POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Overview

How did American politics become so polarized? How can we understand the global shift to the right in electoral politics? What is freedom and how is it best protected? What causes politics to turn violent, what can be done about it? How can citizens affect change in their own communities and beyond?

These are just some of the big questions students will confront in Political Science courses at Rider University. Through these courses, students will examine politics at every level: local, state, national, international and global. They will acquire a variety of methodological skills and theoretical perspectives in order to develop a broad understanding of political institutions and processes, political cultures, and political actors. Students enjoy experiential learning in many of their courses, including Congressional simulations, mock trials, and creative problem solving in foreign policy.

Curriculum Overview

Students take courses in every subfield of political science:

• American politics
• comparative politics
• constitutional law
• political theory
• international relations

Beyond the Political Science major, the department also offers majors in Health Care Policy (http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/healthcarepolicy) and Global Studies (http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/global-studies); as well as minors in Homeland Security Policy (http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/homeland-security), Global Studies (http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/global-studies), and Political Communication (http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/political-communication-minor).

We also offer a Master’s degree in Homeland Security (http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/homeland-security), which Rider undergraduates can complete in one additional (fifth) year of study.

Rider’s Political Science students have many opportunities for hands-on Engaged Learning:

• The Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics (http://www.rider.edu/offices/services/rebovich-institute-new-jersey-politics) places students in internships in NJ, PA, NY, DC and beyond, offering fellowships to support students during unpaid summer internships. The Institute also brings many noteworthy speakers to campus, including former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R) and Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-D).
• Rider’s award winning Model United Nations (http://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-education-science/liberal-arts-programs/political-science/model-united-nations) (MUN) team has received Outstanding Delegation (the highest award) eight out of the last nine years. Students in MUN earn course credit while preparing to represent their delegation in an annual week-long conference at the United Nations in New York City.
• Washington Semester Program (http://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-education-science/liberal-arts-programs/political-science/washington-semester-program) gives students the opportunity to intern in Washington, D.C. while taking courses at American University.
• Student Global Village (http://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-education-sciences/liberal-arts-programs/global-studies/student-global-village-seminar-registration) courses allow students to take a semester long course virtually alongside students in Iraq and Northern Ireland.
• Political Science faculty offer multiple teach-ins every semester, where they offer expert analysis of current events in politics. Students also lead teach-ins about their experiences outside the classroom, including Model UN.
• In addition to joining the Political Science Club, students are encouraged to join the College Democrats and the College Republicans.

Our political science faculty members are active researchers and practitioners who bring their expertise into the classroom. Rider students find many opportunities to collaborate with faculty on research and present their work at disciplinary conferences. Recent research areas include:

• the politics of gas and oil pipelines
• campaign finance and political corruption
• the role of Hip Hop for under-privileged migrant youth
• world opinion and the Northern Ireland Peace Process
• the role of private military companies in African conflicts
• the role of ignorance in American politics and political thought

The study of politics and government is an important part of a well-rounded liberal arts education. Studying political science and the liberal arts will enhance a student’s skills in critical thinking, written and oral communication, and problem solving which will serve them well in any career. More and more business leaders, including Rider alumni, report that they seek precisely these skills in potential employees.

Graduates in Political Science pursue a wide range of careers and public service opportunities, as well as advanced study, including:

• local and national politics and government
• international politics and IGOs (international governmental organizations)
• non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
• Peace Corps and Teach for America
• community and political organizing
• think tanks and policy analysis
• business
• journalism
• education
• graduate and law school

Honors Program in Political Science

Political Science majors who have completed eight courses in political science with a cumulative average of 3.5 may request candidacy for graduation with honors in political science. Students should submit to
the chairperson of the department early in their sixth semester (March 15 or October 15), an Independent Research and Study project signed by a faculty sponsor and approved by the department. Applicants typically enroll in POL 490 in their seventh semester to develop a thesis proposal. Upon approval, the honors candidate will enroll in POL 499.

Students also take a Senior Honors Thesis, for six credits, in the last semester. A substantive research work should be presented no later than April 1 or November 1 before a committee made up of the thesis advisor and two faculty members approved by the department. Honors in political science is awarded upon the successful completion and defense of the thesis.

