Chair
  • William Howell

Professors
  • John J. Brehm
  • Cathy Cohen
  • Michael Dawson
  • John Mark Hansen
  • Gary Herrigel
  • William Howell, Public Policy
  • John McCormick
  • John J. Mearsheimer
  • J. Eric Oliver
  • John F. Padgett
  • Robert Pape
  • Jennifer Pitts, Social Thought
  • Susan Stokes
  • Nathan Tarcov, Social Thought
  • Lisa Wedeen
  • Dali Yang
  • Linda Zerilli

Associate Professors
  • Michael Albertus
  • Sankar Muthu
  • Monika Nalepa
  • Paul Poast
  • Gerald N. Rosenberg
  • Paul Staniland

Assistant Professors
  • Ruth Bloch Rubin
  • Austin Carson
  • Chiara Cordelli
  • Adom Getachew
  • Robert Gulotty
  • Demetra Kasimis
  • Matthew Landauer
  • Benjamin Lessing
  • Zhaotian Luo
  • Andrew McCall
  • Patricia Posey
  • Rochelle Terman
  • James Wilson

Emeritus Faculty
  • Leonard Binder
  • Charles Lipson
  • William Sewell
  • Duncan Snidal
  • Ronald Suny
Associate Members

- Daniel Abebe
- Scott Ashworth
- Christopher Berry
- Christopher Blattman
- Evelyn Z. Brodkin
- Ethan Bueno de Mesquita
- Elisabeth Clemens
- Daniel Diermeier
- Oeindrila Dube
- Anthony Fowler
- Thomas Ginsburg
- Roger Myerson
- Martha Nussbaum
- James Robinson

The Department of Political Science offers a course of study leading to the PhD degree. A departmental faculty committee makes admission decisions based on an assessment of all the material required in the University application: biographical data, statement of interests and goals in graduate school, transcripts of grades, letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Examination scores, and a writing sample. Committee members want to know what applicants find intellectually exciting and why applicants want to study at the University of Chicago.

The department is committed to training doctoral students in political science, broadly conceived. Our department has a long history of defining some of the most enduring empirical and theoretical debates within political science. We further believe that the best work in political science often crosses subfields and disciplines. Our aim is to help students develop and pursue their intellectual interests while grounding them in the various approaches and methodologies that characterize the modern discipline. Program requirements include a mix of research papers, coursework, and exams so that students can achieve these goals as they proceed expeditiously towards the PhD degree.

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Students must complete sixteen courses for quality grades by the end of the second year. Twelve of the sixteen courses must be courses taught by Department faculty, which includes visiting and associate members. In the first year, students should plan on completing a total of nine courses for quality grades. In the second year, students should plan on completing at least seven courses for quality grades. PLSC 50000 Dissertation Proposal Seminar (offered in the Winter Quarter) is required of third year students and does not count as one of the sixteen required courses.

The Department strongly recommends that all graduate students acquire the skill set necessary for successful progress as producers of research within the first two years of coursework. The notion of a skill set will vary with the specific research interests of the students. Students are expected to discuss with their advisors the skill set they will need, and together they will agree on a program of study. The normal expectation for first-year quantitatively-oriented graduate students will include courses on matrix algebra, programming, linear models, and causal identification. Such students also regularly take courses in social choice and game theory. For those students who intend to pursue political theory and qualitative research, the skill set is less established but may entail language training, ethnography training, interpretive methods, archival research, or other methodological courses.

The Department currently offers comprehensive exams in six fields: Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Quantitative Methods, and Formal Theory.

Course prerequisites for comprehensive exams typically include either a field seminar that is offered no less than once every other year or a sequence or collection of courses that are offered over two years. All fields provide the materials students should master in order to be considered ‘certified’ in that area. The Department offers exams during the month of June each year. Some students—such as those entering the program with prior graduate work in political science or who complete the necessary prerequisites for an exam in their first year of study—may take one comprehensive exam after the first year and the second exam at the end of the second year. All other students will take both exams at the end of the second year.

The MA thesis offers an early opportunity for students to undertake a substantial work of independent research and advances a number of objectives, some substantive, others more procedural. The MA thesis can offer an opportunity to launch dissertation research, to secure a publication in a professional journal, to test the viability of an idea or topic that might possibly lead to a dissertation, or to conduct work in an area students know will not be part of the dissertation but that they would like to investigate more deeply than is possible in
coursework. The MA thesis gives students the experience of independent research at a manageable scale, before developing a full-fledged dissertation topic. The thesis also can help students to gain a sense of how the germ of an idea becomes an article-length piece of writing (through literature review, the IRB process, operationalization of a question, elaboration of a distinctive argument in relation to existing literature, etc.).

Students are encouraged to begin thinking about their MA thesis in the context of their courses, and to consider seminar papers as bases for an MA thesis. Students also may choose to enroll in PLSC 40100 Thesis Preparation with their main thesis advisor. Students may take up to two units of Thesis Preparation to count toward the sixteen required courses. The final draft of the MA paper is due no later than November 15 of the third year, though in consultation with advisors students may choose to submit the MA well in advance of this deadline.

Students who have prior graduate work may use as many as five graduate courses completed at other universities to count towards fulfillment of the department's course requirement. Graduate courses previously completed within our department will count on a one-to-one basis towards the fulfillment of the department's course requirement. Students may not use an MA thesis written elsewhere as a substitute for the MA thesis here. The only exception is MA theses written at the University of Chicago, where one of the faculty advisors is in the Department. Students may use a prior MA thesis as the basis for the MA thesis with the consent of faculty advisors, following the above deadlines.

Practical pedagogical experience is a program requirement. To satisfy the requirement, students can serve as teaching assistants in undergraduate lecture courses and in the department's methodology sequence. A few advanced graduate students, selected as Grodzins Prize Lecturers, offer their own undergraduate courses. There are also opportunities to serve as teaching interns and instructors in the College's undergraduate core curriculum and as preceptors who assist the undergraduate majors with the writing of BA papers.

After completing courses and exams, students turn to the PhD dissertation. The first step is a dissertation proposal that briefly outlines the research question, significance, argument, and method of the dissertation. PLSC 50000 The Dissertation Proposal Seminar, required in the winter quarter of the third year, is a weekly seminar devoted solely to the presentation and collective discussion of several drafts of each student's dissertation proposal. The proposal must be approved by a committee of three faculty who agree to supervise the dissertation research and present the proposal for departmental approval. The deadline for this approval is June 1 of the third year.

Although advanced graduate research and writing is often a solitary enterprise, students in the department also typically continue to participate in one or more workshops, which are mainly devoted to students' presentation of research in progress for discussion and constructive criticism. Political science students participate in workshops devoted to American Politics, Comparative Politics, East Asia, Political Economy, Political Psychology, Political Theory, International Relations, and International Security Policy, to name just a few. There are many other interdisciplinary workshops throughout the University ranging from Law and Economics, to Gender and Sexuality, to Russian Studies, all of which are open to political science students.

Upon receiving final approval of the dissertation by the members of the dissertation committee, the candidate gives a formal presentation based on the dissertation. Following the presentation, which is open to the public, the candidate is questioned by an examining committee of at least three faculty members.

