Political Science

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CSSH Graduate Programs General Regulations (http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/graduate/current_students)

Graduate training in political science prepares students to analyze important issues in world affairs and succeed in a wide array of careers—from government and academia to the nonprofit and private sectors. Graduate programs in political science, public policy, public administration, security and resilience studies, and international affairs at Northeastern explore the theory and practice of politics, public policy, and public management in the United States and throughout the world. In teaching and research, faculty members in the department cover a broad range of topics and issues in the field of political science. Core areas of inquiry within our department include national and international security, international public policy, U.S. public policy and administration, network science, European studies, Middle East studies, and democratization and development.

Programs

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

• Political Science (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/political-science/political-science-phd)
• Political Science, PhD—Advanced Entry (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/political-science/political-science-phd-advanced)

Master of Arts (MA)

• Political Science (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/political-science/political-science-ma)

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

• Public Administration (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/public-policy-urban-affairs/public-administration-mpa)

Master of Science (MS)

• Security and Resilience Studies (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/political-science/security-resilience-studies-ms)

Graduate Certificate

• Security and Resilience Studies (http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/political-science/security-resilience-studies-graduate-certificate)

Courses

Political Science Courses

POLS 5101. Special Topics in Politics and Political Science. 3 Hours.
Examines current issues and special topics in the areas of political science, politics, and public affairs. May be repeated up to three times.

POLS 5976. Directed Study. 1-4 Hours.
Offers assigned reading under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 5978. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Offers independent work under the direction of members of the department on a chosen topic. Course content depends on instructor. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 5984. Research. 1-4 Hours.
Offers an opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 6400. Planning Module in Urban and Regional Policy. 1 Hour.
Relates a professional activity to urban and regional planning. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 6525. Institutions and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Blends theoretical literature and case studies to examine problems of policymaking and governance in contemporary political systems, emphasizing the policy impacts of political institutions. Studies systematic variations across types of political institutions and regimes in developed and developing nations and extends beyond the nation-state to address policy dynamics (e.g., harmonization, multilevel governance) in supranational and international systems. Establishes the broader political system contexts within which policy formation and implementation reside. Offers students an opportunity to learn to analyze, synthesize, and apply a range of theoretical literatures relevant to policy design and impact. POLS 6525 and PPUA 6525 are cross-listed.

POLS 6960. Exam Preparation—Master’s. 0 Hours.
Offers the student the opportunity to prepare for the master’s qualifying exam under faculty supervision.

POLS 6962. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 6964. Co-op Work Experience. 0 Hours.
Provides eligible students with an opportunity for work experience. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 6966. Practicum. 1-4 Hours.
Provides eligible students with an opportunity for practical experience. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7000. Qualifying Exam. 0 Hours.
Provides eligible students with an opportunity to take the master’s qualifying exam.
POL 7200. Perspectives on Social Science Inquiry. 3 Hours.
Explores the philosophy of science and the scientific method as applied to the social sciences and political analysis. Considers individualist perspectives (that is, rational choice), group perspectives (pluralism), structural/institutional perspectives (class analysis), and postmodern critiques.

POL 7201. Research Design. 3 Hours.
Provides an overview of research methods and tools used by social scientists including survey research, elite interviews, statistical approaches, case studies, comparative analysis, use of history, and experimental/nonexperimental design.

POL 7202. Quantitative Techniques. 3 Hours.
Teaches the use of social science quantitative techniques, emphasizing applications of value to public sector analysts and scholars alike. Includes descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, cross-tabulation, bivariate regression and correlation, and multiple regression. Examines how to generate and interpret statistical analyses through use of SPSS.

POL 7204. Seminar in Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Concentrates on the scope of the study of public policy, disciplinary contributions to policy analysis and the study of public policy, methods of policy analysis, and models of policy processes.

POL 7205. Seminar in American Government and Politics. 3 Hours.
Focuses on major research approaches and corresponding academic literature in U.S. politics. Examines the scholarly analysis of key actors in U.S. politics, including the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, and political parties.

