

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

Political scientists study a diverse range of phenomena: governments and constitutions; public policies; political processes and behavior broadly construed; and theories of government and politics and their history. Political scientists use both empirical, social-scientific and humanistic methods 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 graduate study 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.

## 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 registration, course offerings, events, opportunities for majors in the program and other information about the Department of Political Science, students should sign up for the undergraduate email list at the Undergraduate Political Science subscription page (<https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/subscribe/ugpolsall/>).

## 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 to develop their interests in and knowledge of the field. Those following the Long Paper path, described below, must complete eight elective 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).

We strongly recommend that students take courses within the political science department to fulfill the requirements of the major. However, courses outside Political Science may be approved for the major by petition to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. To receive political science credit for courses outside the department, students must fill out the College Advising General Petition Form as well as a Political Science Department Supplementary Petition Form. Both petition forms and the course syllabus should be sent to the Director of Undergraduate studies for approval at [dus-polsci@uchicago.edu](mailto:dus-polsci@uchicago.edu). A maximum of three non-departmental courses may be petitioned to count for the major.

### Writing Requirement: Two Options

Students majoring in political science who are not participating in a BA/MA program 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 writing a Long Paper must submit an approval form ([http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/politicalscience/New\\_Long\\_Paper\\_Form\\_2026.docx](http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/politicalscience/New_Long_Paper_Form_2026.docx)) to the department, 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 Political Science course.
- An extended version of a shorter paper written for a Political Science 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 Political Science 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 the approval form ([http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/politicalscience/New\\_Long\\_Paper\\_Form\\_2026.docx](http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/politicalscience/New_Long_Paper_Form_2026.docx)) 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 to Annette LePique via email at [alepique@uchicago.edu](mailto:alepique@uchicago.edu). The deadline for submitting the approval form 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 faculty member with expertise related to their thesis topic to supervise the research and writing. The deadline for submitting the BA Thesis to the department is 4 p.m. on Monday of the fifth week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate.

Students who choose to write a thesis apply to the honors program by the posted deadline, usually by the end of the third week of Spring Quarter of their third year. The department website has information about the honors program and links to the on-line application and faculty advisor form. 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. We recommend that students work with faculty in the political science department, though advisors outside the department are allowed if their area of expertise is directly related to the student's research topic. **Students will need to have the endorsement of a faculty member prior to submitting this application.**

**BA Colloquium.** Students who choose to write a BA Thesis are required to enroll in PLSC 29800 (<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=PLSC%2029800>) 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.

**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 (<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=PLSC%2029900>) BA Thesis Supervision, normally Winter Quarter of fourth year (although enrollment may be in any quarter). To enroll, students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form (<https://college.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/College%20Dean%20of%20Students/College%20Reading%20%26%20Research%20Form.pdf>). The final grade for the course will be based on the grade given the BA Thesis by the faculty adviser.

**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



into BA/MA programs who wish to have their MA thesis evaluated for undergraduate honors must apply to the undergraduate honors program and enroll in both PLSC 29800 and PLSC 29900.

### 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](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

Students who transfer into the University of Chicago and wish to transfer courses into the major should see the Director of Undergraduate Studies soon after receiving their final transfer credit evaluation in mid-summer. The introductory course requirement and the research methods requirement cannot be satisfied by courses taken elsewhere, but courses may be counted toward the major by following the petition procedure outlined in the political science course requirement section above.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

### PLSC 10350. The Politics of Economy Development. 100 Units.

This course explores the intersection between politics and economics to understand why some countries are more developed than others. We will touch on several themes that impact developmental outcomes, including political institutions and regimes, corruption and rule of law, foreign aid, and natural resources. This course offers an interdisciplinary perspective, which will attract students interested in Economics, Political Science, Global Studies, Human Development, Public Policy, and Sociology. Throughout the course, we will also pay attention to how concepts are measured and to the different methods used to answer questions in the social sciences. Each theme will be introduced with short lectures and real-world case studies from around the world and from the city of Chicago. The course also includes more interactive activities, such as guest speakers, field trips, policy simulations and debates. This course is only open to pre-college students.

Instructor(s): Pilar Manzi Gari Terms Offered: Summer

### PLSC 12137. Feminism and the Politics of Abortion. 100 Units.

This course surveys feminist politics on abortion both historically and in the contemporary moment, with particular attention to abortion activism just before the Roe decision until the post-Dobbs present. We will draw on investigative journalism, academic research, and activist literature/movements to conceptualize both the feminist politics of abortion and resistance to government restrictions on access to reproductive healthcare. The course emphasizes the multifaceted ways feminists (both in the US and elsewhere) have conceptualized abortion and reproductive politics as well as frameworks of care, solidarity, and resistance. The course takes special interest in the ever-evolving post-Dobbs landscape by incorporating both current events and histories of the anti-abortion movement of the United States.

Instructor(s): Rhiannon Auremma Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): This course counts as a Foundations course for GNSE majors.

Equivalent Course(s): HIPS 25221, GNSE 12137

### PLSC 20150. The Art of Productive Political Debate. 100 Units.

This course explores how to engage productively in political disagreement. Through small-group discussions and debates on contemporary issues in American politics, students will practice articulating a range of viewpoints, constructing persuasive arguments, and responding to opposing perspectives with clarity and respect. Through primarily experiential learning, students will develop practical tools for navigating political conflict in ways that promote understanding, reduce polarization, and strengthen democratic citizenship.

Instructor(s): Mehlhaff, Isaac Terms Offered: Winter

### PLSC 20217. Politics and Law of Climate Change and Energy. 100 Units.

This course explores the political, economic, and social dimensions of climate change policy, with a focus on the challenges of climate mitigation and adaptation at both domestic and international levels. Students will engage with key issues such as the role of social equity provisions in green industrial policies, the complexities of passing and implementing climate legislation, and the factors that shape public support for climate action. Through a combination of policy analysis, readings, and original projects, students will critically examine how political considerations, organized interests, economic incentives, and identity concerns influence climate policy outcomes across different regions and contexts.

Instructor(s): R. Gulotty Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): CCSG 20900

### PLSC 20300. Building Popular Power: Social Movements, Democracy, and the Political Imagination. 100 Units.

What does collective political activity look like outside, beyond, or beneath the structures of the sovereign state? How have ordinary people fought to transform state structures or build alternative political institutions of their own? This course examines these and other questions by turning to the history and political theory of social

movements. From 19th-century labor uprisings and 20th-century anti-colonial struggles to the Black Lives Matter movement and the global rise of populism, we will investigate how movements for political and social change have not only challenged existing institutions, but also sought to invent new forms of collective organization while expanding the horizons of democratic life. Engaging historical, contemporary, and canonical texts—as well as films and other visual media—the course will trace how social movements have contested and sought to transform dominant structures and discourses—including legal institutions, property relations, and citizenship—and how internal contestation over leadership, strategy, and goals have affected the viability and vibrancy of such movements. Key themes include the relationship between social movements and democratic life; the tensions between spontaneity and organization, centralization and decentralization, revolution and reform; the difficulty of sustaining participatory movements over time; and the evolving meanings of “democracy” itself. Instructor(s): Pierce, Marshall Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 20400. Politics of the American Presidency. 100 Units.**

The president is the single most visible individual in the American political system. Understanding the power of—and the constraints on—the individual who inhabits the White House is a critical task for explaining our contemporary politics. This course surveys the politics of presidential power in a system where power is separated between but also shared by adjoining branches of government. From this institutional perspective, the course engages the following questions: What is presidential power? For what aims do presidents exercise power? When do presidents succeed in achieving their goals, and when do they fail? How do presidents manage relations with Congress, the courts, and the bureaucracy? What is presidential leadership and when is it most clearly exhibited? Through answering these questions, the course provides a deeper understanding of the factors that shape the exercise of presidential power and its implications for governance, public policy, American democracy.

