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**Master of Arts in Political Science**  
**Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

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The Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice offers the Master of Arts in Political Science (Major Code: 267\*/45.1001), with three concentrations:

- American Government (267C)
- International Relations/Comparative Politics (267E)
- Justice Studies (267D)

The Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice also offers programs in Criminal Justice (MS) and Public Administration (MPA), described under those headings in this bulletin. Graduate programs in Political Science/Criminal Justice are supervised by the departmental chair, the individual graduate program directors, and the graduate committee.

Courses in the following disciplines are offered by the Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice:

- PA: public administration courses (see the Public Administration program for course descriptions)
- PS: political science courses
- CJ: criminal justice courses (see the Criminal Justice program for course descriptions)

The Department of Political Science/Criminal Justice prepares students for professional and academic careers. The political science program is designed to prepare persons for careers in a variety of public and private settings, and to prepare students for further graduate work at the doctoral level.

Students choosing the American government concentration (267C) will prepare for careers, or further study, in fields related to politics in either the national, state, or local levels of government.

The International Relations/Comparative Politics concentration promotes student understanding of world politics and U.S. interactions with other nations. It prepares students for job opportunities in government, non-government organizations, multinational corporations and a career in academia if students choose to pursue a Ph.D.

The Justice Studies concentration is designed to allow students to prepare for careers, or further study, in fields related to the criminal justice system. This concentration may be particularly attractive to individuals who plan to attend law school, or to those who seek a Master's degree to qualify for certain positions in criminal justice.

**PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (Major Code: 267\*/45.1001)**

**Admission Requirements:** Baccalaureate degree with a major or minor in Political Science, Criminal Justice or a related field from an accredited college or university; complete application to the Cratis Williams Graduate School (<http://www.graduate.appstate.edu>), including resume, three letters of recommendation, official GRE general test scores, and official transcripts from all colleges attended.

**Basic Criteria for Consideration:** (Undergraduate GPA X 400) + GRE Verbal + GRE Quantitative = 2000.

**Hours:** 30 semester hours with thesis; 36 semester hours without.

**Required Research Course:** (6 s.h.)

PS/CJ	5000	Research Methods.....	3
<b>RESEARCH HOURS .....</b>			<b>3</b>

**Concentration Courses: (CHOOSE ONE)** (12 s.h. required)

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (267C)**

PS	5030	Seminar in American Government and Politics.....	3
Select 9 s.h. from the following in consultation with the MA Advisor .....			9
CJ	5150	The American Justice System and Social Justice (3 s.h.)	
CJ/PA	5180	Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (3 s.h.)	
PS	5010	Seminar in Political Philosophy (3 s.h.)	
PS	5100	Seminar in Congressional Politics (3 s.h.)	
PS	5110	Campaigns and Elections (3 s.h.)	
PS	5130	Appalachian Political Perspectives (3 s.h.)	
PS	5135	Readings and Research in American Politics (3 s.h.)	
PS	5145	American Political Parties and Interest Groups (3 s.h.)	
PS	5330	Problems in State and Local Government (3 s.h.)	
PS	5530-5549	Selected Topics (1-4 s.h.)	9
PS	5710	American Political Thought (3 s.h.)	

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE POLITICS (267E)**

PS	5020	Pro-Seminar in International Relations .....	3
PS	5040	Pro-Seminar in Comparative Politics.....	3
select 6 s.h. from the following in consultation with the MA Advisor .....			6
PS	5010	Seminar in Political Philosophy (3 s.h.)	
PS	5120	Readings and Research in International Relations (3 s.h.)	
PS	5125	Readings and Research in Comparative Politics (3 s.h.)	
PS	5530-5549	Selected Topics (1-4 s.h.)	
PS	5721	Human Rights (3 s.h.)	
PS	5722	U.S. Foreign Policy (3 s.h.)	
PS	5741	European Governments and Politics (3 s.h.)	
PS	5743	The European Union (3 s.h.)	
PS	5744	Middle East Politics (3 s.h.)	
PS	5745	African Politics (3 s.h.)	
PS	5748	Latin American Politics (3 s.h.)	

**JUSTICE STUDIES (267D)**

PS/CJ	5050	Seminar in Public Law and Judicial Behavior.....	3
select 9 s.h. from the following in consultation with the MA Advisor .....			9
CJ	5060	Administration of Justice (3 s.h.)	
CJ	5150	The American Justice System and Social Justice (3 s.h.)	
CJ/PA	5180	Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (3 s.h.)	
CJ	5625	Seminar in Police and Society (3 s.h.)	
CJ	5660	Crime, Theory and Policy (3 s.h.)	
CJ	5670	Crime Analysis and Criminal Justice Planning (3 s.h.)	