**Degree Offered**
- B.A. in Political Science

**Contact**
Barbara Franz, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Fine Arts 272
609-896-5000 ext. 5262
bfranz@rider.edu

Program website: [www.rider.edu/polsci](http://www.rider.edu/polsci)

**Associated Department:** Political Science Department

**Related Programs**
- Communication Studies ([http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/communication-studies](http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/communication-studies))

**Political Science Major Requirements**
(42 credits)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLAS General Education Curriculum</td>
<td><a href="http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/general_education_requirements">See CLAS General Education Curriculum Page</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 100</td>
<td>Intro to American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 102</td>
<td>Understanding Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 202</td>
<td>The Political System - Theories and Them</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>POL 450</td>
<td>Seminar in Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one course from each of the following subfields:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
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**Political Science Minor Requirements**
(21 credits)

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political Thought</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 239</td>
<td>Political Thinkers &amp; Thought</td>
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<td>POL 340</td>
<td>Mod Democracy &amp; its Critics</td>
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<td>POL 342</td>
<td>Freedom and Authority</td>
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<td>POL 343</td>
<td>American Political Thought I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>American Politics</td>
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<td>POL 235</td>
<td>Race/Ethnicity in Amer Politic</td>
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<td>POL 305</td>
<td>Pol Parties &amp; Electoral Behave</td>
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<td>POL 312</td>
<td>Congressional Politics</td>
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<td>POL 313</td>
<td>American Presidency</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Law and Public Policy</td>
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<td>POL 300</td>
<td>U.S. Constitutional Law</td>
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<td>POL 301</td>
<td>Civil Liberties in the U.S.</td>
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<td>POL 325</td>
<td>Public Administration</td>
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<td>POL 326</td>
<td>Power in American Politics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 216</td>
<td>Comparative Political Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 320</td>
<td>Politics of the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 365</td>
<td>Third World Politics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 215</td>
<td>Global Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 225</td>
<td>Nationalism in World Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 321</td>
<td>International Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 371</td>
<td>The Arab-Israeli Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five political science electives, four of which must be at the 300 or 400 level</td>
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**4 Year Academic Plan of Study**

The following educational plan is provided as a sample only. Rider students who do not declare a major during their freshman year; who change their major; or those who transfer to Rider may follow a different plan to ensure a timely graduation. Each student, with guidance from his or her academic advisor, will develop a personalized educational plan.

**Political Science Minor Requirements**
(21 credits)

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<td>POL 100</td>
<td>Intro to American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 102</td>
<td>Understanding Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five political science electives, three of which must be at the 300-level</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**4 Year Academic Plan of Study**

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**4 Year Academic Plan of Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>CMP 120</td>
<td>Expository Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MTH 102</td>
<td>Finite Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POL 102</td>
<td>Understanding Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HIS 150</td>
<td>World History to 1500</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Year 2

### Fall Semester

Choose one of the following: 3
- POL 239 Political Thinkers & Thought
- POL 340 Modern Democracy and Its Critics
- POL 342 Freedom and Authority
- POL 343 American Political Thought I

Foreign Language 3
- Philosophical Perspectives 3
- Scientific Perspectives 3
- Aesthetic Perspectives: Literature 3

Semester Credit Hours 15

### Spring Semester

POL 202 The Political System - Theories and Themes 3

Choose one of the following: 3
- POL 300 U.S. Constitutional Law
- POL 301 Civil Liberties in the U.S.
- POL 325 Public Administration
- POL 326 Power in American Politics

Aesthetic Perspectives: Fine Arts 3
- Two Elective Courses 2 6

Semester Credit Hours 15

## Year 3

### Fall Semester

Choose one of the following: 3
- POL 305 Political Parties and Electoral Behavior
- POL 312 Congressional Politics
- POL 313 American Presidency
- POL 325 Public Administration

Upper Level Political Science (POL) Elective 3
- Three Elective Courses 2 9

Semester Credit Hours 15

### Spring Semester

Choose one of the following: 3
- POL 216 Comparative Political Systems
- POL 320 Politics of the Middle East
- POL 365 Third World Politics
- POL 366 Communist Systems: Politics and Policies

Upper Level Political Science (POL) Elective 3
- Three Elective Courses 2 9

Semester Credit Hours 15

## Year 4

### Fall Semester

POL 491 Internship in Political Science 3-4

Choose one of the following: 3
- POL 215 Global Politics
- POL 225 Nationalism in World Politics
- POL 321 International Law
- POL 371 The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Upper Level Political Science (POL) Elective 3
- Two Elective Courses 2 6

Semester Credit Hours 15-16

### Spring Semester

POL 450 Seminar in Political Science (Required) 3
- Upper Level Political Science (POL) Elective 3
- Three Elective Courses 2 9

Semester Credit Hours 15

Total Credit Hours for Graduation 120-121

1. For course placement information see [http://www.rider.edu/offices-services/orientation/course-placement](http://www.rider.edu/offices-services/orientation/course-placement)
2. Please note that elective credits may be used to complete requirements in a second major or minor.
3. One Social Perspectives General Education Requirement is included in the major.

### Courses and Descriptions

**POL 100 Introduction to American Politics 3 Credits**
An examination of basic principles of the U.S. constitutional system; the operation of the democratic process; the organization, powers and procedures of Congress, the presidency and the federal judiciary; and the functions, services, and financing of the national government. Emphasis is on public issues, national priorities, and civil liberties. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Disciplinary Perspectives element of the CLAS general education curriculum. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 100. Students may not get credit for both POL 100 and HLS 100.

