle East. Examines historic, cultural, economic, social, religious and geographic traits that distinguish the region extending from North Africa through Central Asia and shape its domestic political processes and interstate relations. Surveys the governments of selected countries, considering factors such as legitimacy and political development. Includes a survey of contemporary multilateral issues with particular focus on regional security concerns.

Pol Sci 479. Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa. Examines historic, cultural, economic, social, religious and geographic traits that distinguish the states of sub-Saharan Africa and their domestic political processes and interstate relations. Critically compares the politics, governments and orientations of selected African states.

Pol Sci 481. American Elections and Political Parties. Examines the nature of the electoral process and the roles that candidates, political parties, public opinion and interest groups play in the process. Focuses on the role of candidates' election organizations, political parties, professional campaign managers, public opinion pollsters, professional fundraisers and media consultants in congressional and presidential campaigns. Special attention is given to the current presidential or congressional elections.

Pol Sci 482. The U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is extremely influential in American politics, sometimes even acting as a policy-making body, deciding the fate of such contentious matters as abortion, capital punishment, public expressions of religious belief and even a presidential election. Examines the court's rulings in these areas and many others, focusing on the written opinions, the thoughts of those who designed our government, and competing views about the court's proper role in our system of separated powers.

Pol Sci 483. The U.S. Congress. Studies Congress as a political institution, with an emphasis on the unique natures of the House and the Senate, congressional norms and procedures, and the roles of committees and political parties. Topics include elections, member-constituent relations, national policy roles, leadership, the committee system,

legislative procedures, legislative oversight of the executive branch, and the effects of public opinion and interest groups on law making.

Pol Sci 484. The American Presidency. Provides an in-depth study of the presidency with emphasis on the post-World War II period. Examines the presidential selection process and the office and powers of the president, as well as presidential administrative structures, styles, roles and personalities.

Pol Sci 491. Capstone Seminar in Political Science: National Security and Political Analysis. This course is the culmination of the political science curriculum. Readings and discussions will encourage a critical and synthetic application of the discipline's subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations) in thinking strategically about a rapidly changing world and America's role in it. Cadets will undertake an elected research project with a faculty mentor. This blend of experiences seeks to produce officer-scholars with the intellectual foundations to develop as adaptive and strategic thinkers and national security leaders able to navigate the political-military dimensions of their profession.

Pol Sci 495. Special Topics in Political Science. Selected topics in political science, taught in seminar format. One field trip per semester when appropriate local destinations are available.

Pol Sci 496. Causes of War and Conflict Resolution. Examines the causes, conduct and consequences of international conflict, interventions, crises and wars and the theory and practice of conflict resolution. Course uses wars from around the world, drawn from different historical periods, focusing on both theoretical and normative issues. Special attention is paid towards involving the U. S., including ongoing interventions.

Pol Sci 498. Political Science Thesis. Students enrolled in this course prepare a 50-75 page senior thesis under the guidance of the course director and other faculty members with particular expertise on the topic of research. It combines the tutorial aspect of an independent study (Pol Sci 499) with seminar on applied research methods. Students meet individually or in seminar in accordance with a schedule determined by the course director. Formulation of thesis and research normally begins in Pol Sci 300 and other political science courses. When the thesis is completed, a formal defense is presented to a faculty committee in April or May. In preparation for the formal defense, each thesis is presented to fellow students in the seminar for critique and evaluation.

Pol Sci 499. Independent Study in Political Science. Individual study or research of a carefully selected topic conducted on a tutorial basis.