For more information about current faculty, students, requirements, and courses, consult the department webpage at http://political-science.uchicago.edu/.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY

The application process for admission and financial aid for all Social Sciences graduate programs is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines, and department specific information is available online at: https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply/.

Questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to ssd-admissions@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-8415.
POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES FOR 2019-20

PLSC 30102. Introduction to Causal Inference. 100 Units.
This course is designed for graduate students and advanced undergraduate students from the social sciences, education, public health science, public policy, social service administration, and statistics who are involved in quantitative research and are interested in studying causality. The goal of this course is to equip students with basic knowledge of and analytic skills in causal inference. Topics for the course will include the potential outcomes framework for causal inference; experimental and observational studies; identification assumptions for causal parameters; potential pitfalls of using ANCOVA to estimate a causal effect; propensity score based methods including matching, stratification, inverse-probability-of-treatment-weighting (IPTW), marginal mean weighting through stratification (MMWS), and doubly robust estimation; the instrumental variable (IV) method; regression discontinuity design (RDD) including sharp RDD and fuzzy RDD; difference in difference (DID) and generalized DID methods for cross-section and panel data, and fixed effects model. Intermediate Statistics or equivalent such as STAT 224/PBHS 324, PP 31301, BUS 41100, or SOC 30005 is a prerequisite. This course is a prerequisite for ‘Advanced Topics in Causal Inference’ and ‘Mediation, moderation, and spillover effects.’
Instructor(s): G. Hong, K. Yamaguchi Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Statistics or equivalent such as STAT 224/PBHS 324, PP 31301, BUS 41100, or SOC 30005
Note(s): CHDV Distribution: M; M
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30315, STAT 31900, PBHS 43201, MACS 51000, CHDV 30102

PLSC 30301. American Politics Field Seminar I. 100 Units.
A survey of some of the main themes, topics and approaches in the study of American politics and government.
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 30401. American Politics Field Seminar II. 100 Units.
A survey of some of the main themes, topics and approaches in the study of American politics and government.
Instructor(s): C. Cohen, W. Howell Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 30700. Introduction to Linear Models. 100 Units.
This course will provide an introduction to the linear model, the dominant form of statistical inference in the social sciences. The goals of the course are to teach students the statistical methods needed to pursue independent large-n research projects and to develop the skills necessary to pursue further methods training in the social sciences. Part I of the course reviews the simple linear model (as seen in STAT 22000 or its equivalent) with attention to the theory of statistical inference and the derivation of estimators. Basic calculus and linear algebra will be introduced. Part II extends the linear model to the multivariate case. Emphasis will be placed on model selection and specification. Part III examines the consequences of data that is ‘poorly behaved’ and how to cope with the problem. Depending on time, Part IV will introduce special topics like systems of simultaneous equations, logit and probit models, time-series methods, etc. Little prior knowledge of math or statistics is expected, but students are expected to work hard to develop the tools introduced in class.
Instructor(s): J. Hansen Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 30901. Game Theory I. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to games of complete information through solving problem sets. We will cover the concepts of dominant strategies, rationalizable strategies, Nash equilibrium, subgame perfection, backward induction, and imperfect information. The course will be centered around several applications of game theory to politics: electoral competition, agenda control, lobbying, voting in legislatures and coalition games.
Instructor(s): Z. Luo Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901 or equivalent and consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 29103

PLSC 31000. Game Theory II. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to games of incomplete information and several advanced topics through solving problem sets. We will cover the concepts of Bayes Nash equilibrium, perfect Bayesian equilibrium, and the basics of mechanism design and information design. In terms of applications, the course will extend the topics examined in the prerequisite, PLSC 30901. Game Theory I to allow for incomplete information, with a focus on the competing challenges of moral hazard and adverse selection in those settings.
Instructor(s): Z. Luo Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901 or equivalent and consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 29103
PLSC 31101. Computational Tools for Social Science. 100 Units.
The purpose of this course is to provide graduate students with the critical technical skills necessary to conduct research in quantitative / computational social science. This course is not an introduction to statistics, computer science, or specialized social science methods. Rather, the focus will be on practical skills necessary to be successful in further methods work. The first portion of the class introduces students to basic computer literacy, terminologies, and programming languages, covering Bash, R, and Git. The second part of the course provides students the opportunity to use the skills they learned in part 1 towards practical applications such as webscraping, data collection through APIs, automated text analysis, etc. We will assume no prior experience with programming or computer science.
Instructor(s): R. Terman Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 31410. Advanced Theories of Gender and Sexuality. 100 Units.
This interdisciplinary seminar-style course will focus on debates within contemporary queer and feminist theory, but the implications impact beyond concepts, with implications for building worlds. We will begin by engaging diverging genealogies of the study of sexual identity, focusing on those developed from within affect theory and theories of performativity. The second half of the quarter will focus on varieties of precarity, examined within their social and political constellations. Generally, our aim will be to engage scenes and concepts central to the interdisciplinary study of gender and sexuality; to provide familiarity with key theoretical anchors for that study; to provide skills for deriving the theoretical bases of any kind of method; to examine inconvenient cases; to question our obligations to the ‘classics’ of gender and sexuality theory; and to explore innovative pedagogies. In addition, aesthetic objects will be brought into contact with theoretical works, such as those by Gayle Rubin, Hortense Spillers, Gayatri Spivak, Paul B. Preciado, Mel Chen, Eve Sedgwick, Judith Butler, and Saidiya Hartman.
Instructor(s): Lauren Berlant Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 36500, ENGL 30201, PLSC 21410, GNSE 21400, ENGL 21401, GNSE 31400

PLSC 31700. Foundations of Human Rights. 100 Units.
This seminar will provide graduate students with an advanced introduction to the study of human rights, covering key debates in history, law, philosophy, political science, international relations, social science, and critical theory. As a graduate seminar, this will be a small class (capped at 20 students), and a strong emphasis will be placed on in-class discussion and debate. The course will examine cutting-edge research on topics including: the origins of human rights (Section I); the concept of human dignity (Section II); the nature and grounds of human rights (Section III); the relationship between human rights morality and law (Section IV); the legality and morality of humanitarian intervention (Section V); the feasibility and claimability of human rights (Section VI); contemporary criticisms of human rights (Section VII); human rights and the accommodation of diversity (Section VIII); and the future of human rights (Section IX).
Instructor(s): P. O'Donnell Terms Offered: Autumn 2015
Note(s): Graduate students only
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 30600, HIST 39420

PLSC 32740. Order and Violence. 100 Units.
Most countries in the world have been independent for about 50 years. Some are peaceful and have prospered, while some remain poor, war-torn, or both. What explains why some countries have succeeded while others remain poor, violent, and unequal? Moreover, fifty years on, a lot of smart people are genuinely surprised that these countries' leaders have not been able to make more progress in implementing good policies. If there are good examples to follow, why haven't more countries followed these examples into peace and prosperity? Finally, we see poverty and violence despite 50 years of outside intervention. Shouldn't foreign aid, democracy promotion, peacekeeping, and maybe even military intervention have promoted order and growth? If not why not, and what should we do about it as citizens? This class is going to try to demystify what's going on. There are good explanations for violence and disorder. There are some good reasons leaders don't make headway, bureaucrats seem slothful, and programs get perverted. The idea is to talk about the political, economic, and natural logics that lead to function and dysfunction.
Instructor(s): Blattman, C Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 32740

