Political Science

Department Website: http://political-science.uchicago.edu

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Political science is the study of governments, public policies, political processes, political behavior, and ideas about government and politics. Political scientists use both humanistic and scientific perspectives and a variety of methodological approaches to examine the political dynamics of all countries and regions of the world, both ancient and modern. 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 BA degree in political science can lead to a career in business, government, journalism, education, or nonprofit organizations; or it can lead to a PhD program in the social sciences or to professional school in law, business, public policy, or international relations. Our graduates have gone into all those areas in recent years.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements

The Political Science major requires twelve political science courses and a substantial paper. All students must take three out of the four courses that introduce the fields of political science. All students must also take the required research methods course. Students may meet the writing requirement by completing a BA Thesis or by writing a Long Paper. The BA Thesis and Long Paper options are explained below.

Introductory Course Requirement

To gain a broad understanding of political science, the department’s faculty thinks students should take a wide range of courses. To ensure that breadth, students are required to take at least three of the following four courses:

- PLSC 28701 Introduction to Political Theory
- PLSC 28801 Introduction to American Politics
- PLSC 28901 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- PLSC 29000 Introduction to International Relations

Each course will be offered every year, introducing students to the four principal areas of study in political science. The introductory courses must be taken for quality grades.

Research Methods Requirement

To prepare students to evaluate the materials in their classes and to write research papers, students are also required to take the department’s research methods course, which will be offered every quarter:

- PLSC 22913 Political Science Research Methods

The department also strongly recommends, but does not require, a course in statistics.

Political Science Course Requirement

In addition to the above requirements, students are required to take six to eight Political Science courses of their choosing in order to develop their interests in and knowledge of the field. Those following the Long Paper path, described below, must complete eight courses while those on the BA Thesis path must complete at least six. It may be appropriate for advanced students to pursue an independent study credit (see below). Courses outside Political Science may be considered for the major only by petition. (Please submit the General Petition Form (https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/General%20Petition.pdf), along with a copy of the course syllabus, to the Director of Undergraduate studies via email.)

Writing Requirement: Two Options

Students who are majoring in political science must write at least one substantial paper. There are two ways to meet this requirement, by writing a BA Thesis or by submitting a Long Paper.

OPTION 1: LONG PAPER

The Long Paper is typically a course paper. It may be written for either a professor in Political Science or a professor in another department whose course is accepted for Political Science credit. Students who write a Long Paper are not required to write a BA Thesis. Students submitting a Long Paper must submit an approval form (https://political-science.uchicago.edu/sites/political-science.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/Long%20Paper%20Form.pdf) to the department (electronic submission permitted), signed by an instructor who verifies that the paper meets two requirements: (a) the paper is 20 pages or longer, double-spaced (that is, approximately 5,000 words or longer); and (b) the paper received a grade of B or better (that is, a grade of B- or below does not meet the requirement).

*The Long Paper might be:*
• A class paper for any course used to meet the major’s requirements.
• An extended version of a shorter paper written for a course. If a course requires a shorter paper, students may ask the instructor for permission to write a 20-page paper instead.
• Written for a course that did not require any papers. Students may ask the instructor for permission to write a 20-page paper, either in place of another assignment, as an extra assignment, or as an ungraded assignment.
• Written for a Political Science instructor after a course is completed. The student could either produce an entirely new paper or, with the instructor’s permission, take a shorter assignment and turn it into a longer paper.

If the paper is not a graded assignment for class, it still meets the department’s requirement if the instructor attests that it merits a grade of B or better. Unless the paper is written for a graded class assignment, students must ask the instructor’s permission to submit any such paper.

Students are responsible for obtaining an approval form (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/ thecollege/politicalscience/Long_Paper_Form.pdf) to verify the successful completion of the Long Paper and giving it to the relevant instructor. Please ask the instructor to sign the approval form and return it via email to the Undergraduate Administrator. The deadline for submitting the approval form (http:// collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/politicalscience/Long_Paper_Form.pdf) is 4 p.m. on Friday of the second week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate. Students should complete their paper before their final quarter; the approval form should be submitted to the department as soon as the writing requirement is completed.

OPTION 2: BA THESIS

Writing a BA 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 35 to 50 pages in length (the length of most scholarly articles in professional journals). It must receive a grade of B or higher. Students choose a suitable faculty member to supervise the research and writing. The deadline for submitting the BA Thesis to the department is 4 p.m. on Friday of the fourth week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate.

Students who choose to write a thesis will submit an application to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the posted deadline, usually by the end of the fifth week of Spring Quarter of their third year. Students will be asked to list prior coursework and methodological training in their proposed area of interest. The application will include a proposed topic, a plan of study, and the signature of a faculty advisor. Students are allowed to have advisors outside of the department. Students will need to have the endorsement of a faculty member prior to submitting this application. The department will assist students who are having trouble finding advisors.

BA Colloquium. Students who choose to write a BA Thesis are required to enroll in PLSC 29800 BA Colloquium in the Autumn Quarter of the fourth year. Students may not study abroad while they are enrolled in the BA Colloquium. The colloquium is designed to help students carry out their BA Thesis research and to offer feedback on their progress. Students who write a BA Thesis must also enroll in PLSC 29900 BA Thesis Supervision for one quarter, normally Winter Quarter of fourth year (although enrollment may be in any quarter).

BA Thesis Supervision. During their fourth year, students who choose to write a BA Thesis must register with their BA Thesis faculty adviser for one quarter of PLSC 29900 BA Thesis Supervision. Students may also elect to take a second quarter of PLSC 29900 BA Thesis Supervision, which will count toward the twelve required courses. To enroll, students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form (https:// humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/fillable-reading-research- form.pdf). The final grade for the course will be based on the grade given the BA Thesis by the faculty adviser. Although most BA Theses are supervised by Political Science professors, the adviser need not be a member of the Department of Political Science.

BA/MA Programs and the PLSC Major. Students accepted into BA/MA programs complete their writing requirement with their MA thesis. They do not need to write a separate long paper or BA thesis. BA/MA students must still fulfill the course requirements of the major—three of the four introductory courses, the research methods course (PLSC 22913 Political Science Research Methods), and eight political science electives. Three of the eight electives may include courses outside of the major (by petition to the Director of Undergraduate Studies) or graduate-level MA courses. BA/MA programs may have additional requirements regarding how many courses may be double-counted for the undergraduate major.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS MEETING THE WRITING REQUIREMENT WITH A LONG PAPER

Three of the following Political Science courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 28701</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 28801</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 28901</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 29000</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 22913</td>
<td>Political Science Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eight additional Political Science courses*</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulfillment of the writing requirement</td>
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Total Units 1200

* At least five must be courses in Political Science.

**Summary of Requirements for Students Meeting the Writing Requirement with a BA Thesis**

Three of the following Political Science courses: 300

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 28701</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 22913</td>
<td>Political Science Research Methods</td>
<td>100</td>
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Six additional Political Science courses* 600

<table>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 29800</td>
<td>BA Colloquium</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSC 29900</td>
<td>BA Thesis Supervision</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

Total Units 1200

* At least three must be courses in Political Science.

**Pass/Fail Courses**

Courses that meet requirements for the major are normally taken for quality grades. The three required introductory courses must be taken for quality grades. However, students may take up to two courses in the major on a P/F basis.

**Independent Study**

Students with extensive course work in Political Science who wish to pursue more specialized topics that are not covered by regular courses have the option of registering for PLSC 29700 Independent Study, to be taken individually and supervised by a member of the Political Science faculty. Students must obtain the prior consent of the program director and the instructor, as well as submit the College Reading and Research Course Form (https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/fillable-reading-research-form.pdf). The substance of the independent study may not be related to the BA Thesis or BA research, which is covered by PLSC 29900 BA Thesis Supervision. Only one PLSC 29700 Independent Study course may count toward requirements for the major.

**Honors in the Major**

Students who do exceptionally well in their course work and who write an outstanding BA Thesis are recommended for honors in the major. 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 BA Colloquium and PLSC 29900 BA Thesis Supervision and to submit a BA Thesis. To graduate with department honors, then, a student must have both honors-level grades and a BA Thesis that receives honors. Students who are accepted into BA/MA programs AND are accepted into the BA honors program may use their MA thesis and MA thesis courses in place of the undergraduate equivalents with prior approval. Those BA/MA students must have their MA thesis evaluated for BA honors separately from the MA evaluation.

**Double Majors**

Students who plan to double major may complete the Political Science requirements by either the BA Thesis option or the Long Paper option. Students who write the BA Thesis must attend the Political Science BA Colloquium even if the other major also requires attendance at its colloquium. A request to use a single BA Thesis for two majors requires the approval of both program directors on the Petition to Use a Single Bachelor’s Paper for Two Majors (https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/BA_Double_Major_0.pdf) form.

**Courses Taken at Other Universities by Students Who Transfer to the University of Chicago**

Student who transfer into the University of Chicago and wish to transfer courses into the major should see the Director of Undergraduate Studies soon after matriculation. The introductory course requirement and the research methods requirement cannot be satisfied by courses taken elsewhere, but courses may be counted...

Becoming a Political Science Major
Most students declare a major at the end of the second year or beginning of the third. The department encourages students to try out the major even before declaring. To receive announcements about the program in the major and other information about the Department of Political Science, students should sign up for the undergraduate email list either through the departmental office or on the Undergraduate Political Science subscription list page (https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/subscribe/ugpolsall/).