**POL 102 Understanding Politics 3 Credits**
Introduction to the study of politics and government, including major political theories and ideologies, systems of government (i.e., presidential, parliamentary, authoritarian, totalitarian), public opinion and behavior, international relations and war, and contemporary policy issues. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Disciplinary Perspectives element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**POL 200 NJ Government and Politics 3 Credits**
Political institutions, processes, and problems of state and local governments of New Jersey. Analysis of legislative, executive, judicial, regulatory bodies, special districts, and autonomous agencies. Aspects of personnel, finance, and services.

**POL 201 Policy Issues, Advocacy, and Budgeting 3 Credits**
Surveys various domestic economic and social policy issues, the government budgeting process, and how citizens and groups advocate their interest through organizing, coalition-building and lobbying. Emphasis on developing practical skills in issue analysis, lobbying, legislative tracking, and public budgeting.
**POL 202 The Political System - Theories and Themes 3 Credits**
This course serves as a gateway to the subfields of comparative politics and international relations. The concept of the political system helps political scientists to organize political interrelations into patterns that allow systematic selection and interpretation of information and the study of processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of settings. The course introduces students to the main brands of normative theory prescribing the principles directing the operation of the political system, to some of the most important methods used to compare political systems and/or their components, and to the foremost approaches utilized in the study of the relations between political systems and their environments. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 202. Students may not get credit for both POL 202 and HLS 202.

**POL 203 Homeland Security 3 Credits**
The course is designed to help students increase their knowledge and understanding of homeland security policy. The course will consider why and how homeland security problems impact the public agenda, why some solutions are adopted and others rejected, and why some policies appear to succeed while others appear to fail. The course will primarily examine policy making at the national level in the United States, but will also analyze examples at the state and local level, as well as placing U.S. policy in a comparative perspective. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 203. Students may not get credit for both HLS 203 and POL 203.

**POL 204 Development and Structure of the US Intelligence Community 3 Credits**
This course provides a historical review of intelligence following World War II. It will examine the major functions of intelligence, as well as intelligence as a part of the foreign policy process: collection, analysis, counterintelligence, and convert action. Students will be introduced to a range of collection procedures: human, open source, electronic, photographic, and signal, with emphasis placed on interpreting and writing intelligence summaries. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 204. Students may not get credit for both POL 204 and HLS 204.

**POL 205 Introduction to Public Policy 3 Credits**
The course provides students with an introduction to the study of public policy by linking the theoretical with the practical. The course focuses on three areas of analysis: 1) descriptive 2) evaluative and 3) prescriptive. Students will develop skills required to define and critically analyze public problems, articulate relevant decision-making criteria and assess alternative policy options. Last the course provides examples of public policy problems through the substantive policy areas of health, environment and education.

**POL 206 Healthcare Regulation and Governance 3 Credits**
Health Regulation and Governance explores the institutions, processes and actors involved in governing and regulating the healthcare system in the US. The course engages the topic through the lens of federalism by examining the role of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government in regulating and governing healthcare at the national level as well as the role of the states in this policy area. Students will not only be introduced to the structure of regulation and governance of healthcare in the US, but will also be able to contextualize contemporary issues in healthcare in order to not simply addresses problems in the sector, but to also begin to identify solutions to issues that impact the population.

**POL 210 Public Opinion 3 Credits**
Public opinion as a social force and as expression of public sentiment on political and social issues. Topics include: development and dissemination of opinions, the measurement of public opinion, public opinion and governmental processes, and the reciprocal relationship between mass media and public opinion. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 210. Students may not get credit for both POL 210 and GLS 210.

**POL 215 Global Politics 3 Credits**
The struggle for power, wealth, and order at the global level involving nation-states, intergovernmental organizations (such as the United Nations, the European Union, etc.), non-governmental organizations, transnational enterprises and other non-state entities, using military, economic, diplomatic, legal, and communication instruments. Overview of global problems such as the proliferation of weapons of destruction, ethnic and religious conflicts, human rights, and the global environment at the threshold of the 21st century. Real-time use of the Internet is an integral aspect of this course in terms of readings and assignments. (This course is a prerequisite for POL 295 Special Projects in Political Science: Model United Nations.) Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 215. Students may not get credit for both POL 215 and GLS 215.

**POL 216 Comparative Political Systems 3 Credits**
A general introduction to types of government and political regimes of the world as they try to cope with the dual challenge of ethnic micropolitics and transnational globalization. Major prototypes of democracy: the British parliamentary system, the American separation of powers system, and various combinations of these two. Traditional autocracy, totalitarian dictatorships, and late 20th-century authoritarian regimes. Students are expected to acquire in-depth knowledge of comparative political systems, and to develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the major concepts and themes in comparative political systems studies.

