

Department of Political Science

Faculty of Social Science

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria



**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS HANDBOOK**

100 Level First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	C U	Status
POLS 101	Introduction to Political Science	2	(Core)
STATS 165	Statistics for Political Science	2	(Core)
POLS 109	Nigerian Indigenous Political Systems	2	(Core)
INTS 101	Ancestors of Contemporary International Systems	2	(Core)
COSC 101	Computer	2	(Core)
SOLG 101	Introduction to Sociology I	3	(Core)
GENS 101	Nationalism	1	(Core)
GENS 103	English and Communication Skills	2	(Core)
GENS 107	History of Philosophy of Science	1	(Elective)
GENS 113	Nigerian Peoples and Culture	2	(Core)
GENS 121	Use of Library, Study Skills and ICT	2	(Core)
GENS 125	Contemporary Health Issues	2	(Core)
C U		23	

100 Level Second Semester

Course Code	Course Title	C U	Status
POLS 102	Introduction to African Politics	2	(Core)
POLS 110	Introduction to Research and Knowledge Acquisition	2	(Core)
POLS 104	Nigerian Constitutional Development	2	(Core)
SOLG 104	Introduction to Psychology	3	(Core)
GEOG 106	Introduction to Environmental Science	2	(Core)
POLS 112	Citizen and The State	2	(Core)
POLS 108	Nigerian Legal Systems	2	(Core)
GENS 112	Logic, Philosophy and Human Existence	2	(Core)
C U		17	

Note: The total workload includes electives and the compulsory General Studies (see table 1)

You are to register for a minimum of 1 elective course per semester and to borrow three credit unit from within the faculty

200 Level First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	C U	Status
INTS 201	Introduction to International Relations	2	(Core)
POLS 201	Nigerian Government and Politics I	2	(Core)
POLS 203	Political Ideas	2	(Core)
POLS 207	Introduction to Comparative Politics	2	(Core)
POLS 209	Introduction to Local Government	2	(Core)
GENS 201	Moral Philosophy	1	(Elective)
GENS 101	Nationalism	1	(Core for D E)
C U		12	

Departmental Electives

POLS 213	Gender and Politics	3	(Elective)
Total		3	

200 Level Second Semester

Course Code	Course Title	C U	Status
POLS 202	Nigerian Government and Politics II	2	(Core)
POLS 204	Foundation of Political Economy	2	(Core)
POLS 206	Introduction to Public Administration	2	(Core)
POLS 208	Organisation of Government	2	(Core)
POLS 210	Introduction to Political Analysis	2	(Core)
GENS 202	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	2	(Core)
GENS 224	Leadership Skills	2	
C U		14	

300 Level First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	C U	Status
POLS 301	History of Political Thought	3	(Core)
POLS 303	Contemporary Political Analysis	2	(Core)
POLS 305	Public Policy Analysis	2	(Core)
POLS 307	Research Methods	2	(Core)
POLS 309	Methodology of Comparative Politics	2	(Core)
POLS 311	Globalization and the Developing World	2	(Core)
POLS 321	Theory & Practice of Public Administration	2	(Core)
GENS 301	Entrepreneurship	2	(Core)
C U		17	

300 Level Second Semester

Course Code	Course Title	C U	Status
POLS 302	Political Data Analysis	2	(Core)
POLS 304	Political Behavior	2	(Core)
POLS 306	Comparative Federalism	2	(Core)
POLS 324	African Political Thought	2	(Core)
POLS 326	Electoral Process and Management	2	(Core)
INTS 310	Theories of International Relations	3	(Core)
POLS 322	Field Experience	2	(Core)
C U		15	

You are to register for a minimum of 1 elective course per semester and to borrow three credit units from within the faculty

400 Level First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	CU	Status
POLS 401	Civil Military Relations	3	(Core)
POLS 403	Development Administration	3	(Core)
POLS 405	Third World and Dependency	3	(Core)
POLS 407	Public Finance Administration	2	(Core)
INTS 401	Nigerian Foreign Policy	2	(Core)
POLS 423	Peace Studies	2	(Core)
C U		15	

400 Level Second Semester

Course Code	Course Title	CU	Status
POLS 402	Politics and Law in Africa	3	(Core)
POLS 406	Nigerian Local Government	3	(Core)
POLS 404	State and Economy	3	(Core)
POLS 400	Research Project	6	(Core)
C U		15	

Take a minimum of 24 credit units and a maximum of 42 credit units per session. A total of 120 credit units are required for a 4-year programme and 90 credit units for a 3-yr programme before graduation.

