POLITICAL SCIENCE

Director of undergraduate studies: David Simon, 115 Prospect St., 432-5236, david.simon@yale.edu; politicalscience.yale.edu/academics/about-undergraduate-program

Political science addresses how individuals and groups allocate, organize, and challenge the power to make collective decisions involving public issues. At Yale, the political science curriculum begins with the theoretical building blocks of the discipline, including political philosophy as well as both qualitative and quantitative methodology. With these tools in hand, faculty and students address a wide range of topics within political science, across five sub-fields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political philosophy, and analytical political theory. Students may also construct interdisciplinary curricula, which might be based, for example, on a specific policy realm or a regional focus.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The standard B.A. degree program Twelve term courses in political science are required. Students must take at least two courses in each of any three of the department’s five fields – international relations, American government, political philosophy, analytical political theory, and comparative government. Students expecting to major in Political Science should take one or more introductory-level courses in the department early in their college careers. Introductory courses count toward the overall course requirement and toward the departmental fields requirement.

Students are encouraged to take courses related to political science that are offered by other departments. Students who elect the standard program may petition to count up to two such courses toward the major. Students may routinely count college seminars taught by members of the Political Science faculty toward the major, and they may petition to count one college seminar taught by an instructor outside the department. Students who have completed Directed Studies may, with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), count one term of DRST 005, 006 toward the major.

The standard B.A. degree program, interdisciplinary concentration Students majoring in Political Science may choose an interdisciplinary concentration, which allows them to identify and pursue an area of study that crosses conventional disciplinary and departmental boundaries. Examples of interdisciplinary concentrations are urban studies, health politics and policy, political economy, political psychology, and global affairs. Students choosing such a concentration are required to take twelve term courses toward the major. At least seven courses must be in the field of concentration. Of the courses counting toward the major outside of the field of concentration, at least two courses must be taken in each of any two of the department’s five fields. As many as three courses taken in other departments may be counted toward the major, with the permission of the DUS.

Students wishing to pursue the Political Science major with an interdisciplinary concentration must submit an application and meet with the DUS to discuss their proposed program of study. The application is due prior to the beginning of the November recess in the student’s final year of enrollment.

The intensive major The intensive major gives students an opportunity to undertake more extensive course work and research for the senior essay than is possible in the standard major. Requirements for the intensive major are identical to those for the nonintensive major (standard program or interdisciplinary concentration), with the following exceptions: (1) in the spring term of the junior year, intensive majors take PLSC 474 in preparation for writing a yearlong senior essay; (2) in the senior year, intensive majors fulfill the senior essay requirement by enrolling in the yearlong course sequence PLSC 490 and PLSC 493 (PLSC 490 also counts toward the senior seminar requirement); (3) a total of fifteen term courses is required.

Juniors wishing to pursue an intensive major must apply to the DUS by November 17, 2017. The application should contain: (1) the intensive major application form signed by a faculty adviser who has agreed to supervise the student for the final three terms of enrollment; (2) a plan of study that identifies the political science courses that will be taken in those three terms; and (3) a one-to-two-page description of the proposed senior essay.

Seminar preregistration Each term, the department provides all declared Political Science majors the opportunity to apply for preregistration to its seminars. Instructors of seminars may preregister up to twelve students per course, or up to eight students for multiple-titled courses. The maximum enrollment for each seminar is eighteen. Students may be preregistered in up to one seminar per term, although they may enroll in others if they obtain instructor permission during shopping week.

Seminar requirement Students majoring in Political Science are required to take at least two seminars taught by members of the Political Science department, including at least one during the senior year.

Credit/D/Fail Students may count up to two lecture courses taken Credit/D/Fail toward the major which will count as non-A grades for purposes of calculating distinction. Seminars taken Credit/D/F will not count toward the major requirements, but will count as non-A grades for purposes of calculating distinction.

Roadmap See visual roadmap of the requirements.
SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Seniors in the major must complete a senior essay, as described under “Senior essay” below. The essay can be written either in one term or over both terms of the senior year. In order to graduate from Yale College, a student majoring in Political Science must achieve a passing grade on the senior essay. The senior requirement for the standard B.A. degree program with an interdisciplinary concentration is the same as for the standard program, with the provision that the essay must be written on a subject that falls within the field of concentration.

Senior essay  The senior essay provides an appropriate intellectual culmination to the student’s work in the major and in Yale College. The essay should ordinarily be written on a topic in an area in which the student has previously done course work. It should rest on extensive research that is appropriate to the subject matter. Essays are expected to be in the range of twenty-five to thirty double-spaced pages. At the beginning of the term in which the essay is written, students must have their senior essay topic approved by a faculty member who has agreed to advise them. Each student is expected to consult regularly with the seminar instructor or adviser and take the initiative in developing a plan of research, scheduling regular meetings, and submitting preliminary drafts for review.

One-term essays may be written either in a seminar or, with the approval of an adviser and the DUS, in PLSC 480. Senior essays written in the fall term are due on December 8, 2017. Spring-term and yearlong essays are due on April 24, 2018. More extensive information about the senior essay can be found on the department website.

Yearlong senior essay  Students who wish to undertake a more extensive research project than is possible in a single term may fulfill the senior essay requirement by enrolling in the yearlong course sequence PLSC 490 and 491. PLSC 490 also counts toward the senior seminar requirement. In the fall term, students writing a yearlong senior essay develop a research prospectus for the essay and begin their research under the supervision of a member of the faculty who specializes in the area being investigated. In the spring term, students complete the essay. Yearlong senior essays are expected to be substantially longer than a regular term paper. While there is no fixed length, they are normally at least fifty pages long.

Majors who wish to enroll in the yearlong senior essay must apply for admission in the spring of their junior year. The deadline for the Class of 2019 is April 9, 2018. By that date, students should submit to the office of the director of undergraduate studies: (1) the yearlong senior essay prospectus form signed by a faculty adviser who has agreed to supervise the student during both terms of the senior year; and (2) a one-to-two-page statement describing the research project. It is expected that no more than fifteen students will be admitted each year.