**POL 216 Asian Political Systems 3 Credits**
(Formerly the Pacific Rim in the 21st Century) This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of the government, politics, economic development as well as the history and culture of countries along the Pacific Rim. The countries examined include China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and North Korea. Students are expected to understand 1) the democratization wave and efforts across the Pacific Rim countries and regions, 2) the economic development of these countries and regions and the consequential sociopolitical impact, and 3) concepts of political institutions and political culture in a comparative perspective.

**POL 219 Terrorism, Revolutions, and Political Violence 3 Credits**
Revolutions are the mad inspiration of history. Trotsky’s characterization calls attention to three important dimensions of violent political participation: the historical settings, ideology, and emotional fervor of the practitioners. The course focuses on these dimensions by analyzing revolutionary and terrorist movements in the 20th century. Special attention is given to the use of violence in the post-Cold War new world disorder. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 219 and as HLS 219. Students may only get credit for one course: HLS 219, GLS 219, or POL 219.

**POL 220 Terrorism & Counter Terrorism 3 Credits**
This course introduces students to the arguments about the definition of terrorism, the historical use of terrorism and the roles of ideology, religion, and psychological factors that help explain and predict it. The course seeks to identify the components of national security policy aimed at countering such elements and their cost, both in financial and civil right terms. Finally, to illuminate both the definition and the policies discussed, the course will offer brief comparisons with other states, especially Israel, the UK, and Russia.
POL 225 Nationalism in World Politics 3 Credits
Nations and nationalism. An overview of nationalistic manifestations in the world today. Nations, states, nation-states. Multinational states, stateless nations. Imperialism, anti-imperialism, nativism vs. internationalism and globalization. Topics include nationalisms in the Holy Land; in the former Yugoslavia; in the former Soviet Union and its successor states; and economic Nationalism vs. Globalization. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 225. Students may not get credit for both POL 225 and GLS 225.

POL 230 Methods of Political Analysis 3 Credits
An overview of the various qualitative and quantitative methods that political scientists use to study their discipline. Themes include analyses of political participation and support, methods of studying elections, measures of political tolerance and liberalism.

POL 235 Race and Ethnicity in American Politics 3 Credits
Examines the changing political, economic, and social situation of racial and ethnic groups in American politics since the 1950s. Topics include the relationship between race/ethnicity and voting behavior, political parties, and election results. Includes an analysis of specific areas of contemporary racial and ethnic conflict, such as voting rights, immigration, and affirmative action.

POL 239 Political Thinkers & Thought 3 Credits
A survey of the most significant political thought from ancient times into the modern era. Subject matter includes discussion of such questions as the nature of freedom, natural law and right, constitutionalism, political obligation, justice, form of regime.

POL 247 Political Campaigning 3 Credits
This course entails the study of campaigning for political office at the federal, state and local levels in the United States. While attention will be given to how the broader political environment and specific factors, e.g., the decline in partisanship, hot button issues, local interests, and money, affect the nature of campaigns, the course’s primary focus will be on how to organize and conduct a successful and ethical campaign, including how to collect and analyze pertinent data, manage a staff, develop a communications plan, and get out the vote.

POL 255 European Politics 3 Credits
A comparative analysis of the social and political systems of Britain, France, Germany and other Western countries within the European framework. Emphasis will be on the identification of ways in which countries similar in social characteristics are also similar in their political systems and on the extent and circumstances under which they differ. Similarities and contrasts will also be drawn with political structures and processes in the United States. This course, on occasion, may contain an optional travel component during January.

POL 260 Politics of Law and Order 3 Credits
The constitutional, legal, political, and administrative aspects of the criminal justice system in the United States are studied, including the court system at all levels of government, law enforcement agencies, correctional programs and institutions, probation, parole, and the relationship of our legal institutions to the broader political system.

POL 267 China in Transition 3 Credits
This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the history, government, politics, economic development as well as political culture of the People’s Republic of China. Students are expected to acquire in-depth knowledge of China’s political history, government structure and China’s economic development and consequential sociopolitical impact. At the same time, students are expected to develop a basic understanding of the concepts of studying Chinese political institutions and political culture in a comparative perspective.

POL 270 Interest Groups and Lobbying 3 Credits
The course will introduce students to the area of interest groups and lobbying. Topics to be covered include theoretical developments, methodological approaches of group formation, organizational maintenance, and strategies used to influence public policy in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

POL 272 Politics of Latin America 3 Credits
The course will begin by discussing Latin American nations from the point of view of their common ancestry in European colonization, including the ways in which European cultural and economic patterns were introduced into indigenously populated areas, how these persisted after independence from European imperialist regimes and the U.S., and how these legacies have their continued effects into the present. The course continues with inquiry into the domestic politics and governmental systems of a number of Latin American nations. The course also takes up present day relations between Latin American political systems, the United States, and various organizations of the global economy such as International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization.