NOTE:

C = Compulsory

E = Elective

R = Required

LH = Lecture Hours per semester

PH = Practical Hours per semester

SSC = Foundation courses for programmes in the Social Sciences

GENS = General Studies Courses offered at the University Level for students registered in all the disciplines in the university

COURSE SYNOPSIS

Presented below are the synopses of all the courses under B.Sc. Political Science and the units of each course have been indicated.

100 LEVEL COURSES

POLS 101: Introduction to Political Science (2 Credit Units)

This course introduces students to the nature of politics and how it is played. It emphasizes the issues of political discourse and practice. It also introduces students to the language and basic concepts of Politics. The student is later introduced to the methods of Political Science.

POLS 102: Introduction to African Politics (2 Credit Units)

The course focuses on the nature of African society before colonialism; establishment of colonial rule in Africa; different systems of colonial administration and economic policies. Other topics include the problem of neo-colonialism and dependency; contemporary problems in Africa-Political crises, famine, structural adjustment and debt crisis in African.

POLS 104: Nigerian Constitutional Development (2 Credit Units)

The student is taken through Nigerian Constitutional Development in a chronological and sequential order. In this course, emphasis is on topics like colonization, the Richards Constitution, the McPherson Constitution, the Littleton Constitution, the Independence Constitution, The Republican Constitution, the 1979 Constitution.

POLS 109: Nigerian Indigenous Political Systems (2 Credit Units)

It exposes the students to political systems before Colonialism, development of Political Parties in Nigeria, characteristics of the indigenous political parties e t c.

POLS 110: Introduction to Research and Knowledge Acquisition (2 Credit Units)

It exposes the students of Political Science to research, how to draw knowledge from the existing research and how to acquire new knowledge through scientific method.

POLS 112: The Citizen and the State (2 Credit Units)

The relationship of the citizen to the state in terms of the duties and obligations of the citizen to the state; The responsibility of the state to the citizen must also be investigated; The nature of strained relations and the processes of rectification; Political obligation, basis of freedom, loyalty and patriotism.

COSC 101: Computer (2 Credit Units)

Exposes students to computer operation, components of computer and the uses of computer in conducting research.

INTS 101: Ancestors of the Contemporary International System (2 Credit Units)

A brief survey of the fore-runners of the contemporary international system to highlight some earlier answers to the problem of co-existence, order and peace; focus on previous examples of arrangements for organizing relations between diverse peoples from which our modern system sprang; The Chou system; the Greek City States; the Egyptian; Assyrian, Persian world, Renaissance Italy etc.

STATS 165: Statistics For Political Science (2 Credit Units)

Students are introduced to the procedures of statistical summarization of political information with specific emphasis on frequency distribution, tables, graphs and basic inferential statistics. The nature of statistical methods, frequency distributions; measures of central tendencies-Mode, Mode, etc; Measures of Dispersion Range, Variance, Standard Deviation; Elementary Probability Theory, Binomials, Normal and Poisson Distributions.

SOLG 101: Introduction to Sociology (3 Credit Units)

Introduction to basic problem of sociology and sociological perspective, major theoretical schools and building blocks of society; research methods; culture, socialization and deviance; societal response to deviance and criminality; social differentiation and stratification; main social institutions in society; and social change are discussed.

SOLG 104: Introduction to Psychology (3 Credit Units)

Basic orientation of the discipline and subject matter; basic theoretical orientations and how psychology relates to other social sciences disciplines. Basic research methods in psychology are introduced and the uses of Psychology in modern life are discussed.

200- LEVEL COURSES

POLS 201: Nigerian Government and Politics

(4 Credit Units)

The Federal arrangement and Division of Powers, Critical Issues in Nigerian Politics i.e. Census, Elections, Education, Representation and Representativeness, Ethnic Relations, etc.

POLS 203: Political Ideas

(2 Credit Units)

Introduction to major political ideas in their historical context; emphasis should be placed on concepts like Monarchism, Liberalism, Democracy, Socialism, Fascism, Anarchism, etc.

POLS 204: Foundations of Political Economy

(2 Credit Units)

Relationship between politics and economics; Economics as determinants of politics; Class analysis and political power relations; Production and politics with emphasis on the material basis of political action.

POLS 206: Introduction to Public Administration

(2 Credit Units)

Introduces students to the nature of Public administration, Similarities and differences between public and Private Administration, functions of public administration, schools or conceptual approaches to the study of Public Administration the goal Model, System Model, Decision-Making Model, Classification Model, Human Relations Model Sociological Model, classifications or typologies of Organizations. Bureaucracy, Functions, Public Administration in National development, Growth and development, Reforms of the Civil Service, Changing Role of Socio-Economic and Political Transformation. International Public Administration and its Relationship with Domestic Public administration.