ADVISING

The director of undergraduate studies and other members of the department can provide advice about departmental requirements, options within the major, requirements of two majors, study abroad, and other matters related to the major. Majors must secure written approval of their course selections each term from the DUS. All subsequent changes in a student’s major program must also be approved. Students are also encouraged to seek advice from other departmental faculty members who are knowledgeable about their fields of interest. Information on faculty interests can be found on the departmental website.

Combined B.A./M.A. degree program  Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may complete a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. See “Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees” under Special Arrangements in the Academic Regulations. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies prior to the sixth term of enrollment for specific requirements in Political Science.

STUDY ABROAD

Students who study in a Junior Term Abroad program or at another university during the summer may, with the approval of the DUS, count up to two courses toward the major. Students who study in a Junior Year Abroad program may, with the approval of the DUS, count up to four courses toward the major. Students may also petition to have non-Yale courses that were not taught in political science departments count toward the major. Pending approval of the DUS, these courses will count toward the maximum number of substitutions.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

B.A. DEGREE, STANDARD PROGRAM

Prerequisites  None
Number of courses  Standard major – 12 term courses; intensive major – 15 term courses
Distribution of courses  2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2 PLSC sems, 1 in senior year
Substitution permitted  2 courses from other depts with DUS approval
Senior requirement  1-term senior essay in sem or in PLSC 480; or 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 491
Intensive major  PLSC 474 in spring term of junior year; 2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 493

B.A. DEGREE, INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

Prerequisites  None
Number of courses  Standard major with interdisciplinary concentration – 12 term courses; intensive major with interdisciplinary concentration – 15 term courses
Distribution of courses  7 courses in concentration; 2 courses in each of 2 of the 5 departmental fields; 2 PLSC sems, 1 in senior year

Substitution permitted  3 courses from other depts with DUS approval (2 courses from other depts with DUS approval for intensive major)

Senior requirement  1-term senior essay in sem or in PLSC 480; or 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 491; both options on subject within concentration

Intensive major  PLSC 474 in spring term of junior year; 7 courses in concentration; 2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 493 on subject within concentration

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Professors  Bruce Ackerman, Akhil Amar, Seyla Benhabib, Paul Bracken, David Cameron, Benjamin Cashore, Bryan Garsten, Alan Gerber, Jacob Hacker, Oona Hathaway, Gregory Huber, Stathis Kalyvas, Joseph LaPalombara (Emeritus), David Mayhew (Emeritus), Thomas Pogge, Douglas Rac, John Roemer, Susan Rose-Ackerman, Frances Rosenbluth, Bruce Russett (Emeritus), James Scott, Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek, Steven Smith, Susan Stokes, Peter Swenson, John Wargo, Ebonya Washington, Steven Wilkinson, Elisabeth Wood

Associate Professors  Ana De La O, Alexandre Debs, Hélène Landemore, Jason Lyall, Karuna Mantena, Nuno Monteiro, Milan Svolik

Assistant Professors  Peter Aronow, Kate Baldwin, Deborah Beim, Daniela Cammack, Alexander Coppock, Allan Dafoe, John Henderson, Daniel Mattingly, Didac Queralt, Kelly Rader, Thania Sanchez, Fredrik Savje, Ian Turner

Lecturers  Andrea Aldrich, Paris Aslanidis, Steven Calabresi, Aysen Candas, John DeStefano, Lucas Entel, Albert Fang, Michael Fotos, Alexandre Gajevic Sayegh, Andrew Gooch, Karen Goodrow, Thomas Graham, Stephen Hanson, Maria Jose Hierro, Cynthia Horan, Jolyon Howorth, Tally Kritzman-Amir, Stephen Latham, Matthew Mahler, Colin McEnroe, Renita Miller, Shaul Mishal, Nicoli Nattrass, Nilakshi Parndigamage, Ryan Powers, Andrew Sabl, Jeremy Seekings, Yuriy Sergeyev, Walter Shapiro, David Simon, Rebecca Sinderbrand, Derek Slap, James Sleeper, Detlef Sprinz, Seiki Tanaka, Andrea Vindigni, Dieg Von Vacano, Bonnie Weir, Graeme Wood

Introductory Courses

* PLSC 026a / JDST 026a / RLST 026a, Political Theology  Eliyahu Stern
Investigation of the theological aspects of modern political ideologies. Topics include sovereignty, universalism, law, election, commandment, and messianism. Primary readings include selections from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, and the writings of Thomas Hobbes, Barukh Spinoza, Carl Schmidt, Mikhail Bakunin, Karl Marx, Jacob Taubes, Martin Buber, and Alain Badiou. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

PLSC 111b / GLBL 268b, Introduction to International Relations  Jason Lyall
Survey of key debates and concepts in international relations. Exploration of historical and contemporary issues using Western and non-Western cases and evidence. Topics include the rise of states; causes, conduct, and outcomes of wars; the emergence of new actors and forms of conflict; and evolution of global economy.  SO

PLSC 113b, Introduction to American Politics  Greg Huber
Introduction to American national government. The Constitution, American political culture, civil rights, Congress, the executive, political parties, public opinion, interest groups, the media, social movements, and the policy-making process.  SO

PLSC 114a, Introduction to Political Philosophy  Hélène Landemore
Fundamental issues in contemporary politics investigated through reflection on classic texts in the history of political thought. Emphasis on topics linked to modern constitutional democracies, including executive power, representation, and political parties. Readings from Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Madison and Hamilton, Lincoln, and Tocqueville, in addition to recent articles on contemporary issues.  SO

PLSC 116a, Comparative Politics: States, Regimes, and Conflict  David Simon
Introduction to the study of politics and political life in the world outside the United States. State formation and nationalism, the causes and consequences of democracy, the functioning of authoritarian regimes, social movements and collective action, and violence.  SO

