Political Science

Undergraduate Program Chair: Charles Lipson, P 418B, 702-8053, clipson@uchicago.edu
Undergraduate Secretary: Mimi Walsh, P 401, 702-3040, m-walsh@uchicago.edu
Web: political-science.uchicago.edu
ugpolsall@listhost.uchicago.edu

Program of Study

Political science contributes to a liberal education by introducing students to concepts, methods, and knowledge that help them understand and judge politics within and among nations. A B.A. degree in political science can lead to a career in business, government, journalism, education, or nonprofit organizations; or it can lead to a Ph.D. program in the social sciences or to professional school in law, business, public policy, or international relations. These are only some recent examples of options that have been chosen by our graduates.

Program Requirements

Course Requirements. The department requires twelve political science courses. Students who write a thesis must take ten courses, plus two required courses: PLSC 29800 (B.A. Colloquium) and PLSC 29900 (B.A. Thesis Supervision). Students not writing a thesis must take twelve courses.

Up to three courses from outside the department may count toward these requirements. A list of pre-approved outside courses is maintained by the department. To count other courses, students must submit a petition to the program chair, which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. (See the section below for more information on submitting a petition.)

Subfield Distribution Requirement. To gain a broad understanding of political science, the department believes that students should take a wide range of courses. To ensure that breadth, students must take at least one course in three of the following four subfields: Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, or International Relations. A course on Aristotle, for instance, would be classified as Political Theory (which is called subfield “A”). To identify the subfields, refer to the boldface letter at the end of each course description. When students submit a petition asking that a course outside the department be used to meet political science requirements, they may also ask that the course count toward a specific subfield. For example, a petition might ask that a course from the Department of Philosophy be used to meet our subfield requirement in Political Theory.

The four subfields are:

A. Political Theory: the history of ancient and modern political philosophy, the history of American political thought, and several varieties of contemporary political theory

B. American Politics and Public Policy: American political institutions, behavior, opinions, development, and public policy

C. Comparative Politics: the politics of particular foreign countries and regions and the comparative study of particular political phenomena such as leadership or state formation

D. International Relations: theoretical approaches to the study of politics among nations, the international relations of particular regions, the foreign policies of particular countries, and such topics as international political economy and military security

Writing Requirement. Students who are majoring in political science must write one longer paper. There are two paths to meeting this requirement: the Long Paper Path and the B.A. Thesis Path. NOTE: Students may decide in their fourth year to pursue the Long Paper Path instead of the B.A. Thesis Path; however, those students are reminded that they are required to complete twelve courses (excluding PLSC 29800 or PLSC 29900).

The Long Paper Path. Students who do not wish to write a B.A. thesis must submit a form to the departmental office signed by an instructor who verifies that their paper meets the following guidelines.

(1) The paper must receive a grade of B or better; a grade of B- or below does not meet the requirement.

(2) The paper must be twenty pages or longer, double spaced. If the course requires a shorter paper, students may ask the instructor for permission to write an extended version. The departmental requirement will be met whether the long paper is written for the course itself or is written as an extra assignment. Another option is for a student to ask an instructor to read and grade a long paper after a course is completed.

(3) Students may write a long paper for any course that is used to meet requirements for the political science major (whether it is a political science course or it is, for example, a history or sociology course; and whether it is taught by a professor or by an advanced graduate student).

(4) Students are responsible for obtaining an approval form to verify the successful completion of this requirement from the departmental office and giving it to the relevant instructor. Please ask the instructor to sign the approval form and return it along with the paper itself to the departmental office. The deadline for submitting the approval form and the paper is 4 p.m. on Friday of the second
week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate. NOTE: Most students complete their paper before their final quarter; the approval form and paper should be submitted to the departmental office as soon as the writing requirement is completed.

