POLITICAL SCIENCE (PLSC)

* PLSC 025a / ENGL 011a, Lincoln in Thought and Action  David Bromwich
An intensive examination of the career, political thought, and speeches of Abraham Lincoln in their historical context. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* PLSC 027b, From Protest to Power: Social Movements in Comparative Perspective  Leanna Barlow
This course seeks to provide students with a general understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the social movement as a form of collective action. Social movements, at heart, aim to bring about political, economic, or cultural change. From the American Civil Rights Movement to the formation of Transnational Advocacy Networks, social movements have shaped the contemporary political landscape in countries all over the world. This course draws on a range of historical and contemporary case studies to examine social movements in a comparative perspective. Key questions include: Why do movements occur, who participates, what strategies or tactics are used, how do institutions respond, and what is the impact of collective action? Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  SO

* PLSC 028a, American Constitutionalism: Power and its Limits  Gordon Silverstein
What happens when a modern superpower tries to govern itself under an 18th Century Constitution? Using original documents, contemporaneous books, and U.S. Supreme Court cases, this course explores the debates that have defined America’s struggle to live up to its sometimes conflicting commitments to liberty, equality and the consent of the governed. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  SO

* PLSC 030a, Law and the Limits of Freedom  Alexander Rosas
This course evaluates the desired role of law in free and modern societies and dissects, more broadly, the relationship between law, the state, and the individual in such societies. Particularly, this course considers when, if ever, it is appropriate to use law to limit freedom in the name of equality, security, community, utility, and/or morality. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SO

* PLSC 040a, How to Read the News: Journalism and Media in an Era of Newsroom Cuts and “Fake News”  Andrew Butters
With so many questions about quality, quantity, and bias in today’s headlines, individual consumers of news need to be active participants in the news ecosystem. Students are taught journalistic skills and practices that help them make sense of the modern media maelstrom. Students are asked to create and curate their own digital news platform, acting throughout the semester as its editor and collecting clips of what they think are the most important stories of the week. Using class lectures and readings as criteria for analysis, students annotate their weekly selections. By the end of the semester, students develop their own agenda for the editorial, business, or technological changes that need to be made so that journalism can continue to protect humane, democratic society. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  SO

PLSC 111b / GLBL 268b / PLSC S111E, Introduction to International Relations  Kenneth Scheve
Survey of key debates and concepts in international relations. Exploration of historical and contemporary issues using Western and non-Western cases and evidence. Topics include the rise of states; causes, conduct, and outcomes of wars; the emergence of new actors and forms of conflict; and evolution of global economy.  SO

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

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

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

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

PLSC 121a / MMES 121a, International Relations of the Middle East  Nicholas Lotito
This course explores the multiple causes of insecurity in the Middle East and North Africa, a region of paramount geostrategic interest, whose populations have suffered from armed conflicts both within and across national borders. The first half of the course interrogates traditional security concepts like war, terrorism, and revolution, as well as the political, economic, and social contexts which give rise to these phenomena. The course then turns to foreign policy analysis in case studies of the region’s major states. Previous coursework in international relations and/or Middle East politics or history recommended but not required.  SO
* **PLSC 123a, Political Economy of Foreign Aid**  Peter Aronow
Introduction to modern quantitative research methods in international political economy, with a focus on empirical evidence related to foreign aid. The state of knowledge regarding the effects of development assistance on democratization, governance, human rights, and conflict. The challenges of drawing causal inferences in the domain of international political economy.  so

* **PLSC 135b / AFST 135b, Media and Conflict**  Staff
The theory and practice of reporting on international conflict and war, and its relation to political discourse in the United States and abroad. Materials include case studies of media coverage of war in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

* **PLSC 137a or b / GLBL 274a or b, Terrorism**  Bonnie Weir
Theoretical and empirical literature used to examine a host of questions about terrorism. The definition(s) of terrorism, the application of the term to individuals and groups, the historical use and potential causes of terrorism, suicide and so-called religious terrorism, dynamics within groups that use terrorism, and counterterrorism strategies and tactics. Theoretical readings supplemented by case studies.  so

* **PLSC 138a / MGRK 236a / SOCY 221a, The Euro Crisis**  Paris Aslanidis
Examination of how Europe continues to struggle with the social and economic repercussions of the Great Recession and the impact of socioeconomic asymmetries in countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Spain, Italy, and Greece. Topics include the euro as a viable common currency; why and how the Euro crisis erupted and spread; how the COVID-19 fallout will impact the Union.  so

* **PLSC 161a / GLBL 344a / HIST 483ja, Studies in Grand Strategy II**  Beverly Gage
The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. During the fall term, students put into action the ideas studied in the spring term by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Prerequisite: PLSC 321. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  so

