Department of Political Science

Chair
- Cathy Cohen

Professors
- John J. Brehm
- Cathy Cohen
- Michael Dawson
- J. Mark Hansen
- Gary Herrigel
- William Howell, Public Policy
- Charles Lipson
- John McCormick
- John J. Mearsheimer
- J. Eric Oliver
- John F. Padgett
- Robert Pape
- John Patty
- Elizabeth Maggie Penn
- Bernard S. Silberman
- Nathan Tarcov, Social Thought
- Lisa Wedeen
- Dali Yang
- Linda Zerilli

Associate Professors
- Patchen Markell
- Sankar Muthu
- Monika Nalepa
- Jennifer Pitts
- Gerald N. Rosenberg
- Dan Slater

Assistant Professors
- Michael Albertus
- Austin Carson
- Chiara Cordelli
- Robert Gulotty
- Demetra Kasimis
The Department of Political Science offers a course of study leading to the Ph.D. 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 aptitude scores, and a brief 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. We 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 discipline. The program requirements mix research papers, coursework, and exams so that students can achieve these goals as they proceed expeditiously towards the Ph.D. degree.

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

For purposes of course distribution and comprehensive exams, the department offers courses and exams in five fields. At present, they are theory, American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and methodology. To meet the course distribution requirement, students must complete three courses in each of
three fields. Overall, twelve courses taken for quality grades are required by the end of the sixth quarter.

In the first year students are required to take PLSC 30500 Introduction to Data Analysis and write a research paper as part of the normal writing requirement of a class. The most important project in the first two years is the master’s paper, a piece of original research that is modeled on a journal article and addresses an important research question or debate.

Students are required to pass comprehensive exams in two fields. The exams are offered twice a year (with the exception of the comparative politics exam, which is scheduled on an individual basis) and they may be taken at any point but the final deadline by which the exams must be taken is the beginning of the seventh quarter (normally autumn quarter of the third year).

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 B.A. papers.

After completing courses and exams, students turn to the Ph.D. 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.

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 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/. Most admissions materials can be uploaded into the admission application.

Questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to admissions@ssd.uchicago.edu or (773) 702-8415. All correspondence and materials that cannot be uploaded should be mailed to:

The University of Chicago
Division of the Social Sciences
Admissions Office, Foster 105
1130 East 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Courses

For teaching purposes the subject matter of political science has been divided into the following fields of advanced study: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and methodology. These fields are thought of not as separate compartments but as broad and flexible areas of specialization. Ph.D. candidates with interest in the governments of particular geographical areas may specialize in those areas by combining work in political science with relevant courses from other departments.

Field I. Political Theory

The field of political theory deals with the basic problems of politics with respect to both substance and method. It is therefore regarded as the foundation for work in all other areas of political science. It is concerned with three orders of problems: with alternative theories relating to the way people act in political affairs; with alternative standards in terms of which policy may be judged; and with alternative kinds of models and methods for pursuing political research.

Field II. American Politics

The field of American politics deals with the organization, distribution, and orientation of political power in American society. The major items of emphasis are the development of American political thought, the political behavior of individuals, groups, and governmental institutions, elections, and the formation and execution of public policy. Attention is paid both to the present state of the American political system and to its historical roots.

Field III. Comparative Politics

The field of comparative politics examines phenomena such as state formation, democracy, nationalism, economic organization, revolution, and social movements across time and space. One approach to these phenomena is to develop expertise in
a particular era or area, and then to interpret the distinctive political processes and outcomes coming from that context. Another approach is to examine a set of cases in the search for valid generalizations about political phenomena that span across regions or historical eras. A third approach is to rely on formal theory to specify universal mechanisms or processes, and then to use data from a variety of sources to give credence to the models. All approaches share an assumption that the systematic study of political experience beyond that of the United States is a key ingredient for a discipline that seeks high levels of generality and abstraction.

**FIELD IV. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

The field of international relations is concerned with theoretical and empirical examination of international politics, especially international security and international political economy. Methodological approaches represented by the faculty include historical, case study, quantitative, and mathematical analysis. Workshops provide a common forum within the department for interchange between different questions about and approaches to international politics. In addition, there are important connections to other areas of political science including comparative and American politics, methodology, and political theory. International relations further engages other social science disciplines including international economics, political geography, public policy, and diplomatic history. Students are encouraged to take courses in these and other disciplines, although the department assumes responsibility only for those approaches to the study of international relations which develop the assumptions and utilize the methods employed in the fields of political science. For this field of political science, students are expected to acquire fundamental knowledge of international politics, with special emphasis on international relations theory and research approaches.

**FIELD V. METHODOLOGY**

The field of methodology is concerned with the quantitative and model building skills required for the study of political phenomena. It consists of introductory sequences of courses in both statistical and mathematical analysis, in addition to a variety of more advanced offerings focusing on specific topics. Applications of these methods in particular research areas will be encountered in a number of courses listed under the appropriate substantive fields. The department offers a comprehensive exam in Methodology by petition only; however, students can meet the requirements for course distribution automatically.

