POLITICAL SCIENCE

Director of undergraduate studies: David Simon, 115 Prospect St., 432-5236, david.simon@yale.edu; politicalscience.yale.edu/academics/about-undergraduate-program

Political science addresses how individuals and groups allocate, organize, and challenge the power to make collective decisions involving public issues. At Yale, the political science curriculum begins with the theoretical building blocks of the discipline, including political philosophy as well as both qualitative and quantitative methodology. With these tools in hand, faculty and students address a wide range of topics within political science, across five sub-fields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political philosophy, and analytical political theory. Students may also construct interdisciplinary curricula, which might be based, for example, on a specific policy realm or a regional focus.

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 government. Students expecting to major in Political Science should 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 are encouraged to 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 are urban studies, health politics and policy, political economy, political psychology, and global affairs. Students choosing such a 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 non-intensive 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 17, 2017. 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 one seminar 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.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Seniors in the major must complete a senior essay, as described under "Senior essay" below. 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. It should rest on extensive research that is appropriate to the subject matter. Essays are expected to be in the range of twenty-five to thirty 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 8, 2017. Spring-term and yearlong essays are due on April 24, 2018. More extensive information about the senior essay can be found on the department website. (http://politicalscience.yale.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-senior-essay)

**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 2019 is April 9, 2018. 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 director of undergraduate studies 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. Students are also 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 departmental website. (http://politicalscience.yale.edu/people/faculty)

**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 “Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees” under (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/special-arrangements)Special Arrangements (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/special-arrangements) in the Academic Regulations. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies 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

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<tr>
<th>Number of courses</th>
<th>Standard major—12 term courses; intensive major—15 term courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution of courses</td>
<td>2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2 PLSC sems, 1 in senior year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substitution permitted</td>
<td>2 courses from other depts with DUS approval</td>
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<tr>
<th>Senior requirement</th>
<th>1-term senior essay in sem or in PLSC 480; or 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 491</th>
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**Intensive major** PLSC 474 in spring term of junior year; 2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 493

**B.A. DEGREE, INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION**

**Prerequisites** None

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<th>Number of courses</th>
<th>Standard major with interdisciplinary concentration—12 term courses; intensive major with interdisciplinary concentration—15 term courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution of courses</td>
<td>7 courses in concentration; 2 courses in each of 2 of the 5 departmental fields; 2 PLSC sems, 1 in senior year</td>
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**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; 7 courses in concentration; 2 courses in each of 3 of the 5 departmental fields; 2-term senior essay in PLSC 490, 493 on subject within concentration

**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, Stathis Kalyvas, Joseph LaPalombara (*Emeritus*), David Mayhew (*Emeritus*), Thomas Pogge, Douglas Rae, John Roemer, Susan Rose-Ackerman, Frances Rosenbluth, Bruce Russett (*Emeritus*), James Scott, Ian Shapiro, Steven Skowronek, Steven Smith, Susan Stokes, Peter Swenson, John Wargo, Ebonya Washington, Steven Wilkinson, Elisabeth Wood

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

**Assistant Professors** Peter Aronow, Kate Baldwin, Deborah Beim, Daniela Cammack, Alexander Coppack, Allan Dafoe, John Henderson, Daniel Mattingly, Didac Queralt, Kelly Rader, Thania Sanchez, Fredrik Savje, Ian Turner

**Lecturers** Andrea Aldrich, Paris Aslanidis, Steven Calabresi, Aysen Candas, John DeStefano, Lucas Entel, Albert Fang, Michael Fotos, Alexandre Gajevic Sayegh, Andrew Gooch, Karen Goodrow, Thomas Graham, Stephen Hanson, Maria Jose Hierro, Cynthia Horan, Jolyon Howorth, Tally Kritzman-Amir, Stephen Latham, Matthew Mahler, Colin McEnroe, Renita Miller, Shaul Mishal, Nicoli Nattrass, Nilakshi Parndigamage, Ryan Powers, Andrew Sabl, Jeremy Seekings, Yuriy Sergeyev, Walter Shapiro, David Simon, Rebecca Sinderbrand, Derek Slap, James Sleeper, Detlef Sprinz, Seiki Tanaka, Andrea Vindigni, Diego Von Vacano, Bonnie Weir, Graeme Wood

**Introductory Courses**

* PLSC 026a / JDST 026a / RLST 026a, Political Theology  
  Eliyahu Stern
  Investigation of the theological aspects of modern political ideologies. Topics include sovereignty, universalism, law, election, commandment, and messianism. Primary readings include selections from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, and the writings of Thomas Hobbes, Baruch Spinoza, Carl Schmidt, Mikhail Bakunin, Karl Marx, Jacob Taubes, Martin Buber, and Alain Badiou. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  
  HU

PLSC 111b / GLBL 268b, Introduction to International Relations  
  Jason Lyall
  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 113b, Introduction to American Politics  
  Greg Huber
  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

EPE: Intro Political Phil

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

EPE: Intro Political Phil

**International Relations**

* 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 130b / GLBL 260b, Nuclear Politics  
Alexandre 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, 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.  

