POLITICAL SCIENCE (PLSC)

* 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 Constitutionality: 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 031a / EDST 031, Child, Family, and State  William Garfinkel
This course explores the allocation and exercise of authority over children and examines in detail significant situations in which children, parents, and their advocates encounter the legal system. We look at many issues from a historical perspective. Topics include the police power of the state, eugenic legislation, child abuse and neglect, the legal status of fetuses, the law of privacy, ethical and legal issues in pediatric and reproductive medicine, juvenile justice, child pornography and exploitation, and children’s rights and restrictions on children’s liberty in school and the society at large. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  so

* PLSC 035b / HIST 025b / HUMS 035b, The American Death Penalty  Lincoln Caplan
This first-year seminar focuses on the U.S. Supreme Court’s 44-year experiment in regulating the American death penalty. The aims of the course are to have students learn about the workings and history of the system of capital punishment in the U.S., which is one of the most controversial elements of American criminal justice, and decide whether, in their view, the experiment is succeeding or failing – why and how. For students interested in the criminal justice system. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  so

* PLSC 038b / ANTH 021b, Memorialization of Mass Atrocities in the Digital Age  David Simon
This seminar explores the means, methods, and meaning of digitization of memorialization of mass violence. Along the way, we address a series of questions, such as “How has digitization changed the way in which violent pasts are represented, shared, and remembered?”, “How do the means of memorialization influence what gets remembered?”, “What advantages and what risks does digital media pose for the project of memorialization?”, “How can digital technology be used and perhaps misused in the service of memorialization?”, “In what directions and to what consequences can we expect memorialization to move in the future, in light of technological change?” The course is premised on the notion that memorialization is a key project that allows individuals, communities, and societies to process episodes of mass violence in their own current or even distant pasts.  so

PLSC 111b / GLBL S268Eb / 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  Amir Fairdosi
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  Giulia Oskian
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 116b, Comparative Politics: States, Regimes, and Conflict  Ana De La O
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 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.

* 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.

PLSC 130b / GLBL 260b, Nuclear Politics  
Alex Debs
The pursuit, use, and non-use of nuclear weapons from the Manhattan Project to the present. The effect of the international system, regional dynamics, alliance politics, and domestic politics in the decision to pursue or forgo nuclear weapons. The role of nuclear weapons in international relations, the history of the Cold War, and recent challenges in stemming nuclear proliferation.

* PLSC 135b / AFST 135b, Media and Conflict  
Graeme Wood
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 137b / GLBL 274b, 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.

* PLSC 138b / MGRK 236b / SOCY 221b, 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.

PLSC 148b / HMRT 100b, Theories, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights  
Jim Silk
Introduction to core human-rights issues, ideas, practices, and controversies. The concept of human rights as a philosophical construct, a legal instrument, a political tool, an approach to economic and equity issues, a social agenda, and an international locus of contestation and legitimation. Required for students in the Multidisciplinary Academic Program in Human Rights.

PLSC 149a / EVST 292a / GLBL 217a, Sustainability: Environment, Energy, and the Economy in the 21st Century  
Daniel Esty
Sustainability as a guiding concept for addressing twenty-first century tensions between economic, environmental, and social progress. Using a cross-disciplinary set of materials from the “sustainability canon,” students explore the interlocking challenges of providing abundant energy, reducing pollution, addressing climate change, conserving natural resources, and mitigating the other impacts of economic development.

* PLSC 161a, 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 173a / GLBL 216a, Democracy Promotion and Its Critics  
Sarah Bush
A seminar on the history, justifications, and various forms of democracy promotion—and their controversies. Topics include foreign aid, election observers, gender, international organizations, post-conflict development, revolutions, and authoritarian backlash.

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.

PLSC 182a / GLBL 236a, The Politics of International Law and Cooperation  
Tyler Pratt
This course focuses on the political processes and institutions that facilitate cooperation among states. Students examine the obstacles to cooperation in the international arena, the reasons for the creation of international laws and institutions, and the extent to which such
institutions actually affect state policy. Students also explore the tension between international cooperation and concerns about power, state sovereignty, and institutional legitimacy. Course materials draw from a variety of substantive issues, including conflict prevention, trade, human rights, and environmental protection.

* PLSC 185b, Challenges to International Order  
Tyler Pratt
At the end of World War II, states crafted a set of rules, institutions, and organizations to limit conflict and promote cooperation. Seventy-five years later, the "liberal international order" is showing serious signs of wear. This course examines a range of historical and contemporary challenges to international order.

PLSC 186b / GLBL 203b, 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  
Dawn Brancati
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.