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

PLSC 20138. Politics/Participation/Organization. 100 Units.
When and why do citizens participate in politics? What skills do they bring to that participation? And why should we care? These questions are central to debates in both democratic theory and political sociology. Through case studies of voluntary associations and social movements, the course explores how participation is shaped by distinctive organizational cultures that create both opportunities and constraints for political actions.
Instructor(s): E. Clemens Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 20138

PLSC 20506. Cities, Space, Power: Introduction to urban social science. 100 Units.
This lecture course provides a broad, multidisciplinary introduction to the study of urbanization in the social sciences. The course surveys a broad range of research traditions from across the social sciences, as well as the work of urban planners, architects, and environmental scientists. Topics include: theoretical conceptualizations of the city and urbanization; methods of urban studies; the politics of urban knowledges; the historical geographies of capitalist urbanization; political strategies to shape and reshape the built and unbuilt environment; cities and planetary ecological transformation; post-1970s patterns and pathways of urban restructuring; and struggles for the right to the city.
Instructor(s): N. Brenner Terms Offered: Winter. Not offered in 2023-2024 academic year.
Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 30506, ARCH 20506, PLSC 30506, ENST 20506, SOCI 20506, CHST 20506, CEGU 20506, CHSS 30506, SOCI 30506, KNOW 30506, HIPS 20506

PLSC 20521. Sociology of urban planning: cities, territories, environments. 100 Units.
This course provides a high-intensity introduction to the sociology of urban planning practice under modern capitalism. Building upon urban sociology, planning theory and history as well as urban social science and environmental studies, we explore the emergence, development and continual transformation of urban planning in relation to changing configurations of capitalist urbanization, modern state power, sociopolitical insurgency and environmental crisis. Following an initial exploration of divergent conceptualizations of “planning” and “urbanization,” we investigate the changing sites and targets of planning; struggles regarding the instruments, goals and constituencies of planning; the contradictory connections between planning and diverse configurations of power in modern society (including class, race, gender and sexuality); and the possibility that new forms of planning might help produce more socially just and environmentally sane forms of urbanization in the future.
Instructor(s): N. Brenner Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 30521, SOCI 30521, CEGU 20521, CHST 20521, GEOG 20521, PBPL 20521, SOCI 20521, ARCH 20521, ENST 20521, KNOW 30521, PLSC 30521

PLSC 20704. Postcolonial and Decolonial History and Theory. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to some key texts in post and decolonial theory. Our goals in this class are three-fold. First, to familiarize students with foundational thinkers who have inspired both decolonial and postcolonial work. We draw attention to the different ways in which their ideas have been deployed in subsequent post and decolonial scholarship. Second, we ask questions oriented towards comparison of postcolonial and decolonial approaches: What, if any, are the points of overlap between decolonial and postcolonial thought? How do both bodies of work critique and contest the legacies of empire? Third, we investigate the present and possible futures of decolonial and postcolonial thought.
Instructor(s): Rochona Majumdar & Lisa Wedeen Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Enrollment limit: 15
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 26606, SALC 20704, CCCT 20704, CDIN 20704

PLSC 20800. Machiavelli’s Discourses on Livy. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to reading Machiavelli’s Discourses on Livy supplemented by substantial selections from Livy’s history of Rome. Themes include princes, peoples, and elites; republics and principalities; pagan and Christian religion and morality; war and empire; founding and reform; virtue, corruption, liberty, and fortune; ancient history and modern experience; reading and writing; and theory and practice.
Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Familiarity with Machiavelli’s, Prince.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTR 31710, PLSC 32100, FNDL 29300

PLSC 20815. New Directions in Formal Theory. 100 Units.
In this graduate seminar we will survey recent journal articles that develop formal (mathematical) theories of politics. The range of topics and tools we touch on will be broad. Topics include models of institutions, groups, and behavior, and will span American politics, comparative politics, and international relations. Tools
include game theory, network analysis, simulation, axiomatic choice theory, and optimization theory. Our focus will be on what these models are theoretically doing: What they do and do not capture, what makes one mathematical approach more compelling than another, and what we can ultimately learn from a highly stylized (and necessarily incomplete) mathematical representation of politics. The goal of the course is for each participant, including the professor, to emerge with a new research project.

**Instructor(s):** Z. Luo  
**Terms Offered:** Spring  
**Equivalent Course(s):** PECO 40815, PBPL 40815, PPHA 40815, PLSC 40815

**PLSC 20928. Through the Prism of an Intellectual Life: Thinking through conversation in the ruins of empire. 100 Units.**

What is the place of conversation in political thought? What makes such conversations generative or fulfilling? What role do conversations about politics play in connecting our present to the past and in helping us to reimagine our futures? These are some of the questions that this course hopes to explore by following along the threads of a conversation that has united the aims, hopes, and disappointments of three generations of anti-colonial thinkers in the Afro-Atlantic world. Taking the intellectual life of the Jamaican-British social theorist, Stuart Hall, as an exemplary site for this investigation, students will engage with a variety of sources-recordings, interview transcripts, memoirs, scholarship, and political writings—in an effort to piece together one strand of conversation out of which Hall’s intellectual life took shape and through which he in turn shaped the intellectual lives of others. Of particular interest here is the intergenerational character of these conversations. Students will be encouraged to explore how people are shaped by intergenerational preoccupations and concerns, even as they come to take up these preoccupations in new ways that often mark a break from the past. Together, we will also examine how, in narrating their own preoccupations and intellectual lives to themselves, people lay claim to particular pasts and sketch out hoped-for futures.

**Instructor(s):** Daragh Grant  
**Terms Offered:** Winter  
**Equivalent Course(s):** CRES 26511, FNDL 20928, PARR 20928, CCCT 20928

**PLSC 20999. International Migration. 100 Units.**

This course examines the drivers of international migration and its consequences for international politics. Students will consider the reasons people move from one country to another, and analyze how states and international organizations facilitate, obstruct, and deter people from crossing borders. The goal of the course is to provide students with a strong foundation for understanding the key theoretical, legal, and political concepts that shape current debates over international migration. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the course covers themes such as how globalization, global capitalism, conflict, and climate change impact contemporary patterns of regular and irregular migration, how states and the international community respond to forced displacement, and the ways in which border externalization, militarization, and surveillance are proliferating throughout the globe. Students will write one op-ed advocating for a change or continuation in current approaches to managing migration, and two policy papers examining two separate case studies related to international migration. A key component of this course is editing and analyzing others’ work.

**Instructor(s):** Tinti, Peter  
**Terms Offered:** Spring  
**Prerequisite(s):** Undergraduate students must seek instructor consent prior to enrollment  
**Equivalent Course(s):** PLSC 30999, INRE 39550

**PLSC 21005. Militant Democracy and the Preventative State. 100 Units.**

Are states of exception still exceptional? The current debates and developments as well as the existential governmental crises has led to a securitization of rights. State security discourse narrates how states understand and mediate their legal obligations and has been used justify pre-emptive actions and measures which otherwise would not fit within an international law framework. When narrated in the public square, States often construct a discourse around a necessity defence—measures that may be extra-legal but argued to be necessary to protect democratic values and the democratic ‘way of life.’ This typifies what we refer to as ‘militant democratic’ language of the ‘preventive state’ and has been most visible in the raft of antiterrorism measures that were introduced after the events of September 11, 2001 and remain to date. This course will examine the impact of militant democracy and the preventative state on the current human rights landscape. It will look specifically how the narrative of prevention and protection has impacted normative changes to fundamental human rights and how the permanence of emergency is beginning to give the concept of ‘securitization of rights’ legal legs.

**Instructor(s):** Kathleen Cavanaugh, Senior Lecturer, Executive Director, Pozen Center for Human Rights  
**Terms Offered:** Autumn  
**Equivalent Course(s):** HMRT 21005, HMRT 31005

**PLSC 21207. Ecocentrism and Environmental Racism. 100 Units.**

The aim of this course is to explore the tensions and convergences between two of the most profoundly important areas of environmental philosophy. "Ecocentrism" is the view that holistic systems such as ecosystems can be ethically considerable or "count" in a way somewhat comparable to human persons, and such a philosophical perspective has been shared by many prominent forms of environmentalism, from Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic to Deep Ecology to the worldviews of many Native American and Indigenous peoples. For some prominent environmental philosophers, a commitment to ecocentrism is the defining test of whether one is truly an environmental philosopher. "Environmental Racism" is one of the defining elements of environmental injustice, the way in which environmental crises and existential threats often reflect systemic discrimination, oppression, and domination in their disproportionate adverse impact on peoples of color, women, the global
poor, LGBTQ populations, and Indigenous Peoples. Although historically, some have claimed that eccentric organizations such as Greenpeace have neglected the problems of environmental injustice and racism in their quest to, e.g., “save the whales,” a deeper analysis reveals a far more complicated picture, with many affinities and alliances between eccentrics and activists seeking environmental justice. (A)

Instructor(s): Bart Schultz Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 21207, CRES 21207, ENST 21207, HMRT 21207, MAPH 31207, CHST 21207