**PLSC 166b, The New Europe**  David Cameron
European politics since World War II, with emphasis on postwar geopolitical settlement, the development of the European Community and Union, the demise of the Soviet Union and other communist regimes, and current challenges facing Europe.  so

* **PLSC 167b / GLBL 284b, Mass Atrocities in Global Politics**  David Simon
Examination of the impact of global politics and institutions on the commission, execution, prevention, and aftermath of mass atrocities.  so

**PLSC 172a, Strategy, Technology, and War**  Paul Bracken
This course deals with the strategic management of technology and innovation in the highly dynamic national security space. As more new technologies (cyberwar, ASAT, drones, AI, quantum computing, hypersonic missiles, nuclear weapons) come into military postures a major technological arms race has come about. Strat Tech covers the new technologies; competitive strategies in Europe and Asia; and foreign investment in the US technology sector. Silicon Valley and the Pentagon, and global technology companies receive special focus.  so

**PLSC 175a / AFST 175a, Africa in International Relations**  David Simon
This course examines key facets of how African countries interact with the rest of the world, and with other countries on the continent. Focusing mostly on Sub-Saharan African countries, it looks at international economic relations (focusing on aid but also addressing trade, investment, and debt); peacemaking and peacebuilding; and regional governance institutions.  so

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

**PLSC 188a / GLBL 275a, Approaches to International Security**  Nuno Monteiro
Introduction to major approaches and central topics in the field of international security, with primary focus on the principal man-made threats to human security: the use of violence among and within states, both by state and non-state actors. Priority to Global Affairs majors. Non-majors require permission of the instructor.  so

* **PLSC 201a, Ideas and Presidential Power: From the Founding to Trump**  John Dearborn
The American presidency is an institution of significant power. But to understand the powers wielded by presidents, one must look at the ideas that have helped to shape and legitimize the authority of the presidency over time. In this course, we explore how ideas have both served as claims to presidential power and transformed the presidency as an institution, covering the period from the Founding era through the Trump administration. Ideas that we discuss and evaluate include the separation of powers, executive power, Commander in Chief, mandates, presidential representation, responsible party government, the unitary executive theory, the "Deep State," descriptive representation, and American exceptionalism.  so
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 210a, Political Preferences and American Political Behavior  
Joshua Kalla

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

* PLSC 213b, The Legislative Process: Theoretical and Empirical Approaches to Studying the U.S. Congress  
Staff

This course covers important theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of legislative politics. The main objectives are to come to a deeper understanding of the motivations and institutions that influence legislator behavior in the U.S. Congress, as well as to think critically about existing explanations for these behaviors. While we focus mainly on the United States Congress, many of the theories and empirical strategies are applicable to other legislative institutions. Each week we read at least two important pieces of theoretical or empirical research to demonstrate how to engage in rigorous social science. Prerequisite: PLSC 113.

* PLSC 214b, The Politics of American Public Policy  
Jacob Hacker

Public policy in the United States and the methodological and theoretical tools used to study the forces that shape it. Economic and political science perspectives on the policy process and contemporary American governance. Domestic policy issues such as health care, economic inequality, job insecurity, the federal debt, environmental protection, criminal justice, financial regulation, and primary and higher education.

* PLSC 215a / EVST 255a / F&ES 255a / GLBL 282a, Environmental Law and Politics: Global Food Challenges  
John Wargo

We explore relations among food, environment, health, and law. We consider global-scale unavoidable challenges such as: starvation and malnutrition, obesity, other food related human diseases, climate instability, soil loss, water depletion and contamination, microbial hazards, chemical contamination, food waste, dietary convergence, air pollution, energy, packaging, culinary globalization, and biodiversity loss. We focus on laws that influence the world's food system, including those intended to reduce or prevent environmental and health damages. Other laws protect rights of secrecy, property, speech, confidential business information, free trade, worker protection, equal opportunity, and freedom from discrimination. Ethical concerns of justice, equity, and transparency are prominent themes. Examples of effective law, consumer movements and corporate innovations provide optimism for the future of responsible food.

* PLSC 219a / EP&E 407a / EVST 247a, Politics of the Environment  
Peter Swenson

Historical and contemporary politics aimed at regulating human behavior to limit damage to the environment. Goals, strategies, successes, and failures of movements, organizations, corporations, scientists, and politicians in conflicts over environmental policy. Focus on politics in the U.S., including the role of public opinion; attention to international regulatory efforts, especially with regard to climate change.

* PLSC 220a / PLSC S220 / WGSS 220a, Women & Politics  
Andrea Aldrich

Exploration of theoretical and empirical work in political science to study the relationship between women and politics in the United States and around the world. Topics include women's descriptive and substantive representation in legislative and executive branch politics, gender stereotypes on elections and public opinion; conditions that impact the supply and demand of candidates across genders; and the underrepresentation of women in political institutions.