Instructor(s): J. Rogowski Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 30400

**PLSC 20406. Contemporary Democratic Theory: Realism, Deliberative Democracy, and Agonism. 100 Units.**

What is democracy? Is democracy a matter of finding consensus or regulating dissensus? How might we go about making our own society more democratic? Should we strive for more democracy or is democracy merely a means to an end? What is the relationship between democratic theory and practice? This course will consider leading attempts in contemporary democratic theory to grapple with these questions and many more. We will consider both the foundational texts of contemporary democratic theory including Hannah Arendt, Carl Schmitt, Jürgen Habermas, and Robert Dahl, and then build from those texts to see how contemporary theorists have attempted to rearticulate, redefine, redesign, and revolutionize democracy in the past 25 years.

Instructor(s): Smith, Max Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 30230, DEMS 20235, MAPS 30230

**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): ARCH 20521, KNOW 30521, GEOG 20521, SOCI 30521, PBPL 20521, CHST 20521, CEGU 20521, PLSC 30521, SOCI 20521, PPHA 30521

**PLSC 20550. Political Theologies of Early and Late Modernity. 100 Units.**

How has the entanglement of and contestation between ostensibly discrete domains - the political and the theological - been formulated? How distinct are these two concepts? How is the political - conceptualizations of the state, sovereignty, and founding (for instance) dependent on theological metaphors and concepts? Is the theological always political? How is political theology a distinctly modern problem? Is it a temptation to overcome or is it necessary to create affective bonds between citizens and the state? By way of thinkers such as Freud, Carl Schmitt, Leo Strauss, and Hannah Arendt, we will consider political theology as, among other things, critique (of religion and of liberalism), political strategy, and as a particular form of analysis. These modern accounts of political theology were developed by means of rich engagements with early modern thinkers. This class will do the same, reading selections from Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Spinoza to appreciate the contours and stakes of these differing formulations. By way of such investigations, this class aims to deepen understanding both of early modern thought and the modern preoccupation with political theology.

Instructor(s): Brown, Julia Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisites, however, completion of SOSOC Core sequences The Classics of Social and Political Thought or Power, Identity, Resistance will be useful background.

**PLSC 20562. Democracy and Its Critics. 100 Units.**

This course provides an introduction to the study of self-government. Over the course of the quarter, we will investigate the strengths and weaknesses of democracy as a political regime and a form of social organization. We will explore the relationship between democracy and values such as equality and freedom; democratic threats to minorities; the risks of elite capture and manipulation; and democratic erosion and collapse. Drawing on writings from advocates, analysts, and critics of democracy, we will introduce students to the study of democracy in several different disciplines, including history, philosophy, political science, and sociology. Written assignments will be satisfied through a set of short papers. This course is offered annually (the quarter varies depending on the year) and will next be offered in Spring 2026. Graduate students may enroll with instructor consent.

Instructor(s): Clifford Ando Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): CLCV 26726, DEMS 15000, SOCI 20562, HIST 18103, PBPL 20562

**PLSC 20600. Political Freedom. 100 Units.**

In modern liberal democracies like the U.S., we often think freedom has to do with choice: whether a woman works or is a stay-at-home mother, whether a citizen votes for this or that candidate, they choose freely between two or more options and are hence "free." Others, however, have suggested that choice, though important, is far from the only factor that ensures a politically free society: the ability to engage in social movements, civil disobedience, to actively and successfully shape one's society through collective action, are all important aspects to ensuring a society that is politically free. This course asks: what is freedom? And what does it mean to think of freedom as a political question? In which ways might the concept of "choice" help but also hinder how we practice and understand freedom daily? Over the course of the quarter, we will study the evolution of the debates surrounding freedom as a political problem, especially in their relation to democracy. We will discuss theories of freedom starting from the history of political thought but also engaging contemporary critiques of liberal and neoliberal freedoms like radical democratic, feminist, and postcolonial theory. We will engage authors like J.S. Mill, Hannah Arendt, Jacques Rancière, Simone de Beauvoir, and Franz Fanon, among others.

Instructor(s): Fedi, Silvia Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 20700. Data Visualization. 100 Units.**

Social scientists frequently wish to convey information to a broader audience in a cohesive and interpretable manner. Visualizations are an excellent method to summarize information and report analysis and conclusions in a compelling format. This course introduces the theory and applications of data visualization. Students will learn techniques and methods for developing rich, informative and interactive, web-facing visualizations based on principles from graphic design and perceptual psychology. Students will practice these techniques on many types of social science data, including multivariate, temporal, geospatial, text, hierarchical, and network data. All graphics are designed using R, and students will gain exposure to plotly within R and build a Shiny app.

Instructor(s): Jean Clipperton Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 40700, MACS 20700, MACS 40700

**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): SALC 20704, CCCT 20704, HIST 26606, 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): PLSC 32100, SCTH 31710, FNDL 29300

**PLSC 20815. New Directions in Formal Theory. 100 Units.**

In this 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): Luo, Z & Myerson, R

Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901, PLSC 31000 or consent of instructor.

Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 20815, PPHA 40815, PLSC 40815, PECO 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: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): FNLD 20928, PARR 20928, CCCT 20928

**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 to 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, DEMS 21005, HMRT 31005

**PLSC 21102. Opera as Idea and As Performance. 100 Units.**

Is opera an archaic and exotic pageant for wealthy elites, or a relevant art form of great subtlety and complexity that has the power to be revelatory? In this course of eight sessions, jointly taught by Professor Martha Nussbaum and Anthony Freud, Former General Director of Lyric Opera of Chicago, we explore the multi-disciplinary nature of this elusive and much-maligned art form, with its four hundred-year-old European roots, discussing both historic and philosophical contexts and the practicalities of interpretation and production in a very un-European, twenty-first century city. Anchoring each session around a different opera, we will be joined by a variety of guest experts, one each week, including a director, a conductor, a designer and two singers, to enable us to explore different perspectives. The list of operas to be discussed include Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppaea*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Verdi's *Don Carlos*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*, Britten's *Billy Budd*, and Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. (A)

Instructor(s): Anthony Freud; Martha Nussbaum Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Remark: Students do not need to be able to read music, but some antecedent familiarity with opera in performance or through recordings would be extremely helpful. But enthusiasm is the main thing! Assignments: In general, for each week we will require you to listen carefully to the opera of that week. Multiple copies of the recommended recordings will be available in the library. But you should feel free to use your own recordings, or to buy them, or stream them, if you prefer. The university gives you access to the Metropolitan Opera HD on demand series. There will also be brief written materials assigned, and posted on the course canvas site. No books are required for purchase. Because listening is the main thing, we will try to keep readings brief and to make recommendations for further reading should you want to do more. Class Structure: In general we will each make remarks for about twenty minutes each, then interview the guest of the week, with ample room for discussion. REQUIREMENTS: PhD students and law students will write one long paper at the end (20-25 pages), based on a prospectus submitted earlier. Other students will write one shorter paper (5-7 pages) and one longer paper (12-15 pages), the former due in week 4 and the latter during reading period. STUDENTS: PhD students in the Philosophy Department and the Music Department and all law students (both J. D. and LL.M.) may enroll without permission. All other students will be admitted up to the number feasible given TA arrangements.

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31102, MUSI 24416, RETH 51102, MUSI 30716, PHIL 21102, PHIL 31102

**PLSC 21200. Learning From Data. 100 Units.**

This course considers important questions in the design and interpretation of quantitative empirical research in political science and other social science fields: What are estimands, and how do we learn about them? What do we learn from a statistical hypothesis test? What are theories and how do we test them? What is the value of prediction? Why do researchers sometimes state in advance what they will do and even what they expect to find? What does it mean to explain, and how do social scientists do it? Readings come primarily from statistics and philosophy. Some background in statistics and some exposure to social science research are essential. Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31200

**PLSC 21325. Deter, Detain, and Deport: U.S. Immigration Enforcement in Historical Perspective. 100 Units.**

Often described as a "nation of immigrants," the U.S. has the highest rates of noncitizen detention and deportation at the global level. Confronting this conundrum, this class will analyze the historical development of U.S. immigration enforcement, from the mid-19th century to the present era. The class will begin at the development of federal-level plenary power to control immigration and thus shape the demographic character of the nation-state. Going beyond the letter of the law, we will discuss the role different governmental and nongovernmental actors - ranging from Border Patrol to local police and faith institutions - have played in enhancing and/or contesting immigration policy on the ground. Finally, the class will discuss the "externalization" of immigration enforcement beyond borders to keep migrants from reaching U.S. national territory.

