Politics is most fundamentally about forging and maintaining community, about how we manage to craft a common destiny guided by shared values. Communities need a way to reconcile conflicts of interest among their members and to determine their group interest; they need to allocate power and to determine its just uses. Power may be used wisely or foolishly, rightly or cruelly, but it is always there; it cannot be wished away. Political science attends to the ways that social power is grasped, maintained, challenged, or justified. The contests over power and the values that it should be used to further give politics its drama and pathos. The effort to understand politics aims not only to describe and explain, but also to improve political life.

The Political Science major is structured to allow students either to participate in the established ways of studying politics or to develop their own focus. To this end, the department offers two routes to completing the major, each requiring nine courses. We invite students either to organize their major through the subfields that structure the discipline of political science (American politics, international relations, political theory, and comparative politics), or to develop individual concentrations reflecting their particular interests, regardless of subfields.

MAJOR

Subfield Concentration Route: Upon declaring a major, students choose one subfield: American politics, international relations, political theory, or comparative politics. The subfield concentration draws at least four (4) of the nine courses from one subfield including the appropriate core course from 201-204, two electives of the student’s choice at the 200 or 300 level and the senior seminar (or an individual project) in the student’s subfield. Students selecting political theory as their subfield concentration must take Political Science 231 or Political Science 232 as one of their four subfield courses, in addition to taking Political Science 203 and prior to taking Political Science 430. With permission of the department chair, students may take a senior seminar in a different subfield, providing they take a third elective in the subfield of concentration. In addition, students must take courses in two subfields outside the subfield of concentration to satisfy the breadth requirement (all methods courses also count toward the breadth
requirement). The faculty advisor must approve the student plan. All students must take at least one 300-level course and one research course to complete the major. (Most senior seminars are also research courses but, especially in political theory, not all are.) In addition, no more than two 100-level courses can count toward the major.

Individual Concentration Route: Alternatively, students may devise a concentration of their own. In this event, the student prepares a curricular plan in consultation with a faculty advisor, explaining the nature of the concentration and the courses the student will take. The individual concentration also requires nine (9) courses, with at least five (5) thematically linked courses constituting the concentration. Of these five courses, four are electives at the 200 or 300 level, including one from 201-204, and one is a senior seminar or individual project. In addition, students pursuing an individual concentration must take at least two other courses that illustrate breadth in political science. To complete the requirement, the student has their choice of any two other courses within the Political Science Department. The faculty advisor and the department chair must approve the student plan. All students must take at least one 300-level course and one research course to complete the major. (Most senior seminars are also research courses but, especially in political theory, not all are.) In addition, no more than two 100-level courses can count toward the major.

ADVISEMENT

When a student chooses to major in Political Science (usually at the end of the sophomore year), they may register with any Political Science faculty member. The registering faculty member will ask for preferences for a permanent faculty advisor and will assist undecided students in finding an advisor. In all cases, students will be paired by the beginning of junior year with an advisor who will continue with them through graduation.

COURSE NUMBERING

The course numbering used by the Political Science Department reflects the format and specialization of a course. The 100-level courses are designed to address political topics from multiple subfield perspectives; many are seminars designed for first-year students. The 200-level courses are divided between our core courses and our electives. The core courses, numbered from 201-204, serve as introductions both to the substance of politics and the subfields organizing the study of politics. The introductory subfield course must be completed before the senior year. The 200-level elective courses delve into political processes, problems and philosophies. 100-level and 200-level courses have no prerequisites. 300-level courses are more specialized and have prerequisites. 400-level courses are senior seminars offered for students in the major; senior seminars also are open to juniors and to non-majors if space permits. In general, the main subfield of non-core courses can be read from the middle digit of the course number: 0, 1 or 5 for American politics; 2 or 6 for international relations; 3 or 7 for political theory; 4 or 8 for comparative politics. Because the relevant course number is not available, and as some courses may not fit the subfields, please check the “attributes” entry to confirm how the course is categorized by the department.

WINTER STUDY PROJECT

The department welcomes relevant WSP 99 proposals that can make important contributions to the student’s understanding of public affairs and politics. Majors, seniors, and students without previous WSP 99 experience have preference.

THE JUNIOR YEAR ABROAD

A major in Political Science can be readily and usefully combined with study off-campus. Generally, only one course taken per semester abroad in a program approved by the College may be counted toward the requirements for a degree in Political Science.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in many cases, though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, though sometimes a syllabus may be needed. How much we need may depend on our familiarity with the institution or program.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes. Typically we allow not more than one course per semester, or two per year, to count for major credit. In special circumstances, the chair may consider granting an exemption and allow an additional course.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

No, although this depends on the course. If, after considering description and institution we feel it is not rigorous enough, we will not count it.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes. We do not allow the senior seminar requirement to be fulfilled by study abroad.
Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

No. One such required course (either Ancient or Modern Political Thought for those specializing in political theory within the major) can be fulfilled by an appropriate study abroad course.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

When issues arise that’s almost always because the student did not keep department adequately informed of evolving plans.

PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY
The Department recommends that students contemplating graduate school, especially if they plan to study fields outside political theory, take a course in research and quantitative methods, such as PSCI 300 or, if it is not taught, ECON/POEC 253.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
To become a candidate for honors the student must (1) apply in the second semester of the junior year, (2) submit a research proposal acceptable to the department’s honors committee and for which an appropriate advisor is available, (3) have a record of academic excellence in Political Science. The last includes not only the student’s cumulative GPA in Political Science, generally 3.5 or above, but also demonstrated research and writing skills, evidenced by one or two examples of graded work submitted along with the thesis proposal. Along with the successful completion of a high-quality thesis, the degree with honors in Political Science requires enrollment in the year-long senior thesis seminar, in addition to the other nine (9) courses of the regular major requirements.

ADVANCED STUDY IN AMERICAN POLITICS
The Department of Political Science provides the opportunity for an unusually gifted student to engage in an entire year’s advanced research in American politics under singularly favorable conditions. Supported by income derived from an endowment fund, the student, designated the Sentinels of the Republic Scholar (after the name of the fund), receives a substantial research stipend to cover costs associated with the proposed project.

This unique research course (Political Science 481-W33-482) is designed to encourage the pursuit of excellence among the most talented Williams students of Political Science. Admission to it is awarded to the most distinguished candidate on the basis of demonstrated capacity for outstanding work and of the project’s promise for creative contributions to the understanding of American politics, political institutions and thought.

PSCI 118  (F)  Power to the People?
Popular unrest. The resurgence of authoritarian styles and practices in politics. Democratic collapse. Political tumult around the globe in recent decades has put elites, and others, on edge as young democracies have collapsed and longer standing ones appear to be stumbling. In the United States, basic stability and democratic expansion have been accompanied by increasing citizen distrust of institutions, growing social divisions, and contestation over basic citizenship rights. The current pandemic, related economic distress, and social protests have only sharpened the precarious state of U.S. democracy. Acute observers have long seen the U.S. as a harbinger of the promise and peril of modern democracies. What is the fate of democracy in the U.S.? What does that portend, if anything, for other democracies, or for the general principle of popular sovereignty—the idea that the people govern themselves? We investigate these and related questions, primarily through active, project-based group research activities, guided by political theory and empirical research in the social sciences. This class is extensively hybrid by design; it is largely remote with some in-person sessions. Remote sessions include substantial collaboration with a similarly structured first-year course being taught by a sociologist at the University of North Carolina. Williams and UNC students will work together in small groups and will present their project findings to both classes.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, three 4-page essays, group assignments, and class presentation
Prerequisites: first-year students
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses  PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year
PSCI 120 (S) America and the World