PLSC 33901. Xenophon on Leadership. 100 Units.
In this seminar we will read Freud’s major writings about society, religion, politics, and culture. We will then examine texts by writers who follow Freud’s lead in their own social, cultural, and political analysis, among them, Theodor Adorno, Norman O. Brown, Julia Kristeva, and Slavoj Zizek.
Instructor(s): Eric Santner Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 31714, FNDL 21717
PLSC 33930. The Federalist Papers and Anti-Federalist Writings. 100 Units.
This course examines the debate over the ratification of the Constitution through a reading of The Federalist Papers and selected Anti-Federalist writings as works of continuing relevance to current practical and theoretical debates. Issues include war and peace, interests and the problem of faction, commerce, justice and the common good as ends of government, human nature, federalism, republican government, representation, separation of powers, executive power, the need for energy and stability, the need for a bill of rights, and constitutionalism.
Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Open to undergrads
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 21719, PLSC 23901, LLSO 23901, SCTR 31715

PLSC 35101. Three Erotic Dialogues: Plato, Xenophon, Plutarch. 100 Units.
An exploration of the moral, political, psychological, theological, and philosophical significance of erotic phenomena through reading three classical dialogues on eros: Plato's Symposium, Xenophon's Symposium, and Plutarch's Erotikos. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 21207, SCTR 3401, PLSC 25101, GNSE 36103, GNSE 26103

PLSC 35215. The American Presidency. 100 Units.
This course examines the institutional development of the American presidency. It surveys the foundations of presidential power, both as the Founders conceived it, and as it is practiced in the modern era. This course also traces the historical development of the institutional presidency, the president's relationships with Congress and the courts, the influence presidents wield in domestic and foreign policymaking, and the ways in which presidents make decisions in a system of separated powers.
Instructor(s): W. Howell Terms Offered: Summer
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 25216, LLSO 25215, PLSC 25215, AMER 25215

PLSC 35395. American Political Culture. 100 Units.
What are the values and beliefs that organize American politics? In this seminar, we'll answer this question looking at both historical works of American political and contemporary studies of mass attitudes. Particular attention will be paid to American 'exceptionalism,' the role of class, race, and religion, and the impact of media.
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 35818. Stoic Ethics Through Roman Eyes. 100 Units.
The major ideas of the Stoic school about virtue, appropriate action, emotion, and how to live in harmony with the rational structure of the universe are preserved in Greek only in fragmentary texts and incomplete summaries. But the Roman philosophers give us much more, and we will study closely a group of key texts from Cicero and Seneca, including Cicero's De Finibus book III, his Tusculan Disputations book IV, a group of Seneca's letters, and, finally, a short extract from Cicero’s De Officiis, to get a sense of Stoic political thought. For fun we will also read a few letters of Cicero's where he makes it clear that he is unable to follow the Stoics in the crises of his own life. We will try to understand why Stoicism had such deep and wide influence at Rome, influencing statesmen, poets, and many others, and becoming so to speak the religion of the Roman world. (A)
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Ability to read the material in Latin at a sufficiently high level, usually about two-three years at the college level. Assignment will usually be about 8 Oxford Classical Text pages per week, and in-class translation will be the norm.
Equivalent Course(s): CLCV 25818, RETH 35818, CLAS 35818, PHIL 35818, PLSC 25818, PHIL 25818

PLSC 36100. Civil War. 100 Units.
Civil war is the dominant form of political violence in the contemporary world. This graduate seminar will introduce students to cutting edge scholarly work and to the task of carrying out research on internal conflict. We will study the origins, dynamics, and termination of civil wars, as well as international interventions, post-conflict legacies, and policy responses to war. A variety of research approaches will be explored, including qualitative, quantitative, and interpretive methods, micro- and macro-level levels of analysis, and sub- and cross-national comparative designs. Our emphasis throughout will be on designing rigorous research that persuasively addresses important questions.
Instructor(s): P. Staniland Terms Offered: Winter
PLSC 36405. Becoming a Global Power: The American Experience. 100 Units.
This course invites advanced undergraduates and M.A. students to explore America's rise to great power status and its embrace of a global military role. We focus on two main topics in the post-World War II era. First, how did the U.S. approach the practical side of building and maintaining an infrastructure for global military power projection? In answering this we will learn about the complex, evolving, and often obscure arrangements necessary for the U.S. to forward deploy military power in Western Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East. Second, how did the embrace of a global military role change American politics, society, and law back home? Here we will analyze everything from changes in domestic transportation infrastructure to legal rulings about crimes on military bases to social effects of troops returning home from abroad. The course features an interdisciplinary set of readings from International Relations scholars, historians, critical geographers, anthropologists, and specialists in American Political Development. Students will also get experience analyzing original primary materials via a set of assigned case studies. A recurring interest will be exploring how a uniquely American view of itself affected the methods it used to create a global military infrastructure, and the impact of a global military role on American ideology and identity. Grades will be based on short writing assignments, a midterm exam, and a take-home essay final exam.
Instructor(s): A. Carson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 26405

PLSC 37000. Law and Politics: U.S. Courts as Political Institutions. 100 Units.
The purpose of this seminar is two-fold. First, the seminar aims to introduce students to the political science literature on courts understood as political institutions. In examining foundational parts of this literature, the seminar will focus on the relationship between the courts and other political institutions. The sorts of questions to be asked include: Are there interests that courts are particularly prone to support? What factors influence judicial decision-making? What effect does congressional or executive action have on court decisions? What is the relationship between courts and public opinion? What impact do court decisions have? While the answers will not always be clear, students should complete the seminar with an awareness of and sensitivity to the political nature of the American legal system. Second, by critically assessing approaches to the study of the courts, the seminar seeks to highlight intelligent and sound approaches to the study of political institutions. Particular concern will focus on what assumptions students of courts have made, how evidence has been integrated into their studies, and what a good research design looks like.
Instructor(s): G. Rosenberg Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): To be considered for admission to this seminar, you must watch the 17 minute video and then, if interested, contact Professor Rosenberg. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2SNLd_wUEQ

PLSC 37301. Weimar Political Theology: Schmitt and Strauss. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to the idea of 'political theology' that developed during the interwar period in twentieth-century Central Europe, specifically Germany's Weimar Republic. The course's agenda is set by Carl Schmitt, who claimed that both serious intellectual endeavors and political authority require extra-rational and transcendent foundations. Along with Schmitt's works from the period, such as Political Theology and the Concept of the Political, we read and discuss the related writings of perhaps his greatest interlocutor, Leo Strauss. 
Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 27301, FNDL 27301

PLSC 37318. Friedrich Nietzsche's Twilight of Idols. 100 Units.
Course Description unavailable.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 24713, FNDL 27318, PHIL 34713, GRMN 27316, SCTH 37318, GRMN 37316

