

Bachelor in Political Science

Course Descriptions

Programme Compulsory Courses

POL 101 – Introduction to Political Sciences

This course aims to identify the basic concepts and terminology in the field of political science, such as the concept of politics and political science, the relationship between political science and other humanities, and the research methods in political science. It also identifies the state, its concept, its origin and its function. It aims to provide the basic ideas of some of the ancient Greek and Roman thinkers. It includes the most important thinkers of the Renaissance, religious reform, and the modern century; the kinds of states, the kinds of governments and the issues of the political sociology, such as the relationship between the state and the society; and the study of parties and public opinion. It gives a general idea about international politics, international organizations and international law.

(Prerequisite: None)

POL 124 – Principles of Law

This course deals with the concept of law, its characteristics, and the relationship between law and the social sciences. It examines the concept of the legal base, and its characteristics, sources and divisions. It also addresses the definition of public law and private law, identifying the rights and the types of rights, the pillars of rights, and the legal protection of rights. It covers the concept of legal personality, its characteristics and kinds.

(Prerequisite: None)

POL 122 – Bahrain's Political System

This course covers the definition of the political system and its characteristics. This is in addition to studying the constitutional framework and the constitutional framework of the Bahraini political system, including organizing the authorities' organization and the relationship between them. It shows the map of the Bahraini political forces, and the map of the Bahrain political regime and its movement.

(Prerequisite: POL 221)

POL 125 – Constitutional Law

This course deals with the concept of the constitution, constitutional law, sources of constitutional law, its development and its types. It analyses the relationship between the constitution and the political regime, the ways it has been amended, and its modifications. It also compares and distinguishes between the censorship of the constitution of laws, and compares different constitutions.

(Prerequisite: POL 124)

POL 131 – Principles of International Relations

This course handles the concept of international relations and the key related theories, in addition to the courses for international relations. In addition, it covers the phases of development of the international political system, its properties and the key factors that affect it; the study of foreign policy and mechanisms of its implementation; and the effect of decision-makers on international relations. Furthermore, the course includes the forms of decisions that have a deep effect on the overall international conditions. Finally, it will handle the principle of the balance of power and social security system in international relations.

(Prerequisite: None)

POL 141 – Principles of Diplomacy

This course comprises the related concepts and characteristics of diplomacy. The course also handles the historical development of diplomacy in some ancient societies. This course examines the concept of diplomacy, and the study of the development and characteristics of modern diplomacy. In addition, it includes the study of some forms of diplomatic work, particularly diplomacy between heads of states, ministers of foreign affairs, special diplomatic missions and public diplomacy. It also covers the sources of the rules of permanent diplomatic exchanges and its conditions, the conditions of its practice and permanent diplomatic missions. Finally, the course deals with the end of diplomatic missions in reference to the reasons for and consequences of this.

(Prerequisite: None)

POL 211 –Ancient & Medieval Systems

This course deals with the study of political thought in both the Western and the Islamic world in ancient and medieval times. It also includes examples of senior intellectuals in the Western (Greek and Roman thought, and Christian political thought that came before the Renaissance) and Islamic civilizations, from the beginning of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula in the seventh century to the period of the Renaissance in Europe. It highlights the possibility of benefiting from it in contemporary times by focusing on the understanding of political phenomena, and the study of the issues that attracted political thought in the ancient and medieval eras. This is in addition to the study of the key ideas of some Arab and Muslim intellectuals.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)

POL 221 – Comparative Political Systems

This course deals with comparative political systems from a comparative analytical perspective, based on many courses on the study of comparative political systems. It focuses on the study of the characteristics of the various political regimes, such as presidential, parliamentary and mixed regimes, and parliamentary assemblies. The course includes applied models, such as the American regime, the British regime, the Swiss regime and the French regime, and other examples from developing countries. In addition, it covers the future of political regimes under globalization.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)

POL 234– International Organizations

This course deals with international organizations as active units in the international regime besides the other units. The course handles their concept, historical beginning, objectives, membership conditions and institutional structure. In addition, this course includes an evaluation of the jobs and work done by the international organizations, and their effect on the international system. It analyses the effect of globalization and international variables on the effectiveness of an international organization. The course focuses on examples such as the United Nations, its branches and specialized agencies; the League of Arab States; the Gulf Cooperation Council; and the Organization of African Unity.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

