POL

Political Science

POL 501: Introduction to Statistics for Public Policy
This course acquaints student with statistics. It begins with the basics of applied statistical analysis, including probability and hypothesis testing, and builds to simple regression analysis. Requires use of computer packages.  
Prerequisites: Some elementary mathematics/statistics background helpful  
Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 502: Intermediate Statistics for Public Policy
This course utilizes multivariate regression analysis and explores violations of the linear model. Requires use of computer.  
Prerequisite: POL 501 or equivalent  
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 504: Research Design
This course will cover a variety of research methods that can be used to study attitudes and opinions: Experimental methods (in laboratory and field settings), quasi-experimental designs, surveys and questionnaires, and methods for studying various psychological characteristics of attitudes such as reaction time and lexical decision tasks.  
Offered  
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 509: Public Budgeting and Finance
This course develops the rationale for public taxation and spending programs. It examines the role of public finance in the economy, and explores the use of program and functional budgets, capital and operating budgets, intergovernmental expenditures, etc. Focuses on state and local governments.  
Fall, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 510: Personnel Systems for Public Policy
This course examines the development of civil service and other bureaucratic personnel systems in American government. It focuses on the knowledge that managers must have to utilize human resources appropriately in the constrained public sector environment. Focuses mainly on state and local government.  
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 530: Topics in Public Affairs
Specially organized seminars are offered on topics of particular importance to students of public affairs. These courses are led by distinguished experts in those policy areas.  
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)  
May be repeated for credit.

POL 531: Topics in Public Affairs: Planning
This course addresses the planning process as a decision-making tool in the implementation of public policy in housing, land-use, transportation, and environmental management. The course also investigates intergovernmental relations and the impact of citizen participation on policy changes.  
Offered in Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)  
May be repeated for credit.

POL 534: Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Delivery
The examination of the formulation, implementation, and impact of intergovernmental policy are the core concepts to be covered in this course. Several policies are examined in-depth, including grant-in-aid programs, General Revenue Sharing, housing and community development, and employment programs. The historical, economic, and political foundations of intergovernmental policy delivery systems are examined.  
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 535: Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation
This course concentrates on the strategies and methods of public policy analysis and evaluation. Students debate the merits of proposed solutions to various policy issues and discover the political constraints on the policy making process. Skills stressed in the course include cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation, and basic microeconomics.  
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 536: Public Management and Organizational Behavior
This course examines how public sector organizations work and how managers can operate in the public sector environment. A range of theoretical perspectives, including sociological, economic, and institutional, will be employed as real public organizations are examined and analyzed. Public agencies will also be compared to their private sector counterparts, and the nature of organizational efficiency will be explored.  
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 537: Administrative Law for Policy Analysts
This course examines the role of administrative law in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policy. The role of legislation such as the Administrative Procedures Act is explored. Actual cases are analyzed, as well as the broader set of precedents that have emerged in federal, state, and local administrative law proceedings.  
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 538: The Politics of Local Economic Development
This course examines the process of local economic development with an emphasis on the interaction of political and economic factors. It explores the extent to which local (as compared to state and federal) officials can influence business location decisions, the specific strategies often utilized, and the way they have changed over time. It also considers the winners and losers from the "economic development game" with a focus on New York and Long Island.  
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 540: Data Applications in Public Policy
This course studies the strategic use of data to support public policy proposal design and implementation. With a focus on U.S. domestic policy, the class will gain proficiency in the application of data to identify policy problems, determine causative factors, develop and implement persuasive policy proposals, and evaluate the policy effectiveness.  
Prerequisite: POL 501  
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 541: Survey Research for Public Policy
This course studies the techniques of survey research and their application in the development of public policies. Topics include survey design, survey population sampling, use of survey data to frame policy choices and attitudes towards existing policies.  
Prerequisite: POL 501  
Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 542: Regional Planning
This course addresses the planning process as a decision-making tool in the implementation of public policy in housing, land-use, transportation, and environmental management. The course also investigates...
POL 543: Environmental Politics and Policy

