GOVT & FOREIGN AFFAIRS (GFA)

Foundations of American government; the Constitution, political parties, federal system, legislative, executive and judicial branches, including the election process, interest groups and the media. Offered every semester.

GFA 205 State and Local Government  3 sem. hrs.
Analysis of the relationship of state and local governments to the federal government. Responsibilities and roles provided by these governments, the growth of state and local government in the modern age. Offered in Spring of odd-numbered years.

GFA 207 DV:Campaigns & Elections  3 sem. hrs.
An in-depth look at our electoral system and the methods used by trained political operatives to elect candidates. Examines candidate selection, campaign strategy, planning and fundraising. Includes discussion of fieldwork, media operations, political polling, the role of interest groups and ethical implications of the current electoral system. Next offered Fall 2020, Fall 2021.

GFA 209 T1:DV:World Regional Geography  3 sem. hrs.
This course introduces students to the major regions of the world. Special emphasis is given to the political, economic, and environmental conditions of the regions as well as the social, cultural and demographic characteristics that are in part a product of those conditions. Some themes running throughout the course include globalization, environmental change, and diversity. Offered every semester.

GFA 213 H2b:DV:Comparative Politics  3 sem. hrs.
Introduction to the comparative study of politics, policy, and economies of selected regions, with attention given to political structure, function, parties, and political culture.

GFA 214 Introduction to Research  3 sem. hrs.
This course introduces students to the nature of political inquiry including basic theories, methods, and approaches used in government and foreign affairs. To be taken the first semester of the sophomore year. This is a prerequisite for GFA 215. Offered every Fall.

GFA 215 Research Methods  3 sem. hrs.
Classroom and lab introduction to methodology of quantitative political research from hypothesis formation, operationalization and measurement, data collection and coding to analysis and interpretation, with attention to theory of scientific inquiry and approaches to political research. Offered every Spring Prerequisite: GFA 214.

GFA 215L Scope & Methods:Lab  0 sem. hrs.

GFA 241 H1:Urban Politics  3 sem. hrs.
Analyzes the power relationships that exist within the urban environment. After discussion of the historical, social and political development of the city with the United States, the course makes use of an extensive simulation of a city council concerning multiple issues faced by a mid-sized, midwestern city. Students will gain first-hand knowledge of urban politics through role-playing and political interaction.

GFA 245 The Law and the Legal System  3 sem. hrs.
This course is an introduction to the politics of law. We will examine what roles the legal bar and the judiciary play in the U.S. political system. Topics to be discussed include the structure of the judicial branch of government at the state and federal levels, the legal education, the legal community, civil and criminal litigation, and the policymaking role of appellate courts. The course is designed as an introductory survey course and as preparation for the 400-level law and politics courses. This course can serve as a capstone course for GFA majors. Offered every Fall.

GFA 299 H1:DV:Genocide in Modern Times  3 sem. hrs.
The last two centuries have seen mass violence, including genocide, mass murder, and other atrocities on a scale unprecedented in human history. In this course we examine the definition of genocide, the psychology of genocide, and consider theoretical approaches that seek to explain these atrocities. We also examine individual cases of genocide and attempts to prevent genocide.

GFA 301 H1:DV:World Politics  3 sem. hrs.
Study of basic aspects of international politics, evolution of the modern state system, national power, and the role of international organizations. International conflict and its management by political and legal means, as well as contemporary international issues, are studied.

GFA 303 H2b:American Political Thought  3 sem. hrs.
This course begins with a survey of political thought concerning the role of the state and/or government and the individual’s role in that state from Plato to Hobbes. Significant attention is then given to the formation of the American view of authority and the role of the individual. Emphasis is placed on Locke’s Second Treatise of Government as well as American writings such as Common Sense, the Federalist Papers, the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

GFA 305 H2b:West Europe/European Union  3 sem. hrs.
This course is designed to familiarize students with the societies, political institutions and public policies of post-WWII Western Europe. Primary emphasis will be the “big four” (Britain, Germany, France, and Italy), but may also include a look at smaller countries. Attention will be given to the integration phenomenon and the role of the European Union. Focus will be placed on comprehension of the historical uniqueness of this development that has resulted in the EU and now provides a potential model for economic and social policy within regional and global integration frameworks.

GFA 309 Politics of Asia  3 sem. hrs.
This course offers a survey of comparative politics of Asia. Focus will be placed on the economic growth in Asia that has brought tens of millions out of poverty and brought wealth to the region’s nations. Asia is fast becoming a key driver of the global economy. Increased economic power is transferable into political and military power. Attention will be given to China’s growing power, changes to the current balance of power and the United States’ role in the region.