PLSC 21499. Philosophy and Philanthropy. 100 Units.
Perhaps it is better to give than to receive, but exactly how much giving ought one to engage in and to whom or what? Recent ethical and philosophical developments such as the effective altruism movement suggest that relatively affluent individuals are ethically bound to donate a very large percentage of their resources to worthy causes—for example, saving as many lives as they possibly can, wherever in the world those lives may be. And charitable giving or philanthropy is not only a matter of individual giving, but also of giving by foundations, corporations, non-profits, non-governmental and various governmental agencies, and other organizational entities that play a very significant role in the modern world. How, for example, does an institution like the University of Chicago engage in and justify its philanthropic activities? Can one generalize about the various rationales for philanthropy, whether individual or institutional? Why do individuals or organizations engage in philanthropy, and do they do so well or badly, for good reasons, bad reasons, or no coherent reasons? This course will afford a broad, critical philosophical and historical overview of philanthropy, examining its various contexts and justifications, and contrasting charitable giving with other ethical demands, particularly the demands of justice. How do charity and justice relate to each other? Would charity even be needed in a fully just world? (A)

Instructor(s): Bart Schultz Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This course will feature a number of guest speakers and be developed in active conversation with the work of the UChicago Civic Knowledge Project and Office of Civic Engagement. Students will also be presented with some practical opportunities to engage reflectively in deciding whether, why and how to donate a certain limited amount of (course provided) funding.
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 21499, MAPH 31499, PHIL 21499

PLSC 21510. Introduction to Text as Data for Social Science. 100 Units.
Social scientists increasingly use large quantities of text-based data to address problems in industry and academy. This course provides students with an overview of popular techniques for collecting, processing, and analyzing text data from a social science perspective. We will first learn how to collect text data from a variety of sources, including application programming interfaces (APIs) and web-scraping. The second portion of the course provides an overview of popular methods to analyze text data, including sentiment analysis, topic models, supervised classification, and word embeddings. The course is applied in nature. While many of the techniques we discuss have their origins in computer science or statistics, this is not a CS or statistics course. Ultimately, the goal is to introduce students to modern techniques for computational text analysis and help them apply these methods to their own research.

Instructor(s): R. Terman Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Students should have at least one class in statistics and/or quantitative methods before taking this course. We will also assume basic familiarity with the R programming language.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31510

PLSC 21601. The Politics of Industrial Transformation. 100 Units.
This course examines the political sources of and responses to industrial and technological development, a key determinant of the wealth of nations and a crucial component of solutions to global challenges. Key topics include the relationship between state and market; institutional sources of comparative advantage; the role of national security; the relationship between the national and the global; the challenges of regulating new industries; and the potential of mobilizing industries to address climate change. Readings will focus on the post-WWII era, and the experiences of developed countries, particularly those of the U.S., will be discussed in conjunction with those of developing countries.

Instructor(s): Xu, Yan Terms Offered: Spring Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 31901, MAPS 21901, PLSC 31901

PLSC 21770. Plato’s Republic. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to reading and discussion of Plato’s Republic and some secondary work with attention to justice in the city and the soul, war and warriors, education, theology, poetry, gender, eros, and actual existing cities.

Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Autumn. Autumn
Prerequisite(s): No Consent Required
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 29503, SCTX 21770, SCTX 31770, PLSC 43820

PLSC 21771. Three Comedies of Sexual Revolution. 100 Units.
This seminar will discuss three comedies of sexual revolution from three different times and places. Aristophanes’s Assemblywomen recounts how under the leadership of the able Praxagora the women of Athens take over the Assembly and legislate a new regime in which private property is replaced by communism and sexual equity is achieved in favor of the old and unattractive at the expense of the young and attractive. Machiavelli’s Mandragola dramatizes the tricks by which young Callimaco manages with the aid of the trickster parasite Ligurio to have sex with Lucrezia, the beautiful young wife of the elderly lawyer Nicomaco, with the
PLSC 22212. African American Political Thought: Democracy's Reconstruction. 100 Units.
This course investigates the major themes, debates, and tensions that animate African American thought from the election of the country's first Black president, Barack Obama, the emergence of the Black Lives Matter contemporary issue/movement/action that has shaped Black politics as we know it, including mass incarceration, and political struggles in the United States since the Civil Rights Movement. Each week we will take up a contemporary issue/movement/action that has shaped Black politics as we know it, including mass incarceration, the election of the country's first Black president, Barack Obama, the emergence of the Black Lives Matter Movement, and intersectionality and the role of black feminism in shaping the radical freedom tradition in Black politics. Throughout the course we will attempt to situate Black politics in conversation with the literature that defines the area of study we label American politics. Is there such a thing as black politics?
Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Spring 2024
Prerequisite(s): Instructor’s consent is required for Undergrads
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 22150, LLSO 25902, CRES 22150

PLSC 221820. Global Justice and the Ethics of Immigration. 100 Units.
This seminar introduces urgent moral and political questions in international affairs, with a particular focus on human rights, global inequality, colonialism and decolonization, structural injustice, and immigration. Addressed ethical questions will include: How should we understand the demands of social and distributive justice beyond state borders? Are economic inequalities between countries unjust? If so, why? What do affluent countries owe to less affluent countries? Who should bear responsibility for structural and historical injustices? Is there a human right to immigrate? Do states have a right to close their borders to immigrants? Do states have a right to constrain their citizens’ ability to emigrate? We will address these and other ethical questions by reading and critically assessing important texts written by leading scholars within the fields of political philosophy, postcolonial theory, legal scholarship and applied ethics. The seminar requires no prior background.
Instructor(s): C. Cordelli Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 21820

PLSC 22001. Writing about Complex Issues. 100 Units.
This course will challenge students to engage critical questions of human security in the context of three contemporary case studies that have come to represent “policy quagmires” at the international level: international stabilization efforts in the Sahel region of Africa; the US-led “War on Drugs” in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the migration “crisis” in Europe. Students will be required to think critically about existing policy approaches pursued by various actors in these settings. Drawing from a range of sources and disciplines, students will learn how to analyze these issues, write persuasively in a variety of formats, and come away better equipped to research and write about other complex international crises. In all three case studies, the prevailing development-security nexus, promoted and financed by the international community and national governments, has proved insufficient as a framework for meeting respective challenges. Meanwhile, non-state actors, including criminal networks, armed groups, civil society organizations, NGOs, and humanitarian agencies compete and collaborate with state actors and each other to shape security and governance outcomes according to their own interests and ideologies. Students will submit written assignments on each of the three case studies. A key component of this course will be editing and analyzing the work of their peers.
Instructor(s): Tinti, Peter Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent
Equivalent Course(s): INRE 42000

PLSC 22013. Adam Smith’s Social and Political Thought. 100 Units.
Adam Smith’s thought, and his immense influence, ranged across a remarkable array of subjects: from rhetoric and the art of writing, through the early history of language and thought, through moral philosophy and the history of law and government, to the political economy of the modern commercial state and the politics of global empires. This seminar reads Smith’s Theory of Moral Sentiments and Wealth of Nations in light of his broader intellectual concerns in less well-known works, and in the philosophical and political context of the Scottish Enlightenment, especially in relation to the work of David Hume. We will pay particular attention to such topics as Smith’s ambivalent account of progress, his narrative of global history, his critique of European commercial society and imperial expansion, and his polemical and didactic purposes. We will also read selectively from the rich body of new scholarly literature on Smith.
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 22013, PLSC 42013, SCTH 32013, CCCT 42013

PLSC 22150. Contemporary Black Politics. 100 Units.
This course explores the communities, issues, actions, and arguments that comprise the contemporary field of Black politics. Our specific task is to explore the question of how have Black people engaged in politics and political struggles in the United States since the Civil Rights Movement. Each week we will take up a contemporary issue/movement/action that has shaped Black politics as we know it, including mass incarceration, the election of the country’s first Black president, Barack Obama, the emergence of the Black Lives Matter Movement, and intersectionality and the role of black feminism in shaping the radical freedom tradition in Black politics. Throughout the course we will attempt to situate Black politics in conversation with the literature that defines the area of study we label American politics. Is there such a thing as black politics?
Instructor(s): Cathy Cohen Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 22150, LLSO 25902, CRES 22150

PLSC 22212. African American Political Thought: Democracy’s Reconstruction. 100 Units.
This course investigates the major themes, debates, and tensions that animate African American thought from the American war for independence through the present day. We will explore how enslaved Africans and free African Americans confronted the changing racial regimes in American history, resisted forms of racial domination, and reimagined the values at the heart of American democracy. Such a survey of African American
thought raises critical questions about the possibility of articulating a unifying African American experience, the costs of forming political attachments to states and national identities as well as the prospects for establishing a multiracial democratic society in the U.S. We will approach these debates with an historical-comparative method, seeking to understand how the terms of political debate have shifted over the course of the past two centuries. Authors that we will cover include Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Martin Delaney, Ida B. Wells, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, and Clarence Thomas.

Instructor(s): Larry Svabek Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 22112, RDIN 22112

PLSC 22333. Cassandras: Truth-Telling in Times of Crisis. 100 Units.

In public life, why and how are some people accepted as truth-tellers while others are not? Is truth simply a problem of and for “correct” reasoning? What assumptions about argumentation and evidence go unexplored in this way of framing the problem? What if truth were a problem of truth-telling instead? When and how do social, racial, and gender hierarchies authorize received understandings of a (credible) truth-teller? What is credible telling usually thought to sound like? What are the conditions for listening and hearing the truth? To think through these questions, we take as a lens the archetype of Cassandra, the babbling prophetess of classical Greek myth and tragedy doomed not to be believed. Cassandra has served as a resource and source of inspiration for a range of critical thinkers, including but not limited to theorists, feminists, poets, and novelists. What is a “Cassandra”? Does her “deranged” way of seeing the world - her prophetic speech - disorient or destabilize? We will consider how, in her different representations, Cassandra places questions of language, patriarchy, and sexual violence at the center of general discussions of credibility and critique. Readings range from ancient Greek thought to 21st century theory.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 32333, GNSE 22333, CCCT 32333, PLSC 32333, CCCT 22333

PLSC 22677. Latinxs, Labor, and the Law in the U.S. 100 Units.