The department website offers descriptions of graduate courses scheduled for the current academic year: [http://political-science.uchicago.edu/academics/courses.shtml](http://political-science.uchicago.edu/academics/courses.shtml)
POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

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 is a prerequisite. This course is a pre-requisite for “Advanced Topics in Causal Inference” and “Mediation, moderation, and spillover effects.”
Instructor(s): G. Hong Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Statistics
Note(s): Graduate course open to advanced undergraduates. CHDV Distribution, M*, M*
Equivalent Course(s): STAT 31900, PBHS 43201, SOCI 30315, CHDV 30102

PLSC 30300. Survey of American Politics. 100 Units.
A survey of some of the main themes, topics and approaches in the study of American politics and government. (B)
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 30500. Introduction to Data Analysis. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to the research methods practiced by quantitative political scientists. The first part lays out the enterprise of empirical research: the structure and content of theories, the formulation of testable hypotheses, the logic of empirical tests, and the consideration of competing hypotheses. The second part considers the implementation of empirical research: the potential barriers to valid inferences, the strengths and limitations of research designs, and empirical representations of theoretical constructs. The final part provides hands-on experience with the two kinds of analyses most frequently performed by quantitative political researchers: contingency tables and regression. (E)
Instructor(s): M. Dawson Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Open to Political Science Ph.D. students only.
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. (E)
Instructor(s): M. Hansen Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 30901. Game Theory I. 100 Units.
This is a course for graduate students in Political Science. It introduces students to games of complete information through solving problem sets. We will cover the concepts of equilibrium in dominant strategies, weak dominance, iterated elimination of weakly dominated 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. This class serves as a prerequisite for Game Theory II offered in the Winter Quarter. (E)
Instructor(s): M. Nalepa Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 31000. Game Theory II. 100 Units.
This is a course for graduate students in Political Science. It introduces students to games of incomplete information through solving problem sets. We will cover the concepts of Bayes Nash equilibrium, perfect Bayesian equilibrium, and quantal response equilibrium. 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. (E)
Instructor(s): J. Patty Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 30901 or equivalent and consent of instructor.
PLSC 31410. Advanced Theories of Sex/Gender: Ideology, Culture, and Sexuality. 100 Units.
Beginning with the extension of the democratic revolution in the breakup of the New Left, this seminar will explore the key debates (foundations, psychoanalysis, sexual difference, universalism, multiculturalism) around which gender and sexuality came to be articulated as politically significant categories in the late 1980s and the 1990s. (A)
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Completion of GNSE 10100-10200 and GNSE 28505 or 28605 or permission of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 21400, ARTH 31400, ENGL 21401, ENGL 30201, GNSE 31400, MAPH 36500, PLSC 21410

PLSC 31501. Models of Groups and Behavior. 100 Units.
Much of formal modeling in political science examines the role of institutions in determining outcomes. In this class we will survey formal models of behavior — both at the group and individual level. Each week will be dedicated to an in-depth reading of a recent or classic text in this field. Topics include group formation, culture, deliberation, and trust. (E)
Instructor(s): E. Penn Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): A prior course in game theory

PLSC 32101. Machiavelli’s Literary Works. 100 Units.
A reading of Machiavelli’s plays, stories, and poems both as literary works and for what light they shed on his political thought. Familiarity with The Prince is presumed. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor required.
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 20802, FNDL 20801, PLSC 20801

PLSC 32401. Great Power Politics in the Nineteenth Century. 100 Units.
This course examines relations among Europe’s five Great Powers in the 19th century: Britain, France, Prussia/Germany, Austria, and Russia. Their alliances and antagonisms are the traditional subject matter of international relations theory and history. This course covers the period from the end of the Napoleonic Wars to World War I. The course is divided into three parts. The first covers the Great Powers’ cooperation after Napoleon’s defeat until its breakdown in the 1850s. The second covers the unification of Germany and Italy, which significantly reshaped international politics. The final section covers imperialism, rising nationalism, and the run-up to the Great War. Since the Great Powers’ industrial development is directly relevant to their military capacity and economic interdependence, the course includes some materials on the First and Second Industrial Revolutions in Europe. The focus of this course is international and historical, not IR theory (though theoretical issues will be raised when the historical materials warrant). The course provides a useful background for subsequent study in IR and international history. (D)
Instructor(s): C. Lipson Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 21401
PLSC 32803. European Political Systems. 100 Units.
The course is meant to provide the students with a good comparative knowledge and understanding of four important European political systems: France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy. We will also examine other political systems, especially Poland, Portugal, Spain, and the Scandinavian countries. The course focuses on representative and governing institutions within these countries as well as parties and party systems, and their transformations, in these nations. Finally, we will attempt to identify the reasons for widespread dissatisfaction with various political systems in Europe and to evaluate the performance and quality of democracy in such countries.
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22803