* PLSC 193a / GLBL 218a / MMES 318a, Security in North Africa and the Middle East  
Nizar Messari
This course explores the debates about regional security in North Africa and the Middle East, mainly from a critical security perspective. Traditional and non-traditional security challenges are discussed throughout the semester. The state is presented as much of a subject of security as a subject of insecurity for individuals and groups of people. This is to say that security here is not state-centered. North Africa and the Middle East are mostly dealt with separately, with very few exceptions.

* PLSC 209a / HIST 167Ja, Congress in the Light of History  
David Mayhew
This course begins by studying analytic themes, including congressional structure, incentives bearing on members and parties, conditions of party control, supermajority rules, and polarization, followed by narrative works of major political showdowns entailing Congress such as those in 1850, 1876-77, 1919 (defeat of the Versailles Treaty), 1937 (defeat of court-packing), 1954 (the McCarthy-Army hearings), 1964 (civil rights), 1973-74 (Watergate), and 1993-94 (defeat of health care). Students also examine a series of policy performances, for the better or the worse in today's judgments, ranging from early state-building through reacting to the Great Depression, constructing a welfare state, and addressing climate change. This is a reading course and does not accommodate senior essays.

* PLSC 210a, 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 212a / EP&E 390a / EVST 212a, Democracy and Sustainability  
Michael Fitos
Democracy, liberty, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Concepts include institutional analysis, democratic consent, property rights, market failure, and common pool resources. Topics of policy substance are related to human use of the environment and to U.S. and global political institutions.

* PLSC 215b / EVST 255b / F&ES 255b / GLBL 282b, Environmental Law and Politics: Global Food Challenges  
John Wargo
We explore relations among food, environment, health, and law. We consider global-scale avoidable 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 216a, Money in American Politics  
Jacob Hacker
This course offers students an opportunity to do hands-on research on the role of money in shaping American politics and policy at the national, state, and local levels. Students assimilate existing research and theories and identify opportunities for new research and theories, and then carry out this original work in a collaborative setting. Topics include campaign finance, the role of "dark money," lobbying, interest groups, the influence of employers, and the role of philanthropies and foundations. This course requires sufficient prior coursework in political science to grasp high-level concepts and research. Prior coursework on social science methods is preferable but not required. Above all, it requires a passion for conducting new research.

* PLSC 223a / EDST 223a, Learning Democracy: The Theory and Practice of Civic Education  
Amir Fairdossi
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 244a, Political Leadership**  Stephen Skowronek
Examination of political leadership as both a concept and a practice. Survey of classic works by Machiavelli, Carlyle, Weber, Lenin, and Schumpeter. Consideration of the difference between transformational leadership and transactional leadership, and between executive leadership and reform leadership. Issues include the conundrum of "democratic leadership" and the role of narrative in leadership.  

* **PLSC 228a / EP&E 306a, 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.  

**PLSC 23b, 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.  

* **PLSC 236b, Presidential Campaigns and the Media**  Walter Shapiro
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.  

* **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.  

* **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 puts them into practice. Journalists who cover education are frequent guests.  

* **PLSC 247a / AMST 245a / ENGL 246a, The Media and Democracy**  Joanne Lipman
In an era of "fake news," when mainstream media is attacked as the "enemy of the people" and social platforms are enabling the spread of misinformation, how do journalists hold power to account? Students explore topics including objectivity versus advocacy, and hate speech versus First Amendment speech protections. Case studies will span from 19th century yellow journalism to the media's role in #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter movements.  

* **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.  

* **PLSC 256b / EP&E 248b, American Political Institutions**  Michael Fotos
The origins and development of American political institutions, especially in relation to constitutional choice and the agency of persons seeking freedom, equality, and self-governing capabilities as a driver of constitutional change. Key concepts include: American federalism, compound republic, citizenship, social movements, racial justice, and nonviolence.  

**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.
PLSC 262b / AMST 209b / ER&M 223b, 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.  

PLSC 263b / AFAM 164b / URBN 304b, The Politics of “The Wire”: HBO’s Portrayal of the American City  Allison Harris
This class uses HBO’s groundbreaking series “The Wire” to investigate cities, their problems, and their politics. We watch all five seasons of the show as social scientists and use it to learn about important social scientific concepts and theories, and apply those theories to such phenomena as the politics of crime, policing, and local elections. Each week, the assigned readings—articles and book excerpts from political science as well as other social sciences—highlight the social scientific concepts displayed in the assigned episodes and provide context for lectures. All of the assignments work together to expose students to social science, how social science is conducted, and how political science can help us better understand the world around us.  