POL 7206. Seminar in Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.
Focuses on major research paradigms within comparative politics, including political culture, structuralism, and rational choice. Examines major research fields in the discipline, including democratization, nationalism, ethnic politics, political economy, and political parties.

POL 7207. Seminar in International Relations. 3 Hours.
Focuses on major research approaches and corresponding academic literature in international relations. Examines major fields of study, including international security, international regimes, international organizations, globalization, and international political economy.

POL 7215. Advanced Quantitative Techniques. 3 Hours.
Covers multivariate statistical models and their applications to social science data. Covers the ordinary least squares (OLS) regression model and the assumptions underlying it in detail, as well as the techniques for analyzing data when OLS assumptions do not apply, such as simultaneous equation models, time series models, and maximum likelihood techniques for limited and discrete dependent variables. This is a second-semester course in quantitative techniques for graduate students in the social sciences.

POL 7216. Applied Cases in Advanced Quantitative Methodology. 3 Hours.
Introduces special topics and techniques in advanced statistical analysis and related research methodologies for students preparing for administrative and analytical positions in nonacademic settings. Focuses on case-study material with an applied orientation to examine such topics as index creation, demographic analysis, administrative “report cards,” content analysis, program evaluation, survey research and sampling, and planning methodology. Requires prior completion of equivalent course work if prerequisite is not met.

POL 7250. American Political Institutions and Processes. 3 Hours.
Analyzes the constitutional system and national government institutions, focusing on the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Examines political parties and pressure groups and their role in the policy process.

POL 7251. Congress and Policy. 3 Hours.
Assesses the role of Congress in making public policy. Examines the impacts of congressional elections, the structure of the legislative branch, and the effects of other actions (the president, mass media, or interest groups) on legislative branch behavior.

POL 7252. The American Presidency. 3 Hours.
Studies the institutional and personal factors that affect the exercise of presidential power as well as the development of constitutional and extraconstitutional presidential powers. Examines the role of the president in formulating and executing domestic and foreign policy.

POL 7253. American Constitutional History and Theory. 3 Hours.
Examines American constitutional history, with a particular interest in constitutional change. Examines how the Constitution was written and amended, and how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution over time. Also focuses on how the Constitution serves as an instrument of popular power and a symbol of political ideals.

POL 7254. Campaigns and Elections. 3 Hours.
Studies campaign tactics and strategies as well as classic and contemporary scholarly literature on elections.

POL 7255. American Political Parties and Elections. 3 Hours.
Focuses on American political parties and includes analyses of party organizations and decision-making systems, leader/activist differences in policy and ideology, party reform, policy commitments, campaign finance, media, voting behavior, and an overview and assessment of contemporary elections and campaigns.

POL 7257. The U.S. Judicial Process. 3 Hours.
Studies the judicial process in the United States, emphasizing federal courts. Focuses on theories and empirical research regarding judicial decision making, how and why judges decide what they do, and with what political effects.

POL 7258. Interest Groups and Social Movements. 3 Hours.
Surveys the role of interest groups and social movements. Emphasizes the factors motivating elites and ordinary members to organize and participate in collective action.

POL 7280. Ancient and Medieval Thought. 3 Hours.
Focuses on the development of political thought from Greek antiquity to the early modern period utilizing both historical and analytical approaches. Considers the cultural, social, and intellectual context within which political theories develop.

POL 7281. Modern Political Thought. 3 Hours.
Examines political thought from the early modern period to the twentieth century. Considers the cultural, social, and intellectual context within which political theories develop.

POL 7282. Contemporary Political Thought. 3 Hours.
Explores the main currents of political thought during the twentieth century, with emphasis on the relations between political theory, philosophy, and political science.

POL 7283. Trends in American Political Thought. 3 Hours.
Examines intellectual concepts and movements that have informed and influenced American political life from the Revolutionary period to the present, with emphasis on those ideas that animate the making of public policy.

POL 7312. Intergovernmental Relations. 3 Hours.
Offers an institutional-behavioral analysis of the changing relationship among the various levels of American government-national, state, and local-relating the pattern of change to the social and economic forces that underlie it.
POLS 7313. State Government. 3 Hours.
Appraises the problems of contemporary state government in the United States. Emphasizes the diversity of political institutions, political processes, and public policies in the states.

