

Middle Georgia State University — School of Education and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Political Science  
Spring 2021 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, 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 20985  
*Cochran* – Dr. Daniel Guerrant, MW 2:00–3:15 p.m., CRN 20883

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; required in major as of 2020–21 catalog, domestic politics option in major in 2018–19 and 2019–20 and minor*)  
*Online* – Dr. Julie Lester, CRN 20440

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 20161

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* (1<sup>st</sup> session) – TBA, CRN 21605

*Online* (2<sup>nd</sup> session) – TBA, CRN 20882

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 3000 Research Methods in Political Science (*required in major and minor*)

*Macon* – Dr. Christopher Lawrence, MW 2:00–3:15 p.m., CRN 20983

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 3045 Public Opinion and Political Behavior (*required in major*)

*Cochran* – Dr. Matthew Caverly, MW 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 21786

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 3060 Policy Implementation Topics\*

*Online* – Dr. Julie Lester, CRN 21794

This course will examine the policymaking process with an emphasis on policy implementation. A variety of topics will be discussed including implementation theories, problem definition and policy design, policy tools, and the role of public and private actors in the implementation process. Students will also explore current events and issues related to policy implementation in a variety of policy areas.

POLS 3075 Interest Groups\*

*Cochran* – Dr. Daniel Guerrant, TR 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., CRN 21787

An examination of the role of organized groups in American politics and civil society, potentially including organizational structures, recruitment of members and fundraising, their influence on political campaigns (including campaign finance), and how groups affect public policy through lobbying, grassroots activities, the courts, and direct action.

POLS 3701 International Relations (*required in major*)  
*Macon* – Dr. Thomas Matyók, MW 9:30–10:45 a.m., CRN 21790

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 post-colonialism), the causes of international conflict and cooperation, and contemporary global issues and debates.

POLS 3999-01 Special Topics: Conflict Management and Resolution\*  
*Macon* – Dr. Thomas Matyók, MW 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 21791

Investigation of conflict management and resolution theory and practice. The course introduces negotiation, mediation, facilitation, and collaborative problem solving at individual, organizational, and inter-organizational levels of analysis and practice.

POLS 3999-02 Special Topics\*  
*Cochran* – Dr. Brooke Bryan, MW 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 21788

Topic to be announced.

POLS 4106 American Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties\*  
*Macon* – Dr. John Hall, TR 9:30–10:45 a.m., CRN 21792

This course is the second 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 freedom of expression, religious liberties, the right to keep and bear arms, the rights of individuals suspected and accused of crimes, privacy rights (including abortion), the right to vote, equal protection (discrimination and affirmative action), and LGBT rights.

POLS 4900 Capstone Seminar in Political Science (*required in major*)  
*Prerequisites:* POLS 2101 and POLS 3045, both with a “C” or higher.  
*Macon* – Dr. Christopher Lawrence, MW 3:30–4:45 p.m., CRN 21166  
*Cochran* – Dr. Brooke Bryan, TR 12:30–1:45 p.m., CRN 21789

This course is a culminating experience designed for students who expect to graduate in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2021 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.

SSCI 1003 Perspectives on Diversity (Area B)

*Online* – Dr. Naomi Robertson (1<sup>st</sup> session, CRN 20906); Dr. Peter Makaya (2<sup>nd</sup> session, CRN 21247)

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

These courses will be available for registration on November 1, 2020.

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 20761

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 3160 E.U. Federalism and Multilevel Governance (*elective in EUSP certificate*)  
*Online* – Dr. Dan Baracskey (Valdosta State University), CRN 21415

This course is a comparison of multilevel governance and policy making in the European Union with that of the United States and other federal systems. *Prerequisite:* EURO 3234 or permission of chair.

EURO 4830 Refugees, Asylum, and Migration: The U.S. and E.U. (**required** capstone in *EUSP certificate*)  
*Online* – Dr. Henry Carey (Georgia State University), CRN 20762

The US and EU are democracies, yet their immigration, asylum, and refugee policies often violate international norms and treaties concerning the forced displacement and migration of civilians worldwide. This course compares the US and EU migration systems, and evaluates the long-term effects of inclusionary and exclusionary policies. This is the Capstone course for the EU Studies certificate program. *Prerequisite:* EURO 3234 or permission of chair.

### Current Requirements for the Minor in Political Science (2020–21 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)

| <u>Course</u>                                | <u>Summer 2021</u> | <u>Fall 2021</u>      | <u>Spring 2022</u> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| POLS 1101 American Government                | M, W, Z, O         | M, C, D, W, Z, O      | M, C, D, W, Z, O   |
| POLS 2101 Introduction to Political Science  | —                  | M, C                  | M, C               |
| POLS 2201 State and Local Government         | —                  | —                     | Z                  |
| POLS 2301 Comparative Politics               | —                  | M, C                  | M, Z               |
| POLS 2401 Global Issues                      | Z                  | C, Z                  | Z                  |
| POLS 2601 Intro. to Public Administration    | —                  | Z                     | Z                  |
| POLS 3000 Research Methods                   | —                  | C                     | M                  |
| POLS 3030 Introduction to Public Policy      | —                  | Z                     | —                  |
| POLS 3045 Public Opinion/Political Behavior  | —                  | M                     | C                  |
| POLS 3103 The Politics of the Presidency     | —                  | —                     | C                  |
| POLS 3344 Politics of the British Isles      | —                  | M                     | —                  |
| POLS 3701 International Relations            | —                  | C                     | M                  |
| POLS 3738 U.S. Foreign Policy                | —                  | —                     | C                  |
| POLS 3944 Environmental Politics & Policy    | —                  | —                     | Z                  |
| POLS 3999 Special Topics                     | —                  | M, Z                  | M                  |
| POLS 4105 Judicial Politics                  | —                  | Z                     | —                  |
| 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               |
| EURO 3234 Introduction to the European Union | U                  | U                     | U                  |
| EURO 4xxx E.U. Studies Elective              | U                  | U                     | U                  |
| EURO 4830 E.U. Studies Capstone              | —                  | U                     | U                  |

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