

POLS 3375: Political Psychology

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

This course explores how individual-level psychological processes relate to aggregate-level political behavior. This course examines various aspects of human psychology including personality, motivation, information processing, emotions, and intergroup dynamics and consider their influence on political attitudes and decision making. The format of this class primarily reflects that of a seminar, as it devotes a significant amount of time to discussing and understanding current political events in the context of psychological phenomena. Critical thinking and a vibrant class discussion are essential to the structure of this course.

POLS 3380: Mass Media and Politics

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

Examines the role of the mass media in society. Emphasis is placed on the media's role in the social, legal and political processes in the United States, as well as other democratic and nondemocratic countries.

POLS 3385: Campaigns and Elections

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

An in-depth look at the process of selecting governmental leaders in the United States. Includes a segment on foreign elections.

POLS 3387: Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Lobbying

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

This class examines political parties, interest groups, and lobbying in the American political system. Accordingly, most of the focus is on political party and interest group dynamics from historical and modern perspectives, and implications in terms of the current political climate and for the future. In addition, the course addresses the ways in which groups and individuals leverage their influence to impact political outcomes.