The B.A. Thesis Path. Writing a B.A. thesis will meet the writing requirement in political science and may also qualify a student for consideration for honors; see sections below, for more information. In either case, the paper is typically from thirty-five to fifty pages in length and must receive a grade of grade of B or better. Students choose a suitable faculty member to supervise the writing and research process. The deadline for submitting two copies of a B.A. thesis to the departmental office is 4 p.m. on Friday of the sixth week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate. If a student wishes to submit the B.A. thesis for consideration for honors, the deadline for submitting two copies of the thesis to the departmental office is 4 p.m. on Friday of the fourth week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate.

Summary of Requirements: The Long Paper Path

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<td>political science courses*</td>
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<td>fulfillment of the writing requirement</td>
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* At least one each of these courses must be in three of four subfields. PLSC 29800 (B.A. Colloquium) and PLSC 29900 (B.A. Thesis Supervision) may not be used to meet this requirement.

Summary of Requirements: The B.A. Thesis Path

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<td>PLSC 29800 (B.A. Colloquium)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>PLSC 29900 (B.A. Thesis Supervision)</td>
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* At least one each of these courses must be in three of four subfields.

Independent Study. It is possible for students with extensive course work in political science to pursue more specialized topics that are not covered by regular courses. They have the option of registering for Independent Study (PLSC 29700), to be taken individually and supervised by a member of the political science faculty. Students must obtain prior consent of the program chair and the instructor, as well as submit the College Reading and Research Course Form that is available from their College adviser. The substance of the Independent Study may not be not related to the B.A. thesis or B.A. research, which is covered by B.A. Thesis Supervision (PLSC 29900). NOTE: Only one PLSC 29700 course may count toward requirements for the major and may be used to meet the subfield distribution requirement.

Third Year. During Autumn or Winter Quarter of their third year, students considering a major in political science are required to attend a meeting with the program chair that will introduce the political science program, provide information about requirements, and answer questions. The time and place of the meeting will be announced via e-mail. To receive this announcement and other information about the Department of Political Science, students should sign up for the undergraduate e-mail list either in the departmental office or at https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/ugpolsall.

Students who plan to write a B.A. thesis must attend a second meeting with the program chair in Spring Quarter of their third year. This second meeting will answer questions and provide information on methods for doing research in political science, how to find an appropriate topic for a thesis, and how to choose a suitable faculty adviser. By the end of eighth week of Spring Quarter, students who intend to write a B.A. thesis must have completed a brief (one or two page) proposal describing their topic, chosen a faculty adviser, and received a written agreement from the faculty adviser that he or she will supervise the project. A signed copy of the approved proposal must be filed in the departmental office. Students studying abroad in Spring Quarter of their third year should correspond with the program chair about their plans for the B.A. thesis before the end of Spring Quarter. Out-of-residence students should proceed to write their proposal and should conduct the process of choosing a faculty adviser via telephone or e-mail.

The B.A. Colloquium (PLSC 29800). Students who choose to write a B.A. thesis, whether or not they intend to submit their thesis for consideration for honors, are required to participate in the B.A. Colloquium in Autumn and Winter Quarters of their fourth year. The colloquium is designed to help students carry out their B.A. thesis research and to offer feedback on their progress. It meets weekly in Autumn Quarter and biweekly in Winter Quarter. Although the course meets over two quarters, it counts as a single course and has a single grade. The final grade for the colloquium is based on the student’s contribution to the colloquium during both quarters. NOTE: Registration for PLSC 29800 is limited to either Autumn or Winter Quarter of their fourth year, but attendance is required in both quarters. Students who plan to study abroad during Autumn or Winter Quarter of their fourth year must contact the program chair in advance to make arrangements to meet the B.A. Colloquium requirement.

B.A. Thesis Supervision (PLSC 29900). During their fourth year, students who choose to write a B.A. thesis (and students applying for honors) must register with their B.A. thesis faculty adviser for one (and only one) quarter of PLSC 29900. NOTE: Students are required to submit the College Course Reading and Research Form, which is available from the College advisers. The final grade for the course will be based on the grade given the B.A. thesis by the faculty adviser.

Double Majors. Students who plan to double major may complete the political science requirements by either the B.A. Thesis Path or the Long Paper Path.
Students who write the B.A. thesis must attend the political science B.A. Colloquium even if the other major requires attendance at its colloquium.