Instructor(s): Ramon Garibaldo Valdez Terms Offered: Spring  
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31325, LACS 21325, LACS 31325

**PLSC 21410. Advanced Theories of Gender and Sexuality. 100 Units.**

Beginning with the fraught legacy of the New Left and the "new social movements" of the 60s and 70s, this seminar questions critically examines the theoretical histories that have determined how we think about gender and sex, as alternately something imposed on us externally, as 'structure,' and something identity-based, subjective, and internal. Since the 1990s, developments in queer, trans, feminist theory and Black studies have turned away from imagining politics and identity as structures in favor of thinking in terms of disruption, performativity, and fluid models of social construction and political action against it -- even as the movements they emerged out of relied heavily on critiques of Freud and Marx, refusing as well as using their theoretical imaginaries of politics as (materialist or psychic) structure. We will ask: what is a structural analysis? What is not a structural analysis, what is it opposed to? What do we mean when we enjoin ourselves to pay attention to structural conditions? How does thinking structure predispose us to think concepts like "sex," "sexuality," "race," and "gender" together or apart, as converging aspects of experience or as different epiphenomena of a single system? Starting from Afropessimism and the queer antisocial turn, readings will move backward in time to ask how notions of structure have informed theories of identity.

Instructor(s): Dana Glaser Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Undergraduates by Consent Only

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 21401, GNSE 21400, PLSC 31410, GNSE 31400, CCT 21400, CCT 31400, ENGL 30201

**PLSC 21565. Machiavelli: Conflict, Power, and Republicanism. 100 Units.**

This class will consist of a close reading of Machiavelli's major theoretical and historical works including *The Prince*, *The Discourses* on Livy, and selections from the *Florentine Histories*. We will pay particular attention to how he presents and theorizes three interrelated themes: conflict, power, and republicanism. The course will also pay some attention to major interpretations of Machiavelli.

Instructor(s): Max Smith Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 31565, PLSC 31565

**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 actually existing cities.

Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Autumn. Autumn

Prerequisite(s): No Consent Required

Equivalent Course(s): SETH 31770, PLSC 43820, FNDL 29503, SETH 21770

**PLSC 21805. Survey and experimental methods in political science. 100 Units.**

This is an introductory research design and methods course for graduate students who are interested in quantitative research methods - particularly survey and experimental approaches. We will focus on the ways in which political scientists collect, analyze, and interpret survey and experimental data. Students will learn about the fundamentals of research design and quantitative analysis, including theory building, measurement, hypothesis testing, as well as data cleaning, management, and analysis. Prior coursework in statistical methods or coding is not required and will be covered as part of the course.

Instructor(s): Proctor, Andrew Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31805, MAPS 31805

**PLSC 21820. 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): HMRT 21820

**PLSC 21822. Global Political Justice. 100 Units.**

This course investigates what justice requires in terms of collective decision-making institutions beyond state borders. Should international or transnational political, economic, and military decisions be made more democratically? What would that mean? Would that be objectionably "neo-colonial"? Should institutions be constrained to satisfy principles of national self-determination? Do states have obligations to sacrifice their own interests to support more inclusive transnational decision-making? Or does international conflict make political integration too dangerous? We will explore theoretical frameworks in contemporary political philosophy to address these questions, and study applied problems of global political justice including anti-imperialism, humanitarian intervention, and global constitutionalism.  
 Instructor(s): J. Wilson Terms Offered: Autumn  
 Note(s): Final project/paper  
 Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 31822, PLSC 31822, HMRT 21822, DEMS 31822

**PLSC 21907. Political Economy of the Global South. 100 Units.**

The Global South consists of a diverse set of countries in terms of development, political regime types, and cultures, yet it has traditionally been understudied in social science. This course introduces a set of political economy "hardware," such as political institutions, social institutions, and formal rules, as well as "software," such as informal rules, norms, and culture, and explores their interactions and downstream effects on developmental outcomes both at the collective and individual levels. The goal is to help you discover substantive issues that matter to you and prepare you with adequate research tools.  
 Instructor(s): Dehua Sun Terms Offered: Spring  
 Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31907, MAPS 21907, MAPS 31907

**PLSC 21916. Representation, Power, and Identity Politics. 100 Units.**

Are "identity politics" the new normal in American politics or has group conflict always formed the basis of democratic government? How do political parties represent diverse constituencies and demands? What is the relationship between a social movement and a political party? This seminar course will address these and other related questions, as we examine American political parties, representation, and the politics of "identity" in the United States. This course is designed to focus on the ways in which groups are represented in the American political party system; how inequality and marginalization are often entrenched and reinforced through political parties; and how political parties shape the mobilization of voters. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, class, religion and their intersections form the basis of what has come to be called "identity politics" by many pundits and politicians. In the first part of the course, we will engage an array of work in political science and other disciplines to learn about theories of representation, political power and collective action, and the structure and function of political parties, including how rules and reforms affect representation. We will also examine groups and identities as political and analytical concepts. The primary objective for this part is to develop a basic toolkit for understanding the inter-relationship between political parties and social groups.  
 Instructor(s): Proctor, Andrew Terms Offered: Winter  
 Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 31915, PLSC 31916

**PLSC 22000. State Formation in Britain and America. 100 Units.**

The course explores the dynamics and consequences of state formation in both Britain and America. The course looks at critical moments - founding moments, second founding moments, the rise of Reagan and Thatcher, and the consequences of Brexit and Trump's elections. It will also address some key themes such as empire, race, and economic development.  
 Instructor(s): Steve Pincus, Desmond King Terms Offered: Spring  
 Equivalent Course(s): HIST 22000, HIST 32010, PLSC 32000

**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 22112. Theories of Political Action. 100 Units.**

For much of the 20th and 21st centuries, a wide range of political actors—from anarchists and Marxists to anticolonial, antiracist, and queer activists—have experimented with extra-institutional and extralegal forms of mass political action. Such actors have argued that tactics ranging from boycotts and civil disobedience to revolutionary violence and the general strike are democratic in both their ends and means. How should we understand the morality and efficacy of political (non)violence? What forms of organization are apt for articulating and channeling popular revolt? For containing its unintended consequences? How does the experience of political action transform the self and society? Students will engage these questions through careful reading of key thinkers and by developing research projects that investigate the theory and practice of political action in contemporary social movements.

Instructor(s): Wang, Joy

**PLSC 22160. The Practice of Political Theory. 100 Units.**

This course will introduce students to several leading approaches in contemporary political theory as practiced in American political science departments. The courses' primary goal is to facilitate the study of the methodologies behind various approaches to political theory. In the course we will study the philosophical presuppositions that undergird various methods, some of the foundational texts in them, and more recent works that exemplify the approach. Ultimately, we will ask how we, as political theorists, might use and improve upon these methods in our own research, and what these methods can tell us about how political theory is practiced today. The course will include sections on history of political thought, critical theory, normative political thought, comparative political thought, and post-modernism among others. The course is designed to fulfill the MAPSS requirement for methods for students focusing on political theory. The course is open to undergraduates and non-mapss students by instructor's consent. It is ideal for any student considering or writing a BA or MA thesis in political theory or pursuing graduate education.

Instructor(s): Smith, Max Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 32080, MAPS 21801, MAPS 31801

**PLSC 22200. Diaspora(s) 100 Units.**

This class will orient students to the practices, frameworks, and geographies of diasporic communities from the early modern period to the present. The term's initial origins in Jewish experiences of forced dispersal and migration underscores how its meaning is shaped by histories of collective displacement and loss, as well as invention and heritage. The discourse of diaspora remains foundational for several interdisciplinary fields, including Black studies, Asian American studies, Indigenous studies, Latinx studies, and more. Within these intellectual orientations, diasporic identities are notably expansive and unfixed. As observed by the late cultural theorist Stuart Hall, "diaspora identities are those which are constantly producing and reproducing themselves anew, through transformation and difference," bridging old and new traditions of worldmaking, resistance, and solidarities within and across distinct diasporic sensibilities." Students in this class will work with scholarly, literary, sonic, and visual materials demonstrating how use of diaspora alternately mobilizes and roots people, in ways that claim pasts and futures at once.

