

A Brief Description of the Courses of the Bachelor of Political Science Programme

First: Compulsory Courses

POL 101 - Introduction To Political Sciences

The course aims to identify basic concepts and terminology, such as the concept of politics, political science, the relationship between political science and other humanities, methods of research in political science, key concepts of political science, such as the state, its concept, origin and functions, types of states, forms of government, political parties, lobby and interest groups, public opinion, and issues of international relations, such as foreign policy, the international system, and international organisations.

POL 131 - Principles of International Relations

This course is designed to receive detailed knowledge of the theories, concepts and core principles in the field of international relations and to familiarise with the most significant transformations and interactions related to the international arena through the study of: the concept of international relations and related concepts, and access to the methods of studying international relations. The course also deals with the stages of development of the international political system and its characteristics and the most important factors affecting it, besides the study of foreign policy, its objectives and mechanisms of implementation, and the study of national power in international relations, the research into the phenomenon of international conflict, and stand on the power balance system and collective security system in international relations, as well as identifying of military alliances and the main images of international wars.

POL 124 - Principles of Law

This course is designed to provide the student with detailed knowledge and understanding of the concept of law and its characteristics, the concept of legal regulation and its types, the relationship of law to social sciences, and the general law and its various categories. The course includes the definition of the right, its types and individuals as well as the legal protection of the right, the concept of legislation and types of legislation as well as ways of enacting such legislation, and involves the concept of legal personality where it is addressed in terms of characteristics and types.

POL 121 - Comparative political systems

This course deals with detailed knowledge and understanding of comparative political systems from a comparative analytical perspective, based on many approaches to the study of the comparative political system with a focus on studying the characteristics of different political systems of government, such as presidential,

parliamentary, mixed and parliamentary systems. The study includes applied models, such as the American system, the British system, the Swiss system and the French system, and other models of developing countries' systems, in addition to the future of political systems under globalisation.

(Prerequisite: POL 101)

POL 125 - Constitutional Law

This course is designed to provide the student with detailed knowledge and understanding of the concept of Constitution and Constitutional Law, the origins of constitutions, the methods and types of constitutions, the information use and systematising to analyse the relationship between the Constitution and the political system and the reasons for the supremacy of constitutional rules. The course provides information and ideas to compare the ways of amending constitutions, monitoring the constitutionality and the different ways of terminating constitutions, and analysing the development of the Bahraini constitutional system.

(Prerequisite: POL124)

POL 211 - Ancient & Medieval Systems

This course is designed to cover detailed knowledge, understanding, basic skills and some advanced skills in the following topics: the environment generating political ideas in the civilisations of the ancient East, Western and Islamic civilisations in ancient and medieval times, with the study of models for the great thinkers of Western civilisation (Greek, Roman and Christian culture), and Islamic Al-Farabi, Al-Mawardi, Al-Ghazali, and Ibn Khaldun, to combine old and contemporary ideas. This requires focusing on understanding political phenomena and examining the main issues that have preoccupied political opinion in ancient and medieval times.

(Prerequisite: POL101)

POL 268 - Readings in Politics (E)

This course is designed to provide students with advanced knowledge and understanding of about the rentier state; economic interdependence; the politics of oil; food and water security in the Middle East. As well, this course is structured to enable students to use advanced level skills to deal with advanced and some complex topics such as refugees. Use a range of approaches to critically analyse several political topics like public policy-making; climate change; stability; governance; expatriates and Arab integration.

(Prerequisite: ENG102+ POL 101)

POL 234 - International Organizations

This course is designed to provide advanced knowledge and skills in international organisations and deals with the following topics: Study of international organisations as active units in the international system as well as other units, where

their concept, historical origin, objectives, membership conditions, and institutional structure are addressed. It also studies its personality both legally and functionally at the international and regional level. It also discusses the study of international and regional organisations and the criteria of discrimination between them. It also assesses the functions and work of international organisations, their effectiveness in the international system, and analyses the impact of globalisation and international variables on the effectiveness of international regulation. It focuses as models on the United Nations, its branches and specialised agencies, the League of Arab States, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

(Prerequisite: POL131)

POL 251 - Political Sociology

This course is designed to provide students with advanced knowledge on some topics of political sociology, a wide range of assessment and critical methods, and some advanced skills in communication, presentation of ideas and working in changing contexts, throughout the main topics of political sociology such as the relationship of the state with society and the concept of modern civil society, political elites and their sources of power, public opinion and its significance and methods of measurement, bureaucracy, political culture, political upbringing, ideology, political participation, political parties, lobby and interest groups, and theories of development in developing countries.