A request to use a single B.A. thesis for two majors requires the approval of both program chairs on a form available from the student's College adviser. Students should consult with the departments by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both departments, is available from College advisers or at http://www.college.uchicago.edu/academics/pdf/ba-double_major-single.pdf. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation. To be considered for honors in political science, however, the thesis must be evaluated by the faculty adviser and preceptor using the criteria specified in the section below. Students can meet the writing requirement in the Long Paper Path with a paper written for another department, but they must also meet the requirement that they complete twelve courses in political science.

Grading. Courses that meet requirements for the major are typically taken for quality grades. However, students may take up to two courses on a P/F basis if they receive prior consent from the instructor.

Honors. Students who have done exceptionally well in their course work and who write an outstanding B.A. thesis are recommended for honors. A student is eligible for honors if the GPA in the major is 3.6 or higher and the overall GPA is 3.0 or higher at the beginning of the quarter in which the student intends to graduate. Students who wish to be considered for honors are required to register for PLSC 29800 (B.A. Colloquium) and PLSC 29900 (B.A. Thesis Supervision) and to submit an honors thesis.

Courses Taken Elsewhere. Students registered at the University of Chicago who wish to receive credit for courses taken at other institutions must receive approval. Students may submit petitions soon after completing a course, but, because not all petitions are approved, it is preferable to obtain prior consent. Credit will be granted only for courses that meet departmental standards, whether they are taken at institutions within the United States or abroad.

University students who wish to receive credit for courses taken abroad should petition the program chair within one quarter of their return. NOTE: The Office of the Dean of Students in the College must also approve the transfer of all courses taken at institutions other than those in which students are enrolled as part of a study abroad program that is sponsored by the University of Chicago. For more information, visit http://www.college.uchicago.edu/academics/transfer_credit.shtml.

Courses: Political Science (PLSC)

Boldface letters in parentheses refer to the course distribution areas noted in the preceding Program Requirements section.

20407. The Environment and International Security. Geopolitical thinking is foundational to International Relations theory. Control over territory and access to strategic natural resources have been key components of state power and causes of international conflict. Today’s geopolitics include a wider range of topics; issues like climate change and ozone depletion have become objects of international concern and contestation. Some authors go so far as to claim that environmental degradation will be the primary cause of violent international conflict in the twenty-first century. This course explores these claims by surveying a wide range of theoretical literatures on the relationship between environmental issues and...
international security, as well as examining historical cases of environmental conflict and cooperation. E. Meierding. Autumn. (D)

20507. Migration and the Politics of Economic Development. International migration is reshaping politics, economics, and social relations around the world. Migrant workers play a significant role in the economies of country of origin and host countries, which affects immigration policy and economic development. This course examines the theoretical and empirical models linking migration and the process of economic development and critically assesses the economic and political benefits and consequences of immigration in migrant sending and receiving countries and evaluates the implications for policymaking. L. Duquette. Autumn. (C)

20608. Pragmatism and Politics. PQ: Prior familiarity with philosophy or political theory. This course explores the tradition of political philosophy in American Pragmatism. While Pragmatism exerts significant influence on a wide swath of contemporary political theory, its political inheritance—or whether one can even speak of a “Pragmatist” political philosophy at all—remains contested. In order to assess the potential for a Pragmatist political philosophy, we focus on the writings of its progenitors: Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, George Herbert Mead, and John Dewey. Contemporary strands of Pragmatism are also addressed. L. Goldman. Winter. (A)

20907. Social Identifications, the State, and Violence in Civil Wars. This course surveys the social scientific literature on civil wars. We also engage with three core themes in civil war studies: identity-formation and violence, state-building (state collapse) and violence, and forms or types of violence in internal conflicts or civil wars. S. Keichian. Autumn. (C)

21008. Religion in American Politics. This course introduces the study of religion in American politics and focuses primarily on the impact of Christian Protestantism on the American political landscape. We examine the important role that religion plays in American politics by studying groups that pursue a religious agenda in politics. We also look at how religion is sometimes used by both religious leaders and politicians as a banner under which to garner support for debates about policy fields ranging from gay rights to American foreign policy. P. Booke. Autumn. (B)