* PLSC 138a / MGRK 236a / SOCY 221a, The Euro Crisis  
Paris Aslanidis
Examination of how Europe continues to struggle with repercussions of the Great Recession and the impact of the Eurozone crisis in countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Spain, and, especially, Greece. Topics include the euro as a viable common currency; why and how the Eurozone crisis erupted and spread; and whether this catastrophe could have been averted.  

* 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, universality, and tradition.  

* PLSC 142a / EVST 143a, Global Climate Governance  
Staff
An overview of global climate governance, including overarching conceptual frameworks, a variety of empirical subdomains, interlinkages with other policy fields, and modeling central challenges encountered in global climate governance. Students prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the term.  

PLSC 143a, International Challenges of the Twenty-First Century  
Jolyon Howorth
Challenges facing the global community as it undergoes a power transition with the relative decline of the West and the emergence of powers such as China, India, and Brazil. Natural challenges such as demography, climate, and energy security; systemic issues related to the balance of power, economic crises, and trade globalization; new threats, including rogue states, terrorism, and WMD proliferation; regional challenges in Asia, Ukraine/Crimea, the Middle East, and Africa.  

PLSC 148b / HMRT 100b, Theories, Practices, and Politics of Human Rights  
Thania Sanchez
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 in the Twenty-First Century  
Daniel Esty
Sustainability as an overarching framework for life in the twenty-first century. Ways in which this integrated policy concept diverges from the approaches to environmental protection and economic development that were pursued in the twentieth century. The interlocking challenges that stem from society's simultaneous desires for economic, environmental, and social progress despite the tensions across these realms.  

* PLSC 152a / EP&E 245a / EP&E 449a, 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.  

* PLSC 161a / 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.  

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.
PLSC 172a, Strategy, Technology, and War  Paul Bracken
Long term technology strategies of major powers (US, China, Russia, EU, India) for their impact on national security and world order. New technologies include cyberwar, nuclear modernization, mobile missiles, space war, AI, big data, Internet of Things. Institutional changes include Cybercommand, CIA Directorate of Digital Innovation, etc. Key issues include defense private equity, Silicon Valley and the Pentagon, digital transformation of the Navy, arms control and grand strategy. Relevant for students with an interest in technology management.  SO

* PLSC 183a / EP&E 259a, Europe, the United States, and the Iraq Crisis  Jolyon Howorth
Examination of the contrasting relations between the main European powers and the United States in their approaches to Iraq in order to understand the divisions attending the 2003 war and the subsequent transfer of sovereignty. Topics include the Iran-Iraq War (1980–88), the first Persian Gulf crisis (1990–91), the sanctions regime (1991–2002), problems of peacekeeping and nation building, and the Obama exit strategy.  SO

PLSC 186a / GLBL 203a, Introduction to International Political Economy  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 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

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

American Government

* PLSC 204b, Courts, Judges, and Controversies  Deborah Beim
Controversies surrounding courts, judges, and the decisions they make, with a focus on the American judiciary. Topics include affirmative action, race and the death penalty, ethnic bias in judicial decision making, gender and judging, and courts and social change.  SO

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.  SO

* PLSC 210a, Political Preferences and American Political Behavior  John Henderson
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.  SO

* 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.  SO

PLSC 215a / EVST 255a / F&ES 255a, Environmental Politics and Law  John Wargo
Exploration of the politics, policy, and law associated with attempts to manage environmental quality and natural resources. Themes of democracy, liberty, power, property, equality, causation, and risk. Case histories include air quality, water quality and quantity, pesticides and toxic substances, land use, agriculture and food, parks and protected areas, and energy.  SO

* PLSC 217a, U.S. National Elections  David Mayhew
An investigation of electoral realignments, voting for president and Congress, voter turnout, incumbency advantage, nominations, and campaign finance.  SO

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.  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.  

* PLSC 227b / EP&E 310b, Refugee Law and Policy  Staff  
Controversies and challenges in U.S. and international refugee law and policy, with a focus on asylum law and practice in the United States. Emphasis on legal reasoning and analysis through close reading of statutes, regulations, and case law. Final project is a legal brief on behalf of a client.  

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.  

* 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.  

* 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 241a / 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 242b / 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.  

