POLITICAL SCIENCE

Rosenkranz Hall, 203.432.5241
http://politicalscience.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
Gregory Huber

Director of Graduate Studies
Milan Svolik [F]
Alexandre Debs [Sp]

Professors Bruce Ackerman, Akhil Amar (Law), Seyla Benhabib, Paul Bracken (Management), David Cameron, Bryan Garsten, Alan Gerber, Jacob Hacker, Gregory Huber, Isabela Mares, Gerard Padró i Miquel, John Roemer, Frances Rosenbluth, James Scott, Jasjeet Sekhon, Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek, Steven Smith, Milan Svolik, Peter Swenson, John Wargo (School of the Environment), Steven Wilkinson, Elisabeth Wood

Associate Professors Peter Aronow, Katharine Baldwin, Sarah Bush, Ana De La O Torres, Alexandre Debs, Hélène Landemore, Nuno Monteiro, Kelly Rader

Assistant Professors Alexander Coppock, Allison Harris, John Henderson, Joshua Kalla, Sarah Khan, Christina Kinane, Egor Lazarev, Daniel Mattingly, Elizabeth Nugent, Giulia Oskian, Tyler Pratt, Didac Queralt, Fredrik Sävje, Emily Sellars, Ian Turner

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include political theory, international relations, comparative politics, American politics, political economy, quantitative empirical methods, qualitative and archival methods, and formal theory.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Overall program requirements Students are required to pass sixteen term courses by the end of their fourth term in the program, and to maintain an overall High Pass or above average (for purposes of calculating this average, Honors=3, High Pass=2, Pass=1, and Fail=0). The High Pass average must also be met for graduate courses listed in the Political Science department. To remain in good standing throughout their time in the Ph.D. program, students are expected to actively participate in classes and workshops, produce high-quality written work, and demonstrate regular progress toward completion of the dissertation. The department regularly offers about sixty term courses for graduate students each year. Courses are conducted as seminars and typically have small enrollments. Four of the courses required for the degree may be in departments other than Political Science (two of these can be advanced language courses with the approval of the director of graduate studies [DGS]).

Each student must demonstrate elementary reading competence in one foreign language. Such competence is usually demonstrated by taking, or having completed, two years of undergraduate course work or by examination. Alternatively, the language requirement can be satisfied by successfully completing two terms of formal theory or two terms of statistical methods at the graduate level (beyond the introductory course in statistical methods offered in the department).

Courses are offered in five substantive fields — political theory, international relations, comparative politics, American politics, and political economy — and three methods fields: quantitative empirical methods, qualitative and archival methods, and formal theory. Courses taken must include one each in at least three of the department's substantive fields. Courses cannot be counted in more than one field. Each student must demonstrate competence in three fields (two of which must be substantive fields) before the start of the fifth term. Competence can be demonstrated either by passing the comprehensive examination in the field or by course work, provided that each student takes at least two comprehensive exams. The fields of formal theory and quantitative empirical methods offer certification only through examination. For fields to be certified by course work, students are required to satisfactorily complete three courses in the field, where courses in the field are determined by the faculty and the DGS, including one in which a research paper is written and presented. The paper must be submitted to review by the instructor of the course for which the paper was written. The department offers exams twice a year, in late August and in early January. Students are expected to pass their comprehensive examinations by August of their second year. Each examination is based on a reading list compiled by the faculty within the field and updated each year. Each list offers an introduction and framework for study in the field and preparation for the examination. A committee of faculty within the field grades the exams as Distinguished, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory.

Students who successfully complete the Ph.D. in Political Science will often join the faculties of colleges and universities. For that reason, learning what is involved in teaching and gaining teaching experience are also essential components of graduate education. The department normally expects students to devote themselves exclusively to course work and comprehensive examinations in their first two years in the Ph.D. program. Students in Political Science typically teach in their third and fourth years.

During each year in residence, graduate students are expected to participate actively and regularly in one or more of the many research workshops run by the department. Students beyond their fourth term are required to enroll in at least one of the workshops for credit,
and all workshops are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. All students are expected to present a research paper of their own at one of these workshops before the end of their fourth year. Workshop participation does not count toward the requirement of sixteen term courses.