POLS 7314. Urban Government and Politics. 3 Hours.
Explores issues and problems in urban government, such as legal dependence, government finance and administration, rapid growth of suburban and metropolitan areas, and decline and decay of the central city.

POLS 7319. Business/Government Relations. 3 Hours.
Extensively examines the relationship between the United States government and the private economy from an historical and a contemporary perspective. Analyzes a number of public policy areas in which public and private actors interact. Examines stabilization policy, regulation, antitrust, and social welfare policy in the context of alternative interpretations of the United States political economy.

POLS 7325. Contemporary Issues in Third World Development. 3 Hours.
Examines the major themes in development studies today. Explores approaches to the development and production, population growth, equity and poverty, rural and urban development, health and nutrition, education, and the international context of development assistance. Students considering a development administration concentration should try to take this course as their first in the field of development.

POLS 7331. Environmental Policy and Politics. 3 Hours.
Explores debates surrounding the making of environmental policy in the United States and other nations. Examines the nature of environmental problems, how the structures of political systems affect policymaking, and the competing interests at work in environmental politics. Also discusses environmental policy in cross-national and international perspectives.

POLS 7332. Gender and Politics. 3 Hours.
Explores the relationship between gender and politics from cross-national perspectives with a focus on major policy issues, such as women’s political equality, reproductive rights, sports, sex trafficking, and the welfare state. Emphasizes how policies based on democratic premises are premised on individual equality, compared to those based on group differences, generate opportunities or obstacles for women’s political inclusion.

POLS 7333. Science, Technology, and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Discusses the impacts of breakthroughs in science and technology on politics and public policy making—and how politics in turn influences scientific research and technological development. Examines differences between scientific and democratic values, competing definitions of rationality, the nature of problems, policy-making processes, questions of intellectual property rights, and debates over risk assessment, including the “precautionary principle.” Focuses primarily on the United States but with comparisons to the European Union and other areas of the world. Anchors discussion in such areas as (for example) biotechnology, nanotechnology, alternative energy sources, and artificial intelligence.

POLS 7334. Social Networks. 3 Hours.
Offers an overview of the literature on social networks, with literature from political science, sociology, economics, and physics. Analyzes the underlying topology of networks and how we visualize and analyze network data. Key topics include small-world literature and the spread of information and disease. Students who do not meet course prerequisites may seek permission of instructor.

POLS 7336. Social Capital and Resilience. 3 Hours.
Examines the role of social capital as in trust, governance, and economics. Focuses on networks and connections in disasters and resilience around the world. POLS 7336 and PPUA 7336 are cross-listed.

POLS 7341. Security and Resilience Policy. 3 Hours.
Examines the post-9/11 evolution of security and the new emphasis on bolstering societal, infrastructure, system, and network resilience. Emphasizes the complex organizational; jurisdictional (international, federal, state, and local); private-sector; and civil-society issues associated with managing the risk of terrorism, cyber-attacks, and naturally occurring disasters. Topics include policy development and implementation of critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, supply chain security, disaster management, and community resilience. Requires concurrent registration in POLS 7342 for students in the College of Engineering and students in the MS program in security and resilience.

POLS 7342. Security and Resilience Studies Toolkit. 1 Hour.
Develops and applies theories, concepts, and policies in security and resilience studies. Requires students to complete assignments pertaining to security and resilience supplementary to existing course material. May be repeated up to three times.

POLS 7343. Counterterrorism. 3 Hours.
Examines the most important empirical and theoretical debates on counterterrorism. Analyzes the motives and strategies of key actors in the development of approaches to counterterrorism.

POLS 7344. Hard Power, Soft Power, and Smart Power. 3 Hours.
Examines different forms of power in an international context. Includes conceptual and empirical examinations of the various types of power, the actors who have power, and the contexts under which power is exercised.

POLS 7345. Theories and Concepts in Civil-Military Relations. 3 Hours.
Examines the nature of civil-military relations in a theoretical and comparative framework. Emphasizes the state of civil-military relations as having serious ramifications for state security, political stability, and democratic governance. Topics include coercion and governance, praetorianism, the role of the military in civil society, and the nature of civil-military relations in different threat environments.