* PLSC 223b / EDST 223b, Learning Democracy: The Theory and Practice of Civic Education  
Amir Fairdosi

This is a seminar on the theory and practice of civic education. We begin by investigating philosophies of civic education, asking such questions as: What is civic education and what is its purpose? What knowledge, skills, and values promote human flourishing and the cultivation of a democratic society? What role can and should schools play in this cultivation? In the next part of the course we focus on civic education in practice, exploring various approaches to teaching civics and the empirical evidence in support of each method's effectiveness. We also discuss variations in access to civic education opportunities across socioeconomic, demographic, and national contexts, and how societies might deal with these disparities.
* PLSC 226b, Congress: How Legislating Works  Staff
This course examines the United States Congress and lawmaking. Topics are divided into six categories: the Constitution and legislative power, congressional behavior, congressional structure, theories of lawmaking, polarization, and Congress’s impact on America’s political development.  so

* PLSC 228a / EP&E 306a / EP&E S306 / PLSC S228, First Amendment and Ethics of Law  Karen Goodrow
This course addresses the First Amendment and freedom of speech, focusing on the ethical implications of restrictions on free speech, as well as the exercise of free speech. Course topics and discussions include the “fighting words” doctrine, hate speech, true threats, content regulated speech, freedom of speech and the internet, and the so-called “right to be forgotten.” By the end of the course, students recognize the role free speech plays in society, including its negative and positive impacts on various segments of society. Students also have an understanding of the competing interests arising from the First Amendment’s right to free speech, and can analyze how these competing interests are weighed and measured in the United States as compared with other countries.  so

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

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

* PLSC 237b, Persuasion and Political Communication  John Henderson
The history of political communication, persuasion, and demagoguery in the American political tradition, from the design and ratification of the Constitution to modern debates over terrorism and authoritarianism. The limits of democratic deliberation and representation; elite communication strategies that influence policy making and elections.  so

* PLSC 238a / EDST 238a, The Education Beat: Writing on Policy, Learning, and Life  Jane Karr
Exploration of the national conversation around education issues, and how to write smartly about them. Classes delve into top stories of the last few years — diversity and desegregation, school choice and culture wars, and Covid-19. Students learn journalistic values and methods and how to develop marketable ideas. The class examines approaches to nonacademic writing, including opinion and narratives, and then put them into practice. Journalists who cover education are frequent guests.  WR, so

* PLSC 251a / AMST 469a / EP&E 396a, American Progressivism and Its Critics  Stephen Skowronek
The progressive reform tradition in American politics. The tradition’s conceptual underpinnings, social supports, practical manifestations in policy and in new governmental arrangements, and conservative critics. Emphasis on the origins of progressivism in the early decades of the twentieth century, with attention to latter-day manifestations and to changes in the progressive impulse over time.  so

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

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

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

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

* PLSC 258b / EP&E 336b / PLSC 841b, Democracy and Bureaucracy  Ian Turner
Exploration of what government agencies do and why; focus on issues of accountability and the role of bureaucracy in representative democracy. Understanding how bureaucracy works internally and how it is affected by interactions with other political actors and institutions.  so
* PLSC 261b / AMST 468b, American Political Development  Stephen Skowronek
This course examines patterns of political change and institutional development in the United States. It looks to the past for leverage on thinking about the problems of government and politics today. Students examine issues of political culture like racism and liberalism, as well as standard developmental themes like party building, state building, social movement effects, and constitutional change.  SO

PLSC 262b / AMST 209b / ER&M 232b, Race, Politics, and the Law  Daniel HoSang
Examination of how race—as a mode of domination and resistance—has developed and transformed in the United States since the early-twentieth-century. How political actors and social movements engage the law to shape visions of freedom, democracy, and political life. Consideration of critical race theory, political discourse analysis, intersectionality and women of color feminism, and American political development.  SO

* PLSC 26b, The Politics of Economic Security  Staff
This course examines the politics of economic security in the United States. Topics include the psychology of risk pooling, the design of social policy, and why people want (or don’t want) to address economic insecurity and poverty. We also consider how local contextual factors and family structure affect support for redistribution and social insurance.  SO

* PLSC 270a, Reading the Constitution  Akhil Reed Amar
Intensive introduction to the written Constitution, revolving tightly around two books authored by the instructor. America’s Constitution: A Biography (2005) and America’s Unwritten Constitution: The Precedents and Principles We Live By (2012). Provides detailed knowledge of America’s written Constitution and considers various techniques of constitutional interpretation.  SO

* PLSC 273b / EP&E 339b, The Ethics of Journalism  Jacob Weisberg
An examination of key issues about the rights and responsibilities of the press. Topics include truth and verification, bias and objectivity, the handling of government secrets, the use of misrepresentation and deception, privacy, and the protection of sources. Case studies including WikiLeaks and the Pentagon Papers will supplement readings from critics such as Walter Lippmann, George Orwell, Janet Malcolm, and Neil Postman.