Prior to registration for the second year (1) Students must have taken and passed at least seven courses, including the required Introduction to the Study of Politics (PLSC 510), and maintained an overall High Pass average. At least five of these courses must be graduate courses in Political Science. While only seven courses are required, students are normally expected to complete eight courses in the first year to be on track to complete sixteen courses by the end of the second year. (2) Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one field certification prior to the beginning of their second year. (3) Students are strongly encouraged to attend one of the subfield weekly workshops. (Note that these workshops do not count toward the required number of completed courses.)

Prior to registration for the third year (1) Students must have taken at least sixteen term courses and have received a grade of at least Pass in each of them, including the two-term required Research and Writing course (PLSC 540, PLSC 541) for second-year students. Research and Writing is devoted to the preparation of a manuscript based on original research on a topic of the student's choice and will count as two of the sixteen credits needed to advance to candidacy. (2) Students must have received a grade of Honors in at least two Political Science courses and maintained an overall High Pass average. (3) Students must have completed certification in three fields by the end of their second year. (For purposes of fulfilling this requirement, students registered for the August exams are assumed to have passed those exams when determining eligibility for enrollment in the third year.) At the discretion of the DGS, students who fail an exam may be granted a one-term extension (to January of the third year) for obtaining certification. (4) Students are strongly encouraged to attend one of the required subfield weekly workshops. (Note that these workshops do not count toward the required number of completed courses.)

Admission to candidacy Students must be admitted to candidacy prior to registration for the fourth year of study. Students are recommended to the Graduate School for admission to candidacy by the Department of Political Science after having completed departmental requirements listed above and the Graduate School's prospectus requirement. As part of admission to candidacy, a student must have a prospectus approved by a dissertation director and two other members of the faculty. This must occur no later than May 1 of the student's third year of study.

Submitting the dissertation A student's dissertation research is guided by a committee of no fewer than three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Yale Department of Political Science. One of the committee members is designated as chair. When a dissertation is completed, the student will select two members to write written reports on the final dissertation, at least one of whom must be a member of the Yale Department of Political Science. The DGS will also appoint one additional member of the department to write an additional evaluation.

COMBINED DEGREES

The Graduate School offers a combined degree in Political Science and African American Studies. For details, see African American Studies in this bulletin. Students may also pursue a joint degree with the Law School.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil. The academic requirements for the M.Phil. degree are the same as for the Ph.D. degree except for the completion of the prospectus and dissertation.

M.A. (en route to the Ph.D.) The M.A. degree is awarded upon completion of a full year of course work in the program (i.e., at least eight term courses) with an average of High Pass or better. The courses must include at least six listed in the Political Science department and one each in at least three of the department’s substantive fields. Language requirements are the same as for the Ph.D. degree.

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Political Science may qualify for the M.A. degree in History, rather than an M.A. in Political Science, upon completion of a minimum of six graduate term courses in History at Yale, of which two must have earned Honors grades and the other four courses must average High Pass overall. A student must include in the six courses completed at least two research seminars in the History department.

COURSES

PLSC 500a, Quantitative Methods I: Research Design and Data Analysis  Fredrik Sävje

The first course in the Ph.D.-level sequence in quantitative methods. It provides a rigorous grounding in social-scientific research design, beginning with the specification of estimands or targets of inference. Modern computational approaches to data analysis and visualization are emphasized, with frequent practical application to political science datasets in the statistical programming language R. Topics include regression, classification, measurement, dimension reduction, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, permutation inference, prediction, and Monte Carlo simulation.

PLSC 503b, Quantitative Methods II: Foundations of Statistical Inference  Peter Aronow

An intensive introduction to statistical theory for quantitative social inquiry. Topics include foundations of probability theory, statistical inference from random samples, estimation theory, linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, and nonparametric identification.
PLSC 505b / SOCY 508b, Qualitative Field Research  Staff
In this seminar we discuss and practice qualitative field research methods. The course covers the basic techniques for collecting, interpreting, and analyzing ethnographic data, with an emphasis on the core ethnographic techniques of participant observation and indepth interviewing. All participants carry out a local research project. Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