Latinidad is an ethno-racial signifier meant to encompass people of Latin American descent living in the United States. Terms like "Latina," "Hispanic," and most recently, "Latinx/e" are meant to evoke a commonality that crosses nationalities to create political power & social recognition in the United States. Like every other identity term, "Latinidad" is an ever-contested construction with uncertain contours. The history of Latinidad in the U.S. has its origins in a myriad social efforts and forces: political campaigns, immigration policies, community organizing, migrant labor programs, union campaigns, marketing strategies, artistic expressions, & many more. Rather than simplify or ignore these tensions, the purpose of this class is to confront the agonistic aspects of Latinidad head-on. In this course, students will read widely across the social sciences & humanities, delving deep into the making and remaking of "Latinidad" in the U.S. We will be playing foremost attention to the roles that U.S. economic relations & government policies have had in shaping collective understandings of Latinidad, from the making of a "brown collar" labor sector sustaining the American economy to the development of census categories to describe Latinxs. Furthermore, we will look at U.S. Latinxs not merely as objects of policy, but also as subjects of politics, delving into the past and present of U.S. Latinx political life.
Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 22711. American Elections: A Scientific Approach. 100 Units.

Course Description: This course provides an overview of electoral politics in the United States, covering presidential, congressional, and local elections. It also surveys both canonical and cutting-edge scientific studies on elections. We will address theoretical and empirical questions about voters, candidates, parties, and participation, media, and the electoral system as a whole.
Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 22755. The Idea of Africa. 100 Units.

The Idea of Africa, a new interdisciplinary course, offers undergraduates students an opportunity to engage critically with key philosophical and political debates about contemporary Africa on the continent and globally. The course takes its title from V.Y. Mudimbe’s 1994 book which builds on his earlier work The Invention of Africa. It asks three questions: (1) How and to what purposes has Africa been conceived as metaphor and concept. (2) How might we locate Africa as a geographic site and conceptual space to think through contemporary debates about citizenship, migration and new structures of political economy? (3) What futures and modes of futurity are articulated from the space and metaphor of Africa? This lecture course co-thought in an interdisciplinary mode will include public guest lectures, field trips, and engagement with visual arts, and film related to the themes of the course. The course will be divided into the following four sections: 1) Inventing Africa; 2) Political Trajectories; 3) Afro-Mobilities; 4) Afro-Futures.
Instructor(s): Nachata Nsabimana & Adom Getachew
Note(s): Cap 50
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 23755, ANTH 22755

PLSC 22819. Philosophy of Education. 100 Units.

What are the aims of education? Are they what they should be, for purposes of cultivating flourishing citizens of a liberal democracy? What are the biggest challenges-philosophical, political, cultural, and ethical-confronting educators today, in the U.S. and across the globe? How can philosophy help address these? In dealing with such questions, this course will provide an introductory overview of both the philosophy of education and various educational programs in philosophy, critically surveying a few of the leading ways in which philosophers past
and present have framed the aims of education and the educational significance of philosophy. From Plato to the present, philosophers have contributed to articulating the aims of education and developing curricula to be used in various educational contexts, for diverse groups and educational levels. This course will draw on both classic and contemporary works, but considerable attention will be devoted to the work and legacy of philosopher/educator John Dewey, a founding figure at the University of Chicago and a crucial resource for educators concerned with cultivating critical thinking, creativity, character, and ethical reflection. The course will also feature field trips, distinguished guest speakers, and opportunities for experiential learning. (A) (B) 

Instructor(s): Bart Schultz Terms Offered: Winter 
Equivalent Course(s): CHDV 22819, MAPH 32819, PHIL 22819

PLSC 22913. Political Science Research Methods. 100 Units. 
This is a first course in empirical research as it is practiced across a broad range of the social sciences, including political science. It is meant to enable critical evaluation of statements of fact and cause in discussions of the polity, economy, and society. One aim is to improve students’ ability to produce original research, perhaps in course papers or a senior thesis. A second objective is to improve students’ ability to evaluate claims made by others in scholarship, commentary, or public discourse. The specific research tools that the course develops are statistical, but the approach is more general. It will be useful as a guide to critical thinking whether the research to be evaluated, or to be done, is quantitative or not. Above all, the course seeks to demonstrate the use of empirical research in the service of an argument. 
Instructor(s): P. Conley Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

Equivalent Course(s): CHDV 22819, MAPH 32819, PHIL 22819

PLSC 23002. Ethics in International Relations. 100 Units. 
Ethical questions pervade international politics. Do affluent states have an obligation to make economic sacrifices to mitigate the progression of global warming? Are human rights universal? Should states waive the intellectual property rights of pharmaceutical companies to enable global access to vaccines? Can military intervention be justified despite its breach of sovereignty? Despite the frequent invocation of normative language in global politics, scholars of international relations have only recently started to turn their attention toward studying ethics as an important political phenomenon. This marks a shift away from considering ethics as epiphenomena to interests and power. This seminar explores the role of ethics in international relations, both in theory and in practice. It draws on readings from normative international relations theory and political philosophy to take up ethical dilemmas encountered in world affairs in the context of debates about the environment, humanitarian intervention, nuclear weapons, development, and global health. 
Instructor(s): Turco, Linnea Terms Offered: Spring 
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 33002, INRE 33000

PLSC 23065. Early Theories of Capitalism. 100 Units. 
The “Theories of Capitalism” sequence introduces students to classic texts in the history of economic thought. Students may take just one of the two courses: Early Theories of Capitalism or Twentieth-Century Theories of Capitalism. Enrollment in both is strongly encouraged but not required. Across the two courses, we examine diverse accounts of the forces that govern capitalist societies and the distinctive problems that emerge within them. As we do this, we also look closely at how the economists who developed these theories demarcated the economic domain of human life and we consider how their efforts to understand it were shaped by a rich body of intellectual resources. Early Theories of Capitalism focuses on the theoretical and practical concerns that animated economic writing in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Among these are questions about the origins of wealth and value, the effect of machines on the production process, the role of the state in economic life, and the condition and fate of the working class. Readings may include texts by Adam Smith, David Ricardo, John Stuart Mill, Carl Menger, and Alfred Marshall. 
Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Winter 
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 29065

PLSC 23148. BAD VIBES ONLY?: NEGATIVE EMOTIONS AND THE POLITICS OF QUEER-FEMINIST CRITIQUE. 100 Units. 
This course examines the role of negative emotions in the history of political thought and subsequently, in feminist and queer politics. Emotions in general, and negative emotions in particular, tend to be thought of as antithetical to politics. The liberal tradition boasts a longstanding view of emotions as personal and pre-political. When it does take emotions seriously, it tends to emphasize the democratic value of ‘good vibes’ like love, empathy, and generosity. Feminist and queer critics of liberalism have long challenged this view of emotions, and indeed, have drawn upon negative emotions in particular to articulate their critiques of, as well as imagine alternatives to, liberal conceptions of justice, freedom, and equality. In the first part of this course, we will familiarize ourselves with the way negative emotions have been theorized in the writings of Aristotle, Nietzsche, and Freud, among other canonical thinkers in the history of political thought. In the second part, this seminar will turn to focus each week on the way ‘bad vibes’ like envy, resentment, rage, and grief have informed queer-feminist critiques of liberal notions of equality, justice, and freedom. Readings will include Ahmed, Ngai, Butler, and Hartman. Students will consider how negative emotions or affects like rage, grief, and the like can be mobilized towards political ends, as well as the theoretical and practical consequences of these emotions’ characterization as political. 
Instructor(s): Agatha A. Slupek Terms Offered: Winter
PLSC 2322. Law’s Violence: Theoretical Foundations and Abolitionist Futures. 100 Units.
What are the justifications for legal violence in modern states? What does legal violence do in our world? In a
time where movements for the abolition of police and prisons are gaining traction, can we imagine non-violent
futures for law? This course seeks to introduce students to these questions and consider some possible answers,
drawing on an array of writing from scholars and scholar-activists in the fields of political science, philosophy,
law, and beyond. We will begin by examining some foundational theoretical issues and arguments related to
law, violence, and politics. We will then turn to thinking about the role of legal violence in the making and
perpetuation of forms of race and gender oppression. Finally, we will explore the possibility of law without
violence, concluding by engaging directly with a theme that will be in the background throughout the course:
the politics of prison and police abolition. Students will gain exposure to a wide variety of approaches and
methodologies within political and legal theory, and practice using this battery of resources to shed light on
present-day political debates and movements. Authors will include Thomas Hobbes, Walter Benjamin, Angela Y.
Davis, Robert M. Cover, Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, and more.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 23232

