POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

Chair
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Director of Graduate Studies
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Associate Professors P.M. Aronow, Katharine Baldwin, Sarah Bush, Ana De La O Torres, Alexandre Debs, Kelly Rader

Assistant Professors Alexander Coppock, Allison Harris, John Henderson, Joshua Kalla, Sarah Khan, Christina Kinane, Shiro Kuriwaki, Egor Lazarev, Daniel Mattingly, Salma Mousa, Giulia Oskian, Tyler Pratt, Didac Queralt, Lucia Rubinelli, Fredrik Sävje, Emily Sellars, Ian Turner

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political economy, political theory, 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, to receive a grade of Honors in at least two Political Science courses, 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. (At the discretion of the DGS, this requirement may be waived for a term for students whose situations make participation temporarily unfeasible.) 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 PH.D. PROGRAMS**

**Political Science and African American Studies**

The Graduate School offers a combined degree in Political Science and African American Studies. For details, see African American Studies in this bulletin.

**Political Science and Statistics & Data Science**

The Department of Political Science also offers, in conjunction with the Department of Statistics and Data Science, a combined Ph.D. degree in Political Science and Statistics and Data Science. The requirements are designed to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the combined-degree program. Unless otherwise noted, students are required to complete all program requirements in each department’s regular Ph.D. program.

**Course work** Students must take at least sixteen graduate-level courses.
Students must complete at least eight courses in the Political Science department before the start of the seventh term, including PLSC 510 (taken in the first term) and three courses in quantitative methods: PLSC 500, PLSC 503, and PLSC 508 (or a suitable equivalent, as approved by the Political Science DGS). In addition to these four courses, students must also take at least two courses each in two other fields (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and political economy). Two of these eight courses may be courses outside the department that appropriately build the student's substantive interests. Students may optionally take the two-course Research and Writing sequence in year two or three, but this sequence does not count toward the eight-course requirement.

Students must also complete at least eight courses in the Statistics and Data Science department before the start of the seventh term, with the specific course schedule subject to approval by the Statistics and Data Science DGS. A typical course plan would likely include S&DS 541 (taken in the first term), S&DS 542 and S&DS 661 (taken in the second term), S&DS 612 and S&DS 625 (taken in the third term), S&DS 551 (taken in the fourth term), and S&DS 626 (taken in the fifth term).

In the event course requirements as written cannot be met due to restrictions on course offerings, etc., the DGSs of each program, in consultation with one another, may mutually agree on course substitutions consistent with the intellectual goals of this program.

Qualifying examination There are separate comprehensive exam requirements in each department. In Political Science, students must certify in three fields, and one of these fields must be quantitative methods, which is certified by examination. The other two fields can be drawn from American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and political economy. For rules about certification in these fields, please see the Political Science department’s solo Ph.D. requirements. Students must complete all of these certifications prior to the start of the sixth term, and it is expected that students will complete their first two certifications the summer after their second term. Students satisfy the Political Science language requirement by certifying in quantitative methods.

In Statistics and Data Science, students will complete the Probability Theory Comprehensive Exam at the end of the first term, the Statistical Theory Comprehensive Exam at the end of the second term, and both the Practical Exam and the Oral Exam at the end of the fifth term. Please see the Statistics and Data Science department’s solo Ph.D. requirements (https://statistics.yale.edu/academics/graduate-programs/phd-program/qualifying-exams).

Teaching The teaching requirement of students admitted in the combined program will be split between the two departments (i.e., the student will be serving as a teaching fellow [TF] for an equal number of courses in both departments).