Cross-listings: LEAD 120 GBST 101 PSCI 120

Primary Cross-listing

This course will help students understand the US role in the world. US wealth and military power force its leaders to make choices that no other leaders in the world confront. Students will learn to evaluate the decisions that US leaders have made on a wide range of difficult foreign policy issues, including: rising Chinese power; Russian moves in Ukraine; nuclear proliferation to Iran; terrorist threats; humanitarian disasters in Syria and Libya; and long-term challenges like climate change. We will not only describe American involvement in various international issues but also seek to understand the reasons why the US perhaps should or should not be involved, and we will see why such careful reasoning only sometimes gains traction in actual US foreign policy debates. Finally, we will assess whether US foreign policy decisions are coherent - that is, whether the US can be said to follow a "grand strategy." By the end of the course, students will develop their ability to think about foreign policy issues, improving their ability to participate in public life as engaged citizens.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: short papers, class participation, and final exercise

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 120 (D2) GBST 101 (D2) PSCI 120 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 125 (S) Visionaries, Pragmatists, and Demagogues: An Introduction to Leadership Studies

Cross-listings: LEAD 125 PSCI 125

Secondary Cross-listing

This course introduces students to the major issues in the study of leadership, a central concept in the study of politics. The first part of the course will examine key theoretical problems that have occupied political thinkers from Plato and Confucius to Machiavelli and the American framers: What makes a leader successful? What kinds of regimes best serve to encourage good leaders and to constrain bad ones? What is the relationship between leadership and morality-can the ends justify the means? What functions does leadership fill, and what challenges do leaders face, in modern democratic states? The second half of the course will look at leaders in action, charting the efforts of politicians, intellectuals, and grassroots activists to shape the worlds in which they live. Case studies will include antislavery politics and the American Civil War; the global crises of the 1930s and 1940s; and the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to active class participation, students will be expected to write a 5-page proposal for a research paper on a leader of their choice, a 10-page research paper, an in-class midterm exam, and a cumulative, in-class final exam.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, 5-page research proposal, 10-page research paper, in-class midterm exam, and a cumulative in-class final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: subfield open in Political Science major

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 125 (D2) PSCI 125 (D2)

Attributes: LEAD American Domestic Leadership
PSCI 126  Religion, Politics, and Society: A Global Perspective  (DPE)

In spite of predictions that religion would wither away with in the face of modernization, even casual observation indicates that it remains a powerful force in contemporary political life. Our goal is to obtain an enhanced understanding and appreciation of the salience of religion in public life. The course will be divided into three parts. The first part focuses on different theoretical approaches to make sense of the relation between religion, politics, and society, discussing especially the concept of the 'secular.' The second part discusses religion in the US society. Here, we will discuss if the American society can be called secular, the role of religion in American political culture, the relation of religion to the state, the relevance of religious interests and their mobilization, religious minorities in the United States and many other aspects of religion in the US society. The third part will take a global perspective on the relation between religion and politics. We will discuss cases of Buddhism, Christianity (Catholicism and Protestantism), Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam (Sunni and Shi'a) and Judaism. Although the study of religion and politics raises a host of deep philosophical questions, the principal aim of the course is to understand how religion affects politics (and vice versa), rather than to explore the moral questions raised by the interaction of these two forces.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation and three papers, in these proportions: 20% participation; 25% first paper (7 pages); 30% second paper (8-10 pages); and 25% third paper (7 pages). No final exam.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 35

Enrollment Preferences: Global Studies concentrators and intended concentrators; Religion majors and intended majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading:

Core course for GBST

Unit Notes:

Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: An engagement with religious difference in the world, with a spotlight on how religion and politics—that is, power—interact globally and in the USA.

PSCI 127 (S)  America First? The Trump Era and the Future of World Politics

Cross-listings: LEAD 127  PSCI 127

Primary Cross-listing

"America First" was a slogan and a perspective on foreign policy adopted by isolationists like Charles Lindberg in the 1930's. In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and the Second World War, a strong bipartisan consensus emerged around the principles of liberal international internationalism and "America First" perspectives were marginalized in American politics. However, with the election of Donald Trump, the American presidency is now in the hands of someone who proudly claims the America first mantle. This course provides a historical and theoretical context for understanding what is unique about President Trump's approach to American foreign policy in the 21st century. Particular attention will be devoted to the contrast between the views of Trump and those of the American foreign policy establishment over issues such as NATO, nuclear proliferation, Russia, immigration, terrorism, free trade, and conflicts in the Middle East.

Requirements/Evaluation: two analytical essays, short response papers, and final group project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: potential political science majors and leadership studies concentrators (foreign policy track)

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 132  (F) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy

Cross-listings: AMST 132  AFR 132  PSCI 132

Secondary Cross-listing
This introductory seminar investigates the relationship between three major schools of thought in contemporary Africana social and political philosophy, namely the African, Afro-American, and Afro-Caribbean intellectual traditions. We will discuss a range of thinkers including Aimé Césaire, Angela Y. Davis, Édouard Glissant, Lewis R. Gordon, Kwame Gyekye, Paget Henry, bell hooks, Charles W. Mills, Nkiru Nzegwu, Lucius Outlaw, Oyèrónke Oyewùmi, Tommie Shelby, and Sylvia Wynter. A primary goal of the course is to provide students with the intellectual resources to decipher problems central to philosophical discourse and to allow students an opportunity to apply what they learn to critical issues in current geopolitics.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, two 5- to 7-page essays, and one 10-page final paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: first- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 132 (D2) AFR 132 (D2) PSCI 132 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives  JLST Interdepartmental Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 135  (F) Politics after the Apocalypse

Cross-listings: STS 135  PSCI 135

Primary Cross-listing
What shape will politics take after the apocalypse? Even before the coronavirus pandemic gave us reason to wonder if we are, in fact, living through an apocalypse, speculation about the end of the world and its aftermath pervaded recent television, movies, literature, philosophy, and critical theory. In this class we draw these works into conversation with political theories of the "state of nature" and "state of exception" to better understand what political possibilities are opened and foreclosed in times of crisis. What aspects of politics will endure the ravages of fire or pestilence? What new political realities might emerge on ground cleared by disaster? What does it say about pre-pandemic politics that we were so eager to consume stories of states falling and bands of survivors scraping together a nasty, brutish and short existence? And how will the unfolding pandemic change how we respond to these stories? Class will be driven primarily by discussion, typically introduced by a brief lecture.

Class Format: Class meetings will be conducted remotely using zoom.

Requirements/Evaluation: two 3-5 page papers, one short story (7-15 pages and including an explanatory cover letter), contributions to a class project documenting and analyzing the pandemic, and class participation

Prerequisites: first- or second-year students, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 135 (D2) PSCI 135 (D2)

Not offered current academic year
PSCI 150  (F) Democracy and the State: A Comparative Study

Cross-listings:  PSCI 150 GBST 101

Secondary Cross-listing

This introductory course examines major western political theories and ideologies, such as Liberalism and Marxism, and then examines their application in selected regional case studies. The social contract theories of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau form the basis of the course.

Requirements/Evaluation:  short papers, final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 150 (D2) GBST 101 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 160  (S) Refugees in International Politics  (DPE) (WS)

Globally, refugees seem to create, and be caught up in, chronic crisis. This course evaluates how this can be--how a crisis can be chronic. We investigate who refugees are, in international law and popular understanding; examine international and national laws distinguishing refugees from other categories of migrants; evaluate international organizations’ roles in managing population displacement; look at the way that images convey stereotypes; consider refugee camps in theory and example; and reflect on what exclusion, integration, and assimilation mean to newcomers and host populations. In whose interest is the prevailing system? Who might change it, and how?

Requirements/Evaluation: eleven essays: five lead, five response, and one statement. The first two weeks' essays' grades will be unrecorded.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: In addition to writing every week, students will have a chance to write ungraded work; will have a chance to revise submitted work; and will have a chance to work on specific skills cumulatively.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the way in which home states categorize people and oppress some, producing refugees; the way that host states categorize people and oppress some, using immigration to shore up the prevailing ethnic hierarchy; and why we worry about some of these categories of oppression more than others.

