

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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## Faculty of Department

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## Introduction/Mission

The Department of Political Science at Jackson State University helps students combine theoretical creativity and empirical research. Among the department's areas of strength are American Politics, Comparative Politics (particularly African Politics), International Relations, and Public Law. The departmental faculty use diverse analytic perspectives, but their research programs share a common concern for the role of citizenship in government, political processes, and institutions. The department encourages students to participate in research activities and experiential learning. Mississippi's capital city, Jackson, is a rich learning laboratory that provides our students with internships in state and local government, the court system, law firms, and political campaigns.

## Objectives

- To develop in students a substantive body of knowledge about the history and evolution of the discipline including its various approaches and methods.
- To nurture in students specialized and thorough knowledge in American Politics, International Affairs, or Legal Studies.
- To help students acquire the capacity to gather and analyze primary and secondary political data, to critique extant studies, to construct creative research proposals, and to craft original research.
- To develop students' critical and analytical thinking and writing.
- To encourage students to participate in service-learning activities—local, national and international—that permit access to early job placements and an appreciation for the practice of citizenship.

## Bachelor

- Political Science (B.A.) (<https://jsums-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts/departement-political-science/political-science-ba/>)
- Political Science (B.A.) Legal Studies Concentration (<https://jsums-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts/departement-political-science/political-science-ba-legal-studies-concentration/>)
- Political Science (B.A.) Paralegal Studies Concentration (<https://jsums-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts/departement-political-science/political-science-ba-paralegal-studies-concentration/>)

## Minor

- Political Science Minor (<https://jsums-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts/departement-political-science/political-science-minor/>)

## Course Descriptions

### PS 134 INTRO TO POLIT SCIENCE (3 Hours)

An introduction to the discipline of political science, its concepts and methods of analysis.

### PS 135 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (3 Hours)

Prerequisite: PS 134.

Survey of the constitutional basis, organization, and functioning of the American national government; the principles underlying constitutional government, citizenship, civil rights, and political institutions.

### PS 136 STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT (3 Hours)

Prerequisite: PS 134.

The role of the state and local governments in the federal system: political institutions, elections, the organization, functions, and problems of state and local government, with special emphasis on Mississippi Government.

### PS 236 POLITICAL STATISTICS (3 Hours)

An examination of a set of techniques for describing groups of data and for making decisions related to the allocation of political resources.

### PS 238 INTRO TO COMPAR POLITICS (3 Hours)

Prerequisite: PS 134.

An introduction to the basic concepts and approaches in comparative politics and the application of these concepts and approaches to major regions of the world.

### PS 270 Film and Politics (3 Hours)

The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the rule of the media in the political system. Both historical and current political trends will be highlighted as they are deliberated and analyzed by the media as well as the advantages and challenges that come with digital media and the 24/7 news cycle. We are in an election year. We will pay special attention to the changing climate of political expression in the online age, as well.

### PS 290 Racism in American Politics (3 Hours)

This course will review the American political system and engage students in courageous conversations as means of inspiring them to think critically about race and its role in society and politics.

### PS 320 LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING (3 Hours)

Introduction to the basic research and writing techniques in law. Special emphasis will be placed upon the use of legal reference materials such as reporters, legal encyclopedias, digests and Periodicals, and Lexis.

### PS 341 African American Politics (3 Hours)

A study of the role of black people in the American political process. Consideration will be given to the impact of American institutions upon black people in America and the diaspora.

### PS 342 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (3 Hours)

Prerequisite: PS 135.

An introductory analysis of the major works in political thought from Plato to John Locke with special attention placed on relevance of the political tracts in examining recent political problems. Open to juniors and seniors only.

### PS 343 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (3 Hours)

Prerequisite: PS 135.

An introductory analysis of the major works in political thought from Montesquieu to Mao tse-tung, with special attention placed on the relevance of the political tracts in examining recent political problems. Open to juniors and seniors only.

**PS 346 CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 135.

A study of development in the field of civil rights under the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and under federal and state legislation.

**PS 347 Judicial Politics (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 135.

An analysis of the structure and functions of judicial systems emphasizing the organization, administration and politics of judicial bureaucracies and roles of judges, juries, counsel, litigants and interest groups in the adjudication process.

**PS 350 AME POLIT PARTIES & PRES (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 135.

The nature and functions of political parties; nominations; elections and the role of interest groups in the political process.

**PS 351 THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 135.

A consideration of the nature, powers, and functions of the American Presidency with emphasis on executive congressional relations and presidential leadership in foreign and domestic affairs.

**PS 352 MODERNIZA & POLITI CHAN (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 238.

An analysis of political and social problems associated with modernization in the non-western world. Empirical focus is placed on two or more developing regions.

**PS 364 Public Opinion and Political Psychology (3 Hours)**

This course is about the importance of public opinion in U.S. politics. The purpose of this course is to present an accounting of the role of public opinion in the democratic politics of the U. S. The course provides discussion of the contemporary literature on public opinion including political psychology. This course is generally designed to provide an understanding of the major ideas and concepts in public opinion and political psychology.

