PLS 100: Section 730
Introduction to American National Government
This course provides a broad introduction to the people and processes that shape American politics at the national level, focusing on founding principles, institutions, and mass political behavior.

PLS 160: Section 730
Introduction to International Relations
This course introduces concepts, ideas and debates central to the study of international politics through a variety of theoretical lenses. The core components of the course – historical processes and international conflict/war; international cooperation; globalization and the world economy; and global forces for change – are then analyzed and discussed using those theoretical lenses as guides.

PLS 201: Section 730
Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis
This course provides an introduction to the tools of research design and statistical analysis used in social science research. Topics covered include experimental design, the logic of control, descriptive statistics, statistical inference, and statistical tests of significance.

PLS 362: Section 730
American Foreign Polity & National Security
Theories of foreign policy making. Factors shaping foreign policy in various countries. Current and recurrent problems in foreign policy making.

PLS 377: Section 730
American Political Thought
Democracy in America: This course examines American political life and development primarily through the lens of one book: Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, focusing particular attention on its main themes: the relationship of religion to American political life, the vitality of local government, the American love of material goods, and the dangers of majority tyranny. We will consider such questions as: What are the sources—intellectual, cultural, and social—of the American political outlook? What are the strengths and weaknesses of American democracy? Finally, we will read short speeches and stories from authors who challenge Tocqueville's key arguments, or take his assertions in a new direction, and we will consider how well his predictions have been borne out.

PLS 392: Section 732
Special Topics in Political Science: Getting Ready for A Career
This class will introduce students to potential career opportunities for political science and prepare students for the transition from college into the job market. The course centers around two major themes. First, students will learn about careers common to political science, and have the opportunity to develop a tentative path for their ideal career. Second, students will have the opportunity to develop a professional portfolio targeted to their career goals.

PLS 422: Section 732
Seminar in Political Science: Film and Politics
This course will explore the relationship between politics and film, evaluating how we portray and understand politics through this medium. Students will watch a number of films with explicit and implicit political content, and learn how to critically analyze these films in the context of different political themes.

ISS 305: Section 731
Evaluating Evidence: The Social Science of Decision Making
On any given day, each of us will make hundreds of decisions. Some of these decisions will be mindless and unimportant: Should I bring an umbrella with me? Some, however, have the potential to substantially alter one’s life: Should I go to graduate school? This course will investigate what social science can tell us about how individuals make decisions ranging from the mundane to the monumental.

PLS 494: Field Experience in Political Science
This course provides supervised field work in several areas of study. It may involve internships with non-profit organizations or public agencies, or participation in survey research, political campaigns, or petition drives.

For questions, please contact Professor Ryan Black (rcblack@msu.edu), Director of the PLS online teaching program

www.polisci.msu.edu
PLS 170: Section 730
Introduction to Political Philosophy
This class is integral for all students from any discipline as it explores the most fundamental question we can ask as humans: How should we live our lives? More specifically, we use some of the ideas of the greatest philosophers in an effort to determine the best way to live. What does this mean for our politics and government? But more importantly, what is happiness, and how do we achieve it?

PLS 200: Section 730
Introduction to Political Science
The science of politics in three parts. First, we begin with a broad overview of the themes and topics such as "why do we have government?" Second, we progress to examining a host of political institutions such as the executive and legislative branches. Third, we move beyond formal institutions and turn our attention to things like the media and political culture.

PLS 320: Section 730
Judicial Politics
This class examines theoretical issues regarding the operation of the judiciary in the United States, with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on the federal court system and the U.S. Supreme Court.

PLS 354: Section 730
Politics of Asia
This class addresses some of the most important issues in contemporary Chinese politics, such as political corruption, environmental pollution, urban-rural inequality, Internet censorship, and the U.S.-China relationship.

PLS 372 Section 730
Modern Political Philosophy
Political philosophy in the modern era forms the theoretical basis of all contemporary constitutional democracies, the United States in particular. This class will trace the ideas of these philosophers, with their heightened focus on ideas such as freedom, equality, and the separation of church and state.

PLS 392: Section 730
Special Topics in Political Science: Getting Ready for A Career
This class will introduce students to potential career opportunities for political science and prepare students for the transition from college into the job market. The course centers around two major themes. First, students will learn about careers common to political science, and have the opportunity to develop a tentative path for their ideal career. Second, students will have the opportunity to develop a professional portfolio targeted to their career goals.

PLS 422: Section 731
Seminar in Political Science: Law for Public Policymakers and Administrators
This seminar examines how law both empowers and restrains policymakers. Topics include administrative law, judicial review, state-local government relations, the Freedom of Information Act, employee rights, and governmental liability. Course material will be applied to real-world situations in writing assignments designed to simulate the work of policy specialists.

ISS 210: Section 730
Social Science and Sports
Explore what sports can teach us about how people and institutions behave outside of sports. What doping and match-fixing tell us about when people are more likely to be corrupted. What referees and team owners illustrate when racial discrimination occurs and how it might be prevented. Why efforts to prevent tanking in the NBA are similar to reducing the poverty trap in America. What hockey fights and baseball pitchers can teach us about violent behavior, how Michael Jordan passing the ball tells us something about how political parties spend their campaign money, and why pro sports teams might be smarter than college admissions officers.

ISS 305: Section 731
Evaluating Evidence: The Social Science of Decision Making
On any given day, each of us will make hundreds of decisions. Some of these decisions will be mindless and unimportant: Should I bring an umbrella with me? Some, however, have the potential to substantially alter one's life: Should I go to graduate school? This course will investigate what social science can tell us about how individuals make decisions ranging from the mundane to the monumental.

ISS 328: Section 730
Introduction to Comparative Politics
The course offers a comparative analysis of political systems in first, second, and third-world countries. The course also offers alternative methods for comparative cross-cultural analyses of political systems.