PLSC 118b, The Moral Foundations of Politics  Ian Shapiro
An introduction to contemporary discussions about the foundations of political argument. Emphasis on the relations between political theory and policy debate (e.g., social welfare provision and affirmative action). Readings from Bentham, Mill, Marx, Burke, Rawls, Nozick, and others.  SO

International Relations

* PLSC 123a, Political Economy of Foreign Aid  Peter Aronow
Introduction to modern quantitative research methods in international political economy, with a focus on empirical evidence related to foreign aid. The state of knowledge regarding the effects of development assistance on democratization, governance, human rights, and conflict. The challenges of drawing causal inferences in the domain of international political economy.  SO
PLSC 130b / GLBL 260b, Nuclear Politics  
Alexandre Debs

The pursuit, use, and non-use of nuclear weapons from the Manhattan Project to the present. The effect of the international system, regional dynamics, alliance politics, and domestic politics in the decision to pursue or forgo nuclear weapons. The role of nuclear weapons in international relations, the history of the Cold War, and recent challenges in stemming nuclear proliferation.  SO

* PLSC 135b, Media and Conflict  
Graeme Wood

The theory and practice of reporting on international conflict and war, and its relation to political discourse in the United States and abroad. Materials include case studies of media coverage of war in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

* PLSC 137a / GLBL 274a, Terrorism  
Bonnie Weir

Theoretical and empirical literature used to examine a host of questions about terrorism. The definition(s) of terrorism, the application of the term to individuals and groups, the historical use and potential causes of terrorism, suicide and so-called religious terrorism, dynamics within groups that use terrorism, and counterterrorism strategies and tactics. Theoretical readings supplemented by case studies.  SO

* PLSC 138a / MGRK 236a / SOCY 221a, The Euro Crisis  
Paris Aslanidis

Examination of how Europe continues to struggle with repercussions of the Great Recesssion and the impact of the Eurozone crisis in countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Spain, and, especially, Greece. Topics include the euro as a viable common currency; why and how the Eurozone crisis erupted and spread; and whether this catastrophe could have been averted.  SO

* PLSC 141a / GLBL 279a, Global Governance  
Yuriy Sergeyev

Examination of global policy problems, the acceleration of interdependence, and the role, potential, and limits of the institutions of global governance to articulate collective interests and to work out cooperative problem solving arrangements. Consideration of gaps in global governance and controversies between globalization and state sovereignty, universality, and tradition.  SO

* PLSC 142a / EVST 143a, Global Climate Governance  
Detlef Sprinz

An overview of global climate governance, including overarching conceptual frameworks, a variety of empirical subdomains, interlinkages with other policy fields, and modeling central challenges encountered in global climate governance. Students prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the term.  SO

PLSC 143a, International Challenges of the Twenty-First Century  
Jolyon Howorth

Challenges facing the global community as it undergoes a power transition with the relative decline of the West and the emergence of powers such as China, India, and Brazil. Natural challenges such as demography, climate, and energy security; systemic issues related to the balance of power, economic crises, and trade globalization; new threats, including rogue states, terrorism, and WMD proliferation; regional challenges in Asia, Ukraine/Crimea, the Middle East, and Africa.  SO

PLSC 148b / HMRT 100b, Theories, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights  
Thania Sanchez and Tamar Ezer

Introduction to core human-rights issues, ideas, practices, and controversies. The concept of human rights as a philosophical construct, a legal instrument, a political tool, an approach to economic and equity issues, a social agenda, and an international locus of contestation and legitimation. Required for students in the Multidisciplinary Academic Program in Human Rights.  SO

PLSC 149a / EVST 292a / GLBL 217a, Sustainability in the Twenty-First Century  
Daniel Esty

Sustainability as a guiding concept for addressing twenty-first century tensions between economic, environmental, and social progress. Using a cross-disciplinary set of materials from the “sustainability canon,” students explore the interlocking challenges of providing abundant energy, reducing pollution, addressing climate change, conserving natural resources, and mitigating the other impacts of economic development.  SO

* PLSC 152a / EP&E 245a / EP&E 449, Global Firms and National Governments  
Joseph LaPalombara

Interactions between large-scale firms that make international investments and policy makers and government officials in the “host” countries. National and subnational officials who work to attract investments (or not) and who set policies regulating global firms and their investments. Focus on less-developed countries. Theories as to why firms “globalize”; case studies of controversies created by overseas corporate investments; the changing economic landscape associated with investments by countries such as China, Brazil, and India.  SO

* PLSC 161a / HIST 483Ja, Studies in Grand Strategy II  
Beverly Gage

The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. During the fall term, students put into action the ideas studied in the spring term by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Prerequisite: PLSC 321. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  SO

PLSC 166b, The New Europe  
David Cameron

European politics since World War II, with emphasis on postwar geopolitical settlement, the development of the European Community and Union, the demise of the Soviet Union and other communist regimes, and current challenges facing Europe.  SO
PLSC 172a, Strategy, Technology, and War  Paul Bracken
Long term technology strategies of major powers (US, China, Russia, EU, India) for their impact on national security and world order. New technologies include cyberwar, nuclear modernization, mobile missiles, space war, AI, big data, Internet of Things. Institutional changes include Cybercommand, CIA Directorate of Digital Innovation, etc. Key issues include defense private equity, Silicon Valley and the Pentagon, digital transformation of the Navy, arms control and grand strategy. Relevant for students with an interest in technology management. so

* PLSC 183a / EP&E 259a, Europe, the United States, and the Iraq Crisis  Jolyon Howorth
Examination of the contrasting relations between the main European powers and the United States in their approaches to Iraq in order to understand the divisions attending the 2003 war and the subsequent transfer of sovereignty. Topics include the Iran-Iraq War (1980–88), the first Persian Gulf crisis (1990–91), the sanctions regime (1991–2002), problems of peacekeeping and nation building, and the Obama exit strategy. so

PLSC 186a / GLBL 203a, Introduction to International Political Economy  Didac Queralt
Examination of the political and institutional conditions that explain why some politicians and interest groups (e.g. lobbies, unions, voters, NGOs) prevail over others in crafting foreign policy. Consideration of traditional global economic exchange (trade, monetary policy and finance) as well as new topics in the international political economy (IPE), such as migration and environmental policy.