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

PLSC 277a, The United States Congress  Amir Fairdosi
This is a survey course on the United States Congress, divided into two parts. In Part I, we discuss the theoretical and historical foundations of legislative government in the United States. In Part II, we move beyond theories of legislating and on to the way Congress operates in practice. We explore such questions as: How do congressional elections work? What are the causes and effects of political polarization? How would term limits affect policy outcomes? What is the effect of money on Congress? Where do/should constituents fit in in all this? How does Congress interact with the President and the bureaucracy? Why is Congress’s approval rating lower than any other institution in the country?  SO

* PLSC 278b, Politics and the Supreme Court  Kelly Rader
The role of the U.S. Supreme Court in the American political system. Ways in which the political preferences of Congress, the President, and the American public shape, constrain, or compel the Court’s decision making. Supreme Court justices as political actors who issue decisions that make policy.  SO

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

* PLSC 286b / HIST 286j / HIST 292j / HUMS 279b, Democracy and the French Revolution  Isaac Nakhimovsky
The French Revolution of 1789 and its legacies, as viewed through the late-eighteenth-century debates about democracy, equality, representative government, and historical change that shaped an enduring agenda for historical and political thought in Europe and around the world.  WR, HU

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

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

* PLSC 297a / EP&E 312a, Moral Choices in Politics  Boris Kapustin
A study of how and why people make costly moral choices in politics. Figures studied include Thomas More, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Václav Havel, and Aung San Suu Kyi.  SO
* **PLSC 300a / EP&E 354a / PLSC 623a, Rethinking the Political Enlightenment**  Ian Shapiro  
The calamities wrought by Fascism and Nazism, together with growing disillusionment at the excesses and direction Soviet communism and then Mao's China, led many postwar intellectuals to rethink the Enlightenment's promise. In politics that promise had centered on the creation of durable political institutions based on scientific principles that would foster, expand, and protect human freedom. We study the ways in which the harsh realities of twentieth century politics led political theorists to modify, recast, and in some cases reject these Enlightenment aspirations, and we evaluate those responses from the perspective of our contemporary politics. Readings are drawn from, among others, Jonathan Israel, James Tully, Hannah Arendt, Herbert Marcuse, Nicos Poulantzas, Jürgen Habermas, Leo Strauss, Isaiah Berlin, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, Anthony Appiah, Nancy Fraser, Carole Pateman, Judith Shklar, Quentin Skinner, J.G.A. Pocock, Michael Walzer, and Iris Marion Young. Among the themes discussed are the connections between Enlightenment aspirations and the ideas of modernization, progress, and democracy; the advantages and limitations of periodization in the study of political theory; and teleological conceptions of history. Open to PhD students in Political Science and to graduate students in other departments and programs by agreement with the instructor. Open to undergraduates as space permits, provided they have completed at least three political science courses, one of which is PLSC 114, PLSC 118, or equivalent such as Directed Studies.  

* **PLSC 302a, Commerce and Equality: Montesquieu and Rousseau**  This course engages in close readings of the works of two of the greatest minds of the 18th century, Montesquieu and J.J. Rousseau, addressing fundamental questions about commerce and equality, liberalism and democracy, cosmopolitanism and nationalism, and the meaning of modernity.  

* **PLSC 303a / HUMS 302a, Demagoguery and Democracy**  Bryan Garsten  
This course offers historical and theoretical perspective on contemporary debates about democratic leadership and political discourse. How can demagoguery be distinguished from healthy forms of popular leadership? Under what conditions do demagogues tend to emerge? What institutional arrangements and political strategies help to manage demagogues? The course traces these themes through a set of conversations that begin in ancient Greek and Roman texts on the art of persuasion and continue through the Renaissance and early modern period and into revolutionary and post-revolutionary thinking about leaders' claims to speak for the people. Contemporary issues including populism and the impact of social media are addressed.  

This seminar is intended to provide frameworks for the analysis of ethical issues that may arise in business decisions, including such aspects as the role of ethics, competing values and interests, and tools for making principled decisions. The course also covers, as appropriate, some aspects of law as they relate to business ethics. Previous courses in philosophy and ethics may be helpful.  

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

* **PLSC 306b / GMAN 314b / PHIL 472b, Contemporary Critical Theory**  Seyla Benhabib  
Frankfurt School and Critical Theory focuses on a number of unresolved questions such as pragmatic Kantianism; modernity and post-colonial theory; the idea of progress; critiques of surveillance capitalism and neo-liberalism. Readings from Habermas, Honneth, Fraser, A. Allen, Jaeggi and others. Prerequisite: Directed Studies or two or more advanced courses in modern political philosophy.  