PLSC 506b, Measurement, Estimation, and Inference  John Henderson
A number of practical challenges often arise in the design and analysis of political science research. This course covers a wide array of methodologies that aim to improve the quality of our measures, estimates, and inferences given these challenges. Topics include survey instrumentation, missing data, nonresponse and attrition bias, the bootstrap, sensitivity analysis, multiple testing, and p-hacking. The course also covers some applications of Bayesian inference in the analysis of choice and text data, and introduces some nonparametric alternatives to the linear model. The aim of the course is to provide students with a host of practical tools that can be used to evaluate and replicate other research, as well as to help students address inferential issues arising in their own work. Prerequisite: PLSC 500, PLSC 503, PLSC 504, or the equivalent.

PLSC 508b, Causal Inference and Research Design  Fredrik Sävje
This seminar exposes students to cutting-edge empirical and statistical research across the social and health sciences, with a focus on topics relevant to causal questions in the domain of political science. Readings and discussions focus on selected methodological topics, such as experimental design, partial identification, design-based inference, network analysis, semiparametric efficiency theory, and qualitative/mixed-methods research. Topics vary from year to year. Statistical training at the level of PLSC 504 is expected, though training in probability theory at the level of S&DS 541 or ECON 550 is suggested.

PLSC 510a, Introduction to the Study of Politics  Gregory Huber
The course introduces students to some of the major controversies in political science. We focus on the five substantive themes that make up the Yale Initiative: Order, Conflict, and Violence; Representation and Popular Rule; Crafting and Operating Institutions; Identities, Affiliations, and Allegiances; and Distributive Politics. We divide our time between discussing readings on these subjects and conversations with different members of the faculty who specialize in them. There is also some attention to methodological controversies within the discipline. Requirements: an annotated bibliography of one of the substantive themes and a take-home final exam.

PLSC 511a / S&DS 617a, Applied Machine Learning and Causal Inference Research Seminar  Staff
In this seminar we discuss recent advances in machine learning and causal inference. Emphasis is placed on research designs and methods that have succeeded. We carefully examine successful examples to see why they work. The seminar is also a forum for students to discuss the research designs and methods needed in their own work. It should be particularly helpful for students writing their prospectus or designing a major research project. Applications are drawn from a variety of substantive domains including political science, economics, medicine, and public health. It is assumed that students come with diverse backgrounds. A good background would be provided by S&DS 542, ECON 551, or equivalent, plus some experience with applications and statistical computing. More important than the precise course background are research maturity and familiarity with modern statistical and machine-learning methods.

PLSC 512b, The Design and Analysis of Randomized Field Experiments in Political Science  Alexander Coppock
Randomized field experiments are deployed across the social sciences to answer well-posed theoretical questions and to generate new information from which to build fresh theories of social interaction and behavior. Experiments are attractive because they enable the researcher to (mostly) ground statistical and causal inferences in features of the research design rather than assumptions about the world. This course covers the design and analysis of both introductory and advanced experimental designs, using the textbook by Gerber and Green (2012) as the main guide. Strong emphasis is placed on developing practical skills for real research scenarios. Given resources, how should subjects be assigned to conditions? How many treatment arms should be included? How do we plan to analyze the resulting data? The course has a relatively heavy workload: weekly problem sets in R that will prepare students for 95 percent of experimental research tasks they will encounter in the field. Prerequisite: any introductory statistics course that covers regression at any level of detail.

PLSC 518b, Introduction to Game Theory  Milan Svolik
This course offers a rigorous introduction to noncooperative game theory. The goal is to help students understand the key concepts and ideas in game theory and to provide students with a road map for applying game theoretic tools to their own research. Topics include strategic form games, extensive form games, and Bayesian games, among others. Students are assumed to have mathematical knowledge at the level of the Political Science Math Camp.

PLSC 520a, Game Theory and Political Science  Ian Turner
Introduction to game theory—a method by which strategic interactions among individuals and groups in society are mathematically modeled—and its applications to political science. Concepts employed by game theorists, such as Nash equilibrium, subgame perfect equilibrium, and perfect Bayesian equilibrium. Problems of cooperation, time-consistency, signaling, and reputation formation. Political applications include candidate competition, policy making, political bargaining, and international conflict.