(Prerequisite: POL101)

POL 233 - Geopolitics

This course is designed to provide advanced knowledge and skills in geopolitics. It deals with the following topics: basic concepts and elements of geopolitics, Methods of scientific research in this specialization, natural, human and economic elements of the state, its impact on its domestic political behaviour, and on their regional and international role, and the relationship between international relations and geopolitics, theories of power and its impact on international politics and developments in this matter, the impact of technological progress on geopolitics and its modern concepts, the introduction of models for some regional disputes over water and borders with a focus on the geopolitical characteristics of the Arab world, including the Gulf region and particularly the Kingdom of Bahrain.

(Prerequisite: POL131)

POL 322 - Bahrain's Political System

This course is designed to cover advanced skills and knowledge in the following topics: characteristics and environment of the Bahraini political system, the constitutional and legal framework of the Bahraini regime including the organisation of public authorities and their relationship, in addition to studying the internal and external operations of the Bahraini political system in which the dynamic nature of the system is shown.

(Prerequisite: POL 121)

POL 312 - Modern & Contemporary Political Thought

This course is designed to cover advanced knowledge and skills and some specialised skills in the following topics: the environment that generates political ideas in modern and contemporary times, with the study of models for the great thinkers of Western civilisation (Martin Luther, Jean Calvin, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau) , Karl Marx, etc.), and Arab and Islamic (such as Mohammed Abdo, Abdul Rahman al-Kawakibi, Malik bin Nabi, Ismail Faruqi, and Muhammad Abed al-Jabri), to link reformist ideas with the current reality, which entails focusing on understanding political phenomena, and studying the main issues that have occupied political thinking in modern and contemporary times.

(Prerequisite: POL211)

POL 325 - Arab Political Systems

This course is designed to cover advanced skills and knowledge in the following topics: characteristics of Arab political systems, classification criteria, their environment and decision-making mechanisms, and the constitutional and legal framework, as well as ideologies prevailing in the Arab world as well as institutions of Arab civil society. The course includes a description of the Arab regional system and sub-regional systems throughout the study of their internal and external environment and some models of Arab political systems and their general features and the most important issues in addition to models for some Arab political systems.

(Prerequisite: POL121)

POL 313 - Political Theory

This course is designed to cover advanced knowledge and skills and some specialised skills in the following topics: political theory and its relationship with other branches of political science, topics at the heart of political phenomena, theoretical methods used in the past, the tools of analysis used recently, scientific method empirical, behavioural school, post-behavioural school, the set of models used in the framework of the analysis of the national policy world (structural, functional, systematic and cultural), and the set of theories used in the framework of the analysis of the international policy world (communication theory, theories of automatic equilibrium, and theories of equilibrium).

(Prerequisite: POL312)

POL 342 - Comparative Foreign Policy

This course is designed to cover advanced knowledge and skills in the following topics: the concept of foreign policy and the most important concepts associated with it, its tools, research methods in the field of study and analysis, and internal and external factors affecting the foreign policy-making of States, while the applied side

includes a comparative study of models of foreign policies of countries in particular, the big countries, such as the foreign policy of the United States of America and Russia, as well as the unified foreign policy of the European Union countries, and the foreign policy of developing countries, are compared at two levels: in particular topics, such as objectives and determinants, and the level of study of foreign policy of these countries through their attitudes towards the Arab region.

(Prerequisite: POL233)

POL 327 - Public Administration

This course deals with the study of advanced knowledge and understanding of public administration from an analytical perspective, based on many approaches to management study, with a focus on studying the four functions of public administration such as planning, organisation, leadership and control. The course includes the bureaucratic issues in the administrative apparatus of the state as well as centralisation and decentralisation, in addition to linking decentralisation to local development. Finally, there is a practical part on the administrative system of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

(Prerequisite: POL121)

POL 361 - Methodology of Political Science

This course is designed to provide the student with critical knowledge and specialised skills in the curricula of political science research. This course deals with the following topics: detailed concepts in political science research, the study of political phenomenon and analysis, ethics of scientific research and intellectual property. It examines the research strategies included in quantitative, qualitative and mixed research methods. The course is also exposed practically throughout many methods, such as workshops to prepare a plan and research report. It also includes training students to work in a research team, collecting and organising data and information, and using them and presenting scientific works.