PLSC 191b / PHIL 180b, Ethics and International Affairs  Thomas Pogge
Moral reflection taken beyond state boundaries. Traditional questions about state conduct and international relations as well as more recent questions about intergovernmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the design of global institutional arrangements.

American Government

* PLSC 204b, Courts, Judges, and Controversies  Deborah Beim
Controversies surrounding courts, judges, and the decisions they make, with a focus on the American judiciary. Topics include affirmative action, race and the death penalty, ethnic bias in judicial decision making, gender and judging, and courts and social change. so

PLSC 205a, Law, Leadership, and the Political Development of the American Presidency  Stephen Skowronek
Examination of the constitutional law, historical development, and current operations of the American presidency. Topics include formal powers, the organization and mobilization of popular support, the modern executive establishment, and the politics of presidential leadership. so

* PLSC 207b / AFAM 214b / EDST 207b, Race, Representation, and Education Policy  Renita Miller
Exploration of the meaning and practice of political representation and how it connects Americans to government, citizenship, identity, community, and more specifically education. Close analysis of Hanna Pitkin’s work to evaluate the contested meaning of representation; overview of the shape and meaning of representation; and review of political science literature on race and representation with focus on education related policy matters. S&DS 110 suggested. so

* PLSC 210a, Political Preferences and American Political Behavior  John Henderson
Introduction to research methods and topics in American political behavior. Focus on decision making from the perspective of ordinary citizens. Topics include utility theory, heuristics and biases, political participation, retrospective voting, the consequences of political ignorance, the effects of campaigns, and the ability of voters to hold politicians accountable for their actions. so

PLSC 211b / AFAM 325b, Social Policy and the Politics of Inequality in the United States  Staff
The contours and consequences of inequality in the United States, including explanations for why it has expanded over the past several decades and why Americans seem to tolerate more of it. The development of the modern welfare state and the causes of racialized poverty, segregation, and incarceration. so

* PLSC 212a / EP&E 390a / EVST 212a, Democracy and Sustainability  Michael Fotos
Democracy, liberty, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Concepts include institutional analysis, democratic consent, property rights, market failure, and common pool resources. Topics of policy substance are related to human use of the environment and to U.S. and global political institutions. WR, so

PLSC 215a / EVST 255a / F&ES 255a, Environmental Politics and Law  John Wargo
Exploration of the politics, policy, and law associated with attempts to manage environmental quality and natural resources. Themes of democracy, liberty, power, property, equality, causation, and risk. Case histories include air quality, water quality and quantity, pesticides and toxic substances, land use, agriculture and food, parks and protected areas, and energy. so
* PLSC 217a, U.S. National Elections  David Mayhew
An investigation of electoral realignments, voting for president and Congress, voter turnout, incumbency advantage, nominations, and campaign finance.  SO

* PLSC 219b / EP&E 497b / EVST 247b, Politics of the Environment  Peter Swenson
Historical and contemporary politics aimed at regulating human behavior to limit damage to the environment. Goals, strategies, successes, and failures of movements, organizations, corporations, scientists, and politicians in conflicts over environmental policy. Focus on politics in the U.S., including the role of public opinion; attention to international regulatory efforts, especially with regard to climate change.  SO

* PLSC 220b / WGSS 220b, Gender Politics  Andrea Aldrich
Exploration of theoretical and empirical work in political science to study the relationship between gender and politics in the United States and around the world. Topics include women's representative in legislative and executive branch politics in democratic regimes; the impact of gender stereotypes on elections and public opinion; conditions that impact the supply and demand of candidates across genders; and the underrepresentation of women in political institutions.  SO

* PLSC 224b, Political Leadership  Stephen Skowronek
Examination of political leadership as both a concept and a practice. Survey of classic works by Machiavelli, Carlyle, Weber, Lenin, and Schumpeter. Consideration of the difference between transformational leadership and transactional leadership, and between executive leadership and reform leadership. Issues include the conundrum of "democratic leadership" and the role of narrative in leadership.  WR, SO

* PLSC 227b / EP&E 310b, Refugee Law and Policy  Tally Kritzman-Amir
Controversies and challenges in U.S. and international refugee law and policy, with a focus on asylum law and practice in the United States. Emphasis on legal reasoning and analysis through close reading of statutes, regulations, and case law. Final project is a legal brief on behalf of a client.  SO

PLSC 233a, Constitutional Law  Akhil Reed Amar
An introduction to the main themes of the American Constitution—popular sovereignty, separation of powers, federalism, and rights—and to basic techniques of constitutional interpretation. Special emphasis on the interplay of constitutional text, judicial doctrine, and constitutional decision making outside the judiciary.  SO

* PLSC 235a, Political Journalism and Public Policy  Derek Slap
The effects of political journalism on American public policy from 1960 to the present. Focus on changes in the media during the past few decades. The Dewey-Lippmann debate on the role journalism should play in politics, marketing in the 1968 presidential campaign, broadcast news and audience fragmentation in the 1970s, media dysfunction and the Clinton and Obama health care initiatives, the Internet, hyperpartisanship, media bias, and recent gun control initiatives.  SO

* PLSC 236b, Presidential Campaigns and the Media  Walter Shapiro
The intersection of two institutions in the midst of major transformations—the political campaign industry and the news business. Presidential campaign coverage during the last third of the twentieth century; the beleaguered economic structure of the news business in the twenty-first century; media coverage of the 2008 and 2012 presidential races, with emphasis on how campaigns adapted to the changed news landscape and to new ways of communicating with voters.  SO

* PLSC 241a / SOCY 365a, The Making of Political News  Matthew Mahler
The processes through which political news gets made. How the form and content of political news are shaped in and through the ongoing relationships between political operatives and journalists; ways in which these actors attempt to structure and restructure such relationships to their benefit.  SO

