POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

Chair
Steven Wilkinson

Director of Graduate Studies
Milan Svolik

Professors
Bruce Ackerman, Akhil Amar (Law), Seyla Benhabib, Paul Bracken (Management), David Cameron, Bryan Garsten, Alan Gerber, Jacob Hacker, Gregory Huber, Stathis Kalypas, David Mayhew, Barry Nalebuff (Management), Douglas Rae, John Roemer, Susan Rose-Ackerman, Frances Rosenbluth, James Scott, Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek, Steven Smith, Peter Swenson, Ivan Szelényi (Sociology), John Wargo (Forestry & Environmental Studies), Steven Wilkinson, Elisabeth Wood

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

Assistant Professors
Peter Aronow, Katharine Baldwin, Deborah Beim, Daniela Cammack, Alexander Coppock, Allan Dafoe, John Henderson, Eitan Hersh, Daniel Mattingly, Didac Queralt, Kelly Rader, Thania Sanchez, Fredrik Sävje

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 ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENT
The department requires that scores from the GRE General Test and a writing sample accompany an application. Additional details about the application process are available on the department website. The department only accepts applications for the Ph.D. program.

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. 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) 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.

COURSES
Empirical Analysis and Research Methodology

PLSC 500a, Quantitative Methods I: Research Design and Data Analysis  Alexander Coppock
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 500b, 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 504a, Advanced Quantitative Methods  Fredrik Sævje
The aim of this course is to provide students with the understanding and tools to critically consume and conduct statistical research. The theme is the challenge of drawing reliable causal inference. We will learn: how to use graphical methods to transparently analyze and present data; how to discipline our analyses against multiple-comparisons bias; how to use nonparametric methods to avoid implausible assumptions; how strong research design is essential to causal inference; how Bayesian inference provides the mathematical vocabulary for thinking about scientific inference; how causal graphs allow us to express and analyze causal assumptions, choose control variables, and think about selection bias; how placebo tests allow us to test assumptions; how to build and understand Likelihood and Bayesian models including Logistic and Probit models; how to think about and analyze time-series cross-sectional data. We will review instrumental variables methods and regression-discontinuity designs, though it is assumed that you have already covered these in PLSC 503. The course assumes students have command of the material covered in PLSC 500 and PLSC 503, including basic probability theory, matrix algebra, and the linear regression model.

PLSC 505a / SOCY 508a, Qualitative Field Research  Elisabeth Wood
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 508b, Causal Inference and Research Design  Peter Aronow
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. The class features five or six presentations by visiting speakers (primarily faculty at other universities) who discuss their work. When visiting speakers are not present (roughly every other week), lectures and discussions focus on selected methodological topics, including experimental design, partial identification, design-based inference, network analysis, semiparametric efficiency theory, and qualitative/mixed-methods research. Statistical training at the level of PLSC 503 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  Elisabeth Wood
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 512b, Introduction to Experimental Methods in Political Science  Alexander Coppock
An introduction to experimental methods as they can be used to study politics. Exploration of strengths and weaknesses of experimental and nonexperimental studies. Applications include the effects of television advertising, formation of political attitudes, and causes of voter turnout. Students participate in the design and implementation of an experiment. Knowledge of introductory statistics helpful but not required.

PLSC 517a, Fundamentals of Modeling  John Roemer
The course is an introduction to techniques of microeconomic modeling, as applied to problems in political economy and political science. 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 distributive justice. Prerequisites: differential calculus and/or the Political Science Math Camp. Microeconomics at the intermediate level is helpful but not mandatory.

PLSC 518b, Introduction to Game Theory  Alexandre Debs
Building upon Fundamentals of Modeling I, the course offers a rigorous introduction to noncooperative game theory. The goal of the course 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. Microeconomics at the intermediate level is helpful but not mandatory.

PLSC 522b / SOCY 503b, 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 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  Greg Huber and Ian Shapiro
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.