(Prerequisite: BA303)

POL 354 - Public Opinion and Media

The course deals with the definition of public opinion and the media and their origin and development, as well as their relationship with some other social sciences. The course deals with the factors of formation and change of public opinion and its features, characteristics, types and behavioural aspects in public opinion and the role of the media in its formation. It also examines the relationship between the media and public opinion on the one hand and the political authority on the other, as well as the leadership role of society and political authority over the media. The course examines the differences between opinion, direction, behaviour and the distinction between public opinion and rumours. It also examines the impact of modern media on political life in society.

(Prerequisite: POL251)

POL 343 - Diplomacy in Theory & Practice

This course is designed to provide the student with detailed and critical knowledge and specialised skills in diplomatic work, starting with the role of international diplomatic work, particularly in the light of globalisation and the communications revolution, as well as the concept of the diplomatic corps and its functions, throughout the study of the preparation of diplomatic cadres, such as organisations and specialised institutions, and the function of diplomatic language, and conduct critical analysis of the central and subsidiary organs of the Department of External Relations, the impact of public opinion on diplomatic decision-making, the forms of diplomatic work, the permanent bilateral diplomatic exchange system, the sources of its rules and the conditions of its practice. In order to identify the problems of contemporary diplomacy and identify and implement solutions related to them, and then evaluate some types of diplomacy, such as preventive diplomacy and coercive diplomacy and secret diplomacy, and public diplomacy and popular diplomacy.

(Prerequisite: POL234)

POL 439 - Contemporary International Issues (E)

This course is designed to provide students with critical knowledge about several contemporary issues that will continue to influence international politics for many years, such as terrorism and nuclear proliferation. This course is framed to enable students to use specialist level skills to deal with advanced issues such as an international terrorism and efforts to combat it, refugees and human rights issues, racial discrimination, environmental issues and climate change.

(Prerequisite POL131 + POL268)

POL 362 - Internship

This course is designed to equip students of political science with experience, bridge the gap between scientific theories, concepts and practical practices, and apply the specialised skills studied, which increases the chances of professional success and career advancement in the workplace. This course also helps the student to communicate in a specialised manner with his colleagues and blend in the work environment smoothly.

(90 CR.H)

POL 433 - International Economic System (E)

This course is designed to provide students with critical knowledge about the international economic system such as the concept of the international economic system and the development of the international economy. This course is framed to enable students to use specialist skills to deal with advanced issues such as the development of the international economic system, policies of international trade,

international finance and economics development issues. This course also deals with international economic crises such as the international monetary system crisis, technology transfer crisis, external debt, energy crisis, and the global financial crises. (Prerequisite: POL131 + POL268)

POL 451 - Political Development

This course is designed to provide students with critical knowledge and specialised skills in political development, political backwardness and related concepts. The course also examines the causes, consequences and effects of political underdevelopment, theories, trends, proposals, approaches and details of political development, and the emergence and development of the study of political development and its tools. The student studies various crises of political development and its relationship with nation-building and development of the capabilities of the political system and the building of state institutions and good governance. The student concludes with a study of case studies in the field of political development. (Prerequisite: POL 251)

POL 465 - Ethics in Politics

This course is designed to provide a critical knowledge of the ethics concept, and the concepts associated with it, as well as to have detailed knowledge in the various approaches to the study of ethics in politics, as well as to conduct a critical analysis of the study of ethics in Western and Islamic political thought, and addresses models of political ethical value, such as justice, equality and integrity, and respect for human rights, as well as accountability and the rule of law, environmental issues, rules of war, humanitarian intervention in times of war and disaster, and the efforts of the international community in these various aspects. (Prerequisite: POL313)

POL434 - The Theories of International Relations

This course is designed to provide a critical knowledge of the theoretical frameworks and concepts related to international relations, and to have detailed knowledge of traditional and contemporary theories, the British and Chinese theorists of international relations, then deal with critical theory, post-structuralism, structuralism theory, feminist theory, green theory, and peaceful evolution theory. (Prerequisite: POL433)

POL 464 - Applied Research in Political Science

This course is designed to provide students with specialised skills to investigate problems and carry out scientific research to address them. This course deals with the following topics: introduction to applied research, research methods, selection of research topic, reviews of previous studies, identification of research problem,

questions and methodology, discussion of the research plan, data collection and analysis, writing the final report of the research and self-assessment report.