PLSC 37320. Leo Strauss on the Philosophic Life. 100 Units.
No philosopher before Leo Strauss stressed with similar emphasis that philosophy has to be conceived not as a discipline or a set of doctrines but as a way of life, and few have so sharply grasped the philosophic life and separated it from edifying trivializations or pious appropriations as Strauss did in the very same essay in which he introduced the concept for the first time: 'The Law of Reason in the Kuzari.' The seminar will focus on this text, which seems to deal with a rather remote historical subject. Originally published in 1943, it is one of Strauss's most intransigent essays. I shall also discuss 'On Classical Political Philosophy' (1945), 'The Spirit of Sparta or the Taste of Xenophon' (1939), and 'Farabi's Plato' (1945).
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 37320, SCTH 37320, FNDL 27320

PLSC 37321. Leo Strauss: Natural Right and History. 100 Units.
I shall present a new reading of NATURAL RIGHT AND HISTORY, focusing on the first 4 chapters, discussing the philosophical intention and the political impact of this seminal book that laid the foundation of the 'Straussian School.'
Instructor(s): Heinrich Meier Terms Offered: Spring. Course will be taught during the first five weeks of spring 2019.
Prerequisite(s): Open to undergrads by consent.
(Note(s): will be taught twice a week for the first five weeks of spring 2019.
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 37321, GRMN 37321, FNDL 27321, PHIL 37321
PLSC 37322. Jerusalem and Athens - On the Conflict between Revelation and Philosophy. 100 Units.
I shall discuss the subject on the basis of 4 lectures Leo Strauss gave on 'Jerusalem and Athens' and 'Reason and Revelation' in the period 1946-1967.
Instructor(s): Heinrich Meier Terms Offered: Spring. course will be taught spring 2020
Note(s): Open to undergrads by consent only. This course will be taught the first five weeks of the quarter.
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 27322, PHIL 37322, SCTH 37322

PLSC 37600. War and the Nation State. 100 Units.
The aim of this course is to examine the phenomenon of war in its broader socio-economic context during the years between the emergence of the modern nation-state at the end of the eighteenth century and the conclusion of World War II in 1945.
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 27600

PLSC 37815. Politics and Public Policy in China. 100 Units.
This course offers a historical and thematic survey of Chinese politics and of salient issues in China’s public policy. We review the patterns and dynamics of political development or lack thereof in the Mao and reform eras, including the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the politics of reforms. Later sections of the course look at China’s political institutions, leadership, as well as various issues of governance and public policy, including state-society relations, the relationship between Beijing and the provinces, corruption, population and environment. Emphasis is on how institutions have provided the incentives for change as well as how institutions have been transformed.
Instructor(s): D. Yang Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 27815, PLSC 27815

PLSC 38515. Democratic Recession: the Israeli Case. 100 Units.
This course will deal specifically with the Israel's democratic slippage during the past decade. It will examine its causes, its dynamics and its consequences, weaving in references to comparative case studies. A prior knowledge of Israeli politics, history and/or society is helpful but not necessary.
Instructor(s): N. Chazan Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 38602. American National Security Strategy. 100 Units.
This course surveys contemporary National Security Strategy around the world, focusing on the most urgent and important issues of the U.S. national security agenda. The purpose of the course is to help students better understand how the U.S. formulates national security strategy, key debates over how the U.S. should handle contemporary challenges, and provide important conceptual frameworks that will enable students to grapple with the security challenges of the decade ahead. The course covers recent changes in American grand strategy, nuclear policy, and the use of conventional forces in contemporary conflicts.
Instructor(s): R. Pape Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 28602

PLSC 38740. Conflict: Root Causes, Consequences, and Solutions for the Future. 100 Units.
This course will examine why people fight, the effects of fighting, and possible solutions to prevent conflict in the future. The reasons people fight, and the ways in which they fight, depend on economics, politics and psychology; we will draw on all three disciplines throughout the course. Different forms of fighting, whether terrorism or civil wars, have typically been studied separately; we will bridge this divide and study them together, assessing common root causes and approaches for resolving these conflicts.
Instructor(s): Dube, O Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 38740

PLSC 39501. International Political Economy. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar focuses on the prevailing theoretical and empirical research programs in international political economy (IPE). The course will introduce a variety of frontier research problems that animate current work in the field as well as provide experience evaluating empirical research. We will discuss relations between international markets and politics: mass politics, domestic political institutions, and international politics. A central goal of the course is to generate ideas for student research, including papers and dissertation topics.
Instructor(s): R. Gulotty Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 40000. Readings: Political Science. 100 Units.
This is a general reading and research course for independent study.

PLSC 40100. Thesis Preparation: Polsci. 100 Units.
This is an independent study course related to master's paper or dissertation research.
PLSC 40202. Case Studies on the Formation of Knowledge-I. 100 Units.
The KNOW core seminars for graduate students are offered by the faculty of the Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge. This two-quarter sequence provides a general introduction, followed by specific case studies, to the study of the formation of knowledge. Each course will explore 2-3 case study topics, and each case study will be team-taught within a ‘module.’ A short research paper is required at the end of each quarter. Graduate students from every field are welcome. Those who take both quarters are eligible to apply for a SIFK 6th-year graduate fellowship. For more information, please email your questions to sifik@uchicago.edu Module 1: Approaches to Knowledge Shadi Bartsch, Jack Gilbert The goal of this module is to identify central issues or debates in the theory of knowledge over the past century. Students will be introduced to basic issues in the sociology of knowledge, to the arguments for and against constructivist perspectives on knowledge, and to 21st century scientific standards for knowledge production. The course should provide students with a vocabulary and conceptual tools with which they argue about these issues and reflect upon the very conceptual tools they are using. Module 2: Democratic Knowledge Shadi Bartsch, Will Howell This module offers a variation on studies of the epistemic powers of democracy. Instead of asking questions such as how effective democracies are at gathering the knowledge they need to function, the module looks at Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40209, KNOW 40200, CMLT 41802, HIST 40200, MAPS 40201, SCCH 40200, CHSS 40200, MAPH 40200

PLSC 40525. Computational Methods for American Politics. 100 Units.
In this class, students will be introduced to several computational techniques aimed at exploring, understanding, and diagnosing substantive American political phenomena. Rather than focus on derivations and proofs of models, the main focus of the course will be applying and diagnosing model fit, along with computation and application in R. The goal of the class is twofold: first, to offer students a methodological toolbox to tackle complex questions of interest in the social sciences. The second goal, then, is to prepare students for applied quantitative research, offering modern data science techniques and computational training in the service of understanding and predicting American political behavior in a range of contexts. The course will be a combination seminar/applied, where we will read and discuss the latest developments as well as classical works related to a week’s topic, but also apply the concepts in R.
Instructor(s): Philip Waggoner Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MACS 40500, MAPS 40500, PLSC 20525

