PO 100- Introduction to Political Science (M. Smith) *Fulfills some general education requirements.*

This course takes a learn-by-doing approach. In addition to traditional lectures, class discussions, and quizzes covering major concepts in political science (median voter theory, the democratic peace, etc.), students are also required to choose a local-level project in which to become politically active. These projects do not require students to engage in “typical” politics such as supporting a political party or campaigning for a political candidate. Rather, each student is required to choose an issue about which he or she feels strongly and to work for change, applying concepts from class in the process. For example, recent student projects have included funding a school for former child soldiers in Uganda, making a local apartment complex disabled-accessible, lowering the speed limit on a dangerous stretch of highway, and getting the Emporia City Commission to proclaim 2010 Veterans’ Day in honor of veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Note: the optional AZ honors section—taken in addition to one of the regular A or B sections--adds a research paper in addition to the regular course requirements.)

Section A: MWF 10-10:50
Section B: MWF 11-11:50

PO 121- American National Government (Barnett) *Fulfills some general education requirements.*

The course covers the powers, functions, structures, and policies of American national government, the interaction of governmental and nongovernmental actors, and the different perspectives which can be used to explain these phenomena.

Section A: TR 12:30-1:50
Section B: TR 2-3:20

PO 330 – International Relations (Kelly) *Fulfills some general education requirements.*

We examine first the leading international-relations theories (realism, dependency, liberalism post-modernism), and then, we will continue with international economics (socialism/capitalism, balance of payments, trade, and currency convertibility), conflict (terms, causes, solutions), foreign policies (several U.S. presidents), law-organizations (classic cases and the United Nations, and finally, environment and future scenarios.

Section A: TR 9:30-10:50
Section B: M 6-8:50 p.m.
PO 322- State and Local Government (M. Smith)

This class is an overview of government in the U.S. states. Topics covered include different styles of representation in the state legislature, the initiative-and-referendum process (in which citizens of some states can put laws directly on the ballot), the “how a bill becomes a law” process as it really works, the roles of different actors in state government, political cultures in different states, and parties and interest groups. Current controversies discussed include such the choice between tax increases vs. budget cuts, and the role of public employee unions. Policies discussed include education, health and welfare, prisons, highways, and more.
MWF 2-2:50

PO 350- Public Administration (Barnett)
This class is a study of the structures and procedures of governmental organizations. Major emphasis will be upon the administrative process, including policy formulation, personnel management, budgeting, and problems of communication, and coordination with and among governmental organizations.
TR 9:30-10:50

PO 407- Contemporary Political Thought (M. Smith)

This class is part of a four-course sequence in political theory. All courses in this sequence are taught with no lecture, using the Socratic (question and answer) method, class discussion, original-source readings, and take-home essay exams. Students need not take the other courses in the sequence in order to take this one. In this particular theory class, we will discuss twentieth century political theory, reading books and essays by Frederich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Hannah Arendt, F. A. Hayek, and others. The overall themes are, first, the failure of enlightenment political theory, with its stress on rational thought, to stop the western world from plunging into two horrific (and irrational) world wars within thirty years’ time, and second, the return of the non-rational to political analysis.
MWF 1-1:50

PO 444 – Constitutional Law I (Kelly)

The primary focus of constitutional law is upon the reasoning of Supreme Court justices in deciding whether certain federal and state laws conform to the U.S. Constitution. Topics include cases that originate from the three branches (judiciary, legislative, executive), from the commerce and taxing and spending clauses, property rights and substantive due process, authority of states within our federal system, the status of foreign affairs under the constitution, and the citizen within our political process.
MWF 9-9:50
PO 500 – Quantitative Research in Political Science (Kelly)

“Quantitative” essentially is the use of statistics in studying political relationships. First, we investigate quantitative concepts and classical studies, and then, we design a survey or listing of questions about political opinions. Once developed, my students interview a systematic sample of ESU students relative to the survey questions, with the results entered into a SPSS computer file. A Chi square test is utilized for exploring any associations between students’ backgrounds and their responses to survey questions, all within a hypothesis-testing format.
TR 11-12:20

PO 520- National Security and Intelligence Policy (Barnett)

This course analyzes the central threats to U.S. and international security in the 21st century, and the possible options to reduce and counter those threats. The course will examine the institutions, interests, and processes for making U.S. national security and intelligence policy, and explore the tensions that recur in American politics between the necessities of security and the requirements of democracy, civil liberty, financial and budgetary constraints. The course also deals with how the U.S. national security establishment (including the intelligence infrastructure) has evolved its structure and management practices over time in order to execute security policy.
W 6-8:50 p.m.

Our online class offered this semester is PO 540 XA/ZA (Kelly)—Clashing Views on Constitutional Issues