

## Undergraduate

POLS 110      the Political World      Peter Kierst

**An introduction to politics, with emphasis on the ways people can understand their own political systems and those of others.**

POLS 200-003    American Politics      Lonna Atkeson

**This course introduces you to the systematic and rigorous study of American Politics. The course offers an understanding of the forces that influence the behavior of individuals and institutions in and around government. In particular, we focus on the factors that help shape attitudes and behaviors of actors within the political system. These actors include voters, the media, political activists, candidates, members of Congress, and the President. The framework we develop permits the critical examination of representative government in American national politics : How is it supposed to work? Where does it fail and why? How can it be made to work more successfully? This course introduces you to the systematic and rigorous study of American Politics. The course offers an understanding of the forces that influence the behavior of individuals and institutions in and around government. In particular, we focus on the factors that help shape attitudes and behaviors of actors within the political system. These actors include voters, the media, political activists, candidates, members of Congress, and the President. The framework we develop permits the critical examination of representative government in American national politics**

POLS 220      Politics around the World      Mala Htun

**This course offers an introduction to the academic field of comparative (global) politics. It covers the historical, core concerns of the field including the development of the modern state democratization, authoritarian regimes, nationalism and multiculturalism, political parties and electoral systems, racial formation and ethnic conflict, the relationship between the state, and the market, the politics of gender, and the political economy of development. Readings and examples are drawn from all regions of the world.**

POLS 260      Political Ideas      Ellen Grigsby

**We will analyze how major political theories/ideas—democracy, liberalism, conservatism, socialism, liberation theory, Green Theory, and fascism—came into being and how they changed and developed over time.**

POLS 280      Intro to Research Methodology      Jessica Feezell

**This course is intended to give you the training you will need to think critically about political science research and to conduct basic research in political science on your own. Using the scientific method we will explore theory construction, hypothesis testing, quantitative and qualitative approaches to the study of political science, and overall research design. The majority of this course has a strong focus on quantitative statistical analysis of political phenomenon. The first half of this course focuses on learning about research design in political science, and the second half of this course focuses on**

statistics and carrying out quantitative political analysis. By the end of this course you should be able to read, understand, and critique advanced political science research, craft a high-quality research design, and carry out your own basic statistical analysis of data. The skills you will learn in this course will help you in the study of political science, many other fields of social science, and in the workforce generally.

POLS 300      Topic: Constitution & How it got That Way      Peter Kierst

This course examines the United States Constitution, and tries to shed light on why it was drafted the way it was: what particular understanding of the nature of human nature, human rights and the purpose of government drove its framing, why governmental authority was divided with apparently so little concern for efficiency, what role the new general government was expected to play, why the federal system was adopted, why no Bill of Rights was initially included, and many other questions explaining its remarkable structure and content. We will examine all of this in the cultural and political framework of the time. Readings will include Locke, Rousseau, Madison's Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention, and selections from the Federalist Papers as well as the anti-Federalists. All those with an interest in understanding the American Constitution or the role of constitutions in a republic are encouraged to enroll; no prior constitutional law course is required.

POLS 308      Topic      Gabe Sanchez

This course is dedicated to the examination of the Hispanic/Latino population within the U.S. political system. This discussion is highly relevant given the continued importance of the Latino electorate to national electoral politics and discussions of several domestic policy areas, most notably immigration. You will leave this course with a firm understanding of why Latino Ethnicity is relevant in the U.S. socio-political systems. How does group identity and ethnic attachments impact the political power of U.S. Hispanics? How do U.S. Latinos experience American Politics – partisanship, ideology, political participation, and collective action? A large segment of this course will be dedicated to answering these questions.

Our course will begin by placing U.S. Hispanics within a historical context. This will be focused on exploring the source of political claims of the main Hispanic subgroups in the U.S. We will also cover Latino public opinion, as well as policy arenas that are significant to Latinos in the U.S. Effectively covering this broad scope of politics and policy related to U.S. Hispanics in a single semester will be challenging, therefore I will expect a lot from you as a student. You will need to stay on top of the readings and the course lectures in order to succeed in this class. Your largest assignment for the course will be a research paper on a topic of your choosing that will push you to learn the fundamentals of constructing a research design in line with the norms of political science.

POLS 315      Constitutional Law-Powers      Peter Kierst

This course examines the ways in which the Constitution allocates power between the branches of the general government, and between that government and those of the states. This allocation, both as originally framed and as it has evolved over the past 227 years, sheds significant light on the nature of American democracy, and the role of the Supreme Court in shaping that democracy. So this course is at once about political theory and practical politics. In fact, like the Constitution, it denies that those are different things. Particular emphasis will be laid on why the Framers allocated power as they did, how the allocation has shifted over time.

