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. 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 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 16, 2018. 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, 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 7, 2018. Spring-term and yearlong essays are due on April 23, 2019. 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 2020 is April 8, 2019. 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.

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 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

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 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

Number of courses Standard major with interdisciplinary concentration—12 term courses; intensive major with interdisciplinary concentration—15 term courses
Fundamental issues in contemporary politics investigated through reflection on classic texts in the history of political thought. Emphasis on subjects 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 topics linked to modern constitutional democracies.

PLSC 114a, Introduction to Political Philosophy

- Emphasis on political parties, public opinion, interest groups, the media, social movements, and the policy-making process.
- Focus on the rise of states; causes, conduct, and outcomes of wars; the emergence of new actors and forms of conflict; and evolution of global economy.

PLSC 112, Introduction to International Relations

- Focus on contemporary issues investigated through reflection on classic texts in the history of political thought. Emphasis on subjects 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.
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

International Relations

PLSC 121a / MMES 121a, International Security in 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 128a / GLBL 247a, Development Under Fire  Jason Lyall
The recent emergence of foreign assistance as a tool of counterinsurgency and post-conflict reconciliation. Evaluation of the effects of aid in settings such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, and the Philippines. Examination of both theory and practice of conducting development work in the shadow of violence. Strengths and weaknesses of different evaluation methods, including randomized control trials (RCTs) and survey experiments.  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.  SO

* 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.  SO

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

* PLSC 138a / MGRK 236a / SOCY 221a, The Euro Crisis  Paris Aslanidis
Examination of how Europe continues to struggle with 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.  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 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.  SO

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

* PLSC 152a / EPR&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
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 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, Al, 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 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 346a / EP&E 231a / 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.

American Government

* 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.

PLSC 215b / EVST 255b / F&ES 255b, 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.

* PLSC 217a, U.S. National Elections  David Mayhew
A study of presidential and congressional elections with an emphasis on history and trends. Topics include party ideologies, participation, economic conditions, incumbency advantage, districting, midterm voter balancing, the Electoral College, and political geography.

PLSC 218b / ECON 275b, Public Economics  Staff
The role of government in the economy and in our economic lives. Reasons for government intervention in the market economy and the impact of government expenditure programs and taxation systems on welfare and behavior. Tools of microeconomics applied to issues such as government response to global warming, the impact of redistribution and social insurance on individual behavior, school choice, social security vs. private retirement savings accounts, and government vs. private health insurance. After introductory microeconomics.

* 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.

* PLSC 220a / WGSS 220a, Gender Politics  Andrea Aldrich
Exploration of 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.

* PLSC 228a / EP&E 306a, First Amendment and Ethics of Law  Karen Goodrow
This course addresses the First Amendment and freedom of speech, focusing on the ethical implications of restrictions on free speech, as well as the exercise of free speech. Course topics and discussions include the “fighting words” doctrine, hate speech, true threats, content regulated speech, freedom of speech and the internet, and the so-called “right to be forgotten.” By the end of the course, students recognize the role free speech plays in society, including its negative and positive impacts on various segments of society. Students also have an understanding of the competing interests arising from the First Amendment's right to free speech, and can analyze how these competing interests are weighed and measured in the United States as compared with other countries.
PLSC 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 last third of the twentieth century; the beleaguered economic structure of the news business in the twenty-first century; media coverage of the 2008 and 2012 presidential races, with emphasis on how campaigns adapted to the changed news landscape and to new ways of communicating with voters.  SO

* PLSC 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.  SO

* PLSC 244a / EP&E 344a, 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.  SO

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

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

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

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

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

* PLSC 260a / EP&E 304a, Ethics, Politics, and Economics in Today’s World  Frances Rosenbluth  
This seminar is designed as a venue for integrating EP&E studies into an intellectually coherent approach to some of the world’s greatest challenges. As with the major itself, the seminar is deliberately inter-disciplinary in order to give students the opportunity to put together for themselves, as world citizens and future leaders, a broad platform of usable knowledge.  SO

