PSCI 110 – Introduction to American Politics 3 credit hours
An introductory study of the constitutional framework of American politics, and how it has evolved. Contemporary institutions and processes of the American federal democratic republic are also examined in considerable detail.

PSCI 140 – Democracies Around the World 3 credit hours
Compares how democracy is practiced in various countries around the world, compares democratic governance to non-democratic, and considers the prospects for democratizing non-democratic countries.

PSCI 156 – Regional Field Study 1-4 credit hours
Designed to provide the student with a firsthand knowledge of the political culture and governmental institutions of a U.S. region other than the Midwest or foreign country or region. Students wishing to take this course must obtain written approval in advance from the Department Chair. Total Credits Allowed: 4.00

PSCI 158 – Introduction to International Relations 3 credit hours
A study of contemporary international relations, the changing global system, the role of the nation-state and other actors, the means and ends of power, the causes and consequences of war, and the perennial pursuit of peace.

PSCI 168 – Introduction to International Relations 3 credit hours
A study of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on American politics, and how it has evolved. Contemporary institutions and processes of the American federal democratic republic are also examined in considerable detail.

PSCI 170 – Democracy as a Political Idea 3 credit hours
Examines the contested meanings of the concept “democracy”, such as contestation between liberals and conservatives and socialists, and traces democracy’s development as a political ideal.

PSCI 188 – GS Portal 3 credit hours
Students analyze critical issues confronting individuals and society in a global context as they pertain to the discipline in which the Portal course is taught. The Portal is intended to help students succeed in their university education by being mentored in process of thinking critically about important ideas and articulating their own conclusions. Students may take the Portal in any discipline, irrespective of their major or minor. Satisfies the General Studies Portal course requirement. Students may take their Portal course in any discipline. Students who transfer 24 or more hours of General Studies credit to UNK are exempt from taking a portal course. Total Credits Allowed: 6.00
Prerequisite: First year freshman standing or sophomore standing only.

PSCI 212 – Introduction to Public Administration 3 credit hours
An introduction to the core functions of public administration in the United States. Includes analysis of the controversies involved in organizing, staffing, and making public policy in executive branch agencies. Explores how executive branch agencies operate and interact within the broader political system (composed of Congress, the presidency, the courts, interest groups, political parties, and the news media). Assumes basic knowledge of American politics and government.

PSCI 252 – The Courts and the Judicial Process 3 credit hours
A broad examination of the judicial branch, including the relevant legal and constitutional concepts, institutions, and processes. Assumes basic knowledge of American government.

PSCI 269 – The Institutions and Processes of the United Nations 3 credit hours
This course examines the role of the United Nations within the international system. We will explore its history and structure as well as the various opportunities and challenges that it faces in shaping the international system today. Emphasis will be placed on the main bodies (Security Council, General Assembly, ECOSOC, UN Secretariat and Secretary-General) and agencies that operate within the United Nations and analyzing how well the UN has addressed issues such as international peace and security, human rights, the environment, global poverty, genocide and peacekeeping, among others. Attention will be given, in particular, to how the United Nations might be reformed to improve its overall effectiveness.

PSCI 280H – Special Topics 3 credit hours
A General Studies course for Honors students. Interdisciplinary course that examines the connections between disciplines. Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 300 – American Constitutional Law 3 credit hours
A study of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on American institutions, policies, and processes. Assumes basic knowledge of American government and judicial process.

PSCI 318 – Introduction to Public Policy 3 credit hours
This course explores the emergence and development, in the immediate aftermath of World War II, of an international movement dedicated to the promotion and enforcement of human rights around the world. Beginning with the UN Charter (1945) and the subsequent Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the international community sought to create a system of norms, laws and institutions focused on not only preventing the horrors of the Holocaust from happening again, but to also establish a set of universal rights and protections for all individuals, regardless of nationality, race, religion, gender, etc. With this in mind, we will examine the broader goals and accomplishments of this movement from its inception to today, the obstacles that remain, and the various actors and institutions, at both the national and international levels, that have been involved in influencing the evolution and character of the movement. In particular, we will address the importance of states, IGOS, NGOs and other local actors (scholars, judges, citizen activists, etc.) and explore how state sovereignty, concerns over national security, the issue of enforcement and cultural relativism have served as barriers to the broader human rights movement.

