

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences  
Fall 2020 Courses in the Department of Political Science

POLS 1101 American Government (*Area E, US and Georgia constitutions requirement*)  
*Macon, Cochran, Dublin, Warner Robins, Online* – various faculty

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

POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science (*Area E, **required** in major and minor*)  
*Cochran* – Dr. Daniel Guerrant, TR 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 81113  
*Macon* – Dr. John Hall, TR 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 81330

This course is 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 how political scientists study these questions and the main fields of study within the discipline.

POLS 2301 Introduction to Comparative Politics (*Area E, **required** in major; elective in minor*)  
*Cochran* – Dr. Matthew Caverly, TR 9:30–10:45 a.m., CRN 81893  
*Macon* – Dr. James Decker, TR 2:00–3:15 p.m., CRN 81097

This course is 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*)  
*Cochran* – Dr. Brooke Bryan, MW 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 81894  
*Macon* – Dr. Thomas Matyók, TR 9:30–10:45 a.m., CRN 81965  
*Online* – Mr. Albert Jones, CRN 80036 (1<sup>st</sup> session)

This course is 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 (***required** in major; elective in minor*)  
*Online* – Dr. Julie Lester, CRN 81098

This course is 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*)  
*Cochran* – Dr. Matthew Caverly, MW 2:00–3:15 p.m., CRN 81895

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 3030 Introduction to Public Policy (*required in major*)  
*Online* – Dr. Julie Lester, CRN 81331

A course introducing the field of public policy, which is the “product” that is ultimately made by the government. In addition to the stages of policymaking and implementation, this course typically also examines particular cases of policymaking at the federal, state, and local levels, in areas potentially including education, health and elder care, government taxation and spending, foreign relations, the environment, criminal justice, and immigration.

POLS 3045 Public Opinion and Political Behavior (*required in major*)  
*Macon* – Dr. Christopher Lawrence, MW 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 81328

This course examines how members of the public develop their beliefs and values about politics, how those beliefs and values affect the formation and expression of opinions, and how voters use political information to decide how to vote. It includes hands-on exercises examining real data on Americans’ political attitudes and voting decisions.

POLS 3055 Political Parties and Elections\*  
*Macon* – Dr. Christopher Lawrence, MW 2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m., CRN 81908

A class that examines the historical development and current state of political parties in the United States, and the election process; topics include reasons why the U.S. has a two-party system, minor parties, changes in parties’ issue positions over time, candidate nominations (including party primaries, caucuses, and conventions), general election campaigns, and campaign finance law.

POLS 3701 International Relations (*required in major*)  
*Cochran* – Dr. Brooke Bryan, TR 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 86614

This course examines the international political system from a political science perspective, including topics such as the various approaches to the study of international politics (including realism, institutionalism, constructivism, Marxism/dependency theory, feminism, and postcolonialism), the causes of international conflict and cooperation, and contemporary global issues and debates.

POLS 3738 U.S. Foreign Policy\*

*Macon* – Dr. Thomas Matyók, TR 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 81966

A course examining the history and practice of American foreign relations, including topics such as bilateral diplomacy, alliances and other treaties and international agreements (such as NATO and NAFTA), American participation in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and the use of the military and diplomacy to achieve U.S. foreign policy goals such as global stability, nuclear non-proliferation, free trade, and promoting human rights.

POLS 3999 Special Topics: Women in Politics\*

*Macon* – Prof. Grace Adams-Square, MW 3:30–4:45 p.m, CRN 81910

This class is connected to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the formal right to vote in every state. Topics may include the role of gender in politics, the Equal Rights Amendment and other political efforts to secure equality for women, and women as candidates for political office.

POLS 4106 American Constitutional Law I: Institutions and Processes\*

*Macon* – Dr. John Hall, MW 9:30–10:45 a.m., CRN 81996

This course is the first of two courses covering U.S. constitutional law, with an emphasis on the Supreme Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution on topics such as the powers of the three branches of government, separation of powers, checks and balances, federal-state relations, the commerce power, the power to tax and spend, and economic liberties such as contracts and the takings clause. Students are also introduced to the basic structure of the judicial branch and how to read, understand, and critique Supreme Court opinions.