PLSC 32804. Contemporary Italian Politics. 100 Units.
This course focuses on recent and ongoing dramatic transformations of the Italian political system. We start with the collapse of the First Republic in 1993 and the 1994 national elections. We will then evaluate the strength and nature of Italy’s major political actors and strategies in light of the constraints and incentives afforded by the republic’s institutions and electoral laws. At various points, we will discuss Italy’s similarities and differences with other European parliamentary. Finally, we will evaluate the overall performance of the Italian political system in terms of stability/instability, adaptive capabilities, and quality of democracy.
Instructor(s): G. Pasquino Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22804

PLSC 33200. History of International Thought. 100 Units.
The field of International Relations long traced its history through traditions and conceptions (realism, liberalism, anarchy, international society) understood to be derived from a series of founding figures and moments—Grotius, Hobbes, Kant, the 1648 Westphalia treaties, and others. At the same time, the history of international thought was until recently relatively neglected by political theorists and intellectual historians. This course examines some of the most influential “originary” figures and moments for theorists of international relations, alongside recent historical work, in order to reconsider possibilities for international theory and the history of international thought. (A)
Instructor(s): J. Pitts Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 33200

PLSC 33915. 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, psychology, education, theology, poetry, gender, eros, and cities in speech and actually existing cities. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor required.
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 23915, LLSO 23915, CLAS 34216, CLCV 24216, PLSC 23915
PLSC 34525. Hannah Arendt: On Revolution. 100 Units.
This seminar will be focused on Hannah Arendt’s *On Revolution*, first published in 1963. Alongside a careful reading of the text, we may consider: the place of *On Revolution* in Arendt’s oeuvre; its significance for recent and contemporary democratic theory; its relation to Marxian theories of revolution; its reception in the 1960s, particularly within the "New Left"; its relation to political and social-scientific discourses about revolution, including particularly anti-colonial revolution, in the context of the Cold War; its relation to the contemporaneous re-emergence of "poverty" as an object of political concern in the United States; and the adequacy, inadequacy, and/or idiosyncracy of Arendt’s treatments of historical revolutions such as the American, French, Russian, German, Hungarian, and Cuban. (A) 
Instructor(s): P. Markell Terms Offered: Autumn 
Prerequisite(s): For advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Enrollment will be limited and consent required. 
Note(s): Please do not contact the instructor for consent prior to the start of the term; interested students should simply attend the first session. 
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 24525,PLSC 24525

PLSC 34625. On Revolution Continued. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar is a continuation of "Hannah Arendt’s On Revolution" (offered in the Autumn) and will offer the opportunity for more intensive study of the bearing of concrete cases of revolutionary politics on Arendt’s thought (and vice versa) and the relation (historical and conceptual) of Arendt’s work to that of other theorists and scholars of revolution. Prior enrollment in "Hannah Arendt’s On Revolution" is strongly recommended, but students who have relevant background may be admitted to the seminar without completion of the first course. (A) 
Instructor(s): P. Markell Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 35500. Public Opinion. 100 Units.
A close examination of techniques employed, categories utilized and assumptions made by contemporary American students of public opinion. Criticism of these approaches from historical, philosophical and comparative perspectives will be encouraged. The course will make little sense to students without at least a background in Data Analysis (PLSC 30500). (B) 
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 35600. Japanese Politics. 100 Units.
This course is a survey of the major aspects of Japanese politics: party politics, bureaucracy, the diet, and political behavior in post-World War II Japan. (C) 
Instructor(s): B. Silberman Terms Offered: Autumn 
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 25900
PLSC 35810. Democracy in Indonesia. 100 Units.
Indonesia is both the largest new democracy and the largest majority-Muslim country in the world. This course considers how Indonesia has managed to establish a surprisingly stable democratic regime since the late 1990s after more than forty years of dictatorship. What allowed democracy to take root in Indonesia despite the enormous challenges of a devastating economic crisis, violent outbreaks of ethnic and religious conflict, widespread movements for territorial separation, longstanding disagreements over the proper role for Islam in politics, and an apparent lack of local democratic experience? What were the tradeoffs involved, and how have they affected the quality of democracy in Indonesia today? Beyond surveying the important case of Indonesia itself, this course will also consider how Indonesia's surprising experience might change the way we think about democratization more generally. (C)
Instructor(s): D. Slater Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 25810

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. (D)
Instructor(s): P. Staniland Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 36305. Elections with(out) Choices? Comparative Approaches. 100 Units.
This course provides a comprehensive overview of the main theories, concepts and methods of Electoral Sociology, by situating the act of voting in diverse socio-historical contexts. It discusses paradigmatic contributions to understand the most important approaches of electoral behavior, and connects them to current research and ongoing debates. This supplies a solid base to develop multi-dimensional analysis of voting, using examples of different US, Mexican and Central American elections. Finally, the classes provide materials and assistance for the elaboration of an exploratory research paper, taking into account each student's particular interests. (C)
Instructor(s): W. Sonnleitner Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 26306, LACS 36306, PLSC 26305
PLSC 37000. Law and Politics: U.S. Courts as Political Institutions. 100 Units.
An examination of the ways in which United States courts affect public policy. Questions include: How do the procedures, structures, and organization of the courts affect judicial outcomes? Are there interests that courts are particularly prone to support? What effect does congressional or executive impact, including judicial selection, have on court decisions? What are the difficulties with implementation of judicial decisions? (B)
Instructor(s): G. Rosenberg Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Mandatory preliminary meeting and consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): LAWS 51302

