

Winter 2022

Undergraduate Courses Approved for Public Policy Specialization Credit

Note that courses cannot be double-counted. For example, if you are a Political Science major you may not count a Political Science course towards your Public Policy major. Please let an advisor know at the end of the quarter which outside courses you took, so this can be updated on your degree audit.

Sustainability

ECON 2360 *CRN: 5360* *Credits: 4*

Economics, Ecology, and Social Welfare

Monday/Wednesday 12:00pm - 1:50pm

This course examines the interaction between economic outcomes, environmental effects, and inequality based on the contribution of alternative economic perspectives. It is divided in three core sections: Section I presents a historical examination of the restructuring of global capitalism under neoliberalism, and its impact on resource distribution and ecosystems. It follows a presentation of the theoretical differences between traditional and critical economics in the interpretation of these developments. Section II applies the concepts learned in Section I to specific case studies. For each of these case studies, the analysis will highlight both social and environmental implications and prospects for ecological sustainability and social welfare. Section III discusses alternative economic recommendations for socio-economic prosperity and ecological conservation.

Notes: Prerequisite: ECON 1030

Specialization: Sustainability

GEOG 2500 *CRN: 1933* *Credits: 4*

Sustainability & Human Society

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am - 11:50am

Sustainability has become a catch phrase in discussions concerning the long-term viability of a number of phenomena, from the environment to the economy. Sustainability is commonly defined as meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Students are introduced to issues inherent in discussions of sustainability. The major areas of focus include definitions of ecological and environmental sustainability, economic and political sustainability, and social justice, and various metrics used to assess sustainable behavior and practices. Students study the theory, principles and practices of sustainability, and participate in discussion and writing exercises based on lecture and readings.

Notes:

Specialization: Sustainability

GEOG 3425 *CRN:* 3674 *Credits:* 4

Urban Sustainability

Tuesday/Thursday **2:00pm - 3:50pm**

The 21st century is being called the 'century of the city.' Now more than ever, humans across the globe call the city their home. Many of the world's most pressing crises are manifest in cities, including: greenhouse gas emissions, land degradation, high mass production and consumption, widespread poverty and hunger, and expanding socio-economic disparities. As 'sustainability' becomes part of mainstream discourse, this course explores what sustainability means for urban contexts around the globe. Arguably, the city has the potential to be the most efficient, equitable, and environmental form of modern human settlement. Covering all dimensions of sustainability from a social science perspective, this course focuses on theoretical groundings, practices of urban sustainability, and new research agendas. Major topics include cities and nature; planning and land use; urban form; community and neighborhoods; transportation systems and accessibility; livelihood and urban economies; and social justice and the city.

Notes:

Specialization: Sustainability

INTS 2703 *CRN:* 5444 *Credits:* 4

Climate Change

Monday/Wednesday **2:00pm - 3:50pm**

The world faces an uncertain future. Promises that seemed attainable just five years ago are now questionable. Instead, the sixth extinction may be unfolding before us. Climate scientists including biologists, glaciologists, and oceanographers, as well as other respected scientists warned us forty years ago that the planet was getting warmer. They now believe a small window remains for correcting damage to ecosystem dynamics, but that window may be closing fast. Many scientists believe it may shut between eight to twenty years.

Climate change is just one of the planet's boundaries but it threatens other ecosystems, putting the planet or Earth system into a new state that is very different from the one in which civilization emerged. The cascading effects of climate change may force us to make major adaptations. At this time, we are uncertain as to whether civilization can survive.

This course examines the condition of the planet and the challenges that arise due to climate breakdown. However, it also considers ways that take on those challenges. Using Johan Rockstrom's planetary boundaries framework, we will examine the nine boundaries that overlap on the planet and are considered fundamental for operating in a safe zone. We will look at which ones have been crossed, to what degree they have been crossed, and how they relate to planetary instability. Then we will look at each boundary in depth to discover how they are related and threaten the balance of nature. In every case, the fingerprint of human activity is clear. However, that truth is also the key for exploring necessary actions that will regain planetary stability so we can have true sustainability.

Notes:

Specialization: Sustainability

INTS 3715

CRN: 3638

Credits: 4

The Politics and Policy of Sustainable Energy

Monday/Wednesday

2:00pm - 4:50pm

Energy is much in the news, with highly visible controversies over everything from hydraulic fracturing here in Colorado to oil pipelines to mountaintop removal for coal mining to raptor mortality at wind farms. These controversies range from local city ordinances to global treaties and involve everyone from environmental groups to governments to businesses of all sizes. It can be difficult to make sense of this cacophony of events. Where is the global energy system now, where is it going, and what will impede progress toward an energy system that will both serve human needs and protect the environment? Understanding these questions requires background knowledge that puts them into context and creates the opportunity to understand them more deeply. This course will introduce you to the politics and policies involved in sustainable energy, from the local to the global level. In order to make sense of those policies and politics, it will also introduce students to the basics of the energy system, including both conventional and alternative sources.