POLS 7346. Resilient Cities. 3 Hours.
Examines the characteristics of resilient cities, especially those located in coastal regions. Investigates the capacity of cities to respond to major disruptions to their social and ecological systems. Includes extensive use of case studies, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, as well as readings on cities and social systems. Offers students an opportunity to analyze an urban area and provide recommendations for improving its resilience. POLS 7346 and PPUA 7346 are cross-listed.

POLS 7347. Controversial Issues in Security Studies. 1 Hour.
Examines important issues and challenges in security studies. Includes interaction with local and international security scholars and practitioners. Analyzes security threats and challenges in practical and theoretical terms.

POLS 7348. Strategies of Conflict in International Relations. 3 Hours.
Examines different strategies and concepts in international conflict. Includes conceptual and empirical examination of the various types of conflict, including manifestations of war, sanctions, and diplomacy. Introduces students to strategies and tactics in international negotiation and bargaining.

POLS 7349. European Foreign and Security Policy. 3 Hours.
Examines the main debates surrounding European foreign and security policy, from an internal, European Union (EU) perspective as well as an external, global perspective. Topics include both theory and policy. Delves into the inner workings of the EU alongside the implications for NATO.
POLS 7350. Seminar in Comparative and International Politics and Policy. 3 Hours.
Highlights the nature of politics and public policy making in a comparative and global setting. Questions how policy making is affected by regime type, such as democratic or authoritarian governments. Ideology, culture, and the level of economic development are also important factors in shaping public policy. Emphasizes the role of international institutions, such as the World Bank and European Union, and the development of other transnational organizations in policy making in a global arena.

POLS 7351. Democratization and Governance. 3 Hours.
Explores the post-Cold War democratic challenge to authoritarian, military, one-party, and dictatorial regimes throughout the Third World. Examines criteria for assessing the strength and success of democratization and the methods of foreign donors to promote it. Also explores the linkage between democracy and development.

POLS 7352. Democratization: Basic Approaches. 3 Hours.
Examines the fundamental questions and the basic thinking that has guided approaches to the study of democratic development. Focuses on the works of such influential thinkers as Lucien Pye, Samuel Huntington, Guillermo O'Donnell, S.M. Lipset, Alfred Stepan, Robert Bates, Joseph LaPalombara, and others whose work set the parameters for study in institution building and political representation in emerging democratic societies.

POLS 7353. Comparative Democracies. 3 Hours.
Reviews recent approaches to studying and understanding democratic political development in selected areas of the world. Attention is given to Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Asia in differing degrees in various years and depending on ongoing developments. Focuses on the current research on institution-building including legislative assemblies, political parties and elections, and the democratic values of elites and masses, among other things, as they impact on the process of democratic representation.

POLS 7354. Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems. 3 Hours.
Examines the critical linkage function of political parties and elections in democratic societies. Explores materials on political parties in comparative perspective, including those in advanced democratic societies and emerging democratic nations. Focuses on the organization, coalitional nature, activities, and policymaking impact of political parties in furthering democratic ends and of electoral systems in providing different levels of political representation. Also analyzes the influence of comparative electoral arrangements and systems in shaping nature and quality of political representation.

POLS 7355. Comparative Constitutionalism. 3 Hours.
Compares dimensions of American constitutional law and civil liberties with developments in courts from around the world. Key readings include cases from Canada’s Supreme Court, Germany’s Bundesverfassungsgerichts, France’s Conseil Constitutionnel, Britain’s House of Lords, South Africa’s Constitutional Court, and the European Court of Human Rights, dealing with freedom of expression, federal-state relations, church-state relations, freedom of conscience, equality and social welfare rights, and privacy and personal autonomy.

POLS 7356. Comparative Political Economy. 3 Hours.
Compares national economic policies in such areas as banking regulation, taxes, welfare, environmental protection, and privatization in up to five countries each semester. Examines the impacts of the type of political system (presidential democracy, parliamentary democracy, modernizing military regime, and so on) and the organization of the central government bureaucracy on public policy choices. Countries studied include both advanced industrial nations (the United States, Britain, Japan, France, or Germany) and developing countries (Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, or India).