POL 280 Sex & Politics 3 Credits
The bearing of gender upon politics: whether political activity is more characteristic of one or the other sex; the comparative fates of male and female in political society; the political implications of change in the content and mutual status of masculinity and femininity. Inquiry into classical, traditional, and contemporary views.

POL 295 Special Topics in Political Science 3 Credits
For non-seniors who engage in serious research in political science. Topic to be approved by instructor and department chairperson.

POL 300 U.S. Constitutional Law 3 Credits
The role of the Supreme Court in the American political system is assessed. Topics include the staffing and functioning of the Supreme Court and the federal judicial bureaucracy, the origins and development of judicial review, and the role of the Supreme Court in national policy-making. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 300. Students may not get credit for both HLS 300 and POL 300.

POL 301 Civil Liberties in the U.S. 3 Credits
The American doctrine of civil liberties in theory and practice. Emphasis on analyzing the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and religion, the right of privacy, and the problem of discrimination in the context of contemporary issues and problems. Particular attention to the role of the Supreme Court in this area. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 301. Students may not get credit for both HLS 301 and POL 301.

POL 304 Political Behavior: Fear, Risk and Crisis 3 Credits
The course focuses on various analytical approaches in behavioral political science. It does so by advancing students’ knowledge of the cognitive aspects of whether citizens engage in various types of political behavior—e.g., voting/non-voting, the formation of political partisanship and ideology, issue perceptions, responding to risk and uncertainty in the political environment, and engaging in civic political participation. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 304. Students may not get credit for both POL 304 and HLS 304.

POL 305 Political Parties and Electoral Behavior 3 Credits
The structure, character, and functions of U.S. political parties and pressure groups, and their impact on public policy. Parties are analyzed within the broader scope of organizational theory and comparative party systems. Major emphasis on their historical origins, their role in contemporary political life, and particular aspects of party politics—local organization, membership, campaigning and elections, policy-making roles, and leadership.
POL 306 Political Film 3 Credits
This course analyzes the structure, history, and impact of the genre of political film. It begins with a discussion of how one distinguishes a political film from other forms of cinema. It then proposes insights into the manner in which these films evoke a particular time and place in politics, affect the viewer's interpretation of a political event or figure, and have an effect upon a viewer's political perceptions or behavior. The student will also learn to review films critically, both as political statements and as effective (or ineffective) conveyors of political messages. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 306. Students may not get credit for both POL 306 and GLS 306.

POL 307 Political Communication 3 Credits
The meaning and uses of political communication are examined, the manner and forms such communication takes, and the history of political discourse. Major topics include the role of communication in elections and the development of public policy, how political communication strategies have changed with the rise of mass media, and the development of national and international publics for discourse. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 307. Students may not get credit for both POL 307 and GLS 307.

POL 309 Will China Be Next Superpower? 3 Credits
This course has two focal points: one is the rise and fall of great powers in the history of world transformation; the other is China's whereabouts in this transition. The former deals with a group of International Relations theories, which focuses on systematic transformation. Students are expected to learn extant theoretical knowledge on how and why a great power rises and falls. The latter is our empirical referent. Students are led to study China's contemporary history, geopolitics, political economy, and international relations as to make a learned connection between theoretical wisdom and practical data on China. This course will provide students with a better understanding of China in general and its superpower status in the making in world politics in particular, offer students a chance to review the sources and consequences of different national approaches to greatness, and help students find his or her own analytical framework for understanding international political events that may have transforming effects in Northeast Asia as well as on the world stage. This course is cross-listed as GLS 309. Students may not get credit for both POL 309 and GLS 309.

POL 312 Congressional Politics 3 Credits
An intensive analysis of the legislative process in the United States, considering both the internal organization and operation of Congress, and Congress' role in the broader American political system. Fundamental issues include the theory and practice of representation; the committee system, seniority and expertise; executive and legislative interaction; and the politics of congressional reform.

POL 313 American Presidency 3 Credits
A description and analysis of the American presidency: its historical development, the internal organization, and ecological context. Basic issues include the intent of the framers of the Constitution, the historical accumulation of presidential powers, and institutional limits on presidential power (e.g., Congress and the bureaucracy).

POL 314 Congressional Power and National Security Policy 3 Credits
The purpose of this course is for students to identify, examine, analyze, and interpret the role of Congress in shaping national security policy with a particular emphasis on the institution's role in the Global War on Terror. Particular attention is paid to the role of the US government being able to balance individual rights and liberties within the national security state. Last, the course also takes an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Congress, looking comparatively at how legislatures in other nations have dealt with crafting their own security policies. The course will address the following questions: First, what is the role of Congress in national security policy, what does it do, and why? Second, what are the various ways of studying the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government in the US system as it relates to the Global War on Terror? Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 314. Students may not get credit for both HLS 314 and POL 314.

