

**SPECIAL AND UPPER DIVISION COURSES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
FALL 2009**

PLS 2513 Moot Court, 1 credit hour

Instructor: Dr. Karen Swenson

A role-playing simulation in which students represent attorneys in simulated appellate court competitions. Students will attend at least one competition per semester of enrollment as determined by the instructor, with learning activities ranging from oral arguments to the preparation of written legal briefs. The course may be repeated for a total of six semester hours, but no more than two semester hours may count towards the Political Science major or Political Science minor. Students may pay expenses associated with registration, travel, room and meal charges while attending competition. Restricted to students selected to represent EIU at the moot court competitions designated by the department; completion of the fall semester course or permission of instructor is required for registration in the spring semester course.

PLS 3203 American Foreign Policy, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

This course examines the political process of American foreign policy making. Special attention is devoted to the influence of the Cold War and the American governmental institutions that make foreign policy, including the President, Congress, the CIA, the State Department, and the National Security Council. The course also examines current issues facing the United States, including terrorism, drug trafficking, trade policies, and military action abroad. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

PLS 3233 International Terrorism, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. David Carwell

International Terrorism is a course exploring the topic of terrorism as a political force in the world at the beginning of the new century. The course will examine the history and motivations of terrorist organizations, the role of the mass media and governments in promoting and combating terrorism, the difficulty with international law in dealing with terrorism, and the special problems that pluralist democracies face in confronting the challenge that terrorism presents.

PLS 3333 Politics of Latin America and the Caribbean, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. David Carwell

Politics of Latin America and the Caribbean examines the political environment of selected Latin American and Caribbean states. Special emphasis will be given to political development and the impact of various internal and external actors on democratization, modernization, and state-society relations.

PLS 3363 Government and Politics in Asia-Pacific Rim, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Lilian Barria

This course will introduce students to a select number of countries in the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific contains a wide range of political, social, and economic systems derived from a variety of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds. This course will highlight some of the key features of commonality in the politics and economics of the region while recognizing the diversity within the region. The focus will be on Southeast Asia. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

PLS 3513 Politics and the Legal Process, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Andrew McNitt

The judiciary is not above politics. The elements of our judicial system, from local prosecutors to the Supreme Court are all influenced by the political environment in which they operate. What are the characteristics of the law in America, and of the persons who administer it? This course considers attorneys, juries, judges, and their separate functions in our system. It looks at how they each contribute to, and are influenced by political forces. In addition to the assigned text, course materials will include U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

PLS 3523 Criminal Law, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Karen Swenson

In this course, students will read, analyze, and discuss Supreme Court cases interpreting the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of civil liberties to individuals interacting with the criminal justice system. Topics will include restrictions on police criminal investigative techniques such as searches and seizures, interrogation of suspects, and lineups. Topics will also include the rights of criminal defendants at trial, such as the right to counsel and the application of the exclusionary rule. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

PLS 3723 Public Opinion/Political Participation, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Andrew McNitt

Do people suddenly wake up one day and decide they are Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Socialists, or advocates of the Green Party? Are all Independents the same? Does a gender gap in female and male political behavior really exist? Does an individual's age affect their political behavior? Can you really trust the results of public opinion polls?

If you are interested in exploring these questions, then you should enroll in PLS 3723. This course focuses on the general topics of public opinion and political behavior. Attention will be given to how political socialization, the media and changes in American society influence political behavior. Class meetings include lecture and discussion. Grades will be based on three exams and two short written assignments.

PLS 3733 Interest Groups, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mueller

What draws people to political activism and political organizations? What makes a political organization successful? Who really has a voice in American politics—the haves or the have-nots? The goal of this course is to explore the role of interest groups and political organizations in U.S. politics. We will study how these groups develop and gain power, and how they influence elections and policy-making. Grades will be based primarily on exams and writing assignments. Class meetings involve a blend of lecture and discussion.

PLS 3753 The American Presidency, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mueller

In this course, we will examine the modern presidency, focusing on the capacity for successful presidential leadership. Can a president be a great leader? What makes a great leader? With these questions in mind, we will study presidential decision-making, public support, the public presidency, and relations with other branches of government. We will also closely study the 2008 presidential election. Grades are based primarily on essay exams, research, and writing assignments. Class meetings are a mixture of discussion and lecture. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

PLS 3863 Special Topics: Public International Law, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Steven D. Roper

This course examines the evolution in public international law during the 20th century from notions of state sovereignty to individual responsibility for the pursuit of human rights protection. This course is primarily focused on cases involving international criminal law including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The course also examines the *political* development of institutions involved in the implementation of international criminal law. The first section of this course analyzes international legal theory, principles and defenses in international criminal law concluding with an application to the early *ad hoc* international criminal tribunals (*e.g.*, Nuremberg and Tokyo). The second section examines the development of modern *ad hoc* international criminal tribunals such as the tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and assesses how the structuring of these institutions influences their success in the prosecution of human rights violations. The course concludes by examining the International Criminal Court as well as alternative transitional justice mechanisms including truth and reconciliation commissions.

PLS 3903 Gender, Public Policy and the Law, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Poole

Did you know that the U.S. Supreme Court once upheld the right of the state of Illinois to ban women from practicing law because they believed “the natural and proper timidity and delicacy which belongs to the female sex evidently unfits it for many of the occupations of civil life?” And did you know that female school teachers were once forced to take unpaid leave for their entire pregnancies because school administrators were afraid the teachers would be embarrassed by giggling school children? Or did you realize that several states once had laws which permitted 18-20 year old women to purchase beer, but the laws prohibited men of that age from such practices, because “young women are more mature than young men?”

If you are interested in learning about these court decisions and more, then sign up for PLS 3903. This course will introduce you to a variety of public policies (protective legislation, pay equity, reproductive technologies, affirmative action, sexual harassment, etc.) which affect the relative status of women and men within our political system. Emphasis will be placed on Supreme Court decisions and national legislation designed to promote equality of the sexes. The course will be conducted in a seminar format. All students will be expected to give several short class presentations. Your final grade will be based on three essay exams, a 8 – 10 page policy analysis paper, and class participation. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

PLS 4774 American Constitutional Law, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Karen Swenson

This course is comparable to Constitutional Law courses offered in most law schools. This class is “case oriented.” There is an intensive discussion of major cases decided by the United States Supreme Court. The topics covered by these cases concern institutional powers and constraints; powers of the Courts, powers of the Legislature, and powers of the President, and federal-state relations. The course features a Supreme Court simulation project, in which students will play the roles of attorneys presenting a case to the Supreme Court and will play the role of the Justices deciding the case.

PLS 4873 Human Resource Management in Government, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Ashley

This course involves an examination of personnel management practices in the public sector. It merges a traditional public personnel management approach with contemporary approaches to human resource management. Current issues such as affirmative action, drug testing, and gender discrimination will also be discussed within the context of personnel management. (Writing Intensive).

PLS 4903 Classic Political Theory, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Anderson

The ideas in political theory have influenced events in human history and have themselves been influenced by events. This course deals with the origin and evolution of major concepts in Western political thought from the time of Plato through Rousseau. The discussion of great political theories helps the reader understand the issues and convictions involved in responsible citizenship and political community. Short papers will be assigned to allow the student to explore classical ideas in the context of modern politics and political thought. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

PLS 4943 American Political Theory, 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Anderson

This course investigates the evolution of American political thought and examines the social and political ideologies that have shaped the American political system, including Puritanism, Populism, Progressivism, and Reform Liberalism. This course also studies the role of American political thought in the development of American politics and policy.