



POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR

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You can find the course descriptions for all courses required for this minor by clicking on the following links:

- [Political Science Course Descriptions](#)
- [Security Studies Course Descriptions](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY SHEET

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Student's Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Advisor

Date Minor Declared

Course #	Title of Course	Hours Required	Semester Completed	Grade
Required Courses				
POL 112	Introduction to Political Science	3		
POL 211	American Government and Politics	3		
POL 212	Introduction to International Relations	3		
<u>or</u> SEC 201	Introduction to Security Studies	3		
Complete one upper-level course from each of the three subfields (9 hrs)				
American Politics				
		3		
Comparative Politics				
		3		
International Relations & Security				
		3		
TOTAL HOURS FOR MINOR		18 hrs		

If any substitutions or waivers of requirements are allowed, please list below and initial.

POL – Political Science

POL 112 Introduction to Political Science (3 hrs.) An introductory study of political action, institutions and argument. Some current controversies in American politics will be considered, together with the experience of other countries where comparison is helpful.

POL 211 American Government and Politics (3 hrs.) An introduction to American government and politics through an examination of interactions between citizens and political institutions in the formation and the execution of public policies.

POL 212 Introduction to International Relations (3 hrs.) This course explores key issues in the international system including war, terrorism, human rights, and international law, international institutions like the United Nations, and theories of international relations.

POL 301 The American Presidency (3 hrs.) A study of the modern American presidency in terms of its concepts and controversies. Prerequisites: POL 211.

POL 304 American Political Theory (3 hrs.) Focuses on the political philosophies expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Considers the viability of these philosophies in the context of contemporary American society and politics. Prerequisites: POL 112 or 205, or permission of the instructor.

POL 305 International Law and Organizations (3 hrs.) An analysis of the nature, sources, function and development of international law and organizations with special reference to the role and function of the United Nations' system for resolving international disputes. Prerequisites: POL 212 or permission of the instructor.

POL 306 West European Government and Politics (3 hrs.) A study of the foundations, structures and functions of the governments of selected major European countries. Offered every other spring semester. Prerequisites: GTS 201 or HIS 106 or POL 112 or POL 212 or SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

POL 308 Post-Soviet Politics (3 hrs.) An examination of the history of the Soviet political system since 1917; the influence of ideology; the role played by the Communist Party, the bureaucracy, interest groups and other actors; political culture, socialization and participation; current economic and social policy issues; and the future evolution of the system. Prerequisites: GTS 201 or HIST 106 or POL 112 or POL 212 or SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

POL 311 Political Parties, Voting and Campaign Strategies (3 hrs.) Reviews the evolution and role of political parties and elections in the American political system. Examines the decline-of-parties thesis and recent developments in campaign strategy. This course is offered in the Fall semester of even-numbered years and students are required to participate in political campaigns of their choice. Prerequisites: POL 112 or 211.

POL 314 American Constitutional Law and Politics (3 hrs.) This course, (1) explores how the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have influenced the country's understanding of the Constitution, (2) considers the political forces that shaped the decisions, as well as the political effects of those decisions and (3) details the contours of the significant rights articulated in the decisions. Prerequisites: POL 211.

POL 316 American Jurisprudence (3 hrs.) This course, (1) introduces and critiques the major philosophies of law, (2) applies these philosophies to various issues and cases and (3) orients the student to legal reasoning and other legal methods of analysis and inquiry. This course should help prepare students for the study of law, or law-related topics. Prerequisites: POL 211.

POL 324 Central Europe (3 hrs.) This course will examine the unique problems of this region from an interdisciplinary perspective. Since the demise of the Cold War in 1989, and with it the collapse of the wall between eastern and western Europe, this region has become a crucible for a changing world order and a changing Europe. Analysis of a series of current themes from a political science and a historical perspective will form the backbone of the course. We will also look at the issues from both a regional and a national point of view. These topics will include: the reunification of Germany; the ethnic/nationality question; the legacy of communism; the rise of neo-fascism; diplomatic integration into NATO or the European Union; tensions over Ukraine. Prerequisites: HIS 110, GTS 201, or POL 212.

POL 325 Middle East and North African Politics (3 hrs.) An examination of political issues within and between the countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In this course, students will examine the role of religion in politics, the causes and consequences of military conflicts in the region, efforts to promote (and diminish) the rights of marginalized groups, and the wide diversity of political institutions that exist in the area. Prerequisites: GTS 201, SEC 201, POL 212, or permission of the instructor.