SSCI 1003 Perspectives on Diversity (Area B)

*Online* — Dr. Naomi Robertson (1<sup>st</sup> session, CRN 81301); Dr. Peter Makaya (2<sup>nd</sup> session, CRN 81458)

This is an Area B course that develops key competencies in critical thinking and oral communication through an introduction to diversity. The course includes an online Critical Thinking and Oral Communication (CTOC) component. The course offers an opportunity for students to apply critical thinking skills to various aspects of diversity and to gain experience in developing and presenting original arguments in oral forms. This course is designed to assist students in exploring diversity and multiculturalism in recent times in America. Students will be challenged to engage in critical thinking as they examine their values to determine their degrees of self-acceptance as well as the acceptance of others and to identify and examine diverse cultures. Topics will include ethnocentrism and multiculturalism, inclusion and exclusion in education, politics, religion and the media, intercultural interacting, and an examination of various cultures. Critical thinking will be exercised as students are encouraged to examine myths and stereotypes.

\* Course is an elective in the political science major. All 3000-level POLS courses are electives in the political science minor. Unless otherwise specified, courses have a prerequisite of POLS 1101 with a "C" or better.

## 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. Chris Bourdouvalis (Augusta University)

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, POLS 2401, or permission of the department chair.

EURO 4430 E.U. Environmental Policy (*elective in EUSP certificate*)  
*Online* – Dr. Julie Lester (Middle Georgia State University)

Examines EU environmental policy through an exploration of the history and evolution of policy as well as a consideration of the role of political actors in the policy process. Through a comparative approach, students will have the opportunity to study current environmental policy issues in the EU and the United States, such as the Green New Deal and the European Green Deal, energy, sustainable development, agriculture, and nature and biodiversity. *Prerequisite:* EURO 3234, or permission of the department chair.

EURO 4830 E.U. Human Rights and Social Justice (*required capstone in EUSP certificate*)  
*Online* – Dr. Kathie Barrett (University of West Georgia)

Examines the history, politics, and importance of human rights and social justice in the European Union. Both human rights and social justice are important hallmarks of the European Union. This class explores the evolution and politics of human rights and social justice protections within the E.U. We also discuss current and future issues related to human rights and social justice in the European Union. This class counts as the Capstone course for the EU Studies Certificate. *Prerequisite:* EURO 3234, or permission of the department chair.

## Requirements for the Certificate in European Union Studies

The Certificate in European Union Studies includes five courses (15 semester hours), including:

- EURO 3234, Introduction to the European Union
- EURO 4830, Capstone Seminar in European Union Studies
- Three additional courses from the list below, with no more than two in any single program area listed below:
  - Business and Economics
    - EURO 4230, Doing Business in the European Union
    - EURO 4260, European Monetary Union
  - Humanities and Fine Arts
    - ENGL 4420, Modern European Literature
    - ENGL 4500, 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature
    - EURO 4630, Communications and Media
    - HIST 3490, Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
    - HIST 3511, Great Britain since 1688
    - HIST 4330, Modern Germany
    - SPAN 3006, Peninsular Spanish Civilization and Culture
  - Natural and Health Sciences
    - EURO 4330, EU Science & Technology Policy
    - EURO 4430, EU Environmental Policy
  - Social Sciences
    - EURO 4130, EU Law & Legal Systems
    - EURO 4160, EU Federalism and Multilevel Governance
    - EURO 4530, European Social Policy
    - EURO 4730, European Union Foreign Policy
    - EURO 4760, US–EU Relations
    - POLS 3344, Politics of the British Isles

Areas of distinction: the certificate also highlights special achievements by providing a notation of "distinction" in three areas for students who complete the necessary additional credits:

- **Practical experience:** an overseas experience (including study or research abroad) or an internship, as approved by the EU Studies campus representative and Executive Director. (3-6 credit hours)
- **Foreign language proficiency:** successful completion of two (2) upper-division foreign language courses in a modern European language. (6 credit hours)
- **Composition of a thesis.** (3 credit hours)

*These requirements are listed as a reference only. In the event of a conflict between the official Middle Georgia State University Undergraduate Catalog and this document, the MGA Catalog will prevail.*

## Minors Offered by the Department

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.)

