

University of Ghana
Department of Political Science
Sample Spring Courses

POLI 302 Modern Western Political Thought

A study of selected European thinkers Bodin, Montesquieu and James Madison on the rise of modern state, and the separation of powers and grounds of political obligation and civil disobedience by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau etc.

POLI 304 Methods of Political Research

Inductive and deductive methods; research design-experimental. Non-experimental (e.g. case study) design etc: formulating a research question or problem, and explaining or defining the problem – independent and dependent variables, etc; conceptual definition and operationalisation; units of analysis; formulating hypotheses, types of hypotheses. Methods of Survey Research. Computing methods- developing computer-based skills. Problems of measurement – reliability, validity; levels of measurement- nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio.

POLI 306 Africa in the Global System

History and dynamics of world economy and global power configurations; impact on Africa, Africa's responses.

POLI 308 Regional Integration

Changing patterns and structure of integration globally; analyses and assessment of the African experience

POLI 312 Issues in Comparative Politics

Current and pertinent issues in the study of comparative politics.

POLI 314 State-Society Relations in Ghana since Independence

The changing relations between the state and society; the underlying factors (including civil society, military coups); implications for democracy and human security.

POLI 316 Strategies of Development in Africa

Discussion of main approaches to development including the neo-liberal, import substitution industrialization, export-led industrialization, state-led industrialization, basic needs approach, ERP/SAPs, HIPC, African-based strategies from Lagos Plan to NEPAD.

POLI 318 Conflict and Society in Africa

Structure and effects of conflicts; refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other vulnerable groups –women, children, the disabled, the aged, etc

POLI 322 Development Administration

The nature and scope of development and development administration; administrative reform and innovation etc.

POLI 324 Public Policy Process in Ghana

A study of the processes of public policy making as a complex interplay of social interests and factors, lobbying; advocacy, coalition building.

POLI 326 Politics and Civil Society in Ghana

The idea and emergence of civil society; theories of civil society; civil society and protection of human rights and democratic values.

POLI 328 Politics in Developing Countries – East and Southern Africa

The institutional, economic and social determinants of politics (both internal and external) using two countries politics from the region as case study.

POLI 332 Political Thought in the Black Diaspora

Anti-colonial thinking among Africa-American on Cultural Nationalism, Pan Africanism and Socialism.

POLI 334 Politics of Industrial Relations in Ghana

State-Labour relations since 1950s- context and dynamics.

POLI 402 Social and Political Theory

Nature, and task of political theory; its relation to other social science disciplines. Normative and empirical political theory.

POLI 404 Electoral Politics and Democracy in Ghana

A study of the factors shaping electoral politics – social, structural, political factors; changing patterns of electoral politics; meaning of elections and democracy; the interplay between the dynamics of elections and democracy etc.

POLI 406 Ghana's Foreign Policy

Factors underlying the foreign policy options of various governments since 1957.

POLI 408 Issues in Africa's International Relations

A study of current trends and forces that shape Africa's relations in the global system e.g. Globalisation, NEPAD, Human Security, Debt, HIV/AIDS, Environment, Arms proliferation, WTO etc.

POLI 412 Political and Economic Reform and Democracy in Africa

Politics of reform and the transition to democracy – internal and external influences; nature of democracy, forms of existing democracy; factors shaping democratic practices; problems and challenges.

POLI 414 Civil-Military Relations in Africa

Theories of civil- military relations; patterns of civil military relations in African countries under colonial rule, and in post colonial African countries – a comparative analysis of formal mechanisms and institutions of civil control of the armed forces; changing patterns and models, the internal/ domestic (including history and politics) and internal forces/factors of change; changing legal and political mechanisms, institutions and frameworks; implications for political stability and political change, human rights and security; and social development.

POLI 416 NGOs and Development in Africa

The crisis of the state and development in Africa, emergence of NGOs – the international and national dimensions/factors, the role of NGOs and the state in grassroots and national development

POLI 418 Politics of Identity in Ghana

Ethnic, regional, religious and other factors shaping forms of political action and alignments; and forms of state response.

POLI 422 Public Sector Reforms and Social Development

Analyses of the role the public sector in social development; costs and benefits; changing structure of, and perspectives on, the public sector; its political dynamics and impact on social development.

POLI 424 Politics and the Bureaucracy in Africa

State, clientelism, prebendalism, corruption and their impact on bureaucracy, appointment and training etc.

POLI 426 Politics of Constitution-Making in Ghana

Purpose and functions of constitutions; historical, political and economic factors and social forces that shape constitutions; the process of constitution-making, its dynamics, the issues and contexts; models of constitution-making processes; a comparative analysis of models

POLI 428 Human Rights in Africa

Theories of human rights, human rights instruments, institutions and practices; global response to human rights issues, migration.

POLI 432 Public Finance Administration

Public finance policy; welfare criteria and market failure; public and private goods; collective decision making and the search for the public interest; public expenditure growth; the basic concepts in taxation and problems of tax collection and management; the public debt; the budget process and role of institutions in ensuring fiscal discipline and accountability; fiscal decentralization.

POLI 434 Politics in Developing Countries – Northern Africa

A study of the institutional, economic and social bases of politics (both internal and

external) of the region using 2 countries as examples.

POLI 436 Politics of the Industrialized Countries – Europe/North America

A study of the institutional, economic and social politics on the region using 2 countries as examples.