POLS 7357. International Political Economy. 3 Hours.
Addresses international political economy and how we can understand the phenomenon of globalization. Offers a graduate-level introduction to the interaction between international politics and international economics in both industrial countries and developing countries. Introduces several theoretical approaches to international political economy and analyzes some of the classic issue areas of international trade relations, such as the international monetary and financial system; foreign direct investment and multinational corporations, debt, and development; the role of international political, economic, and financial institutions; and globalization.

POLS 7358. International Relations. 3 Hours.
Examines issues such as sovereignty and international jurisdiction, treaty interpretation, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and the use of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

POLS 7359. International Law. 3 Hours.
Investigates the development of legal principles and norms in relation to the international political system, particularly focusing on the role and interpretation of law within the United Nations and World Court contexts. Examines issues such as sovereignty and international jurisdiction, treaty interpretation, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and the use of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

POLS 7360. Ethnic Political Conflict. 3 Hours.
Analyzes ethnic political violence from an international perspective. Undertakes in-depth analysis of key international examples. Focuses on causes and consequences of ethnic conflict as well as policy options for conflict resolution.

POLS 7361. U.S. National Security Policy. 3 Hours.
Analyzes U.S. national security policy, with emphasis on the various forms of war that threaten the United States and world security.

POLS 7362. Nationalism. 3 Hours.
Focuses on contending theories of nationalism and nationalist movements. Topics include cultural objectification and the establishment of group boundaries, ethnic elites and cultural hegemony, mass mobilization, intergroup socioeconomic disparities, nationalism and modernity, nationalist parties and their policy strategies, and the “constitution” of race, particularly in the Americas.

POLS 7363. Politics of Revolution and Change. 3 Hours.
Analyzes revolution and political change with attention to both theory and practice. Discusses revolution, major trends in contemporary politics, and the relationship between political change and technological, scientific, or social change.

POLS 7364. Terrorism, Violence, and Politics. 3 Hours.
Analyzes the theory and practice of terror, violence, coercion, force, and threats in political life.

POLS 7365. Totalitarianism and Oppressive Government. 3 Hours.
Analyzes totalitarianism and dictatorship including a study of their historical background and fundamental characteristics, as well as theories of the origin, nature, and significance of totalitarianism.
POLS 7366. Genocide in a Comparative Perspective. 3 Hours.
Takes an interdisciplinary approach (that is, history, political science, and sociology) to the study of genocide. Examines the meaning of the concept in historical and philosophical terms, the societal and psychological causes of genocide, and specific cases throughout history, with emphasis on more recent episodes.

POLS 7367. U.S. Foreign Policy. 3 Hours.
Examines the theory and practice of U.S. foreign and national security policy. Focuses on selected issues since the end of the Second World War, with emphasis on contemporary policies and challenges.

POLS 7369. International Security. 3 Hours.
Examines key problems in international security that are faced by nation-states and international and nongovernmental organizations. Examples include armed violence, terrorism, organized crime, nuclear proliferation, poverty, and energy security. Explores responses that include international cooperation and the establishment of international norms. Analyzes related literature and theoretical perspectives.

POLS 7370. Europe and European Union Governance. 3 Hours.
Surveys the institutions, processes, and value constructs that structure political, economic, military, monetary, financial, and cultural activity in Europe, with an emphasis on the effect of the European Union and the challenges it presents.

POLS 7371. Government and Politics of Central and Eastern Europe. 3 Hours.
Analyzes the politics of the former Soviet Bloc countries since the prospects for stable political development and successful economic growth in the postcommunist era.

POLS 7373. Government and Politics of Russia. 3 Hours.
Examines the roots and causes of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. Focuses on postcommunist Russia’s development of democracy, introduction of the free market, and maintenance of interethnic peace and national unity.

POLS 7376. Government and Politics of the Middle East. 3 Hours.
Examines the political and economic structures of the Arab states, Iran, Turkey, and Israel as well as inter-Arab politics and interstate conflict in the area. Emphasis is on Islam and politics, gender politics, and civil society.