PLSC 37318. Friedrich Nietzsche’s Twilight of the Idols. 100 Units.
In this seminar I shall present a new interpretation of the last book Nietzsche published himself. In “Ecce homo” he says about "Twilight of the Idols": “there is nothing that is of more substance, that is more independent, more subversive, more evil.” The book is avowedly in the service of the “revaluation of all values.” On the other hand Nietzsche calls the book his “relaxation” from the “enormous task of the revaluation.” “Twilight of the Idols”, or "How to Philosophize with a Hammer" presents all the great themes of Nietzsche’s late philosophy and prepares the culminating dyad of this oeuvre, "Ecce homo" and "The Anti-Christ".
Instructor(s): H. Meier Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 27318,GRMN 27316,GRMN 37316,PHIL 24713,PHIL 34713,SCTH 37318

PLSC 37500. Organizational Decision Making. 100 Units.
This course examines the process of decision making in modern, complex organizations (e.g., universities, schools, hospitals, business firms, public bureaucracies). We also consider the impact of information, power, resources, organizational structure, and the environment, as well as alternative models of choice. (B)
Instructor(s): J. Padgett Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 27500,SOCI 30301

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 in the late eighteenth century and the end of World War II. (D)
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 27600
PLSC 37702. Political Leadership: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. 100 Units.
This course will examine both classical and contemporary analyses of leadership, with a particular focus on the relationship between executive authority and democratic politics. We will read traditional authors such as Cicero, Livy, Plutarch, and Machiavelli, as well as contemporary analyses of modern political leadership, especially of the American presidency. (A)
Instructor(s): W. Howell, J. Patty Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Limited enrollment.
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 27704, PLSC 27702

PLSC 37725. Machiavelli’s Florentine Histories. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to a close reading of what is perhaps Niccolò Machiavelli’s most difficult work, the Florentine Histories. We will explore the extent to which the lessons of Machiavelli’s history of his native city conform with those that he earlier set forth in more famous works like The Prince and the Discourses. We will also examine the interpretive debates over the Histories that pervade the scholarly literature. Themes pertaining to the Florentine Republic to be considered include: liberty, patriotism, civic foundings, social conflict, partisan strife, religion and politics, tyranny, revolution, and corruption. (A)
Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Advanced consent of instructor required.
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 27725, FNDL 27725, PLSC 27725

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. (D)
Instructor(s): R. Gulotty Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 39701. Building World Order after Major Wars. 100 Units.
This course focuses on the recurrent problem (both practical and theoretical) of rebuilding world order after major wars. It covers the aftermath of the three wars in 1800: the Wars of the French Revolution and Napoleon, World War I, and World War II, plus the analogous situation after the collapse of the Soviet Union and its empire. All those can be compared to the very different problems of rebuilding after wars in the early modern era, such as the wars of Louis XIV. The course is built around major premises. First, following Gilpin and Ikenberry, it assumes major wars disrupt the existing international order, that the immediate aftermath is in flux, and that the arrangements developed then set the contours of international politics for years to come. Second, it argues that the ideology and purposes of Great Powers, as well as their material resources, affect key features of post-war order. Third, it supplements the existing literature, which focuses on international institutions, to argue that a crucial part of building international order is establishing and stabilizing domestic regimes in the defeated states. The key features of those regimes track the preferences of the victors.
Instructor(s): C. Lipson Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Familiarity with IR theory; 2 prior graduate courses in IR.

PLSC 39800. Introduction to International Relations. 100 Units.
This course introduces the main themes in international relations, including the problems of war and peace, conflict and cooperation, national security, and the politics of international economic relations. The course begins by considering some basic theoretical tools used to study international politics. It then focuses on several prominent security issues in modern international relations, such as the Cold War and post–Cold War world, nuclear weapons, terrorism, and global order (and disorder). The last part of the course deals with economic aspects of international relations. It concentrates on issues where politics and economics are closely intertwined: world trade, international investment, environmental pollution, and European unification. (D)
Instructor(s): C. Lipson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 29000