PSCI 320 – Politics and Law of International Human Rights 3 credit hours
This course explores the emergence and development, in the immediate aftermath of World War II, of an international movement dedicated to the promotion and enforcement of human rights around the world. Beginning with the UN Charter (1945) and the subsequent Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the international community sought to create a system of norms, laws and institutions focused on not only preventing the horrors of the Holocaust from happening again, but to also establish a set of universal rights and protections for all individuals, regardless of nationality, race, religion, gender, etc. With this in mind, we will examine the broader goals and accomplishments of this movement from its inception to today, the obstacles that remain, and the various actors and institutions, at both the national and international levels, that have been involved in influencing the evolution and character of the movement. In particular, we will address the importance of states, IGOS, NGOs and other local actors (scholars, judges, citizen activists, etc.) and explore how state sovereignty, concerns over national security, the issue of enforcement and cultural relativism have served as barriers to the broader human rights movement.

PSCI 325 – Individual Liberties and Civil Rights 3 credit hours
An investigation of criminal, political, and racial justice with emphasis on the role of the Supreme Court in the protection of the basic freedoms in American society. Selected case studies will examine areas of conflict between the rights of the individual and of society. Assumes basic knowledge of American government and constitutional law. Prerequisite: PSCI 300 or permission of instructor

PSCI 332 – Environmental Politics & Policy 3 credit hours
This course examines the environment as a public policy issue. Contemporary case studies of environmental policy concerning water, air, land use, habitat protection, climate change, and the like will be used to develop an understanding of the political, legal, and ethical aspects of public policy on environmental matters.

PSCI 333 – The Politics and Policy of Health Care 3 credit hours
An examination of current government policies, policy alternatives, and political interests that complicate the development and implementation of health policies in the United States.
PSCI 340 – Topics in Comparative Politics 3 credit hours
This course is an in-depth examination of a special topic in the subfield of comparative politics (e.g., Comparative Electoral Systems). May be repeated with different topics, up to 6 hours.

Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 341 – Politics of the Drug War 3 credit hours
This course examines theoretical frameworks and empirical research about the interaction between illegal drugs and American politics. It provides an overview specifically of the U.S. war on drugs, its history and consequences for democratic politics and development in the United States, Latin America and other regions of the world. The course also examines potential alternatives to U.S. drug policy, including drug legalization and drug decriminalization.

PSCI 342 – Politics of Globalization 3 credit hours
This course explores the process of globalization - the various political, economic, cultural, and social changes that have, and continue to, transform our world. The goal of the course is to clarify what globalization is and how it is affecting societies around the world. For instance, the course focuses on issues such as global trade, the global spread of Western values and ideas, threats to the power of nation-states as well as the existence of transnational social movements.

PSCI 344 – Politics of the Developed World 3 credit hours
A comparative study of politics and government in the major industrial democracies. The United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan are featured; assumes basic knowledge of American government.

PSCI 345 – Politics of the Developing World 3 credit hours
The course is essentially a comparison of the political systems of developing nations in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. Problems and challenges in developing national institutions; patterns of socialization and national identities; building viable national institutions; the nature of political participation and exit strategies; and economic influences on political stability/instability will be analyzed and investigated.

PSCI 346 – Latin American Politics 3 credit hours
A study of politics and government in contemporary Latin America. Case studies focusing on particular Latin American nations will be used to illustrate broader patterns and trends. Attention will also be given to perceptions of the United States in the region, as well as to contemporary relations between key countries in Latin America and the United States, Soviet Union, Western Europe, and Asia.

PSCI 347 – Comparative Political Behavior 3 credit hours
A study of mass political behavior from a cross-national perspective. Topics addressed include: political participation, voting behavior, social capital, nationalism, cultural shifts, support for democracy, and world culture.