GFA 311 DV:Govt/Politics in Latin Amer  3 sem. hrs.
This course offers an introduction to Latin America by exploring the history, cultures, and contemporary issues facing this multifaceted region as a whole, as well as individual countries. Part of the course will focus on U.S. Latin America relations and interactions - both as states and as people. This course includes colonization, race, class, and gender as inequalities that are important dimensions for understanding social life and communities.
This course examines the complex relationship between the United States and Mexico - neighbors that are closely integrated and yet separated. We will look at this relationship at the U.S. - Mexican border region and consider how this integration and separation impacts our political relationship as we address immigration policy and the militarization of the border; our economic relationship (especially NAFTA); and social and cultural cohesion and fragmentation. The course includes a trip to Laredo, TX and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

GFA 323 H1:DV:Public Policy  3 sem. hrs.
In-depth analysis of selected domestic policy issues handled by the American national government: social security, tax reform, military spending, federal education programs, agricultural policy, environmental policy, energy proposals, and transportation programs. Problematic settings, goals and alternative solutions are examined.

GFA 355 H1:American Foreign Policy  3 sem. hrs.
Organization, control and functioning of the foreign policy of the United States; the impact of internal and external forces on the formulation and implementation of foreign policy; analysis of problems confronting the United States in foreign affairs.

GFA 375 H3:Politics and Film  3 sem. hrs.
This course looks at film to explain both the way in which films influence political ideas, behaviors, and beliefs and also our political beliefs and ideas as they influence our perception and understanding of film. Offered every fall semester.

GFA 381 The Legislative Process  3 sem. hrs.
Structure and behavior of American national and state legislative systems; recruitment, election and behavior of legislators; the impact of constituencies, parties, interest groups, and other factors on the legislative policy-making process; theories of representation; and legislative reform.

GFA 383 The American Presidency  3 sem. hrs.
Institutions, personalities, and political processes centered in the Presidency, implications of the shifting balance of powers between the Presidency and the other federal branches, analysis of media and public expectations in the light of effective leadership and public accountability. Offered in Fall of even-numbered years.

GFA 400 Comprehensive Review  1 sem. hr.
Provides students with the review of materials in preparation for the exit exam, cutting across all areas of the curriculum including theory, history and application issues. First semester senior year. Offered every Fall.

GFA 401 H3:DV:Poverty & Prspty in Dev Wd  3 sem. hrs.
This course examines the process of development - defined as social, economic, and political modernization - in the developing world. It provides an introduction to some of the problems of developing states. Reasons for and obstacles to development are discussed as are policies used to address these problems. This course can serve as a capstone course for GFA majors. Next offered Spring 2021, Spring 2023.

GFA 403 H2b:Constitutional Law  3 sem. hrs.
An examination of the Supreme Court as an institution, with special emphasis on landmark cases in the areas of judicial review, equal protection and criminal law. The course makes use of the "case method" for understanding the role of the Supreme Court in the American political system as well as some of the controversies surrounding the Court's power to declare laws unconstitutional. This course can serve as a capstone course for GFA majors. Offered in Fall of odd-numbered years.

GFA 405 H3:DV:CivilRight&Libert  3 sem. hrs.
A survey of the important cases in the basic freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. The course makes use of the "case method" for understanding the development of law in the areas of freedom of speech, press and religion, obscenity and censorship. Offered in Spring of even-numbered years.

GFA 409 H1:InternPoliti Econ  3 sem. hrs.
This course will analyze the political and economic implications of international economic relations and the theories underpinning topics such as trade, aid, foreign investment, monetary relations, and technology transfers. Theoretical orientations include liberal economic theory, dependency and world systems theory.

GFA 411 Public Leadership  3 sem. hrs.
Using a case-based approach, Public Administration attempts to discover what we can expect of our varied government servants and the complex organizations within which they work. The course will examine organizational theory, intergovernmental relations, personnel systems, employee motivation, as well as public-choice economics, budgets, and administrative reforms. The primary goal of the course is to provide each student with real-world skills that are essential for success in the field of public administration. Offered in Spring of odd-numbered years.

GFA 413 International Organization  3 sem. hrs.
Analysis of the development and general characteristics, functions, procedures and problems of international governmental organizations. Specifically, the role of the United Nations and regional organizations as political institutions in a changing system will be examined.

GFA 415 H3:International Law  3 sem. hrs.
Nature and principles of international law, with special emphasis on changing concepts and conflicting claims in the evolution of rule for the international community. Includes principles and procedures for international disputes. This course can serve as a capstone course for GFA majors. Offered in Spring of even-numbered years.

GFA 421 Special Topics  3 sem. hrs.
Intensive examination of selected, single topics in government and politics.

GFA 422 CL:ST:Vatican Politics  3 sem. hrs.
Intensive examination of selected, single topics in government and politics.

GFA 423 Special Topics  1-4 sem. hrs.
Intensive examination of selected, single topics in government and politics.

GFA 425 Readings & Individual Investig  1-6 sem. hrs.
Directed readings, tutorials, directed and independent research, etc. With permission of Division Chair and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Offered every semester.

GFA 426 Readings & Individual Investig  1-6 sem. hrs.
Directed readings, tutorials, directed and independent research, etc. With permission of Division Chair and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Offered every semester.

GFA 427 Readings & Individual Investig  1-6 sem. hrs.
Directed readings, tutorials, directed and independent research, etc. With permission of Division Chair and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Offered every semester.

GFA 430 Internship  1  3 sem. hrs.
Supervised work experience in federal, state, and local government. Offered every semester.
GFA 431 Internship II 3 sem. hrs.
Supervised work experience in federal, state, and local government.
Offered every semester.