POL 326 Environmental Politics and Policy (3 hrs.) This course seeks to explore and understand four broad, interrelated topics: (1) the major political processes, actors, conditions and controversies involved in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies at the local, national and international levels; (2) some of the major pieces of legislation that constitute environmental policy in the United States and the world community; (3) some of the techniques and approaches that policy analysts employ to assess the effectiveness and costs of environmental policies and (4) issues that will shape environmental politics and policies in the immediate future, such as population growth, global warming, habitat destruction and resource depletion. Offered every other fall semester. Prerequisites: POL 112 or POL 211 or ENV 105.

POL 328 National Security Agencies (3 hrs.) To understand the politics and processes of national security, we must have an understanding of the national security labyrinth at the national level. The purpose of this course is to ensure the students' knowledge about the institutional design, oversight mechanisms and shortcomings, missions, and relationship of the varied institutions of the national security bureaucracy. Prerequisites: POL 211, SEC 201, or permission of the instructor.

POL 332 National Security Law I (3 hrs.) The purpose of this class is to provide an understanding of the sources, impact and limitations of laws that impact the national security of the United States. We will look at the three branches of government and the roles that each plays in the legal environment related to national security. Additionally, there will be discussion of international laws and their effect on the security of the United States. Prerequisites: Any of the following: POL 211; POL 301; POL 305; POL 314; POL 362; any Security Studies course (SEC designation); OR permission of the instructor.

POL 333 National Security Law II (3 hrs.) This class delves deeply into legal issues facing national security, including traditional legal frameworks, and legal questions in emerging areas of national security law. Prerequisite: POL 211, POL 301, POL 305, POL 314, POL 362, or any Security Studies Course.

POL 335 Politics and Security of Developing Nations (3 hrs.) In this course, students will undertake a comparative investigation of the political dynamics of the developing world. Looking across Latin America, Asia, and Africa, students will identify and contrast patterns of political behavior across regions and analyze models of economic development, governance, and security challenges that occur in the developing world. By taking a policy-making perspective, students will assess problems and analyze solutions to current issues in developing nations. Prerequisites: POL 112, 212, SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

POL 337 Human Rights and Security (3 hrs.) This course examines the evolution of the international system of human rights. It will consider fundamental legal, moral, and political debates related to human rights and look for avenues to make progress in human rights protection. It will also examine the relationship between human rights and human security and the challenges associated with the provision of human security in the 21st century, with special attention paid to human trafficking and economic development. Prerequisites: POL 112, 212, SEC 201, GTS 201, or permission of the instructor.

POL 342 U.S. Supreme Court (3 hrs.) This course is intended to provide insight into the United States Supreme Court. It will cover subjects that include, but are not limited to: understanding Supreme Court opinions; how justices are chosen to sit upon the Court; the reasons why the Supreme Court makes the decisions it does; and the impact of the Supreme Court on the political and legal landscape in the United States. Prerequisite: POL 211 or permission of the instructor.

POL 343 Congress (3 hrs.) This course will broadly examine the legislative branch of the United States government. Topics include: elections, committees, inter-branch relations, and spatial models of voting. The roles of Congress in our political system are two-fold: 1) to represent issues and concerns of the citizenry; and 2) to make policy for the nation – “to govern.” How does the structure of Congress impact the behavior of its members? What makes for “quality” representation? These questions, and more, will be discussed in this course. Prerequisites: POL 112, POL 211 or permission of the instructor.

POL 345 Politics and Film (3 hrs.) Film and visual images can help us understand contemporary politics. Films often shape and illustrate the public's perception of politics. This course will examine the portrayal of politics in movies. The course will have different themes each semester it is taught, including, but not limited to, the American presidency, race and gender, legislative politics, war, terrorism, and elections. Prerequisites: Any of the following: FAR 215, HIS 104, POL 112, or POL 211.

POL 351 Women and Politics (3 hrs.) This course explores the connection between gender and politics in America and in international contexts. Topics under investigation include political participation and the exercise of political leadership by women, the evolution of social movements in support of women's rights, critical social and political issues of concern to women such as health, employment, security, and education, and debates over relevant public policies. Prerequisites: POL 112, 211, 212, WGS 210, or permission of the instructor.

POL 362 American Foreign Policy (3 hrs.) A study of the diplomatic process designed to provide a realistic insight into the stresses and demands upon modern policy-making, including the roles of the president and Department of State. The course includes an analysis of postwar American programs, policies and difficulties in foreign affairs. Prerequisites: POL 211 or 212.