POL 315 Global Issues 3 Credits
Military, economic, demographic, and environmental threats to global security in the post-Cold War era. Forces of transnational integration vs. forces of intrastate fragmentation. Inadequacy of international law and organization to deal with these problems within the confines of the sovereign nation-state system. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 315. Students may not get credit for both POL 315 and GLS 315.

POL 316 Presidential Power and National Security Policy 3 Credits
This course examines the development of the National Security State since the Second World War, and the ways in which it has affected, and been affected by, the Federal Executive. Topics to be covered will include the post-World War II redefinition of "national security", the Cold War (with a special focus upon war powers during Korea and Vietnam) and the changes that have occurred with the "War on Terror." Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 316. Students may not get credit for both POL 316 and HLS 316.

POL 317 Model United Nations 3 Credits
For non-seniors who engage in serious research in political science. Topic to be approved by instructor and department chairperson.

POL 320 Politics of the Middle East 3 Credits
The course emphasizes the relationships between social and political structures, the role of religion, and the problems of modernization in the Middle East. Similarities and contrasts will be drawn between the Arab and non-Arab countries of the Middle East. The political systems of Egypt, Syria, Israel and Saudi Arabia are examined in terms of political culture, structure, and political processes.

POL 321 International Law 3 Credits
This course covers the basic doctrines of international law and their relationship to the contemporary international community. These include the jurisprudence of international law; the history of the international legal system; customary international law; Treaty law; sovereignty, statehood and recognition; jurisdiction and immunities; the role of international organizations; international criminal responsibility; and the relationship of the international legal system to the U.S. domestic legal system. The objectives of international law are to foster the peaceful settlement of disputes; facilitate transnational communication and commerce; encourage respect for human rights; as well as to preserve the environment. This course is cross-listed as GLS 321. Students may not get credit for both POL 321 and GLS 321.
POL 325 Public Administration 3 Credits
Public administration in modern society, emphasizing the administrative formulation of public policy and its implementation. Attention on who gets what, when, and how from the decisions of administrative units; the role administrators have in policy-making compared to elected legislators, chief executives and judges; the effect administrators have on the benefits citizens receive from government; and the effect administrators have on citizens’ behavior. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 325. Students may not get credit for both HLS 325 and POL 325.

POL 326 Power in American Politics 3 Credits
Examines various explanations of who has power in American politics. Explores the roles of appointed and elected officials, business and interest groups, the media, and the general public in shaping public policy. Special attention to political change, including the impact of broad social movements on the responsiveness of the political system.

POL 327 Contemporary Issues in American Public Policy 3 Credits
An in-depth examination of current issues in American politics. Drunk driving, political corruption, drug policy, education, and poverty are among the issues to be considered. Emphasis on analyzing policy problems and on developing and evaluating proposed solutions.

POL 328 Environmental Politics 3 Credits
Environmental Politics examines how policymakers deal with the political challenges of unsustainable resource consumption, which is a primary determinant of environmental problems such as climate change, adverse health effects, and biodiversity loss. The course introduces students to environmental politics and policies at the local, state, national, and international levels. The course is designed to provide students with a framework for understanding how varied interests compete within political institutions in order to transform contending ideas into public policy. With that in mind, students will not only become more informed consumers of political information, but will also become more effective at analyzing and advocating for policies as it relates to the environment.

POL 329 Comparative Environmental Policy 3 Credits
Comparative Environmental Policy analyzes cross-national approaches in developing, implementing, and evaluating policy responses to environmental problems. The course analyzes the political factors, actors, and tools that help and explain why some societies have been more likely to develop effective responses to environmental threats. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 329. Students may not get credit for both GLS 329 and POL 329.

POL 330 Geopolitics of Energy 3 Credits
Geopolitics of Energy Security explores the role of energy in shaping global politics, natural resource management practices and volatility in economic markets. The course begins with an overview of energy security and explores issues associated with energy production, national security, energy consumption, and environmental conservation. Throughout the course students will become familiar with basic data, trends, issues and options in the exploration and production of renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

POL 335 Urban Politics 3 Credits
Political structure and administration of municipalities in the United States. Emphasis on problems posed by suburbanization, global and regional shifts in business, economic dislocation, housing, race relations, and policing.

POL 340 Modern Democracy and Its Critics 3 Credits
The course examines the fundamental assumptions underlying modern democratic theories and the main theoretical attacks launched against them. Among the contending theories to be discussed are right and left-wing anarchism, the old and the new left, fascism, intellectual elitism, and techno-conservatism. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 340. Students may not get credit for both POL 340 and GLS 340.