Instructor(s): Adom Getachew Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GLST 22700, RDIN 12200, HIST 12706

**PLSC 22308. Courts, Judges, and Controversies. 100 Units.**

This course is a seminar about judicial politics.

Instructor(s): Clark, Thomas Terms Offered: Winter

**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): PLSC 32333, CCCT 32333, CCCT 22333, GNSE 22333, GNSE 32333, FNDL 22333

**PLSC 22344. Plato's Politics (Outside the Republic) 100 Units.**

The study of Plato's political thought usually takes its point of departure from his most systematic-and systematically political-works: the Republic and Laws. Over the course of this seminar, we will look outside of these seminal texts with a view towards exploring Plato's political vision as captured across a broad range of dialogues. We will begin with Plato's depiction of Socrates' trial and imprisonment (Apology, Crito) before turning to dialogues reflecting on the use and abuse of rhetoric (Gorgias), the teachability of virtue (Protagoras), the nature of desire (Symposium, Phaedrus), and his trilogy on knowledge and its bearing on political rule (Theaetetus, Sophist, Statesman), before concluding with the death of Socrates in the Phaedo. Prior acquaintance with Plato's writings is highly recommended but not required.

Instructor(s): Jochim, Jordan Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 21655

**PLSC 22355. Historical International Relations. 100 Units.**

Was the global order always made of the "like-units" we call states? Is colonialism truly a thing of the past? Is there more to learn about global interactions from history? The core evidence and theories of International Relations are entrenched in the history of the 20th century, especially in the wake of the World Wars. However, scholars have long identified 1648, or even as early as 1495, as the launching point for modern international relations. This course introduces the field of Historical International Relations and challenges students to think more broadly about global politics. Guided by major themes from International Relations such as world order, empire, and conflict, we will explore scholarship written with a historical perspective going back to the early modern period. We will see how historically-minded scholars critique, reconcile, and engage the field of IR while also unpacking the challenges presented by this type of scholarship.

Terms Offered: Autumn

**PLSC 22455. Political Thought of Greece and Rome. 100 Units.**

This course offers a graduate-level introduction to the political thought of ancient Greece and Rome. Readings include works by Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Polybius, and Cicero, as well as other ancient and modern authors. Topics covered include democracy, tyranny, rhetoric, freedom, virtue in politics, justice, political community, and empire.

Instructor(s): Landauer Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 32455

**PLSC 22500. Existence, Freedom, and Rebellion: The Politics of Existentialism and Phenomenology. 100 Units.**

How do we find freedom in an alienated world? What kind of responsibility do we have for our own existence? Does freedom require inward transformation or outward struggle? In this course, we examine how thinkers within the existential and phenomenological traditions brought their philosophical frameworks to bear on political questions. Broadly speaking, phenomenology is a tradition within twentieth-century continental thought that sought to develop an account of the structures of conscious subjectivity. Growing out of the work of Edmund Husserl, who wanted to put philosophy back on a proper scientific footing, it then became powerfully influential for a variety of continental traditions. This course examines how thinkers within the phenomenological tradition used its tools to consider foundational political themes like freedom, alienation, domination, and rebellion. Of particular concern will be the various conceptions of the human that phenomenologists defend and the political possibilities such conceptions entail. We will also read critiques of phenomenology from competing schools of social and political theory. Key thinkers discussed include Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Iris Marion Young, and Theodor Adorno.

Instructor(s): Will Levine Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 32501

**PLSC 22610. How Dictatorship Shaped Democracies in Latin America. 100 Units.**

Tinker Visiting Professor course

Instructor(s): Alejandro Bonvecchi Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): LACS 22600, PLSC 32610, LACS 32600

**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

Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 21677, LACS 22677

**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): Natacha Nsabimana & Adom Getachew

Note(s): Cap 50

Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 22755

**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

**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 23005. Peace in International Relations. 100 Units.**

How has peace been theorized in the study of global politics? In this graduate elective, we take up the concept of 'peace' and explore the many ways it has been defined by scholars and pursued by policymakers and practitioners in the world. We consider questions like: Is peace the mere absence of war? How is peace experienced by individuals living in the aftermath of violent conflict? What are some of the markers of successful peace agreements? Who are agents of peace? How do states pursue peace? What is the relationship between peace and violence? Throughout the course, we will examine peace through multiple levels of analysis, including everyday individuals, elite policymakers, the State as actors, and international cooperative efforts. We will also explore various approaches to peacebuilding, including grassroots and top-down efforts, and pay careful attention to perspectives on peace and peacebuilding beyond Western, Eurocentric lenses. A key emphasis in this course will be connecting academic research to real-world applications of peace practices. As such, we will learn from both peace scholars and peace practitioners and will reflect throughout on the role of academia in understanding and building peace in the world.

Instructor(s): Hooser, Kara Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Undergraduate students must seek instructor consent prior to enrollment

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 33005, INRE 33005

**PLSC 23065. Theories of Capitalism I. 100 Units.**

The Theories of Capitalism sequence introduces students to classic texts in the history of economic thought. Across the sequence, 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. Theories of Capitalism I 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, Thomas Malthus, John Stuart Mill, and Carl Menger. Formerly Early Theories of Capitalism.

Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 29065

**PLSC 23178. The Queer Enemy and the Politics of Homophobia. 100 Units.**

How is the queer enemy politically constructed? And what are the uses and effects of this enemy in contemporary politics? This course investigates queer sexuality as a specific kind of threat and homophobia as a specific mode of political antagonism. Key to understanding this specificity is the examination of other kinds of political enemies. Across categories of gender, sexuality, race, religion, and empire, the course theorizes the queer enemy in a comparative perspective. Engaging scholars like Monique Wittig, Simone de Beauvoir, Frantz Fanon, and Jean Paul Sartre, we compare homophobia with other forms of political enmity like misogyny, anti-Black racism, and anti-Semitism. After investigating antagonism across categories of political difference, we delve into the specificities of homophobic antagonism in the second half of the course. Here, we explore how the queer threat is framed: through metaphors of civilizational destruction but also through anti-sodomy and anti-disclosure laws. We also trace how the normalization of the queer enemy has produced new enemies. Through notions of "Pinkwashing" and the "Gay International," we further examine how queer liberation is made to stand in for colonial domination. But we also read critiques of the "gay=colonialism" equation, asking how homophobia mediates anti-colonial politics. Finally, we conclude the course with Michel Foucault's seminal essay and relate the question of the queer enemy to the threat of new human relations.

Instructor(s): Omar Safadi Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This course counts as a Concepts course for GNSE majors

Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 23178, HMRT 23178, RDIN 23178

**PLSC 23200. Understanding One Another in a World of Evil. 100 Units.**

The moral turn in the human sciences has led to an increasing emphasis on the problem of evil. While the Holocaust is frequently presented as the paradigmatic case of evil, this problem has also been used to underscore the unredressed wrongs of slavery and genocide in the history of empire and colonialism. This course aims to take the problem of evil seriously while also raising a doubt about the certainty with which some scholars have characterized evil as a problem of willful or culpable wrongdoing. We aim to think the problem of evil alongside and through a related problem, namely how we come to understand one another as shared participants in a moral universe. This will lead us to consider a series of subsidiary questions: How do we understand one another when ethical stances strike us as unacceptable or, more emphatically, inhuman? Under what conditions do we characterize acts that seem to conform to rival systems of value as evil? In other words, to what extent is the problem of evil a problem of understanding? And do our pronouncements about evil necessarily carry certain assumptions about transhistorical and transcultural human values? Our course resources include works by Ludwig Wittgenstein on the problem of human understanding, Hannah Arendt's account of the problem of evil, and Stanley Cavell's account of the problem of acknowledgement, as well as a number of film screenings.