POL 233 – Geopolitics

This course deals with the concepts of political geography, its relations with geopolitics and the differences between them. It also discusses the research methods used in each. It examines the elements of the state, nature, humans and the economy; its impact on the political internal attitude of the state; and its regional and international role. The course deals with the theories of force and their effect on international politics until the Second World War. It also discusses the influence of technological developments on political geography and its modern concepts. It includes the study of cases for some of the regional border disputes in some Arab countries, including the Arabian Gulf and, in particular, the Kingdom of Bahrain. It also focuses on the geopolitical characteristics of the Arab world.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

POL 251 – Political Sociology

This course deals with the study of issues and political social concepts, and the relationship between the state and society. The course also discusses political classes, the role social establishments play, and public opinion trends and the factors that influence them. In addition, it reveals the social movements, political parties, pressure groups and lobbies, interests, political awareness, bureaucracy and political ideology.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)

POL 252 - Political Development

This course handles the concept of political development and its place in political science, as well as the various theories of political development. The course teaches the student the tools, assets and crises of political development, in addition to the role of political development in the development of the capacities of a political system. The course reviews examples and case studies for political development.

(Prerequisite: POL 251)

POL 312 – Modern & Contemporary Political Thought

This course deals with the development of political thinking since the Renaissance, and the religious reforms in Europe and the present time. Since thought is an outcome of reality, this course handles the study of the social and political dimensions of the environment that contribute to forming the main ideas of the modern and contemporary intellectuals. It also covers the ideas of the Arab and Muslim thinkers, which deal with power, authority, the emergence of the state, the relationship between the ruler and the ruled, the relationship between politics and behaviour, and the distribution of the ruling regimes.

(Prerequisite: POL 211)

POL 313 – Political Theory

This course deals with the concept of political theory. It explains the differences between the concept, model and theory. It also explains the models and theories that were introduced in order to comprehend and analyse the political world (national and international). It presents the models and theories (behavioural and post behavioural, structural, systematic, and systematic communication), and the analysis tools used in its structure.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)

POL 324 – Arab Political Systems

The curriculum for this course handles the concept and features of the Arab political systems; the classification standards, the environments, the mechanisms of decision making, and the constitutional and legal framework thereof; as well as the ideologies prevailing within the Arab world and Arab civil society organizations. Moreover, the curriculum handles the Arab regional system and subsidiary regional systems by studying the internal and external environment thereof; some examples of the Arab political systems, the general features thereof and the most important issues thereof; as well as some examples of the Arab political systems.

(Prerequisite: POL 221)

POL 342 – Comparative Foreign Policy

This course covers the concept of foreign policy, the key concepts related thereto, the main tools of foreign policy, the research methodologies in the fields of study and analysis, and the identification of the internal and external factors that affect the foreign-policy-making of the states. It examines comparative studies of the foreign policies of many countries, particularly large countries (such as the foreign policies of the United States and the Russian Federation), in addition to the uniform foreign policy of the European Union states, and developing countries. The comparison is carried out on two levels. The first level is the foreign policy of those countries on specific topics, such as objectives and limitations, and the second is the study of the foreign policies of those countries in terms of their attitudes towards the Arab region.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

POL 343 – Diplomacy in Theory & Practice

This course handles the study of the concept of diplomacy as a basic means of relations among countries and their role in international diplomatic work, particularly under globalization and the communication revolution. In addition, it covers the study of the preparation of diplomatic executives, such as specialized institutes and institutions. The course includes the function of diplomatic language and art of its use, as well as its importance in the performance of the work of diplomatic missions. In addition, this course covers the study of the diplomatic corpus, the functions of its dean and its role in drawing up the relations of the corpus members, plus the protection of diplomatic immunities and privileges on the level of practice. The course deals with the central and ancillary agencies of the foreign relations department, the role of military and security organizations in the decision-making on foreign relations, interference in the tasks of those agencies, and the means of cooperation between them. The course reviews the diplomacy of international conferences; the diplomacy of international organizations; some other types of diplomacy, such as preventive diplomacy, forced diplomacy, direct diplomacy, summit diplomacy, events diplomacy, secret diplomacy, public diplomacy and popular diplomacy; and the role of opinion in diplomatic work.