POLS 207: Introduction to Comparative Politics

(2 Credit Units)

Exposes the students to the origin of Comparative Studies, the scope, basic concepts and theories associated with comparative politics. System, structural-functional, elite, modernization, power, Marxist and other theories are compared and related to countries as they are affected.

POLS 209: Introduction to Local Government

(2 Credit Units)

Introduces students to study of Local Government Systems, problems, challenges and prospects. A critical study of whether or not local governments are autonomous arm of government or surrogate of others.

POLS 210: Introduction to Political Analysis

(2 Credit Units)

The course will examine the nature of politics, political systems and the structure of government, political representation institutions of different regimes; the relationship between regime types and political efficiency, citizen's participation and political culture.

INTS 201: Introduction to International Relations

(2 Credit Units)

The organization of the International Society; Theories of International Relations; linkage politics, theories of Coalitions and Alliances, Balance of power Theory, Impact of the emergence of the Third World.

POLS 206: Introduction to Public Administration (2 Credit Units)

The rationale of public administration, the Ecology of Public Administration; The Politics of Administration; The Administrative Actor, Delegation of power, Administrative Audit and Control Elements of Administrative Law.

POLS 208: Organisation of Government (2 Credit Units)

The various ways of organizing governments into Legislature, Executive and Judiciary; The theory of the separation of powers; Forms of political and administrative systems, i.e. Unitarism, Federalism, Confederalism; Forms of government like Presidentialism, Parliamentarianism; instrumentalities of political interaction like political parties, pressure groups, interest groups, etc.

POLS 209: Introduction to Local Government (2 Credit Units)

Theory, Principles and forms of local government, decentralization, delegation, decentralisation principles; Local government mechanisms for community mobilization and development at the grass roots.

POLS 213: Gender and Politics (2 Credit Units)

The course will focus on the nature of gender relations in Nigeria and the interface between gender and political participation. Different regimes will be studied, beginning from the immediate post-independence period in 1960, the various military regimes to the current government to determine the nature gender representation. Participation in the various geo-political zones will be studied and reasons for differential participation discussed. The positions of various political parties as contained in manifestos will be studied.

POLS 210: Introduction to Political Analysis (2 Credit Units)

Exposes the students to the nature of politics, political systems and the structure of government, political representation, institutions of different regimes. The relationship between regimes, types and political efficiency, citizen participation and political culture.

300-LEVEL COURSES

POLS 301: History of Political Thought (3 Credit Units)

Examination of selected classical and modern political thinkers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli; Locke, Marx, Fanon, Senghor, Nkrumah, etc. with special emphasis on the germination and impacts of their ideas.

POLS 302 Political Data Analysis (3 Credit Units)

Exposes students to data collection and data analysis, such as descriptive statistical analysis, quantitative qualitative analysis etc.

POLS 303: Contemporary Political Analysis (2 Credit Units)

Contending paradigms in contemporary political analysis, their philosophical and ideological roots, as well as evaluation: elite approach, group theory, functional systems and communications theory, basic concepts and elements of game theory and political gaming, structural analysis, theories of political development; the new political economy.

POLS 304: Political Behaviour**(2 Credit Units)**

The study and measurements of various determinants of political behaviour; political socialization, political culture, political participation and apathy. Electoral behaviour, public opinion, and political communication will also be discussed.

POLS 305: Public Policy Analysis**(2 Credit Units)**

Concepts and strategies of planning, programming and budgeting systems (PPBS); basic techniques of network construction and analysis examined descriptively and from the perspective of administrative systems; cost-effectiveness analysis and critique.

POLS 306: Comparative Federalism**(2 Credit Units)**

The genesis of the political dynamics of Comparative Federal Systems, with particular reference to such countries as U.S.A. U.S.S.R., Canada, West Germany, India and Nigeria.

POLS 307: Research Methods**(2 Credit Units)**

Basic methods of conducting scientific research, framing research questions and objectives, hypothesis formulation, design of research instruments, data collection, data analysis

POLS 309: The Methodology of Comparative Politics**(2 Credit Units)**

Comparative Political Analysis: History of Comparative Politics, Concepts, the scientific methods, and Logic of Comparison; Classification Systems in Comparative Politics; Case study approach; competing paradigms or orientations in Comparative Political Analysis; the strategy of across-system theorizing; measurement problems in cross-national research. Approaches to the study of Comparative Politics, i.e. single country approach, multi-country approach, synchronic approach; Problems of Comparative Politics.