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PS/CJ 5530-5549 Selected Topics (1-4 s.h.)	
PS/CJ 5550 Law and Society (3 s.h.)	
PS/CJ 5661 Court Administration (3 s.h.)	
PS/CJ 5680 Organized Crime (3 s.h.)	
<b>CONCENTRATION HOURS</b> .....	<b>12</b>

**Thesis Options (CHOOSE ONE):**

**WITH THESIS**

PS 5998 Thesis Preparation.....	3
PS 5999 Thesis.....	3
electives (selected in consultation with the MA Advisor) .....	9
<b>THESIS HOURS</b> .....	<b>15</b>

**WITHOUT THESIS**

Select one of the following:.....	3
PS 5800 Directed Research (3 s.h.)	
PS 5900 Internship in Public Affairs (3 s.h.)	
electives (selected in consultation with the MA Advisor) .....	18
<b>NON-THESIS HOURS</b> .....	<b>21</b>

**TOTAL HOURS FOR MA DEGREE (minimum)..... 30 (with thesis)  
or 36(without thesis)**

**Thesis:** Optional

**Proficiency:** Students must demonstrate a proficiency in reading a foreign language or quantitative analysis as a research tool. The department may determine the proficiency required.

**Comprehensive:** During the final semester of course work, candidates must pass a written comprehensive examination.

**Product of Learning:** None required

**COURSEWORK IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (PS)**

**PS 5000. Research Methods/(3).F.** The goal of this course is the development of the analytical abilities of the student. The foundations of inquiry, the various approaches to the study of social phenomena, and several analytical techniques are presented, discussed, and practiced. Prerequisite: an undergraduate statistics course. (Same as CJ 5000.)

**PS 5010. Seminar in Political Philosophy/(3).S.** The seminar will provide an overview and critique of the literature in the field of political philosophy from the Enlightenment to the present.

**PS 5020. Pro-Seminar in International Relations/(3) .S.Alternate years.** The seminar will provide an overview and critique of the literature in the field on international relations.

**PS 5030. Seminar in American Government and Politics/(3).F.** Special investigation of selected topics in American government and politics. Topics will vary from year to year. Barring duplication of content, a student may repeat the course for a total of six credit hours.

**PS 5040. Pro-Seminar in Comparative Politics/(3). S.Alternate years.** The seminar will provide an overview and critique of the literature in the field of comparative politics.

**PS 5050. Seminar in Public Law and Judicial Behavior/ (3).S.Alternate years.** An examination of the multiple roles of law and the judicial system in the formulation and execution of public policy, to include the role of the judiciary in politics and government with emphasis on variables affecting judicial decision making. (Same as CJ 5050.)

**PS 5070. Seminar in Media and Politics/(3).On Demand.** An examination of the large role played by the media in American and international politics. An examination of the large role played by the media in elections, state and local

government, the judicial branch, Congress, the presidency, international affairs, and the individual political socialization process.

**PS 5100. Seminar in Congressional Politics/(3). F.Alternate years.** Designed as an introduction to the major research on the U.S. Congress, students will critically examine theories of representation, congressional decision-making, the role of various institutional structures, and inter-branch relations. Topics will vary from year to year. Barring duplication of content, a student may repeat the course for a total of six credit hours.

**PS 5110. Campaigns and Elections/(3).S.Alternate years.** An examination of the theoretical approaches used to study American campaigns and elections. The course will examine research on public opinion, voting behavior, campaign strategies, turnout, and electoral outcomes at the local, state and national levels of government.

**PS 5120. Readings and Research in International Relations/(3).On Demand.** The course explores the problems and issues confronting international politics, new theoretical perspectives, and trends in the field of international relations. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

**PS 5125. Readings and Research in Comparative Politics/(3).On Demand.** The course explores the problems and issues in various political systems, new theoretical perspectives of studying politics, and trends in the field of comparative politics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

**PS 5130. Appalachian Political Perspectives/(3).F.Alternate odd-numbered years.** An examination of the political process in the Appalachian region. The fundamental political problems, the interrelationships of Appalachia and its people with the larger American political system, political culture, and economy.

**PS 5135. Readings and Research in American Politics/ (3).On Demand.** This course examines research and contemporary issues regarding the American electoral process and the key institutions of American National Government. Topics will vary from year to year. Barring duplication of content, a student may repeat the course for a total of six credit hours.

**PS 5145. American Political Parties and Interest Groups/(3).S.Alternate years.** An examination of the history, formation, and maintenance of American political parties and interest groups. Existing literature and the theoretical importance of these intermediaries in the political process will be evaluated. The roles of parties and interest groups as organizations, the roles they play in electoral politics, how they mobilize voters, and their roles in government will be examined.

**PS 5330. Problems in State and Local Government/(3).S.** Research on selected topics in American state and local government. The topics may vary from year to year.

**PS 5500. Independent Study/(1-3).F;S.**

**PS 5530-5549. Selected Topics/(1-4).On Demand.**

**PS 5550. Law and Society/(3).S.** An examination of the relationship between the values and culture of a society and the laws which it adopts; how law interacts with and responds to change in social values as seen by the courts through selected cases. (Same as CJ 5550.) [Dual-listed with PS 4550.]

**PS 5640. Studies in Regional Political Patterns/(1-3).On Demand.** An examination of selected regions of the world which have common historical and cultural patterns influencing their political styles and capabilities. Topics may vary from semester to semester. [Dual-listed with PS 4640.]