* **PLSC 310a / EDST 312a / HIST 423a / HUMS 221a, Idolizing Education**  Mordechai Levy-Eichel  
This course is an iconoclastic introduction to the study of education. Besides examining the purposes and practice of education and learning across a wide variety of times and places, the course examines the study of education today in order to see what can be gained from a skeptical approach to the subject. Particular emphasis is placed on the origins and development of the research university.  

* **PLSC 311a / EP&E 380a, Bioethics, Politics, and Economics**  Stephen Latham  
Ethical, political, and economic aspects of a number of contemporary issues in biomedical ethics. Topics include abortion, assisted reproduction, end-of-life care, research on human subjects, and stem cell research.  

* **PLSC 318a, Lincoln’s Statecraft and Rhetoric**  Steven Smith  
Close reading of major speeches and letters by Abraham Lincoln, with a focus on his views concerning slavery, equality, and race in American society. The relation of words to deeds in Lincoln’s practice of statecraft; his place in the history and theory of statesmanship. The emergence of Lincoln’s thought from an engagement with views of the American founders; ways in which his vision of American democracy both drew upon and transformed the founders’ vision.  

* **PLSC 320b / EP&E 421b, Ethics, Law, and Current Issues**  Karen Goodrow  
Examination of how freedom of speech and bias influence the criminal justice system, focusing on wrongful convictions and administration of the death penalty. Understanding the role of potential bias at various levels and the competing interests of protecting speech, due process, and the innocent. Topics include limitations on speech, practical effects of speech, the efficacy of the death penalty, actual innocence, gender/race/economic bias and its effects on the justice system, as well as best practices for improving our sense of justice.
* PLSC 321b / GLBL 342b / HIST 482Jb, Studies in Grand Strategy I  Beverly Gage
The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. The spring term focuses on key moments in history that illustrate strategic thinking in action. During the summer, students undertake research projects or internships analyzing strategic problems or aspects of strategy. The following fall, students put their ideas into action by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.

* PLSC 335b / EDST 325b, What is Education For?  Bryan Garsten and Stephanie Nevin
Should we expect to be transformed by our education? Should education aim to produce certain sorts of workers, or citizens, or human beings? This course explores competing ideas about education’s public and private purposes. The course puts classic texts of political thought into conversation with contemporary literature and debates. Key moments in the history of American education serve as case studies, with special emphasis on Yale’s place in this history.

* PLSC 327a, Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy  Giulia Oskian and Isaac Nakhimovsky
This seminar explores key concepts in modern political philosophy. This term our thematic focus is on the relation between civil society and state institutions, as it has been conceptualized by political philosophy. Prerequisite: substantial course work in intellectual history and/or political theory. Appropriate for graduate students preparing for the political theory field exam.

* PLSC 331b, Individualism and Community: Tocqueville and J.S. Mill  Staff
Alexis de Tocqueville and John Stuart Mill were two of the most prominent liberal theorists and statesmen of the 19th century. They recognized that the modern era was to be democratic, and both sought a “new political science” to understand and guide “a world altogether new.” This course will compare their political philosophies, asking how each understood the relations between individualism and community, democracy and liberty, and citizenship and human flourishing.

PLSC 340a / S&DS 315a, Measuring Impact and Opinion Change  Joshua Kalla
This course introduces students to measuring impact. Political campaigns, marketers, governments, and non-profit organizations regularly try to produce opinion change through TV, radio, online ads, mail, and door-to-door canvassing. Are these efforts successful at producing opinion change? In this course, we learn how to use experiments and natural experiments to measure the impact of opinion change efforts, and how to be appropriately skeptical of findings that claim to measure impact. This course also teaches data analysis skills in R. Prerequisite: A prior statistics course at Yale (e.g., PLSC 425, S&DS 242) and programming experience in R. Enrollment limited; requires permission of the instructor.

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

PLSC 344a / EP&E 295a, Game Theory and Political Science  Ian Turner
Introduction to game theory—a method by which strategic interactions among individuals and groups in society are mathematically modeled—and its applications to political science. Concepts employed by game theorists, such as Nash equilibrium, subgame perfect equilibrium, and perfect Bayesian equilibrium. Problems of cooperation, time-consistency, signaling, and reputation formation. Political applications include candidate competition, policy making, political bargaining, and international conflict. No prerequisites other than high school algebra. Political Science majors who take this course may not count ECON 159 toward the major.

PLSC 346b / EP&E 231b / GLBL 180b, Game Theory and International Relations  Alex Debs
Introduction to game theory and its applications in political science and economics, with a focus on international relations. Standard solution concepts in game theory; case studies from important episodes in the history of international relations, including World War II, the Cuban missile crisis, and the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Recommended preparation: introductory microeconomics.