Political Theory

PLSC 553a / PHIL 718a, 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 565a, Democracy and Distribution  Ian Shapiro
The attention showered in 2015 on Thomas Piketty’s book Capital in the Twenty-First Century brought issues of inequality in the distribution of income and wealth to the forefront of public and scholarly attention. An enormous body of research has been produced over the past two decades to understand the nature of the dramatic rise in inequality, especially in the United States, and its causes. A long list of proposals for legal change has emerged in response to the outpouring of data and analysis. This course explores the facts and the causes of and political barriers to potential responses to these recent developments, principally but not exclusively in the United States. Ultimately, the question requires an examination of the relations between democracy and the distribution of income and wealth. Particular attention is paid to the ways in which different groups, classes, and coalitions affect, and are affected by, democratic distributive politics. Attention is paid to theories of distribution, politics of distribution, distributive instruments, and the implementation of policies affecting distribution. Substantive topics covered include regulation, protectionism, taxes, social insurance, welfare, public opinion, education, and unions. Follows Law School academic calendar.

PLSC 595a / ECON 791a, Theories of Distributive Justice  John Roemer
This year, we spend the first half of the course (or so) reading and discussing Thomas Piketty’s Capital in the Twenty-First Century (2014). We then survey the main egalitarian theories of distributive justice proposed by economists and political philosophers since J. Rawls, including A. Sen, R. Dworkin, G.A. Cohen, R. Arneson, and S. Scheffler. We subject these theories to economic and philosophical analysis. Prerequisite: intermediate microeconomics or PLSC 517.

PLSC 605a / PHIL 663a, Rethinking Sovereignty: Human Rights and Globalization
The crises of sovereignty and the end of sovereignty have been discussed in law, political science, and philosophy. Post-nationalist, cosmopolitan, as well as neoliberal critics of sovereignty abound. This course discusses alternative models of sovereignty, ranging from democratic iterate to popular constitutionalism, and considers the implications of these models for the definition and enforcement of rights. Recent developments in the U.S. and the European Union law regarding immigration and refugee issues are a special focus. Readings include Hobbes, Kant, Schmitt, Arendt, Kelsen, Habermas, Waldron, Walker, and Benveniste. Also LAW 20662.

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 642b, 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.

PLSC 649b, 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.

International Relations

PLSC 656a / GLBL 579a, 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.

PLSC 662a, Strategy, Technology, and War  Paul Bracken
An integrated, comprehensive examination of technology and strategy in the field of national security. Key concepts—technology strategy, macro-organizational behavior, strategic posture—describe the international strategic environment. Analysis of the changing structure of defense in light of new dynamics: a second nuclear age; the spread of advanced technologies to China, India, militia groups, etc.; network-centric and information warfare; private equity investment in defense and intelligence; and a shifting locus of innovation to lower-tier firms. This interdisciplinary course crosses boundaries of management, politics, and economics.

PLSC 695a, International Relations: Concepts and Theories  Nuno Monteiro
The course examines theories of international relations and evaluates empirical evidence in favor of or against those theories. It surveys the main theoretical traditions in international relations and considers how empirical methods can be used to identify causation in the
international relations field. Students acquire broad familiarity with the diverse literature in this field, learn to identify opportunities for new research, and apply rigorous methodology to evaluate theoretical claims. The course is designed for students who plan to pursue doctoral-level research in international relations and want to pass the Ph.D. qualifying exam in the field.

**PLSC 696b, International Relations: Research Design**  Jason Lyall
This course introduces students to the various methodological challenges that arise while conducting empirical research in international relations as well as possible research designs for overcoming them. This course, which builds directly on PLSC 695, draws heavily, though not exclusively, on research issues that arise in the subfield of international security. Each week we tackle a key debate: proposed topics include (1) explaining the origins, conduct, and outcomes of inter- and intrastate wars; (2) the sources of military effectiveness; (3) the uses and limits of coercive diplomacy; and (4) the effects of transnational forces and actors. We use these debates as springboards for broader discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of different research approaches, including experimental, quasi-experimental, observational, and interview and archival-based work. PLSC 695 is strongly recommended.