(Prerequisite: POL 141)

POL 361 – Methodology of Political Science

This course deals with the study of the scientific methods used in political science. It focuses on the core concepts of political phenomena and how to analyse them. The course explains the moral dimensions used in the production of knowledge. This course assists the student to truly identify some of the general approaches, such as the historical, descriptive and comparative approaches, in addition to approaches in political science such as the systematic, institutional, groups and distinguished approaches. This course also assists the student to identify the quantitative and qualitative methods for gathering data and information used in the political research methods. This includes core issues such as gathering data and organizing its use, quotations, margins, reference documentation and scientific language. It also trains students on scientific presentations.

(Prerequisite: BA 303)

POL 362 – Field Training

This course is designed to offer the students of political science the chance to gain experience in the workplace and an understanding of how to transform their academic knowledge into practice. It focuses on promoting practical skills in order to help the student gain more knowledge and all the necessary skills to achieve professional advancement. Such skills can only be developed in the workplace. This course assists students in working properly in an environment with different cultures. In addition to that, it aids students with reflecting on their knowledge of the skills that they gain and, accordingly, they will benefit from the experiences they have during the training period.

(Prerequisite: 90 Credit Hours)

POL 434 – The Theories of International Relations

This course handles the theoretical frameworks and concepts related to international relations. The course focuses on the scientific theorization of international relations, beginning with the primary contributions of the theories of international relations, including liberal theory, realistic theory and Marxist theory, continues to the British and Chinese schools of the theories of international relations, and also handles critical theory, poststructuralism, structuralism, feminism and green theory.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

POL 439 – Contemporary International Issues E (Prerequisite: ENG 102 + POL 131)

This course will focus on significant themes and debates in the arena of contemporary international politics. The course will examine several contemporary issues that will continue to influence international politics for many years, such as terrorism and nuclear proliferation, international terrorism and efforts to combat it, refugees and human rights issues, racial discrimination, environmental issues and climate change.

POL 445 – Readings in Diplomacy

Diplomacy reading is an academically challenging BSc-level course. It aims to enhance student's skills in diplomatic language, both spoken and in text format. This course intends to develop the student's practical skills in the field of diplomatic correspondence. Furthermore, it seeks to improve the student's critical skills, particularly in analysing reports and texts on several diplomatic topics, such as letters of accreditation and protocols. The core curriculum encompasses an intensive course on aspects of treaties, agreements and diplomatic reports. It focuses on case studies of negotiation agreements, mediation reports, public announcements and advertising, and addresses many practical examples and styles related to e-diplomacy.

(Prerequisite: ENG 102)

POL 463 – Readings in Politics E

The course aims to develop student's skills in political science English topics. The course intends to enhance the student's knowledge skills in the field of academic readings on political topics. Also, the course seeks to improve student's critical reading skills, particularly in analysing and evaluating articles on several political topics such as legitimacy, social movements, political thoughts, civil society, democracy, political socialization, the political system, political communication, ideologies, political values, the level of governments and political development.

(Prerequisite: ENG 102)

POL 464 – Applied Research in Political Science

This course aims to enable the student to use the curriculum and research methods in the study of issues relevant to political science. It presents basic research knowledge and opens horizons for the students for scientific research. The student will be able to collect data, tabulate it and analyse it in order to reach scientific conclusions regarding the target subjects. He/she will be taught to focus on the values and morals of scientific research, and form a link between the scientific side of preparing scientific research and the practical side, in order to contribute to enriching educational operations in the field of political science. The research will be prepared by one student or groups of students under the supervision of the instructor, and the overall research will be assisted by a specialized scientific committee.

(Prerequisite: POL 362 + POL 361)

POL 465 – Ethics in Politics

This course deals with the concept of ethics and related ideas, and the various approaches to the study of ethics in politics. In addition, it includes the study of ethics in the Western and Islamic political ideologies; the requirements of political ethics, such as justice, equality, transparency and the respect of human rights; accountability and the rule of law; environmental issues and the rules of water; humanitarian intervention in the time of war and disaster; and the efforts of the international community on those various issues.