PLSC 522a / SOCY 502a, Historical Approaches to the Study of Politics  Steven Wilkinson
An overview of the how-to, and the payoff, of a historical approach to the study of politics. The course covers a wide range of topics, from the classics of political science and sociology to recent comparative historical work.

PLSC 523a, Mixed Methods Research  Elizabeth Nugent
This course is intended as an overview for creating and critiquing sophisticated research designs using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies and data. The course begins with fundamental definitions and assumptions underpinning mixed methods research and then moves on to analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of specific combinations of quantitative tests, case studies, and narrative and
interpretive work. Next, the course discusses the research design choices of two award-winning books using mixed methods research; it then evaluates the qualitative and quantitative data in isolation and in combination. The final assignment builds on the course material to produce a mixed method research design proposal.

**PLSC 527b, From Concept to Measure: Empirical Inquiry in Social Science** Sarah Khan
This course focuses on a specific aspect of the research design process: the operationalization of abstract into concrete measures that can be used for analysis and inference. The task of operationalization is common to qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method research, and this course draws on lessons from varied approaches. Readings are divided equally between (1) foundational theoretical texts dealing with broad concepts of interest to social scientists with an interest in politics (including but not limited to identity, norms, preferences, responsiveness, and accountability) and (2) recent approaches to measuring these concepts in the fields of political science, psychology, sociology, and economics. Key assignments include a paper critiquing the measurement strategy and developing an alternative measure in response to an existing study, and an original research proposal. There is flexibility to devote time to concepts and measurement strategies that are of particular relevance to enrolled students’ dissertations/thesis projects, if not already included on the syllabus.

**PLSC 528b, Design-Based Inference for the Social Sciences** Peter Aronow
Introduction to design-based statistical approaches to survey sampling and causal inference. Design and analysis of complex survey samples and randomized experiments, including model-assisted approaches. Discussion of recent advances in this paradigm, including inference in network settings. Prerequisite: knowledge of statistical theory at the level of PLSC 500 is assumed, with familiarity with probability and estimation theory. Alternative prerequisite courses include S&DS 542 or ECON 550.

**PLSC 529a, Mathematics for Political Science** Andrew Bridy
This course builds on the material seen in math camp. It covers foundational concepts and techniques in mathematics that are relevant to quantitative and formal research. Students learn to read and write rigorous mathematical proofs. Topics include real analysis, optimization, and probability theory.

**PLSC 530a or b / S&DS 530a or b, Data Exploration and Analysis** Staff
Survey of statistical methods: plots, transformations, regression, analysis of variance, clustering, principal components, contingency tables, and time series analysis. The R computing language and Web data sources are used.

**PLSC 540a and PLSC 541b, Research and Writing** Ian Turner and Sarah Bush
This is a required course for all second-year students. It meets for the first six weeks of the fall term and the first six weeks of the spring term. The fall meetings are devoted to discussion of research design as well as individual student projects. The spring meetings are devoted to discussion of drafts of student papers. The work of the spring-term seminar includes criticism of the organization, arguments, data evaluation, and writing in each student’s paper by the instructors and the other students. Using this criticism, and under the supervision of the instructors, each student conducts additional research, if necessary, rewrites the paper as required, and prepares a final paper representing the best work of which the student is capable. Students must submit a one-page outline of the proposed project for the first fall-term meeting and a complete draft of the paper at the first meeting in the spring.

**PLSC 583b / GMAN 651 / PHIL 734, Contemporary Critical Theory** Seyla Benhabib
An examination of the themes of statelessness, migration, and exile in the works of Arendt, Benjamin, Adorno, Shklar, and Berlin.

**PLSC 597a, Lincoln's Statecraft and Rhetoric** Steven Smith
This class is based on a reading and interpretation of Lincoln's major speeches and letters. Its purpose is to understand his views on the problem of slavery, equality, and race in American society, but also to consider the relation of words to deeds in the practice of his statecraft. We also situate Lincoln within the history and theory of statesmanship.

**PLSC 617b, Democracy and Deliberation** Helene Landemore-Jelaca
The course examines the connection between the idea of democracy and the practice of deliberation. While deliberation is at the core of contemporary normative theories of ‘deliberative democracy,’ deliberation is not by itself democratic. One of the aims of the seminar is to clarify to what extent democracy needs to be deliberative and to what extent deliberation can be democratic.