**PS 365 Voting and Elections (3 Hours)**

This course is about American electoral politics. It explores critical and controversial issues that confront our political system. We will examine American democracy in theory and practice key aspects of electoral politics that will be covered including the electoral process (the nomination, campaigns, and election of public officials), suffrage and turnout. voting behavior, candidates, public policy issues, representation, partisanship, money, and the media.

**PS 376 LSAT SURVEY (3 Hours)**

An analysis and survey of the mechanics, techniques and content of the Law School Admissions Test.

**PS 390 INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENC (3 Hours)**

Supervised field work with public and political related organizations and agencies. Students receive may work as staff assistants, conduct research and write reports, memos, engage in administrative duties, campaign duties, communications, and canvassing. No student may receive more than a total of fifteen (15) semester hours in political science from the internship program.

**PS 423 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I (3 Hours)**

This is the first of a two semester course which will examine the philosophy and constitutional growth of Supreme Court decisions. Emphasis in this portion is on the limitations imposed upon governmental interferences with individual rights.

**PS 424 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW II (3 Hours)**

This is the second part of a two semester course which examines the limitations placed upon the federal and state government.

**PS 425 ENVIRONMENT LAW (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 432.

Primary emphasis upon the regulation of air and water pollution at the national, state, and regional levels and the political, social and economic considerations behind these laws.

**PS 431 AFRICIAN INTERNAT RELATI (3 Hours)**

This course is designed to study and analyze the role of African countries and organizations in the global political system.

**PS 432 INTRODUCTION TO LAW I (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 135.

This is the first part of a two-semester courses which examines the role of law in society. Emphasis is on the nature of law and the variety of legal mechanisms that exist in society.

**PS 433 INTRODUCTION TO LAW II (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 135.

This is the second part of a two-semester course which examines the processes of how law functions to meet the political, social and economic needs of society.

**PS 437 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 428.

Nature of international relations, problems of national power, the state system, diplomacy, war and peace.

**PS 444 POLITICS IN SOUTHERN AFR (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 429.

This course is designed to examine the post apartheid South Africa and the role of South Africa's race relations after apartheid. South Africa's relations with the neighboring states, other Afrtican countries, the United States and the global community will be analyzed.

**PS 446 SCOPE AND METHODS (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 236.

This course is designed to introduce students of political science to critical epistemological and methodological issues, to the philosophy of science and to the scientific and intellectual issues that characterize major trends in the discipline.

**PS 447 SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 446.

This course is designed for students of Political Science. It is an attempt to integrate research methods with the substance of politics. Statistical techniques and illustrative application of the computer will be utilized focusing on political research.

**PS 450 URBAN POLITICS (3 Hours)**

This course will examine the concept of community and the political process in a variety of American localities. An examination of the black community with special emphasis upon political problems will be examined.

**PS 453 INDEPEND STUDY & DIR REA (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: Senior standing, 2.

00 grade point average in major courses, and consent of instructor (a specialist in the area of study).

**PS 473 LEGISLATIVE POLITICS (3 Hours)**

Analytical treatment of the law-making functions of the national and state legislatures and their place in the political system.

**PS 484 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (3 Hours)**

Prerequisite: PS 371.

Evolution of the American Federal System; consideration of inter-unit cooperation and conflict; review of administrative issues like revenue sharing, federal grants and regulations.

**PS 490 Computer-Assisted Research in the Legal Environment (3 Hours)**

This course will teach students how to locate credible sources on the law using relevant search engines. This course provides imperative insight on filing mechanisms used in the State of Mississippi. Students will draft closed memorandum for supervising attorney as a paralegal (in office view). The students will determine what information is relevant to client's case by distinguishing between key facts, background facts, and irrelevant facts. Students will develop skills necessary to properly apply information as it pertains to client's.

**PS 491 Law Office Management and Technology (3 Hours)**

This course examines applications of computer software and hardware in the legal environment including legal applications of word processing, databases, and spreadsheets. It also covers legal software for document generation, document management, fiscal management, time billing, time and document management, computer-assisted legal research, and information management in the workflow process.

**PS 492 Trial Preparation (3 Hours)**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the criminal and civil trial processes, and preparation for trial of criminal and civil cases, as studied through case law, procedures, techniques, and strategies.

**PS 493 eDiscovery for Paralegals (3 Hours)**

This course will introduce students to the eDiscovery process. This course will analyze the entire eDiscovery process including preparation, requests, collection, and review of Electronically Stored Information (ESI). The course will teach students how to properly prepare their clients for deposition and how to respond to requests.

**PS 494 Paralegal Internship (3 Hours)**

This course encompasses field work experience in a private sector law office, corporation, bank, or public sector agency. This course will supplement the experiential component and includes discussion of field work experience, ethical considerations, and career options.