Instructor(s): A. Brandel, D. Grant Terms Offered: May be offered in 2027-2028

Prerequisite(s): Third or fourth-year standing

Equivalent Course(s): CCCT 23200, ANTH 23200, BPRO 23200, DEMS 23200, HIST 22804

**PLSC 23208. Diplomacy and the Conduct of International Relations. 100 Units.**

This course will explore diplomacy and the conduct of international relations

Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 23218. Dialectics, Revolution, and Despair: Critical Theory from Lukács to Davis. 100 Units.**

What is a critical theory of society? On what basis does one develop one? How do we transform critical theory into praxis? This course returns to the roots of Frankfurt School Critical Theory to re-interrogate some of its foundational questions and ideas, before branching off into some of its lesser-studied trajectories. We will first engage with some of its sources in the works of Karl Marx and Georg Lukács, analyzing concepts like alienation and reification that will become central to the Frankfurt School, before examining core texts from Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and others, that engage with questions of emancipation and the role of critique. Finally, we will examine its offshoots and contemporary legacies among thinkers like Angela Davis, Hans-Jürgen Krahl, Robyn Marasco, Eva von Redecker, and Rahel Jaeggi.

Instructor(s): Levine, Will Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 23220. Approaches to Authoritarian Politics. 100 Units.**

This seminar introduces students to the political science literature on authoritarian politics. Throughout the quarter we will situate authoritarianism in its broader historical context, engaging with scholarship on a diverse set of nondemocratic regimes, ranging from 20th-century fascisms to contemporary competitive authoritarianisms. Should we approach authoritarianism as a unique political regime or an experiment in political control? Why do some authoritarian regimes last for decades while others are quickly overthrown? What can authoritarianism teach us about propaganda, manipulation, and misinformation today? Students will engage with the writings of Hannah Arendt, Juan Linz, Barbara Geddes, Jennifer Gandhi, Jason Stanley, and Wendy Brown; alongside contemporary journalism, commentary, and fiction. Some prior coursework in social sciences is recommended, but not required.

Instructor(s): Tan, Burak Terms Offered: Spring

**PLSC 23300. State and Water Governance in Historical Perspective. 100 Units.**

Who owns shared ecological resources, and how are their extraction, governance, and distribution regulated? What role do states play in "equitable" allocation of scarce ecological resources? We focus particularly on water, examining how competing claims over this essential resource have been negotiated from the ancient past to the present. Water management is never merely technical: it is inherently social and political. It requires cooperation, yet it can also generate conflict—even warfare. Archaeological and historical scholarship often attributes large waterworks to ancient states, and hydraulic projects have been central to modern national states building globally. But can states balance the inherent tensions between a need to manage complex water systems that run across communities and the rights of those communities for communal and ecological well-being? Centralization and efficiency can undermine citizen rights and freedoms. We will question the roots of state accountability and representativeness in ecological distribution. We will review how ecological planning shapes identity, belonging, and the socio-economic resilience of distinct communities, and also reshapes communities' natural environment. Bringing historical and contemporary case studies into conversation, we will grapple with the difficult sociopolitical trade-offs of water governance. We will ask what alternative imaginaries of collective infrastructure and ecological governance are possible or desired.

Instructor(s): Gary Herrigel, Mehrnoush Soroush Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): PQ: Third or fourth-year status

Equivalent Course(s): ARKE 23300, PLSC 33350, BPRO 23300, NEHC 33300, CEGU 23300, CEGU 33300, NEHC 23300

**PLSC 23306. Globalization & Labor. 100 Units.**

Increased globalization—in the form of freer trade, more open immigration, the international flow of capital, and the spread of information technologies—has profoundly influenced both international and domestic politics in the present age. While some credit increased globalization with dramatic reductions in extreme poverty and rising standards of living, others see it as a new form of colonial domination driving environmental degradation and labor exploitation. In this course, we will examine these developments through the lens of labor. We will look at how workers and their unions have shaped, and been shaped by, the politics of globalization on issues ranging from tariffs to democratization and from fiscal austerity to climate change. Students will emerge with a greater understanding of the power of, and challenges to, worker solidarity.

Instructor(s): Parker, Adam Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): INRE 23305, INRE 43305

**PLSC 23418. Interpreting Hobbes. 100 Units.**

Thomas Hobbes is one of the most controversial thinkers in the history of political thought. This graduate seminar explores widely disparate interpretations of the Malmesbury philosopher's political thought, especially, his magnum opus, *The Leviathan*. We will examine the hermeneutical engagements of Michael Oakeshott, Carol Pateman, Quentin Skinner, Richard Tuck, Leo Strauss, Michel Foucault, Carl Schmitt, and Jean Hampton, among others.

Instructor(s): McCormick, John P. Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 43418

**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. Priority for this class will be given to advanced undergraduates and those majoring in Political Science or a related field.

Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GLST 23456

**PLSC 23480. Law, Rights, and Democracy in Crisis: Israel and Palestine in Comparative Perspective. 100 Units.**

How do law and politics interact in contexts of deep national division? What are the limits of international law, human rights, and liberal democracy in addressing violent conflict? And what alternatives arise when conventional approaches—such as territorial partition and a focus on individual rights—fall short? This course explores these questions through the case of Israel-Palestine, examined in comparative perspective alongside other divided societies, including Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Cyprus. Students will analyze how legal frameworks—both domestic and international—shape, constrain, or enable political arrangements in protracted conflicts. Core concepts such as sovereignty, self-determination, and the tension between individual and collective rights will be explored through competing understandings of peace and justice. Drawing on the emerging framework of Collective Equality, the course invites critical reflection on the foundational principles needed to support sustainable models of conflict transformation.

Instructor(s): Limor Yehuda Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): DEMS 23480, JWSC 23480, PLSC 33480, HMRT 23480

**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: Spring

**PLSC 23605. The Politics of the Middle East. 100 Units.**

This course will provide an analytical overview of the politics, regimes, and institutions of one of the most geopolitically important and exciting regions of the world: the Middle East. Blending literatures from international security, human rights, and comparative politics, we will cover a wide range of political, economic, and social issues as well as contemporary debates pertaining to the region. Some of these topics will include civil resistance and compliance under different types of authoritarianism, domestic conflict and proxy wars, the legacies of military coups and third-party interventions, the status and agency of women, political governance and participation in oil-monarchies, and the political repercussions of the Syrian civil war and ensuing refugee crisis. Where possible, we will situate these topics against the backdrop of cooperative and conflictual regional dynamics, engage contemporary debates and recent developments, and draw on multiple country profiles and case studies as illustrative examples. By the end of this class, you will be able to analyze the complex, modern-day politics of the Middle East, identifying the key players, issues and challenges, and also gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of intra and interstate relationships that shape the region.

Instructor(s): Alakoc, Burcu Pinar Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): INRE 43605, INRE 23605, PLSC 43605

**PLSC 23800. Plato's Laws. 100 Units.**

An introductory reading of Plato's Laws with attention to such themes as the following: war and peace; courage and moderation; rule of law; music, poetry, drinking, and education; sex, marriage, and gender; property and class structure; crime and punishment; religion and theology; and philosophy.

Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Autumn. Autumn 2024

Prerequisite(s): Familiarity with Plato's Republic

Note(s): Enrollment limited. Open to undergraduates with consent of instructor.

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 23400, SCTH 30300, PLSC 48300, SCTH 20300

**PLSC 23802. Plato, Law, and the Musicality of Politics. 100 Units.**

The ancient Greeks understood music and law to share in the same intrinsic properties of order, establishment, and restoration; the ambiguity of the word *nomos*, which could mean both law and song, signals a worldview according to which ethics and aesthetics were governed by the same principles. This worldview was intimately connected to Athens' understanding of herself as a democracy, where music and so-called music theorists were integrated in all aspects of civic life, and where poets, philosophers, and statesman alike theorized on the moral, political, and juridical value of music. This course will be primarily devoted to a close reading of Plato's Laws (*Nomoi*), We will consider fundamental questions of civic engagement, political judgment, and the rule of law, and complicate those questions in light of the aesthetic and extra-rational considerations brought to bear on them through the dialogues' preoccupations with all things musical. Some familiarity with the Platonic dialogues is preferred but not required.