PLSC 39900. Strategy. 100 Units.
This course covers American national security policy in the post–cold war world, especially the principal issues of military strategy that are likely to face the United States in the next decade. This course is structured in five parts: (1) examining the key changes in strategic environment since 1990, (2) looking at the effects of multipolarity on American grand strategy and basic national goals, (3) focusing on nuclear strategy, (4) examining conventional strategy, and (5) discussing the future of war and peace in the Pacific Rim. (D)
Instructor(s): R. Pape Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 28900
PLSC 40202. Case Studies on the Formation of Knowledge-I. 100 Units.
MODULE 1: APPROACHES TO KNOWLEDGE (SBZ, JG) The goal of this module is to identify central issues/debates in the theory of knowledge over the past century. Students will be introduced to issues in the sociology of knowledge, to arguments for & against constructivist perspectives and to 21st century scientific standards for knowledge production. MODULE 2: DEMOCRATIC KNOWLEDGE (SBZ, WH) 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 what forms of knowledge democracies need to assume—for example, the validity of decisions taken by the many—in order to justify their own existence as a (“superior”) form of government. MODULE 3: PROGRESS & BACKWARDNESS (CA, JP) Developmental thinking has been central to the European study of society. In the wake of the encounter with the New World & increasing global commercial and imperial connections, the concepts of civilization and progress have been twinned with accounts of savagery, barbarism, & backwardness. Much of modern social science originated in efforts in the late 19th century to understand what had made western Europe’s path of economic development unique. This module explores theories of progress & modernization from Scottish Enlightenment stadial theories through liberal and Marxist developmental accounts in the 19th century to modernization theories in the 20th.
Instructor(s): S. Bartsch-Zimmer, J. Gilbert, W. Howell, C. Ando, J. Pitts Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates may enroll with instructor consent.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 40200, CHSS 40200, CLAS 41616, SCTH 40200, SOCI 40209, CMLT 41802, MAPH 40200, MAPS 40201, KNOW 40200

PLSC 40600. Seminar on IR Theory. 100 Units.
The end of the Cold War ushered in a new set of debates about how to study international politics. This course is an introduction to some of those important theoretical approaches and is organized around debate among realism, liberalism, and constructivism and their variants. Seminar discussion will identify and criticize the central arguments advanced by different scholars in order to assess the relative merits of different theoretical perspectives. (D)
Instructor(s): R. Pape Terms Offered: Autumn
PLSC 40605. Recent Debates in International Relations. 100 Units.
This course builds beyond the canonical works in International Relations (IR) theory covered in PLSC 40600 Seminar on IR Theory, leading students through ten recent substantive/methodological trends in IR research. There is an intentional absence of thematic unity among the topics. Some units look more closely at recent debates within the classic paradigms (e.g. “the practice turn in constructivist research”; “new views about power across the paradigms”; “a second look at norms in IR”). Other units are organized around recently popular methodological innovations (e.g. “the experimental turn”; “causal inference without experimental control”). Finally, some units feature debates that are not easily defined paradigmatically or methodologically but seem to be especially popular in top journals of late (e.g. “emotions”; “the audience cost controversy”; “new research on gender in IR”; “taking inferences / signal reception / perceptions seriously”). Participants will demonstrate fluency in these debates and develop opinions about their significance and staying power. A secondary goal is for students to expand their own research interests and draw lessons about how debates and fads evolve in IR to maximize the impact of their own work. (D)
Instructor(s): A. Carson 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. (E)
Instructor(s): E. Penn Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 41501. Foundations of Realism. 100 Units.
The aim of this course is to explore some of the core concepts and theoretical ideas that underpin realist thinking. Given the richness of the realist tradition and the limits of the quarter system, many important issues cannot be addressed in any detail. (D)
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 41600. Liberalism and American Foreign Policy. 100 Units.
This course examines how America's liberal tradition affects its foreign policy. (D)
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 41700. Social Movements. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to theoretical and empirical research on social movements. In this course we will take social movements to mean national-level collective mobilizations organized for political change. During the quarter we will examine and debate what a range of scholars across disciplines have written about some of the fundamental questions regarding the emergence, evolution and political impact of social movements. For example, what types of collective action qualify as social movements? What factors lead to or shape the development of social movements? What role do social movements play in the working of American democracy? Finally, why have political scientists largely ignored social movements as a topic for extensive and careful study? (B)
Instructor(s): C. Cohen Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 42015. Agamben's Political Theory. 100 Units.
This seminar will be devoted to the critical scrutiny of the work of the Italian philosopher and political theorist Giorgio Agamben. Some attention will be paid to historical context, and to Agamben’s interlocutors, including Arendt, Foucault, and Schmitt, but most of the seminar will consist of close study of Agamben’s own work. All readings will be in English translation. (A)
Instructor(s): P. Markell Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor required.