Prospectus and dissertation requirements For the dissertation, not later than the fifth term, a student shall select a primary adviser from one department, a co-adviser from the other department, and a third faculty member from either department who serves as a reader along with the advisers. The dissertation prospectus is due not later than the middle of the sixth term (mid-March for students whose sixth term is a spring term). Subsequently, and not later than the end of classes in the sixth term (usually
the end of April for students whose sixth term is a spring term), there is to be an oral presentation of the prospectus by the prospective candidate, followed by a meeting of a faculty committee consisting of the advisers and at least one DGS for prospectus approval. Admission to candidacy for the combined Ph.D. requires DGS signature of prospectus approval from both departments following adviser approval in both departments. In Political Science, this requires all three committee members to attest that the prospectus is approved. (Certification for the third field in Political Science may take place after prospectus approval.) Combined dissertations will take a form suitable for both disciplines. We anticipate that many students will write dissertations composed of three papers.

**Advising** Beginning in the first term of the Ph.D. program, a student shall select an adviser from each department, with one adviser designated as the primary adviser. We strongly suggest the student meet jointly with both advisers to discuss navigating the combined Ph.D. program.

**Transfer admissions process** Students admitted to either Political Science or Statistics and Data Science may apply to transfer to the combined Ph.D. program with the approval of the DGS in both programs. Transfer applications are expected to take place no later than the third term in the Ph.D. program.

**Exit from the combined program** A student admitted into the combined program may elect to exit the combined program and instead pursue a regular Ph.D. in either of the two departments. This election must take place before the start of the sixth term.

**JOINT DEGREE**

Students may also pursue a joint degree with Yale 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, Foundations of Statistical Inference** Fredrik Sävje

This course provides an intensive introduction to statistical theory for quantitative empirical inquiry in the social sciences. Topics include foundations of probability.
theory, statistical inference from random samples, estimation theory, linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, and a brief introduction to identification.

**PLSC 505b / SOCY 508b, Qualitative Field Research**  Daniel Mattingly
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 in-depth interviewing. All participants carry out a local research project. Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

**PLSC 508a, 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 509a, Philosophy of Science for the Study of Politics**  Ian Shapiro
An examination of the philosophy of science from the perspective of the study of politics. Particular attention to the ways in which assumptions about science influence models of political behavior, the methods adopted to study that behavior, and the relations between science and democracy. Readings include works by both classic and contemporary authors.

**PLSC 510a, Introduction to the Study of Politics**  Ian Turner
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 511b / S&DS 617b, Applied Machine Learning and Causal Inference Research Seminar**  Jas Sekhon
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 518a, Introduction to Game Theory  Staff
This course offers a rigorous introduction to noncooperative game theory. The course covers normal and extensive form games of perfect information and normal and extensive form games of imperfect information. We end with a brief introduction to mechanism design. Through lectures and problem sets students gain familiarity with creating and analyzing models of political phenomena. Applications are drawn from a broad set of topics in political science and students are pushed to think about how game theoretic analysis connects with empirical work in political science. A capstone project pushes students to create and analyze a novel model of politics in their own research area. Students are assumed to have mathematical knowledge at the level of the Political Science Math Camp.

PLSC 519b, Formal Models of Domestic Politics  Emily Sellars
This course surveys key applications of game theory and related methods to the study of politics and political economy. Topics include electoral competition, political accountability, special interest politics, delegation, political agency, legislative bargaining, collective action, and regime chance. Prerequisite: PLSC 518 or an introductory course in game theory.

PLSC 527a, 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 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 534a / ECON 791a, Theories of Distributive Justice: Formal Models of Political Theory  John Roemer
We survey the main theories of distributive justice proposed by political philosophers since John Rawls, including A. Sen, R. Dworkin, G.A. Cohen, and R. Arneson. We use economic models to study these theories, and we critique them from the economic and philosophical viewpoints. We then read Thomas Piketty’s book Capital in the Twenty-First Century. If time permits, we introduce a microeconomic theory modeling how people cooperate in economic settings, to be contrasted with Nash equilibrium, a model of how people compete. Prerequisite: microeconomics, at least at the intermediate level, or permission of the instructor.
PLSC 536a, Applied Quantitative Research Design  Shiro Kuriwaki
Research designs are strategies to obtain empirical answers to theoretical questions. Research designs using quantitative data for social science questions are more important than ever. This class, intended for advanced students interested in social science research, trains students with best practices for designing and implementing rigorous quantitative research. We cover designs in causal inference, prediction, and missing data at a high level. This is a hands-on, application-oriented class. Exercises involve programming and statistics in addition to the social sciences (politics, economics, and policy). The final project advances a research question chosen in consultation with the instructor. Prerequisite: Any statistics or data science course that teaches ordinary least squares regression. Past or concurrent experience with a programming language such as R is strongly recommended. Students with no prior R experience should plan on attending extra practice sessions in the first few weeks.