Instructor(s): Valiquette Moreau, Nina Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 43802, FNDL 23805

**PLSC 24203. International Environmental Politics. 100 Units.**

Environmental crises seem to be ever-present in the media and the deluge of bad news and rise of "climate doomerism" can feel overwhelming. This course applies concepts from international relations to environmental issues, including the illegal wildlife trade, international climate agreements, conservation and biodiversity, resource conflict, and the environmental fallout of war. Though the course will draw from international relations primarily, students will be exposed to a range of interdisciplinary thought and multiple perspectives on a broad range of subjects. Through thoughtful engagement with material from popular media, academic literature, and primary sources, students will develop their understanding of the environment in international politics.

Terms Offered: Spring

**PLSC 24302. Bureaucratic Politics and the Administrative State. 100 Units.**

This is to be a mixed graduate/undergraduate course in which we will explore the bureaucratic politics and the administrative state.

Instructor(s): Rogowski, Jon C. Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 34302

**PLSC 24410. Black Feminisms: Combahee to Chicago in Theory & Practice. 100 Units.**

This course is an exploration of the theoretical ideas and political actions that underpin contemporary Black feminisms beginning in the 1960s to the present. Students will interrogate the many facets of Black feminist thought and practice by engaging diverse forms of expression including books, articles, film, poetry, storytelling, and music. As we examine course materials we will constantly grapple with a set of questions including what makes these texts, articles, and films feminist, and how have these theories been put into action across time,

communities, and geography. While the course will be broadly focused, we will repeatedly turn our attention to Black feminist theory and practice rooted in Chicago. Throughout the quarter we will engage a diverse set of course materials enhanced by conversations with guest speakers such as Barbara Ransby, Beth Richie, Charlene Carruthers, Essence McDowell, dream hampton, Moya Bailey, and Tobias Spears. The class will conclude with a half day symposium on Black Feminisms in Chicago where students will present their final projects. Note: This will be a community-engaged course, composed of College students and members of the broader community. Consent is required to join.

Instructor(s): Cathy Cohen and Tracye Matthews Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): CHST 24300, RDIN 24300, GNSE 20167

**PLSC 24501. Indigenous Politics and Policy in the United States. 100 Units.**

This seminar examines the political institutions and legal frameworks, and policy environments that structure relations between Indigenous nations and the U.S. government. More than 570 federally recognized Indigenous nations, each with distinct governance systems and legal agreements, have interacted with federal and state authorities through policies governing land, jurisdiction, citizenship, and public administration—from allotment, relocation, and civil rights-era legislation to contemporary regulatory and administrative regimes. The course analyzes how authority is allocated and exercised across policy domains including land and resource management, food and subsistence systems, climate policy, healthcare, education, and public safety. The course is discussion-based and interactive. Students will develop a case study of an Indigenous nation or group in the United States using their preferred research method(s), including qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, or theoretical approaches. Course materials introduce approaches to research with and about Indigenous peoples—including participatory research, Indigenous data governance, integrated assessment modeling, and institutional review processes—while examining how research practices interact with political authority and policy design. Students leave with a substantive understanding of Indigenous politics and policy and experience applying political analysis to real institutional settings.

Instructor(s): Sonja Castañeda Dower Terms Offered: Spring

**PLSC 24502. The Political Economy of Great Power Competition. 100 Units.**

In recent years, competition between great powers has once again shaped international politics and global economic activity. This discussion-based course explores how powerful states influence economic forces during periods of competition—and how economic incentives can influence the behavior of powerful states. Each week, we will discuss one theme, from trade and finance to energy and technology, and draw out its relationship to competition between leading powers. At the conclusion of this course students, will be able to analyze the role finance, energy, trade and other variables have played in historical instances of great power competition and apply those insights to contemporary academic and/or policy debates.

**PLSC 24806. Governing Technological Change. 100 Units.**

This course is a graduate-level survey of the political economy of technological change. The course begins by investigating the nature of technology and technological change, paying particular attention to the socially constructed nature of technologies. Then, in three sections, it investigates 1) where technological innovations come from, 2) how new technologies spread, and 3) the economic, political, and cultural impacts of new technologies. Throughout the course, students will be asked to interrogate the values and assumptions encoded in technologies and how technologies impact marginalized peoples and communities. Students will emerge with a greater understanding of the complex social, political, and economic forces implicated in technological change.

Instructor(s): Parker, Adam Terms Offered: Spring Winter

Note(s): Undergraduate students must seek instructor consent prior to enrollment

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 44805, INRE 44805

**PLSC 24811. Congress And The Separation of Powers. 100 Units.**

This seminar examines the unique role that Congress plays in America's constitutional design. Assigned readings will explore how Congress has historically worked to balance power between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and whether (or to what extent) shifts in the balance of power between the branches are the result of worrisome legislative dynamics. Over the course of the quarter, we will also consider how Congress shapes the composition and size of the judicial branch, checks the executive branch through nominations, appointments, and investigation, and mediates disputes between the courts and presidents.

Instructor(s): R. Bloch Rubin Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 34811

**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 Kavanaugh, Executive Director, Senior Lecturer, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights  
Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 34823, HMRT 24823

**PLSC 24860. Congress in Chaos? Understanding Legislative Function and Dysfunction. 100 Units.**

This course will introduce students to the workings of the contemporary Congress. We will examine who runs for - and who wins - seats in Congress, the lawmaking processes in the House and Senate, and the roles of parties and leaders in the two chambers. We will take stock of changes in the operation of the House and Senate, focusing in particular on the problems associated with extended debate in the Senate and leadership selection in the House. We will then consider Congress's role as a policymaker. How does Congress make public policy? What factors inhibit legislative productivity? Who has input into the process? Finally, we will assess Congress's performance during periods of economic, cultural, and political turmoil. Is policymaking too partisan or too hard to do well? Is the public's disapproval of the first branch warranted?

Instructor(s): Ruth Bloch Rubin

**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 24930. Latin American Politics and the Novel: Between Crisis and Renewal. 100 Units.**

Who are we? How many are we? Who can speak for us? How should they speak for us? In the history of democracy in Latin America these questions have been central to the challenges and advances made across the region in the creation of civil states. They are also questions central to the development of fiction in the region. This course explores key themes of the study of Latin American politics in interdisciplinary dialogue with critically acclaimed works of fiction. We will consider, in the context of contemporary Latin America, how storytelling serves political ends and how politics has served as material for impactful stories.

Instructor(s): Susan Stokes, Larissa Brewer-García Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): SIGN 24930, SPAN 24980, LACS 24930

**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 appear 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 25038. The Climate Crisis and Our Everyday Life: Inhabiting the Present, Facing the Future. 100 Units.**

Communicating the truths of climate change presents a particular challenge: to convey the undeniably negative and inherently unequal impact of human-induced warming of the planet on both human and nonhuman lives in such a way as to enable readers, interlocutors, and students to think through the crisis constructively and in a positive frame of mind in the face of much that is indeed not good news. Something in the failure to grasp climate futures lies in an affective dimension of the present, so the question of how to inhabit the present as it blends into a climate-stressed future becomes a question of addressing not just the facts of climate change but also the forebodings, anxieties, and concerns about the future that the literature on the subject often generates. Mindful of the affective- experiential dimensions of climate communication, we want to adopt an experimental approach that will allow for mutual learning between students and instructors, within and beyond the course.

Instructor(s): D. Chakrabarty & J. Pitts Terms Offered: Spring  
Equivalent Course(s): SALC 25038, CCCT 25038, HIST 25038

**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. Enrollment is limited to third- and fourth-year students.

Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Spring  
Prerequisite(s): 3rd and 4th year students only  
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 20117, LLSO 29702

**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, PLSC 35131, LACS 25131

**PLSC 25136. The Era of Democratic Pessimism. 100 Units.**

According to the end of history thesis and the nineties optimism that fueled it, the world would converge in a combination of liberal democracy and market economy. However, in recent years, a specter of political pessimism haunts the globe. Although democracies do not die as dramatically as they used to, new kinds of authoritarianisms have emerged. Some say that populism is to blame, others point to economic crises, identity politics and even the rise of social media, not to mention the elephant in the room: whether democracy can handle the climate crisis. Is democracy really receding? Are these its causes? Can survive its most pressing challenges?