* PLSC 260a / AMST 427a / WGSS 427a, Politics of Gender and Sexuality in the United States  Dara Strolovitch
The 2016 Presidential election made clear that gender matters a great deal in American politics, but it also revealed that how gender matters is far from obvious. This course explores the ways in which gender and sexuality shape and are shaped by American politics and public policy. We explore the history, findings, and controversies in research about gender and sexuality in American politics from a range of approaches, examining what political science research helps us understand about questions such as: Does gender influence political campaigns and whether people will vote for particular candidates? Once elected, are gender and sexuality related to legislators’ behavior in office? How are norms related to race, class, gender, and sexuality reflected in and constructed by public policy? We also explore feminist, queer, and intersectional theories and methodologies and important work from other disciplines and interdisciplines, paying particular attention to the implications of intersectionality for understanding gender, sexuality, and politics. We also analyze the ways in which gender and sexuality intersect with other politically salient categories, identities, and forms of marginalization, including race, ethnicity, class, and ideological and partisan identification, paying particular attention to their implications for the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections.  

* PLSC 271b, Policymaking 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 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.  

* PLSC 275a / AMST 487a, The Rise of “Presidentialism” in the United States  Stephen Skowronnek
This course is about the rise and makeshift character of “presidentialism” in the United States. It will examine 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; 2) institutional power: in control of the executive branch, military command, and war making. Readings will delve into cases in which each of these sources of power figured prominently. In every particular, the seminar will consider the strains that this power has put on the constitutional frame. For advanced undergraduates, or by permission  

PLSC 277b, 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 and citizens vote on their congressional representatives? And how do they vote? For advanced undergraduates, or by permission  

* PLSC 282a / AFAM 247a / HUMS 216a, Democracy and Race in America: Thinking with Tocqueville and Du Bois  Giulia Oskian and Vatsal Naresh
Racial and economic inequalities have remained unresolved problems in American democracy since independence. For this reason, both historian Eric Foner and poet Amanda Gorman recently claimed that American democracy is still unfinished. To what extent and in what ways could pre-civil war America be considered democratic? What challenges did the democratic project face in the aftermath of the civil war and slave emancipation? How do these challenges still influence the American political life? This seminar addresses these questions with the two classical texts that are rarely read together: Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America and W. E. B. Du Bois’s Black Reconstruction in America.  

* 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.  


* **PLSC 295b, 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 statescraft 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 statescraft.  

* **PLSC 297a / EP&E 312a, Moral Choices in Politics**  Boris Kapustin

**PLSC 298b / WGSS 207b, Gender, Justice, Power, Institutions**  Joseph Fischel
Examination of how inequalities based on gender, race, caste, class, sexuality as well as a host of other identities are embedded in institutions that make up our social world. From the family and the home to the workplace, from the University, and the Corporation, to the Military and Media, we track how inequalities emerge and are sustained by power and institutional structures. We also see how they are challenged and what sorts of instruments are needed to challenge them. In particular, we focus on sexual politics and sexual violence as a key issue to understanding the gendered workings of institutions, in order to examine structures that sustain inequality. Through the semester, we hope to consider many domains of life—bedrooms and boardrooms, international borders and feminist movements—to understand the stubborn and sticky forms and hierarchies of power that are challenged and contested by activists, scholars, and communities.  

* **PLSC 301a / HUMS 363, Machiavelli and Machiavellianism**  Steven Smith
Machiavelli remains the most widely discussed and debated figures in the Western political canon. This course offers a close reading of this 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. Prerequisites: DS, Intro to Political Philosophy, or some familiarity with Early Modern Intellectual History.  

This seminar is intended to provide frameworks for the analysis of ethical issues that may arise in the context of 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 nonviolent in politics.  

* **PLSC 312a, Punishment**  Alexander Rosas
This course is about punishment. The power of the state to restrict freedom, to impose pain, even death, and to mark one as ‘criminal’ is remarkable, and this course interrogates the theories that underlie that power. In what cases and for what reasons should the state have the power to punish, and where should the moral and legal limits on that power lie? What should the goals of punishment be, and which forms of punishment align most closely with them? What is the nature and desired role of vengeance and mercy in determining whether, when, and how to punish? What obligations should a society have to punish but also to those whom it punishes? Should the state have the power to shame and humiliate? What does punishment reveal about society more broadly? This course considers these and other related questions primarily through works in political and legal theory, but it also takes an interdisciplinary approach and elaborates and evaluates the theoretical materials through a discussion of numerous legal and other case studies.  

* **PLSC 313a / 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 319a, Aristotle’s Political Thought**  Bryan Garsten
A careful reading of Aristotle’s *Nichomachean Ethics* and *Politics*, along with selected debates in the secondary literature. Consideration of Aristotle’s place in recent political theory.  

