Middle Georgia State University — School of Education and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Political Science  
Spring 2020 Course Guide

All 3000-level and higher POLS courses may be used as electives in the political science major or minor. All courses beyond POLS 1101 have a prerequisite of POLS 1101 with a “C” or better; a few courses have additional requirements.

POLS 1101 American Government (required in Area E)  
Macon, Cochran, Dublin, Eastman, Warner Robins, Online – various faculty

An introduction to the government and political system of the United States, with an emphasis on contemporary American society, including topics such as the founding era, the U.S. and Georgia constitutions, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, public opinion, political parties, voting, interest groups, Congress, the presidency and executive branch, and the courts.

POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science (Area E, required in major and minor)  
Macon – Dr. John Hall, TR 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 26431  
Cochran – Dr. Daniel Guerrant, MW 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 26211

A general overview of the political science discipline, introducing basic concepts studied by political scientists such as power, culture, ideology, institutions, and political behavior, as well as orienting students to the approaches used by political scientists study these questions and the main fields of study within the discipline.

POLS 2201 State and Local Government (Area E; domestic politics option in major and minor)  
Online – Dr. Julie Lester, CRN 25587

Examines the theory and practice of governing at the state and local level in the United States, including the role of federalism, the varying internal organization of states, the powers of state and local governments, the branches of state government, forms of county/parish and municipal government, and key policy areas that are dealt with by state and local government.

POLS 2301 Introduction to Comparative Politics (Area E, required in major, elective in minor)  
Macon – Dr. James Decker, TR 2:00–3:15 p.m., CRN 25122

An introduction to the field of comparative politics, which is the study of how different countries organize their governments and political systems. Students are typically introduced to the political systems of several countries with various regime types (representative democracies, authoritarian regimes, democratizing countries, etc.).
POLS 2401 Global Issues *(Area E, required in major, elective in minor)*  
*Online* (1st session) – Dr. Brooke Miller, CRN 27101  
*Online* (2nd session) – Mr. Albert Jones, CRN 26210

An introduction to the field known as international relations, which is the study of how countries interact with each other on the world stage through cooperation and conflict. Key themes of this course typically include war and other militarized disputes, international law and organizations, international trade and commerce, and global challenges such as poverty and the environment.

POLS 2601 Introduction to Public Administration *(domestic politics option in major and minor)*  
*Online* – Prof. Grace Adams-Square, CRN 25165

An introduction to the field of public administration, which is the study and practice of operating the bureaucracy of government. Topics may include the policy process, organizational theory, public management, ethics in public service, deregulation, outsourcing, grant-writing, and relationships between government agencies.

POLS 3000 Research Methods in Political Science *(required in major and minor)*  
*Macon* – Dr. Christopher Lawrence, MW 2:00–3:15 p.m., CRN 26428

Examines different approaches to the discovery of knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences, with an emphasis on empirical techniques. Includes topics such as research design, the application of the scientific method, measurement, formulating and testing hypotheses, and the application of basic data analysis techniques to the study of politics and government. Ethical considerations in research involving human subjects are also discussed.

POLS 3103 The Politics of the Presidency  
*Cochran* – Dr. Matthew Caverly, TR 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 26864

An overview of the institutional presidency, including the constitutional foundations of the office, the evolution of presidential authority and powers, approaches to presidential leadership, presidential elections, presidential cabinets, advisors, and political appointees, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Executive Office of the President.

POLS 3118 Politics of the American South  
*Macon* – Dr. Christopher Lawrence, MW 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 26880

An examination of the evolution and current state of politics in the southeastern United States from the founding era to the present, with a particular emphasis on the post-Civil War era. Topics include the causes of the Civil War, Reconstruction, segregation and the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights Movement, the Voting Rights Act and its consequences, the emergence of two-party competition in the South in the mid-to-late 20th century, and contemporary Southern identity. Readings will be drawn from a variety of disciplines, including economics, history, and political science.
POLS 3944 Environmental Politics and Policy  
*Online* – Dr. Julie Lester, CRN 26870

Examines the politics and policy related to environmental issues in the United States, including the management of public lands, government regulation of air, ground, and water pollution, conservation and recycling, the impact of urban and suburban growth on farmland and forests, the emergence and role of key interest groups, and related topics.