POLS 7377. Arab-Israeli Conflict. 3 Hours.
Explores the history and politics of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Examines the origins of the conflict, its development over time, the key events that have shaped it, and the different narratives and perceptions of these events. Covers the conflict from the emergence of Zionism and Arab nationalism up to the present day. Examines the entire Arab-Israeli conflict but particularly emphasizes the Israeli-Palestinian dimension of the conflict.

POLS 7379. Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy. 3 Hours.
Examines the impact of ideology, development, and culture on the major issues in Chinese politics since the Communist Party took control in 1949. Issues include leadership recruitment and succession, economic development, class and class struggle, political culture, education, socialist democracy, socialist legality, and the evolving definition of socialism in the context of Chinese culture. Also examines major principles and issues in China’s foreign relations, such as trade, investment, technology transfer, military and strategic policy, and China’s role in the United Nations and other international organizations.

POLS 7380. Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy. 3 Hours.
Examines the development of Japan’s political system since World War II. Focuses on Japan’s institutions and democratic practices in the context of political culture, the interrelationship between business, politics, and government, Japan’s foreign policy and international trade practices, as well as its business practices and media. Also looks at major social and political issues including the treatment of foreigners and minorities, the educational system, and the role of women.

POLS 7381. U.S.-East Asia Relations. 3 Hours.
Analyzes U.S. relations with the east Asian countries of Japan, Korea, and China. Topics include trade issues, human rights concerns, security arrangements, development and democratization, and investment and aid programs. Also discusses regional economic, trade, security, and development institutions—such as ASEAN, APEC, and ARF—as well as the role of the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund in east Asia.

POLS 7382. Politics of Developing Nations. 3 Hours.
Considers the process of political development in the Third World including both internal and international issues such as leadership patterns, the role of the military and political parties, and underlying economic and social factors.

POLS 7383. Government and Politics of Latin America. 3 Hours.
Investigates contemporary Latin American politics, emphasizing formal political institutions and informal political processes under alternate national political “games,” such as traditional authoritarianism, populism, modernizing military rule, the postrevolutionary regime, and elite or mass democracy.

POLS 7384. Government and Politics of Africa. 3 Hours.
Compares the political systems and foreign policies of selected African nations south of the Sahara.

POLS 7385. Transatlantic Relations. 3 Hours.
Explores the issues and questions surrounding E.U.-U.S. relations. Offers an overview of different approaches and perspectives designed to help students to understand the transatlantic relationship. Examines specific themes and issue areas for E.U.-U.S. relations, such as those arising from the political, economic, security, foreign policy, and environmental spheres.

POLS 7386. Europe and Its Eastern Neighborhood. 3 Hours.
Examines competing interests of the European Union, NATO, and Russia in Eastern Europe. Offers students an opportunity to analyze Eastern European politics in many issue areas, including self-determination, democratic governance, human rights, domestic and international security, and economic growth and stability.

POLS 7387. Global Governance. 3 Hours.
Introduces the concept of global governance and the core architectural elements of the current system of global governance. Examines the key policy purposes and tasks carried out by global governance processes.

POLS 7388. Public Diplomacy. 3 Hours.
Explores the intersection of international relations theory and public diplomacy to explain how a nation’s government or society seeks to project itself to external audiences in ways that improve these foreign publics’ perception of that nation. Takes a comparative, case-study approach that includes the public diplomacy of China, India, the European Union, the United States, and others. Offers students an opportunity to obtain a foundation to understand the intersection of foreign policy, identity, and images of nations.
POLS 7389. International Relations of the Middle East. 3 Hours. 
Examines the international politics of the Middle East region. Covers methodological and theoretical issues involved in the study of the Middle East as well as formation of the modern Middle East state system and the region’s history in the Cold War and post–Cold War periods. Addresses major themes and issues, including political economy, globalization, and the impact of states outside the Middle East on the region’s international relations.

