POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

Chair
Gregory Huber

Director of Graduate Studies
Alexandre Debs

Professors
Bruce Ackerman, Akhil Amar (Law), Bryan Garsten, Alan Gerber, Jacob Hacker, Gregory Huber, Isabela Mares, Gerard Padró i Miquel, John Roemer, Frances Rosenbluth, Kenneth Scheve, 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, Kelly Rader

Assistant Professors
Alexander Coppock, Allison Harris, John Henderson, Joshua Kalla, Sarah Khan, Christina Kinane, Egor Lazarev, Daniel Mattingly, Salma Mousa, Elizabeth Nugent, Giulia Oskian, Tyler Pratt, Didac Queralt, Lucia Rubinelli, Fredrik Sävje, Emily Sellers, 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. 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/grad-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 503b, Theory and Practice of Quantitative Methods Peter Aronow
This course provides an intensive introduction to the methods used in political science for quantitative empirical inquiry. Topics include: missing data, causal inference, selection on observables, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity designs, and panel (TSCS/longitudinal) data. Prerequisites: PLSC 500, with mathematical training at the level of the math camp, and PLSC 529.

PLSC 505b / SOCY 508b, Qualitative Field Research Egor Lazarev
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 506b, Machine-Learning Tools for Political Analysis  John Henderson
This course covers a wide array of machine-learning techniques that aim to improve our understanding of political phenomena through better measurement, estimation, and inference. Topics include measurement, reliability and error concepts, text and web scraping, supervised and unsupervised learning, Bayesian inference, cluster and topic modeling, ideal point scaling, and some advanced topics in statistical inference. 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 methodological issues arising in their own work. Two terms of probability, statistics, or data science courses (e.g., S&DS 500, 510, 520, 523, 530; PLSC 454, 500, 503, 504; ECON 136; EPR&E 203, 209; or equivalents) are strongly recommended. Working knowledge of a statistical programming language (e.g., R, Python, Stata) is required.

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 / GLBL 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  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  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 512b, 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 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 change. Prerequisite: PLSC 518 or an introductory course in game theory.

PLSC 523b, Mixed Methods Research  Salma Mousa
This course trains students to design and critique a range of quantitative, qualitative, and experimental research methods. The course begins with a discussion of concept formation, defining quantities of interest, and the advantages and disadvantages of bringing descriptive vs. causal evidence to bear. We then analyze the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative tests, experimental designs, case-based approaches (case studies, case selections, and cross-case comparisons), and interpretive methods such as process tracing. 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 524a, 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 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  
Alexander Coppock
This course focuses on applications of observational and experimental quantitative research designs to answer both descriptive and causal questions. We characterize designs using the Model, Inquiry, Data strategy, Answer strategy (MIDA) framework and learn about them through simulation. The work is heavily application-driven: each week’s problem set involves describing the ex ante properties of a design and reproducing empirical findings using modern data analysis procedures, i.e., the Tidyverse philosophy and set of packages for R. This skills course is designed for students who intend to conduct quantitative empirical research in the future, either inside or outside the academy. Prerequisite: any statistics or data science course that teaches ordinary least squares regression at any level. Prior experience with R is helpful but not required.

PLSC 537b, The Logic of Randomized Experiments in Political Science  
Alexander Coppock
Instruction in the design, execution, and analysis of randomized experiments for businesses, nonprofits, political organizations, and social scientists. Students learn to evaluate the impact of real-world interventions on well-defined political, economic, and social outcomes. Specific focus on randomized experimentation through field and survey experiments, with design and analysis principles extending to lab and so-called natural experiments. Prerequisite: any introductory probability or statistics course.

PLSC 540a, Research and Writing  
Helene Landemore-Jelaca and Ana De La O
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 545a and PLSC 546b, Prospectus Writing Workshop  
Alex Debs
A non-credit workshop for third-year Ph.D. students in the Political Science department, in which they develop, revise, and present their prospectus. prerequisite: 0 Course cr per term

PLSC 568b, Democracy in Crisis: Creativity, Law, and Revolution in the Weimar Republic  
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 Luxembourg’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 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 Luxembourg’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 627a, Aristotle’s Political Thought  
Bryan Garsten
A careful reading of Aristotle’s Nichomachean Ethics and Politics, along with selected debates in the secondary literature and consideration of Aristotle’s place in recent political theory.

PLSC 644b, The Idea of Statesmanship  
Steven Smith
Who is a statesman and what are the ideal qualities required for the office? This remains one of the enduring questions of political philosophy. This course examines the art of statesmanship in ancient and modern political thought. We consider examples of statecraft in both ancient Greece and Rome and the Hebrew Bible before viewing examples of modern statesmanship using Machiavelli, Hume, Burke, the Federalist Papers, and Abraham Lincoln. We consider the statesman’s role in different contexts, as political founder, preserver, and reformer. We also consider what kind of education is necessary to best carry out the work of statecraft.
PLSC 645a, Machiavelli and His Readers  Steven Smith
Machiavelli remains one of the most widely discussed and debated figures in the Western political canon. This course offers a close reading of his two major treatises, The Prince and The Discourses on Livy, as well as important sections from Livy’s history of Rome. We then consider influential nineteenth- and twentieth-century interpreters of Machiavelli, from Hegel to Gramsci to Leo Strauss.