PSCI 348 – Military Politics and Civil-Military Relations 3 credit hours
The military stands among the most significant actors within the politics of countries in the developed and developing world. Historically, the armed forces have played multiple roles, including nation-builder, defender of the state and national heritage, government, ideological indoctrinator, social reformist, repressor, interest group, vocational trainer, and business class. The military retains many of these roles in the United States, Latin America and Africa. Its position within the United States has historically not been as dramatic as in other countries, however its influence upon U.S. defense and budgetary policy is substantial as well as its influence upon U.S. political culture in general. In the first part of this class we will seek to understand the role of the U.S. military in U.S. politics and the interactions between civil society and civilian authorities with the armed forces. The second part of the class addresses the military’s role in directly governing and/or regularly undermining the establishment of consolidated democracies in Latin America and Africa. Finally, in the last part of the class we will examine the large role played by the military in the democratization process, specifically its historical role in U.S. democracy promotion projects.

PSCI 351 – The American Congress 3 credit hours
A study of the operation of the legislative branch of the U.S. government, the motives and methods of legislators, the interactions between the two houses of Congress, and the interplay of checks and balances in relations between the legislative branch and other branches. This course is often taught using a joint simulation on legislative policymaking with students in PSCI 366: Political Parties and Interest Groups. Assumes basic knowledge of American government.

PSCI 352 – The American Presidency 3 credit hours
A study of the executive branch of the U.S. government, with particular attention to the presidency, its evolution and its constitutional roles in the system of checks-and-balances. Special attention is given to leadership style and to the functions of the modern presidency. Case studies will be used to illustrate how different presidents have interpreted their powers and discharged their duties.

PSCI 353 – Race & Politics 3 credit hours
A comparative and analytical study of race and politics in the United States. Theories of race and their role in shaping public understandings, social mobilization, and governmental policy. Particular attention will be given to the social construction of race and the political implications of theories of whiteness, African Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos.

PSCI 355 – Public Budgeting 3 credit hours
Government budgets are statements of social value. What kind of economic activity a government chooses to tax, and how those resources are spent, both reflect a government’s priorities and the political pressures it must accommodate. This class examines how governments in the United States make budgetary decisions. Special attention will be paid to the political influences on budgeting, the budget-making processes employed by executives and legislatures, and the social, political and economic consequences of those decisions.

PSCI 356 – Public Personnel Administration 3 credit hours
This course examines the politics and policies that govern human resources management in United States governments. In particular, the course surveys the major functions of public personnel administration: recruitment, hiring, compensation and evaluation, and analyzes how these are adapted in the public sector to reflect political influences. The course also reviews the historical development of civil service systems.
PSCI 382 – Public Opinion and Political Problems 3 credit hours
A study of the process of public opinion formation and change among mass public and elites in the United States. Normative and empirical issues involving the measurement of public opinion and its impact on public policy will also be considered.

PSCI 385 – Foundations of Public Policy 3 credit hours
An examination of policy-making processes at the national and state levels. Case studies will emphasize the many variables that influence policy formulation.

PSCI 388 – GS Capstone 3 credit hours
An interdisciplinary experience where students apply the knowledge, cognitive abilities, and communication skills they have gained from General Studies in designing and completing an original project or paper. Students employ methods and interpretive means of two or more disciplines to integrate knowledge and synthesize their results. Satisfies the General Studies capstone course requirement. Students may take their Capstone course in any discipline.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior level standing or within 6 hours of completing general studies requirements.

PSCI 390 – Politics & Culture of Asia 3 credit hours
A study of politics and culture in Asian countries. Particular attention is given to Japan and China and case studies of other countries in the region are also used to illustrate general patterns and trends. Democracy as it is practiced and developing in Asia is a significant theme, and the course examines other key concepts in the field of comparative politics, including ethnic conflict and economic development.

PSCI 400 – Public Administration 3 credit hours
This course looks at the natures, structures, functions and problems of public administration in the United States. Major emphasis is placed on the relationship between the bureaucracy and the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of national and state government. Assumes basic knowledge of the American bureaucracy and American politics.