* **PLSC 320a / 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 324a / AFST 324a / EP&E 317a / HIST 368Ja, 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 329a / PHIL 436a, Democracy, Science, and Climate Justice  Helene Landemore-Jelaca

Why is democracy, the most common regime form around the world, so slow in handling the vital threat of climate change? What role do scientists play and should play in a democracy? How should we approach the question of climate and environmental justice both at the local level, where climate change and pollution have a differential impact on different socio-economic and racialized communities, and at the global level, where the countries and people most affected by climate change have the least say and the biggest culprits few incentives to change their ways? This course aims to explore the intersection of democratic theory, science, and climate and environmental justice from the perspective of an empirically-informed political philosophy.  SO

* PLSC 330b, Participatory Democracy  Amir Fairdosi

What does democracy look like without elections? In this class, we discuss the theory and practice of “participatory” forms of democracy (i.e. those that allow and encourage citizens to influence policy directly, rather than indirectly through elected representatives).  SO

* PLSC 332a / EP&E 299a / GLBL 299a, 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.  SO

* PLSC 337a / SOCY 304a, Social Science in Action  David Simon

What are the social sciences for? What role do they play in society? Do they have a political, ideological, or moral component? To what extent and how can they inform public policies, shape legal decisions, and influence the broader culture? How are they in turn influenced by extra-scientific actors controlling access to funding, education policy, and legal limitations to social research? How did the relations between the social sciences and society change over time and across countries? How are students and scholars in these fields different from other social groups and how do they relate to them? Are the social sciences traversed by the same fault lines that divide society at large? Drawing on historical, sociological, and philosophical scholarship, this course considers the social sciences as an object of study.  SO

PLSC 341b / GLBL 193b, 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.  QR, SO

PLSC 342b / EP&E 220b, Strategic Models of Politics  Milan Svolik

Introduction to formal political theory including application of rational choice and game theoretic analysis. Key topics and findings include: why voters vote in elections; how candidates choose platforms; why common resources tend to be overexploited; whether the state is needed for public good provision; how electoral systems shape politicians’ and voters’ behavior; whether voters can hold politicians accountable for their performance in office; how constitutions affect politicians’ incentives to compromise; and why countries fight wars.  SO

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.  QR, SO

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.  QR, SO

PLSC 351b / CPSC 123b / S&DS 123b / S&DS 523b, YData: An Introduction to Data Science  Ethan Meyers

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 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 policies; and economic, political, and geopolitical challenges. SO

PLSC 357b / EAST 310b / GLBL 309b, 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, 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 359b / ECON 340b, Economics and Politics of Development  
  Gerard Padro
  This course covers recent scholarship on the political economy of development. It starts with the study of macro-historical facts and moves on to micro issues, such as conflict and corruption. Prerequisite: Intermediate microeconomics and Econometrics (ECON 117 or equivalent).

* 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 369b / CPSC 210b, Power, Security, and Surveillance: Political Challenges of the Computer Age  
  Joan Feigenbaum
  Twenty-first century societies are faced with both threats and opportunities that combine sophisticated computation with politics and international relations in critical ways. Examples include cyber warfare; cyber espionage; cyber crime; the role of social media in democratic self-governance, authoritarian control, and election “hacking”; cryptocurrencies; and mass surveillance. This course examines the political challenges wrought by massive increases in the power of computational and communication technologies and the potential for citizens and governments to harness those technologies to solve problems. It is co-taught by one faculty member in computer science and one in political science. No previous programming experience required. Meets with CPSC 310. Students may earn credit for CPSC 210/PLSC 369 or for CPSC 310; not for both. Prerequisite: Internet literacy. SO

* PLSC 374b / ECON 449b / EP&E 244b, The Economic Analysis of Conflict  
  Gerard Padro
  Since the end of WWII the overwhelming majority of war casualties have been the result of internal conflict. This includes insurgency situations in which foreign powers prop up a weak internal government. In this course we apply microeconomic techniques, theoretical and empirical, to the analysis of internal conflict, its causes and consequences. Topics include forced migration, ethnic conflict, long-term consequences of war and individual choices to participate in violence. Readings comprise frontier research papers and students will learn to critically engage with cutting-edge research designs. 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 378a / AFAM 186a / LAST 214a / SOCY 170a, Contesting Injustice  
  Elisabeth Wood
  Exploration of why, when, and how people organize collectively to challenge political, social, and economic injustice. Cross-national comparison of the extent, causes, and consequences of inequality. Analysis of mobilizations for social justice in both U.S. and international settings. Intended primarily for freshmen and sophomores. SO

PLSC 382b, Introduction to Latin American Politics  
  Emily Sellars
  Introduction to major theories of political and economic change in Latin America, and to the political and economic systems of particular countries. Questions include why the continent has been prone to unstable democratic rule, why countries in the region have adopted alternatively state-centered and market-centered economic models, and, with the most recent wave of democratization, what the remaining obstacles might be to attaining high-quality democracy. SO

* PLSC 391a / EP&E 302a / GLBL 259a / HIST 460Ja, 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. SO
* **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 780, Law & 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 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 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 421a or b / GLBL 289a or b / HIST 245Ja 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.  