21106. Introduction to Feminist Political Theories. The course introduces feminist theories, with a special focus on their political significance. The aim is to familiarize students with the central concepts and arguments developed in the feminist literature, and to help them critically assess their force and originality. One of the main concepts discussed is the concept of gender, with special attention to its critical force. Other themes and concepts discussed include equality and difference, gender justice, the role of family, the public/private divide, and motherhood. We trace the historical development of feminist arguments on these topics, looking at how sometimes similar arguments have taken different shape in diverse historical contexts. M. Marin. Autumn. (A)

21108. Power and Freedom. What is political power? Who holds it, and how and why? And what does it mean to be free? This course explores possible answers to each of these questions (among others) through a survey of the major theoretical approaches to two of the most important, and contested, ideas in contemporary political science: power and freedom. Through the lens of specific local, national, and global case studies, we examine and debate the influential philosophical accounts of (among others) Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin, Robert Dahl, Michel Foucault, John Gaventa, Friedrich Hayek, C. Wright Mills, and Amartya Sen. D. Newstone. Winter. (D)

21208. Security in International Politics. Security is the foundational concept in the study of international politics. As the principle rationale for war, the quest for security influences both states’ behavior in the international system as well as the structure of state and society relations in domestic politics. This course examines critically the concept of security and its role in IR theory and national security policy. In addition to introducing students to the state-of-the-art in security theory, the course explores real-world security problems confronting states, including war, terrorism, proliferation, and global warming. K. Ruby. Winter. (D)

21308. Disasters, Narratives, and Philosophy. Political disasters are persistent features of political life (e.g., the Holocaust to 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina). Such events generate great harms that demand some sort of response. But disasters are also persistently disorienting: They disturb our sense of ourselves, of our world, and the relationship between the two. How, then, might ordinary citizens respond productively to such events? This course explores that question through the lens of narrative as a medium of response as we engage with political theory and philosophy, psychoanalytic theory, literary theory, and selected literary works. J. Schiff. Spring. (A)

21400/32400. World Politics in the Nineteenth Century: A History. This course provides an overview of major developments in nineteenth-century history: wars, revolutions, diplomacy, economic development, imperial expansion, and international trade and investment. We cover key elements of international history needed for further study of international politics and IR theory. Besides diplomatic relations among the Great Powers, we examine long-term trends in economic development and military force. Topics include the settlement after the Napoleonic Wars, the failed revolutions of 1848–49, European imperialism, the industrial revolution, and the origins of World War I. C. Lipon. Autumn. (D)

22200. Introduction to Political Economy of Development. PQ: Advanced standing. This course introduces the political economy of development. The key question of interest is: Why is life in some countries and regions “better” than in others? We will explore different approaches to this question using theories from economics and politics. Along the way, we will examine a selection of topics
of substantive interest, including some of: Corruption, poverty, inequality and redistribution, health, the rule of law, and remittances. *A. Simper. Autumn. (C)*

22400. **Public Opinion.** (=LLSO 26802) What is the relationship between the mass citizenry and government in the U.S.? Does the public meet the conditions for a functioning democratic polity? This course considers the origins of mass opinion about politics and public policy, including the role of core values and beliefs, information, expectations about political actors, the mass media, economic self-interest, and racial attitudes. This course also examines problems of political representation, from the level of political elites communicating with constituents, and from the possibility of aggregate representation. *J. Brehm. Spring. (B)*

22800. **Political Economy of Elections.** This course investigates how the economy and elections interact with each other in theory and practice. Students learn how economic conditions affect voters’ choices in elections and how the expectations regarding these effects lead politicians to certain policy choices. This course further explores how different electoral institutions shape different economic outcomes by looking at their differential effects on the choices of voters, politicians, and economic actors. *J. Brehm. Spring. (B)*