PLSC 349a, Visualization of Political and Social Data  Alexander Coppock
This course is an introduction to data visualization with a focus on political and social data. Our main textbook is The Visual Display of Quantitative Information by Edward Tufte, a foundational book that explores the history of data visualization and offers a perspective on how graphs should be constructed. We also learn from other visualization pioneers not included in Tufte’s review such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Florence Nightingale. Our secondary textbook is the ggplot2 book by Hadley Wickham, an indispensable resource for constructing statistical graphs in the programming language R. The main goal of the course is to help students to communicate both “what we know and why we think we know it” through excellent data visualization. Prerequisite: Introductory course in statistics and probability. Background familiarity with learning from random samples and the construction of confidence intervals is useful. Students do not need to know how to program in R as it will be covered extensively.

PLSC 351b / CPS/C 125b / S&DS 123b / S&DS 53b, YData: An Introduction to Data Science  John Lafferty and Elena Khusainova
Computational, programming, and statistical skills are no longer optional in our increasingly data-driven world; these skills are essential for opening doors to manifold research and career opportunities. This course aims to dramatically enhance knowledge and capabilities in fundamental ideas and skills in data science, especially computational and programming skills along with inferential thinking. YData is an introduction to Data Science that emphasizes the development of these skills while providing opportunities for hands-on experience and
practice. YData is accessible to students with little or no background in computing, programming, or statistics, but is also engaging for more technically oriented students through extensive use of examples and hands-on data analysis. Python 3, a popular and widely used computing language, is the language used in this course. The computing materials will be hosted on a special purpose web server. QR

* PLSC 352a / PLSC 532a, Mixed Methods Research Elizabeth Nugent
This course is intended as an overview for creating and critiquing sophisticated research designs using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies and data. The course begins with fundamental definitions and assumptions underpinning mixed methods research, and then moves on to analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of specific combinations of quantitative tests, case studies, and narrative and interpretive work. Next, the course discusses the research design choices of two award-winning books using mixed methods research, and 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. This course is ideal for upper level undergraduates who are interested in learning more about designing and carrying out mixed methods research in seminar papers, senior essays, and independent research projects. SO

* PLSC 355b / S&DS 314b, Introduction to Causal Inference Winston Lin
Introduction to causal inference with applications to the social and health sciences. Topics include randomized experiments, matching and propensity score methods, sensitivity analysis, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity designs. Mathematical problems, data analysis in R, and critical discussions of published applied research. Prerequisite: S&DS 242 and some programming experience in R. QR

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

PLSC 357a / EAST 310a / GLBL 309a, The Rise of China Daniel Mattingly
Analysis of Chinese domestic and foreign politics, with a focus on the country's rise as a major political and economic power. Topics include China’s recent history, government, ruling party, technology, trade, military, diplomacy, and foreign policy. SO

* PLSC 358b / PLSC 722b, Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems Andrea Aldrich
This course explores democratic representative through political parties around the world and the effects of electoral systems on party system development. In doing so, 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: It is helpful, although not mandatory, to have taken Intro to American Politics and Intro to Comparative Politics. A course on research design in the Social Sciences is also helpful. SO

* PLSC 361a, 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 is considered. SO

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

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

* PLSC 374b / ECON 449b / EP&E 244b, The Economic Analysis of Conflict Gerard Padro
Introduction to the microeconomic analysis of internal conflict. In particular, how conflict imposes economic costs on the population and how people react to conflict. Topics include the correlates of war; the economic legacies of conflict on human capital, local institutions, households’ income, and firm performance; and the causes and impacts of forced displacement. Prerequisites: Intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. SO

* PLSC 375a / GLBL 215a / LAST 386a / MGRK 237a / SOCY 389a, Populism Paris Aslanidis
Investigation of the populist phenomenon in party systems and the social movement arena. Conceptual, historical, and methodological analyses are supported by comparative assessments of various empirical instances in the US and around the world, from populist politicians such as Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, to populist social movements such as the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street. SO

* PLSC 377b / PLSC 772b / SAST 344b / WGSS 397b, Political Economy of Gender in South Asia Sarah Khan
This course focuses on the political and economic underpinnings and implications of gender inequality in South Asia. We draw on evidence from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India to guide our theoretical and empirical inquiry into the following broad questions: What is gender, and what approaches do social scientists use to study gender inequality? How does gender inequality manifest in different social, economic, and political spheres e.g. the household, the labor market, the electorate, the government? What are the cultural and structural drivers of gender inequality? How effective are different approaches to tackling gender inequality in South Asia? Previous course work in statistical data analysis is helpful, but not required. SO
PLSC 391b / EP&E 302b / GLBL 259b / HIST 469Jb, State Formation  Didac Queralt
Study of the domestic and international determinants of functional states from antiquity to date. Analysis of state-formation in Europe in pre-modern and outside Europe from colonial times to date. Topics include centralization of power, capacity to tax, and contract enforcement.