Attributes: POEC International Political Economy Courses  PSCI International Relations Courses

Spring 2022

TUT Section: T1  MWF 8:00 am - 8:50 am  Cheryl  Shanks

PSCI 201  (F)(S) Power, Politics, and Democracy in America

Begun as an experiment over 200 years ago, the United States has grown into a polity that is simultaneously praised and condemned, critiqued and mythologized, modeled by others and remodeled itself. This course introduces students to the dynamics and tensions that have animated the American political order and that have nurtured these conflicting assessments. Topics include the founding of the American system and the primary
documents (the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers), the primary institutions of national government then and now (Congress, the presidency, and the Supreme Court), and the politics of policy-making in the United States. We study structures, processes, key events, and primary actors that have shaped American political development. In investigating these topics, we explore questions such as these: How is power allocated? What produces political change? Is there a trade-off between democratic accountability and effective governance? How are tensions between liberty and equality resolved? Do the institutions produce good policies, and how do we define what is good?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** depending on the section, some combination of response papers, short-to-medium papers, exams, and class participation

**Prerequisites:** this is an introductory course, open to first-year students and sophomores; juniors and seniors may enroll only with the permission of instructor and under special circumstances

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-years and sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** JLST Interdepartmental Electives POEC Required Courses PSCI American Politics Courses

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**Fall 2021**
LEC Section: 01    MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Justin Crowe

**Spring 2022**
LEC Section: 01    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm    Matthew Tokeshi

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**PSCI 202 (F)(S)  World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations**

World politics is often taken to be an arena of human interaction unto itself, where the concepts that serve us well in understanding domestic politics and our everyday public lives—democracy, law, morality, authority—are displaced by their opposites—rule by the strong, use of force, raison d'état, anarchy. In particular, the discipline of International Relations claims special responsibility for analyzing and explaining this arena. But how different is world politics? We live in a world in which resolutions of the United Nations Security Council carry the aura of law and authority; human rights are held up as universal moral standards; international treaties regularly restrain supposedly sovereign states in regulating their domestic economies; and the vast majority of wars are now 'civil' ones. This course is about politics at the world scale and the myriad ways in which scholars and practitioners interpret and explain it. We start by covering international relations theories, and then turn to the international politics of war, peace, and globalization.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two short papers; one medium midterm paper; scheduled final exam; class participation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 30

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-year students and sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC Required Courses PSCI International Relations Courses

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**Fall 2021**
LEC Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am    Darel E. Paul

**Spring 2022**
LEC Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am    Darel E. Paul
LEC Section: 02    MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    James McAllister

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**PSCI 203 (F)(S)  Introduction to Political Theory**
Is politics war by other means? Is it merely a practical way to meet our needs? Or is it, rather, the activity through which citizens pursue justice and the good life? And what is justice? How can it be established and secured? Where does it apply? To whom? What are the powers and obligations of citizenship? Who decides? On what basis? Political theory addresses questions such as these as it investigates the fundamental problems of how people can, do, and ought to live together. The questions have sparked controversy since the origins of political thinking; the answers remain controversial now. This course addresses the controversies, drawing examples from struggles over such matters as racism, colonialism, revolution, political founding, economic order, and the politics of sex and gender, while focusing on major works of ancient, modern, and contemporary theory by such authors as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche, Beauvoir, Arendt, Fanon, Rawls, Foucault, and Young. Themes may include power, authority, freedom, justice, equality, democracy, neoliberalism, feminism, and violence, though the emphases will vary from semester to semester.

Requirements/Evaluation: Three papers, class participation, and occasional informal writing/Glow posts.

Prerequisites: none; this is an introductory course, open to all, including first-year students

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: LEAD Ethical Issues of Leadership PHIL Related Courses POEC Required Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Nimu Njoya

SEM Section: 02 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Nimu Njoya

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Laura D. Ephraim

PSCI 204 (F)(S) Introduction to Comparative Politics

The comparative study of politics looks mainly at what goes on inside countries, the domestic dynamics of power and institutions and identities. The purpose is to deepen our understanding of politics. In this class we will consider a number of analytic concepts central to the study of politics generally--the state, legitimacy, democracy, authoritarianism, nationalism--to comprehend political processes and transformations in various parts of the world. We will focus particularly on three themes: what is democracy and how might it fail? Why do certain authoritarian regimes persist while others do not? How is national identity shaped by politics, and how is politics, in turn, shaped by nationalism?

Requirements/Evaluation: 2-3 short papers, a midterm and/or final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: POEC Required Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Fall 2021

LEC Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Elizabeth Iams Wellman

Spring 2022

LEC Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am George T. Crane

PSCI 206 (F) Dangerous Leadership in American Politics

Cross-listings: LEAD 206 PSCI 206
Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz, Bernie Sanders. What do Americans want from their political leaders? A common assumption is that those who do it well—whether in the presidency, the parties, social movements, organizations, or local communities—are just and legitimate agents of democratic change, and those most celebrated are those who have helped the country make progress toward its ideals. Yet to rest on this is too simple as it is, in part, an artifact of historical construction. Assessing leadership in the moment is complicated because leaders press against the bounds of political convention—as do ideologues, malcontents, and lunatics. Indeed, a central concern of the founders was that democracy would invite demagogues who would bring the nation to ruin. Complicating things further, the nature of democratic competition is such that those vying for power have incentive to portray the opposition’s leadership as dangerous. How do we distinguish desirable leadership from dangerous leadership? Can they be the same thing? Many who today are recognized as great leaders were, in their historical moment, branded dangerous. Others, whose ambitions and initiatives arguably undermined progress toward American ideals, were not recognized as dangerous at the time. In this tutorial, we will explore the concept of dangerous leadership in American history, from inside as well as outside of government. What constitutes dangerous leadership, and what makes a leader dangerous? Is it the person or the context? Who decides? How do we distinguish truly dangerous leadership from the perception of dangerous leadership? Does dangerous describe the means or the ends of leadership? Does it matter? Is leadership that privileges desirable ends, such as justice or security, at the expense of democratic means acceptable? Is democratic leadership in service of "dangerous" goals acceptable, and what are these goals?

Requirements/Evaluation: six 5-page essays; six 2-page response papers; and one final 5-page rewritten essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 206 (D2) PSCI 206 (D2)

Attributes: LEAD American Domestic Leadership LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 207 (S) Approaches to Asian Studies

Cross-listings: ASIA 210 PSCI 207

Secondary Cross-listing

Home to over half of the world’s population and to more than twenty of the world’s largest cities, Asia has gained global prominence in recent years; the twenty-first century in fact has widely been deemed the ‘Asian Century’. But what is Asia? And what does it mean to study this richly diverse region? This seminar will address these questions with the aim of introducing students to important theoretical topics and key concepts that are relevant to the comparative and critical study of Asia. One central concern will be to consider the different ways of understanding “Asia”, both in terms of how the term and the region have been historically constituted; another will be to facilitate an understanding some of the salient factors (geography, belief systems, economy and polity)—past and present—that make for Asia’s coherence and divergences; a third concern will be to unpack the troubled notions of “East” and “West” and re-center Asia within the newly emerging narratives of global interconnectedness. Beginning with the evolution of the field, this course will equip students with the methodological tools to critically navigate their own specific regional, inter-regional, or interdisciplinary tracks in the Asian Studies concentration.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two short papers (5-6); one longer final paper (10-15); discussion participation.

Prerequisites: At least one prior course related to Asia

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Asian Studies concentrators; seniors; juniors; sophomores

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 210 (D2) PSCI 207 (D2)
PSCI 208  (F)  Wealth in America  (WS)
The pursuit of wealth is an important feature of American political identity, captured by the ideas of the American dream and the Protestant work ethic. The accumulation of wealth has been lauded as both a worthy individual activity and a vital component of the nation's public interest. Yet inequality in wealth may conflict with the political equality necessary for democratic governance and public trust, leading to concerns that we are sacrificing community, fairness, and opportunity for the benefit of a small portion of the population. This course focuses on questions about the public value of wealth and its accumulation, which have become more pressing now that the richest one percent of Americans own about 40 percent of privately held wealth. Some readings will be historical, particularly those focusing on American political thought and the politics of the Gilded Age. Most readings will focus on contemporary political debates about the accumulation, concentration, and redistribution of wealth.

Requirements/Evaluation:  four 5-page papers and a final 10-page paper that is a revision and extension of a short paper
Prerequisites: none; not suitable for first-year students
Enrollment Limit:  19
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors with concentration in American politics and Political Economy majors
Expected Class Size:  19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: American concentration
Writing Skills Notes: Four 5-page papers, peer review, and a revision of extension of one of these papers into a 10-page paper at the end of the semester. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.
Attributes: POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course  PSCI American Politics Courses

Fall 2021

PSCI 209  (S)  Poverty in America
Cross-listings: WGSS 209  PSCI 209
Primary Cross-listing
Although some protest that the U.S. is heading toward European-style socialism, social welfare programs in the U.S. differ in important ways from those in other wealthy and democratic nations. This course focuses on the adoption and development of policies to address poverty and inequality in the U.S. The issues we will explore include: What is poverty, and how do Americans perceive its dangers to individuals as well as the political community? What economic, historical, and sociological theories have been advanced to explain poverty? Why has the U.S. adopted some approaches to reduce poverty but not others? What enduring political conflicts have shaped the U.S. welfare state?
Class Format: In spring 2021, this course will be taught remotely.
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two or three short papers, and a final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science, Political Economy, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors and concentrators in Public Health
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 211 (S) Do the People Govern? U.S. Public Opinion and Mass Political Behavior

America's founding documents explicitly state that the will of the people is the authority upon which our government rests. But do the people actually govern, and should they? Pessimists point out that most Americans know very little about politics and lack coherent political views, are easily manipulated by media and campaigns, and are frequently ignored by public officials anyway. Optimists counter that, even if individuals are often ignorant and/or confused about politics, in the aggregate, the public sends a coherent signal to public officials, who usually carry out the public's general wishes. In addition to engaging this debate about what the public thinks about politics, we will also explore how people behave in the political realm. What are the forces that shape whether citizens pay attention to politics, vote, work on campaigns, protest, or engage in other types of political action? How do resource gaps tied to inequalities in society (such as race, class, and gender) influence political behavior? And how do institutions such as the media and campaigns encourage or discourage it?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, one to two short papers (5-7 pages), one medium paper (8-12 pages), an oral presentation, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 212 (S) From Tocqueville to Trump: Leadership and the Making of American Democracy

Secondary Cross-listing

America's founders didn't mean to create a democracy. But since the Revolution, leaders have been fighting to make real for all Americans the promise of government of, by, and for the people. In this course, we will look at how leaders have marshaled ideas, social movements, and technological changes to expand the scope of American democracy--and the reasons they have sometimes failed. We will examine how founders such as Benjamin Franklin and James Madison envisioned the relation between the people and the government; how workers, African Americans, and women fought to participate in American politics; and how globalization, polarization, and inequality are straining American democracy and political leadership in the 21st century. We will examine leadership to better understand American democracy--and vice versa. We will ask: What explains why some leaders have succeeded where others have failed? Have some periods of American democratic politics been more amenable to particular kinds of leadership than others? What makes American political leadership distinctive in international comparison? Who, exactly, has been permitted to participate in American politics, and on what terms? How has the relation between the governors and the governed changed over time, and what factors and events have shaped those relations? How has America's democratic experiment compared with (and interacted with) democracy elsewhere in the world? Is America really a democracy at all?

Requirements/Evaluation: bi-weekly short writing assignments, term paper, midterm and final in-class exams

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Leadership Studies concentrators and Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Using conceptual tools drawn from political science and history, it offers students a deep understanding of the roots of contemporary issues of difference, power, and equity in American public life as well as a better sense of how and why power relations and modes of inclusion/exclusion are subject to change.

**Attributes:** LEAD American Domestic Leadership LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**PSCI 213 (S) Transitions to Democracy**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 213 GBST 211

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Under what circumstances do authoritarian regimes democratize and what is required to sustain the liberalization of the political system? This comparative course looks at a sample of societies characterized by strong ethnic, religious or racial cleavages.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** short papers, final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 213 (D2) GBST 211 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

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**PSCI 214 (S) Racial and Ethnic Politics in America**

Arguably, the dominant discourse in the presidency of Donald Trump and the battle to succeed him is about race. Race is connected to salient issues like immigration and police conduct; to politicians across the political spectrum; and (some argue) to virtually everything in American politics, including fundamental concepts that have no manifest racial content, like partisanship and the size and scope of government. We will evaluate the role of race as it relates to public opinion, political behavior, campaigns, political institutions, and public policy debates, with special attention devoted to the nature of racial attitudes. Most of the course will focus on the historical and contemporary relations between whites and African Americans, but we will also explore topics involving other pan-ethnic communities, particularly Latinos and Asian Americans.

**Class Format:** For spring 2021, this course will be taught remotely, with twice-weekly synchronous Zoom sessions as a class.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, one to two short papers (5-7 pages), one medium paper (8-12 pages), an oral presentation, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** poli sci majors first, seniors second, juniors third, sophomores fourth

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses

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Spring 2022

LEC Section: 01 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Matthew Tokeshi

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**PSCI 215 (S) Race and Inequality in the American City**

**Cross-listings:** LEAD 215 PSCI 215

Primary Cross-listing
In the past half-century, American cities have gotten both much richer and much poorer. The making of "luxury cities" has gone hand-in-hand with persistent, concentrated poverty, extreme racial segregation, mass incarceration, and failing public services—social problems borne primarily by people of color. This course will examine the political underpinnings of inequality in American cities, with particular attention to the racialization of inequality. Among the topics we will cover are: the structures of urban political power; housing and employment discrimination; the War on Crime and the War on Drugs (and their consequence, mass incarceration); education; and gentrification. We will ask: How have city leaders and social movements engaged with urban problems? How have they tried to make cities more decent, just, and sustainable? Under what circumstances has positive leadership produced beneficial outcomes, and in what circumstances has it produced perverse outcomes? We will engage primarily with political science, but also with scholarship in other disciplines, including sociology, history, geography, and legal studies, all of which share an interest in the questions we will be exploring. Students will leave this course with a deeper understanding of contemporary urban problems, a knowledge of the political structures within which those problems are embedded, and a better sense of the challenges and opportunities leaders face in contemporary urban America.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation; several short essays and a longer paper with presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 215 (D2) PSCI 215 (D2)

Attributes: GBST Urbanizing World Electives LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 216 (F) American Constitutionalism I: Structures of Power

Cross-listings: PSCI 216 LEAD 216

Primary Cross-listing

How has the American Constitution been debated and understood over time? What is the relationship between constitutional and political change? This course examines the historical development of American constitutional law and politics from the Founding to the present. Our focus is on structures of power—the limits on congressional lawmaking, growth of presidential authority, establishment of judicial review, conflicts among the three branches of the federal government, and boundaries between the federal and state and local governments. The specific disputes under these rubrics range from secession to impeachment, gun control to child labor, waging war to spurring commerce; the historical periods to be covered include the Marshall and Taney Court years, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, the New Deal, the Warren Court, and the contemporary conservative ascendency. Readings are drawn from Supreme Court opinions, presidential addresses, congressional debates and statutes, political party platforms, key tracts of American political thought, and secondary scholarship on constitutional development. Throughout the semester, our goal will be less to remember elaborate doctrinal rules and multi-part constitutional "tests" than to understand the changing nature of, and changing relationship between, constitutional power and constitutional meaning in American history.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: three 5- to 7-page essays, a final exam, and class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 216 (D2) LEAD 216 (D2)

Attributes: JLST Interdepartmental Electives LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI
American Politics Courses

Fall 2021
LEC Section: 01    MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Justin Crowe

PSCI 217  (S)  American Constitutionalism II: Rights and Liberties
Cross-listings: LEAD 217  PSCI 217
Primary Cross-listing
How has the American Constitution been debated and understood over time? What is the relationship between constitutional and political change? This course examines the historical development of American constitutional law and politics from the Founding to the present. Our focus is on rights and liberties -- freedom of speech and religion, property, criminal process, autonomy and privacy, and equality. The specific disputes under these rubrics range from abortion to affirmative action, hate speech to capital punishment, school prayer to same-sex marriage; the historical periods to be covered include the early republic, the ante-bellum era, the Civil War and Reconstruction, World Wars I and II, the Warren Court, and contemporary America. Readings are drawn from Supreme Court opinions, presidential addresses, congressional debates and statutes, political party platforms, key tracts of American political thought, and secondary scholarship on constitutional development. Throughout the semester, our goal will be less to remember elaborate doctrinal rules and multi-part constitutional "tests" than to understand the changing nature of, and changing relationship between, constitutional rights and constitutional meaning in American history.

Requirements/Evaluation: three 5- to 7-page essays, a final exam, and class participation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
LEAD 217 (D2) PSCI 217 (D2)
Attributes: JLST Interdepartmental Electives  LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership  POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course  PSCI
American Politics Courses

Spring 2022
LEC Section: 01    MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Justin Crowe

PSCI 218  (S)  The American Presidency
Cross-listings: PSCI 218  LEAD 218
Primary Cross-listing
Many argue that the presidency has been fundamentally changed by the tenure of Donald Trump. Is this right? To study the presidency is to study human nature and individual personality, constitution and institution, rules and norms, strategy and contingency. This course will examine the problems and paradoxes that attend the exercise of the most powerful political office in the world's oldest democracy: Can an executive office be constructed with sufficient energy to govern and also be democratically accountable? What are the limits on presidential power? How much do we attribute the shaping of politics to the agency of the individual in the office and to what extent are politics the result of structural, cultural, and institutional factors? Are the politics of the presidency different in foreign and domestic policy? How are national security concerns balanced with the protection of civil rights and liberties? How is the office and purpose of the presidency affected by an economic order predicated on private capital? By the character of the occupant? Exploration of these and other questions will lead us to examine topics such as presidential selection, the bases of presidential power, character and leadership issues, congressional-executive interactions, social movement and interest group relations, and the media. Attention will focus largely on the modern presidency, though older historical examples will also be used to help us gain perspective on these problems.

Class Format: This course will be taught as a hybrid class, with a mixture of in-person and remote sessions for all students. The course will feature
both seminar discussion and several small group research projects.

Requirements/Evaluation: three 5 to 7 page papers, small group projects, and class participation involving weekly writing

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and Leadership studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 218 (D2) LEAD 218 (D2)

Attributes: LEAD American Domestic Leadership LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 219 (F) Women and Girls in (Inter)National Politics (DPE)

Cross-listings: PSCI 219 INTR 219 AFR 217 WGSS 219 LEAD 219

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial focuses on the writings and autobiographies of women who have shaped national politics through social justice movements in the 20th-21st centuries. Women and girls studied include: Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, Safiya Bukhari, Erica Garner, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Marielle Franco, Winnie Mandela.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly 5-page primary analytical papers and 2-page response papers.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and seniors, sophomores.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 219 (D2) INTR 219 (D2) AFR 217 (D2) WGSS 219 (D2) LEAD 219 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This tutorial examines how girls and women confront capitalism, imperialism, climate devastation, patriarchy and poverty. The national and international movements that they participated in or led were based on shifting the balance of powers towards the impoverished, colonized, and imprisoned.

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 220 (S) The U.S. and Afghanistan: A Post-Mortem (DPE)

Cross-listings: ASIA 208 GBST 208 ANTH 208 ASST 208 PSCI 220

Secondary Cross-listing

The United States attacked and defeated the Afghan Taliban regime over in the course of a few short weeks in 2001. Within a few years, the finality of that victory was brought into question as the Taliban regrouped and eventually reasserted itself as a formidable guerilla army that the U.S. military could not easily defeat. At the same time that it was facing a more difficult military challenge than anticipated, the United States got bogged down in the process of nation-building, as well as efforts at social reform. This course examines the history of American involvement in Afghanistan, beginning with the Cold War when the U.S. used Afghanistan as a test case for new models of political modernization and economic development. We will go on to discuss the U.S. support for Islamist political parties during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s and the consequent rise of the Taliban, and the role of Afghanistan in the September 11th attacks and the "War on Terror* that followed. The course will conclude with a consideration of the impact and legacy of the two decades of nation-building and social reform carried out by the United States since 9/11.

Requirements/Evaluation: grading will be determined by class participation, two short essays, and a 15-page research paper

Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors, Global Studies concentrators, Political Science and Asian Studies majors will get preference

Expected Class Size: 15-20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 208 (D2) GBST 208 (D2) ANTH 208 (D2) ASST 208 (D2) PSCI 220 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Among the topics relevant to power and difference to be considered in this course are the American support and later disavowal of Islamist political parties to advance US geopolitical goals, public relations efforts "to save Afghan women" after 9/11, and the uses and misuses of American military, economic, and political power to build a western-style democratic government and bring western-oriented social reforms to a society radically different from U.S. society.

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 221 (S) Cold War Intellectuals: Civil Rights, Writers and the CIA (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 224 PSCI 221 AMST 201 LEAD 220 INTR 220

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial focuses on US-based views of the Cold War. It examines how intelligence agencies and intellectuals, as well as government officials, viewed civil rights, human rights, and US hegemony. Readings include: Williams J. Maxwell (F. B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature); James Baldwin (The Fire Next Time); Ralph Ellison (The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison); Report to the President by the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States (1975, VP Nelson Rockefeller, chair); Hugh Wilford (The Mighty Wurlitzer: How the CIA Played America); Hannah Arendt (The Origins of Totalitarianism; On Violence; "Reflections on Little Rock"); Frances Stonor Saunders (Who Paid the Piper? The CIA and the Cultural Cold War). Students alternate weekly between 5-page primary and 2-page secondary papers on assigned readings.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attend all classes; submit completed papers 24 hours before seminar meets.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 224 (D2) PSCI 221 (D2) AMST 201 (D2) LEAD 220 (D2) INTR 220 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This tutorial examines the Cold War between the US and the USSR and attempts to use intellectuals to shape and promote the objectives of powerful state entities. The power struggle between the two "superpowers" impacted cultural production and authors. Some of those authors influenced or enlisted into the Cold War sought equity and equality for their communities and eventually fought against the very political powers that employed them.

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 223 (F) International Law

International law embodies the rules that govern the society of states. It spells out who can be a sovereign state and how to become one, what states can do, what they cannot do, and who can punish transgressions. It also creates status used by other actors, such as international organizations, soldiers, national liberation movements, refugees, transnational air and sea shipping companies, and multinational corporations. International law is similar to domestic law, with one very crucial difference: it is not in theory enforced by a centralized, sovereign state. In most other respects, it is the same: it protects the status quo, including the distribution of power among its members; it spells out legitimate and illegitimate ways of resolving conflicts of interest; it is biased toward the powerful and legitimizes their interests; it tells its members how to act to coordinate their interests and minimize direct conflict; some of it is purely aspirational, some of it necessary for survival. And like domestic law, it is enforced only some of the time,
and then against the weak more than the strong. Yet, law is still where we look for justice and, perhaps, the legitimation of order.

**Class Format:** The lectures will be on Powerpoint slides that students can review at any time before class, as they do the readings. Synchronous class time will be devoted to discussion: clarifying, extrapolating, interpreting.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** six quizzes, weekly Glow posts, two 4-page papers on assigned topics, one final project (video, audio, or paper), and one final exam

**Prerequisites:** None, although those who have not taken PSCI 202 at Williams will be required to do one additional small set of readings and a lecture, and pass a basic quiz based on them during the first week.