Federal environmental policies, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Federal Pure Waters Management Act are examined in this course. The policies, politics, and administrative activities of federal, state, and local levels are considered. Finally, the interaction of the public sector, the private sector, and citizen groups in the implementation of environmental policy is discussed. This course is offered as both CES 553 and POL 543.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 544: Human Behavior as Rational Action

Rational behavior means choosing among possible actions those that are most efficient in meeting one's goals. Whether people do so is one of the oldest unresolved disputes in philosophy and the social sciences. We will trace the main positions in this dispute as they have evolved in philosophy, psychology, economics, anthropology and sociology. Even if individuals do act rationally, can we assume that the large scale social patterns that result are necessarily effective? Readings will consider the topic abstractly, but also in the concrete settings of small intimate groups, formal organizations, and primitive and modern economic, social and political systems in both stable and revolutionary situations.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 553: Foundations: Comparative, International

Survey and evaluation of the major theoretical approaches, issues, and problems in comparative political analysis. The course examines such areas as political development, empirical democratic theory, or political socialization, along with a detailed examination of one or more selected non-American political systems.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 560: American Democracy: Its Critics and Defenders

This course will examine the central components of American democratic government. Critics and defenders of the over 200 year-old Constitution (Congress, President, Supreme Court) will be discussed, as will arguments surrounding the role of political parties, pressure groups, and the bureaucracy. Most readings will be from contemporary authors and reference sources. This course is offered as both CES 560 and POL 560.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 561: Dynamics of Public Opinion

This course provides an overview of the literature on public opinion. The course will start by considering the micro-foundations of opinions and the psychology of opinion holding. How much do people know about politics and other aspects of the social world? What are the consequences of differences in knowledge and attitude strength? Building from there, we will discuss the structure of attitudes and opinions, specifically, the nature of political ideology. A number of determinants of opinions will be discussed including values and personality. Finally, the course will examine the dynamics of attitudes and opinions and their relationship to government policy and larger social trends.

Offered

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 562: Passionate Politics: Mobilization, Interest Groups, and Social Movements

This course discusses political mobilization: the factors that motivate political involvement and the consequences that high levels of public engagement have on elections and the development of public policy. The course begins with several high profile examples of citizen engagement that have had noticeable impact on American politics. This first section also includes a discussion of the various ways in which Americans can be mobilized from involvement in election campaigns to the distribution of political information via social networks. The course then shifts focus to cover the psychology of political mobilization in detail, including the importance of group memberships and identities, emotions, and values. An entire unit of the course is devoted to psychology of group membership in which the mobilizing power of identities and the role of politically motivating emotions are discussed at length. Finally the last section of the course is devoted to specific examples of political mobilization in the U.S. including the environment/green movement, issue groups such as the right-to-life movement, racial politics, and highly polarized partisan politics. Overall, the course is designed to illuminate the psychology of political mobilization and apply these principles to contemporary American politics.

Offered

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 563: Thinking and Emotion in Public Opinion

This course reviews recent research in cognitive, social, and political psychology on the interplay between cognition and emotion in explaining social and political behavior. Traditionally, political science has viewed thinking as a conscious cognitive process of intentional deliberation. Emotions and other feelings have been ignored or seen as interfering with rational thought. Moreover, until recently there has been almost no consideration of what psychologists call implicit or unconscious thought processes in understanding public opinion. Psychologists and communications researchers now understand that implicit events and processes (e.g., symbol or music cues in political advertising) can have profound effects on how citizens evaluate political candidates, groups, and issues. We will examine the traditional approach to political cognition and consider how this recent research may alter our understanding of the formation of public opinion.

Offered

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 564: Social Influences

In studying public opinion, people often focus on the arguments, information, and overt attempts to persuade. In doing so, we neglect the impact of the social environment in which an individual is situated. Friends, family, and aspects of the broader social environment all deeply influence the attitudes people hold, the tenacity with which they hold them, and the political behaviors they engage in. Rather than focusing on direct persuasion, this course emphasizes the effect social context can have upon people's opinions even without overt argumentation or even information exchange. Students will learn about the influence of 1) other individuals (e.g., socialization, social network influence), 2) social roles (e.g., power, obedience) 3) societal influence (e.g., normative influence, conformity, deviance & rejection), and 4) influence from other environmental sources (e.g. priming).