POLS 310: Theories of International Relations**(2 Credit Units)**

An examination of the basic concepts and theories in the study of International Relations, Topics to be covered will include Power, Conflict and Accommodation, Systems Theories, Linkage Politics, the Theories of Coalitions and Alliances, Models, Games and Simulation.

POLS 311: Globalisation and Developing World**(2 Credit Units)**

Introduces students to the concept of global village, its implications on development across the regions of the world, gains and pains of globalization to Africa and Nigeria in particular with emphasis on remedies or way forward.

POLS 321: Theory and Practice of Public Administration**(2 Credit Units)**

Evolution of Administrative Organizational Theory: from the Classical through the Neo-classical to the Modern; Relations of administration to politics and the Political Process; administrative behaviour in various institutional settings, interplay of political institutions and administrative patterns of behaviour, Study of personnel administration, decision-making in bureaucratic organizations.

POLS 324 African Political Thought**(2 Credit Units)**

Introduces students to African Political Thinkers, such as Fanon, Nkrumah, Senghor, Nyerere, etc., with special emphasis on the germination and impact of their ideas

POLS 326: Electoral Process and Management**(2 Credit Units)**

Introduces the students to Electoral Processes and election terms such as Simple Plurality (First past the post), Absolute Plurality and Proportional Representation.

400-LEVEL COURSES**POLS 401: Civil- Military Relations****(3 Credit Units)**

Interdependence of civil and military types; the military in the foundation of states; impact of social structures and ethnic or class conflicts upon military organizational procedures and behaviours; the problem of civilian control of the military; the role of armies in revolution; the phenomenon and definition of the “military-industrial-complex”, ubiquity of military extractive tendency; explaining the stability or instability of civil-military relations in a comparative setting.

POLS 402: Politics and Law in Africa**(3 Credit Units)**

The course is a comparative examination of the inter-relationships between law and politics in different African Countries by studying the political significance of the judicial process during the colonial and independence periods. The first section deals with the concept of law, what it is, how law arises and how it becomes institutionalized. The second part deals with the judicial process, specifically, the systems of criminal justice which translate the abstract concerns of law into concrete institutions and policy are analysed in terms of who benefits and who does not.

POLS 403: Development Administration**(3 Credit Units)**

Historical background of development administration; classical and neoclassical approaches to development administration; strategies for administrative restructuring and policy adjustments; structural adjustment and problems of development countries; finance and problems of resource administration; public enterprise management

POLS 405: Third World and Dependency**(3 Credit Units)**

Politics of change in the Third World; international economic structures and the Third World, development theories and experiences with Third World development, dependency and foreign policies.

POLS 406: Nigerian Local Government**(3 Credit Units)**

Background to local governments in Nigeria, traditional institutions and local governments, 1976 local government reforms and after, local administration and local government reforms, funding and managements of resources in the local governments.

POLS 407: Public Finance Administration**(2 Credit Units)**

Basic elements of financial management and project decision making; topics include purpose and public revenue raising; budgeting policy and expenditure plan; the budgeting process and control of expenditure; public accountability.

INTS 401: Nigerian Foreign Policy**(2 Credit Units)**

A study of dominant trends in Nigerian foreign policy since independence, showing both the domestic setting, the international environment; the impact of the civil war, Nigeria's relative economic status and commitments as a regional power in Africa. Problems of relations with immediate neighbours are also examined. Topics include: The Internal setting of Nigeria's foreign policy – pressure groups; domestic schisms; consensus building process etc. Nigeria's neighbours and the wider African setting; and international environmental policy processes and issues during civilian and military regimes; the effects of the civil war on Nigeria's foreign policy; the changing pattern of Nigeria's non-aligned policy; Nigeria's foreign policy; issues and problem of foreign policy making since 1976 and Nigeria's pan-African role.

POLS 400: Research Project**(6 Credit Units)**

Students are required to choose a topic in consultation with the Department and bring concepts/theories learnt as well as appropriate methods to bear on the topic. An essay on a topic selected from a list covering generalised areas of political science disciplines dealing with significant current political, economic, and cultural problems. This is to be presented in at least five (5) chapters of not less than sixty (60) pages of A4 paper and double spaced type with 14 font size characters following the format below:

CHAPTER ONE: Introduction

CHAPTER TWO: Literature review and Theoretical frameworks.

CHAPTER THREE: Methodology – method of data presentation, analysis and interpretation.

CHAPTER FOUR: Data presentation, analysis and interpretation.

CHAPTER FIVE: Summary, conclusion and recommendations.

Students are required to write and submit to their supervisor three topics which must be formed from the given sub-themes of that session and are expected to research and gather enough materials on the topic of interest they want to write on before forwarding it to their supervisor for approval.