**PS 5661. Court Administration/(3).On Demand.** This course is designed to familiarize students with the need for, and approaches to, more effective management of federal and state courts. Topics include court reform, court unification, caseload management, alternative dispute resolution, personnel management and training, and audio-visual applications in the courts, among others. (Same as CJ 5661.) [Dual-listed with PS 4661.]

**PS 5670. Advanced Environmental Politics/(3).S.**

This course examines the role that politics and government play in dealing with environmental issues. Its focus is primarily on the U.S. approach to environmental protection, but some attention will be devoted to international environmental

relationships such as the Kyoto Protocol. The course will cover the history of environmental policy, the legal and institutional arrangements for environmental protection, major environmental controversies and global environmental concerns.

**PS 5680. Organized Crime/(3).F.Alternate years.** This course will provide an examination and analysis of views on the phenomena of organized crime and efforts to control it. Attention will be paid to criminal organizations in the United States, their beginnings in other cultural and ethnic backgrounds and their relations with criminal organizations around the world. In today's world, criminal organizations in other countries and their activities have a major impact on crime in the United States. Therefore, a comparative approach to the subject must be used. (Same as CJ 5680). [Dual-listed with PS 4680.]

**PS 5710. American Political Thought/(3).On Demand.** A survey of the diverse political ideas represented in the American state from the colonial period to the present. Special emphasis is given to the political problems that emerge with the process of industrialization and the movement into a postindustrial economy. [Dual-listed with PS 4710.]

**PS 5721. Human Rights/(3).On Demand.** The course surveys the major literature in the field of international human rights. It investigates the questions of ethics, morality and the practice of human rights globally and attempts to address why the issue of international human rights has come to the fore in international politics. [Dual-listed with PS 4721.]

**PS 5722. U.S. Foreign Policy/(3).F.Alternate years.** Investigates U.S. foreign policy from differing perspectives, focusing in on the historical record and contemporary issues. [Dual-listed with PS 4722.]

**PS 5723. International Political Economy/(3). F.Alternate years.** An examination of the relationship between political and economic activity, the way actors use one to manipulate the other, and the normative choices involved in doing so. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. [Dual-listed with PS 4723.]

**PS 5741. European Governments and Politics/(3).S. Alternate years.** An examination of patterns of governmental organization and socioeconomic policy outcomes in the democracies of Europe as a basis for comparative analysis. Major issues confronting the democracies will be studied for possible options and comparisons of policy. [Dual-listed with PS 4741.]

**PS 5742. Politics of Developing Nations/(3).F.Alternate years.** Focuses on the efforts of a majority of the world's governments to meet the twin challenges of participatory politics and of the Global market economy. [Dual-listed with PS 4742.]

**PS 5743. The European Union/(3).S.Alternate years.** The emergence of the European Union is one of the major events in European history. The course explores the genesis and evolution of the idea of European integration and chronicles its organizational development in the post WWII era. Emphasis is placed on the politics of integration and the emergence of the Union as a major participant in world events. [Dual-listed with PS 4743.]

**PS 5744. Middle East Politics/(3).S.** An examination of the political, cultural, economic and social patterns of the Middle East. [Dual-listed with PS 4744.]

**PS 5745. African Politics/(3).On Demand.** The course begins with the historical context of African politics. Then, it explores the problems of governance following independence and discusses the contemporary debate between two contending schools of thought in African politics and development: Afro-optimism and Afro-pessimism. It examines Africa's relations with developing and developed countries as well. [Dual-listed with PS 4745.]

**PS 5748. Latin American Politics/(3).S.Alternate years.** Examines Latin American politics in detail covering historical context, political actors, and current issues in Latin America. [Dual-listed with PS 4748.]

**PS 5800. Directed Research/(3).On Demand.** Directed research on a topic selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Student is expected to write a major research paper on this topic. May not be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: PS 5000/CJ 5000.

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**PS 5850. Social Science Seminar/(3).On Demand.** A review and evaluation of the literature of the individual social science disciplines, as well as social science in general, emphasizing contemporary contexts, philosophical underpinnings, theoretical concerns, and methodological convergence. Prerequisite: twelve semester hours of graduate work. (Same as CJ 5850/GHY 5850/HIS 5850/SOC 5850.)

**PS 5900. Internship in Public Affairs/(3-9).F;S.** Field work in government, community, professional offices and agencies and involvement in problem solving in these offices and agencies. Graded on an S/U basis.

**PS 5989. Graduate Research/(1-9).F;S.** This course is designed to provide access to University facilities for continuing graduate research at the master's and specialist's levels. Graded on an S/U basis. PS 5989 does not count toward a degree.

**PS 5998. Thesis Preparation/(3).F;S.** The purpose of this course is to offer the student who chooses to write a thesis the opportunity to initiate a literature search, review research strategies, develop hypotheses for testing, and prepare a thesis proposal for review by the thesis committee. Graded on an S/U basis. (PS 5998 is a prerequisite to PS 5999.)

**PS 5999. Thesis/(3).F;S.** Graded on an S/U basis. Prerequisite: PS 5998