PLSC 392a, Comparative Constitutionalism and Legal Institutions  Steven Calabresi
Introduction to the field of comparative constitutional law. Constitutional texts, materials, and cases drawn primarily from those constitutional democracies that are also members of the Group of Twenty Nations and that respect judicial independence.

PLSC 396b / MMES 364b, Politics of the Contemporary Middle East  Elizabeth Nugent
This course is an overview of contemporary politics of the Middle East, and is organized thematically and (more or less) chronologically. We examine prominent explanations for the democratic deficit in the Middle East, and challenge the notion that the region is completely devoid of competitive and meaningful politics. We also explore the ways in which a variety of factors—including foreign intervention, persistent authoritarianism, oil, and Islam, among others—has affected domestic politics. We consider different aspects of domestic politics, including redistribution, gender politics, and public opinion. We end the course by building on what we learned to make sense of the 2010-2011 'Arab Spring' uprisings, in an effort to understand whether these developments mark change or continuity.

PLSC 398b / EP&E 257b, Comparative Political Economy  Frances McCall Rosenbluth
Introduction to issues in political economy across time and place. The field’s diverse theoretical underpinnings and its place in the context of political science and of the social sciences more generally; theoretical perspectives such as materialism, institutionalism, and cognition/culture/beliefs; interactions between government and the economy in democratic and nondemocratic regimes and in developed and developing countries. Enrollment limited to senior Political Science majors.

PLSC 399b / EP&E 257b / LAST 251b, Political Power and Inequality in Latin America  Ana De La O
Overview and analysis of politics in Latin America. The emergence of democracy and the forces that led to the unprecedented increase in inequality in the twentieth century. Topics include institutional design, historical legacies, corruption, clientelism, and violence.

PLSC 408b, Human Rights, Law and Politics in Contemporary Russia  Staff
The seminar is designed to give a broad understanding of the lines of theorizing and types of research that animate the study of human rights issues and human rights mobilizations in post-soviet Russia. Acquainting students with academic research in history, sociology, anthropology and political science on the matter, the seminar seeks to analyze these topics going beyond media portrayals of Russian society and binary oppositions that often structure narratives of Post-soviet social and political reality (state vs. civil society, rule of law vs. kangaroo justice, democracy vs. authoritarianism, repression vs. resistance). This course analyzes how “human rights” have been constructed—as a cause, as a discourse, as a legal and institutional framework—since the Soviet dissident movement, then in the 1990s and 2000s, until today, when “human rights” have become a dominant frame on a number of very heterogeneous issues for media and activists denouncing the political regime in Putin’s Russia. It pays particular attention to the sociology of actors, as well as to historical, political and social conditions of emergence and development of human rights mobilizations. The course also focuses on various empirical case studies on highly mediitized human rights issues: political prisoners, protest-related trials, women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, prison and penitentiary institutions. These case studies provide students with a broader empirical knowledge on contemporary Russian society, and serve as a magnifying glass, as they highlight complex dynamics of Russian politics and law in the last thirty years.

PLSC 410a, Political Protests  Maria Jose Hierro
The 2010s was the “decade of protest,” and 2019 capped this decade with an upsurge of protests all over the world. In 2020, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the US is witnessing the broadest protests in its history. What are the roots of these protests? Under what conditions does protest start? Why do people decide to join a protest? Under what conditions do protests succeed? Can repression kill protest movements? Focusing on recent protest movements across the world, this seminar addresses these, and other questions related to the study of political protest.

PLSC 412a / PLSC 780a, Law & Society in Comparative Perspective  Staff
This advanced seminar is about the functions of law across historical, political, and cultural contexts. We discuss what is law, why people obey the law, and how do societies govern themselves in the absence of strong state legal institutions. The class explores the relationship between law and colonialism, the functioning of law under the authoritarianism and democracy, and in conflict-ridden societies.

PLSC 415a / EP&E 241a / SOCY 172a, Religion and Politics in the World  Katharine Baldwin
A broad overview of the relationship between religion and politics around the world, especially Christianity and Islam. Religions are considered to constitute not just theologies but also sets of institutions, networks, interests, and sub-cultures. The course’s principal aim is to understand how religion affects politics as an empirical matter, rather than to explore moral dimensions of this relationship.