(Prerequisite: POL 312)

POL 438 – International Economic System

This course covers the concept of the international economic system and related ideas, as well as the rise and development of the international economic system, particularly in the period that followed the Second World War. This is along with analysis of the elements and components of the economic system through the examination of its official and other appropriate institutions, and their role in the various international economic interactions. The course handles the issues and policies of the international economic system, specifically those related to international trade, international finance and economic development. Finally, the course deals with global economic crises, such as the crisis of the international monetary system, the crisis of technology transfer, foreign debt, the energy crisis and the global financial crisis.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

Programme Elective Courses: (6 Credit hours/2 courses to be chosen from this group)

POL 246 – Arabs' Neighbouring Countries

This course aims to focus the light on the essence of the neighbouring countries, and the foreign orientation of these countries towards the Arab states because of their geographical location. The topics of this course will be covered by discussing the policies adopted by the neighbouring states towards the Arab countries and the ways through which the main issues are diagnosed, such as national security, border crises, water crises, minorities, development and international trade.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

POL 326 – Electoral Systems

This course deals with the study of the electoral system from an analytical and comparative point of view. It analyses the concepts and idioms of the voting system, the rules related to it, the basis and methods of election, and the primary procedures of elections. The course also covers the different aims and kinds of election systems, the study of these systems, and their characteristics and advantages. The course highlights the important role of the election system and its relation to democracy. The course includes practical samples of modern and contemporary election systems.

(Prerequisite: POL 221)

POL 353 – Political Parties

This course aims to introduce the concept of the party and its origin, the kinds of parties and the criteria for the classification of parties through their membership, size and organization; and the relationship among the party, its members and society. The course will also focus on the study of the different party systems: the one-party system, the bilateral-party system and the dominating party system. Then, there will be clarification of the nature

of the party phenomena, and the study of scientific trends that seek to form a general theory that rules the party phenomena. In addition, this course discusses the relationship between the political parties, along with civil society institutions and the role of the political parties, via the relationship with ruling institutions, and the relationships of the parties with the opinion institutions.

(Prerequisite: POL 251)

POL 354 –Public Opinion & Media

This course deals with the different definitions of public opinion and the media, its development, and its relationship with social sciences such as political science and psychology. It also deals with the formation of public opinion and how to manipulate it, its characteristics, and the ethical sides of public opinion. It also covers the differences between opinion, tendency, ethics and behaviour; how to distinguish between public opinion and rumour; and how to overcome them. The student will study the types of modern media and their role in building public opinion. There is also a focus on the social responsibility of the media and its effect on contemporary society.

(Prerequisite: POL 251)

POL 366 –Special Topics in Political Science

This course handles two topics. First, the strategic importance of Africa, and its effect on Arab national security in general and the Gulf in particular. It elaborates on the problems of Africa, such as borders, civil wars and terrorism, then it moves on to discuss the roles of superpowers –the United States, China, Russian and European powers – in Africa. The second topic is the US elections. This topic investigates US political life, the roles played by the official political institutions and the strategic value of the current US elections.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)

POL 414 – Contemporary Political Ideologies

This course covers many general issues about ideology: the concept, functions and the essence of the state of ideology, plus the criteria for classifying ideology. It discusses ideology and its role in societies, and conducts an assessment of the political practice of ideology. The course also covers a number of contemporary ideologies: liberalism, communism, socialism, fascism, the Islamic movements, Arab nationalism, feminism, etc.

(Prerequisite: POL 312)

POL 436 – International Crises Management

This course looks at the definition of an international crisis and its related concepts, reasons, characteristics, types and management methods. In addition, the course handles the processes for containing and countering crises, the phase of the reinstatement and restoration of balance after the end of the crisis, and the removal of its consequences. The course includes the study of the relationship of the mutual effect between international crisis management and the structure of the international system, the role of media and communication in crisis management, and provides examples of international crisis management.

(Prerequisite: POL 131)

POL 467 – Strategic Studies

This course deals with the conceptual framework of strategy, the related terms and characteristics of strategy, the nature of a strategic environment, the effects of a strategic environment, strategic thinking, and the relationship between the policy-maker and the strategic expert. It also covers the role of the internal environment in making a strategy, its effects on the strategic levels, the international environment of strategy, strategic evaluation, drafting of strategy and American strategic study.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)