POL 342 Freedom and Authority 3 Credits
Concepts of freedom and authority in 19th and 20th-century political theory. Emphasis on such important thinkers as Nietzsche, Freud, Sartre, Camus, and Marcuse. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 342. Students may not get credit for both POL 342 and GLS 342.

POL 343 American Political Thought I 3 Credits
The philosophical background and moral principles of American political society: liberty, equality, natural law and natural right; constitutionalism and nation-building. The development of the ideologies of liberalism, conservatism, and libertinism are also covered.

POL 345 Justice 3 Credits
The existence of society over time requires high degree of predictability and hence laws, whether explicit or implicit. These derive their capacity to regulate life from the widespread notion that they are proper and that they should be obeyed. In a word, they accord to our notions of justice. These, however, are not stable. Resting on the understandings of man, society, nature and the relations between them, they develop under the impact of human thought and changing realities. The result is what can be compared to a layered cake. This course treats some of the main contributions made by philosophers from Plato to Rawls to our concept of justice and the manner by which they have shaped our concepts of justice in the US and West in general. Cases in which courts (mainly the US Supreme Court) made use and applied the thinking of earlier philosophies of justice will illustrate the process by which we adjust the boundaries between legality and criminality and determine how we should behave towards each other.

POL 346 Liberal Democracy in Times of Stress 3 Credits
This course examines historic and present day cases, ranging across Europe and the US, in which liberal democratic governments, under stress because of subversion, sabotage, invasion, rebellion, or the effects of economically caused chaos, take on emergency powers to become so-called “states of exception.” While in some cases such states have imposed mild and limited emergency measures, others have employed more draconian measures, suspending, if not dissolving, constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties, often for indeterminate and protracted periods. How various states have behaved in emergency situations will be the major content of this course. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 346. Students may not get credit for both HLS 346 and POL 346.

POL 350 U.S. Foreign Policy and Security Policy 3 Credits
Principles, institutions, and processes involved in the formulation and implementation of policies regarding the nation’s military, economic, and environmental security within the global framework. Strands, trends, and problem areas in U.S. foreign policy, with focus on the changing global environment of the post-Cold World War. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 350, GLS 350. Students may get credit for only one.
POL 351 Critical Views of Global Security 3 Credits
This course will examine the foundations of international security. It will examine the concept of security from the macro and micro level. We will discuss a mix of security strategies (balance of power, alliances, rearmament, collective security, deterrence), theoretical perspective on security (Neorealism, Neoliberalism, Critical Theory, Copenhagen School), great power and third world security, democratic and non-democratic security, classic threats (changes in relative power, proliferation) and new threats (environment, population movements, terrorism), and concepts of security ranging from state survival, to societal security, to unit level-variables such as Human Security. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 351. Students may not get credit for both HLS 351 and POL 351.

POL 361 Courts, Judges and Politics 3 Credits
In-depth examination of the nature of judicial decision-making and the impact that judicial decisions have on society. Considers the sources of judicial authority, judicial fact-finding, statutory and constitutional interpretation, individual and collective processes of judicial decision-making, relations between judges and other government officials, and the political consequences of judicial decisions with particular emphasis on federal courts and judges. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 361. Students may not get credit for both POL 361 and HLS 361.

POL 363 Human Rights in Global Context 3 Credits
Examines human rights – droits de l’homme, derechos humanos, Menschenrechte, “the rights of man” – are, literally, the rights that one has because one is human. What does it mean to have a right? How are being human and having rights related? This course provides an introduction to theory and global practice of human rights. Human rights claims play an increasingly central role in political and social struggles across the world. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 signaled a proliferation of international human rights law and transnational non-governmental activism. While the promotion of human rights has become global, adherence to those standards remains highly uneven and gross violations and atrocities continue to occur. Given the breadth and complexity of the human rights movement, including its engagement with law, politics and morals, in radically different cultures, this course is by its very nature multidisciplinary. Note: This course is cross-listed as HLS 363. Students may not get credit for both HLS 363 and POL 363.

POL 365 Third World Politics 3 Credits
Studies the major political issues of the Third World. Particular reference to political systems of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East according to the relevance of the examples to large conceptual issues, and according to the major interests of the instructor. Typical issues include neocolonial dependency, the role of the state in newly developed countries, military rule and democratization. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 365. Students may not get credit for both GLS 365 and POL 365.

POL 366 Communist Systems: Politics and Policies 3 Credits
The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the origin, development, and history of communism, as well as the current political systems and practices of communist regimes in the world. Students are expected to acquire in-depth knowledge about the origin and development of communism, the influence of communism in world politics, and political systems and policies of communist regimes. Topics examined include Communist Manifesto, communism in the USSR, communism in China, McCarthyism in the U.S., Cold War, collapse of the USSR, fall of Berlin Wall, and communism in contemporary Cuba and Korea.