**PLSC 623a, Rethinking the Political Enlightenment** Ian Shapiro
The calamities wrought by Fascism and Nazism, together with growing disillusionment at the excesses and direction of Soviet communism and then Mao’s China, led many postwar intellectuals to rethink the Enlightenment’s promise. In politics, that promise had centered on the creation of durable political institutions based on scientific principles that would foster, expand, and protect human freedom. We study the ways in which the harsh realities of twentieth-century politics led political theorists to modify, recast, and in some cases reject these Enlightenment aspirations, and we evaluate those responses from the perspective of our contemporary politics. Readings are drawn from, among others, Jonathan Israel, James Tully, Hannah Arendt, Herbert Marcuse, Nicos Poulantzas, Jürgen Habermas, Leo Strauss, Isaiah Berlin, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, Anthony Appiah, Nancy Fraser, Carole Pateman, Judith Shklar, Quentin Skinner, J.G.A. Pocock, Michael Walzer, and Iris Marion Young. Among the themes discussed are the connections between Enlightenment aspirations and the ideas of modernization, progress, and democracy; the advantages and limitations of periodization in the study of political theory; and teleological conceptions of history. Open to Ph.D. students in Political Science and to graduate students in other departments and programs by agreement with the instructor. Open to undergraduates as space permits, provided they have completed at least three Political Science courses, one of which is PLSC 114, PLSC 118, or equivalent such as Directed Studies.
PLSC 640a / HIST 970a, Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy  Giulia Oskian and Isaac Nakhimovsky
This seminar explores key concepts in modern political philosophy at a level appropriate for graduate students (to help prepare for the political theory field exam) and for advanced undergraduates who have completed substantial course work in intellectual history and/or political theory. This term our thematic focus is on the relation between civil society and state institutions, as it has been conceptualized by political philosophy.

PLSC 656a / GLBL 579a, Global Governance  Staff
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, universalism, and tradition.

PLSC 662a, Strategy, Technology, and War  Paul Bracken
This course deals with the strategic management of technology and innovation in the highly dynamic national security space. As more new technologies (cyberwar, ASAT, drones, AI, quantum computing, hypersonic missiles, nuclear weapons) come into military postures, a major technological arms race has come about. This course covers the new technologies, competitive strategies in Europe and Asia, and foreign investment in the U.S. technology sector. Silicon Valley, the Pentagon, and global technology companies receive special focus.

PLSC 698a, International Political Economy  Didac Queralt
This course examines how domestic and international politics influence the economic relations between states. It addresses the major theoretical debates in the field and introduces the chief methodological approaches used in contemporary analyses. We focus attention on four types of cross-border flows and the policies and international institutions that regulate them: the flow of goods (trade policy), the flow of capital (financial and exchange rate policy), the flow and location of production (foreign investment policy), and the flow of people (immigration policy).

PLSC 705a, Introduction to Political Economy  John Roemer
An introduction to techniques of microeconomic modeling, as applied to problems in political economy and political science. This course is independent of PLSC 518. The level is that of a sophisticated course in intermediate microeconomics. Topics include preferences, utility functions, Pareto efficiency, competitive economic equilibrium, the first theorem of welfare economics, Hotelling-Downs political equilibrium, Nash equilibrium, Wittman-Nash political equilibrium, Nash bargaining, Arrow's theorem and social welfare functions, and topics in distributive justice. Prerequisite: differential calculus and/or the Political Science Math Camp. Microeconomics at the intermediate level is helpful but not mandatory.

PLSC 709a, Comparative Constitutional Law  Bruce Ackerman
An effort to define the key concepts adequate for an evaluation of the worldwide development of modern constitutionalism since the Second World War. Enrollment limited. Follows Law School academic calendar.

PLSC 712b, Comparative Political Economy  Frances McCall Rosenbluth
Introduction to issues in political economy across time and place. The field's diverse theoretical underpinnings and its place in the context of political science and of the social sciences more generally; theoretical perspectives such as materialism, institutionalism, and cognition/culture/beliefs; interactions between government and the economy in democratic and nondemocratic regimes and in developed and developing countries.