PLSC 40600. Seminar on IR Theory. 100 Units.
This course is a PhD-level introductory survey of the major scholarly traditions in the field of International Relations. It provides an introduction to the central theoretical approaches including realism, liberalism, and constructivism and their variants. The course also exposes students to more recent non-paradigmatic research programs, reflections on the field’s development over time, and the recurring ‘meta-debates’ which underlie many of the differences in applied areas. Seminar discussion will identify and criticize the central arguments advanced by different scholars in order to assess the relative merits of different theoretical perspectives. The course is designed to help students prepare for the Department’s IR general exam: assigned and suggested readings are a starting point for building a reading list; the course offers practice with answering exam questions; students will exercise modes of critical analysis during seminar critical to passing the exam.
Instructor(s): A. Carson Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 40604. Militant Power Politics. 100 Units.
Is a general theory of militant group violence possible and, if so, what is the core logic? Over the past twenty years, the study of militant power politics has exploded both empirically, but especially theoretically. Today, there are a variety of theories of the causes, conduct and consequences of violence by militant non-state actors. The most important are ideological, religious, ethnic, and strategic theories, which rest on fundamentally different assumptions about the coherence of militant groups, the degree of rationality in their decision-making, and the nature of their dynamics in competition with rival states. This seminar will cover the main theories of militant power politics, encouraging students to develop their own ideas about the development of general theories to account for major modern militant groups and carry out policy-relevant research in this area.
Instructor(s): R. Pape Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 40610. Seminar on International Security Affairs. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to a selection of the principal literature that forms the foundation of contemporary international security affairs. It is organized around four general subject areas: The international system and war, crises and war, the conduct of war, and the outcome of war. Each week, our purpose will be to critically assess the strengths and limits of the central arguments of the readings, on their own terms. Students preparing masters and PhD theses and for PhD preliminary exams will find this approach particularly useful. Specific weeks will include: Preventive War, Reputation and Deterrence, Targeting Civilians, Violence in Civil Wars, Relative Decline and War, and Why Armies Fight, among others. (D)
Instructor(s): R. Pape Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 40801. Social Choice Theory. 100 Units.
This course will provide you with an introduction to the field of social choice theory, the study of aggregating the preferences of individuals into a ‘collective preference.’ It will focus primarily on classic theorems and proof techniques, with the aim of examining the properties of different collective choice procedures and characterizing procedures that yield desirable outcomes. The classic social choice results speak not only to the difficulties in aggregating the preferences of individuals, but also to the difficulties in aggregating any set of diverse criteria that we deem important to making a choice or generating a ranking. Specific topics we will cover include preference aggregation, rationalizable choice, tournaments, sophisticated voting, domain restrictions, and the implicit trade-offs made by game theoretic versus social choice theoretic approaches to modeling.
Instructor(s): M. Nalepa Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course is a prerequisite for PLSC 30901 Game Theory I
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 20750

PLSC 40825. Unsupervised Machine Learning. 100 Units.
Though armed with rich datasets, many researchers are confronted with a lack of understanding of the structure of their data. Unsupervised machine learning offers researchers a suite of computational tools for uncovering the underlying, non-random structure that is assumed to exist in feature space. This course will cover prominent unsupervised machine learning techniques such as clustering, item response theory (IRT) models, multidimensional scaling, factor analysis, and other dimension reduction techniques. Further, mechanics involved in unsupervised machine learning will also be covered, such as diagnosing clusterability of a feature space (visually and mathematically), measures of distance and distance matrices, different algorithms based on data size (k-medoids/k-means vs. PAM vs. CLARA), visualizing patterns, and methods of validation (e.g., internal vs. external validation).
Instructor(s): Philip Waggoner Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MACS 40800, MAPS 40800, PLSC 20825

PLSC 42420. Approaches to the History of Political Thought. 100 Units.
This course will examine some of the most influential recent statements of method in the history of political thought, alongside work by the same authors that may (or may not) put those methods or approaches into practice. We will read works by Quentin Skinner, Reinhart Koselleck, J.G.A. Pocock, Leo Strauss, Sheldon Wolin, Michel Foucault, and David Scott among others, with some emphasis on writings about Hobbes and questions of sovereignty and the state. (E)
Instructor(s): J. Pitts Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 42420

PLSC 42501. Athenian Democracy and its Critics. 100 Units.
No course description available.
Instructor(s): M. Landauer Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 32515

PLSC 42502. Knowledge and Politics. 100 Units.
What is the relationship between knowledge and power, and between science and democracy? What kinds of knowledge are needed in politics, and who needs to know what? In this course we read a number of philosophers, theorists, and social scientists interested in the relationship between knowledge and politics. Topics covered may include: the epistemic properties of political institutions and markets; the role of expertise in politics; values in science and public policy; and theories of epistemic democracy and epistemic injustice. (A)
Instructor(s): M. Landauer Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22505

PLSC 42701. Seminar in Chinese Politics. 100 Units.
This is a research-oriented seminar for graduate students interested in exploring current research on China and in conducting their own research. Our emphasis will be on the changing nature of the Chinese Party-state, and the relations between state and economy and between state and society as the Chinese society, economy and the level of technology have undergone dramatic changes in recent decades. Throughout the course we’ll also pay attention to the course, dynamics, and challenges of making reform. Though the readings are on China, we are to consider China’s development comparatively and in view of recent developments in political science.
Instructor(s): D. Yang Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 43002. State Formations and Types of States: Global Perspectives. 100 Units.
Why, historically, did states emerge, and what did they do? The course begins by investigating standard narratives of European state formation, then proceeds to ask whether non-European and premodern state formations conform to the scholarly theories. Finally, we wonder whether theories of state formation fit empires or federal states. This course asks students simultaneously to take seriously social science explanations for state formation and the historical record.
Instructor(s): S. Pincus & J. Robinson Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Upper-level undergraduates with consent of instructors.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 43002
PLSC 43100. Maximum Likelihood. 100 Units.
The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the estimation and interpretation of maximum likelihood, a statistical method which permits a close linkage of deductive theory and empirical estimation. Among the problems considered in this course include: models of dichotomous choice, such as turnout and vote choice; models of limited categorical data, such as those for multi-party elections and survey responses; models for counts of uncorrelated events, such as executive orders and bookburnings; models for duration, such as the length of parliamentary coalitions or the tenure of bureaucracies; models for compositional data, such as allocation of time by bureaucrats to task and district vote shares; and models for latent variables, such as for predispositions. The emphasis in this course will be on the extraction of information about political and social phenomena, not upon properties of estimators.
Instructor(s): J. Brehm Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30700 Intro to Linear Models or consent of instructor.

PLSC 43401. Mathematical Foundations of Political Methodology. 100 Units.
This is a first course on the theory and practice of mathematical methods in social science research. These mathematical and computer skills are needed for the quantitative and formal modeling courses offered in the political science department and are increasingly necessary for courses in American, Comparative, and International Relations. We will cover mathematical techniques (linear algebra, calculus, probability) and methods of logical and statistical inference (proofs and statistics). A weekly computing lab will apply these methods, as well as introduce the R statistical computing environment. Students are expected to have completed SOSC 30100: Mathematics for Social Sciences.
Instructor(s): R. Gulotty Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Students are expected to have completed SOSC 30100: Mathematics for Social Sciences.
Note(s): This course is a prerequisite for PLSC 30901 Game Theory I

PLSC 43505. Introduction to Machine Learning. 100 Units.
This course will introduce students to the foundations of machine learning. We will cover everything needed for getting up and running with any computational research project from a machine learning perspective, including the key concepts: classification, regression, and dimensionality reduction. Students will learn about the fundamental mathematical concepts underlying machine learning algorithms, but this course will equally focus on the practical use of machine learning using open source statistical computing (e.g., Python, R, Julia). We will cover a variety of topics, including: the mechanics of a model, (re)sampling methods, model training, tuning, supervised vs. unsupervised learning, regularization, tree-based methods, and several other algorithms contributing to a solid foundation of inferential machine learning for addressing real social problems.
Instructor(s): Philip Waggoner Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 33002, MACS 33002