PLSC 678a / GLBL 678a, Japan and the World  Frances McCall Rosenbluth
The historical development of Japan’s international relations since the late Tokugawa period; World War II and its legacy; domestic institutions and foreign policy; implications for the United States; and interactions between nationalism and regionalism.

PLSC 680b, Non-State Actors in World Politics  Sarah Bush
Non-state actors are increasingly important to world politics. This course introduces the variety of non-state actors that are currently influencing our world, with a special emphasis on nongovernmental organizations and transnational networks (of advocates, criminals, government officials, and terrorists). We explore how these actors interact with states, intergovernmental organizations, and each other. The course covers issues relating to war, peace, human rights, democracy, the global economy, the environment, and international law.

PLSC 695a / GLBL 905a, 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 705b, 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 721a / ECON 548a, 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 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 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 Franz 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 734a or b / SOCY 560a or b, Comparative Research Workshop  Staff
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 are enrolled for credit are expected to present a paper-in-progress.

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? for politics? (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 748a, Nationalism in the World Maria Jose Hierro
Nationalism is the most powerful political force in the world. It can explain why countries come together and why countries come apart. It can also explain why people praise and trust those who belong to the nation and despise and distrust those who do not. This course introduces students to the study of nationalist thought and practice. The course first examines the concept of nationalism and other adjacent concepts, and reviews different theoretical approaches to the study of nationalism. From here, the course moves to examine nationalist practices: the origin of the nation, the crafting of a national identity, the practice of inclusion and exclusion, the relationship between nationalism and democracy and nationalism and conflict, nationalism in the postcolonial world, and nationalism in the world today. The course examines nationalist thought and practice in different geographic areas and relies on both theoretical and empirical literature from several disciplines (history, economics, sociology, psychology, and political science) to understand the power of nationalism in the world today.

PLSC 756b / GLBL 756b, 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 760b, India and Pakistan: Democracy, Conflict, and Development Steven Wilkinson
The variation in democracy, conflict, and development between India and Pakistan since 1947, as well as variation within each country. Management of ethnic and religious conflicts, secularism, secessionist movements in Kashmir and elsewhere, the tension between economic growth and equity, and problems of governance.

PLSC 763a, 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 777a, 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 778b, Comparative Politics II Didac Queralt
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 Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan 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 Egor Lazarev
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 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. 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**  Peter Aronow
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 820a, Rise of Presidentialism in the United States**  Stephen Skowronek
This course is about the rise and makeshift character of “presidentialism” in the United States. It examines different sources of power that have, singly and in combination, put the presidency at the center of government and politics. These include: (1) popular power: in elections, public opinion, parties, and social movements; and (2) institutional power: in control of the executive branch, military command, and war making. Readings delve into cases in which each of these sources of power figured prominently. In every particular, the seminar considers the strains that this power has put on the constitutional frame.

**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 865b, 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 868a / AMST 724a / WGSS 724a, 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.

**PLSC 873a, The U.S. Constitution and Comparative Constitutional Law**  Akhil Reed Amar and Steven Calabresi
This seminar provides a comparative perspective on American constitutional law by looking at analogous case law and institutions from fifteen of the G-20 nations that are constitutional democracies: the United Kingdom; France; Germany; Italy; Japan; India; Canada; Australia; South Korea; Brazil; South Africa; Mexico; Indonesia; and the European Union. Topics include: (1) why have a written constitution and comparative amendment and secession rules? (2) the origins of judicial review in each country and its foundational case; (3) a comparison of the separation of powers; (4) comparative federal regimes; (5) comparative bills of rights or unenumerated rights; (6) comparative protections of equality; (7) comparative freedom of expression cases; (8) comparative freedom of religion cases; (9) comparative civil, criminal, and appellate procedure; (10) comparative protection of property rights and of economic liberties; (11) comparative judicial protection of social welfare entitlements; and (12) comparative guaranties of democracy in each country's constitution. The required text is Calabresi, *The U.S. Constitution and Comparative Constitutional Law* (Foundation Press, 2016). Paper required. Also LAW 20121.

**PLSC 874a, The Anti-Tax Movement and the Transformation of U.S. Politics and Policy**  Michael Graetz
This seminar examines the legal and political evolution of U.S. tax law and policy through the lens of the anti-tax movement. Also LAW 20049.

**PLSC 878b, Election Law**  Staff
This course introduces some of the central issues in the law governing the democratic process in the United States. Topics include: (1) the development and nature of the right to vote under the U.S. Constitution including limits on the franchise, (2) the relationship between majority rule and minority representation as reflected in the 15th Amendment and the federal Voting Rights Act, (3) thorny questions about equality in the administration of elections, and (4) the constitutional fault lines of campaign finance regulation. Also LAW 21567.

**PLSC 930a and PLSC 931b, 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 and PLSC 933b, Comparative Politics Workshop  Staff
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 and PLSC 935b, 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 and PLSC 939b, Leitner Political Economy Seminar Series  Staff
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 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. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 942a and PLSC 943b, 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 or b, Directed Reading  Staff
By arrangement with individual faculty.