PLSC 714a, Corruption, Economic Development, and Democracy  Susan Rose-Ackerman
A seminar on the link between political and bureaucratic institutions, on the one hand, and economic development, on the other. A particular focus is the impact of corruption on development and the establishment of democratic government. Enrollment limited to fifteen.

PLSC 722b, Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems  Andrea Aldrich
This course explores democratic representation through political parties around the world and the effects of electoral systems on party system development. We critically examine the role of political parties in the representation of societal interests, party system evolution, the consequences of electoral law, and challenges facing modern political parties today with a particular focus on the growth of authoritarian and far-right parties around the world. Prerequisite: introductory course in American politics or comparative politics. It is helpful, although not mandatory, to have taken a course on research design in the social sciences.

PLSC 723b, Political Power and Inequality in Latin America  Ana De La O
Overview and analysis of politics in Latin America. The emergence of democracy and the forces that led to the unprecedented increase in inequality in the twentieth century. Topics include institutional design, historical legacies, corruption, clientelism, and violence.

PLSC 725b / ECON 790b, Empirical Political Economy  Ebonya Washington
An overview of the field of empirical political economy. While students are expected to familiarize themselves with the most prevalent models in the field, the emphasis in this course is on the applied work. Students attain a working knowledge of the literature, learn to critically evaluate the literature, and most importantly develop the skills to come up with interesting, workable, and theoretically grounded research questions that will push that literature forward.

PLSC 734a or b / SOCY 560a or b, Comparative Research Workshop  Julia Adams
This weekly workshop is dedicated to group discussion of work-in-progress by visiting scholars, Yale graduate students, and in-house faculty from Sociology and affiliated disciplines. Papers are distributed a week ahead of time and also posted on the website of the Center.
for Comparative Research (http://ccr.yale.edu). Students who take the course for a letter grade are expected to present a paper-in-progress the term that they are enrolled for credit.

**PLSC 75b, 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.

**PLSC 75a, 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 politics; and economic, political, and geopolitical challenges.

**PLSC 76b, State Formation**  Didac Queralt

Study of the domestic and international determinants of functional states from antiquity to the present. Analysis of state formation in Europe from premodern times and outside Europe from colonial times. Topics include centralization of power, capacity to tax, and contract enforcement.

**PLSC 76b, 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, including the developmental and 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.

**PLSC 77b, Political Economy of Gender in South Asia**  Sarah Khan

This course focuses on the political and economic underpinnings and implications of gender inequality in South Asia. We draw on evidence from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India to guide our theoretical and empirical inquiry into the following broad questions: What is gender, and what approaches do social scientists use to study gender inequality? How does gender inequality manifest in different social, economic, and political spheres, e.g., the household, the labor market, the electorate, the government? What are the cultural and structural drivers of gender inequality? How effective are different approaches to tackling gender inequality in South Asia? Previous course work in statistical data analysis is helpful, but not required.

**PLSC 77a, Comparative Politics I**  Isabela Mares

This is the first course in the comparative politics sequence, which is followed by the research-design course (PLSC 778). The course provides an introduction to some of the most important research themes in comparative politics. At the same time, the course seeks to strengthen students’ analytical skills in evaluating comparative research and prepare students to take the examination in comparative politics.

**PLSC 77b, Comparative Politics II**  Elizabeth Nugent

The second part of a two-part sequence designed to introduce graduate students to the fundamentals of comparative politics, including the major debates, topics, and methods.

**PLSC 779a / ANTH 541a / ENV 836a / HIST 965a, Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development**  Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan, Elisabeth Wood, and Marcela Echeverri Munoz

An interdisciplinary examination of agrarian societies, contemporary and historical, Western and non-Western. Major analytical perspectives from anthropology, economics, history, political science, and environmental studies are used to develop a meaning-centered and historically grounded account of the transformations of rural society. Team-taught.

**PLSC 780a, Law and Society in Comparative Perspective**  Staff

This advanced seminar is about the functions of law across historical, political, and cultural contexts. We discuss what is law, why people obey the law, and how societies govern themselves in the absence of strong state legal institutions. The class explores the relationship between law and colonialism as well as the functioning of law under authoritarianism and democracy, and in conflict-ridden societies.