23100. **Democracy and the Information Technology Revolution.** (=LLSO 27101) The revolution in information technologies has serious implications for democratic societies. We concentrate, though not exclusively, on the United States. We look at which populations have the most access to technology-based information sources (the digital divide), and how individual and group identities are being forged online. We ask how is the responsiveness of government being affected, and how representative is the online community. Severe conflict over the tension between national security and individual privacy rights in the United States, United Kingdom and Ireland is explored as well. We analyze both modern works (e.g., Turkle, Gilder) and the work of modern democratic theorists (e.g., Habermas). *M. Dawson. Winter. (B)*

23300. **Springtime for Hitler and Germany: The Advocates of the Aesthetic State.** This course introduces the idea of the aesthetic state and the rise of political modernism. Readings include texts by Benjamin, Mussolini, Marinetti, Schmitt, Rosenberg, and Hitler. Our aim is to try to make sense out of the rise of politics for politics sake in the first half of the twentieth century. *B. Silper. Winter. (A)*

23900/53900. **Thucydides.** (=FNDL 29315, LLSO 27402) This course is a reading of Thucydides’ history, one of the classic guides to politics within and among political communities. Themes may include: progress and decline; justice, necessity, and expediency; strengths and weaknesses of democracies and oligarchies in domestic and foreign policy; stability, revolution, and civil war; strategy, statesmanship, and prudence; causes and effects of war and peace; imperialism, isolationism, and alliances; and piety, chance, and the limits of rationality. We also read the first parts of Xenophon’s *Hellenica* on the conclusion of the war. *N. Tarcon. Autumn. (A)*

24400/54400. **Machiavelli and Clausewitz on War.** (=FNDL 2931, LLSO 28511) This course is a reading and comparison of the two greatest modern thinkers about war. *N. Tarcon. Spring. (A)*

25200. **Urban Politics.** (=LLSO 26701) This course is designed to allow students to place research that tackles some of the basic urban problems confronting American society within the context of theories of urban politics. We begin by critically reviewing classic works in urban politics, such as those of Dahl, Banfield, Peterson, and Castells. During the second part of the course, we shift to consider how the theory covered in the first part of the course can help us analyze and understand the implications for American democracy of selected severe urban problems. Problems selected for more detailed review this year include the Katrina disaster, and racial and ethnic urban conflict. *M. Dawson. Autumn. (B)*

25300. **American Political Parties.** This course introduces the nature and function of American political parties. We concentrate on two main themes. First, we explore the origins of the American party system. Topics include the origin of America’s ambivalence toward political parties, the emergence of parties in the United States, and the institutional foundations of America’s two-party system. Second, we investigate the role that political parties play as intermediary institutions between the public and their elected officials. Our studies focus on the role of political parties in the organization of elections and the government. More advanced topics include political realignments, divided government, and the decline of parties hypothesis. *J. Gryniewski. Spring. (B)*

25400/35400. **Politics of International Trade.** This class explores the politics of international trade from a political economy perspective. Themes include determinants of trade preferences, distributional effects of international trade, institutional explanations of trade policies, and the role of international economic institutions (e.g., World Trade Organization, free trade agreements on trade politics). *J. Park. Winter. (D)*

26500/36510. **State, Society, and Democratization in Southeast Asia.** This course provides a broad overview of the evolution of Southeast Asia’s highly diverse political systems, with a focus on historical factors that have helped shape prospects for democratic transition. The first segment sketches how the region was influenced by global processes of colonization, state formation, the rise of nationalism, Cold War rivalry, and the intensification of capitalist modes of production and exchange. After making a brief foray into democratization theory, we consider the value of competing theoretical approaches in apprehending the collapse of authoritarianism in Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as the long-term survival of authoritarianism in Burma and Malaysia. *D. Slater. Winter. (C)*

26610. **Political Communication Networks.** (=LLSO 20911) The focus of this course is to examine empirical evidence to determine if an individual’s social context has the ability to impact her political behavior. We examine two major questions: to what extent do we observe correlation between individuals’ actions and those within a social framework and to what extent may we identify a causal
relationship between the political behavior of the social group and the individual. Specific readings are drawn from collective action problems, information flow within networks, network formation, and the extent to which we can observe respondents’ voting behaviors that are consistent with their discussants’ surveys or field experiments. B. Sinclair. Spring. (B)