(Prerequisite: POL361 + POL362)

Elective Courses:

POL 366 - Special Topics in Political Science

This course is designed to provide critical knowledge of selected and influential political events in today's international life which are separatist, populist and cyber movements where countries in the world in general and the Arab world, in particular are affected by separatist movements of varying motives. The phenomenon of populism also affects public life in countries with international influence, such as the United States, Germany and some Western European countries. The course took care of the cyberspace from the point of view as a phenomenon that reflects the impact of tremendous technological progress on the dimensions of a security and political nature. Therefore, besides providing in-depth knowledge of these topics, the Rapporteur concerns about conducting a critical analysis of the study and its discussion.

(Prerequisite: POL 251)

POL 432 - Arab's Neighboring Countries

This course is designed to provide the student with a critical and detailed knowledge of the definition of the neighbouring countries and the external orientations of these countries towards the Arab countries due to the geographical locations of the different parties throughout addressing the policies adopted by the neighbouring countries towards the Arab countries, and how to address some of the key issues that matter to these countries, such as national security, border problems, water crisis and minorities.

(Prerequisite: POL 233)

POL 414 - Contemporary Political Ideology

This course is designed to cover critical knowledge, skills and specialised methods in the following topics: the concept of ideology, its characteristics and functions, what is the state, criteria for classifying ideologies, opinions and their political role in societies, and assessing the political use of ideology. The course also addresses a number of contemporary ideologies: liberalism, socialism, communism, fascism, Islamic movements, Arab nationalism, feminism, etc.) and its main thinkers.

(Prerequisite: POL 312)

POL 353 - Political Parties

The course aims to provide students with specialised concepts in relation to the study of partisan phenomenon and in terms of concept, pillars, origins and roles. It also

provides students with critical knowledge about building political parties and criticism and their relationship to the political system, as well as theoretical trends related to political parties. The course explains political and ideological parties and indicators to measure the effectiveness of parties and political parties, communication, political marketing and public opinion. The course also teaches students about the parties and party practices in Western Europe, the United States, the Arab world and other developing countries.

(Prerequisite: POL251)

POL 467 - Strategic Studies

This course is designed to address critical knowledge and understanding of theories in the conceptual framework of the strategy and related terminology, strategy attributes, the nature of the strategic environment, as well as the effects of the strategic environment, and strategic thinking, as well as the relationship between policymaker and strategist. This course is designed to understand contemporary issues and the use of specialised skills to deal with sophisticated situations in the strategy industry and its effects on the levels of strategy, and the international environment of the strategy. This course also concerns strategic assessment, strategy formulation and study of American strategy.

(Prerequisite: POL 233)

POL 326 - Electoral systems

This course deals with an analytical and comparative study of the electoral system, throughout the study of the concepts and terms associated with the voting systems, its legal adaptation, the basics and methods of elections, the preparatory procedures for the elections, the objectives, types and formats of different voting systems. The course stands on the most important electoral system and their characteristics and features, and highlights the importance of the relationship between the electoral system and democracy. The study also includes practical models of modern and contemporary electoral systems.

(Prerequisite: POL 121)

POL 436 - International Crises Management

This course is designed to address critical knowledge of international crisis management and its associated concepts, understand contemporary issues arising from international crises, and utilise specialised skills to deal with sophisticated situations to apply and analyse knowledge or practices in international crisis management, their causes, their characteristics, their types and methods of management. The course also deals with the crises containment and management, as well as the steps of restoring the situation, balancing after the end of the crisis and overcoming the consequences of the crisis. The course also concerns studying the relationship of mutual impact between the management of international crises

and the structure of the international system, the role of information and communication technologies in crisis management, and models of international crisis management.

(Prerequisite: POL 234)

POL 431 - Negotiation Skills

This course is designed to provide the student with detailed and critical knowledge and specialised skills in the art of negotiation. The course deals with the concept of negotiation, its objectives, and its historical development. It also deals with negotiating methods, elements of the negotiation process and principles of negotiation science in social, economic, political and military issues. The course focuses on the human element in the negotiation process and on the skills and rules of negotiation and psychological and moral aspects. It also deals with studying the negotiation controls of various kinds, negotiation strategies, in addition to studying the stages of the negotiation process, throughout practical models in the issues of negotiations, and tactics used in the bargaining.

(Prerequisite: POL 343)