

Political Science at Schreiner University

Schreiner University offers courses leading to the Bachelors of Arts degree with a major in Political Science with concentrations in either pre-law (formerly Legal Studies) or American government. The program is designed to instill in students a broad outlook in either area that is fundamentally sound. Such a curriculum is necessary for an individual to be a competent, educated, and productive citizen in today's global society.

This is a multidisciplinary major coupled with a strong liberal arts core. It is designed primarily for students who plan to embark in careers in government service, academia, non-profit organization administration, and/or attend law school.

A major in Political Science would consist of the following:

POLS 2301

American Government Track: POLS 2302, POLS 3305, POLS 3310, POLS 3320, POLS 3330, POLS 4397 and six (6) hours from BSAD 3310, BSAD 3311, POLS 3350, POLS 3360, POLS 3370, POLS 4370 (when offered), or POLS 4380.

Pre-Law Track: BSAD 3310, BSAD 3311, PHIL 1310, PHIL 2320, PHIL 3352, POLS 3320, POLS 3330, POLS 3340 and POLS 4399 and six(6) hours from POLS 3305, POLS 3310, ENGL 3350, POLS/PHIL 3351, POLS 4370 (when offered) or POLS 4380.

Students wishing to earn a minor in Political Science must take POLS 2301, POLS 2302 and complete an additional 12 advanced semester hours from the following: POLS 3305, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, or 4370.

2301. AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (National and Texas) ORGANIZATION

Constitutions and organizations of the United States and Texas governments are the focus of this course. The examination includes both the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, understanding the functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches as well as the bureaucratic process. Additional topics scrutinized are voting behavior, interest group influence and activities, and other aspects of the body politic in America and Texas.

2302. AMERICAN PUBLIC POLICY

The policy-making process, agencies and administration of public policy in the government of the United States, the states in general, and Texas in particular are the focus of this course. The policy areas investigated in this course include, civil rights, criminal justice, taxation, defense, health and welfare, education, environment, economic, trade and immigration. Prerequisite: Completion of POLS 2301 or consent of the instructor.

3305. UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

This course is a constitutional study of the United States with emphasis on those Supreme Court decisions that have altered the social, economic, and political institutions of American society from 1781 to the present. Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of the instructor. (See HIST 3305)

3310. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

The American presidency is a most profound institution. In this course the constitutional basis, structure, powers, functions, and responsibilities are examined. Additionally, the various management styles and leadership aspects exercised by presidents are explored. Prerequisite: POLS 2301, POLS 2302 or consent of the instructor.

3320. CONGRESS AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

A systematic study of the of the factors involved in the framing and enactment of statutory law and activities of the Congress of the United States are investigated. Special attention is given to the internal workings of committees and subcommittees of both houses of Congress. Prerequisites: POLS 2301, POLS 2302 or consent of the instructor.

3330. THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

This introduction to American law and legal procedure inculcates a basic understanding of the organization of the legal profession; state and federal judicial processes; instruments of judicial power; reasoning, behavior, and impact of judicial activity. Prerequisites: POLS 2301, POLS 2302 or consent of the instructor.

3340. THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

This course serves as a prologue to the field of public administration. The principles of administrative organization; distribution of administrative functions together with the structure of governmental change as public policy is carried out are the areas of concentration in this course. Prerequisites: POLS 2301, POLS 2302 or consent of the instructor.

3350. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND WRITING

In this module a review in the methods of and approaches to the study of politics and their underlying assumptions as they apply to the major concepts of the discipline are explored. The use of quantitative analysis research and writing techniques are examined. Prerequisites: POLS 2301 and MATH 1310, or consent of the instructor.

3360. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Cities, counties, and special districts are studied in terms of organization, recruitment, and services such as policy, planning, and health; fiscal problems and their impact on citizens. Prerequisites: POLS 2301, 2302 or consent of the instructor.

3370. POLITICS AND THE MEDIA

The role of the media in the political process is examined. Special emphasis will be placed on the history of and techniques employed by the media in public policy areas as well as the election process. Prerequisites: POLS 2301, 2302, or consent of the instructor

4370. TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Selected topics in the field of political science. Topics will vary; course may be repeated when topics change. Prerequisites: POLS 2301.

4380. DIRECTED STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Subjects not offered as regular courses may be investigated by directed study pursuant to a plan proposed by the student and approved before registration by the supervising instructor and the appropriate dean. Normally, students enrolling will have at least a junior-level status, a 2.0 GPA, and completed basic discipline courses. May be repeated with a change in topic.

4397. SENIOR SEMINAR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

This course is a capstone experience in the government track for students seeking a major or minor in political science. It examines areas of political action in which the student is challenged to exhibit significant knowledge and understanding from their previous political science coursework. Prerequisites: Students who have completed 15 hours in the POLS government track are eligible to enroll with the consent of the instructor. Students who have completed 24-27 hours in POLS must complete this course to be eligible for a degree in Political Science.

4399. SENIOR PROJECT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE