POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Political science addresses how individuals and groups allocate, organize, and challenge the power to make collective decisions involving public issues. The goal of the major is to enable students to think critically and analytically about the agents, incentives, and institutions that shape political phenomena within human society. The subfields of political philosophy and analytical political theory (which includes the study of both qualitative and quantitative methodology) support the acquisition of the lenses through which such thought skills can be enriched. The subfields of American government, comparative politics, and international relations, in turn, allow students to reinforce and refine those skills, while also promoting their application to a wide variety of contexts, whether contemporary or historical. Students may also construct interdisciplinary curriculums, which allows them to apply the approaches of the discipline to a topic for which a more complete understanding also involves approaches gleaned from other disciplines.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The standard B.A. degree program Twelve term courses in political science are required. Students must take at least two courses in each of any three of the department’s five fields—international relations, American government, political philosophy, analytical political theory, and comparative politics. Students expecting to major in Political Science are encouraged to take one or more introductory-level courses in the department early in their college careers. Introductory courses count toward the overall course requirement and toward the departmental fields requirement.

Students may also take courses related to political science that are offered by other departments. Students who elect the standard program may petition to count up to two such courses toward the major. Students may routinely count college seminars taught by members of the Political Science faculty toward the major, and they may petition to count one college seminar taught by an instructor outside the department. Students who have completed Directed Studies may, with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), count one term of DRST 005, 006 toward the major.

The standard B.A. degree program, interdisciplinary concentration Students majoring in Political Science may choose an interdisciplinary concentration, which allows them to identify and pursue an area of study that crosses conventional disciplinary and departmental boundaries. Examples of interdisciplinary concentrations include (but are not limited to) urban studies, health politics and policy, political economy, political psychology, or a focus on the politics of given global region informed by the study of the history and society of that region. Students choosing an interdisciplinary concentration are required to take twelve term courses toward the major. At least seven courses must be in the field of concentration. Of the courses counting toward the major outside of the field of concentration, at least two courses must be taken in each of any two of the department’s five fields. As many as three courses taken in other departments may be counted toward the major, with the permission of the DUS.

Students wishing to pursue the Political Science major with an interdisciplinary concentration must submit an application and meet with the DUS to discuss their proposed program of study. The application is due prior to the beginning of the November recess in the student’s final year of enrollment.

The intensive major The intensive major gives students an opportunity to undertake more extensive course work and research for the senior essay than is possible in the standard major. Requirements for the intensive major are identical to those for the nonintensive major (standard program or interdisciplinary concentration), with the following exceptions: (1) in the spring term of the junior year, intensive majors take PLSC 474 in preparation for writing a yearlong senior essay; (2) in the senior year, intensive majors fulfill the senior essay requirement by enrolling in the yearlong course sequence PLSC 490 and PLSC 493 (PLSC 490 also counts toward the senior seminar requirement); (3) a total of fifteen term courses is required.

Juniors wishing to pursue an intensive major must apply to the DUS by November 22, 2019. The application should contain: (1) the intensive major application form signed by a faculty adviser who has agreed to supervise the student for the final three terms of enrollment; (2) a plan of study that identifies the political science courses that will be taken in those three terms; and (3) a one-to-two-page description of the proposed senior essay.

Seminar preregistration Each term, the department provides all declared Political Science majors the opportunity to apply for preregistration to its seminars. Instructors of seminars may preregister up to twelve students per course, or up to eight students for multiple-titled courses. The maximum enrollment for each seminar is eighteen. Students may be preregistered in up to two seminars per term, although they may enroll in others if they obtain instructor permission during shopping week.

Seminar requirement Students majoring in Political Science are required to take at least two seminars taught by members of the Political Science department, including at least one during the senior year.

Credit/D/Fail Students may count up to two lecture courses taken Credit/D/Fail toward the major, which will count as non-A grades for purposes of calculating distinction. Seminars taken Credit/D/F will not count toward the major requirements, but will count as non-A grades for purposes of calculating distinction.

Roadmap See visual roadmap of the requirements.
SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Seniors in the major must complete a senior essay. The essay can be written either in one term or over both terms of the senior year. In order to graduate from Yale College, a student majoring in Political Science must achieve a passing grade on the senior essay. The senior requirement for the standard B.A. degree program with an interdisciplinary concentration is the same as for the standard program, with the provision that the essay must be written on a subject that falls within the field of concentration.

Senior essay The senior essay provides an appropriate intellectual culmination to the student’s work in the major and in Yale College. The essay should ordinarily be written on a topic in an area in which the student has previously done course work, and an effort should be made to demonstrate how the student’s work relates to broader topics, issues, and approaches within the discipline of political science. It should rest on extensive research that is appropriate to the subject matter. Essays are expected to be in the range of 25–30 double-spaced pages. At the beginning of the term in which the essay is written, students must have their senior essay topic approved by a faculty member who has agreed to advise them. Each student is expected to consult regularly with the seminar instructor or adviser and take the initiative in developing a plan of research, scheduling regular meetings, and submitting preliminary drafts for review.

One-term essays may be written either in a seminar or, with the approval of an adviser and the DUS, in PLSC 480. Senior essays written in the fall term are due on December 6, 2019. Spring-term and yearlong essays are due on April 21, 2020. More extensive information about the senior essay can be found on the department website.

Yearlong senior essay Students who wish to undertake a more extensive research project than is possible in a single term may fulfill the senior essay requirement by enrolling in the yearlong course sequence PLSC 490 and 491. PLSC 490 also counts toward the senior seminar requirement. In the fall term, students writing a yearlong senior essay develop a research prospectus for the essay and begin their research under the supervision of a member of the faculty who specializes in the area being investigated. In the spring term, students complete the essay. Yearlong senior essays are expected to be substantially longer than a regular term paper. While there is no fixed length, they are normally at least fifty pages long.

Majors who wish to enroll in the yearlong senior essay must apply for admission in the spring of their junior year. The deadline for the Class of 2021 is April 6, 2020. By that date, students should submit to the office of the director of undergraduate studies: (1) the yearlong senior essay prospectus form signed by a faculty adviser who has agreed to supervise the student during both terms of the senior year; and (2) a one- to two-page statement describing the research project. It is expected that no more than fifteen students will be admitted each year.

ADvising

The DUS and other members of the department can provide advice about departmental requirements, options within the major, requirements of two majors, study abroad, and other matters related to the major. Majors must secure written approval of their course selections each term from the DUS. All subsequent changes in a student’s major program must also be approved. Although advisers (beyond the DUS and the senior essay adviser) are not formally assigned, students are encouraged to seek advice from other departmental faculty members who are knowledgeable about their fields of interest. Information on faculty interests can be found on the department website.

Combined B.A./M.A. degree program Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may complete a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. See Academic Regulations, section K, Special Arrangements, "Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees.” Interested students should consult the DUS prior to the sixth term of enrollment for specific requirements in Political Science.

STUDY ABROAD

Students who study in a junior term abroad program or at another university during the summer may, with the approval of the DUS, count up to two courses toward the major. Students who study in a junior year abroad program may, with the approval of the DUS, count up to four courses toward the major. Students may also petition to have non-Yale courses that were not taught in political science departments count toward the major. Pending approval of the DUS, these courses will count toward the maximum number of substitutions.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

B.A. DEGREE, STANDARD PROGRAM

Prerequisites None
Number of courses Standard major—12 term courses; intensive major—15 term courses
Distribution of courses 2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2 PLSC sems, 1 in senior year
Substitution permitted 2 courses from other depts with DUS approval
Senior requirement 1-term senior essay in sem or in PLSC 480; or 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 491
Intensive major PLSC 474 in spring term of junior year; 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 493

B.A. DEGREE, INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

Prerequisites None
Number of courses Standard major with interdisciplinary concentration—12 term courses; intensive major with interdisciplinary concentration—15 term courses
**Distribution of courses** 7 courses in concentration; 2 courses in each of 2 of the 5 departmental fields; 2 PLSC sems, 1 in senior year

**Substitution permitted** 3 courses from other depts with DUS approval (2 courses from other depts with DUS approval for intensive major)

**Senior requirement** 1-term senior essay in sem or in PLSC 480; or 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 491; both options on subject within concentration

**Intensive major** PLSC 474 in spring term of junior year; 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 493 on subject within concentration

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**FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Professors** Bruce Ackerman, Akhil Amar, Seyla Benhabib, Paul Bracken, David Cameron, Benjamin Cashore, Bryan Garsten, Alan Gerber, Jacob Hacker, Oona Hathaway, Gregory Huber, Joseph LaPalombara (Emeritus), Jeffrey Macris (Visiting Professor), Isabela Mares, David Mayhew (Emeritus), Gerard Padro, Thomas Pogge, John Roemer, Susan Rose-Ackerman, Frances McCall Rosenbluth, Bruce Russett (Emeritus), James Scott, Ian Shapiro, Stephen Skowronek, Steven Smith, Milan Svolik, Peter Swenson, John Wargo, Ebonya Washington, Steven Wilkinson, Elisabeth Wood

**Associate Professors** Peter Aronow, Deborah Bein, Sarah Bush, Ana De La O, Alexandre Debs, Hélène Landemore, Jason Lyall, Karuna Mantena, Nuno Monteiro, Kelly Rader

**Assistant Professors** Katharine Baldwin, Daniela Cammack, Alexander Coppock, Allison Harris, John Henderson, Joshua Kalla, Sarah Khan, Christina Kinane, Daniel Mattingly, Elizabeth Nugent, Giulia Oskian, Tyler Pratt, Didac Queralt, Thania Sanchez, Fredrik Sävje, Emily Sellars, Ian Turner

**Senior Lecturers** Boris Kapustin, Steven Latham, David Simon

**Lecturers** Andrea Aldrich, Parich Aslanidis, Leanna Barlow, Steven Calabresi, John DeStefano, Amir Fairdosi, Michael Fotos, Thomas Graham, Maria Jose Hierro, Jane Karr, Brian Libgober, Nicholas Lotito, Nilakshi Panditgamage, Alexander Rosas, Walter Shapiro, Derek Slap, James Sleeper, Bonnie Weir, Graeme Wood

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**Introductory Courses**

* **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 111b / GLBL 268b, Introduction to International Relations** Nicholas Lotito
  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** Hélène Landemore
  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** David Simon
  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**

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**International Relations**

**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  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 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 140b / GLBL 381b, Strategy  Nuno Monteiro
The foundations, applications, evolution, and limits of strategy as a tool of statecraft, with an emphasis on military strategy. Reading of classical texts with a focus on Clausewitz’s On War in conjunction with contemporary works. Topics center on the sources and uses of power, the goals and tools of strategy, the role and dilemmas of leadership, and the uses and limitations of military force. The course is fundamentally conceptual and theoretical with historical examples used for illustrative purposes.  WR, SO

PLSC 141a / GLBL 279a, Global Governance  Yuriy Sergeyev
Examination of global policy problems, the acceleration of interdependence, and the role, potential, and limits of the institutions of global governance to articulate collective interests and to work out cooperative problem solving arrangements. Consideration of gaps in global governance and controversies between globalization and state sovereignty, universalism, and tradition.  SO

PLSC 144a / GLBL 293a, Sustainability in the Twenty-First Century: Environment, Energy, and the Economy  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.  SO

PLSC 148b / HMRT 100b, Theories, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights  Paul Linden-Retek
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.  SO

PLSC 152a / EP&E 245a, Global Firms and National Governments  Joseph LaPalombara
Interactions between large-scale firms that make international investments and policy makers and government officials in the “host” countries. National and subnational officials who work to attract investments (or not) and who set policies regulating global firms and their investments. Focus on less-developed countries. Theories as to why firms “globalize”; case studies of controversies created by overseas corporate investments; the changing economic landscape associated with investments by countries such as China, Brazil, and India.  SO

PLSC 154a / 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 162a, Japan and the World  Garrett Bredell
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.  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 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.

* PLSC 178a, U.S.–Mexico Relations  Emily Sellars
Introduction to U.S.–Mexico relations. Historical background on the bilateral relationship. Discussion of contemporary political issues, including trade, border security, the drug war, migration, agriculture, environmental issues, and energy policy.

PLSC 182b / GLBL 236b, 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. HO

PLSC 191b / PHIL 180b, Ethics and International Affairs  Thomas Pogge
Moral reflection taken beyond state boundaries. Traditional questions about state conduct and international relations as well as more recent questions about intergovernmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the design of global institutional arrangements. HU

American Government

PLSC 205a, Law, Leadership, and the Political Development of the American Presidency  Stephen Skowronek
Examination of the constitutional law, historical development, and current operations of the American presidency. Topics include formal powers, the organization and mobilization of popular support, the modern executive establishment, and the politics of presidential leadership. HO

* PLSC 209a / HIST 167a / PLSC 839a, 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. HO

* PLSC 210b, 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. HO

* PLSC 212a / EP&E 390a / EVST 212a, Democracy and Sustainability  Michael Fotos
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. WR, HO

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. HO

PLSC 215b / EVST 255b / F&ES 255b / GLBL 282b, Global Food Challenges: Environmental Politics and Law  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. HO

* PLSC 219b / EP&E 497b / EVST 247b, 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. HO
* PLSC 220a / PLSC S220 / WGSS 220a, Gender Politics Andrea Aldrich
Exploration of the theoretical and empirical work in political science to study the relationship between gender and politics in the United States and around the world. Topics include women’s representative in legislative and executive branch politics in democratic regimes; the impact of gender stereotypes on elections and public opinion; conditions that impact the supply and demand of candidates across genders; and the underrepresentation of women in political institutions.  WR, SO

* PLSC 223a / EDST 223a, 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.  SO

* PLSC 224b, 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.  WR, SO

* PLSC 225a, Ideas of Representation in American Political Development John Dearborn
This course explores ideas of representation in American political history and our contemporary politics. Topics are divided into six categories: the Founding and the Constitution, Congress and the Presidency, the national interest, partisan mobilization, identity, and contemporary challenges.  SO

* PLSC 226b, Congress: How Legislating Works John Dearborn
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, 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 233a, 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 235a, Political Journalism and Public Policy Derek Slap
The effects of political journalism on American public policy from 1960 to the present. Focus on changes in the media during the past few decades. The Dewey-Lippmann debate on the role journalism should play in politics, marketing in the 1968 presidential campaign, broadcast news and audience fragmentation in the 1970s, media dysfunction and the Clinton and Obama health care initiatives, the Internet, hyperpartisanship, media bias, and recent gun control initiatives.  SO

* 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 midst of 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, Policy, Politics, and Learning on the Education Beat 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 their impact on policy. Students learn to develop strong, marketable ideas while crafting features aimed at publication. Journalists on the K-12 beat are frequent guests.  WR, SO
* **PLSC 244a / SOCY 365a, The Making of Political News** Matthew Mahler
The processes through which political news gets made. How the form and content of political news are shaped in and through the ongoing relationships between political operatives and journalists; ways in which these actors attempt to structure and restructure such relationships to their benefit.  

* **PLSC 244b / RLST 118b, Biblical and Constitutional Interpretation in Dialogue** Maria Doerfler
How people read important books. Study of the strategies used throughout history to interpret two of the most authoritative texts: the bible and the U.S. Constitution. Different exegetes and exegetical communities continue to disagree on ways to read these books, and on how these readings should shape thought, practice, and national policy. Case studies include discussion of proper relations between civic and religious communities; the issue of slavery; and the topic of same-sex marriage. WR, HU

* **PLSC 244b / EP&E 324b, Journalism, Liberalism, Democracy** James Sleeper
The news media’s role in configuring the democratic public sphere, from the early synergy of print capitalism and liberalism through the corporate consolidation of mass media and the recent fragmentation and fluidity of “news.” Classical-humanist and civic-republican responses to these trends.  

* **PLSC 249a, American Mass Media: Law, Politics, and Policy** Brian Libgober
What role does mass media play in the American political system? What role should it play? How do legal and policy choices shape the media market? How do politicians respond to the media environment as they seek office? How can the public and interest groups use the media to get government to do what they want? These are some of the questions we shall grapple with in this course. We engage with the topic from a variety of academic and professional lenses, whenever possible highlighting cutting-edge empirical research.  

* **PLSC 252a / ENGL 467a, Journalism** Steven Brill
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.  

* **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.  

* **PLSC 262a / AMST 209a / ER&M 223a, 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 270a, Capitalism in America** Douglas Rae
This course offers an overview of the capitalist political economy which has structured life in the United States since colonial times. A major theme concerns the creation (and sometimes destruction) of wealth and income, along with their distribution across social classes, regions, and generations. Firms given substantial attention include Amazon, Google, Walmart, Merck, Tesla, and Ford Motors. Public institutions considered include the FDA, the NLRB, the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, and the Federal Trade Commission. None.  

* **PLSC 272b, Social Media and Politics** Adam Thal
Examination of how social media is shaping politics. Topics include the role of social media in elections, polarization, protest movements, racial and ethnic tension, and government censorship. We also consider whether or not the government should do more to regulate social media.  

* **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 retracting or antagonistic strategies by the state and federal governments, can be key platforms for future economic and social wealth creation.  SO

* PLSC 276b / SOCY 238b, Wrongful Convictions in Law and Politics  Nilakshi Parmidiagamage
This course will examine the problem of wrongful convictions and the various political and social factors that result in innocent people being convicted of serious crimes. Topics include eye-witness misidentifications, unreliable forensic science, false confessions, jailhouse informants, prosecutorial and law enforcement misconduct, race and gender, criminal justice reform, and varied approaches to wrongful convictions across the world.  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

Political Philosophy

* 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 284a / EP&E 330a, Capitalism, Commodification, and Business Ethics  Gregory Collins
For centuries, “business” activities—such as profit-making, capital investment, and trading—were seen with a distrustful eye by many members of society for prioritizing greed over virtue and religion. The aim of this course is to cast light on this tension in contemporary culture by critically examining the ethical dilemmas that arise from the interaction between capitalism and business actors in a liberal society. The chief question that guides our inquiry is how the incentive structure of market exchange encourages businesses to commodify social relations in a way that raises moral questions about the pursuit of profit. We begin by defining “ethics” and “business.” We then explore the traditional tensions between them in the history of political and economic thought by surveying a number of key thinkers that have drawn attention to the fraught relation between markets and morality. Next we address some of the important contemporary debates and controversies surrounding business ethics, including corporate social responsibility, sweatshops, outsourcing, public accommodations, and the use of consumer data. Each week introduces a new theme, but the intent is for the themes to flow logically throughout the course in a manner that integrates and synthesizes the prior week’s readings and discussion. We conclude by connecting our study of business ethics to our wider understanding of the proper role of business and capitalist enterprise in society as a whole.  SO

* PLSC 286a / HIST 286J / HIST 293Ja / HUMS 279a, 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 325b, Business Ethics and Law  Robin Landis
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.  SO

* PLSC 305b / EP&E 335b, 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.  SO

* PLSC 307a / HUMS 295a / JDST 223a, Trials of Uncertainty  Norma Thompson
Is the demise of the trial at hand? The trial as cultural achievement, considered as the epitome of humanistic inquiry, where all is brought to bear on a crucial matter in an uncertain context. Truth may be hammered out or remain elusive, but the expectation in the court case
has been that the adversarial mode works best for sorting out evidentiary conundrums. Inquiries into issues of meaning of the trial, its impartiality, and challenges to its endurability. The role of character, doubt, and diagnosis explored in Sophocles, Plato, Cicero, Burke, Jane Austen, Tocqueville, and Kafka, as well as in twentieth-century trials, films, documentaries, and twenty-first-century medical narratives. WR, HU

* PLSC 310a / EDST 312a / HIST 423j / 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. SO

* 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. SO

* 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. SO

* PLSC 314a / HUMS 351a, The American Imagination: From the Puritans to the Civil War Steven Smith and Anthony Kronman

Interdisciplinary examination of the uniqueness of the American experience from the time of the Puritans to the Civil War. Readings draw on major works of political theory, theology, and literature. HU

PLSC 317b / EP&E 315b, Constitutionalism Giulia Oskian

An introduction to the political philosophy of constitutionalism combined with a trans-historical and comparative study of constitution-making processes including the US, France, Mexico, Germany, Italy, and India.

* 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 Michael Brenes

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. HU, SO

* PLSC 327b, Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy Steven Smith

Advanced survey of modern political philosophy. Focus on democracy and inequality from Rousseau to Marx. The identity of the modern representative republic, the nature of capitalism or commercial society, and the relation between the two. Close analysis of the writings of Rousseau, Smith, and Marx. Prerequisite: substantive course work in intellectual history and/or political theory. HU, SO

* PLSC 334a / HIST 420ja / HUMS 237a, Liberalism Mordechai Levy-Eichel

What is liberalism? And why do arguments about it stand at the epicenter of our political life? Is it a political idea (and what are ideas in politics, anyways?), or is it a philosophy that tries to carve out a space apart from high politics – and is that even possible? Is it about rights, or about equality? Is it about freedom and liberty, or laws and regulations? (And why are these dichotomies anyways?) Is it ancient? Is it modern? Can we even define what liberalism means, or does the attempt to do so in some way even miss the point? This class is a historical, philosophical, and political examination of one of the most important and contested ideas in the modern world. We read both critics and advocates of liberalism. We also examine it historically, sociologically, and comparatively, in order to gain a better sense of what it means in practice, and how that differs from the theories of both some of it’s most strong supporters and defenders, and critics. Special attention is paid to the development of the ethos and examples of liberalism. This course is also be a meditation on how to study politics and political theory. What does liberalism mean, and how should we examine it? Where did it come from, and how has it changed over time? SO
* PLSC 337a, Imagining the Post-national Constitution: Sovereignty and Legitimacy Beyond the Nation-State  Paul Linden-Retek
This course is about the legitimacy of law in times of globalization. Contemporary forms of international governance interpret cosmopolitan norms, enforce basic human rights, and claim administrative authority beyond the nation-state. But can they do so legitimately? We explore this question and its implications for the protection of rights post-nationally—drawing on political philosophy, critical legal and social theory, history, socio-cultural studies, and ethics. Special focus is given to rival philosophical conceptions of sovereignty and law, genealogies of international institutions, hegemony and humanitarian intervention, the constitutional pluralism of the European Union, recent developments in the laws of the United States and the EU regarding immigration and right to asylum, and global debates on migration and decolonization. Prerequisite: One introductory political theory or philosophy course, or permission of the instructor.  so

* PLSC 338a / HIST 381Ja, Wahhabism: Politics, History, & Ethics  Jeffrey Macris
This course aims to explore the politics, history, and ethical claims of the Wahhabi Islamic movement, from its origins on the Arabian Peninsula in the 18th century to today.  so

Analytical Political Theory

PLSC 340a / S&DS 35a, 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.  QR

* 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.  QR

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 345b, Introduction to Research Design  Dawn Brancati
This course is strongly recommended as preparation for writing a year-long or one-term senior essay. Seniors may not write their senior essay within the course. Students learn in the course how to pose research questions, conceptualize and operationalize problems, draw hypotheses from theories, and test hypotheses using various methodologies. Students design their own research projects in the course.  so

Comparative Government

* PLSC 347b / EP&E 328b / S&DS 172b, YData: Data Science for Political Campaigns  Joshua Kalla
Political campaigns have become increasingly data driven. Data science is used to inform where campaigns compete, which messages they use, how they deliver them, and among which voters. In this course, we explore how data science is being used to design winning campaigns. Students gain an understanding of what data is available to campaigns, how campaigns use this data to identify supporters, and the use of experiments in campaigns. This course provides students with an introduction to political campaigns, an introduction to data science tools necessary for studying politics, and opportunities to practice the data science skills presented in S&DS 123, YData. Prerequisite: S&DS 123, which may be taken concurrently.  QR ½ Course cr

PLSC 351b / CPSC 123b / S&DS 123b / S&DS 523b, YData: An Introduction to Data Science  Jessi Cisewski-Kehe
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 politics; and economic, political, and geopolitical challenges.  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 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 367b, Contemporary Spanish Politics  Maria Jose Hierro
During the second part of 2017 and the first part of 2018, Spanish politics has been in turmoil. Today, a new central government is in power. What will be the consequences of this change in everyday Spanish politics? In this seminar, we consider contemporary problems in Spanish politics and we study these problems in comparative perspective. Topics include secession, transitional justice, corruption, terrorism, institutional crisis, and populism.  so

