

## 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 Policy & 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.

### Full Summer Session

## 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](mailto:rcblack@msu.edu)), Director of the PLS online teaching program

[www.polisci.msu.edu](http://www.polisci.msu.edu)

# Political Science



Summer 2018

## Online Classes Offered by the Political Science Department

at Michigan State University

### First Session Classes

## 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.

# Summer 2018 Political Science Department at Michigan State



## **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 731** **Society and the Individual**

Video Games and Society. What can video games teach us about society and the individual? In this class, you'll play video games to find out. Video games, even more so than literature, provide the ability to experience the viewpoints of characters in their historical or fictional contexts. Gamers will be able to choose their own adventure from a menu of topics. Newb? Expert? Options are available for

both (and everyone in between). Build cities and conquer the world in Civilization. Question the myth of the wild west in Red Dead Redemption. Storm the beaches of Normandy in Call of Duty. Probe the depths of human behavior in Zero Escape. And much, much more. Course instructor is winner of several MSU teaching/mentoring awards.

## **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** **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 corrupt. 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.

## *Second Session Classes*

## **PLS 140: Section 730 (2nd Session)** **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.