PLSC 540a and PLSC 541b, Research and Writing  Allison Harris and Lucia Rubinelli
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 546b, Prospectus Writing Workshop  Daniel Mattingly
A non-credit workshop for third-year Ph.D. students in the Political Science department, in which they develop, revise, and present their prospectus. Course cr

PLSC 553a, Social Justice  Bruce Ackerman
An examination of contemporary theories, together with an effort to assess their practical implications. Authors this year include Peter Singer, Richard Posner, John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Michael Walzer, Marion Young, Avishai Margalit, and Cass Sunstein. Topics: animal rights, the status of children and the principles of educational policy, the relation of market justice to distributive justice, the status of affirmative action, and the rise of technocracy. Self-scheduled examination or paper option. Follows Law School academic calendar. Also LAW 20104.

PLSC 581a, Socialism and Democracy, 1820–1940  Lucia Rubinelli
This course explores the history of socialist political thought by focusing on how socialist thinkers addressed the problem of political organization and how they viewed democracy and its institutions. The course looks at Utopian socialism, the problem of political organization in Marx and Engels, Proudhon’s arguments for anarchism, the Paris Commune and its afterlife in socialist theorizing, debates about direct democracy in the Second International, controversies over the role of parliaments, political parties and the masses in the first decades of the twentieth century, the soviet as a novel political form, the question of feminism, Lenin and Luxemburg’s debate about imperialism, and socialist theories of the postcolonial state. The course is
structured around key primary texts, which are accompanied by secondary readings and suggestions for books and movies.

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 611b / PHIL 657b, Recent Work on Justice  Thomas Pogge
In-depth study of one contemporary book, author, or debate in political philosophy, political theory, or normative economics. Depending on student interest, this might be a ground-breaking new book, the life’s work of a prominent author, or an important theme in contemporary political thought.

PLSC 646a, Open Democracy: Reinventing Popular Rule for the Twenty-First Century  Helene Landemore-Jelaca
Many today believe that the model of representative government that we have inherited from its eighteenth-century founders is broken. It is seen as too oligarchic, disconnected, and unresponsive to the demands of twenty-first-century citizens and, as such, no longer fitting the ideal of democracy that it was supposed to render possible in large, industrial societies. In this course we explore possible reforms and alternatives to the existing political and social system from both empirical and normative perspectives. We try to think both beyond representation by looking at new ways in which citizens can directly affect policy-making by either working with or entirely bypassing elected officials, and beyond government itself, by questioning the assumed divide between the political and the economic spheres and interrogating the internal structure and governance of the workplace.

PLSC 695a, International Security  Alex Debs
This course covers the main theories and problems in international security, including the causes of war; the security dilemma; military effectiveness; coercion and crisis bargaining; nuclear proliferation. Students acquire broad familiarity with the canonical literature in international security and learn how to identify opportunities for new research. The course is designed for master’s students in Global Affairs and Ph.D. students in Political Science.

PLSC 698b, International Political Economy  Tyler Pratt
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
The course is an introduction to important economic ideas: preferences and rationality, Pareto efficiency, economic equilibrium in a capitalist economy, externalities, the role of the state, uncertainty and von Neumann-Morgenstern utility, the principle of insurance, elementary game theory (Nash equilibrium), the median voter
Theorem, political equilibrium with party competition, distributive justice, equality of opportunity, and Arrow's impossibility theorem. These topics are essential tools for political economists. Prerequisite: differential calculus and/or the Political Science Math Camp. Microeconomics at the intermediate level is helpful but not mandatory.