* PLSC 368a / PLSC 729a, Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism  Aysen Candas
The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the political science literature on two political regime types called authoritarianism and totalitarianism. These regime types are most frequently studied with reference to their systematized negation of liberalism, freedoms, equality, and democracy. This background on literature is followed with readings on the current regimes in Turkey, Russia, Hungary, and Poland to determine the similarities and differences of these new regimes from their forerunners in history and ends with reflections on the new “populisms.”  so

PLSC 369b / CPSC 210b, Power, Security, and Surveillance: Political Challenges of the Computer Age  Steven Wilkinson and 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 210/PLSC 269 or for CPSC 310; not for both. Prerequisite: Internet literacy.  so

PLSC 370b / EP&E 333b, Government-Business Relations in Comparative Perspective  John Kane
Perspectives on the proper role of the state with regard to economic management and development. Institutions and actors in government-business relations across different political systems explored in the context of significant international issues affecting business, including global environmental regulation, transnational corporate governance and globalization, and managing systemic crises.  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 firma performance; and the causes and impacts of forced displacement. Prerequisites: Intermediate microeconomics and econometrics.  so

* PLSC 376b / ER&M 376b / MGRK 304b / SOCY 307b, Extreme and Radical Right Movements  Paris Aslanidis
Extreme and radical right movements and political parties are a recurrent phenomenon found in most parts of the world. Discussion of their foundational values and the causes of their continuous, even increasing, support among citizens and voters.  so

PLSC 381b / AFST 381b, Government and Politics in Africa  Katharine Baldwin
The establishment and use of political power in selected countries of tropical Africa. The political role of ethnic and class cleavages, military coups, and the relation between politics and economic development.  so

* PLSC 385b / RSEE 385b / SOCY 349b, Contentious Politics and Political Mobilization in Post-Soviet Russia  Andrei Semenov
This course aims at exploring and discussing the patterns and trends in collective actions in post-Soviet Russia; it also aims at unraveling the interplay between contention and regime dynamics. Students examine the ebbs and flows of mobilization, its cross-temporal and cross-regional specifics, and its impact on the political processes. Russian language proficiency not required.  so

* 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.  so

* PLSC 398b / EP&E 233b, Comparative Political Economy  Frances Rosenbluth
Introduction to issues in political economy across time and place. The field’s diverse theoretical underpinnings and its place in the context of political science and of the social sciences more generally; theoretical perspectives such as materialism, institutionalism, and cognition/
culture/beliefs; interactions between government and the economy in democratic and non-democratic regimes and in developed and developing countries. Enrollment limited to senior Political Science majors.  

PLSC 400a / EP&E 340a / RSEE 400a, Legacies of Communism and Conflict in Europe  Andrea Aldrich
This course examines the challenges of democratic transition and consolidation in Europe in an exciting way using contemporary and historical political research, documentary and dramatic film, a non-fiction graphic novel, and in class debates. Together we explore political themes like authoritarianism, state collapse, nationalism, ethnic conflict, transitional justice, and democratic development through the turbulent political history of Southeastern Europe, which provides a solid theoretical foundation for the understanding of past and current events around the world.  

* PLSC 401a / AFST 400a / EP&E 499a, Democratic Politics and Public Policy in Contemporary Africa  Jeremy Seekings
Examination of how the resurgence of competitive, multi-party elections in Africa has reinvigorated democratic governance and transformed the process of public policy-making. Emphasis on the political landscape of public opinion and voting behavior; elections and political parties; the state and governance; as well as policy-making, with focus on economic and social policies.  

PLSC 403a / SAST 245a, Political Economy of Gender Inequality  Sarah Khan
This course focuses on the political and economic underpinnings and implications of gender inequality in comparative context. We draw on evidence from different cases (with a heavy skew towards the South Asia region) to guide our inquiry. The course introduces a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, patterns and predictions emerging from empirical research, and context-specific lessons.  