* PLSC 262b / AMST 324b, Race, Politics, and the Law  Daniel HoSang  
Examination of how race—as a mode of domination and resistance—has developed and transformed in the United States since the early-twentieth-century. How political actors and social movements engage the law to shape visions of freedom, democracy, and political life. Consideration of critical race theory, political discourse analysis, intersectionality and women of color feminism, and American political development.  SO
* PLSC 266b, The Press and the Presidency  Rebecca Sinderbrand
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.  SO

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

* PLSC 276b / SOCY 238b, Wrongful Convictions in Law and Politics  Nilakshi Parndigamage
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 280a, The Tasks of Political Philosophy, Postwar Interpretations  Lucas Entel
A close discussion of some of the twentieth century’s most prominent interpretations of what (political) philosophy is, and what it should be. Readings by Karl Popper, Isaiah Berlin, Hannah Arendt, Leo Strauss, and Jürgen Habermas. Prerequisites: At least two previous courses in political philosophy, or instructor’s permission.  HU

* 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.  SO

* PLSC 288a / CLCV 288a / EP&E 322a / PHIL 288a, Advanced Topics in Ancient Political Thought: Plato, Aristotle, Cicero  Daniela Cammack
An opportunity to read, or to re-read, the most significant political statements of three foundational figures in Western political thought, paying attention to both historical context and philosophical argument. Particular focus on the relationships between a) the just (to dikaiōn) and the advantageous (to sympheron) and b) the honourable (honesta) and the useful (utilis). Some experience of political theory or intellectual history is expected.  HU, SO

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 / 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.  SO

* PLSC 294a / PLSC 628a, Theories of Political Action  Karuna Mantena
The course examines 20th century theories of political action, focusing on Marxist, existentialist, progressive, anarchist, and anticolonial thinkers and activists. We look at how they wrestled with the legitimacy and efficacy of new forms of mass political action, such as the boycott, the general strike, as well as revolutionary violence. We cover debates on the use of violence and nonviolence as a technique of popular protest and collective mobilization. Thinkers to be considered include: Lenin, Sorel, Weber, Niebuhr, Gandhi, Camus, Fanon, King, Arendt. Prerequisite: Prior coursework in political theory.  SO

* PLSC 297a / EP&E 312a, Moral Choices in Politics  Boris Kapustin
A study of how and why people make costly moral choices in politics. Figures studied include Thomas More, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Václav Havel, and Aung San Suu Kyi.  SO

* PLSC 300a / HUMS 268a / RLST 274a, Analyzing Antisemitism  Adam Stern
Analysis of the “longest hatred” from a historical as well as theoretical point of view; and the development of antisemitism and key manifestations from the ancient world to the present moment. Topics include how hatred of Jews relates to other forms of bigotry and prejudice; how antisemitism mutates in different times and places; antisemitism before the modern period; why antisemitism exists in countries that have no Jews; why antisemitism is once again on the rise around the world and how it can be combated.  SO

* PLSC 301a / EP&E 280a, Ancient Greek Political Development  Daniela Cammack
Varieties of political experience in the ancient Greek world during the archaic, classical, and hellenistic periods. Attention to different regime types, places, political forms, institutions, and persons.  SO
* PLSC 305b / EP&E 323b, 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 309a / GMAN 474a / PHIL 477a, Contemporary Critical Theory  Seyla Benhabib
Frankfurt School and Critical Theory focuses on a number of unresolved questions such as pragmatic Kantianism; modernity and post-colonial theory; the idea of progress in critical theory; and judgment as amoral, political, aesthetic. Readings from: Habermas, McCarthy, Baynes, Honneth, A. Allen, Ferrara, and Zerilli. Prerequisite: Directed Studies or two or more advanced courses in modern political philosophy.  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 317a / EP&E 315a, 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 318a, Lincoln’s Statecraft and Rhetoric  Steven Smith
Close reading of major speeches and letters by Abraham Lincoln, with a focus on his views concerning slavery, equality, and race in American society. The relation of words to deeds in Lincoln’s practice of statecraft; his place in the history and theory of statesmanship. The emergence of Lincoln’s thought from an engagement with views of the American founders; ways in which his vision of American democracy both drew upon and transformed the founders’ vision.  so

* 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 / HIST 482b, Studies in Grand Strategy I  Beverly Gage
The study of grand strategy, of how individuals and groups can accomplish large ends with limited means. The spring term focuses on key moments in history that illustrate strategic thinking in action. During the summer, students undertake research projects or internships analyzing strategic problems or aspects of strategy. The following fall, students put their ideas into action by applying concepts of grand strategy to present day issues. Admission is by application only; the cycle for the current year is closed. This course does not fulfill the history seminar requirement, but may count toward geographical distributional credit within the History major for any region studied, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies. Previous study courses in political science, history, global affairs, or subjects with broad interdisciplinary relevance encouraged.  hu, so

* PLSC 324a / AFST 324a / EP&E 317a / HIST 368Ja, Nelson Mandela  Jonathan Steinberg
A study of Nelson Mandela’s life and career and the political and philosophical questions his career engages. Students examine his ideas on race and on the colonial experience and compare them to those of Mohandas Gandhi and Franz Fanon. Students also read recent philosophical work on forgiveness in order to critically assess Mandela’s politics of reconciliation. Examination of Mandela as a global celebrity, as well as the political career of Winnie Mandela.

* PLSC 327b, Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy  Steven Smith and Giulia Oskian
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: substantial course work in intellectual history and/or political theory.  hu, so

* PLSC 332b / EP&E 290b, Philosophy of Science for the Study of Politics  Hélène Landemore
An examination of the philosophy of science from the perspective of the study of politics. Particular attention to the ways in which assumptions about science influence models of political behavior, the methods adopted to study that behavior, and the relations between science and democracy. Readings include works by both classic and contemporary authors.  so

Analytical Political Theory

PLSC 326a / PHIL 474a, Borders, Culture, and Citizenship  Seyla Benhabib
The contemporary refugee crisis in Europe and elsewhere; new patterns of migration; increasing demands for multicultural rights of Muslim minorities in the West; and transnational effects of globalization faced by modern societies. Examination of these issues in a multidisciplinary perspective in light of political theories of citizenship and migration, as well as laws concerning refugees and migrants in Europe and the United States.  so

PLSC 342a / EP&E 220a, Strategic Models of Politics  Milan Svolik
Introduction to formal political theory including application of rational choice and game theoretic analysis. Key topics and findings include: why voters vote in elections; how candidates choose platforms; why common resources tend to be overexploited; whether
the state is needed for public good provision; how electoral systems shape politicians’ and voters’ behavior; whether voters can hold politicians accountable for their performance in office; how constitutions affect politicians’ incentives to compromise; and why countries fight wars. So

* PLSC 343b / ECON 473b / EP&E 227b, Equality John Roemer
Egalitarian theories of justice and their critics. Readings in philosophy are paired with analytic methods from economics. Topics include Rawlsian justice, utilitarianism, the veil of ignorance, Dworkin’s resource egalitarianism, Roemer’s equality of opportunity, Marxist exploitation, and Nozickian procedural justice. Some discussion of American economic inequality, Nordic social democracy, and the politics of inequality. Recommended preparation: intermediate microeconomics. So

PLSC 344b / EP&E 295b, Game Theory and Political Science Staff
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. QB, SO

* PLSC 345a, Introduction to Research Design Maria Jose Hierro
This course is specially recommended to students planning to write a one-term senior essay in political science. More generally, the course is addressed to students who want to learn how to do research in political science or other social sciences. Students learn how to pose a research question, how to conceptualize and operationalize problems, how to draw hypotheses from theories, and the best methodology for testing hypotheses. Students design their own research projects. SO

Comparative Government

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

PLSC 357a / EAST 310a / GLBL 309a, The Rise of China Daniel Mattingly
Analysis of 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 363a / MMES 378a, Turkish Politics Ayse Candan
Issues in contemporary Turkey, 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; secularism versus Islamism; top down reformism versus majoritarianism; and minority rights. SO