PLSC 242b / BLST 118b, Biblical and Constitutional Interpretation in Dialogue  Maria Doerfler
How people read important books. Study of the strategies used throughout history to interpret two of the most authoritative texts: the bible and the U.S. Constitution. Different exegetes and exegetical communities continue to disagree on ways to read these books, and on how these readings should shape thought, practice, and national policy. Case studies include discussion of proper relations between civic and religious communities; the issue of slavery; and the topic of same-sex marriage.  WR, HU

* PLSC 244a / EP&E 324a, Journalism, Liberalism, Democracy  James Sleeper
The news media's role in configuring the democratic public sphere, from the early synergy of print capitalism and liberalism through the corporate consolidation of mass media and the recent fragmentation and fluidity of "news." Classical-humanist and civic-republican responses to these trends.  SO

* PLSC 246b, Twenty-First-Century Political Journalism  Colin McEnroe
Examination of the state of the press before, during, and after the 2016 election, with specific focus on fairness, journalistic business models, facts and fact-checking, social media, data journalism, and the intersection of culture and politics. Consideration of contemporary questions, with occasional look-backs to Watergate and the JFK assassination.

* PLSC 253a or b / ENGL 467a or b, Journalism  Staff
Examination of the practices, methods, and impact of journalism, with focus on reporting and writing; consideration of how others have done it, what works, and what doesn’t. Students learn how to improve story drafts, follow best practices in journalism, improve methods
for obtaining, skeptically evaluating, and assessing information, as well as writing a story for others to read. The core course for Yale Journalism Scholars. No prerequisites.  

**PLSC 254a, Political Parties in the American System**  John Henderson  
The evolution of American political parties and the role of parties and partisanship in contemporary government and elections. Empirical and theoretical accounts of parties, including divided government, parties in Congress, realignment, responsible party government, party identification, and ideology. Elite-led polarization, decline and resurgence of strong parties, and the antiparty constitutional tradition.  

* PLSC 256b / EP&E 248b, American Political Institutions  Michael Fotos  
The origins and development of American political institutions, especially in relation to how institutions shape the policy process. Issues of temporality, policy feedback, and policy substance.  

**PLSC 257b, Bioethics and Law**  Stephen Latham  
The treatment by American law of major issues in contemporary biomedical ethics: informed consent, assisted reproduction, abortion, end-of-life care, research on human subjects, stem cell research, and public health law. Readings include legal cases, statutes, and regulations. No background in law assumed.  

* PLSC 261b / AMST 468b, American Political Development  Stephen Skowronek  
This course examines patterns of political change and institutional development in the United States. It looks to the past for leverage on thinking about the problems of government and politics today. Students examine issues of political culture like racism and liberalism, as well as standard developmental themes like party building, state building, social movement effects, and constitutional change.  

* PLSC 266a, The Press and the Presidency  Rebecca Sinderbrand  
Press coverage of the presidency in recent history and contemporary times. Focus on the choices facing journalists covering the presidency, and the impact of presidential press coverage on American and world politics.  

* PLSC 274b, Cities: Making Public Choices in New Haven  John DeStefano  
Examination of cities, particularly the relationship of people to place and most importantly to one another, through the prism and experiences of the City of New Haven. Exploration of how concepts of social capital and legitimacy of institutions in policy design and execution, are key to the well being of community residents. How cities, in the context of retreating or antagonistic strategies by the state and federal governments, can be key platforms for future economic and social wealth creation.  

* PLSC 276b / SOCY 238b, Wrongful Convictions in Law and Politics  Nilakshi Parndigamage  
The problem of wrongful convictions and the various political and social factors that result in innocent people being convicted of serious crimes. Topics include eye-witness misidentifications, unreliable forensic science, false confessions, jailhouse informants, prosecutorial and law enforcement misconduct, race and gender, criminal justice reform, and varied approaches to wrongful convictions across the world.  

**PLSC 279a / AMST 198a / ARCH 385a / HIST 152a / SOCY 149a, New Haven and the American City**  Elihu Rubin and Alan Plattus  
Introduction to urban studies using New Haven as a model for the American city. Emphasis on historical development; urban planning; the built environment; transportation and infrastructure; reform and redevelopment; architecture and urban design; sustainability and equity.  

* PLSC 280b / AFAM 270b, Poverty, Politics, and Policy in the American City  Cynthia Horan  
Examination of how politics informs the formulation and implementation of policies to address urban poverty. Consideration of alternative explanations for poverty and alternative government strategies. Focus on efforts by local organizations and communities to improve their situations within the context of government actions.  

**Political Philosophy**  

**PLSC 281a / PHIL 334a / RLST 273a, Ethical and Social Issues in Bioethics**  Stephen Latham  
A selective survey of issues in biomedical ethics. Comparison of different points of view about biomedical issues, including religious vs. secular and liberal vs. conservative. Special attention to issues in research and at the beginning and end of life.  

* PLSC 282b / PHIL 342b, Markets and Morals  Alexandre Gajevic Sayegh  
Detailed discussion of crucial questions that arise at the intersection of ethics and economics, as well as critical analysis of theories of social justice and market failures. Topics include the moral limits of markets, the reliance on economic incentives to change behavior, the equality/efficiency trade-off, and the distributive role of taxation in society.  

* PLSC 283b / EP&E 235b / PHIL 457b, Recent Work on Justice  Thomas Pogge  
In-depth study of one contemporary book, author, or debate in political philosophy, political theory, or normative economics. Focus varies from year to year based on student interest and may include a ground-breaking new book, the life’s work of a prominent author, or an important theme in contemporary political thought.  

* PLSC 287a / EP&E 411a, Democracy and Distribution  Ian Shapiro  
An examination of relations between democracy and the distribution of income and wealth. Focus on ways in which different classes and coalitions affect, and are affected by, democratic distributive politics. Open to juniors and seniors.  

