Department of Political Science

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
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 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: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 40801 Social Choice Theory and PLSC 43401 Mathematical Foundations of Political Methodology or consent of instructor
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 29102

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: Autumn
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 in 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): Linda Zerilli Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 36500, ENGL 21401, PLSC 21410, GNSE 31400, ENGL 30201, GNSE 21400

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, republicanism, 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): PLSC 23901, FNDL 21719, LLSO 23901, SCTH 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 Erotikus. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 21207, PLSC 25101, GNSE 36103, SCTH 34801, GNSE 26103

PLSC 35215. The American Presidency. 100 Units.
This course examines the institution 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: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): AMER 25215, PBPL 25216, LLSO 25215, PLSC 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 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.
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Autumn

PLSC 35901. Enlightenment Political Thought. 100 Units.
A comparative examination of the political thought of Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Immanuel Kant, with a focus upon the interrelated themes of freedom and authority; resistance and domination; and equality and inequality. We will also consider these political theories in the context of earlier sixteenth century texts on tyranny and resistance, such as the Vindiciae, Contra Tyrannos and La Boétie’s Discourse on Voluntary Servitude, and in comparison with Enlightenment writings by John Locke and David Hume.
Instructor(s): S. Muthu Terms Offered: Spring

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 36920. Freedom, Justice and Legitimacy. 100 Units.
In this course we will explore two main questions, which are central to both contemporary political theory and political discourse: (1) how different concepts and conceptions of freedom ground different theories of social justice and political legitimacy and (2) how to understand the relationship between justice and legitimacy. To what extent are justice and legitimacy separate ideas? Does legitimacy require justice? Are just states necessarily legitimate? We will critically analyze and normatively assess how different contemporary theories have answered, whether explicitly or implicitly, such questions. The course will focus on five major contemporary theories: liberal-egalitarianism as represented by the work of John Rawls; libertarianism, as represented by the work of Robert Nozick, neo-Lockean theories as represented by the work of John Simmons, neo-republicanism as represented by the work of Philip Pettit, and neo-Kantian theories as represented by the work of Arthur Ripstein.
Instructor(s): C. Cordelli, J. Wilson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 26920
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): FNDL 27301, PLSC 27301

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 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 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 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: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 20750

PLSC 41500. Nationalism in the Age of Globalization. 100 Units.
Nationalism has been the most powerful political ideology in the world for the past two centuries. This course examines its future in the age of globalization, focusing in particular on the widespread belief that it is an outmoded ideology. Specific topics covered in the course include: the causes of nationalism, its effects on international stability, nationalism and empires, globalization and the future of the state, globalization and national identities, the clash of civilizations, American nationalism, and the clash between Zionism and Palestinian nationalism.
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer 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.
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter

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 42805. Empire, Law, and Global Justice. 100 Units.
In this research seminar we will read recent scholarship examining the law and politics of empire from the early modern period through the early twentieth century. Empires present particular problems of constitutional law, in particular the relationship between the center and periphery. They are sites of conflict over membership, commerce, and the rights of colonized peoples. They are arenas in which conceptions of sovereignty, authority, and regulation are created and fought over. We will read works by historians, political scientists, and legal scholars that situate these issues in the context of particular empires, in both the Atlantic and Pacific worlds, as well as in relation to a more broadly imperial global order.
Instructor(s): J. Pitts Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): This class is complementary with International Law and Global Domination, a primary-text-based course primarily for undergraduates but open to graduate students.)
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, testing and 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 43701. Constructivism. 100 Units.
This seminar traces the development of the constructivist program in international relations in order to better understand its elements, assumptions, and methods, and apply those to current issues. We start by uncovering the roots of constructivism in sociology and philosophy and examine structuration theory, the English School, world systems theory, regime theory, and sociological institutionalism. The second part of this course focuses on the constructivist agenda in international relations, its boundaries and its critics. In the last part of the course we examine current research in international relations that draws on constructivist methods, including work on the role of norms, epistemic communities, transnational civil society, and the origins of the state.
Instructor(s): R. Terman Terms Offered: Spring