PLSC 42101. Rawls' Theory of Justice. 100 Units.
This course involves a sustained critical examination of John Rawls' theory of "justice as fairness," as an avenue for wider exploration of questions about the nature and role of the concept of justice; the value of liberty and equality, and their relationship; distributive justice; the justification of democracy; and the enterprise of political philosophy itself. We will focus on Rawls' A Theory of Justice, and read many critics of Rawls, including Robert Nozick, G.A. Cohen, Susan Moller Okin, Charles Mills, and others. (A)
Instructor(s): C. Cordelli, J. Wilson Terms Offered: Winter
PLSC 42201. Democracy and Equality. 100 Units.
Democracy has often been celebrated (and often criticized) for expressing some kind of equality among citizens. This course will investigate a series of questions prompted by this supposed relationship between democracy and equality. Is democracy an important part of a just society? What institutions and practices does democracy require? Is equality a meaningful or important political ideal? If so, what kind of equality? Does democracy require some kind of equality, or vice-versa? The course will conclude with some treatment of current democratic controversies, potentially including issues of race and representation; the fair design of elections; the role of wealth in political processes; and the role of judicial review. (A) Instructor(s): J. Wilson Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 42501. Athenian Democracy and its Critics. 100 Units.
This course explores the ancient Athenian experience of democracy through the writings of some of its staunchest partisans and fiercest critics. The course introduces students to the ideology and institutions of Athenian democracy. We investigate topics such as the role of popular institutions in politics, including the Assembly and the Popular Courts; Athens’ extensive system of political accountability; and the democratic values that the Athenians took as justification for their politics and way of life. The course also analyzes some of the critical responses Athenian democracy provoked. Topics covered include the relationship between democracy and tyranny; Athenian democracy and imperialism; and the role of rhetoric in democratic decision-making. Readings include works by ancient historians, philosophers, dramatists, and rhetoricians, as well as modern scholars. (A) 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: Spring
PLSC 42515. The Political Nature of the American Judicial System. 100 Units.
This course aims to introduce students to the political nature of the American legal system. In examining foundational parts of the political science literature on courts conceived of as political institutions, the course 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 effect does congressional or executive action have on court decisions? What impact do court decisions have? While the answers will not always be clear, students should complete the course with an awareness of and sensitivity to the political nature of the American legal system. (B)
Instructor(s): G. Rosenberg Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22515, LLSO 24011

PLSC 42610. The Philosophy of Social Science: A Wittgensteinian Critique. 100 Units.
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli Terms Offered: Spring

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. (C)
Instructor(s): D. Yang Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Undergraduates by consent of instructor.

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. (E)
Instructor(s): J. Brehm Terms Offered: Autumn
PLSC 43200. Maximum Likelihood-2. 100 Units.
This course furthers and expands upon the methods covered in the first Maximum Likelihood course (PLSC 43100). The format of the course will be a special topics course, focused around detailed discussion about the implementation and interpretation of applications of ML methods in the social sciences. In particular, we are likely to cover multiple equation models, event history, treatment of censored/unmeasured observations, and item response theory. The course will incorporate alternative methods of computation of results beyond strict optimization of likelihoods. PLSC 43100 is a mandatory prerequisite, no exceptions. (E)
Instructor(s): J. Brehm Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 43100.

PLSC 43701. Methods of Comparative Historical Analysis. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar critically considers the theoretical impact and methodological rigor of Comparative Historical Analysis (CHA) in political science and sociology. Studies in this tradition employ a variety of research approaches, address a wide array of topics, and explore every imaginable region of the world. Yet its practitioners are "united by a commitment to offering historically grounded explanations of large-scale and substantively important outcomes." In the seminar’s opening week, we situate CHA in wider methodological and disciplinary contexts, and consider whether and how historically specific arguments might advance the quest for causal generalization in the social sciences. In most subsequent weeks, we pair up readings on specific methodological themes and dilemmas with substantive CHA works on what we might broadly term "political development." (E)
Instructor(s): D. Slater Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 50098

PLSC 43715. Readings in Comparative Historical Analysis. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar builds directly upon Methods of Comparative Historical Analysis (POLSC 43701), which is highly recommended as a precursor but is not a prerequisite. Each week will be dedicated to a deep reading of a single major book in the expansive Comparative Historical Analysis canon, either classic or recent. Although the specific works will vary from year to year, they will always center on the primary topics that have long defined CHA as a mode of scholarly inquiry in both political science and sociology: e.g. state formation and strength, authoritarianism and democratization, nation-building and identity politics, social movements and conflicts, and economic development and reforms. (C)
Instructor(s): D. Slater Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 50099
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, Castoriadis, Wolin, Irigaray, Cavarero, Butler, and Rancière alongside Plato’s dialogues. Students are expected to be familiar with Plato’s thought upon enrolling. (A)
Instructor(s): D. Kasimis Terms Offered: Winter
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: Winter 2013
Prerequisite(s): Undergrad course by consent
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 29503, SCTH 31770

