POL 1010. Political Science. 3 Units.

POL 1010A. Intro to American Politics Present I. 3 Units.
This course surveys and analyzes the principles, institutions, policies and politics of U.S. National Government. Major topics in the course include the constitution and federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, the presidency, congress, and the supreme court, modern American politics, and public policy. The primary goal of the course is to help students become critical, analytical observers of American politics, government systems, and institutions. Students will go beyond a basic understanding of how the government works to obtain a critical appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, the pros and cons of various modern policy debates, and the importance of citizen's rights and responsibilities. The course is a college level course and requires a significant amount of preparation for every class on the part of the student.

POL 1010B. Political Science 101 Part II Present I. 4.5 Units.

POL 3310. The Rise of the Black Power Movement and The Black Panther Party. 3-4 Unit.

POL 3320. The Immigration Debate in Historical Perspective. 3-4 Unit.
The United States had an essentially open border at the turn of the twentieth century, so why has increased border control become one of the top concerns of many Americans at the start of the twenty-first? The current, often volatile and certainly emotional debates about immigration raise questions about not only the reform of immigration policy, but also the meanings of American citizenship and the futures of the nation. This course will analyze the contemporary immigration controversies through a close examination of their historical roots. Course topics will include the history of immigration policy in the United States; analysis of the relationships between the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of immigration, past and present; engagement with contemporary community groups that take different perspectives on immigration; analysis of the current proposals for immigration reform by the House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and individual political representatives; and critical comparisons with immigration policies used by other countries.

POL 3500. Prior Learning: Political Science. 1-5 Unit.

POL 3530. Internship. 1-5 Unit.

POL 3900A. The Art of the Protest. 1 Unit.

POL 3900J. Immigrant Rights, Labor & Higher Education. 1 Unit.
This workshop will explore the contemporary immigrant rights movement and the contemporary labor movement. Through this workshop, students will be able to make connections between their own direct or indirect stories on migration, the forces that have shaped the U.S. history of migration and the current immigration issue. Students will also be able to make a connection between immigration and the labor movement, especially as it pertains to low-wage workers and worker centers in Los Angeles. There will be a special focus on the issue of immigrant students in higher education, the legislative and policy issues that have emerged, and the growing immigrant youth movement. The material presented, for the most part, will come from first-hand sources. All of the reading material assigned has been written by those directly impacted by the issue of immigration or by those involved in the labor movement. Students will be reading about a process that is changing day by day and will be able to make the connections between the material presented and current events.

POL 4050. Political Documentary: Challenging the Official Story. 3-4 Unit.
Over the past decade documentary films have entered a new golden age: more popular, more seen and appreciated, more in number, and more important than ever. This course considers the history and politics of recent documentaries; their challenge to the official stories of government and media; their presentation of an alternative reading of our times. The films of Barbara Kopple, Michael Moore, Enroll Morris, Robert Geenwald and others will be examined in an effort to come to a critically informed understanding of the work of contemporary political documentary, its methods, techniques and strategies. Writing in 1969, urban sociologist Martin Oppenheimer described the city as the most vulnerable social structure ever conceived by humans. Nearly forty years later, when close to half of the world's population lives in urban areas, Oppenheimer's statement takes on special meaning as city dwellers face both enormous challenges and unique opportunities that will shape the future of the global community. Drawing upon examples from cities as diverse as Beijing, New Delhi, London, Sao Paolo and our own Los Angeles, this course exposes students to the diverse environments, people, systems and cultural expressions that breathe life into urban experiences. What do these cities have in common? What do their differences tell us about the competing values of those who live in them? In what ways are they unique? How do cities in the twenty-first century compare with those that came before? What lessons can developing nations take away from their post-industrial counterparts? What is the source of local, national, and trans-national identities? These are but a few of the questions that frame the goals of the class. Students meet the city in which they live by interacting with people and organizations that influence Los Angeles on a daily basis. The course encourages students to utilize interdisciplinary methods to identify and engage in the social, cultural and political landscape of the city.
From ‘family values’ to ‘locker room talk,’ sound bites have shaped American life by the power of their ubiquity. Prior to the 1980s, ‘spin’ was a term for advertising and entertainment; politics and public policy decision-making were considered more serious realms, shaped by larger forces than popular opinion. The separation between truth and fiction was held as sacrosanct to democracy, and the role of Hollywood was to offer escape from the trials of war and the Depression. The 1980s changed all of that: Ronald Reagan deployed the tactics of advertising and melodrama towards a landslide victory; debates over social policies like health care and welfare moved from the Congress floor to prime time; television and popular films became points of reference for judging ‘the state of the economy’ and ‘the crisis of the American family.’ This course investigates the relationship between Hollywood, politics and popular beliefs over four decades.