PLSC 23323. Recognition, Domination, and Sociability in Modern Political Thought. 100 Units.
This course examines the emergence of recognition theory through the reading of a series of influential texts
in modern political thought. Recognition theory considers the extent to which our sense of individuality and
self-worth depends on being recognized by others and the implications recognition has for civil society, not
least when individuals or groups are not being recognized. In short, theories of recognition offer accounts
of human sociability as foundational to political societies, in addition to dynamic concepts of social change,
domination, and counter-domination as individuals or marginalized groups struggle for recognition within
and across societies. Along these lines, we will address debates about early modern human rights discourses;
the equality of the sexes; European imperialism; and transcontinental slavery. Hegel is often regarded as the
founding modern figure in recognition theory; however, he draws on a long historical tradition that examines
the nature of human sociability. In this seminar, we will read a selection of these essential texts, by thinkers such
as Hobbes, Shaftesbury, Mandeville, Rousseau, Adam Smith, Kant, Wollstonecraft, Fichte and not least Hegel, in
order to critically analyze the emergence, development, and validity of theories of recognition
Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 23456. Comparative Politics of the Middle East. 100 Units.
This course offers undergraduates the opportunity to critically engage with key themes in Comparative Politics
and to explore these themes through the lens of Middle East politics. Every week, we introduce a Comparative
Politics theme such as State Formation, Colonial Legacies, Civil Conflict, Contentious Politics, Revolutions, and
Politics of Development— and consider how these have played out in the Middle East from the postcolonial period
to the present. We explore questions such as: why is authoritarianism so solidified in the Middle East despite
consistent challenges? How do civil society actors and oppositions navigate the authoritarian landscape? Why
is the Middle East more prone to civil conflicts and often economically underdeveloped compared to many
other world regions? Students learn to critically discuss, think, and write about these questions beyond the news
headlines, culturalist explanations, and popular misconceptions about the Middle East.
Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 23501. International Political Economy. 100 Units.
What explains a government’s decision to block a trade deal, prevent foreign investors from gaining control of
a local factory, or ban the export of rare earth minerals? This course develops theory and evidence that these
decisions reflect domestic and international politics. We will discuss the political dimension of the integration
of the global economy and the way that globalization separates workers, business, and consumers. Drawing
on methods and theory from international political economy, we will critically examine the prospects for
international cooperation on trade and immigration, as well as the future of international governance.
Instructor(s): R. Gulotty Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 33501

PLSC 2402. Chicago Politics. 100 Units.
This course is part of the Spring 2021 Chicago Studies bundle, that will permit students to collaborate with
historian and political scientist John Mark Hansen (author of The City in a Garden: A History of Hyde Park and
Kenwood) in ongoing research into the history and politics of Chicago’s 10th Ward (Southeast Chicago). Meeting
schedule and individualized projects will be decided in collaboration with enrollees' specific schedules and
interests.
Instructor(s): John Mark Hansen Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 24202, CHST 24202

PLSC 24810. Politics of the U.S. Congress. 100 Units.
This course examines Congress from the perspective of the 535 senators and representatives who constitute it. It
examines congressional elections, legislators’ relationships with their constituents, lawmakers’ dealings in and
with committees, and representatives’ give-and-take with congressional leadership, the executive, and pressure
groups.
Philosophers, theologians, and political actors in this period responded to the key issues of global politics, theories of international justice and global relations from the early sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. How did European thinkers from 1492 onward understand and evaluate the extraordinary developments by which some European countries came to rule over much of the non-European world? This seminar examines the global economy has figured as an object of analysis within feminist thought; and to examine how this analysis, together with the conceptual resources of political economy, has informed feminist theories of domination, freedom, equality, rights, and justice. Readings may include works by Simone de Beauvoir, Angela Davis, bell hooks, Iris Marion Young, Catharine MacKinnon, Nancy Fraser, and Aihwa Ong. The course includes a substantial research requirement, which invites students to draw upon the insights of these theorists as they use archival sources to conduct their own analyses of economic life.

Instructor(s): M. Hansen Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 24823. International Human Rights Law and Practice. 100 Units.

This course will introduce students to the legal architecture of international human rights law. Whilst the legal framing of rights emphasizes universality and the common good, its application reflects the historical compromises and political uncertainties of the times. This course will explore the tensions that are produced when politics meets ‘the law’ and examine the issues, actors, doctrines and practices that make up the human rights project. As human rights law is evolutive, we will look at how the human rights project has changed and evolved in connection to historical movements and post-colonial politics and has developed in order to address state violence, ‘terrorism’, minority rights, women’s rights, gender and sexuality, transitional justice, health, and responsibility to protect, to name but a few. We will draw on case studies, including the United States, in order to examine the complicated role of the state as both perpetrator and protector and promoter of human rights. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the human rights project; how does it confront the underlying issues of injustice and abuse, as well as the inherent conceptual and structural limitations of supranational human rights mechanisms in addressing and providing remedies for the problems facing the world today.

Instructor(s): Kathleen Cavanaugh, Executive Director, Senior Lecturer, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 29702, GNSE 20117

PLSC 24910. Comparative State Formation. 100 Units.

The course introduces students to the seminal arguments and ideas on the origins and long-term evolution of nation-states around the world. The syllabus is organized around the most salient debates in the literature. For example, wars and state-building, domestic conflict and institutions, integration to world capitalism, the natural resource curse, social resistance, nationalism, etc. Throughout these topics, the readings allow inter-region and within-region comparisons. Students will discuss seminal publications that provide the basis for contemporary debates on state formation, without privileging any particular research approach or community of scholars. The syllabus draws from major publications across the social sciences, especially political science, economics, and sociology. In this way, the course provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to discuss and collectively dissect arguments based on different theoretical perspectives, cultivating critical thinking skills.

Instructor(s): Cabal, Manuel Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): INRE 34900

PLSC 24950. Latin American Political Development. 100 Units.

The course introduces students to classic and recent theories on the evolution of political institutions in Latin American countries. Why did Latin American countries build weaker states than Europe and the US? What countries of the region are more developed and why? Why is Latin America the most unequal region in the world? Why have the democracies of the region been historically so vulnerable and ephemeral? Where and why did ethnic conflict appeared in the past decades? We will understand, evaluate, and discuss the seminal arguments and ideas on the origins and long-term evolution of Latin American nations. The course is of interest to students focused on economic development and international security, as the “state” and its capabilities have major consequences for the economic trajectory of nations and for the ability to guarantee peace within their territories. The syllabus is organized around major topics on comparative politics, such as colonial legacies, trade-led state-building, federalism, party systems, revolutions, industrialization, democratization, and ethnicity and citizenship. Through these topics, the students will learn about the political institutions of a variety of countries in the region from a historical perspective. Students will also be able to compare different theoretical approaches across the social sciences, especially political science, sociology, and political economy. The course is specially designed to practice academic skills for master-level

Instructor(s): Cabal, Manuel Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): LACS 34950, INRE 34950

PLSC 25068. Feminist Theory and Political Economy. 100 Units.

This course has two related aims: to consider how the regulation of economic life-from the household to the global economy-has figured as an object of analysis within feminist thought; and to examine how this analysis, together with the conceptual resources of political economy, has informed feminist theories of domination, freedom, equality, rights, and justice. Readings may include works by Simone de Beauvoir, Angela Davis, bell hooks, Iris Marion Young, Catharine MacKinnon, Nancy Fraser, and Aihwa Ong. The course includes a substantial research requirement, which invites students to draw upon the insights of these theorists as they use archival sources to conduct their own analyses of economic life.

Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment is limited to undergraduates who have completed their Social Sciences Core requirement.

Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 29702, GNSE 20117

PLSC 25110. Empire and International Justice. 100 Units.

How did European thinkers from 1492 onward understand and evaluate the extraordinary developments by which some European countries came to rule over much of the non-European world? This seminar examines the theories of international justice and global relations from the early sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. Philosophers, theologians, and political actors in this period responded to the key issues of global politics.
in the modern age, including the seizure of non-European lands; the establishment of slavery and the slave trade; the religious and cultural conversion of colonized peoples; the emerging institutions and practices of global commerce; and the impact of these developments upon both European and non-European societies. Indeed, many dilemmas that confront citizens and states today about humanitarian intervention, national sovereignty, conquest and occupation, empire, and human rights in a global context have an intriguing and complex intellectual history. The readings are primary texts by influential thinkers from the period of the initial Spanish conquests of the Americas through the mid-nineteenth century, including Montesquieu, Diderot, Burke, Bentham, Adam Smith, Cugoano, Kant, Herder, Constant, Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill, and Karl Marx.

Instructor(s): Kaushik Sunder Rajan Terms Offered: Winter Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 35110

PLSC 25131. Organized Criminal Groups in Latin America. 100 Units.
Many areas in Latin America suffer with organized criminal violence, one of the most significant urban and national security challenges of the 21st century. This violence is promoted by armed non-state groups such as drug trafficking organizations, guerrillas, militias, mafias, warlords, gangs, and vigilantes that have established subnational criminal governance regimes and dictate important parameters of social, economic, and political life. Through the state is frequently distant and negligent in areas controlled by these groups, it is never entirely absent. Many residents in territories dominated by these groups attend schools, visit health clinics, receive cash transfers, continue to vote and work in formal parts of the city. How can organized criminal groups can thrive in functional democracies with institutions to provide public goods, including security and justice? This course will examine this issue with a theoretical and empirical focus on Latin America.