### Requirements for the Minor in Political Science

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 or 3000, PBSV 3020, PSYC 3002, or SOCI 3001) may take another 3000-level POLS course instead of completing this requirement, with the approval of the chair of the Department of Political Science.

### Requirements for the Minor in Sustainability Policy Studies

The sustainability policy studies minor includes six courses (18 semester hours), including:

- POLS 2201, State and Local Government
- POLS 3030, Introduction to Public Policy
- POLS 3944, Environmental Politics and Policy
- HIST 4040, Humans and their Environment since 1945
- Two of the following courses:
  - ECON 2105, Principles of Macroeconomics
  - ECON 3175, International Economics
  - HIST 4720, American Environmental History
  - IDS 4020, Science, Politics, and Culture

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## Requirements for the Minor in Pre-Law

The pre-law minor includes six courses (18 semester hours), including:

- PFWR 4050, Legal Writing
- POLS 4106, American Constitutional Law I: Institutions and Processes.
- Either:
  - POLS 4105, The American Judiciary, *or*
  - CRJU 3315, The American Judicial System
- Either:
  - POLS 4107, American Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties, *or*
  - CRJU 3520, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Two of the following courses:
  - AERO 2107, Aviation Law and Insurance
  - CRJU 2317, Introduction to Criminal Law
  - CRJU 3200, Criminal Procedure & Evidence
  - EURO 4130, EU Law & Legal Systems
  - HLSA 4410, Health Law & Ethics
  - HUMN 4340, Introduction to Ethics
  - PHIL 2010, Introduction to Philosophy
  - POLS 3103, Politics of the Presidency
  - POLS 3104, The American Congress

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Political Science Courses Planned for Future Terms (subject to change)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Spring 2021</u>	<u>Summer 2021</u>	<u>Fall 2021</u>
POLS 1101 American Government	M, C, D, W, Z, O	M, W, Z, O	M, C, D, W, Z, O
POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science	M, C	Z	M, C
POLS 2201 State and Local Government	Z	—	—
POLS 2301 Comparative Politics	Z	Z	Z
POLS 2401 Global Issues	Z	Z	M, C
POLS 2601 Intro. to Public Administration	—	—	Z
POLS 3000 Research Methods	M	—	C
POLS 3030 Introduction to Public Policy	—	—	Z
POLS 3045 Public Opinion & Political Behavior	C	—	M
POLS 3060 Policy Implementation Topics	Z	—	—
POLS 3075 Interest Groups	C	—	Z
POLS 3103 The Politics of the Presidency	C	—	—
POLS 3104 The American Congress	—	—	M
POLS 3701 International Relations	M	—	C
POLS 3999 Special Topics	M, C	—	M, C
POLS 4105 Judicial Politics	M	—	—
POLS 4106 Con. Law I: Institutions & Processes	—	—	M
POLS 4107 Con. Law II: Rights & Liberties	M	—	—
POLS 4895 Internship		<i>By arrangement</i>	
POLS 4898 Research Practicum		<i>By arrangement</i>	
POLS 4900 Capstone Seminar	M, C	—	—
SSCI 1003 Perspectives on Diversity	Z	Z	Z
EURO 3234 Introduction to the European Union	U	U	U
EURO 4130 EU Foreign Policy	—	—	U
EURO 4730 Federalism/Multilevel Governance	U	—	—
EURO 4830 EU Studies Capstone	U	—	U

M = Macon, C = Cochran, D = Dublin, E = Eastman, W = Warner Robins, Z = Online (MGA Direct)  
*Online collaborative programs:* O = eCore, U = GoVIEW