Offered

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 565: Persuasion and Propaganda

Politics at its core is about persuasion. It is about argumentation and debate, and about bringing citizens to a particular way of thinking about an issue, candidacy, or
event. Given its centrality in the political process, understanding the dynamics of political persuasion should be a high priority for the discipline. In a more theoretical vein, the concept of “attitude” is among the most indispensable in the social sciences. This course is intended to provide a survey of contemporary theory and research on attitude formation and change. It is not intended to be a general course on the mass media, but rather is concerned only with mass media research as it pertains to individual-level political attitude processes. The course is divided into the following three sections: (1) A consideration of basic concepts (e.g., what is an “attitude”), methodological challenge, and recent developments (e.g., the distinction between implicit and explicit attitudes); (2) An overview of major psychological theories of persuasion that attempt to answer Harold Lasswell’s classic question: Who says what, in which channel, to whom, and with what effect? (3) An examination of the major agents of political persuasion - the mass media, political elites, social context, and interpersonal processes. 

Offered
Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 566: The Psychology of Voting

The course examines the key motivations, attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs that guide voters in the process of making up their minds in choosing candidates in elections, including the decision to turn out at all in elections. The list of topics includes party identification (acquisition, genetic basis, development over the life cycle, and historic change); opinions about policy issues and the conceptualization of politics in ideological terms; the impact of valence issues (the economy and national security); perceptions of candidates (personal as well as political qualities); group influence on individual decisions, particularly racial attitudes; and the impact of the campaign (media ads, debates etc.) on vote choices.

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 567: Culture, Values, and Public Opinion

This course investigates the evolution of values, cleavages, political space, and issues in cross-national perspective (with particular focus on the advanced industrialized countries of the US, Europe, Israel, Japan, and Australia). We begin our study with the analysis of traditional socio-economic cleavages in determining issue positions, and the ‘end of ideology’ theses propounded by comparative political scientists, such as Daniel Bell and Francois Fukuyama, and elaborated by scholars of the behavioral revolution such as Inglehart, Dalton, and Franklin. We then explore the strengths and weaknesses of paradigm shifts to values, buttressed by public opinion data. Bringing in cultural and neo-institutional explanations of political behavior and change, the course wed social, political space stemming from new politics, identity politics, immigration, and ‘new security’ threats in a global era. Finally, the course will conclude by looking at how different levels of analyses (individual, group, and institutions) contribute to explain contentious politics, ‘boundary-making’ (us and ‘them’), and the ‘politics of difference’ across cultures.

Fall and Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 568: Master’s Thesis

This course entails a student thesis paper under supervision of a faculty member on a research project related to methods used to study the dynamics of public opinion.

6 credits.

POL 569: Internship in MA in Political Science

The internship for the Political Science M.A. is designed to provide first-hand experience with the major research methods used to study the dynamics of public opinion. The student is expected to work in the organization and prepare a daily journal of activities, as well as a paper at the conclusion of the course, apply program knowledge to the internship activities. Permission of Program Director is required.

6 credits.

POL 571: Moral Politics

Many political issues ranging from capital punishment to same-sex marriage to wealth redistribution are moral issues. This course will use moral psychology to better understand public opinion, political debates, and political behavior. We will examine how moral judgement differs from judgments based on self interest and altruism. We will address the role of moral condemnation in political debates and how moral accusations clash with arguments based on non-moral considerations such as economics, group loyalty, or authority. Topics include alternative moral frames, liberal-conservative differences, moral metaphors, and moral emotions. We will apply these concepts to understand public opinion about political issues surrounding property, fairness, sexuality, religion, and violence.

Semesters offered- Fall and Spring Must be a student in POLMA program

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 595: Internship Public Policy

Prerequisite: Permission of GPD

3-6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

May be repeated for credit.