**PLSC 709b, 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 721b / ECON 548b, Political Economy of Development**  Rohini Pande and Gerard Padro
This course analyzes empirically and theoretically the political, institutional, and social underpinnings of economic development. We cover an array of topics ranging from power structures to corruption, state capacity, social capital, conflict, democratization, and democratic backsliding. We focus on recent advances to identify open areas for further research.

**PLSC 722a, 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 723a, 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 731a, Nelson and Winnie Mandela**  Jonny Steinberg
A study of Nelson and Winnie Mandela's marriage and public careers and the political and philosophical questions the marriage raises. Students examine the Mandelas' conflicting ideas on race and on the colonial experience and compare them to those of Mohandas Gandhi and Frantz Fanon. Students also read recent philosophical work on forgiveness and on violence in order critically to assess the politics of reconciliation that so divided the Mandelas. The course examines the politics of global celebrity and the portrayal of men and women in public media.

**PLSC 746a, The Economics and Politics of Migration**  Emily Sellars
This course provides an introduction to contemporary social science research on immigration and emigration. Key questions we examine include: (1) Why do people migrate (or not)? Who migrates and why? Where do people migrate? (2) What are the consequences of migration for migrants and for the broader economy/society? (3) What is the relationship between migration and conflict? (4) How do different types of migration (for example, female vs. male migration, high-skill vs. low-skill migration, refugee flows vs. “economic” migrants, internal vs. international migrants, etc.) differ and how do those differences matter for public policy? (5) What
are some of the methodological challenges associated with measuring and studying migration? (6) What are some of the political challenges associated with creating migration policies? Throughout, we review important methods and theories for the social-scientific study of migration. We also read new work on the research frontier of this topic, drawing on examples from both developed and developing countries across the world. Students have the opportunity to develop their own research projects on the politics and economics of migration.

**PLSC 759a / PLSC 425a, Democratization**  Dawn Brancati
This course examines why autocratic states democratize and why democracy breaks down in already democratic states. The course also examines the reasons for and the effectiveness of the different ways that governments resist democratization, including accommodation, censorship, and repression.

**PLSC 777b, Comparative Politics I: Research Design**  Katharine Baldwin
This course is part of a two-term course series designed to introduce students to the study of comparative politics. This half of the sequence focuses on issues related to research design and methodology in comparative politics. Although there are a handful of weeks devoted entirely to methodological debates, most of our weekly discussions are focused around one book as an exemplar of a particularly interesting or important research design. The course is helpful for students who plan to take the comparative politics field exam.

**PLSC 778a, Comparative Politics II**  Isabela Mares
This survey course provides a general introduction to the field of comparative politics, with an emphasis on the most important theories and research themes. Topics include the foundations of political regimes, state formation, identity and nationalism, party development, electoral reforms, programmatic and clientelistic linkages, and social policy development. 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 779a / ANTH 541a / ENV 836a / HIST 965a, Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development**  Louisa Lombard and Elisabeth Wood
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 799a, Microhistorical Analysis in Social Science Research**  Isabela Mares
In recent years, historical research has experienced a remarkable resurgence across all social sciences. This course introduces students to a vibrant new wave of historical scholarship and prepares them to conduct original research on these topics. To understand the methodological choices made in recent historical scholarship, each week of the course pairs “classic” and contemporary research on some of the most important topics across social science disciplines, including democratization and the extension of suffrage, democratic erosion and breakdown, the development of fiscal capacity, the development of national identities, political culture, gender norms, and so on. The course prioritizes a hands-on approach based on an active examination of the most salient design choices made by these studies and on the replication of the results.
PLSC 800a, Introduction to American Politics  Gregory Huber
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. Gerring, 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 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 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 839a, Congress in the Light of History  David Mayhew
A critical investigation of the United States Congress, the primary democratic institution in the American political system. Focus on individual members of Congress, institutional features, and the role of Congress within the larger separation-of-powers system.