Instructor(s): Joana Monteiro Terms Offered: Spring Equivalent Course(s): LACS 35131, LACS 25131, PLSC 35131

PLSC 25201. After Multiculturalism: Democratic Citizenship & Indigenous Resurgence in Settler Colonial Contexts. 100 Units.
This seminar examines intersections of democratic & Indigenous politics in liberal settler colonial contexts such as Canada & the United States. By the turn of the 21st century, toleration of cultural difference - or "multiculturalism," broadly defined - became a hallmark of liberal democratic countries. As a result, political institutions & society became generally more inclusive of cultural minorities & Indigenous peoples - and yet, members of cultural minorities & Indigenous communities have criticized the multicultural framework for misunderstanding the meaning of their claims. At the same time, some liberals & conservatives have argued that the multicultural framework jeopardizes liberal individualism & the national identity of the western state. Given the plethora of critiques across the political spectrum, political theorist Will Kymlicka notes "although people disagree about what comes after multiculturalism, there is a surprising consensus that we are indeed in a post-multicultural era". This seminar asks: if it is the case that liberal democratic countries are factually diverse, but we have reached an "exhaustion point" with liberal multiculturalism, what is the future of plural politics? We will explore alternative democratic & Indigenous political frameworks to radically reframe the meaning of diversity beyond state-centric conceptions of identity. As such, we will be introduced to expansive possibilities for plural and shared politics, including decolonization.

Terms Offered: Winter Equivalent Course(s): CRES 25201

PLSC 25215. The American Presidency. 100 Units.
This course examines the institution of the American presidency. It surveys the foundations of presidential power, both as the Founders conceived it, and as it is practiced in the modern era. This course also traces the historical development of the institutional presidency, the president's relationships with Congress and the courts, the influence presidents wield in domestic and foreign policymaking, and the ways in which presidents make decisions in a system of separated powers.

Instructor(s): W. Howell Terms Offered: Spring Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 25216, AMER 25215

PLSC 25457. Topics in Contemporary Critical Theory I. 100 Units.
This class considers the question of capital, historically, comparatively and conceptually. What is capital? How is it related to value? How is it different from money? How does it work to organize social relations? In what forms, and through what institutional structures, does it materialize? How does it reflect in modes and relations of production? How is it governed, and what is its relation to the political? This course will enter into such questions, in the first instance, through a reading of Karl Marx. It will subsequently traverse a heterodox genealogy of Marxist social thought (with some emphasis on French theorists), in order to understand how a method of analysis developed to come to terms with nineteenth century European industrial capitalism might help us understand contemporary worlds of extraction, logistics and finance in comparative perspective. We will consider how capital is racialized and gendered, how it has expanded and mutated across place and over time, and what it means that we live in a time today when it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism.

Instructor(s): Kaushik Sunder Rajan Terms Offered: Winter. Offered in alternating years. The program will next run in Winter 2022.

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Paris: Social Sciences - Critical Theory study abroad program.
Note(s): This course is part of the College's Paris: Social Sciences - Critical Theory study abroad program.
PLSC 25458. Topics in Contemporary Critical Theory II. 100 Units.
This course investigates the central place of empires in the shaping of the modern world and understands critical theory as inextricable from its colonial context. We will read authors including Montaigne, Diderot, Tocqueville, Du Bois, Aimé Césaire, Suzanne Césaire, Fanon, Foucault, Said, and Trouillot, as well as contemporary theorists including Luce Irigaray, Achille Mbembe, David Scott, Françoise Vergès, and Joan Scott; we will pay particular but not exclusive attention to the context of French imperialism and to Paris as a site of theorizing, and critique of, the imperial global order.
Instructor(s): Kaushik Sunder Rajan and Lisa Wedeen Terms Offered: Winter. Offered in alternating years. The program will next run in Winter 2022.
Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Paris: Social Sciences - Critical Theory study abroad program.
Note(s): This course is part of the College's Paris: Social Sciences - Critical Theory study abroad program.
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25458, CCCT 25458

PLSC 25459. Topics in Contemporary Critical Theory III. 100 Units.
This course examines selections from the vast literature on ideology—with attention to the political commitments and intellectual genealogies that have made the concept both important and vexed. The bulk of the course will entail examining ideology’s relationship to material practice, the notion of interpellation, the usefulness of “hegemony,” and the problems associated with false consciousness. We shall also analyze ideology’s connection to prevailing theoretical and empirical concerns, such as those related to “subject” formation, affect, new developments in capitalism, the resurgence of populism, and the dynamics associated with contemporary “democratic” liberal, as well as authoritarian, political order.
Instructor(s): Lisa Wedeen Terms Offered: Winter. Offered in alternating years. The program will next run in Winter 2022.
Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Paris: Social Sciences - Critical Theory study abroad program.
Note(s): This course is part of the College’s Paris: Social Sciences - Critical Theory study abroad program.
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25459, CCCT 25459

PLSC 25601. Why We Fight: The Roots of War and the Paths to Peace. 100 Units.
Most countries in the world have been independent for about 50 years. Some are peaceful and have prospered, while some remain poor, war-torn, or both. What explains why some countries have succeeded while others remain poor, violent, and unequal? Moreover, fifty years on, a lot of smart people are genuinely surprised that these countries’ leaders have not been able to make more progress in implementing good policies. If there are good examples to follow, why haven’t more countries followed these examples into peace and prosperity? Finally, we see poverty and violence despite 50 years of outside intervention. Shouldn’t foreign aid, democracy promotion, peacekeeping, and maybe even military intervention have promoted order and growth? If not why not, and what should we do about it as citizens? This class is going to try to demystify what’s going on. There are good explanations for violence and disorder. There are some good reasons leaders don’t make headway, bureaucrats seem slothful, and programs get perverted. The idea is to talk about the political, economic, and natural logics that lead to function and dysfunction.
Instructor(s): Blattman, Chris Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 25600

PLSC 25610. Authority, Obligation, and Dissent. 100 Units.
What is the basis of political authority? What, if anything, makes it legitimate? Under what conditions are we obliged to follow the laws and orders of government authorities? Under what conditions can we legitimately disobey such laws or orders, or even engage in violent rebellion? How have some of the most influential political thinkers answered such questions historically and which of their theories are most helpful for illuminating these issues for us today? Readings include classic writings by Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Burke, Paine, Kant, Thoreau, Gandhi, Fanon, and Martin Luther King, Jr.
Instructor(s): S. Muthu Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 26100. Civil War. 100 Units.
Civil war is the dominant form of political violence in the contemporary world. This graduate seminar will introduce students to cutting edge scholarly work and to the task of carrying out research on internal conflict. We will study the origins, dynamics, and termination of civil wars, as well as international interventions, post-conflict legacies, and policy responses to war. A variety of research approaches will be explored, including qualitative, quantitative, and interpretive methods, micro- and macro-level levels of analysis, and sub- and cross-national comparative designs. Our emphasis throughout will be on designing rigorous research that persuasively addresses important questions.
Instructor(s): P. Staniland Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 36100

PLSC 26205. American Political Economy and Race. 100 Units.
This course will explore how individual or group identity and social location is understood in economics. Specifically, we will use a political economy framework, which emerges from the premise that economic life has material, cultural, and political dimensions and that an individual’s (or group’s) identity or social location—e.g., race, gender, and class—may constrain or empower agents in their participation in economic and political life.
The readings will draw from diverse disciplines including political science, economics, and sociology and will focus primarily on the intersection of race and class.

Instructor(s): P. Posey  
Terms Offered: Winter  
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 26205

**PLSC 26302. Introduction to Medieval Political Philosophy. 100 Units.**

Instructor(s): P. Posey  
Terms Offered: Winter  
Equivalent Course(s): SCTR 39119, FNDL 26302

**PLSC 26703. Political Parties in the United States. 100 Units.**

Politicians and pundits frequently allege that aggressive partisanship is to blame for our contemporary political ills. American voters are similarly jaundiced. Public opinion polls routinely show that citizens, regardless of their ideology, take a dim view of political parties. Using the tools of social science, we will analyze the role that parties have played in politics throughout American history. Over the course of the seminar, we will begin to answer the following questions. What are parties and why do we have them? How do parties structure policymaking? Is too much partisanship really a problem? What is polarization, what causes it, and why does it matter?  
Instructor(s): R. Bloch Rubin  
Terms Offered: Autumn

**PLSC 26800. Insurgency, Terrorism, and Civil War. 100 Units.**

This course provides an introduction to asymmetric and irregular warfare. From Colombia to Afghanistan, non-state armed organizations are crucially important actors. We will study how they organize themselves, extract resources, deploy violence, attract recruits, and both fight and negotiate with states. We will also examine government counterinsurgency and counterterrorism policies, peace-building after conflict, and international involvement in internal wars. Case materials will be drawn from a variety of conflicts and cover a number of distinct topics. This course has a heavy reading load, and both attendance and substantial participation in weekly discussion sections are required.  
Instructor(s): P. Staniland  
Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 26969. Quantitative Methods for Political Science. 100 Units.**

An introduction to quantitative research methods in the field of Political Science.  
Terms Offered: Autumn

**PLSC 27002. Norms, Ideas, and Identity in International Politics. 100 Units.**

This advanced seminar examines the role of norms, ideas, and identities in world politics. The main goal is to help students understand academic and policy debates over the role of non-material factors in theories of international politics. Our emphasis will be on the tradition of constructivist scholarship in International Relations, its trajectory, and its critics. This course is intended for advanced undergraduates (political science majors and non-majors welcome) with prior coursework in International Relations.  
Instructor(s): R. Terman  
Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 27815. Politics and Public Policy in China. 100 Units.**

This course offers a historical and thematic survey of Chinese politics and of salient issues in China’s public policy. We review the patterns and dynamics of political development or lack thereof in the Mao and reform eras, including the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the politics of reforms. Later sections of the course look at China’s political institutions, leadership, as well as various issues of governance and public policy, including state-society relations, the relationship between Beijing and the provinces, corruption, population and environment. Emphasis is on how institutions have provided the incentives for change as well as how institutions have been transformed.  
Instructor(s): D. Yang  
Terms Offered: Winter  
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 37815