POLS 7390. Topical Seminar in American Politics. 3 Hours. 
Examines current issues in the area of American government and politics. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7391. Topical Seminar in Political Thought. 3 Hours. 
Examines current issues in the area of political thought. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7392. Topical Seminar in Public Policy and Administration. 3 Hours. 
Examines current issues in the area of public administration. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7393. Topical Seminar in Comparative Politics. 3 Hours. 
Examines current issues in the area of comparative government and politics. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7394. Topical Seminar in International Relations. 3 Hours. 
Examines current issues in the area of international relations. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7407. Internship in Politics and Public Administration. 1-6 Hours. 
Offers work experience (at least fifteen hours per week) that includes planning, research, policy development, and other administrative aspects in a government or nonprofit organization. May be repeated up to five times for up to 6 total credits.

POLS 7441. Cyberconflict in the International System. 3 Hours. 
Examines the literature, policy reports, and important news stories about the domain of cybersecurity and conflict. Analyzes contending perspectives on the role and impact of cybersecurity in the international system. Utilizes social science theories and methods to explore this method of conflict.

POLS 7442. Homeland Security and Resilience Law and Policy. 3 Hours. 
Examines homeland security and resilience policy through the lens of its legal framework. Analyzes security and federal emergency management legislation, executive actions, and related case law in their effects on decision making related to homeland security and advancing societal resilience. Examines the multijurisdictional challenges associated with federalism as it relates to the development of security- and resilience-related law and policy.

POLS 7704. Critical Infrastructure Resilience. 4 Hours. 
Explores the growing vulnerability of our human-made built environment to a range of risks. Using the new paradigm centered on the concept of resilience, examines how best to safeguard the critical foundations that provide transport, communications, water, energy, and other essential functions in the face of disasters, growing urbanization, climate change, and globalization. Identifies solutions that are scientifically credible, informed by data and sound engineering principles, while concurrently grounded in an understanding of social and policy imperatives. Offers students an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge acquired in the course to a real-life example through a group project.

POLS 7962. Elective. 1-4 Hours. 
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7976. Directed Study. 1-4 Hours. 
Offers assigned reading under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7978. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours. 
Offers independent work under the direction of members of the department on a chosen topic. Course content depends on instructor. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7980. Capstone Project. 3-6 Hours. 
Offers students an opportunity to complete a specialized research or applied project in political science or security studies as part of the master’s degree. Designed to meet the specific learning and research interests of the student. Learning experience is based on group or individual activities that meet agreed-upon benchmarks with the instructor and may involve activities with government or nongovernment organizations. Scope of the project varies by credit hours earned.

POLS 7990. Thesis. 1-6 Hours. 
Offers thesis supervision by individual members of the department. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 7996. Thesis Continuation. 0 Hours. 
Offers continued thesis supervision by individual members of the department.

POLS 8400. Planning Module in Urban and Regional Policy. 1 Hour. 
Relates a professional activity to urban and regional planning. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 8407. Internship. 3,6 Hours. 
Offers work experience (at least fifteen hours per week) that includes planning, research, policy development, and other administrative aspects in a government or nonprofit organization. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 8960. Exam Preparation—Doctoral. 0 Hours. 
Offers the student the opportunity to prepare for the PhD qualifying exam under faculty supervision.

POLS 8966. Practicum. 1-4 Hours. 
Provides eligible students with an opportunity for practical experience. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 8982. Readings. 1-4 Hours. 
Offers selected readings under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 8984. Research. 1-4 Hours. 
Offers an opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 8986. Research. 0 Hours. 
Offers an opportunity to conduct full-time research under faculty supervision. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 9000. PhD Candidacy Achieved. 0 Hours. 
Indicates successful completion of the doctoral comprehensive exam.

POLS 9948. Research. 1-4 Hours. 
Offers an opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 9986. Research. 0 Hours. 
Offers an opportunity to conduct full-time research under faculty supervision. May be repeated without limit.

POLS 9990. Dissertation. 0 Hours. 
Offers dissertation supervision by individual members of the department. May be repeated once.

POLS 9996. Dissertation Continuation. 0 Hours. 
Offers continued dissertation supervision by individual members of the department. May be repeated without limit.