PLSC 43801. Plato’s Legacies. 100 Units.
Some of the most significant efforts to question political theory’s core concepts, unsettle its approaches, and expose its dangerous ideals have depended on major re-interpretations of Plato’s thought. This course investigates the broad critical impulse to treat Plato as the originator of political positions and interpretive assumptions that late modernity frequently seeks to critique and less often to celebrate. We consider the charges of essentialism, authoritarianism, and foundationalism, among others, and ask to what (if any) extent considerations of the texts’ historical contexts and dramaturgical conditions have factored into these assessments. Readings will include works by Popper, Strauss, Arendt, Derrida, Casteriadis, Wolin, Irigaray, Cavarero, Butler, and Rancière alongside Plato’s dialogues. Students are expected to be familiar with Plato’s thought upon enrolling.
Instructor(s): D. Kasimis Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 33815

PLSC 43820. Plato’s Republic. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to reading and discussion of Plato’s Republic and some secondary work with attention to justice in the city and the soul, war and warriors, education, theology, poetry, gender, eros, and actually existing cities.
Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Autumn. Course will be taught Autumn 2019
Prerequisite(s): Undergrads by consent
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 29503, LL23915, SCTH 31770
PLSC 44110. The Politics of Value Pluralism. 100 Units.
Value pluralism - the idea that difficult moral questions may have more than one right answer, that some of those answers conflict, and that there may be no rationally authoritative way of choosing between them - has attracted increasing attention from political theorists and philosophers. If true, this non-obvious and heterodox view raises significant challenges for political practice. How can we engage our fellow citizens rationally, if we do not share their moral assumptions, aims, or evidentiary authorities? On what basis can we hold political authorities accountable, if we cannot agree on the same moral criteria to distinguish legitimate from illegitimate uses of political power? If difficult moral questions permit more than one right answer, will that encourage practices of toleration and generosity, or the brute force of majority preference? This seminar will ask what value pluralism really means, what evidence we have for it, and what consequences it entails for a liberal politics.
Instructor(s): Chad Cyrenne Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 44100

PLSC 44201. Liberalism. 100 Units.
The post-war consensus on liberal democratic government can today seem under siege in Europe and the United States. Has liberalism run its course, its once revolutionary promise now dimmed by rising inequality, populist ideology, and perceived threats to national cultures? What newer, more persuasive liberalism might replace the managerial, economistic, instrumental model that we’ve inherited? This seminar explores a variety of answers to that question, arguing that the canonical replies may be stranger, the forgotten alternatives more compelling, and liberal thought far more variegated than liberalism’s critics or defenders have recognized. Our eclectic respondents include F.A. Hayek, Judith Shklar, Bernard Williams, Susan Okin, Richard Rorty, and Nancy Rosenblum. We will also explore some surprisingly topical interventions by John Locke, Voltaire, Diderot, Condorcet, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Dewey, and José Ortega y Gasset.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPS 44200, PLSC 24201

PLSC 44801. Network Theory for International Political Economy. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to the ongoing network turn in international political economy (IPE). It has three goals. First, students will replace purely metaphorical (and vague) talk of networks with focused propositions about the network properties and dynamics of contemporary phenomena such as international hierarchy, regional fragmentation amidst global integration, and the fate of sovereign territoriality in an age of (violent) transnational activism. Second, students will ponder competing explanations of the network turn in IPE: have IPE scholars abandoned conventional analytical tools in favor of network theory, because the conventional toolkit already came with rudimentary network-theoretic devices that simply needed sharpening; or did some changes in the real international economy prompt the shift? Finally, students will critically assess the ability of SNT to be a vehicle for innovative social science. They will do this, in part, by devising a research proposal of their own that assesses the validity and utility of testing a single network-theoretic proposition against some conventional competitor.
Instructor(s): M. Staisch Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): INRE 44802

PLSC 44810. Hannah Arendt: From Kantian Aesthetics to the Practice of Political Judgment. 100 Units.
The third volume of Hannah Arendt’s The Life of the Mind was never written. As her editor, Mary McCarthy, observed: ‘After her death, a sheet of paper was found in her typewriter, blank except for the heading ‘Judging’ and two epigraphs. Sometime between the Saturday of finishing ‘Willing’ [the second volume of the aforementioned work] and the Thursday of her death, she must have sat down to confront the final section.’ In this course we will consider the possibility that Arendt does in fact address the problem of validity (which, with Kant she calls ‘subjective validity’), with one important caveat: she does not think that validity in itself is the all-important problem or task for political judgment-the affirmation of political community as the realm of human plurality and freedom is. We will examine those aspects of Kant’s Critique of Judgment that she neglected, such as the non-cognitive function of productive imagination and the limits of reproductive imagination in the aesthetic of the sublime. We shall also consider the rather different critical view, advanced by postmodern thinkers like Lyotard, that Arendt does not repudiate but rather shares Habermas’ attempt to ground political community on a practice of judgment at whose center stands not the demand to create political community anew, but the idea that radical differences of opinion are in principle resolvable by means of proofs.
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 44905. Feminism and the Radical Democratic Imaginary: Futures Past. 100 Units.
In Part I of this course we explore how conceptualizations of the past shape imaginative visions of possible futures. How we understand the past has a direct bearing on what can count as a ‘realistic’ course of social, political, and economic action. Our conception of the past is itself shaped by a projected future and different societies have different ways of imagining the relations between their own future and past. Originating in the revolutionary 18th century, Western feminism’s conceptualization of this relation, its own ‘futures past’ (to speak with Reinhard Koselleck), is characterized by an anticipatory and distinctively modern temporality that assumes the novelty and openness of the future. If the history of feminism calls at times for rewriting, that is less because new facts are discovered than that the ever-changing present opens new perspectives on the past and makes new demands on what it can mean. The past is figured more in terms of projected futures than fidelity to how things really were. For this reason, feminist historiography is rife with debates about whose story is told, and the idea of a ‘wave’ itself has with good reason been criticized as overly generalizing in ways that blind us to the far more fraught and complex histories not captured in its conceptual net.
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 44905

PLSC 44906. Feminism and the Radical Democratic Imaginary, Part II. 100 Units.
The political history of Western feminism is typically described as encompassing various ‘waves’ of theory and practice, with each wave building on, but also going beyond, an earlier wave. Thus, the second-wave (1968-1980s) is seen as taking up and radicalizing the first wave (1848-1920) struggle for political rights by expanding the concept of rights and of politics itself beyond the confines of the formal political sphere; the third wave (1991-?) is seen as taking up and radicalizing the second wave’s concept of ‘women’ as the political subject of feminism; and so on. Handy though this periodization may be, it has left many feminists wondering which wave they are in anymore. Some feminists argue that the various waves have given way to ‘intersectional feminism,’ but that description does not address the fundamental question of what kind of critical political work the concept of a ‘wave’ was supposed to do in the first place. It was not until 1968 that people started talking about feminism in terms of different waves, and that feminism came to be understood as having a history at all. This shift allowed feminists to root their political demand for change in a historical democratic struggle for social justice, not least as a way of countering the popular view of the women’s liberation movement as an impossibly utopian project made up by a bunch of crazy man-hating misfits.
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 44906

PLSC 45010. Social Theory and the Economy. 100 Units.
This course will survey a variety of works in economic sociology, political economy and organization theory. The focus will be substantively on the changing character of market process, the location of production and the governance of flows of labor and capital. Theoretically, we will survey recent work in Actor-Network Theory, Experimentalist Governance, field theory and institutionalism. Among others, we will read work by Polanyi, Sahlins, Beckert, Latour, Callon, Mackenzie, Fliedstein, Boltanski, Sabel, Thelen.
Instructor(s): G. Herrigel
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40227

PLSC 45052. The Study of Criminal Justice and Race in the United States. 100 Units.
This course will familiarize students with the major themes in recent scholarship on criminal justice and race in the United States. These include how racial hierarchies influence legislation, the role criminal justice plays in racial construction, the functioning of bureaucracies in racialized societies, and the political consequences of criminal justice policy. It will also take this scholarship as an object of study to critically assess the scope of questions being answered in this area, and examine the relationship between epistemological commitments, ontological premises, and the ability of systematic inquiry to serve or subvert racial hierarchies.
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): A. McCall
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 45503

PLSC 45705. Theories of Global Capitalism since Hobson. 100 Units.
This course examines theories of capitalist globalization and its relationship to/ role in economic and political development in the non Western world since the beginning of the 20th century. Emphasis will be placed on the way in which various authors normatively understand the relationship between politics and economic process. Works by Hobson, Lenin, Luxemburg, Schumpeter, Lewis, Hirschman, Frank, Evans, Arrighi, Vernon, Stiglitz, Rodrik and others will be considered.
Instructor(s): G. Herrigel
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40223

PLSC 45710. Race and Capitalism. 100 Units.
This course will address issues of race and capitalism.
Instructor(s): Dawson, Michael Katzenstein, Emily
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 45700
PLSC 46600. Political Economy of Development. 100 Units.
This course is intended as an introduction for Ph.D. students to the research literature in the political economy of development. Its purpose is to give students both a sense of the frontier research topics and a good command of how social science methodological tools are used in the area.
Instructor(s): Blattman, C; Robinson, J Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ECON 35570, PPHA 41120

PLSC 48001. Field Seminar in Comparative Politics I. 100 Units.
This seminar broadly surveys the study of comparative politics in contemporary political science.
Instructor(s): L. Wedeen Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 48101. Field Seminar in Comparative Politics II. 100 Units.
This seminar broadly surveys the study of comparative politics in contemporary political science.
Instructor(s): M. Nalepa, B. Lessing Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901 Game Theory 1 or equivalent

PLSC 48401. Quantitative Security. 100 Units.
Since Quincy Wright's A Study of War, scholars of war and security have collected and analyzed data. This course guides students through an intellectual history of the quantitative study of war. The course begins with Wright, moves to the founding of the Correlates of War project in the late 1960s, and then explores the proliferation of quantitative conflict studies in the 1990s and 2000s. The course ends by considering the recent focus on experimental and quasi-experimental analysis. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to the empirical methods used to study conflict and the data issues facing quantitative conflict scholars. For students with limited training in quantitative methods, this course will serve as a useful introduction to such methods. For students with extensive experience with quantitative methods, this course will deepen their understanding of when and how to apply these methods.
Instructor(s): P. Poast Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 39830

PLSC 48801. Constitutional Law for LL.M. Students. 100 Units.
This course is designed to introduce LL.M. students to U.S. constitutional law. Topics to be covered include the theory, development and practice of judicial review, the allocation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and the role of and interactions between the states and the federal government in the federal structure. In addition, the course will cover key doctrines in the areas of equal protection and substantive due process.
Instructor(s): G. Rosenberg Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 49301. Emotion, Reason, and Law. 100 Units.
Emotions figure in many areas of the law, and many legal doctrines (from reasonable provocation in homicide to mercy in criminal sentencing) invite us to think about emotions and their relationship to reason. In addition, some prominent theories of the limits of law make reference to emotions: thus Lord Devlin and, more recently, Leon Kass have argued that the disgust of the average member of society is a sufficient reason for rendering a practice illegal, even though it does no harm to others. Emotions, however, are all too rarely studied closely, with the result that both theory and doctrine are often confused. The first part of this course will study major theories of emotion, asking about the relationship between emotion and cognition, focusing on philosophical accounts, but also learning from anthropology and psychology. We will ask how far emotions embody cognitions, and of what type, and then we will ask whether there is reason to consider some or all emotions 'irrational' in a normative sense. We then turn to the criminal law, asking how specific emotions figure in doctrine and theory: anger, fear, compassion, disgust, guilt, and shame. Legal areas considered will include self-defense, reasonable provocation, mercy, victim impact statements, sodomy laws, sexual harassment, shame-based punishments. (A) (I)
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Law students and Ph.D. students may register without permission. All others need instructor's permission.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 38300, PHIL 35209, GNSE 28210, RETH 32900, PHIL 25209

PLSC 50000. Dissertation Proposal Seminar. 100 Units.
A weekly seminar devoted to the presentation and collective discussion of several drafts of each student's dissertation proposal.
Instructor(s): L. Wedeen Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 50325. Public Morality and Legal Conservatism. 100 Units.
This seminar will study the philosophical background of contemporary legal arguments alluding to the idea of 'public morality,' in thinkers including Edmund Burke, James Fitzjames Stephen, and Patrick Devlin, and the criticisms of such arguments in thinkers including Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill, and Herbert Hart. We will then study legal arguments on a range of topics, including drugs and alcohol, gambling, nudity, pornography and obscenity, non-standard sex, and marriage.
Equivalent Course(s): RETH 50325, GNSE 50325, PHIL 50325
PLSC 51512. Workshop: Law and Philosophy. 50 Units.
Substantial Writing Requirement. The theme for 2019-20 is ‘Migration and Citizenship.’ This is a seminar/workshop many of whose participants are faculty from various related disciplines. It admits approximately ten students. Its aim is to study, each year, a topic that arises in both philosophy and the law and to ask how bringing the two fields together may yield mutual illumination. Most sessions are led by visiting speakers, from either outside institutions or our own faculty, who circulate their papers in advance. The session consists of a brief introduction by the speaker, followed by initial questioning by the two faculty coordinators, followed by general discussion, in which students are given priority. Several sessions involve students only, and are led by the instructors. Students write a 20-25 page seminar paper at the end of the year. The course satisfies the Law School Instructor(s): D. Guillery; M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter Prerequisite(s): Students are admitted by permission of the two instructors. They should submit a c.v. and a statement (reasons for interest in the course, relevant background in law and/or philosophy) to the instructors by e mail by September 20. Ph.D. students in Philosophy and Political Theory and law students do not need permission.
Note(s): Students must enroll for all three quarters to receive credit.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 51200, HMRT 51301, RETH 51301, GNSE 50101