**PLSC 27818. Philosophical Foundations of Public Policy. 100 Units.**

Evidence-based policy making ‘sounds like a slogan everyone can get behind. But its central components, cost-benefit analysis and program evaluation, have each been subject to severe philosophical questioning. Does cost-benefit analysis ignore important ethical concerns? Does program evaluation ignore valuable kinds of knowledge? We will introduce each of these debates, and then take up the question of how evidence-based policy might be reconciled with democratic theory. Class discussion and assignments will consider these topics in the context of specific policy areas, including climate change, discrimination, and education.  
Instructor(s): S. Ashworth  
Terms Offered: Autumn  
Prerequisite(s): ECON 20000, PBPL 20000, ECON 20100, or PBPL 22200.  
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 27818

**PLSC 28035. Marx, Revolution, and the Law. 100 Units.**

To what extent can we change our world by changing our laws? We will explore this question through an intensive study of Karl Marx’s writings. Although Marx is most widely known for his arguments about political economy and revolution, his earliest scholarly energies were devoted to jurisprudence and throughout his life he frequently returned to questions about the law’s nature, possibilities, and limits. He did so not only in his analyses of the modern state and capitalism, but also in his efforts to document the goals, victories, and setbacks of democratic movements, labor unions, and political radicals as they navigated repressive legal systems, fought for legal reforms, and developed alternative visions of how to regulate social life. We will therefore
draw on diverse genres of writing from across Marx's life as we explore the relationship between law and social
transformation.
Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 28035

PLSC 28036. Karl Marx: Early Writings. 100 Units.
This seminar is devoted to Karl Marx's writings from the 1840s. During this vibrant decade in his intellectual
development, Marx explored questions about law, politics, critique, and revolution, and he studied political
economy for the first time. Our primary goal will be to investigate the relationships among these preoccupations.
Enrollment is limited to students who have completed their SOSC requirement.
Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Enrollment is limited to students who have completed their SOSC requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 28036

PLSC 28038. Karl Marx: Capital, Volume I. 100 Units.
In this seminar, we study Marx's mature critique of political economy through a close reading of Capital, vol.
1. Our primary concern is to clarify the aims, method, and basic concepts of the text. Enrollment is limited to
undergraduates who have completed their SOSC requirement.
Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Social Sciences Core
Note(s): Enrollment is limited to undergraduates who have completed their SOSC requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 21815, LLSO 28038

PLSC 28110. Lab and Field Experiments in Comparative Politics and Policy. 100 Units.
Over the last several decades in what has become known as an "experimental revolution," social scientists
have used experimental designs to study the effects of interventions and policies. The growing popularity of
experimental methodology gives researchers leverage on causal questions, and bringing these designs to the
field helps to bring their research designs closer to the real social phenomena they seek to understand. In this
course, we will study how these methods have been used to study politics and policy, with examples from
Africa, Latin America, and India. We will ask what types of questions experiments can answer, and what types
of things we can manipulate and measure. We will review design considerations, such as methods to account
for treatment spillover, and randomization procedures. We will also read critiques of experimental methods
and field experiments; students will discuss ethical considerations, and will consider tradeoffs to limitations of
experimental designs in field settings. While we will carry out some calculations, this course will not be oriented
towards statistical programming, and there are no prerequisites for this course.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 48110

PLSC 28300. Seminar on Realism. 100 Units.
The aim of this course is to introduce students to the realist paradigm of international relations.
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): .

PLSC 28502. Law and Gender in the US and Israel: Comparative Perspectives. 100 Units.
This course will revolve around the axis of feminist critique of the law in Israel and the US. Various feminist
approaches to the law will be introduced with attention to the main beneficiaries of the legal system. The
interrelation between law and gender in contemporary Israel and the United States will be discussed in classic
public law legal fields—for example, criminal law and the legal construction of gender-based violence, women's
representation in public space and offices— as well as in private law, with particular emphasis on personal injury
law. The course will delve into the interrelations between the legal system, society and the perception of gender
roles. We will consider the intersection of these topics with issues of race, class, sexual orientation, and immigrant
status. Class discussions will feature abstract philosophical arguments as well as concrete legal questions
concerning both Israeli and American societies.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): co-undergraduate/graduate course
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 38504, JWSC 28502, PLSC 38502, GNSE 28504

PLSC 28555. The Economy of Conspiracy. 100 Units.
This is an interdisciplinary seminar in political theory on the role of conspiracy and conspiratorial thinking
in democratic thought and politics open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students. A portion of
the course will focus on recent theoretical approaches to and empirical cases of the place of conspiracies and
conspiracy theories in the life and death of democracies. Most of the course will be devoted, however, to
finding new and creative ways to think about the conspiratorial as a mode of making speculative, critical claims
about politics and, especially, democracy. We will look at how problems of oikonomia -- financialization, grey
markets, the reproductive control of women, family wealth, and household labor -- get troped in conspiratorial
terms, especially in the thought of democratic Athens. How does conspiracy function as a critical language for
analyzing democratic politics? And how does writing about democracy-as a set of representational techniques-
participate in rendering democratic power conspiratorial? What insights into contemporary problems of
democratic politics might this theoretical approach yield? Enrollment by permission of instructor only.
Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 28602. Advanced National Security Strategy. 100 Units.
With the war in Ukraine and potential flashpoints in Asia and the Middle East, now is an excellent time to survey contemporary US and International Security Strategy around the world. Focusing on the most urgent and important issues of the U.S. national security agenda, the purpose of the course is to help students better understand how the U.S. formulates national security strategy, better comprehend key debates over how the U.S. should handle contemporary challenges, and provide important conceptual frameworks that will enable students to grapple with the security challenges of the decade ahead. The course covers recent changes in American grand strategy, nuclear policy, and the use of conventional forces in contemporary conflicts, including Ukraine, Taiwan and the Middle East.
Instructor(s): R. Pape Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 38555, PLSC 38555, CCCT 28555

PLSC 28620. The Intelligible Self. 100 Units.
The Delphic maxim “know thyself” is one of the cornerstones of Western philosophy. But how, exactly, do we figure ourselves out? This course examines three approaches to self-knowledge: Buddhism, Psychoanalytic Theory, and Social Neuroscience. We will learn both the theories behind each approach and how they can foster deeper perspectives on our own condition. We will explore the nature of love, guilt, anxiety, and other emotions, the origins of morality, and the many biases in our cognition. Readings include Sigmund Freud, Patricia Churchland, Daniel Kahneman, Pema Chodron, and Walpola Sri Rahula.
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 38620

PLSC 28701. Introduction to Political Theory. 100 Units.
This year, Introduction to Political Theory will focus on democracy. Can democracy be defended in the face of critics and skeptics? Is democratic rule the uniquely just form of collective decision-making? What, if anything, legitimates central democratic institutions such as majority rule? How can we deal with persistent disagreement and polarization in politics? Which political institutions and practices best realize democratic values of equality, freedom, and participation? We will take up these questions drawing on canonical and contemporary works of political theory.
Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 28750. Conflict: Root Causes, Consequences and Solutions for the Future. 100 Units.
The goals of this course are to introduce you to key concepts in the study of conflict, and to help you develop the analytical skills you need to understand and assess key arguments advanced in this arena. Drawing primarily on economics and political science, as well as psychology, we will seek to understand: Why do human beings engage in acts of violence? How can armed groups compel atrocities? How do we prevent cycles of violence, and aid countries recovering from war? Specifically: We will examine the role of economic shocks and ethnic divisions on civil war. We will also discern whether similar factors explain the rise of terrorism. In addition, we will study the consequences of conflict on socio-economic development, and examine the role of foreign aid and post-conflict reconciliation in helping countries recover from conflict. The class will examine these questions while focusing on analytical skills needed to understand cutting edge research in this area. Thus a major emphasis of the course is on learning how to think carefully about empirical evidence, and learning the methods used in quantitative empirical analysis, such as fixed effects models, differences-in-differences research designs, and instrumental variables estimation. It is ideal for students who want to learn substantively about conflict while developing an understanding of the methodology used to produce key empirical findings.
Instructor(s): Oeindrila Dube Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): While the course sets out to teach these skills, you do not need previous coursework in statistics.
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 28750, ECON 16950

PLSC 28765. The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes. 100 Units.
This course provides an overview of topics related to politics in authoritarian regimes. We begin by introducing the concept of authoritarianism: how it differs from democracy and how authoritarian regimes differ from each other. We then investigate the tools authoritarian rulers employ to maintain power, including institutions, policies, and tactics, and we examine the effects and side effects of these tools. Finally, we study transitions of power and of institutions, both on the way out of authoritarianism (democratization) and on the way in (democratic backsliding). Students who take this course will acquire a broad understanding of authoritarian politics and how it is covered in the literature.
Instructor(s): Alexei Zakharov Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s):
Note(s): Prior recommended coursework for undergraduates: one semester in Statistics (Stats 220 or equivalent) and current or prior training in game theory (PBPL 222, Social Science Inquiry core, or equivalent.)
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 28765

PLSC 28787. Indigenous Politics in the United States. 100 Units.
This course surveys major historical and contemporary topics relating to Indigenous tribes and people(s) in the United States. The course considers federal-tribal relations, with a particular focus on federalism and the U.S. constitutional structure, but it also contends with issues related to state-tribal and local-tribal interactions as well as with intra-tribal governance. A central goal of the course is to familiarize students with the major themes in academic, legal, and policy research related to governance of Indigenous people(s) in the U.S. over time and to
provide them with useful tools for consuming, producing, and communicating research and policy in this area. The course covers many topics, including federal termination, relocation, self-determination, American Indian and pan-indigenous social movements, resource control, and gender issues.