**PLSC 783a, Democratic Backsliding**  Milan Svolik

This class examines the process of democratic backsliding, including its causes and consequences. Our analysis builds on prominent contemporary and historical cases of democratic backsliding, especially Hungary, India, Poland, Russia, and Venezuela. Implications for democratic stability in the United States are considered.

**PLSC 793a, Governing China**  Daniel Mattingly

Study of the politics of contemporary China with a focus on recent research. Topics include authoritarianism, representation, local governance, elite politics, censorship, propaganda, protest, and the rule of law.

**PLSC 800a, Introduction to American Politics**  Jacob Hacker

An introduction to the analysis of U.S. politics. Approaches given consideration include institutional design and innovation, social capital and civil society, the state, attitudes, ideology, econometrics of elections, rational actors, formal theories of institutions, and transatlantic comparisons. Assigned authors include R. Putnam, T. Skocpol, J. Gerrings, J. Zaller, D.R. Kiewiet, L. Bartels, D. Mayhew, K. Poole & H. Rosenthal, G. Cox & M. McCubbins, K. Krehbiel, E. Schickler, and A. Alesina. Students are expected to read and discuss each week’s assignment and, for each of five weeks, to write a three- to five-page analytic paper that deals with a subject addressed or suggested by the reading.
PLSC 803b, American Politics III: Institutions  Kelly Rader
A graduate-level course, open to undergraduates, designed to introduce students to research on American political institutions. We examine different explanations for and models of the sources of institutions, discuss their internal organization and governance, and consider the effects of institutions on outcomes of interest. Topics include alternatives to institutions, agenda-setting models, influences on bureaucratic decisions, the size of government and state building, congressional organization, the presidency, policy feedback and path dependence, and interest groups. Course work includes reading and writing assignments.

PLSC 810a, Political Preferences and American Political Behavior  Joshua Kalla
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.

PLSC 812a / AMST 752a, American Progressivism and Its Critics  Stephen Skowronek
The progressive reform tradition in American politics. The tradition's conceptual underpinnings, social supports, practical manifestations in policy and in new governmental arrangements, and conservative criticisms. Emphasis on the origins of progressivism in the early decades of the twentieth century, with attention to latter-day manifestations and to changes in the progressive impulse over time.

PLSC 828b / AMST 828, American Political Development  Stephen Skowronek
An examination of patterns of political change and institutional development in the United States. The course considers patterns of reform, the political construction of interests and movements, problems of political culture, party building, and state building.

PLSC 837a, 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 representation 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.

PLSC 841b / EP&E 336b / PLSC 258b, Democracy and Bureaucracy  Ian Turner
Exploration of what government agencies do and why; focus on issues of accountability and the role of bureaucracy in representative democracy. Understanding how bureaucracy works internally and how it is affected by interactions with other political actors and institutions.

PLSC 859a, Confronting America's Constitutional Crisis  Bruce Ackerman
An examination of the statutory and constitutional reforms required to reinvigorate democratic accountability and individual liberty in the United States. Enrollment limited to thirty. Permission of the instructor required. Meets on the Law School calendar. Also LAW 21390.

PLSC 868b / AMST 724b / WGSS 724b, Gender and Sexuality in American Politics and Policy  Dara Strolovitch
This seminar familiarizes students with foundational work on and approaches to the study of gender and sexuality in American politics and public policy. It explores empirical work that addresses these topics, a range of theoretical and epistemological approaches to them, and the social scientific methods that have been used to examine them. It explores the history, findings, and controversies in research about gender and sexuality in American politics and political science, examining work within several subfields of American politics (e.g., political development; public law; political behavior; legislative studies; public policy; interest groups and social movements), important work from other disciplines, and research that does not fit neatly into traditional disciplinary categories, paying particular attention to the implications of this “messiness” for the study of gender, sexuality, and politics. We are attentive to the complicated histories of science and social science when it comes to the study of gender and sexuality and to the ways in which gender and sexuality intersect with other politically relevant categories, identities, and forms of marginalization, such as race, ethnicity, class, and ideological and partisan identification.