**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).

**Comparative Politics**

**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 712a, Comparative Political Economy**  Frances 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 717a, 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.

**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 738a, Turkish Politics**  Staff
Issues in Turkish politics. Continuity and change in historical institutional legacies with specific focus on the internal contradictions between these legacies, such as Ottomanism, Kemalism, secular vs. religious nationalism, and Islamism. Elaboration of major issues of Turkey’s “divided society” concerning the ends of state, secularism vs. Islamism, top-down reformism vs. majoritarianism, and minority rights.

**PLSC 740a, Political Violence**  Stathis Kalyvas
A survey of both fundamental and cutting-edge research on all forms of political violence, from street protest to genocide, including riots, political assassinations, military coups, terrorism, civil wars, and certain types of organized crime. What connects them and how are the rise and decline of each form shaping the presence or absence of the other ones?

**PLSC 755b, 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 756a, 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 766b, 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 777a, Comparative Politics I: Research Design  Katharine Baldwin
This course, the first in the yearlong introduction to the study of comparative politics for Ph.D. students in political science, examines the purpose and methodology of comparative inquiry. Designed to introduce students to the study of comparative politics and to assist students in developing research topics and strategies, the course explores key themes—the origins of political regimes, the building of nations and states, ethnicity and nationalism, collective action, the politics of welfare states, and the logic of institutional change—through the critical reading and discussion of classic and contemporary works.

PLSC 778b, Comparative Politics II  Stathis Kalyvas
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 / HIST 965a, Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development  Peter Perdue, Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan, and James Scott
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.

Political Economy

PLSC 712a, Comparative Political Economy  Frances 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 717a, 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.

American Politics

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. Gerring, J. Zaller, D.R. Kiewiet, L. Bartels, D. Mayhew, K. Poole & H. Rosenthal, G. Cox & M. McCubbins, K. Krebs, 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 801a, Political Preferences and American Political Behavior  John Henderson
Introduction to research methods and topics in American politics. Focus on ideas about choice that are useful for the study of politics. Topics include utility theory, heuristics and biases, proximity vs. directional voting, Bayesian updating, retrospective voting, priming and framing, the role of emotion, and the consequences of political ignorance.

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 828b / AMST 828b, 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 853a, U.S. National Elections  David Mayhew

PLSC 860b, Advanced Topics in Quantitative American Politics  Greg Huber
This course reviews significant substantive findings and the most important recent developments in research design in quantitative American politics. The course provides a forum for students to initiate and complete a collaborative research project with the instructors. Prerequisite: although attention is not exclusively restricted to experimental research, enrollment requires permission of the instructor and is limited to students with an adequate statistics background and demonstrated research interest in work that focuses on empirical examination of causal relationships.

Research Workshops

PLSC 930a and PLSC 931b, American Politics Workshop  Greg Huber
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. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 932a and PLSC 933b, Comparative Politics Workshop  Katharine Baldwin and Daniel Mattingly
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. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 934a and PLSC 935b, Political Theory Workshop  Seyla Benhabib, Karuna Mantena, and Hélène Landemore
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. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 936a and PLSC 937b, Order, Conflict, and Violence  Stathis Kalyvas
The OCV seminar series focuses on processes related to the emergence and breakdown of order. The key assumption is that understanding and studying these processes requires better theoretical and empirical foundations and calls for challenging existing disciplinary and methodological divides. The seminar series is, therefore, dedicated to the presentation of cutting-edge work from all social science disciplines and includes the presentation of ongoing research by Yale graduate students. Detailed information can be found at http://ocvprogram.macmillan.yale.edu. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 938a and PLSC 939b, Leitner Political Economy Seminar Series  Milan Svolik
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. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 940a and PLSC 941b, International Relations Workshop  Staff
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. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

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