PLSC 28801. Introduction to American Politics. 100 Units.
This survey course canvasses the basic behavioral, institutional, and historical factors that comprise the study of American politics. We will evaluate various modes of survey opinion formation and political participation both inside and outside of elections. In addition to studying the primary branches of U.S. government, we will consider the role of interest groups, the media, and political action committees in American politics. We also will evaluate the persistent roles of race, class, and money in historical and contemporary political life.
Instructor(s): R. Bloch Rubin Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 28805. Politics and Cinema under Authority. 100 Units.
Why do authoritarian regimes take interest in art and culture? How do citizens respond to these efforts? Between authoritarian propaganda and outright contestation of authoritarianism is a wide niche of art and media production that is just independent enough to capture the attention of the citizens and yet subtle enough to not alarm authoritarian rulers. This is relevant for film and television in particular, which cannot function under authoritarian regimes without official approval. In this course, we explore the compromises filmmakers make to continue their creative practice and the concessions state actors grant to accommodate artistic work using the 10-episode television series, Dekalog (1988), by the acclaimed Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. To answer our questions, we draw on literature and methodology from political science and film and media studies. We investigate what is to be gained by combining approaches from two disciplines that are rarely in conversation with each other.
Instructor(s): Maria Belodubrovskaya and Monika Nalepa Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Enrollment limit: 18 Equivalent Course(s): REES 38800, REES 28800, CDIN 38800, CMST 28805, CDIN 28801, PLSC 38801, CMST 38800

PLSC 28813. Justice and the Economy. 100 Units.
This seminar will explore how contemporary political philosophy conceptualizes the economy, frames the question of economic justice and injustice, and provides a normative case for and against ways of organizing economic institutions. By focusing on a set of specific issues including the justification of property rights, the moral and institutional demands of economic justice, freedom and domination within the labor market, the normative status of corporations, capitalism as a form of structural injustice, and the possibility (or lack thereof) of just financial markets, the seminar will offer a chance to read both classical authors in contemporary political philosophy, including John Rawls, Iris Young, Elizabeth Anderson, and Robert Nozick, as well as more recent and less known literature on the subject. A focus on economic justice will also provide an opportunity to discuss how contemporary political philosophy is either indebted or oblivious to a series of theoretical frameworks traditionally used to approach questions of economic justice, including classical liberalism, republicanism, utilitarianism, Marxism, critical theory, and utopian thought.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 38813, PLSC 38813

PLSC 28850. Chinese Foreign and Global Policy. 100 Units.
China’s rapid development in recent decades is as transformative within China as it has been momentous for the rest of the world. Some see reformist China becoming a global citizen and responsible stakeholder while others view China’s growth with alarm and believe a rising China will challenge the existing global order. This course describes and analyzes elements of China’s foreign and global policy. We consider historical, organizational, cultural, ideological, and organizational and other factors that influence the making of Chinese foreign policy, examine China’s relations with major countries and regions, and look at China’s approaches to international organizations and key global issues. We also pay attention to how other countries/regions have responded to China’s rise.
Instructor(s): D. Yang Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 28901. Introduction to Comparative Politics. 100 Units.
Why are some nations rich and others are poor? Why is inequality skyrocketing across the developed world? Why are some countries democratic and others are dictatorships, and what determines switching between regimes? Does democracy matter for health, wealth, and happiness? Why are some countries beset by civil violence and revolution whereas others are politically stable? Why do political parties organize themselves politically around ethnicity, language, religion, or ideology? This course explores these and other similar questions that lie at the core of comparative politics. Drawing on political science, economics, sociology, and anthropology, while utilizing a wealth of data and case studies of major countries, we will examine how power is exercised to shape and control political, cultural, and economic institutions and, in turn, how these institutions generate policies that affect what we learn, what we earn, how long we live, and even who we are.
Instructor(s): M. Albertus, M. Nalepa Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 29000. Introduction to International Relations. 100 Units.
Humans face many challenges today. These range from wars and nuclear proliferation, to economic crises and the collapse of global order. International Relations—the study of global anarchy and the commitment problems it creates between sovereign governments—offers analytical tools for understanding the causes and consequences of
these challenges. This course introduces students to the scientific study of world politics, focusing on the areas of security, economic cooperation, and international law.
Instructor(s): P. Poast Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 29066. Twentieth-Century Theories of Capitalism. 100 Units.
Theories of Capitalism sequence introduces students to classic texts in the history of economic thought. Students may take just one of the two courses: Early Theories of Capitalism or Twentieth-Century Theories of Capitalism. Enrollment in both is strongly encouraged but not required. Across the two courses, we examine diverse accounts of the forces that govern capitalist societies and the distinctive problems that emerge within them. As we do this, we also look closely at how the economists who developed these theories demarcated the economic domain of human life and we consider how their efforts to understand it were shaped by a rich body of intellectual resources. Many of the questions that we explore in the first part of the sequence reappear in Twentieth-Century Theories of Capitalism. Yet, in this course, we also attend to new preoccupations that emerged as capitalism continued to evolve. In Spring 2024, this course will emphasize approaches that situate capitalism within broader theories of society. Readings may include texts by Karl Polanyi, John Maynard Keynes, Friedrich Hayek, Geoff Mann, Simon Clarke, David Graeber, and Stephanie Kelton.
Instructor(s): David Lebow Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 29066

PLSC 29102. Game Theory I. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to games of complete information through solving problem sets. We will cover the concepts of dominant strategies, rationalizable strategies, Nash equilibrium, subgame perfection, backward induction, and imperfect information. The course will be centered around several applications of game theory to politics: electoral competition, agenda control, lobbying, voting in legislatures and coalition games.
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 30901, HMRT 29102

PLSC 29103. Game Theory II. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to games of incomplete information and several advanced topics through solving problem sets. We will cover the concepts of Bayes Nash equilibrium, perfect Bayesian equilibrium, and the basics of mechanism design and information design. In terms of applications, the course will extend the topics examined in the prerequisite, PLSC 30901. Game Theory I to allow for incomplete information, with a focus on the competing challenges of moral hazard and adverse selection in those settings.
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901 or equivalent and consent of instructor. Undergraduates by consent only.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31000

PLSC 29202. The Secret Side of International Politics. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to the secret side of international politics. The class features weekly lectures and "research/writing lab" meetings. The lecture and associated readings survey a wide range of theoretical approaches for describing and analyzing the causes and consequences of conducting international politics "behind closed doors." We will cover intelligence analysis, secret alliances, secrecy in crisis decision-making, and covert wartime military operations. We will draw on political science but also organization studies, psychology, and anthropology. Questions we will address include: What agreements do diplomats negotiate privately and why? For what ends do state use secrecy in wartime? What do covert cooperative partnerships look like and when do they succeed? What espionage practices do states use and how have they changed over time? The core assignment is an original research paper that draws on archival/declassified materials, due from each student at the end of term. Regular checkpoint assignments will take place during the quarter. In the weekly lab meetings, students will receive guidance in the research and writing process, including how to access relevant archival materials, how to organize your research materials, how to effectively prepare to write, and how to write well. This course is intended for advanced undergraduates (political science majors and non-majors welcome) with a large reading load and a challenging paper assignment.
Instructor(s): A. Carson Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 39202

PLSC 29700. Independent Study. 100 Units.
This is a general reading and research course for independent study not related to the BA thesis or BA research.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of faculty supervisor and program chair.
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

PLSC 29800. BA Colloquium. 100 Units.
The colloquium is designed to help students carry out their BA thesis research and offer feedback on their progress.
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Required of students who are majoring in political science and plan to write a BA thesis. The course is consent only, but will be granted automatically for those who have applied and been accepted to the PLSC BA Honors program.
PLSC 29900. BA Thesis Supervision. 100 Units.
This is a reading and research course for independent study related to BA research and BA thesis preparation.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Note(s): Required of fourth-year students who are majoring in political science and plan to write a BA thesis.
Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

PLSC 29901. What Was Multilateralism? 100 Units.
A foundational institution of modern international relations, multilateralism has been "in crisis" since its emergence in the 19th century. Its normative commitments - publicity, reciprocity, equality, impartiality, restraint, and community - have motivated generations of transformational agents and become imprinted in the quotidian practices of international political life. In spite of or maybe because of multilateralism’s presence, its critics have enlisted the social theories of their time to critique multilateralism as unworkably idealistic or cunningly reactionary. What explains the staying power of an institution that knows few allies and many enemies? This course explores the crisis of multilateralism by taking seriously the idea that the institution has survived by ritualizing its normative content without ever cohering as an institutional form. We will explore this dynamic by reading several moments of crisis through classic and current theory. We will discover how political, economic, and social crises animate theory, and how theory, in turn, leaves its mark on what crisis actors imagine to be possible. Students are invited to write in a public-facing format: open-ended peer dialogue; syllabus plus keynote lecture; or op-ed blog post plus link annotation. After collectively assembling a theory reference guide, they will each explore a crisis phenomenon and use the theoretical resources this course provides to illuminate the crisis for their audience.
Instructor(s): Staisch, Matthias Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Open to undergraduates with instructor consent
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 39901, INRE 39900