Fred Harris Internship Ellen Grigsby

**This course is restricted to UNM Interns living and working in Washington, DC during fall 2018.**

POLS 341 Int'l Conflict and Cooperation Chris Butler

**The scientific study of conflict processes provides some ability to predict whether interactions will escalate to violence or deescalate in some way. This class examines our understanding of conflict processes, focusing on international politics but also considering civil wars. The major assignment will be an application of theoretical models to predicting an ongoing real-world case. Data collection and a prediction report will take place as a group project; each student will also write an individual reflection essay detailing their learning. Participation, reading comprehension, short assignments, and two others essays make up the rest of the grade**

POLS 372 Urban Politics Tim Krebs

**This course is about urban politics in America. We begin by exploring the evolution of cities and suburbs in the U.S., before examining machine politics, the reform movement, and the governing or institutional arrangements found in U.S. cities. We then examine the debate over community power, before discussing urban political behavior, campaigns and elections, and the political incorporation of racial and ethnic minorities. We conclude the semester with by studying the politics of suburbia. Our primary goal is to understand how the environment, institutions, and representation influence city government and to what ends.**

POLS 441 Civil Wars Cassy Dorff

**The historical record is rich with cases in which individuals bound together collectively to challenge the status quo. These challenges are often about territorial jurisdiction, succession, natural resources, colonial legacies, or socio-political identities. In this realm of contentious politics, actors sometimes resort to violence and force in order to achieve their goals. These conflicts have been both liberating and victorious for some, yet incredibly destructive for others, accounting for the deaths and displacement of millions. This course is an advanced introduction to the study of civil war and civil conflicts. As such, we will cover a wide range of regional cases throughout the globe including, but not limited to the criminal conflict in Mexico, intervention in El Salvador and Guatemala, African civil wars, and failed uprisings in the Middle East. The course will enable students to analytically conceptualize civil conflicts as well as debate the ethics of studying such regions. Finally, students will learn to develop original research questions and broaden their understanding of the causes, duration, and consequences of civil conflicts.**

Graduate

POLS 511 Sem: Political Communication

Jessica Feezell

**The field of political communication is interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse. The foundations of this field draw heavily from political science and public opinion, but also from sociology, communication, media studies, psychology, economics, and history. This course is designed as a graduate-level overview of research on political communication. While this course material is**

generally derived from the American context, the material covered has important implications for comparative politics, public policy, and international relations.

Information is inextricably linked to every aspect of politics and democracy. Information influences public opinion, it facilitates representation, and it shapes institutions of governance. The overarching structure of this course follows five major themes: information and democracy with an emphasis on the role of media in society; exposure to political difference in social networks and deliberation; the study of key media effects including priming, framing, agenda setting, selective exposure, and learning; the changing role of media in campaigns and political advertising; and the influence of digital media on civic and political engagement with a focus on collective action.

POLS 512

Research Sem. in Network Analysis

Cassy Dorff

Everyone has heard of Social Networks-- Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have popularized this concept within the realm of social media. Yet, networks exist in many other important socio-political areas of life as well, including pop culture, international relations, modern work environments, conflict zones and more. Network analysis allows for a way to precisely conceptualize and measure the relations, or ties, between actors in a given environment. This course introduces students to the study and tools of network analysis. In order to create network graphic and visualizations, as well as model network phenomena students will learn entry-level programming skills and advanced statistical modeling techniques. Students will leave the course with a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of today's world through studying a broad range of topics including but not limited to geography, public health, international relations, political violence, and more. (Background in statistics recommended).

POLS 521

Research Sem. in Central American Politics

William Stanley

The countries of Central America, despite shared history, location, and linkages to global markets, show marked contrasts in political, social, and economic conditions. The region has been both heavily affected and neglected by US policy, as well as other external influences. Despite the settlement of prolonged civil wars, the region faces ongoing challenges of severe inequalities, criminal violence, impunity, and contested democratic institutions. This seminar will focus on critiquing and conducting research on Central American politics. We will explore a wide range of literature on themes including: the shaping and persistence of socio-economic structures; interaction of economic and political change; repression, resistance, and civil war; conflict resolution and post-conflict political and institutional change; migration; and responses to a changing environment. We will read literature from a number of disciplines, including political science, anthropology, economics, sociology, and law, and participants will conduct a sustained research project on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor

POLS 580-002 Introduction to Empirical Research

William Stanley

Under the revised graduate Political Science curriculum at UNM, POLS 580 is taken during the third semester and serves to prepare students to complete a "conference ready paper" that is required of all Masters Students. The course will be of value as well for students in other programs such as Sociology and Latin American Studies, who may be at different stages in their programs. The goal of the course is look at broad questions of research design and strategies for drawing causal inferences on political and social questions. Readings address methodological debates and distinct

**methodological communities within social science disciplines and explore best practices for various kinds of research programs. The focus is on providing you with tools to identify and implement research designs appropriate to the questions that you are interested in. Assignments are all intended to prepare students to implement a conference paper-length research project, by breaking down the research process into manageable stages. Students will also be required to provide one another with critical feedback on writing assignments, because it will expand your skills and versatility to be exposed to different research problems and methods. For students from other programs such as Sociology or Latin American Studies, the instructor will make adjustments in the written requirements on a case-by-case basis, taking into account previous research design training and stage in program.**

POLS 581      Statistics for Social Research      Chris Butler

**The scientific study of politics relies heavily---though not exclusively---on the statistical analysis of data to ascertain whether a theoretical argument is supported by real-world evidence. Is there really a difference in income levels between two groups? Does level of education really affect voting behavior? Important questions could be endlessly debated by ``just looking at" the data. Statistics provide a more decisive arbiter of these questions. This course is an intensive introduction to statistics and the scientific study of politics. Students will learn about the scientific method, data management, descriptive statistics, data presentation, statistical inference, and a variety of methods of testing theoretical arguments against data.**