* PLSC 244a / EP&E 324a, 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 253a or b / ENGL 467a or b, Journalism  Staff  
Examination of the practices, methods, and impact of journalism, with focus on reporting and writing; consideration of how others have done it, what works, and what doesn’t. Students learn how to improve story drafts, follow best practices in journalism, improve methods for obtaining, skeptically evaluating, and assessing information, as well as writing a story for others to read. The core course for Yale Journalism Scholars. No prerequisites.  

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 261b / AMST 468b, American Political Development  Stephen Skowronek  
Patterns of political change and institutional development in the United States. Topics include patterns of reform, the political construction of interests and movements, problems of political culture, party building, and state building.  

* PLSC 266a, The Press and the Presidency  Staff  
Press coverage of the presidency in recent history and contemporary times. Focus on the choices facing journalists covering the presidency, and the impact of presidential press coverage on American and world politics.  

* PLSC 276b, Wrongful Convictions in Law and Politics  Nilakshi Parndigamage  
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 of wrongful convictions across the world.  

* PLSC 278a, 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.  

PLSC 279a / AMST 198a / ARCH 385a / HIST 152a / SOCY 149a, New Haven and the American City  Elihu Rubin and Alan Plattus  
Introduction to urban studies using New Haven as a model for the American city. Emphasis on historical development; urban planning; the built environment; transportation and infrastructure; reform and redevelopment; architecture and urban design; sustainability and equity.  

* PLSC 280b / AFAM 270b, Poverty, Politics, and Policy in the American City  Cynthia Horan  
Examination of how politics informs the formulation and implementation of policies to address urban poverty. Consideration of alternative explanations for poverty and alternative government strategies. Focus on efforts by local organizations and communities to improve their situations within the context of government actions.  

Political Philosophy  

PLSC 281a / PHIL 334a / RLST 273a, Ethical and Social Issues in Bioethics  Stephen Latham  
A selective survey of issues in biomedical ethics. Comparison of different points of view about biomedical issues, including religious vs. secular and liberal vs. conservative. Special attention to issues in research and at the beginning and end of life.  

* PLSC 283b / EP&E 235b, 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.  

* PLSC 287a / EP&E 411a, Democracy and Distribution  Ian Shapiro  
An examination of relations between democracy and the distribution of income and wealth. Focus on ways in which different classes and coalitions affect, and are affected by, democratic distributive politics. Open to juniors and seniors.  

* PLSC 288a / EP&E 287a, Liberty in Politics, Markets, and Society  Andrew Sabl  
Key questions regarding liberty explored through critical examination of classic texts by Locke, Montesquieu, Smith, Tocqueville, and Mill. The definition, origins, and foundations of liberty; whether liberty in some realms might require the restriction of freedom in others.  

* PLSC 289a / HUMS 259a, Tocqueville  Bryan Garsten  
A close reading of Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, along with major influences, such as Rousseau, Pascal, and Montesquieu, and near contemporaries, including Constant, Guizot, and Marx. one course in political theory, philosophy, or intellectual history.  

* 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 291a / PHIL 464a, 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.  

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

* PLSC 299b / HUMS 326b, The Political Philosophy of Rousseau  Steven Smith  
Close reading of some of the major works of Rousseau, concentrating on his political theory, his writings on education and the family, and his conception of the philosophic life. Consideration of interpretations of Rousseau from the past century. Prerequisites: Directed Studies, previous courses in political philosophy or intellectual history, or permission of instructor.  

* PLSC 310b / EP&E 230b, Self-Interest and Its Critics  Andrew Sabl  
Debates surrounding the concept of self-interest from the seventeenth century to the present. Defining self-interest, its nature, and its limits, and distinguishing it from other motives for behavior; advantages and disadvantages of assuming self-interested motives for human actions; current scholarship on economic rationality, rational choice in political science, and philosophical ethics.  

* 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  
Bryan Garsten and Steven Smith  
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 320a / EP&E 421a, Ethics, Law, and Current Issues  
Staff  
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.  

Analytical Political Theory

* 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

Comparative Government

* PLSC 349a / EP&E 352a / GLBL 213a, Democratization  
Milan Svolik  
Scientific study of the processes, causes, and consequences of democratization and how to apply insights gained from such study to evaluate public policy discourse. Topics include the emergence of modern democracy in the nineteenth century; the rise of fascism in inter-war Europe; the breakdown of democracy in Latin America; the collapse of communism and the resurgence of authoritarianism in Eastern Europe; and the Arab Spring and its aftermath.  
SO

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

PLSC 357a / EAST 310a / GLBL 390a, The Rise of China  
Daniel Mattingly  
Analysis of contemporary Chinese politics, with focus on how the country has become a major power and how the regime has endured. Topics include China’s recent history, state, ruling party, economy, censorship, elite politics, and foreign policy.  
SO

PLSC 359a / GLBL 269a, Violence and Civil Strife  
Stathis Kalyvas  
An examination of political violence with an emphasis on civil wars, presently the dominant form of war.  
SO

* PLSC 361b, The Erosion of Democracy  
Daniel Mattingly  
Analysis of the causes of democratic backsliding including inequality, appeals to identity, misinformation, and populism. Consideration of tactics for preventing democratic erosion and whether erosion is occurring in the United States.  
SO
The study of crucial cases of popular referendum, some recent and some older, to understand why they are held, how voters approach them, and whether they are normatively justified in democratic theory. Topics include: Britain remaining in the European Union, Ireland legalizing same-sex marriage, Colombia accepting a peace deal to end a decades-long civil war.