27000. Philosophy, Race, and Racism. (=CRPC 27000, LLSO 22701) This course is an intensive examination of some selected philosophical treatments of race and racism. Topics include the history of European racial thought; biological and social constructionist notions of race; the conceptualization of racial and cultural identities as “mixed” or “mestizo”; the interpretation of racial identities in the perspective of the philosophy of history; and the conflict between cognitivist and noncognitivist theories of racism. Readings include now “classic” texts by W. E. B. Du Bois, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Frantz Fanon, as well as recent work by Linda Alcoff, Anthony Appiah, Molefi Asante, Etienne Balibar, Homi Bhaba, Jorge Garcia, Paul Gilroy, Charles Mills, Michele Moody-Adams, and Adrian Piper. R. Gooding-Williams. Winter. (A)

27101/47101. Liberalism Confronts Democracy: Tocqueville and Mill. Class limited to fifteen students. This course focuses on liberalism’s wary embrace of democracy through an examination of the political thought of Tocqueville, J. S. Mill, and selected contemporaries. We look at their arguments for, and worries about, democratic politics in the context of selected topics (e.g., American events; French revolutions of 1789, 1830, and 1848; British Reform Acts). We explore ways in which debates over expanding political participation intersected with other themes (e.g., the nation, representation, gender, moral character, class, slavery, empire, international politics). J. Pitts. Winter. (A)

27400/47400. Carl Schmitt and Political Theology. Class limited to twenty students. This course is devoted to the political thought of controversial Weimar era lawyer and eventual National Socialist partisan, Carl Schmitt. We focus on Schmitt’s claim that political authority requires extra-rational and transcendent foundations. Along with Schmitt’s works from Weimar Germany (e.g., Political Theology and Concept of the Political), we also read and discuss some of the related writings of two of his greatest interlocutors, Leo Strauss and Walter Benjamin. We also consider recent appropriations of these theorists by other authors (e.g., Jakob Taubes, Jacques Derrida, Giorgio Agamben). J. McCormick. Autumn. (A)

27500/37500. Organizational Decision Making. This course examines the process of decision making in modern, complex organizations (e.g., universities, schools, hospitals, business firms, public bureaucracies). We also consider the impact of information, power, resources, organizational structure, and the environment, as well as alternative models of choice. J. Padgett. Winter. (B)

27600/37600. War and the Nation-State. (=LLSO 26500) The aim of this course is to examine the phenomenon of war in its broader socio-economic context during the years between the emergence of the modern nation-state in the late 1700s and the end of World War II. J. Mearsheimer. Winter. (D)

27700/57700. Popular Government in Principle and Practice. PQ: Completion of the general education requirement in social sciences and consent of instructor. Class limited to twenty students. This advanced seminar focuses on the normative justifications for regimes where, to some significant extent, “the people rule,” and analyzes the institutions through which the people are meant to rule. We consider constitutions and citizen self-understanding in ancient Greek democracies, ancient and medieval Italian peninsular republics, early-modern Central European city-states, and post-eighteenth-century representative governments. Themes include liberty and equality, contestation and consent, the good life and class relations, passivity and participation, and citizenship and slavery, as well as civil laws and military prowess. J. McCormick. Winter. (A)

28000/38000. Organization, Ideology, and Political Change. (=LLSO 26601) This course centers on the comparative analysis of the emergence and institutionalization of public bureaucracies in the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. The aim is to see whether there are distinctly different patterns of organizational rationality or whether bureaucracies are all culturally unique. B. Silberman. Autumn. (C)

28300. Seminar on Realism. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the realist paradigm of international relations. J. Mearsheimer. Spring. (D)