POL 596: Directed Policy Research

Student works under supervision of faculty member on research project related to public policy.

1-6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 597: Master’s Paper in Public Policy

This course is primarily for students already employed in related field. In lieu of internship, student writes a Master’s Paper which goes beyond their normal employment duties to apply theory and methods to a particular policy issue.

6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 598: Thesis Registration

May be repeated for credit.

POL 599: Internship in Public Policy

This course is an applied internship in a public, not-for-profit, or private sector organization that deals with public policy. The student works in the organization and prepares a daily journal of activities, as well as a paper at the conclusion of the course, applying program knowledge to the internship activities.

3-6 credits, S/U grading

May be repeated for credit.

POL 600: Research Project

A two-semester introduction to research for first-year students. The course introduces issues of research design through lectures and presentations of current research by faculty members. Each student designs his or her own research paper under the guidance of a faculty member familiar with his or her area of interest. Final papers are due in the beginning of May.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

May be repeated for credit.

POL 601: Foundations: Public Policy and Political Economy

A systematic introduction to the principles of political economy. Develops a microeconomic model and approach to public policy analysis. A major part of the course is devoted to student projects that analyze the political economy of a governmental policy.
POL 602: Applied Data Analysis I
The application of statistical and mathematical models to the analysis of political data: introduction to the research process and to topics in measurement, basic descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 603: Applied Data Analysis II
The application of statistical and mathematical models to the analysis of political data: regression analysis.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 604: Applied Data Analysis III
The application of statistical methods to the analysis of political data. The emphasis is on diagnosing and dealing with violations of assumptions of statistical models. Topics covered include advanced regression, models for discrete dependent variables, systems of equations, and selection bias.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 605: Foundations: American Politics
A review of the basic political science literature on American politics, with emphasis on American political institutions.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 606: Time Series Analysis
This seminar will consider statistical models for political processes observed over time. The major topics will include cointegration, time varying parameter models and duration models.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 607: Social Survey in Contemporary Society
This course on political socialization focuses on continuity and change in political attitudes and behavior across the life span. Topics include the stability of political attitudes—contrasting the greater durability of political partisanship and basic values with the relative instability of issue positions; the social psychology of attitude change, which lends some insight into the conditions under which attitudes are most likely to change; the importance of political period or era as a determinant of political attitudes and behavior; and the existence and coherence of distinct political generations. Some attention is also given to the political changes that accompany old age, including changes in attitude and behavior linked to growing dependency on the Social Security and Medicare systems.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 608: Foundations: Political Psychology, Behavior
A review and analysis of the political behavior literature, including such topics as attitude formation and change, belief systems, political socialization, demographic and small group influences on political beliefs and conduct, political leadership, electoral behavior, elite vs. mass politics, decision making, personality and politics, political conformity, and protest.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 609: Advanced Research Design
A practical application of topics in the philosophy of science to research design. Students prepare their dissertation proposal as a part of this course.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 610: Foundations II: Experimental Design and Methods
An overview of experimental research with an emphasis on experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation. Students develop the ability to critically evaluate experimental research. Students also participate in the development, implementation, and analysis of a laboratory experiment.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 611: Game Theory for Political Science
Introduction to formal models of strategic behavior in static, dynamic, and repeated games. Technical emphasis is formulation and solution of games of complete and incomplete information; a variety of equilibrium concepts will be introduced. Substantive applications include spatial models of candidate behavior in elections; agenda control and bargaining in legislatures; lobbying by interest groups; common pool resource problems; and cooperation between rivals.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

POL 612: Theories of Policy Making
An introduction to theories of policy making, especially policy formulation, stressing reading and thinking about classics and acquiring skills necessary for theorizing, including mathematical modeling and formal theory. Laboratories focus on improving special skills (e.g., optimization) and theorizing.
about particular policy areas (e.g., pork barrel politics).
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 622: Bureaucracy and the Policy Process**

An examination of bureaucracy as part of the policy-making process. This course reviews theoretical explanations for the bureaucracy as a political institution and implications of its rapid growth since the New Deal. It also looks inside bureaucratic organizations, examining factors that influence the exercise of discretion and policy implementation.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 629: Experimental Game Theory**