* PLSC 362a, Referendums and Democracy  
  Susan Stokes

Issues in contemporary Turkish politics, particularly continuity and change in historical institutional legacies, with specific focus on internal contradictions between these legacies (Ottomanism, Kemalism, secular versus religious nationalism, and Islamism). Major issues include Turkey’s “divided society” concerning the ends of state; securalism versus Islamism; top down reformism versus majoritarianism; and minority rights.

* PLSC 363a, Turkish Politics  
  Staff

Comparison of the political systems of the major European countries. Topics include political institutions, electoral politics and political parties, public policies, and contemporary problems.

* PLSC 367a, Contemporary Spanish Politics  
  Maria Jose Hierro

Examined the natural history of rivers and river systems and the politics surrounding the efforts of states to manage and engineer them.

* PLSC 420a / ANTH 406a / EVST 424a, Rivers: Nature and Politics  
  James Scott

A survey of research on the phenomenon of political violence, including riots, political assassinations, military coups, terrorism, civil wars, and certain types of organized crime. Connections between different forms of political violence; ways in which the rise and decline of each form shape the presence or absence of others.

* PLSC 429a / GLBL 380a, Political Violence  
  Stathis Kalyvas

Consideration of the establishment and use of political power in selected countries of tropical Africa. The political role of ethnic and class cleavages, their foundational values and the causes of their continuous, even increasing, support among citizens and voters.

* PLSC 381a / AFST 381a, Government and Politics in Africa  
  Katharine Baldwin

Discussion of relevant issues in Spanish politics today. Topics include transitional justice, the economic and institutional crisis, corruption, nationalism, ETA terrorism, and Catalan secessionism.

* PLSC 393a, Comparative Constitutionalism and Legal Institutions  
  Steven Calabresi

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/religions; interactions between government and the economy in democratic and nondemocratic regimes and in developed and developing countries. Enrollment limited to senior Political Science majors.

* PLSC 397b / EP&E 242b, Politics and Markets  
  Peter Swenson

Introduction to the field of comparative constitutional law. Constitutional texts, materials, and cases drawn primarily from those constitutional democracies that are also members of the Group of Twenty Nations and that respect judicial independence.

* PLSC 398a / EP&E 253a, Comparative Political Economy  
  Frances Rosenbluth

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 400b / GLBL 261b, Civil Conflict  
  Bonnie Weir

Investigation of the nature of the populist phenomenon and its impact on politics, society, and the economy in various regions of the world. Conceptual and methodological analyses are supported by comparative assessments of various empirical instances, from populist politicians such as Hugo Chavez and Donald Trump, to populist social movements such as the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street.

* PLSC 409b / GLBL 333a, Comparative Welfare Policy in Developing Countries  
  Jeremy Seekings

Enrollment 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 410a / GLBL 380a, Political Violence  
  Stathis Kalyvas

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 435a / MMES 290a / RLST 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.  HU

* **PLSC 448a / EP&E 496a, Business and Government after Communism**  Ian Shapiro
Reassessment of business’s place in society—and its relations with government—in an era when alternatives to capitalism are moribund. Topics include the role of business in regime change, corruption and attempts to combat it, business and the provision of low income housing and social services, and privatization of such core functions of government as prisons, the military, and local public services. Prerequisites: three courses in political science.  SO

The role of nonstate actors such as religious organizations, community associations, and international NGOs in the delivery of basic goods and services in developing countries. Welfare states in Europe and North America and reasons why states outside these regions have not developed similar institutions; causes of and logic behind various nonstate actors’ involvement in social welfare provision; economic, institutional, and political effects of having nonstate actors provide social services and public goods.  SO

* **PLSC 464a / ITAL 202a, Political Economy of Italy**  Anna Iacovella
Historical, sociological, and anthropological changes in Italy’s political economy at both domestic and international levels. The classical origins of the political economy of Italy; key intellectual debates in international political economy. Readings from literature and from newspapers and other media. Prerequisite: ITAL 140 or equivalent.  15, HU

### Statistical and Mathematical Methods

**PLSC 452a / EP&E 203a / S&D 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

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

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

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

* **PLSC 490a, The Senior Colloquium**  Greg Huber
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.