PSCI 410 – Advanced Study in American Government: Special Topics 3 credit hours
A senior-level seminar in a special topic in the subfield of American government, e.g., Presidents and the American public. May be repeated up to 6 hours with a different topic.

Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 420 – Advanced Study in Political Behavior: Special Topics 3 credit hours
A senior-level seminar in a special topic in the subfield of political behavior, e.g., voting in the American electorate. May be repeated up to 6 hours with a different topic.

Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 426 – Public Administration: Special Topics 3 credit hours
A senior-level seminar in a special topic in the subfield of comparative politics, e.g., cross-national political behavior. May be repeated up to 6 hours with a different topic.

Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 434 – U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East 3 credit hours
Since World War II, few regions in the world have been as important to the United States and its interests as the Middle East. From the Cold War to the post 9/11 era, strategic, economic and moral imperatives have brought about considerable U.S. involvement in the region. This class examines the Middle East through the lens of American foreign policy. Our lectures, readings and discussions will focus on the development, implementation and effects of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East from 1945 to the present. We will also examine how American foreign policies are perceived, understood and treated through Middle Eastern perspectives. Some of the topics we will cover in the course will include: the politics surrounding the birth of Israel, U.S.-Soviet competition for influence in the region during the Cold War, the rise of Arab nationalism, the conflicts in Iran, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt, issues of resources and economic development in the Middle East as they relate to U.S. interests, terrorism, and the ongoing violence in Syria and Iraq.

PSCI 440 – Advanced Study in Comparative Politics: Special Topics 3 credit hours
A senior-level seminar in a special topic in the subfield of comparative politics, e.g., cross-national political behavior. May be repeated up to 6 hours with a different topic.

Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 450 – Nations in Transition 3 credit hours
This course examines the nations that are going through significant transformation. Covering a wide range of countries around the world, this class considers how these countries struggle to move toward stable democracies despite different obstacles. Furthermore, we will critically explore the roles that the United States and the international community should assume in these transitional societies.

PSCI 456 – Field Study 1-3 credit hours
Field study is designed to combine classroom study with experiences outside the classroom to give students opportunities for discussions with public officials or other firsthand knowledge of the subject. Field studies in the past have focused on study of the actors and processes of foreign policymaking with a one-week trip to Washington, DC, to meet with policymakers. The topics for subsequent field studies may vary. Students may repeat the field study course up to 6 hours credit with different topics.

Total Credits Allowed: 6.00

PSCI 468 – War in World Politics 3 credit hours
This course examines the causes and consequences of war in world politics, as well as those methods by which states and other actors attempt to manage it and provide for peace.

PSCI 475 – Internship in Political Science 1-6 credit hours
Designed to provide an on-the-job learning experience that will enhance the student’s understanding of politics and provide a glimpse of government-in-action. Internships are usually student initiated. Students wishing to take this course must obtain written approval in advance from the Department Chair.

Total Credits Allowed: 12.00

PSCI 486 – Policy Analysis 3 credit hours
Introduction to the skills needed to conduct analysis of policy options and policy evaluations. The course will include an introduction to methods of policy analysis, including cost/benefit analysis; analysis of political environment; and analysis of externalities.

Prerequisite: PSCI 381 and PSCI 385
**PSCI 489 – Senior Seminar  3 credit hours**
This capstone course reviews and details the sub-fields in political science and addresses the normative, empirical and legal methodologies appropriate for graduating seniors. Grading method: letter grade.
Prerequisite: Senior status

**PSCI 490 – Directed Research  1-3 credit hours**
Independent original research of a topic in political science selected by the student. Done under the direction of a political science faculty member. Proposals must be student-initiated. Students wishing to take this course must obtain written approval in advance from the department chair.
Total Credits Allowed: 3.00

**PSCI 499 – Readings in Political Science  1-3 credit hours**
Independent readings in political science for the advanced undergraduate or graduate student. Done under the direction of a political science faculty member. Student initiated. Students wishing to take this course must obtain written approval in advance from the Department Chair.
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00