Notes: Prerequisites: INTS 1500 & INTS 1700

Specialization: Sustainability

U.S. Domestic Policy

SOCI 2622 *CRN: 5353* *Credits: 4*

Deportation Nation

Monday/Wednesday **2:00pm - 3:50pm**

This service-learning course examines the nexus of the criminal justice and immigration—or, crimmigration—system. Through a scholarly analysis situated of the historical, social, and political processes that have informed contemporary immigration law and policy, the course focuses on the shift to enhanced enforcement, detention, and mass deportation.

Notes: Prerequisite: SOCI 1810.

Specialization: US Domestic Policy

SOCI 2722 *CRN: 5354* *Credits: 4*

Criminal Justice Reform in the US

Tuesday/Thursday **2:00pm - 3:50pm**

Events in 2020 have left many people wondering why our criminal justice system looks as it does today and asking what we can do to make it better. Despite the wave of political and cultural support for reform, little has changed. Why? The answers lie in the complicated historical processes that created the loose network of institutions that we refer to as "the criminal justice system," and in the contemporary socioeconomic and political structures that sustain these institutions. To better understand the contemporary state of reform, we will study the forces that gave rise to them, including race's central role in the politics of criminal justice, and the complexities of American federalism. We will research contemporary reform efforts targeting policing, mass incarceration, prosecutorial discretion, and other issues.

Notes: Prerequisite: SOCI 1810.

Specialization: US Domestic Policy

PLSC 2425 *CRN: 5614* *Credits: 4*

Religion in American Politics

Wednesday/Friday **12:00pm - 1:50pm**

This course offers a broad, critical overview of the relationship, and some of the tensions, between religion and politics in the United States. We first review how the historical presence of a variety of American religious groups and perspectives on the relationship between church and state have impacted the nation's often conflicted sense of identity as well as the tenor of our ongoing debates about - and within - religion in American politics. That gives us a foundation for exploring a number of current "hot button" issues like debates over "moral values" and faith-based initiatives. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in American politics. Prerequisite: sophomore standing

Notes:

Specialization: US Domestic Policy

PLSC 2850 *CRN: 5383* *Credits: 4*

Politics of Criminal Justice in the US

Tuesday/Thursday **4:00pm - 5:50pm**

Problems and reforms in American criminal justice system; causes and extent of crime, excessive use of force by police, systemic racism, bail reform, probation and parole; prisons and police/community relations. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

Notes: Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

Specialization: US Domestic Policy

US Foreign Policy

HIST 2950 *CRN: 5597* *Credits: 4*

US and Latin American Relations: The Historical Struggle for Autonomy

Monday/Wednesday **2:00 pm - 3:50pm**

This course examines how Latin American nations have tried to maneuver in the world sphere under the dominant role played by the United States in the hemisphere. Latin American countries and the United States have had a complex and, at times, difficult relationship that dates back to the early nineteenth century. In response to the challenges of this complicated relationship, Latin American nations have adopted a range of strategies to deal with the United States, most of which are examined in this course.

Notes:

Specialization: US Foreign Policy

Law & Policy

INTS 3222 *CRN: 5457* *Credits: 4*

International Law and Human Rights

Tuesday

2:00pm - 4:50pm

An introductory course examining the concept of human rights, including political, economic, social, and cultural rights. International, regional and national institutions, norms and procedures to protect individual and group rights are discussed.

Notes: Prerequisites: INTS 1500 and INTS 1700.

Specialization: Law & Policy

PLSC 2001

CRN: 3100

Credits: 4

Law and Politics

Tuesday/Thursday

10:00 am - 11:50am

Introduces the relationship between law and politics, describing the basic principles of legal conduct in political contexts and explaining how social scientific methods are used to understand these underlying principles. Questions explored include the following: Where does the law come from? Whose interests does it reflect? Does formal legal change lead to practical political and social change? Why do we comply with the law? What are the limits of enforcement? This course counts toward the Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement. It also satisfies the department distribution requirement in law.

Notes: Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

Specialization: Law & Policy

PLSC 2820

CRN: 3579

Credits: 4

Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties

Tuesday/Thursday

8:00am - 9:50am

This course addresses major ideas and principles of U.S. constitutional law, with a focus on equal protection of the law, fundamental rights, and freedom of speech and religion. Within each of these areas, we will consider the development of court rulings over time, economic and political influences on court decision-making, and policy implications of these rulings. While PLSC 2860 complements this course, it is not necessary to take both courses. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in law.

Notes: Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

Specialization: Law & Policy

PLSC 2860

CRN: 5384

Credits: 4

Constitutional Law: Governmental Structures and Powers

Tuesday/Thursday

2:00pm - 3:50pm

This course addresses major ideas and principles of U.S. constitutional law, with a focus on federalism, the growth of national power, and separation of powers. Within each of these areas, we will consider the development of court rulings over time, economic and political influences on court decision-making, and policy implications of these rulings. While PLSC 2820 complements this course, it is not necessary to take both courses. Satisfies the department distribution requirement in law

Notes: Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

Specialization: Law & Policy