28615. Politics and Human Nature. PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing. Class limited to fifteen students. This course explores commonalities among psychoanalytic theory, Buddhism, and studies of emotions and brain physiology, particularly as they relate to questions of the self and political life. In addition to exploring each of these theories, we investigate particular questions (e.g., inevitability of conflict, dynamics of obedience and authority, emotional power of ideology, and non-Western understandings of human consciousness). E. Oliver. Winter. (A)

28700/38700. Jewish Political Thought. This course is an introductory survey of Jewish political thought from the Bible to the present day. We survey the different genres in which Jewish thinkers have addressed political questions, and we explore what these thinkers have to say about power, authority, law, obligation, community, and national sovereignty. Readings include selections from the Bible; Midrash; Halachah; medieval and modern philosophy (Maimonides, Spinoza); arguments for and against Zionism; and Israeli constitutional law. J. Cooper. Autumn. (A)

28800/48800. Introduction to Constitutional Law. (=LLSO 23900) This course is an introduction to the constitutional doctrines and political role of the U.S. Supreme Court, focusing on its evolving constitutional priorities and its response to basic governmental and political problems (e.g., maintenance of the federal system, promotion of economic welfare, protection of individual and minority rights). G. Rosenberg. Winter. (B)
29800. B.A. Colloquium. PQ: Required of fourth-year students who are majoring in political science majors and plan to write a B.A. thesis. Students participate in both Autumn and Winter Quarters but register only once (in either Autumn or Winter Quarter). PLSC 29800 counts as a single course and a single grade is reported in Winter Quarter. The colloquium is designed to help students carry out their B.A. thesis research and offer feedback on their progress. The class meets weekly in Autumn Quarter and every other week in Winter Quarter. Autumn, Winter.

29900. B.A. Thesis Supervision. PQ: Required of fourth-year students who are majoring in political science majors and plan to write a B.A. thesis. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. This is a reading and research course for independent study related to B.A. research and B.A. thesis preparation. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.

Courses Outside Political Science That Will Be Approved

Students may draw on the following courses to count toward political science courses required for the program. Some courses may not be offered every year, and other courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For updates, visit political-science.uchicago.edu or the departmental office. Please note that students may choose from this pre-approved list without submitting a petition; any of these courses will automatically count as one of the three courses outside the Department of Political Science that may be used for the major.

ANTH 29715. The Politics of Ethnicity in Burma. (C)
ECON 28600. Introduction to the Economic Analysis of Law. (B)
EEUR 24500. Cult of Personality: Hitler, Stalin, and Mao. (C)
ENST 21800. Economics and Environmental Policy. (B)
ENST 23100. Environmental Law. (B)
ENST 24101. U.S. Environmental Politics. (B)
ENST 24400. Is Development Sustainable? (B)
ENST 24700. Environmental Policy. (B)
ENST 24900. Global Environmental Politics. (C)
FNDL 22301. The Ethics of Albert Camus. (A)
FNDL 24401. American Originals: Franklin and Lincoln. (A)
GNDR 27700. Pragmatism, Feminism and Democracy. (A)
HIST 13801. Post Soviet Union, 1945 to 1953. (C)
HIST 18500. Politics of Film in Twentieth-Century American History. (B)
HIST 21500. John Locke in Historical Context. (A)
HIST 23401. Genocide of European Jews, 1933 to 1945. (C)
HIST 24702. Globalization and Asia. (C)
HIST 25600. Contemporary Central Asia. (C)
HIST 25902. History of Israel-Arab Conflict. (C)
HIST 26601. Postcolonial Theory. (A)
HIST 27301. War, Gender, and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century America. (B)
HIST 27400. Race and Racism in American History. (B)
HIST 27900. Asian Wars of the Twentieth Century. (C)
Courses Outside Political Science That Will Not Be Approved

Students routinely ask about the following courses. Petitions to use them for political science credit will be denied.

- ECON 19800. Introduction to Microeconomics.
- ECON 19900. Introduction to Macroeconomics.
- ECON 20000. Elements of Economic Analysis I.
- ECON 20100. Elements of Economic Analysis II.
- ECON 22200. Topics in American Economic History.
- ECON 26600. Economics of Urban Policies.
- Any introductory civilization studies courses.