PLSC 43901. Representation and Governance. 100 Units.
This course will examine the operations of, and interactions between, Congress and the Federal bureaucracy. The course will explore several theoretical frameworks for each of the two branches, culminating in considering how one might unify these relatively disparate traditions within a modern conceptual framework more closely linked with representation of citizens’ policy concerns than existing, institution-specific theories. (B)
Instructor(s): J. Patty Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 45901. Contemporary Egalitarianism. 100 Units.
This seminar will examine different understandings of the idea of equality (moral, social and political) in contemporary analytical political thought. It will explore a series of questions that have been at the center of recent debates between egalitarians, including: what the foundation of equal moral status between persons is; whether the main reasons for objecting to social inequalities are intrinsically egalitarian or rather derive from non-egalitarian values; what (if anything) should be equalized; how justice and equality relate to each other; whether the ideal of social equality should ultimately be understood as a relationship between persons or as a distributive ideal; whether the ideal of social equality makes sense only within bounded political societies, or is instead broader in scope. We will read the work of, among others, Elizabeth Anderson, Richard Arneson, Charles Beitz, Simon Caney, G.A. Cohen, Ronald Dworkin, Thomas Nagel, Derek Parfit, John Rawls, Thomas Scanlon, Samuel Scheffler, Amartya Sen and Larry Temkin. (A)
Instructor(s): C. Cordelli Terms Offered: Spring
PLSC 46013. Two Faces of Security. 100 Units.
This course develops a new IR theory, one that departs significantly from standard approaches by reframing the central actor as “states controlled by domestic regimes.” It challenges the assumption that states are best theorized as “black boxes” pursuing similar agendas, albeit with different material resources. Instead, I assume each state is controlled by a domestic regime and that these regimes vary significantly. They have a different ideologies, social bases, policy preferences, and international strategies. Most importantly, they are not all equally stable and may face serious domestic threats. That means regimes face two security problems, not one. Besides ever-present external threats, they often face internal rivals who seek to overthrow the regime and capture state power. These two faces of security – external and internal – are often intertwined, which means it is important to analyze them jointly, rather than in isolation. (D)
Instructor(s): C. Lipson Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): This course is limited to graduate who already have strong familiarity with IR theory.
Note(s): The course assumes students have read Waltz, Mearsheimer, Wendt, Keohane, and others, and know the field’s main theoretical perspectives. We will assume that knowledge and build on it, rather than covering that ground again. One prior graduate course in IR theory should be sufficient. Students who are unsure if they have the appropriate background should consult Prof. Lipson before enrolling.

PLSC 46411. The Emergence of Organizations and Markets. 100 Units.
This course will focus on the emergence of alternative forms of organization control (e.g., centralized bureaucracy, multiple hierarchies, elite networks, and clientage) in different social structural contexts (e.g., the interaction of kinship, class, nation states, markets and heterodox mobilization). Themes will be illustrated in numerous cross-cultural contexts. (C)
Instructor(s): J. Padgett Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40194

PLSC 47601. Transnational Regulation. 100 Units.
There has been an explosion of research in regulation in recent years. In particular, a tremendous amount of work has been done on transnational governance and the public-private regulation of environmental, labor, and health and safety conditions in global industries and markets. This course will survey the main trends in new "post command & control/post principle-agent-based" regulation research (including new public administration, meta-regulation, private regulation, experimentalism). The first part of the course will focus on theory and approaches, the second on cases: environment, fair trade, labor standards, agricultural quality, industrial health and safety. (C)
Instructor(s): G. Herrigel Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40205
PLSC 47602. Dewey and Hayek on Markets and Democracy. 100 Units.
Dewey and Hayek are an interesting pairing in the context of discussions of neoliberalism. Both share a commitment to the open ended development of both individuality and society, both emphasize bottom up pressures for change, and both are committed to fundamentally processual and non-aggregative conceptions of sociability and social explanation. Yet, the two argue in diametrically opposing ways regarding how such processes should be governed. For Hayek, the market was the "natural" terrain for these sorts of processes to most fruitfully expand, while public deliberation and democracy were viewed as threats to processes of open social unfolding—and even to freedom. Dewey argued in precisely the opposite direction, championing democracy as the optimal open-ended and self revising terrain for development. This course will examine the similarities and differences between the two thinkers on markets, economic and social action and democracy. An effort will be made to consider the views of both thinkers in light of contemporary critiques and defenses of neoliberalism. (A)
Instructor(s): G. Herrigel Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 40206

PLSC 47701. Political Economy of International Security. 100 Units.
How do money and markets influence states’ security policies? This course uses classic and current work in the field to directly explore the role of economics in creating state military power. Topics include the instruments of war finance, the economic incentives to intervene in conflict, the ability of economic interdependence to prevent conflict, how alliance policies influence the arming and trading policies of states, and labor mobility as a cause of border instability. A central goal of the course is to generate ideas for your own research, including papers and dissertation topics. (D)
Instructor(s): P. Poast Terms Offered: Spring