PLSC 51516. Henry Sidgwick. 100 Units.
The most philosophically explicit and rigorous of the British Utilitarians, Henry Sidgwick made important contributions to normative ethics, political philosophy, and metaethics. His work also has important implication for law. His great work The Methods of Ethics, which will be the primary focus of this seminar, has been greatly admired even by those who deeply disagree with it - for example John Rawls, for whom Sidgwick was important both as a source and as a foil, and Bernard Williams, who wrote about him with particular hostility. Sidgwick provides the best defense of Utilitarianism we have, allowing us to see what it really looks like as a normative ethical and social theory. Sidgwick was also a practical philosopher and activist, writing on many topics, but especially on women’s higher education, which he did much to pioneer at Cambridge University, founding Newnham College with his wife Eleanor. A rationalist who helped to found the Society for Psychical Research, an ardent feminist who defended the ostracism of the ‘fallen woman,’ a closeted gay man who attempted to justify the proscriptions of Victorian morality, Sidgwick is a philosopher full of deep tensions and fascinating contradictions, which work their way into his arguments. So we will also read the work In the context of Sidgwick’s contorted relationship with his era. (I) (IV) Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Autumn Prerequisite(s): An undergraduate major in philosophy or some equivalent solid philosophy preparation. This is a 500 level course. Ph.D. students in Philosophy and Political Theory may enroll without permission.
Note(s): Admission by permission of the instructor. Permission must be sought in writing by September 15.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 51516, RETH 51516

PLSC 52402. Florentine Political Thought. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to the political writings of the giants of medieval and Renaissance Italian and specifically Florentine political thought: Petrarch, Salutati, Bruni, Bracciolini, Savonarola, Guicciardini and, of course, Machiavelli. Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Winter Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 22402, PLSC 22402

PLSC 52601. Pheromones: The Chemical Signals Around You. 100 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 52600

PLSC 53000. Seminar on Great Power Politics. 100 Units.
The aim of this course is to explore some of the key questions concerning relations among the great powers. Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 53101. Seminar: Democracy and the Information Technology Revolution. 100 Units.
The revolution in information technologies has serious implications for democratic societies. We concentrate, though not exclusively, on the United States. We look at which populations have the most access to technology-based information sources (the digital divide), and how individual and group identities are being forged online. We ask how is the responsiveness of government being affected, and how representative is the online community. Severe conflict over the tension between national security and individual privacy rights in the U.S., United Kingdom and Ireland will be explored as well. We analyze both modern works (such as those by Turkle and Gilder) and the work of modern democratic theorists (such as Habermas). An emphasis in this course will be the methodologies and research agendas utilized by scholars in this field. Instructor(s): M. Dawson Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 53300. Seminar on Nuclear Weapons and International Politics. 100 Units.
The aim of this course is to examine how nuclear weapons have affected the conduct of international relations. Special attention will be paid to subjects like: 1) nuclear deterrence, 2) the causes of nuclear proliferation, 3) the consequences of nuclear proliferation, 4) strategies for employing nuclear weapons, 4) the role of nuclear weapons in the Cold War, 5) how nuclear weapons will affect relations among the great powers in the emerging multipolar world, and 6) whether there has been a ‘nuclear revolution.’ Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 53900. Thucydides. 100 Units.
This course offers an introductory reading of Thucydides's History of the Peloponnesian War, on the classic
guides to politics, both domestic and international. Themes may include: progress and decline; justice, necessity,
and expediency; fear, honor, and gain as motives of political action; the strengths and weaknesses of democracies
and oligarchies in domestic and foreign policy; stability and revolution; strategy, statesmanship, ad prudence;
the causes and effects of war; relations between stronger and weaker powers; imperialism, isolationism,
and alliances; and piety, chance, and the limits of rationality. We will conclude by reading the first books of
Xenophon's Hellenica to see how the war ended.
Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): It is a grad and undergrad course, open to undergrads
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 38752, HMRT 37700, PLSC 23900

PLSC 55300. Workshop: Political Economy. 100 Units.
This is a workshop; Only open to PhD students and is an audit only course.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 56100, ECON 56100

PLSC 55818. Hellenistic Ethics. 100 Units.
The three leading schools of the Hellenistic era (starting in Greece in the late fourth century B. C. E. and
extending through the second century C. E. in Rome) - Epicureans, Skeptics, and Stoics - produced philosophical
work of lasting value, frequently neglected because of the fragmentary nature of the Greek evidence and
people's (unjustified) contempt for Roman philosophy. We will study in a detailed and philosophically careful
way the major ethical arguments of all three schools. Topics to be addressed include: the nature and role of
pleasure; the role of the fear of death in human life; other sources of disturbance (such as having definite ethical
beliefs?); the nature of the emotions and their role in a moral life; the nature of appropriate action; the meaning
of the injunction to 'live in accordance with nature'. If time permits we will say something about Stoic political
philosophy and its idea of global duty. Major sources (read in English) will include the three surviving letters of
Epicurus and other fragments; the skeptical writings of Sextus Empiricus; the presentation of Stoic ideas in the
Greek biographer Diogenes Laertius and the Roman philosophers Cicero and Seneca. (IV)
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Admission by permission of the instructor. Permission must be sought in writing by September
15. An undergraduate major in philosophy or some equivalent solid philosophy preparation, plus my
permission. This is a 500 level course. Ph.D. students in Philosophy, Classics, and Political Theory may enroll
without permission.
Note(s): This course complements the Latin course on Stoic Ethics in the Winter quarter, and many will enjoy
doing both.
Equivalent Course(s): RETH 55818, PHIL 55818, CLAS 45818

PLSC 56101. International Human Rights. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to international human rights law, covering the major instruments and institutions
that operate on the international plane. It includes discussion of the conceptual underpinnings of human rights,
the structure of the United Nations System, the major international treaties, regional human rights machinery,
and the interplay of national and international systems in enforcing human rights. There are no prerequisites.
Grading will be on the basis of a take-home exam at the end of the quarter. Students who wish to write, in lieu of
the exam, a paper sufficient to satisfy the substantial writing requirement, may do so upon approval of the topic
in advance.
Equivalent Course(s): PPHA 38752, HMRT 37700, LLSS 23262

PLSC 56300. The Global Plantation. 100 Units.
From its emergence in the late-medieval Mediterranean, to the slave societies of the New World, through its
late colonial heritage in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, the plantation has been a paradigmatic institution of
racial-capitalist modernity. Through a range of texts that includes slave narratives, novels, political economy,
sociological studies and recent histories of capitalism, this course explores how the plantation opened a vexed
problem-space in which concepts central to the modern world (such as sovereignty, freedom, and labor)
emerged, were debated, and continuously refigured. While the plantation is frequently figured as an institution
of the past, this transnationally and transhistorically oriented course will examine a set of thinkers who argue
for the aliveness of the plantation's present in the shaping of political, economic, and social trajectories in the
postcolonial world.
Instructor(s): Christopher Taylor & Adam Getachew Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 50405, CDIN 56300, ENGL 55603, CRES 56300

PLSC 57200. Network Analysis. 100 Units.
This seminar explores the sociological utility of the network as a unit of analysis. How do the patterns of social
ties in which individuals are embedded differentially affect their ability to cope with crises, their decisions to
move or change jobs, their eagerness to adopt new attitudes and behaviors? The seminar group will consider (a)
how the network differs from other units of analysis, (b) structural properties of networks, consequences of flows
(or content) in network ties, and (c) dynamics of those ties.
Instructor(s): J. Padgett Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 50096
PLSC 70000. Advanced Study: Political Science. 300.00 Units.
Advanced Study: Political Science