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.
Instructor(s): D. Kasimis Terms Offered: Spring
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): LLSO 23915, SCTH 31770, FNDL 29503
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 44205. Decolonization and Political Theory. 100 Units.
This course turns to the renewed attention to decolonization in political theory, intellectual history, and social theory. Reading the recent and growing literature on decolonization, it explores two threads. First, it seeks to understand how the recent work on constitutionalism, popular sovereignty, and indigeneity reframes problem of decolonization, revising and reconfiguring the dilemmas of politics after empire. Second, it examines how the context and lens of decolonization and postcolonial social formations might help us to rethink and reframe key concepts of political theory including democracy and sovereignty. This is reading intensive course focused on recent works rather than primary texts.
Instructor(s): A. Getachew Terms Offered: Winter

PLSC 44305. Topics in Black Politics. 100 Units.
This course will address topics in Black politics.
Instructor(s): M. Dawson Terms Offered: Spring

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 45501. Black Political Thought: The Problem of Freedom. 100 Units.
In the history of political thought slavery constitutes the paradigmatic metaphor of unfreedom against which normative visions of freedom are articulated. But as historians and theorists have noted, this juxtaposition of slavery and freedom often operates with little regard to the historical experience of the most expansive modern system of slavery-the transatlantic slave trade and chattel slavery in the New World. This course examines the ‘problem of freedom’ by centering this experience. Drawing on texts that range from the slave narrative to the novel, it examines how visions of freedom were articulated through the experience of new world slavery, considers the ambivalence and limits of emancipation and explores why and how the figure of the slave recurs in contemporary political culture. These questions and aims are informed by two broader impulses. First, contemporary political theory has much to gain from a more explicit and nuanced engagement with the experience and legacy of slavery. Second, the transatlantic slave trade and new world slavery are constitutive of black modernity and black political thought. Returning to and rethinking this site is thus one way of better grasping its contours.
Instructor(s): A. Getachew Terms Offered: Spring

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 47805. Normativity After Wittgenstein. 100 Units.
You must bear in mind that the language game is so to say something unpredictable. I mean: it is not based on grounds. It is not reasonable (or unreasonable). It is there-like our life.’ -On Certainty §559 In the now longstanding debate over positivism, Wittgenstein has appeared to many social and political theorists as offering an alternative to the impossible choice between objectivism and subjectivism. Wittgenstein’s understanding of rules and rule-following, it is said, offers a third way of thinking about normativity that takes into account the (subjectivist) notion of the unique or meaningful nature of human thought and action, without relinquishing the (objectivist) idea that normativity necessarily transcends individuals, their actual practices of speaking and acting. Accordingly, Wittgenstein is seen as replacing the positivist’s law-governed (nomothetic) view of human speech and action with a rule-governed account that does not reduce meaning to individual subjective states. In this course we critically interrogate this view of normativity in Wittgenstein’s thought. We take up the ‘therapeutic reading’ of his work pioneered by Stanley Cavell, according to which Wittgenstein does not put forward an alternative theory of linguistic meaning but seeks to expose misunderstandings about what kinds of structures must underwrite everything that humans can meaningfully do or say.
Instructor(s): L. Zerilli Terms Offered: Autumn

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 25209, PHIL 35209, RETH 32900, GNSE 28210
PLSC 49500. American Grand Strategy. 100 Units.
This course examines the evolution of American grand strategy since 1900, when the United States first emerged on the world stage as a great power. The focus is on assessing how its leaders have thought over time about which areas of the world are worth fighting and dying for, when it is necessary to fight in those strategically important areas, and what kinds of military forces are needed for deterrence and war-fighting in those regions.
Instructor(s): J. Mearsheimer Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 28400

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 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: 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): FNDL 21780, PLSC 23900, SCTH 31780

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