* **PLSC 422a, Russian Politics and Society**  Egor Lazarev

This course examines critical issues in Russian politics. We use historical and comparative approaches towards Russian political development. We analyze the transformations of political regime and state-society relations in post-Soviet Russia in comparative perspective. We focus on the political logic of economic reforms, influence of the oligarchs, governance, center-periphery relations, authoritarianism, nationalism, civil society, media, and foreign policy.  

* **PLSC 425a / MMES 290a / RLS 290a, Islam Today: Jihad and Fundamentalism**  Frank Griffel

Introduction to modern Islam, including some historical background. Case studies of important countries in the contemporary Muslim world, such as Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. Islam as a reactive force to Western colonialism; the ideals of Shari’a and jihad; violence and self-sacrifice; and Islam as a political ideology.  

* **PLSC 432b, Russian Politics and Society**  Maria Jose Hierro

Introduction to the study of ethnic and national identity, their determinants and consequences in comparative perspective.  

* **PLSC 438a, 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 is a sufficient prerequisite. Prior experience with R is helpful but not required.  

* **PLSC 442a / ECON 212a, 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: One year of calculus or intermediate microeconomics with calculus.  

* **PLSC 445a / GLBL 244a, The Politics of Fascism**  Lauren Young

The subject of this course is fascism: its rise in Europe in the 1930s and 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. The course begins with an examination of the historic debates around fascism, nationalism, populism, and democracy. It then moves geographically through the 1930s and 1940s in Europe, looking specifically at Weimar Germany, Vichy France, the rise of fascism in England in the 1930s, and how fascist ideology was reflected in Italy’s colonial ambitions during the Abyssinian War. The course examines fascism and the implementation of racial theory and the example of anti-Semitism as an ideological and political tool. It also
looks at the emergence of fascism in visual culture. The second part of the seminar turns to fascist ideology and the realities of today's political world. We examine the political considerations of building a democratic state, question the compromise between security and the preservation of civil liberties and look at the resurgence of populism and nationalism in Europe and the US. The course concludes by examining the role of globalization in contemporary political discourse.

* PLSC 450b / GLBL 341b, The Geopolitics of Democracy  
Lauren Young
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&D&S 102a, Introduction to Statistics: Political Science  
Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
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 461b / SAST 242b, 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. SO

* PLSC 463a, 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 464a, Immigration, Integration, and Multiculturalism in the West  
Salma Mousa
Do immigrants integrate? What determines the attitudes of native-born communities toward immigrants? Are immigrants good or bad for local economies? Does the presence of immigrants fuel far-right movements? Which policy tools encourage integration, and which can spur backlash? These are some of the questions we investigate together by reviewing the evidence base on immigration, integration, and multiculturalism. This course emphasizes research design and statistical methods for moving beyond correlations and toward understanding the causal effects of immigration and immigration policy.

* PLSC 466a / HIST 268Ja / J DST 351a / RLST 324a, The Global Right: From the French Revolution to the American Insurrection  
Elli Stern
This seminar explores the history of right-wing political thought from the late eighteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on the role played by religious and pagan traditions. This course seeks to answer the question, what constitutes the right? What are the central philosophical, religious, and pagan, principles of those groups associated with this designation? How have the core ideas of the right changed over time? We do this by examining primary tracts written by theologians, political philosophers, and social theorists as well as secondary literature written by scholars interrogating movements associated with the right in America, Europe, Middle East and Asia. Though touching on specific national political parties, institutions, and think tanks, its focus is on mapping the intellectual overlap and differences between various right-wing ideologies. While the course is limited to the modern period, it adopts a global perspective to better understand the full scope of right-wing politics.
* PLSC 468b, 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 100, 110, 123, 220, 230; PLSC 454, 500, 503, 504; ECON 136; EP&E 203, 209, or equivalents) are strongly recommended. Working knowledge of a statistical programming language (e.g., R, python, stata) is required.

* PLSC 471a, 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 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  Staff
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.