HU  

SO  

WR
* PLSC 288a / EP&E 287a, Liberty in Politics, Markets, and Society  
Andrew Sabl
Key questions regarding liberty explored through critical examination of classic texts by Locke, Montesquieu, Smith, Tocqueville, and Mill. The definition, origins, and foundations of liberty; whether liberty in some realms might require the restriction of freedom in others.  
SO

* PLSC 289a / HUMS 259a, Tocqueville  
Bryan Garsten
A close reading of Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*, along with major influences, such as Rousseau, Pascal, and Montesquieu, and near contemporaries, including Constant, Guizot, and Marx. one course in political theory, philosophy, or intellectual history.  
HU, SO

PLSC 290a / SOCY 151a, Foundations of Modern Social Theory  
Emily Erikson
Major works of social thought from the beginning of the modern era through the 190s. Attention to social and intellectual concepts, conceptual frameworks and methods, and contributions to contemporary social analysis. Writers include W.E.B. Du Bois, Simone De Beauvoir, Adam Smith, Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Karl Marx.  
HU, SO

* PLSC 291a / PHIL 464a, Justice, Taxes, and Global Financial Integrity  
Thomas Pogge
Study of the formulation, interpretation, and enforcement of national and international tax rules from the perspective of national and global economic justice. Previous courses in one or two of the following: law, economics, political science, or political philosophy.  
HU

* PLSC 297a / EP&E 312a, Moral Choices in Politics  
Boris Kapustin
SO

* PLSC 299b / HUMS 326b, The Political Philosophy of Rousseau  
Steven Smith
Close reading of some of the major works of Rousseau, concentrating on his political theory, his writings on education and the family, and his conception of the philosophic life. Consideration of interpretations of Rousseau from the past century. Prerequisites: Directed Studies, previous courses in political philosophy or intellectual history, or permission of instructor.  
HU, SO

* PLSC 305b / EP&E 353b, Critique of Political Violence  
Boris Kapustin
Methods of conceptualizing political violence that are prevalent in contemporary political philosophical discourse. Use of theoretical-analytical tools to examine the modes violence assumes and the functions it performs in modern political life as well as the meanings and possibilities of nonviolence in politics.  
SO

* PLSC 306b / FILM 272b / HUMS 273b, Truth and Media, Information, Disinformation, and Misinformation  
Francesco Casetti
Exploration of how “truth” is disseminated in a global media economy, how news can be “fake,” and the role of media in constructing truth and falsehood, beginning with Plato’s *Phaedrus*, a classic philosophical text in which writing itself is placed under scrutiny. Further consideration of epistemological certainty and doubt in the history of science, philosophy, literature, and art—each of which presents a theory of knowledge complicating or reifying the distinctions between fact and fiction; and ideological and technological distortions of the truth. A collaboration with the Poynter Fellowship at Yale.  
HU

* PLSC 307a / ER&M 235a / LAST 306a / LITR 324a / LITR 324A / PHIL 219a, Latin American Political Thought in Comparative Perspective  
Diego von Vacano
Historical examination of Latin American political thought through key texts in the history of political theory in the Spanish-American continent and through the lens of comparative political theory.  
HU

* PLSC 308b / EP&E 289b, Beyond Representative Government  
Hélène Landemore
Institutional innovations that aim to reform or replace the political system of representative government in the twenty-first century. Governments’ efforts to reform their own modes of functioning; grassroots movements for citizens’ self-rule; emerging principles behind these new forms of governance; ways in which these forms differ from both representative government and direct democracy. Attention to empirical and normative perspectives.  
SO

* PLSC 313a / EP&E 380a, Bioethics, Politics, and Economics  
Stephen Latham
Ethical, political, and economic aspects of a number of contemporary issues in biomedical ethics. Topics include abortion, assisted reproduction, end-of-life care, research on human subjects, and stem cell research.  
SO

* PLSC 314a / HUMS 351a, The American Imagination: From the Puritans to the Civil War  
Bryan Garsten and Steven Smith
Interdisciplinary examination of the uniqueness of the American experience from the time of the Puritans to the Civil War. Readings draw on major works of political theory, theology, and literature.  
HU

* PLSC 317b / HIST 230Jb / HUMS 313b / PHIL 421b, John Locke in Historical Context  
Steven Pincus
Locke’s thinking about political resistance, religious toleration, and political economy examined in light of the writings and activities of his contemporaries. Introduction to methodological questions in the history of political thought.  
WR, HU

* PLSC 320a or b / EP&E 421a or b, Ethics, Law, and Current Issues  
Karen Goodrow
Examination of how freedom of speech and bias influence the criminal justice system, focusing on wrongful convictions and administration of the death penalty. Understanding the role of potential bias at various levels and the competing interests of protecting speech, due process, and the innocent. Topics include limitations on speech, practical effects of speech, the efficacy of the death penalty, actual innocence, gender/race/economic bias and its effects on the justice system, as well as best practices for improving our sense of justice.
The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. The spring term focuses on key moments in history that illustrate strategic thinking in action. During the summer, students undertake research projects or internships analyzing strategic problems or aspects of strategy. The following fall, students put their ideas into action by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged. HU, SO

* PLSC 323a / EP&E 264a / GMAN 318a / PHIL 323a, Exile, Statelessness, Migration  Seyla Benhabib
An interdisciplinary examination of exile, statelessness, and banishment, whether a stateless person is also in exile, how the theme of exile is rooted in the Jewish condition of “Galut;” and how these conditions throw light on democratic societies. Authors include Hannah Arendt, Judith Shklar, Judith Butler, and contemporary authors such as Linda Zerilli and Bonnie Honig. Prerequisites: strong background in political philosophy, 19th or 20th century intellectual history, literary studies, or permission of the instructor. HU, SO

* PLSC 327b, Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy  Karuna Mantena
Advanced survey of modern political philosophy. Focus on democracy and inequality from Rousseau to Marx. The identity of the modern representative republic, the nature of capitalism or commercial society, and the relation between the two. Close analysis of the writings of Rousseau, Smith, and Marx. Prerequisite: substantial course work in intellectual history and/or political theory. HU, SO