POL 370 Drugs, Politics and Public Policy (3 hrs.) Examines the response of the American political system to the use of psychoactive drugs. Class will consider questions pertaining to the explanation of human behavior, the structure and dynamics of American society and politics, the formation of public policy and fundamental issues of moral and political philosophy to encourage critical and sophisticated thought regarding the actual and desired relationship of American citizens with psychoactive drugs and possible political strategies for responding to perceived issues. Prerequisites: POL 112, or 212.

SEC – Security Studies

SEC 201 Introduction to Security Studies (3 hrs.) This course will provide the foundations for the Security Studies minor and major, and will serve to introduce many issues in the modern search for security. By the end of the course, you should have a basic understanding of the major theories of security; current issues, conceptions threats to security; institutions related to security; and identify future threats that may loom on our horizon. Additionally, there will be several guest speakers in class who will discuss particular issues in more detail.

SEC 205 Intro to Homeland Security (3 hrs.) The principal objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to US homeland security, with a focus on the post-September 11, 2001 era. We will examine agency missions, laws, and regulations that govern America's efforts to protect the homeland. Through an examination of complex threats and threat environments, students will gain insight into contemporary issues relevant to the homeland security enterprise

SEC 312 Terrorism (3 hrs.) The major objective of this course is to increase your knowledge about terrorism: what it is, why it occurs, why targets are selected, and how to prevent it. Prerequisites: SEC 201.

SEC 325 Issues in Homeland Security (3 hrs.) The purpose of this class is to provide an understanding of the issues and policy spaces that comprise homeland security. The policy space is wide and oft-changing; as such, this course is designed to introduce the students to the critical policy spaces, and allow the student to explore these with some depth. Prerequisites: POL 211; POL 301; any Security Studies course (SEC designation); OR permission of the instructor.

SEC 328 National Security Agencies (3 hrs.) To understand the politics and processes of national security we must have an understanding of the national security labyrinth at the national level. The purpose of this course is to ensure the students' knowledge about the institutional design, oversight mechanisms and shortcomings, missions, and relationship of the varied institutions of the national security bureaucracy. Prerequisites: POL 211, SEC 201, or permission of the instructor.

SEC 334 Intelligence at Home and Abroad (3 hrs.) Nations survive and prosper on the basis of their ability to effectively gather, evaluate, and utilize information about threats. In this course, students will examine the history, context, purpose, methods, processes, and challenges of intelligence gathering at home and abroad. Prerequisites: SEC 201, POL 212, or permission of the instructor.

SEC 335 Politics and Security of Developing Nations (3 hrs.) In this course, students will undertake a comparative investigation of the political dynamics of the developing world. Looking across Latin America, Asia, and Africa, students will identify and contrast patterns of political behavior across regions and analyze models of economic development, governance, and security challenges that occur in the developing world. By taking a policy-making perspective, students will assess problems and analyze solutions to current issues in developing nations. Prerequisites: POL 112, 212, SEC 201 or permission of the instructor.

SEC 337 Human Rights and Security (3 hrs.) This course examines the evolution of the international system of human rights. It will consider fundamental legal, moral, and political debates related to human rights and look for avenues to make progress in human rights protection. It will also examine the relationship between human rights and human security and the challenges associated with the provision of human security in the 21st century, with special attention paid to human trafficking and economic development. Prerequisites: POL 112, 212, SEC 201, GTS 201, or permission of the instructor.

SEC 346 Chinese Politics and Influence (3 hrs.) An examination of how China's emergence as an economic, diplomatic, and military heavyweight is shifting the global balance of power, shaping the responses of governments and intergovernmental organizations, and posing fundamental questions about the nature of world order itself. Prerequisites: GTS 201, SEC 201, POL 212, or permission of the instructor.

SEC 364 Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Group Conflict (3 hrs.) This course uses experimental social psychology as the foundation to explore the affective, behavioral, and cognitive processes associated with group interaction and conflict. Utilizing an interdisciplinary perspective, it will integrate psychological, sociological, political, historical, and security-related approaches to understanding stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination on a local and global scale. Offered occasionally. Prerequisite: PSY 113.

SEC 420 Security Studies Thesis (3 hrs.) Students will learn research methods and utilize them to write a thesis paper. The expectation is that these papers will be written at a level acceptable for off-campus conference. Prerequisites: junior or senior status; declared Security Studies major; 18 or more hours toward major completion. Students will learn research methods and utilize them to write a thesis paper. The expectation is that these papers will be written at a level acceptable for off-campus conference. Prerequisites: junior or senior status; declared Security Studies major; 18 or more hours toward major completion.