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** JLST Interdepartmental Electives MAST Interdepartmental Electives POEC International Political Economy Courses PSCI International Relations Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**PSCI 224 (F) Neo-liberalism: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?**

We live in the era of neo-liberalism. But what does this mean? This course will focus on neo-liberalism in comparative perspective, looking mainly at the US and Europe. It will consider how neo-liberalism is defined, the role of states in making and maintaining neo-liberalism, the centrality of markets to neo-liberal conceptions, and the kinds of politics that produced and are produced by neo-liberalism. Economically, the course will look at the institutional configuration of neo-liberalism, changes in economies, growing inequality, the financial crises, and prevalence of debt. Politically, the course will address changes in the role of government, what governments do and do not do, the growing influence of financial interests, the role of identities in mobilizing support for and legitimating governments, and the impact of these developments on the status of citizenship and democracy.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three papers: one 3-page, one 5-page, and one 10-page paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science majors

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI International Relations Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Michael D. MacDonald

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**PSCI 225 (F) International Security**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 225 LEAD 225

**Primary Cross-listing**

This course deals with basic questions about war and peace. What are the major causes of war? Why do leaders choose to use violence in the pursuit of political objectives? How does the threat of war shape international politics and diplomatic outcomes? How are wars fought? What are their consequences? And why do states sometimes seek to cooperate to achieve their objectives and other times settle disputes through force or the threat of force? To address these questions, this course covers a number of specific topics: the causes, conduct, and consequences of the two world wars; the origins, course, and end of the Cold War; the influence of nuclear weapons on international security; regional conflicts and rivalries; regime type and international conflict; alliances and patron-client relationships; diplomacy; crisis decision-making; asymmetric conflicts; and great power politics, grand strategy, and international order.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, one 6- to 8-page paper, midterm, final

**Prerequisites:** none
PSCI 227 (S) International Relations of the Middle East

Cross-listings: LEAD 227 PSCI 227

Primary Cross-listing
This is a course about the Middle East in international politics. The structure of the course combines political science concepts with a detailed survey of the region's diplomatic history. Classes will be taught remotely. The basic format of the course will be to combine brief lectures—either posted on the class website beforehand or given at the start of each class—with an in-depth discussion of each class session's topic. The goal of these discussions is to generate debates over the conceptual, historical, and policy significance of the subjects that we cover. Specifically, the first section of the course will cover the emergence of the Persian Gulf as an area of strategic importance in international politics; U.S. policy toward Saudi Arabia and Iran after World War II; the origins of the Arab-Israeli dispute; the June 1967 and October 1973 Middle East conflicts; Egyptian-Israeli peace; the Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War; the 1991 Persian Gulf War and its consequences; and the rise of Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and Hamas. The second part of the course focuses on the Iraq War and its consequences; the rise of ISIS; the Arab Spring; Turkey's changing foreign relations; and the war in Syria. The last section of the course covers contemporary policy challenges confronting the Middle East.

Class Format: This course will be taught remotely. There will be brief lectures, which will be either put on the work website prior to class or given at the start of each class. But the class will mainly consist of in-depth, synchronous classroom discussions.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two 6- to 8-page papers, final
Prerequisites: none

PSCI 228 (S) International Organization

Tens of thousands of international organizations populate our world. IGOs, whose members are governments of sovereigns, range from the Nordic Association for Reindeer Research to the UN and NATO; NGOs, whose members are private groups and individuals, include the International Seaweed Association as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross. We will examine where they come from, what they do, and to whom they matter, and will examine their agency, efficiency, and accountability. We cover the history, structures and functions of international organizations using case studies.

Requirements/Evaluation: three short papers, a midterm exam, one longer paper on an assigned topic
Prerequisites: none, open to first-year students

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science Majors
PSCI 229  (F)  Global Political Economy
This course offers a broad introduction to the contemporary global political economy, emphasizing the inherent and inseparable intertwining of politics and economics, power and wealth, the state and the market. The core of the course is made up of analyses of global trade, global finance, development, and migration, with special attention to subjects such as free trade, foreign aid, industrial policy, and border walls. We conclude the course with a look at the global pandemic and its implications for the future of global capitalism.
Class Format: recorded lectures with once weekly seminar-format discussions
Requirements/Evaluation: one 5-7page paper, one 7-10page paper, in-class debate, final exam, course discussion
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science and Political Economy majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: ENVI Environmental Policy  GBST Economic Development Studies Electives  MAST Interdepartmental Electives  POEC International Political Economy Courses  PSCI International Relations Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 231  (F)  Ancient Political Thought
Cross-listings: PHIL 231  PSCI 231
Primary Cross-listing
The core activity of this seminar is the careful reading and sustained discussion of selected works by Plato and Aristotle, but we will also engage such other thinkers as Epictetus and Augustine, and, from a political and theoretical point of view, selections from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Among the questions that we will address: What is justice? How can it be known and pursued? How is political power generated and exercised? What are the social and ethical prerequisites—and consequences—of democracy? Must the freedom or fulfillment of some people require the subordination of others? Does freedom require leading (or avoiding) a political life? What distinguishes that kind of life from others? What does it mean to be "philosophical" or to think "theoretically" about politics? Although we will attempt to engage the readings on their own terms, we will also ask how the vast differences between the ancient world and our own undercut or enhance the texts' ability to illuminate the dilemmas of political life for us.
Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: three 7- to 8-page papers
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors
Expected Class Size: 18
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PHIL 231 (D2)  PSCI 231 (D2)
PSCI 232  (F)  Modern Political Thought

Primary Cross-listing

This course is a chronological survey of major works of political theory from the 16th to the 20th century. In discussions and writing, we will explore the diverse visions of modernity and of politics offered by such thinkers as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Mill, and Freud. They help us ask: What is freedom? Who is equal? Who should rule? With what limits and justifications? What form of government best serves the people? Who are the people, anyway? And on what grounds can we justify confidence in our provisional answers to such questions? Class will be primarily driven by discussion, often preceded by brief lectures. Attention to the writing process and developing an authorial voice will be a recurrent focus of our work inside and outside the classroom.

Class Format: Class meetings will be conducted remotely using zoom.

Requirements/Evaluation: three papers of 4-6 pages; class participation; brief informal writing tasks inside and outside of class meetings

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Theory concentrators, then Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 232 (D2) PHIL 232 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 233  (F)  Rastafari: Dread, Politics, Agency

Secondary Cross-listing

The emergence of Rastafari in the twentieth century marked a distinct phase in the theory and practice of political agency. From its heretical roots in Jamaica, Garveyism, Ethiopianism, and Pan-Africanism, Rastafari has evolved from a Caribbean theological movement to an international political actor. This course investigates the political theory of Rastafari in order to develop intellectual resources for theorizing the concept of agency in contemporary Africana thought and political theory. We will analyze texts and audio-visual works on the political economy of late colonial Jamaica, core Rastafari thinking, political theology, the role of reggae music, the notion of agency, and the influence of Rastafari on global politics.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, weekly reading e-response papers, two short essays, and a 12- to 15- page final paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators and majors in Political Science and Religion

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 261 (D2) AFR 299 (D2) PSCI 233 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  AMST Arts in Context Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives
PSCI 234  (S)  Freedom
We all want to be free--at least most of us say we do. The desire for political freedom is as old as the ancient world and as new as today's movements and liberation struggles. But what do we mean when we claim to want freedom? What institutions and social conditions make political freedom possible? For instance, do the claims of individual freedom conflict with those of community? With equality? With authority? Does freedom make us happy? Is it what we really want? And if it is, will we find it by engaging or turning away from politics? This course confronts these questions through readings drawn from a variety of classic and contemporary sources, including works of fiction, autobiography, journalism, law, philosophy and political theory, and social science. Our discussions will address such topics as activism and stoicism; equality and economic freedom; sexual freedom and gender politics; freedom of speech and religion; citizenship, migration, and cosmopolitism; racism and colonialism; mass incarceration; and the uses and limits of state power. This course is part of a joint program between Williams' Center for Learning in Action and the Berkshire County Jail in Pittsfield, MA. The class will be composed equally of nine Williams students and nine inmates and will be held at the jail. An important goal of the course is to encourage students from different backgrounds to think together about issues of common human concern. Transportation will be provided by the college. *Please note the atypical class hours, Th. 4:45-8:30 pm*

Requirements/Evaluation: Class attendance and active participation, short essays, and a final paper.