* PLSC 338b / PHIL 467b, The Ethics of Climate Change  Alexandre Gajevic Sayegh
The response of the United States to global climate change and questions of climate justice. The importance of bridging the gap between theories of climate justice and real world climate policy. Topics include the effort to fairly mitigate and adapt to climate change; the responsibility to act upon climate change by countries and individuals; and how economics, environmental, and social sciences should contribute to the conceptualization of action-guiding moral and political theories. SO

Analytical Political Theory

* PLSC 340a, Political Polling and the Survey Sciences  Andrew Gooch
The academic studies of public opinion, the industry of political polling and forecasting, and the scientific approach to conducting surveys. Topics include the psychological mechanisms that drive individuals to answer survey questions in specific ways and the scientific underpinning of conducting and analyzing surveys in such a way that makes polling results accurate. SO

* PLSC 341b / GLBL 195b, The Logic of Randomized Experiments in Political Science  Alexander Coppock
Instruction in the design, execution, and analysis of randomized experiments for businesses, nonprofits, political organizations, and social scientists. Students learn to evaluate the impact of real-world interventions on well-defined political, economic, and social outcomes. Specific focus on randomized experimentation through field and survey experiments, with design and analysis principles extending to lab and so-called ”natural” experiments. Any introductory probability or statistics course. QR

* PLSC 345a, Introduction to Research Design  Maria Jose Hierro
Introduction to principles of research design in political science. The process of scientific research. Modes of hypothesis testing: Large-n statistical research designs, comparative research designs, case studies, formal models, experiments, and mixed methods. SO

Comparative Government

* PLSC 348a / EP&E 352a / GLBL 213a, Democratization  Milan Svolik
Scientific study of the processes, causes, and consequences of democratization and how to apply insights gained from such study to evaluate public policy discourse. Topics include the emergence of modern democracy in the nineteenth century; the rise of fascism in inter-war Europe; the breakdown of democracy in Latin America; the collapse of communism and the resurgence of authoritarianism in Eastern Europe; and the Arab Spring and its aftermath. SO

* PLSC 354a / EP&E 250a, The European Union  David Cameron
Origins and development of the European Community and Union over the past fifty years; ways in which the often-conflicting ambitions of its member states have shaped the EU; relations between member states and the EU’s supranational institutions and policies; economic, political, and geopolitical challenges. SO

PLSC 357a / EAST 310a / GLBL 309a, The Rise of China  Daniel Mattingly
Analysis of contemporary Chinese politics, with focus on how the country has become a major power and how the regime has endured. Topics include China’s recent history, state, ruling party, economy, censorship, elite politics, and foreign policy. SO

PLSC 359a / GLBL 269a, Violence and Civil Strife  Stathis Kalyvas
An examination of political violence with an emphasis on civil wars, presently the dominant form of war. SO

* PLSC 361b, Democratic Erosion  Daniel Mattingly
Analysis of the causes of democratic backsliding including inequality, appeals to identity, misinformation, and populism. Consideration of tactics for preventing democratic erosion and whether erosion is occurring in the United States. SO
* PLSC 362a or b, Referendums and Democracy  Susan Stokes
The study of crucial cases of popular referendum, some recent and some older, to understand why they are held, how voters approach them, and whether they are normatively justified in democratic theory. Topics include: Britain remaining in the European Union, Ireland legalizing same-sex marriage, Colombia accepting a peace deal to end a decades-long civil war.  SO

* PLSC 363a / MMES 378a, Turkish Politics  Aysen Candas
Issues in contemporary Turkish politics, particularly continuity and change in historical institutional legacies, with specific focus on internal contradictions between these legacies (Ottomanism, Kemalism, secular versus religious nationalism, and Islamism). Major issues include Turkey’s "divided society" concerning the ends of state; secularism versus Islamism; top down reformism versus majoritarianism; and minority rights.  SO

* PLSC 366b, European Politics  David Cameron
Comparison of the political systems of the major European countries. Topics include political institutions, electoral politics and political parties, public policies, and contemporary problems.  SO

* PLSC 367a, Contemporary Spanish Politics  Maria Jose Hierro
Spanish politics in comparative perspective. Overview of Spain’s recent history, introduction to the Spanish political system, and discussion of relevant issues in Spanish politics today. Topics include transitional justice, the economic and institutional crisis, corruption, nationalism, ETA terrorism, and Catalan secessionism.  SO

* PLSC 372b / EP&E 242b, Politics and Markets  Peter Swenson
Examination of the interplay between market and political processes in different substantive realms, time periods, and countries. Inquiry into the developmental relationship between capitalism and democracy and the functional relationships between the two. Investigation of the politics of regulation in areas such as property rights, social security, international finance, and product, labor, and service markets. Topics include the economic motives of interest groups and coalitions in the political process.  SO

* PLSC 375a / GLBL 215a / LAST 386a / MGRK 237a / SOCY 389a, Populism from Chavez to Trump  Paris Aslanidis
Investigation of the nature of the populist phenomenon and its impact on politics, society, and the economy in various regions of the world. Conceptual and methodological analyses are supported by comparative assessments of various empirical instances, from populist politicians such as Hugo Chavez and Donald Trump, to populist social movements such as the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street.  SO

* PLSC 376b / ER&M 376b / MGRK 304b / SOCY 307b, Extreme and Radical Right Movements  Paris Aslanidis
Extreme and radical right movements and political parties are a recurrent phenomenon found in most parts of the world. Discussion of their foundational values and the causes of their continuous, even increasing, support among citizens and voters.  SO

* PLSC 380b / ER&M 371b / MMES 348b, Development and Change in Iraq and Afghanistan  Naysan Adlparvar
The recent history of foreign intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq and the impact of post-conflict development upon Afghan and Iraqi social and political life. Analysis of changes brought about through military and civil interventions aimed at promoting democratization, human rights, gender and women’s economic empowerment, social stability, community development, and the well-being of minorities and refugees.  WR, SO