PLSC 859b, Reconstructing the American Constitution  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 fifteen. Permission of the instructor required. Meets on the Law School calendar. Also LAW 21390.

PLSC 865a, Policy Making under Separation of Powers  Christina Kinane
This seminar provides an overview of the literature on the politics of separation of powers, with an eye toward understanding how the various interbranch constraints on American political institutions impact the development and implementation of public policy.

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,
etnicity, class, and ideological and partisan identification.

**PLSC 930a, American Politics Workshop**  Staff
The course meets throughout the year in conjunction with the ISPS American Politics
Workshop. It serves as a forum for graduate students in American politics to discuss
current research in the field as presented by outside speakers and current graduate
students. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be
taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

**PLSC 932a, Comparative Politics Workshop**  Ana De La O
A forum for the presentation of ongoing research by Yale graduate students, Yale
faculty, and invited external speakers in a rigorous and critical environment. The
workshop's methodological and substantive range is broad, covering the entire range
of comparative politics. There are no formal presentations. Papers are read in advance
by participants; a graduate student critically discusses the week's paper, the presenter
responds, and discussion ensues. Detailed information can be found at https://
campuspress.yale.edu/cpworkshop. Open only to graduate students in the Political
Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

**PLSC 934a, Political Theory Workshop**  Staff
An interdisciplinary forum that focuses on theoretical and philosophical approaches
to the study of politics. The workshop seeks to engage with (and expose students
to) a broad range of current scholarship in political theory and political philosophy,
including work in the history of political thought; theoretical investigations of
contemporary political phenomena; philosophical analyses of key political concepts;
conceptual issues in ethics, law, and public policy; and contributions to normative
political theory. The workshop features ongoing research by Yale faculty members,
visiting scholars, invited guests, and advanced graduate students. Papers are distributed
and read in advance, and discussions are opened by a graduate student commentator.
Detailed information can be found at http://politicaltheory.yale.edu. Open only to
graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/
Unsatisfactory only.

**PLSC 938a, Leitner Political Economy Seminar Series**  Gerard Padro
This seminar series engages research on the interaction between economics and politics
as well as research that employs the methods of political economists to study a wide
range of social phenomena. The workshop serves as a forum for graduate students
and faculty to present their own work and to discuss current research in the field as
presented by outside speakers, faculty, and students. Detailed information can be found
at http://leitner.yale.edu/seminars. Open only to graduate students in the Political
Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
PLSC 940a, International Relations Workshop  Alex Debs and Tyler Pratt
This workshop engages work in the fields of international security, international political economy, and international institutions. The forum attracts outside speakers, Yale faculty, and graduate students. It provides a venue to develop ideas, polish work in progress, or showcase completed projects. Typically, the speaker would prepare a 35- to 40-minute presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session. More information can be found at http://irworkshop.yale.edu. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 942a, Political Violence and Its Legacies Workshop  Elisabeth Wood
The MacMillan Political Violence and Its Legacies (PVL) workshop is an interdisciplinary forum for work in progress by Yale faculty and graduate students, as well as scholars from other universities. PVL is designed to foster a wide-ranging conversation at Yale and beyond about political violence and its effects that transcends narrow disciplinary and methodological divisions. The workshop’s interdisciplinary nature attracts faculty and graduate students from Anthropology, African American Studies, American Studies, History, Sociology, and Political Science, among others. There are no formal presentations. Papers are distributed one week prior to the workshop and are read in advance by attendees. A discussant introduces the manuscript and raises questions for the subsequent discussion period. To help facilitate a lively and productive discussion, we ban laptops and cellphones for the workshop’s duration. If you are affiliated with Yale University and would like to join the mailing list, please send an e-mail to julia.bleckner@yale.edu with “PVL Subscribe” in the subject line.

PLSC 990a, Directed Reading  Staff
By arrangement with individual faculty.