Instructor(s): Cristobal Bellolio Terms Offered: Autumn  
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 35136, PBPL 25136, LACS 25136, PLSC 35136

**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.  
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 25457, CCCT 25457

**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): CCCT 25458, ANTH 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: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 25600

**PLSC 25678. The Evolution of Political Consciousness. 100 Units.**

This course explores the nature and evolution of consciousness. The approach here is rooted first in biology and then expands to include human language, culture, and political systems. Our goal is to come up with a better understanding of what consciousness is, how it evolves, and where it might be going in the future. One area of particular interest will be examining how many of the crises of modernity (climate change, technological shifts, political polarization) are related to the current configuration of human consciousness

Instructor(s): Eric Oliver Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 45678

**PLSC 25700. Myth, Symbol, and Ritual in Politics. 100 Units.**

This seminar investigates how non-empirical constructs-myths, symbols, and rituals-are used to legitimize, organize, and exercise political power. Drawing on philosophy, anthropology, political theory, religious studies, and literature, the course examines how symbolic practices shape authority, identity, and resistance. We will examine both theories and case studies to identify the dynamics behind the use and development of nonfactual concepts and narratives.

Instructor(s): Oliver, Eric

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 35700

**PLSC 25834. Populism. 100 Units.**

This course will examine the rise of populism throughout advanced democracies. We will discuss different ways of conceptualizing and measuring populism and how it differs from left-right ideology. We will discuss various potential causes of populism including globalism, corruption, inequality, identity politics, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the growing bureaucracy. We will also discuss various populist politicians and political movements, including Brexit, Trump, Vox, and Podemos.

Instructor(s): Anthony Fowler Terms Offered: Spring, Barcelona Pub Pol Program

Prerequisite(s): Admission to Barcelona Pub Pol Program

Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 25834

**PLSC 25835. The Political Economy of Cities. 100 Units.**

The course introduces students to the latest scholarship on the political economy of cities and metropolitan areas. We will focus on a few basic concepts of urban political economy (e.g., externalities, agglomeration, fragmentation, sorting), and explore how the interaction of economic forces and political institutions forms the foundation of many current policy challenges facing cities. We analyze the sources of urban growth, the institutions of local government and their role in the federal system, competition among cities, and the importance of real estate markets in shaping local politics.

Instructor(s): Christopher Berry Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Admission to Barcelona Pub Pol Program

Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 25835

**PLSC 25997. 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 consent of both her and her husband, ushering in a new regime in which all are satisfied. In Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* Angelo the interim duke of Vienna institutes a repressive sexual regime in which the brothels are closed and extramarital sex is a capital crime. What might we learn about sexual relations from these diverse plays? Why are they comedies?

Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov & Glenn Most Terms Offered: Spring, Spring 2024

Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates need the Instructor's permission to register.

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 21772, SCTH 35997, PLSC 35997, CMLT 25823, CLCV 27623, CMLT 35997, GNSE 35997, GNSE 25997, CLAS 37623, SCTH 25823

**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 26206. The Political Economy of AI. 100 Units.**

How does the widespread application of AI shift the boundary between skilled and unskilled labor in the workplace? How do users of AI make sense of their evolving knowledge and expertise as they are integrating AI into their craft? And what are the effects of these sectoral and individual shifts for how wealth and power accumulate in society as a whole? This course invites students to explore answers to these questions by centering the everyday collaboration between learning machines and highly credentialed workers in five global industries, each of which has a strong footprint in Chicago: academic research, architecture, journalism, marketing, and urban planning. Drawing on readings from labor economics, science and technology studies, political economy, and economic anthropology, students will prepare to participate in five tabletop exercises, each of which will be hosted by a UChicago alum at their Chicago offices. Students will alternate between serving as collaborators in and observers of a workflow that features a current industry-specific protocol for human/AI integration. In small groups, and with the help of post-observation interviews of our site hosts, students will reflect on their dual experiences as participants and observers. This reflection will culminate in a final written project, in which students will judge their everyday experience with AI in the context of larger debates about AI's opportunities and dangers.

Terms Offered: Summer

**PLSC 26226. 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. (Previously PLSC 26205 - may not count both classes toward major)

Equivalent Course(s): RDIN 26226

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

TBD

Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 39119, FNDL 26302

**PLSC 26800. Political Violence. 100 Units.**

This course studies violent conflict within and between countries. It has three parts. The first focuses on civil war, including the sources of internal warfare, the dynamics of rebel and militia recruitment and organization, counterinsurgency, and peace-building. The second part examines vigilantism, electoral violence, criminal/cartel conflict, and the links between violence and state-building. The third part studies modern interstate war, including proxy conflicts and indirect competition, the impact of emerging technologies on when and how wars are fought, the new era of nuclear competition, and future trajectories of international politics.

Instructor(s): P. Staniland Terms Offered: Autumn Winter

**PLSC 26920. Freedom, Justice and Legitimacy. 100 Units.**

In this course we will explore two main questions, which are central to both contemporary political theory and political discourse: (1) how different concepts and conceptions of freedom ground different theories of social

justice and political legitimacy and (2) how to understand the relationship between justice and legitimacy. To what extent are justice and legitimacy separate ideas? Does legitimacy require justice? Are just states necessarily legitimate? We will critically analyze and normatively assess how different contemporary theories have answered, whether explicitly or implicitly, such questions. The course will focus on five major contemporary theories: liberal-egalitarianism as represented by the work of John Rawls; libertarianism, as represented by the work of Robert Nozick, neo-Lockean theories as represented by the work of John Simmons, neo-republicanism as represented by the work of Philip Pettit, and neo-Kantian theories as represented by the work of Arthur Ripstein.  
 Instructor(s): J. Wilson  
 Terms Offered: Autumn  
 Equivalent Course(s): DEMS 26920, HMRT 26920, LLSO 26920, PLSC 36920

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

"Quantitative Methods for Political Science" is an introduction to the fundamentals of quantitative research methods as applied to the field of political science. You will learn the necessary statistical concepts as well as the practical computing knowledge necessary to explore and analyze data. By the end of the course, you should be able to: - Manage, summarize and visualize data using the R statistical software environment. - Understand how to represent uncertainty through the principles of statistical inference. - Fit and interpret linear regression models. - Assess claims of causal relationships. Applied examples in lectures, problem sets and exams will be drawn from a wide variety of political science publications.  
 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), CIR and other MA students with prior coursework in International Relations.  
 Instructor(s): R. Terman  
 Terms Offered: Spring  
 Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 27002, PLSC 37002

**PLSC 27654. Conspiracy Theories and the Social Sciences. 100 Units.**

This course combines readings from the empirical social scientific literature on conspiracy theories with readings dealing with philosophical and conceptual questions of interest to social scientists seeking to understand those who believe them. What kinds of claims count as conspiracy theories? Are conspiracy theories, as a category, epistemically deficient or problematic in some other way? How should social scientists deal with the fact that some conspiracy theories seem true or plausible, while others seem patently ridiculous? We will also give conspiracy theorists a chance to "talk back," reading diverse texts authored by conspiracy theorists themselves, ranging from the satirical to the deadly serious. How can we take conspiracy theorists seriously without overstating the coherence of many of their arguments? And, how can we best respond to the effects of genuinely harmful or prejudicial conspiracy theories in a way that does not uncritically affirm the authority of expertise or close off the possibility of external critique? It is recommended, but not required, that students enrolling in this class have taken one or more courses in the Social Sciences Core.  
 Terms Offered: Winter  
 Equivalent Course(s): KNOW 27654

**PLSC 27765. 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): Gehlbach, S. and Luo, Z.  
 Terms Offered: Winter  
 Prerequisite(s):  
 Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 28765, PLSC 37765, PECO 37765

**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): DEMS 27818, 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): LLSO 28038, FNLD 21815

**PLSC 28080. From Feudalism to Capitalism. From Capitalism to Feudalism? 100 Units.**

The first half of this course will survey literature on the historical transition from feudalism to capitalism. The second half of the course will examine current debates about whether a transition is underway from capitalism to "neo-feudalism" or "techno-feudalism."