PLSC 381a / AFST 381a, Government and Politics in Africa  Katharine Baldwin
The establishment and use of political power in selected countries of tropical Africa. The political role of ethnic and class cleavages, military coups, and the relation between politics and economic development.  SO

* PLSC 382b, Comparative Politics in Latin America  Susan Stokes
Introduction to major theories of political and economic change in Latin America, and to the political and economic systems of particular countries. Questions include why the continent has been prone to unstable democratic rule, why countries in the region have adopted alternatively state-centered and market-centered economic models, and, with the most recent wave of democratization, what the remaining obstacles might be to attaining high-quality democracy.  SO

* PLSC 391a, Comparative Constitutionalism and Legal Institutions  Steven Calabresi
Introduction to the field of comparative constitutional law. Constitutional texts, materials, and cases drawn primarily from those constitutional democracies that are also members of the Group of Twenty Nations and that respect judicial independence.  SO

* PLSC 401a / AFST 400a / EP&E 499a, Democratic Politics and Public Policy in Contemporary Africa  Jeremy Seekings
Examination of how the resurgence of competitive, multi-party elections in Africa has reinfused democratic governance and transformed the process of public policy-making. Emphasis on the political landscape of public opinion and voting behavior; elections and political parties; the state and governance; as well as policy-making, with focus on economic and social policies.  SO

* PLSC 415b / SOCY 172b, Religion and Politics in the World  Katharine Baldwin
A broad overview of the relationship between religion and politics around the world, especially Christianity and Islam. Religions are considered to constitute not just theologies but also sets of institutions, networks, interests, and sub-cultures. The course’s principal aim is to understand how religion affects politics as an empirical matter, rather than to explore moral dimensions of this relationship.  SO

* PLSC 420a / ANTH 406a / EVST 424a, Rivers: Nature and Politics  James Scott
The natural history of rivers and river systems and the politics surrounding the efforts of states to manage and engineer them.  SO
PLSC 427b / WGSS 429b, Sex, Markets, and Power  Frances Rosenbluth
Consideration of how women’s socioeconomic status and political power have varied across time and place. Three analytical lenses are used: biology, markets, and power.  SO

* PLSC 428a / EP&E 240a / GLBL 333a, Comparative Welfare Policy in Developing Countries  Jeremy Seekings
Examination of public and private welfare systems in the developing world. Analysis of the evolving relationships between kin or community and states and market. Particular attention to the politics of contemporary reforms.  SO

PLSC 435a / MMES 290a / RLST 290a, Islam Today: Jihad and Fundamentalism  Frank Griffel
Introduction to modern Islam, including some historical background. Case studies of important countries in the contemporary Muslim world, such as Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. Islam as a reactive force to Western colonialism; the ideals of Shari’a and jihad; violence and self-sacrifice; and Islam as a political ideology.  HU

* PLSC 448a / EP&E 496a, Business and Government after Communism  Ian Shapiro
Reassessment of business’s place in society—and its relations with government—in an era when alternatives to capitalism are moribund. Topics include the role of business in regime change, corruption and attempts to combat it, business and the provision of low income housing and social services, and privatization of such core functions of government as prisons, the military, and local public services. Prerequisites: three courses in political science.  SO

* PLSC 464a / ITAL 202a, Political Economy of Italy  Anna Iacovella
Historical, sociological, and anthropological changes in Italy’s political economy at both domestic and international levels. The classical origins of the political economy of Italy; key intellectual debates in international political economy. Readings from literature and from newspapers and other media. Prerequisite: ITAL 140 or equivalent.  15, HU

Statistical and Mathematical Methods

Statistical analysis of politics, elections, and political psychology. Problems presented with reference to a wide array of examples: public opinion, campaign finance, racially motivated crime, and public policy.  QR

Descriptive and inferential statistics applied to analysis of data from the social sciences. Introduction of concepts and skills for understanding and conducting quantitative research.  QR

Advanced Courses

* PLSC 471a and PLSC 472b, Individual Reading for Majors  David Simon
Special reading courses may be established with individual members of the department. They must satisfy the following conditions: (1) a prospectus describing the nature of the program and the readings to be covered must be approved by both the instructor and the director of undergraduate studies; (2) the student must meet regularly with the instructor for an average of at least two hours per week; (3) the course must include a term essay, several short essays, or a final examination; (4) the topic and/or content must not be substantially encompassed by an existing undergraduate or graduate course. All coursework must be submitted no later than the last day of reading period.

* PLSC 474b, Directed Reading and Research for Junior Intensive Majors  David Simon
For juniors preparing to write yearlong senior essays as intensive majors. The student acquires the methodological skills necessary in research, identifies a basic reading list pertinent to the research, and prepares a research design for the project. All coursework must be submitted no later than the last day of reading period.

* PLSC 480a or b, One-Term Senior Essay  David Simon
For seniors writing the senior essay who do not wish, or are unable, to write the essay in a department seminar. Students must receive the prior approval of a member of the department who will serve as the senior essay adviser, and must arrange to meet with that adviser on a regular basis throughout the term.

* PLSC 490a, The Senior Colloquium  Greg Huber
Presentation and discussion of students’ research proposals, with particular attention to choice of topic and research design. Each student frames the structure of the essay, chooses research methods, begins the research, and presents and discusses a draft of the introductory section of the essay. Enrollment limited to Political Science majors writing a yearlong senior essay.

* PLSC 491b, The Senior Essay  David Simon
Each student writing a yearlong senior essay establishes a regular consultation schedule with a department member who, working from the prospectus prepared for PLSC 490, advises the student about preparation of the essay and changes to successive drafts. Enrollment limited to Political Science majors writing a yearlong senior essay.

* PLSC 493b, Senior Essay for Intensive Majors  David Simon
Each student in the intensive major establishes a regular consultation schedule with a department member who, working from the prospectus prepared for PLSC 490, advises the student about preparation of the essay and changes to successive drafts, as well as reporting the student’s progress until submission of the final essay. Enrollment limited to Political Science intensive majors.