* PLSC 367a, 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 373a / EDST 215a, Equity and Innovation in International Education Cassandra Walker Harvey
This course provides an introduction to the field of international education and a close look at how innovation can address some of the world’s most pressing education barriers. Through discussions, case studies, and guest speakers, students are exposed to how different education systems around the globe function; the roles and responsibilities different stakeholders play across these systems; and how innovation within existing systems and from outside groups can help overcome barriers to education. Topics include: research, policy, and practice of international education, including global standards of education, provision of education, and barriers to education; the field of social entrepreneurship and innovation, and how disruptive innovation can help or hinder education systems; what it means to provide a quality education system, who should provide it, and how we can achieve quality education for all children globally; and how to analyse, and develop innovative and system change solutions to education equity issues. Prerequisite: EDST 110 recommended. SO

* PLSC 375a / GLBL 215a / LAST 386a / MGRK 237a / SOCY 389a, Populism from Chavez to Trump Paris Aslanidis
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. SO

PLSC 378b / AFAM 186b / LAST 214b / SOCY 170b, Contesting Injustice Elisabeth Wood
Exploration of why, when, and how people organize collectively to challenge political, social, and economic injustice. Cross-national comparison of the extent, causes, and consequences of inequality. Analysis of mobilizations for social justice in both U.S. and international settings. Intended primarily for freshmen and sophomores. SO
PLSC 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 391b / GLBL 259b / HIST 469jb, State Formation  Didac Queralt
Study of the domestic and international determinants of functional states from antiquity to date. Analysis of state-formation in Europe in pre-modern and outside Europe from colonial times to date. Topics include centralization of power, capacity to tax, and contract enforcement.  so

* PLSC 393a, 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 396a / MMES 364a, Politics of the Contemporary Middle East  Elizabeth Nugent
This course is an overview of contemporary politics of the Middle East, and is organized thematically and (more or less) chronologically. We examine prominent explanations for the democratic deficit in the Middle East, and challenge the notion that the region is completely devoid of competitive and meaningful politics. We also explore the ways in which a variety of factors—including foreign intervention, persistent authoritarianism, oil, and Islam, among others—has affected domestic politics. We consider different aspects of domestic politics, including redistribution, gender politics, and public opinion. We end the course by building on what we learned to make sense of the 2010-2011 'Arab Spring' uprisings, in an effort to understand whether these developments mark change or continuity.  so

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

PLSC 400a / 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 graphic non-fiction novel, and a field trip to MOMA in NYC (optional). 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.  so

* PLSC 409a or b / GLBL 261a or b, 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.  so

* PLSC 410b, 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.  so

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

* 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.  so

* PLSC 423a / EP&E 249a / GLBL 336a / LAST 423a, Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation  Ana De La O
Overview of classic and contemporary approaches to the question of why some countries have done better than others at reducing poverty. Emphasis on the role of politics.  so

PLSC 424b / AFAM 195b / SAST 440b, Gandhi, King, and the Politics of Nonviolence  Karuna Mantena
A study of the theory and practice of nonviolent political action, as proposed and practiced by M. K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. The origins of nonviolence in Gandhian politics and the Indian independence movement; Gandhian influences on the Civil Rights movement; King’s development of nonviolent politics; the legacies and lessons for nonviolent politics today.  so

PLSC 437b / ER&M 206b / SOCY 223b, 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.  so

PLSC 439b / GLBL 263b, Challenges of Young Democracies  Ana De La O
Challenges faced by young democracies, such as organizing free and fair elections, controlling government corruption, building an accountable system of governance, sustaining development, and curtailing conflict and violence. Factors that lead to the consolidation of democratic politics or to stagnation and a return to nondemocratic political systems.  so
* PLSC 444b / EAST 344b, Governing China  Daniel Mattingly
Advanced study of the domestic and international politics of China. Topics include China's recent history, elite politics, the rule of law, censorship, propaganda, nationalism, trade, territorial disputes, and international security.  SO

* 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

* PLSC 468b / ANTH 389b / MMES 376b / NELC 385b / SOCY 359b, Politics of Culture in Iran  Nahid Siamdoust
Examination of cultural production in post-revolutionary Iran (1979 to the present) through works of noteworthy cultural and sociopolitical content in cinema, music, and newspaper journalism. Consideration of the policies the new Islamic Republic has put in place in order to regulate the field of cultural production, and the strategies that cultural producers have devised to navigate the given constraints.  HU

Statistical and Mathematical Methods

PLSC 452a / EP&E 203a / S&DS 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

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

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  Albert Fang
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.