PLSC 48300. Plato’s Laws. 100 Units.
An introductory reading of Plato’s Laws with attention to such themes as the following: war and peace; courage and moderation; rule of law; music, poetry, drinking, and education; sex, marriage, and gender; property and class structure; crime and punishment; religion and theology; and philosophy. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Enrollment limited. Open to undergraduates with consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 23400, LLSO 28500, SCTH 30300
PLSC 48700. Crime, Conflict and the State. 100 Units.
Scholars of civil war emphasize the importance, and perhaps primacy, of criminal profits for insurgencies, especially in the post-cold war era. But theories of civil war generally rest on an assumption that insurgents aim to replace state power. This seminar approaches the issue from the other end of the spectrum: armed conflict between states and “purely” criminal groups--particularly drug cartels. Cartel-state conflict poses a fundamental puzzle: Why attack the state if you seek neither to topple nor secede from it? After a brief survey of the literature on civil war and organized crime, we will study recent work on criminal conflict, particularly in Latin America. We also consider the related topics of prison-based criminal networks and paramilitaries, and explore how crime and political insurgency interact in places like West Africa and Afghanistan. Throughout, we evaluate the concepts, questions and designs underpinning current research. (C)
Instructor(s): B. Lessing 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. Next, we turn to ...(see Department of Philosophy website for full course description) (A)
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates may enroll only with the permission of the instructor
Note(s): Undergraduates may enroll only with the permission of the instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): LAWS 99301, RETH 32900, GNSE 28210, GNSE 38300, PHIL 25209
PLSC 49401. Nationalism, Sentimentality, and Judgment. 100 Units.
This course examines some canonical texts on nationalism, considers the specificities of nationalist solidarity in comparison to other visions of collectivity, and, drawing on contemporary theories of affect and political judgment, seeks to understand the enduring appeal of the nation form. Focusing not only on conventional accounts of citizen fear, longing, and suffering but also on contemporary challenges to nation-state configurations, the seminar takes theoretical insights from anthropology and political science, as well as history, sociology, and cultural studies. Among the authors we shall read are Anderson, Arendt, Asad, Balibar, Berlant, Brubaker, Chakrabarty, Gellner, Habermas, and Massumi. (C)
Instructor(s): L. Wedeen Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 54510

PLSC 50000. Dissertation Proposal Seminar. 100 Units.
No description available.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 50315. Amartya Sen's Philosophical Work. 100 Units.
Amartya Sen is, of course, a distinguished economist, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize. But he is also a philosopher whose philosophical thought informs his economic writings and who has long defended the importance of philosophy for economic thought. This course will study the philosophical aspects of his thought, not attempting to separate them from his economic contributions, which would be wrong, but attempting to focus on the specific contributions Sen has been able to make to economics in virtue of being a philosopher. We will begin by studying two distinct though related strands of his thought: work on choice, welfare, and measurement, and work on development. We continue with his influential critique of Utilitarianism on the nature of preference and value, and the importance of equality. We will then devote substantial time to The Idea of Justice, a major contribution to political philosophy. Finally, we will examine more recent writings on Indian rationalist philosophy and on religious identity.
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Admission by permission of the instructor. Permission must be sought in writing by September 15. Prerequisite: An undergraduate major in philosophy or some equivalent solid philosophy preparation. Ph.D. students in Philosophy and Political Theory may enroll without permission. I am eager to have some Economics graduate students in the class, and will discuss the philosophy prerequisite in a flexible way with such students.
Equivalent Course(s): LAWS 78604,RETH 53015,PHIL 50315
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.
Instructor(s): M. Nussbaum, W. Baude. Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Non-law students are welcome but need permission of the instructors, since space is limited. We are aiming for a total enrollment of 30, of which up to 10 can be non-law students (no undergraduates), and the rest will be law students, selected by lottery. Non-law students should apply to both professors by December 1, 2015, describing relevant background, especially in philosophy.
Equivalent Course(s): LAWS 78605,RETH 50325,GNSE 50325,PHIL 50325

PLSC 50801. Research Seminar in Political Violence. 100 Units.
The goal of this course is to help graduate students transition from being consumers to producers of research on political violence. The course will begin with an overview of recent work on civil war, electoral violence, and armed state building to make students aware of the scholarly cutting edge and emerging new questions. The rest of the course will involve graduate students workshopping their MA theses, dissertation prospectuses, and draft doctoral thesis chapters. All participants must have an ongoing research project to circulate and present. (D)
Instructor(s): P. Staniland Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Past enrollment in PLSC 36100 and/or PLSC 48700 is strongly recommended.

PLSC 52316. Machiavelli’s Political Thought. 100 Units.
This 7 week (4.5 hours per week) course is devoted to the political writings of Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527). Among the themes we will explore are: the distinction between principality and tyranny; the status of “founders” in republics; the inter-relationships among individual leaders, the elite and the common people; the (in)compatibility of moral and political virtue; the utility of class conflict; the advantages of mixed institutions; the principles of self-government, deliberation, and participation; the question of military conquest; and the meaning of “liberty.”
Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): LLSO 28200,FNDL 28102,PLSC 27216
PLSC 52601. New Directions in Feminist Political Theory. 100 Units.
How might feminist political theorists chart a new course for critical thinking in the wake of third-wave critiques of gender as an analytic category and "women" as the subject of feminism? What approaches might they adopt to speak to the undeniable tenacity of gender power without falling back into falsely universalizing accounts? In this course we engage the recent work of feminists trying to develop new theoretical frameworks for grappling with longstanding problems of gendered inequality and social marginalization.
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 52600

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. (E)
Instructor(s): J. Padgett Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 50096