PLSC 405a / DEVN 198a / EP&E 329a / GLBL 444a / HIST 122a, Power and Politics in Today’s World  Ian Shapiro
A comparative study of power and politics since the Cold War. Topics include the decline of trade unions and increased influence of business; growing inequality and insecurity; changing attitudes towards democracy and authoritarianism; and the character and durability of the new international order. We start with the impact of the USSR’s collapse, both in former communist countries and the West, focusing on reordered relations among business, labor, and governments. Next we take up the Washington Consensus on free trade, privatization, and deregulation, and agendas to fight terrorism, prevent human rights abuses, and spread democracy. Then we turn to the backlash that followed the financial crisis, as technocratic elites lost legitimacy, the global war on terror became mired in quagmires, and humanitarian intervention and democracy-spreading agendas floundered. The new politics of insecurity is our next focus. We examine the populist explosions of 2016 and the politics to which they have given rise. This leads to a consideration of responses, where we discuss the policies most needed when congenital employment insecurity is going to be the norm, and the political reforms that would increase the chances of those policies being adopted. Introductory courses in twentieth-century European, American or global history, comparative politics, or political economy are helpful but are not required.  

* PLSC 406b / AFST 406b / GLBL 365b, Sexual Violence and War  Elisabeth Wood
Analysis of patterns of sexual violence in war. Assessment of how well scholars in various disciplines and policy analysts account for these patterns.  

* PLSC 409a / GLBL 261a, Civil Conflict  Bonnie Weir
Forms of civil conflict and political violence and theories about reasons for and implications of these types of violence. Natural and philosophical foundations of political violence; the potential roles of ethnicity, economic factors, territory, and political institutions and structures in the onset and dynamics of civil conflict; problems of conflict termination.  

* PLSC 410a, Political Protests  Maria Jose Hierro
The study of political protest, with discussion of theoretical approaches explaining the origin and decline of social movements and protest. Topics include the conditions under which individuals coordinate and start protest actions; what favors individual participation in protests; and when do protests succeed.  

* PLSC 415b / EP&E 241 / SOCY 172b, 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 420a / ANTH 406a / EVST 424a, Rivers: Nature and Politics  James Scott
The natural history of rivers and river systems and the politics surrounding the efforts of states to manage and engineer them.  

* 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.  

* PLSC 426a / GLBL 300a / MMES 353a, Rebellion, Repression, and Revolution: A Comparative Approach to the Arab Uprisings  Louis Wasser
This course applies a comparative lens to the so-called "Arab Spring" uprisings beginning in late 2010. After establishing a baseline level of knowledge regarding the Arab World for all students, we explore the dynamics of these recent uprisings—including different patterns of opposition across the region, the actions of both revolutionary and counterrevolutionary forces, and the varied outcomes of these rebellions in different Arab states.
PLSC 427a / GLBL 353a / WGSS 429a, Sex, Markets, and Power  Frances Rosenbluth
Consideration of how women's socioeconomic status and political power have varied across time and place. Three analytical lenses are used: biology, markets, and power.  

* PLSC 428a / EP&E 240a / GLBL 333a, Comparative Welfare Policy in Developing Countries  Jeremy Seekings
Examination of public and private welfare systems in the developing world. Analysis of the evolving relationships between kin or community and states and market. Particular attention to the politics of contemporary reforms.  

* PLSC 431b / GLBL 289b / HIST 245jb, 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 433a / E&RS 513a, Comparative Politics of Eurasia  Navid Hassanpour
Comparative politics of democracy and dictatorship, political modernization, and development in Eurasia. Elements of political participation: electoral mobilization, turnout, and socioeconomic restructuring. Determinants of political (in)stability: institutions of electoral politics (presidential v. parliamentary politics), party formation and alliances, breakdown of political order and civil violence, logic of autocratic and democratic durability. Readings from classics of comparative politics and microlevel studies of political modernization with an emphasis on historical and contemporary trajectories in Europe and Asia. Open to juniors and seniors. Prerequisite: Introductory comparative politics course.  

* PLSC 434a, Media Freedoms and Journalism in De-Democratizing Countries  Aysen Candas
This course, grounding itself on the central role of the media freedoms and freedom of the press in keeping democracies accountable, seeks to highlight the ways in which the central role of journalism—and particularly investigative journalism—is challenged today.  

PLSC 435a / 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 437a / ER&M 206a / SOCY 223a, The Politics of Ethnic and National Identity  Maria Jose Hierro
Introduction to the study of ethnic and national identity, their determinants and consequences in comparative perspective.  

Statistical and Mathematical Methods

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.  

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

Advanced Courses

* 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 474a, 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  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.
* **PLSC 491b, 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.