POL 367 Politics of Exile, Asylum and Diaspora 3 Credits
This course analyzes mass migrations and refugee movements and what they mean for the stability of nations, the increasing potential of severe culture clashes within societies, and the root causes of (forced) migration movements, such as problems of violence, terror and genocide, as recently seen in Darfur, Rwanda and Bosnia. In certain European countries the frequently failed integration and assimilation policies resulted in an Islamic alienation; terrorist attacks and race riots are some of the consequences. Particular attention will be given to the conflict between the refugees’ and migrants’ needs that result from violent, socio-economic or ecological catastrophes in the countries of origin and the various forms of reception within the host countries. Students will explore theoretical, political, legal, and socio-economic dimensions of the refugee and immigration phenomena in a global world. Other themes will include international human rights and refugee laws, theories of immigration, for example, the feminization of migration, as well as problems of acculturation, assimilation and integration in different host societies. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 367. Students may not get credit for both POL 367 and GLS 367.

POL 368 International Organizations 3 Credits
This course introduces students to the study of international organizations. The course examines mostly formal and governmental institutions as well as informal institutions or regimes. Topics to be covered include and are not limited to: the establishment of international organizations, evolvement of international organizations, structure of international organizations, decision-making of international organizations and influence of international organizations. This course employs both theoretical and practical approaches in its examination on international organizations. Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 368. Students may not get credit for GLS 368 and POL 368.

POL 371 The Arab-Israeli Conflict 3 Credits
The course will begin by introducing the main players: the neo-patrimonial Arab regimes on the one hand, and the democratic, economically modern Jewish sector in Palestine on the other. The analysis will focus on the impact of the social, economic, political and religious differences between the sides on their conception of the conflict among the participants and powers outside the region. The course will concurrently examine the impacts of the dynamics of the conflict itself, relations within Islam on the one hand and between Islam and the West on the other. The latter part of the course will consider the sources of perceptual shift that led simultaneously to the narrowing of the conflict with the withdrawal of some of its participants (most Arab states) and its widening with the addition of Al Qaeda and Iran (via Hezbollah). Note: This course is cross-listed as GLS 371. Students may not get credit for both GLS 371 and POL 371.
POL 399 The Co-operative Experience 3-12 Credits
This course provides a significant work experience to support the professional development of the student and complement theoretical and classroom learning. Students will be assessed based on measures as defined in a placement contract mutually agreed upon by the sponsoring faculty member, the organization representative of the placement site, and the student. Approximately 360 hours of work will be required as students work typically four days per week over at least eight weeks. The proposed placement contract requires departmental approval and the approval of the appropriate office of the dean. It is expected that the Co-op program consume the student’s academic load for the semester. Final placement will be determined by the organization where the student will work. Rider University does not guarantee that every student applying for a co-op will earn a co-op placement. Contact the appropriate department for additional information. IND 398 and (dept.) 399 combined cannot exceed 15 credits. Pass/fail. Prerequisite(s): junior standing and 2.75 GPA at the time of registration.
Corequisite(s): IND 398 The Co-operative Experience Seminar.

POL 415 Political Internship 3-6 Credits

POL 450 Seminar in Political Science 3 Credits
A multidimensional framework within which to integrate the variety of perspectives and methodologies extant in the field of political science. Topics for discussion and analysis may range from broad concepts of political discourse such as power and interdependence to specific political issues such as executive-legislative relations and judicial policymaking.

POL 490 Independent Study: Research and Creative Expression 1-4 Credits
Independent Research and Study allows juniors and seniors in good academic standing to investigate topics of interest under faculty supervision. Projects must be approved by the faculty member, department chairperson, and academic dean no later than the third week of the semester in which the project is to be conducted. Only one project can be scheduled in a semester, and for no more than four semester hours; up to 12 semester hours of independent research and study may be counted toward graduation. Note that individual departments may have additional restrictions.

POL 491 Internship in Political Science 1-4 Credits
Students work under supervision in a public agency, political party, or public interest group. A minimum of 52 hours of fieldwork per credit required, with regular reports and a concluding critique analyzing and evaluating the experience. Primarily for seniors and qualified juniors. No more than six credits allowed toward graduation.
Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor.

POL 499 Senior Honors Thesis 3-6 Credits
Majors having completed the department’s core requirements and having a minimum GPA of 3.5 in political science courses may apply for honors in their sixth semester. Applicants enroll in POL 490 Independent Research and Study in their seventh semester to develop and submit a thesis proposal to the department. With departmental approval, applicants prepare an honors thesis in their last semester. Upon acceptance of the thesis by the department, the student will be graduated with honors in political science.