POLS 3999 Political Communication and Social Media  
*Cochran* – Dr. Patricia Linder, MW 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 26997

An interdisciplinary advanced topics course looking at the emerging use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter by political campaigns, politicians, political parties, interest groups, and ordinary citizens. *(Also offered as a section of HUMN 3999.)*

POLS 4900 Capstone Seminar in Political Science *(required in major)*  
*Prerequisites:* POLS 2101 and POLS 3045, both with a “C” or higher.  
*Macon* – Dr. John Hall, MW 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 26865

This course is a culminating experience designed for students who expect to graduate in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2020 with a major in political science. It includes a research seminar focusing on a topic chosen by the instructor that applies knowledge and skills from earlier coursework. Students will be expected to complete the ETS Major Field Test in political science as part of the course.

**European Union Studies Certificate Program Courses**

*Note:* up to two EURO courses may be counted toward the political science major.

EURO 3234 Introduction to the European Union *(required by EUSP certificate)*  
*Online* – Dr. Rick Reiman (South Georgia State College), CRN 26022

Introduces students to the history, institutions, and policies of the European Union, as well as current EU issues (e.g. Brexit!) and US-EU relations. *(Prerequisite:* HIST 1111, HIST 1112, or POLS 2401.

EURO 4730 E.U. Foreign Policy *(elective in EUSP certificate)*  
*Online* – Dr. Christos Bourdouvalis (Augusta University), CRN 27191

An overview of the emerging Common Security and Foreign Policy of the European Union, including the roles of the High Representative, the European Commission, and the Council of Ministers in developing foreign policy and the European External Action Service (EEAS), the E.U.’s diplomatic corps, in foreign policy implementation. *(Prerequisite:* EURO 3234.)
EURO 4830 Governments of the European Union (required capstone in EUSP certificate)
Online – Dr. Daniel Skidmore-Hess (Georgia Southern University), CRN 26023

A comparative examination of the systems of government used by various E.U. member states. Topics likely include parliamentary vs. semi-presidential government, elected vs. appointed heads of state, degrees of regional autonomy and subsidiarity/devolution of power, variations in electoral systems, national and European party systems, etc. Prerequisite: EURO 3234.

Current Requirements for the Minor in Political Science (2019–20 catalog)

Most majors at MGA allow students to complete a minor with no additional coursework beyond the minimum number of semester hours required to graduate; minor courses usually can also be counted in the core (Areas A–F) or as open electives in your major. (See your advisor for details.)

The political science minor includes six courses (18 semester hours), including:

- POLS 2101, Introduction to Political Science.
- POLS 3000, Research Methods in Political Science.*
- An international politics course:
  - POLS 2301, Introduction to Comparative Politics or
  - POLS 2401, Global Issues.
- A domestic politics course:
  - POLS 2201, State and Local Politics or
  - POLS 2501, Domestic Issues or
  - POLS 2601 Introduction to Public Administration.
- Two POLS courses at the 3000 level or above.

* Students who have completed a research methods course in another social or behavioral science field, including CRJU 3020, HIST 2000, HIST 3000, PBSV 3020, PSYC 3002, or SOCI 3001, may typically take another 3000-level POLS course instead of completing POLS 3000, with the approval of the chair of the Department of Political Science.
### Political Science Courses Planned for Future Terms (subject to change)

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Summer 2020</th>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
<th>Spring 2021</th>
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<td>POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science</td>
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<td>POLS 2201 State and Local Government</td>
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<td>POLS 2301 Comparative Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 2401 Global Issues</td>
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<td>POLS 2601 Intro. to Public Administration</td>
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<td>POLS 3000 Research Methods</td>
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<td>POLS 3030 Introduction to Public Policy</td>
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<td>POLS 3045 Public Opinion/Political Behavior</td>
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<td>POLS 3055 Parties and Elections</td>
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<td>POLS 3070 Urban Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 3075 Interest Groups</td>
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<td>POLS 3103 The Politics of the Presidency</td>
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<td>POLS 3104 The American Congress</td>
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<td>POLS 3701 International Relations</td>
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<td>POLS 4105 Judicial Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 4106 Con Law I: Institutions/Processes</td>
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<td>POLS 4107 Con Law II: Rights &amp; Liberties</td>
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<td>POLS 4898 Research Practicum</td>
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<td>POLS 4900 Capstone Seminar</td>
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<td>EURO 3234 Intro. to the European Union</td>
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<td>EURO 4830 EU Studies Capstone</td>
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M = Macon, C = Cochran, D = Dublin, E = Eastman, W = Warner Robins, Z = Online (MGA Direct)

*Online collaborative programs: O = eCore, U = GoVIEW*