Instructor(s): David Lebow Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 28080

**PLSC 28101. Executive Power in the American Political System. 100 Units.**

This seminar examines the historical development of the American presidency, with particular attention to the scope and limits of executive power. We begin by analyzing post-Revolutionary debates about executive authority and explore how institutional choices made at the Constitutional Convention have both constrained and enabled the subsequent expansion of presidential power. The course investigates why certain presidents have fundamentally transformed the office. Are periods of expanded executive authority driven primarily by individual leadership and political skill, by external shocks such as war or economic crisis, or by broader structural factors including political parties, the growth of the administrative state, and the emergence of the United States as a global superpower? We also examine the conditions under which presidents act unilaterally—such as through executive orders—rather than working with Congress to achieve their policy objectives.

Throughout the seminar, students engage primary sources and scholarly literature, including comparative work on democratic backsliding, to assess whether expansions of presidential power have strengthened or undermined democratic governance in the United States. This course is limited to sophomore and junior political science majors who need to fulfill their long paper requirement.

Instructor(s): Patricia Conley Terms Offered: Spring

**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. Undergraduates should have taken PLSC 26969 or obtain instructor consent.

Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 48110

**PLSC 28450. Liberalism and US Foreign Policy. 100 Units.**

This course starts by examining the different strands of liberal theory, and then considers how those different strands relate to the United States. It then considers how the liberal tradition in America affects US foreign policy.

Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter

**PLSC 28457. Making, Breaking, and Shaping Foreign Policy. 100 Units.**

There is no country in the world in which foreign policy is made in a hermetically sealed environment. Leaders make decisions based not only on the national interest, but on their beliefs, political interests, and competing policy priorities. Other actors - the public, advisors, politicians, bureaucrats, and societal interest groups - also constrain or otherwise impact decision-making. Peering inside the state at these numerous domestic actors is critical to understanding why states behave the way they do in international politics. This undergraduate seminar unpacks the influence of various domestic political actors on a country's international behavior. Each week, we will survey a subset of the International Relations (IR) literature on one of these kinds of actors, starting with leaders and the masses and concluding with bureaucracies and interest groups. Throughout the course students will learn about and discuss the implications of this research on longstanding debates in the study of IR, including democratic peace theory and audience cost theory. Due to time constraints, the course will focus on democratic regimes, although we will conclude with one class on domestic political actors in non-democracies.

Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 38457

**PLSC 28600. Controversies in Security Studies. 100 Units.**

Academic debates in security studies have real world policy implications: does nuclear proliferation create stability or the potential for security crisis? Do international institutions constrain aggressive actors? Can international courts hold human rights abusers accountable? This course covers crucial debates in the field of security studies. Each week, we will review both sides of a claim with mixed theoretical and empirical evidence and review the evidence and arguments for either side. Throughout the class, students will learn the substance of these debates, along with processes for evaluating arguments, interpreting data and evidence, and argumentative writing.

Instructor(s): D. Grasse Terms Offered: Winter

**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): PLSC 38602

**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): Eric Oliver Terms Offered: Spring

**PLSC 28701. Introduction to Political Theory. 100 Units.**

This course will address several major, pressing questions of political morality, and introduce students to theoretical approaches to those questions. The class aims to develop students' abilities to address political problems in rigorous and thoughtful ways. Topics will include property rights and distributive justice; the nature and value of freedom; arguments for and against democracy and the proper design of democratic institutions; war and the use of force; racial and gender justice; and global economic justice and human rights. The focus will be on contemporary approaches to these problems rather than on classical works of political thought. Familiarity with such works is not required.

Instructor(s): J. Wilson Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

**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 critically 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): Note: While the course sets out to teach these skills, you do not need previous coursework in statistics.

Equivalent Course(s): ECON 16950, PBPL 28750

**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

Equivalent Course(s): DEMS 28801

**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): CMST 28805, CDIN 38800, PLSC 38801, REES 28800, CMST 38800, REES 38800, CDIN 28801

**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: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 38813, PLSC 38813, LLSO 38813

**PLSC 28878. History of Government and Political Institutions. 100 Units.**

This course is designed for PhD students in political science and political economy or advanced undergraduate/master students who are interested in studying the comparative politics of authoritarian regimes. The course is based on Samuel E. Finer's three-volume book "The History of Government from the Earliest Times." Students will read and discuss this book to acquire a broader understanding of how the institutional structures of government have developed throughout history.

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 38878, PPHA 41110, ECMA 32210

**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. Nalepa, Z. Luo Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): DEMS 28901

**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. Theories of Capitalism II. 100 Units.**

The Theories of Capitalism sequence introduces students to classic texts in the history of economic thought. Across the sequence, 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 Theories of Capitalism II. Yet, in this course, we also attend to new preoccupations that emerged as capitalism continued to evolve. Among these are questions about the role of uncertainty in economic processes, the nature of a competitive economic order, and the effects of private wealth accumulation on society and individuals. Readings may include works by Thorstein Veblen, Frank Knight, John Maynard Keynes, Friedrich Hayek, and John Kenneth Galbraith. Formerly Twentieth-Century Theories of Capitalism.

Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): HIST 28813, LLSO 29066

**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: Spring

Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901 or equivalent and consent of instructor. Undergraduates by consent only.

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 31000

**PLSC 29185. The Promise and Pitfalls of Direct Democracy: Referendums and Initiatives in Representative Systems. 100 Units.**

The majority of representative democracies retain mechanisms of direct democracy: referendums and citizens' initiatives. These mechanisms are controversial. Supporters view them as rightfully restoring a role for citizens in collective decision-making. They point to U.S. states where voters have recently used Medicaid and abortion referendums and initiatives to bring public policy more in line with voters' preferences. Critics view these mechanisms as giving too large a role to uninformed voters and as sidestepping the important deliberative processes that happen in legislatures. These critics point to "bad" referendum decisions, such as the U.K.'s Brexit vote in 2016. In this course, we will study mechanisms of direct democracy from the "top," exploring how party and legislative elites deal with direct democracy, and from the "bottom," exploring how voters approach them, with an eye toward answering the question, are referendums and initiatives good for democracy?

Instructor(s): Stokes, Susan Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Max enrollment 18, UG students prioritized over G students.

Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 39185

**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 29505. Political Violence and Terrorism. 100 Units.**

Terrorism as a form of political violence remains in the headlines given the spread of deadly insurgencies, the increased threat posed by lone wolf terrorists, and the violent attacks of rival militant groups competing for power and recognition. This course is designed to introduce students to important theoretical and empirical puzzles, analytical approaches, and methods in terrorism studies. As such, we will cover a wide range of topics from the causes of terrorism to the characteristics, targets, and strategies of terrorist organizations, the motivations of suicide bombers, and states' responses to terrorism. Relying on case studies and quantitative

data, we will explore and try to address questions such as: Why do some terrorist groups target indiscriminately, while others are more discriminate in their attacks? Why do some terrorist groups provide social services to their constituents when others do not? Why do some terrorist groups use women operatives while others mostly recruit men? Why do some counterterrorism policies succeed while others fail, and generate more terrorism? By the end of this class, students will be familiar with the prominent debates, competing explanations, and up-to-date scholarly research on terrorism, and be able to systematically analyze empirical puzzles regarding terrorism and political violence using different theoretical and methodological approaches.

Instructor(s): Alakoc, Burcu Pinar Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate students must seek instructor consent prior to enrollment

Equivalent Course(s): INRE 29505, PLSC 39505, INRE 39505

**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. Enrollment is restricted to students accepted into the undergraduate honors program.

Terms Offered: Autumn

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.