PLSC 417b / EDST 282b, Comparative International Education  Mira Debs
Around the world, education is one of the central institutions of society, developing the next generation of citizens, workers and individuals. How do countries balance these competing priorities? In which ways do countries converge on policies, or develop novel approaches to education? Through the course, students learn the a) impact of colonialism on contemporary education systems, b) the competing tensions of the demands of citizen and worker and c) how a variety of educational policies are impacted around the world and their impact on diverse populations of students. EDST 110 Foundations in Education Studies recommended.
PLSC 423a / EP&E 243a / GLBL 336a / LAST 423a, Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation  
Ana De La O
Overview of classic and contemporary approaches to the question of why some countries have done better than others at reducing poverty. Emphasis on the role of politics.  
SO

PLSC 431a or b / GLBL 289a or b / HIST 245a or b, War and Peace in Northern Ireland  
Bonnie Weir
Examination of theoretical and empirical literature in response to questions about the insurgency and uneasy peace in Northern Ireland following the peace agreement of 1998 which formally ended the three-decade long civil conflict known widely as The Troubles and was often lauded as the most successful of its kind in modern history. Consideration of how both the conflict and the peace have been messier and arguably more divisive than most outside observers realize.  
SO

PLSC 430b / GLBL 263b, Challenges of Young Democracies  
Ana De La O
Challenges faced by young democracies, such as organizing free and fair elections, controlling government corruption, building an accountable system of governance, sustaining development, and curtailing conflict and violence. Factors that lead to the consolidation of democratic politics or to stagnation and a return to nondemocratic political systems.  
SO

PLSC 444a / EAST 344a / EP&E 316a, Governing China  
Daniel Mattingly
Study of the politics of contemporary China, with a focus on recent research. Topics include elite politics, technology, economic growth, trade, repression, propaganda, protest, the military, and foreign policy.  
SO

PLSC 445a / GLBL 244a, The Politics of Fascism  
Lauren Young
Study of the rise of fascism in Europe in the 1930s and its deployment during the Second World War as a road map to understanding the resurgence of nationalism and populism in today’s political landscape, both in Europe and the United States.  
SO

PLSC 450b / GLBL 341b, The Geopolitics of Democracy  
Staff
The threats to liberal democracy are being widely debated, from the US and Europe to developing nations. In order for democracy to continue to thrive as the cornerstone of Western governance, it must adapt and be relevant to citizens of the 21st century. This course examines our appreciation of what constitutes democracy today and how to apply those understandings to the challenges of the 21st century. Our discussions look at the characteristics of democratic leaders and debate whether America, the bulwark of liberal democracy in the 20th century, is still an exporter of democracy and how that matters in today’s world. We then look at how to protect and adapt democratic institutions such as free elections, civil society, dissent, and the free press in the face of a rising wave of populism and nationalism. The course examines how refugee crises from conflict regions and immigration impact democracies and debate the accelerating paradigm shifts of income inequality and technology on democratic institutions. We conclude the course with a discussion of the forms of democratic governance that are meaningful in the 21st century and the practicalities of designing or reforming democratic institutions to confront current challenges.  
SO

PLSC 452a / EP&E 203a / S&DS 102a, Introduction to Statistics: Political Science  
Jonathan Reuning-Scherer and Kelly Rader
Statistical analysis of politics, elections, and political psychology. Problems presented with reference to a wide array of examples: public opinion, campaign finance, racially motivated crime, and public policy.  
QR

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

PLSC 454b / EVST 454b, Data Science for Politics and Policy  
Fredrik Sävje
Data plays an increasingly important role in policy making and politics. The ability to draw valid conclusions from quantitative information can tilt elections or be the difference between a successful or failed policy. This course teaches how to use tools from statistics, data science, and machine learning to solve problems and challenges faced in policy making and politics. Students learn how data can help people make campaign decisions, detect election fraud, predict election outcomes, and investigate if a policy had the intended effect. Students receive an introduction to statistical programming in R, supervised and unsupervised machine learning, and causal inference.  
QR, SO

PLSC 455a, Big Data, AI, and Political Science: Applications to Russian Politics  
Anton Sobolev
This cross-disciplinary course focuses on two broad questions. First: how do politicians use new technologies to influence politics? Second: how do scholars use new technologies to study politics? It uses Russia as a laboratory to explore these questions. The course consists of four parts. It starts with a review of contemporary Russia and pays attention to the quantitative studies of its economy and politics. Next, the course provides a non-technical introduction to Big Data and AI algorithms. Finally, it outlines the applications of the new technologies to the study of Russian politics. Prerequisites: A prior Yale statistics course (e.g., PLSC 425, S&DS 242); programming experience in R. A course on research design in the social sciences is helpful, but not required.  
QR, SO

PLSC 458a / AFST 304a / MMES 304a, Modern North Africa in Flux  
Study of the politics of modern North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and to a limited degree, Libya and Mauritania), including colonialism; state-formation and early nationalism; the cultivation of authoritarian regimes; modern authoritarian politics; civil-military relations; democratization; civil society; protest, dissent, social and movement mobilization; oil and rentierism; Islamism and the politics of religion; linkages to the Mashreq; and the dynamics of foreign intervention. Readings and approach to politics are cross-disciplinary, integrating political science, anthropological, historical, religious, as well as gender/race studies.
PLSC 463b, 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, economy, sociology, psychology and political science) to understand the power of nationalism in the world today.

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

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

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

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

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

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