Surveys experimental tests of formal models derived from political economy and game theory, and applies behavioral and social-psychological theories to explain deviations from equilibrium behavior. The methodologies of psychological and economic experiments are contrasted and explored. Substantive applications include social trust, bargaining power, agenda control, committee decision making, common pool resource problems, and political persuasion.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 631: Political Cognition**

Surveys the contemporary psychological literature on human memory and cognition, with emphasis on applications to political information processing.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 632: Mass Communication and Political Persuasion**

In-depth examination of the role of mass media in the political process and the psychological dynamics of media influence. Effects of the media on public opinion and voting. Implications of media influence on democratic theory.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 633: Social Influence and Group Processes in Political Decision Making**

Review of contemporary theories of social influence processes and group decision making, with emphasis on applications to decision making in politics. Special focus on small-group methods and research applications.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 634: Behavioral Decision Theory**

Emphasizes psychological theories of judgment and choice and prediction of the errors that individual decision makers are likely to make. These ideas are applied to a variety of political contexts.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 664: Advanced Institutions**

**POL 670: Advanced Topics: Political Economy I**

An intensive examination of major substantive and methodological concerns involved in the study of political economy.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 671: Advanced Topics: Political Economy II**

Reading and research in the area of political economy.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 672: Advanced Topics: American Politics I**

A seminar in American institutions and processes, focusing on current research in such areas as Congress, the Supreme Court, the presidency, political parties, or bureaucracy.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 673: Advanced Topics: American Politics II**

A continuation of POL 672.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 674: Advanced Topics: Comparative Politics I**

Readings and research papers on topics in comparative politics. Particular attention is given to concepts and methods identified with the field.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 675: Advanced Topics: Comparative Politics II**

**POL 676: Advanced Topics: Methods I**

A course reviewing the literature and methodology of specific areas of political science research. The course relates directly to research applications and provide students with an opportunity to apply advanced research tools to selected substantive problems.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 678: Political Decision Making**

Review of the literature and methods related to a topic or problem in contemporary political science, voting behavior, issue formation, interest groups, political economy, or personality.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 679: Advanced Topics: Political Psychology/Behavior I**

Reading and research in the area of political psychology and behavior.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 680: Directed Study**

Individual studies under the guidance of a faculty member. Subject matter varies according to the needs of the student.
1-6 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 681: Directed Study**

Individual studies under the guidance of a faculty member. Subject matter varies according to the needs of the student.
1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 690: Research Colloquium**

Students participate in weekly departmental colloquia where they serve as discussants of research reports presented by individual faculty members or outside investigators reporting on current research.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

**POL 691: Research Practicum I**

A course actively involving students in an ongoing research project under the direction of a principal investigator. Students participate in all stages of the research project and are required to prepare a research report on one aspect of the project.
3 credits, S/U grading

**POL 692: Research Practicum II**

A continuation of POL 691. Students actively participate in either a second research project, where they will again prepare a research report, or continue their participation in the same project, where they are then assigned a subset of data for analysis or carry out a specific research aim of the project.
3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

**POL 693: Practicum in Teaching**

**POL 699: Dissertation Research on Campus**

Dissertation research under direction of advisor.
Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G5); permission of graduate program director. Major portion of research must take place on
SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab.  
Fall, Spring, and Summer, 1-9 credits, S/U grading  
May be repeated for credit.

POL 700: Dissertation Research off Campus - Domestic  
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5).  
Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces.  
Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus.  
All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor.  
Fall, Spring, 1-9 credits, S/U grading  
May be repeated for credit.

POL 701: Dissertation Research off Campus - International  
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5).  
Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces.  
Domestic students have the option of the health plan and may also enroll in MEDEX.  
International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed.  
International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance.  
If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if other plan is deemed comparable.  
All international students must received clearance from an International Advisor.  
Fall, Spring, 1-9 credits, S/U grading  
May be repeated for credit.

POL 800: Summer Research  
May be repeated for credit.