Prerequisites: Not open to first-year students.

Enrollment Limit:  9

Enrollment Preferences: Final selection will be made on the basis of statements of interest solicited after pre-registration, and interviews with the instructor.

Expected Class Size:  9

Grading:  no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

Attributes:  JLST Interdepartmental Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01  R 4:45 pm - 8:30 pm  Mark T. Reinhardt

PSCI 235  (S)  Survival and Resistance: Environmental Political Theory

Cross-listings:  ENVI 235  PSCI 235

Primary Cross-listing

Contemporary struggles to reverse environmental destruction and establish sustainable communities have prompted some political theorists to rethink longstanding assumptions about politics and its relationship to nature. Does the environment have “rights”? What, if anything, is the difference between an ecosystem and a political community? Is democracy dangerous to the planet's health? Are environmental protections compatible with political freedom? How is the domination or conquest of nature connected with domination and conquest within human societies? What does justice demand in an age of climate change? In this class, we will consider the promise and limits of political theory to illuminate present day environmental crises and foster movements to overcome them. We will engage classic texts that helped to establish political theory’s traditional view of nature as a resource, as well as contemporary texts that offer alternative, ecological understandings of nature and its entwinements with politics. Class will be driven primarily by discussion. Students will have significant responsibility for setting the agenda for discussions through informal writing submitted prior to class. As a writing intensive course, attention to the writing process and developing an authorial voice will be a recurrent focus of our work inside and outside the classroom.

Requirements/Evaluation: formal and informal writing assignments and class participation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit:  19

Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores

Expected Class Size:  12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)
**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ENVI 235 (D2) PSCI 235 (D2)

**Attributes:** AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives PHIL Related Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

**PSCI 238  (F) Economic Liberalism and Its Critics**

**Cross-listings:** ECON 299  PSCI 238  POEC 250

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Economic liberalism holds that society is better off if people enjoy economic freedom. Its critics point to what they believe this position ignores or what it wrongly assumes, and hence, how it would make bad policy. This course explores the relationship between politics and economics by surveying influential works of political economy. Its first part examines major thinkers in relation to the historical development of capitalism in Western Europe and the United States: the classical liberalism of Adam Smith, Karl Marx's revolutionary socialism, and the reformist ideas of John Maynard Keynes. The second part considers mid-20th-century writers who revise and critique economic liberalism from a variety of perspectives, including Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, Ronald Coase, Arthur Okun, and Albert O. Hirschman. The third part surveys significant recent contributions relevant to the themes of the course, with applications to current public policy issues, including topics such as: power relations and autonomy in the workplace; asymmetric information and social insurance; economic inequality and distributive justice; equality of opportunity; the economics of health care; positional goods and the moral foundations of capitalism; economic nationalism and new trade theory; behavioral economics; climate change and intergenerational equity; finance and financial crises; and rent-seeking. The combination of the historical focus of the early part of the course with discussion of modern policy issues and debates in the latter part of the course permits you to appreciate the ongoing dialogue between classical and contemporary views of political economy.

**Class Format:** This class uses a flipped classroom approach, where before each class meeting, students watch a lecture video, and sometimes write an essay or solve some problems on relating to the assigned reading and video, and then in-person class is devoted primarily to discussion.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** six short essays, several short homework assignments, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** ECON 110 and 120 or equivalent; PSCI 201, 202, 203, or 204 (may be taken concurrently with POEC 250); open to non-majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 30

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Economy majors and sophomores intending a Political Economy major

**Expected Class Size:** 30

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ECON 299 (D2) PSCI 238 (D2) POEC 250 (D2)

**Attributes:** AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives POEC Required Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Jon M. Bakija, James E. Mahon

**PSCI 240  (S) Theories of Comparative Politics**

This course deals with the concepts that organize much of the contemporary study of comparative politics. The course discusses the purposes of states, the origins of capitalism, the relationship of states to capitalism, the connection between identities, cultures, and states, and the definition and nature of power. The readings include Alexis de Tocqueville, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Karl Polanyi, Barrington Moore, Michel Foucault, and Edward Said.

**Class Format:** discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three papers
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Enrollment Limit:** 19  
**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science majors  
**Expected Class Size:** 19  
**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option  
**Distributions:** (D2)  
**Attributes:** PSCI Comparative Politics Courses, PSCI Political Theory Courses  
*Not offered current academic year*

**PSCI 241 (S) Meritocracy**  
**Cross-listings:** PSCI 241, SOC 241  
**Primary Cross-listing**  

Although fewer than 1% of Americans have a degree from the country's top 30 colleges and universities, 39% of Fortune 500 CEOs, 41% of federal judges, 44% of the writing and editorial staff at the *New York Times*, 64% of Davos attendees, and 100% of Supreme Court justices do. Is this a positive sign that the United States is governed by its most talented and capable members who have risen through hard work and equal opportunity? Or a negative one pointing to the power of a corrupt and self-selecting elite? This course explores the theme of meritocracy—rule by the intelligent—in comparative perspective. We will look at both old and new arguments regarding the proper role and definition of merit in political society as well as take the measure of meritocracy in present-day Singapore, France, and the United States. The course concludes with a focus on the current debate over American meritocracy and inequality.  
**Class Format:** Remote  
**Requirements/Evaluation:** two short papers, one long paper, take-home final exam, discussion questions, class participation  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Enrollment Limit:** 16  
**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science and Sociology majors, first-years and sophomores intending a Political Science or Sociology major  
**Expected Class Size:** 16  
**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option  
**Distributions:** (D2)  
**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**  
PSCI 241 (D2) SOC 241 (D2)  
**Attributes:** POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses, PSCI American Politics Courses, PSCI Comparative Politics Courses  
*Not offered current academic year*

**PSCI 244 Anti-Muslim Racism: A Global Perspective (DPE)**  
The racialization of Islam and Muslims has been constitutive to how they have been imagined in Europe and elsewhere. This course looks at how difference works and has worked, how identities and power relationships have been grounded in lived experience, and how one might both critically and productively approach questions of difference, power, and equity. It goes back to the founding moments of an imagined white (at the beginning Christian) Europe and how the racialization of Muslim and Jewish bodies was central to this project, and how anti-Muslim racism continues to be relevant in our world today. The course will not only show how Muslims were constructed as subjects in history, politics and society from the very beginning of the making of Europe and the Americas to the end of the Cold War to the post-9/11 era. Rather, it also looks at how Muslims live through Islamophobia. It looks at processes of racialization of Muslims within the Muslim community and between Muslim communities, while also considering which agencies Muslims take to determine their own future. The course draws from anthropology, gender studies, history, political science, religious studies, postcolonial studies, decolonial studies, and sociology.  
**Requirements/Evaluation:** Active class participation, two response papers, and a comprehensive, open-book and open-note final exam.  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Enrollment Limit:** 25  
**Enrollment Preferences:** Global Studies concentrators and Religion majors
Expected Class Size: 20

Grading:

Unit Notes: Also qualifies for the GBST Urbanizing World track

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course critically examines difference, power, and equity. Thematically, it looks at the racialization of Islam and the intersection of race, religion, class and gender in the construction of the 'Muslim problem' from a historical as well as a global contemporary perspective. It aims to promote a self-conscious and critical engagement with the practice and experience of difference, especially as it relates to the dynamics of power in structuring that experience.

Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 245  (S)  South African Politics

The course deals with South African politics since the end of apartheid. The readings will address the politics, policies, and composition of the African National Congress (ANC), the growth of black economic elites and the black middle class, the persistence of poverty and extreme inequality, expanding corruption, and why the ANC continues to dominate politically in spite of unabated poverty and worsening inequality and corruption.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two 10-12 page papers and class participation.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and prospective majors.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: GBST African Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 246  (F)  The Politics of Capitalism

Must we choose between "socialism or barbarism?" A century after Rosa Luxemburg's challenge, it is clear that socialism did not win. Does this mean that we have descended to barbarism? Tracing the path of capitalist development in the rich democracies suggests a range of responses. Some states have developed robust institutions that provide for citizens' basic needs and check the power of business; others leave the poor threatened by starvation and workers exposed to exploitation. How and why has capitalism evolved in different forms in different countries? This course addresses the politics of capitalism by examining the struggles between social groups that lead to variation in distributional outcomes and economic performance. The course concludes by investigating these struggles in light of contemporary challenges, in particular, transnational governance and technological change.

Class Format: Hybrid: in person/online

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two presentations, three essays

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: potential and actual PSCI and POEC majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 247  (S)  Political Power in Contemporary China
Cross-listings: ASST 249  PSCI 247  ASIA 249

Primary Cross-listing

The People’s Republic of China has experienced rapid and extensive economic, social and cultural transformation over the past forty years. Its political system, however, is little changed. The Communist Party still monopolizes power and works hard to suppress organized opposition. Political dissent has taken various forms since 1979 but the regime has found ways to repress and divert it. Yet, in spite of the state’s efforts, opposition and dissent continue to bubble to the surface. The course will review the political development of the PRC since 1949 and, then, focus on the dynamics of political contention and regime persistence since the Tiananmen Crisis of 1989.

Class Format: The class will be hybrid, with both online content and in-person discussion.

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASST 249 (D2) PSCI 247 (D2) ASIA 249 (D2)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 248  (F)  The USA in Comparative Perspective  (WS)

Politics in the USA is often considered unique and incomparable, and US political science separates the study of American politics from comparative politics. This course overcomes this divide, considering politics and society in the United States comparatively, from a variety of viewpoints and by authors foreign and American, historical and contemporary. Important topics include: the colonial experience and independence; race relations and the African diaspora; national identity and authoritarian populist nationalism; war and state-building; American exceptionalism, religion, and foreign policy; the role of political and economic institutions; and the origins and shape of the welfare state. (As the list suggests, the most common comparisons are with Latin America and Western Europe, but several of our authors look beyond these regions.)

Class Format: a lecture in the first week; then ten weeks of tutorial; then a discussion class in the final week

Requirements/Evaluation: five 5- to 6-page papers, five 1- to 2-page responses, and one 1-page essay for the final class

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and students who have been denied enrollment in the course previously

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Assignments are graded and returned weekly. After each student has written one long paper and one response, professor meets with them individually to discuss the composition and presentation of each genre. For the final class, students bring a one-page response written in “E-prime,” English without the verb “to be.”

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI American Politics Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Fall 2021

TUT Section: T1  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  James E. Mahon

PSCI 250  (F)  Political Psychology

This course will examine the role of psychology in politics. The goal is to develop a rich understanding of the foundations of public opinion and political

...
behavior. We will examine the role of social identities, partisan affiliation, concrete interests, values, issues, and ideology in shaping opinion and behavior, as well as the role of external forces such as campaigns, the media, and political elites. Along the way, we will consider a number of longstanding questions in the study of politics, such as: is the public rational? What are the root causes of racism? How does racism influence political choices? Why do people identify with political parties? Why do people vote or engage in other types of political action? How does the mass media and campaigns influence public opinion?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 1-2 short papers (5-7 pages), 1 medium paper (8-12 pages), an oral presentation, and a final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: If the course over-enrolls, please give first enrollment preference to political science majors, followed by political economy majors.
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course  PSCI American Politics Courses

Fall 2021
LEC Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Matthew Tokeshi

PSCI 253  (S)  The Tragedy of Venezuela
The recent history of Venezuela offers a window into many of the most important political and economic issues faced by people in developing countries. Why does an abundance of oil seem to solve some problems while often leading to perverse economic and political outcomes? How can democracy be made to work better for ordinary people? What does it mean for a government to be truly sovereign? How does corruption grow and what can we do about it? When should we leave important decisions to technocratic experts? What does it mean today to be progressive? The course first briefly reviews Venezuelan post-Independence history, with an emphasis on the post-1958 democratic settlement. It then explores more deeply the reasons for the breakdown of this settlement, the rise of Hugo Chavez, and the decay of the "21st Century Socialist" regime under Chavez and Maduro. Materials include biographies, documentary films, short videos, economic data, and news reports.
Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: a map quiz and four short papers
Prerequisites: a course in comparative politics and a course in economics, or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 35
Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and PSCI majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 258  (F)  The Media and American Democracy
Cross-listings: PSCI 258  LEAD 258
Secondary Cross-listing
The course examines the relationship between the press and government, its watchdog function, how social media and the Internet are changing its role, the emergence of independent investigative bodies such as Pro Publica, and the myriad ways in which the press has helped shape American history, for better or worse. The course goes behind the headlines to examine the delicate interplay between government and press, peels back the familiar classics of American journalism, but also incorporates the current conflicts and tensions between the press and government. In the new age, how does the press define or redefine balance, neutrality, the quest for objectivity, and restraint. Who is a journalist, a once relatively easy question, but one now fraught with complexity? There has been a tectonic shift in the fundamental standards and practices of the press in recent years. What are those changes and how does it augur for the future of the press and democratic institutions?
**Requirements/Evaluation:** Several short papers, 10-15 page research paper.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 14

**Enrollment Preferences:** Preference to Leadership Studies concentrators and Political Science majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 14

**Grading:** Yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 258 (D2) LEAD 258 (D2)

**Attributes:** LEAD American Domestic Leadership

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01   W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm   Ted Gup

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**PSCI 260 (F) Power, Feminist-Style (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** WGSS 260  PSCI 260

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course examines one of the most important concepts in the analysis of sex and gender and efforts to envision sexual and gender justice, the concept of power from multiple feminist perspectives. At the core of feminism lies the critique of inequitable power relations. Some feminists claim that power itself is the root of all evil and that a feminist world is one without power. Others portray the feminist agenda as one of taking power, or of reconstructing society by exercising a specifically feminist mode of power. In this course, we will look at feminist critiques of power, how feminists have employed notions of power developed outside of the arena of feminist thought, and efforts to develop specifically feminist ideas of power. Along the way, we will ask: Are some concepts of power more useful to feminism? Can certain forms of power be considered more feminist than others? How can feminist power be realized? Thinkers we will engage include Judith Butler, Audre Lorde, Catherine MacKinnon, Hannah Arendt, and Patricia Hill Collins.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** eight short writing assignments (ranging from 250 words to 750 words), drafting and revision of a 10 pg final essay

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** No pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)  (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

WGSS 260 (D2) PSCI 260 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** This course aims to carefully unpack the writing process by focusing on particular elements of writing (summary, critical analysis) while also introducing students to tools they can use to improve their writing (freewriting). Short writing assignments like the proposal, outline, and abstract build on one another and culminate in a final essay that goes through the process of drafting and, after peer and teacher review, revision.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course requires students to focus on what power does and should look like from the perspective of difference, exploring the relationship between power and equity in the process. Students will reflect on and discuss the working of power in their own lives, why certain forms of power are more or less visible to particular groups, and how different ideas about power promote different interests in society at large.

**Attributes:** WGSS Theory Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01   TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm   Greta F. Snyder
PSCI 262  (F)(S)  America and the Cold War

Cross-listings:  HIST 261  PSCI 262  LEAD 262

Primary Cross-listing

This course examines the rise and fall of the Cold War, focusing on four central issues. First, why did America and the Soviet Union become bitter rivals shortly after the defeat of Nazi Germany? Second, was one side primarily responsible for the length and intensity of the Cold War in Europe? Third, how did the Cold War in Europe lead to events in other areas of the world, such as Cuba and Vietnam? Finally, could the Cold War have been ended long before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989? Political scientists and historians continue to argue vigorously about the answers to all these questions. We examine both traditional and revisionist explanations of the Cold War, as well as the new findings that have emerged from the partial opening of Soviet and Eastern European archives. The final section of the course examines how scholarly interpretations of the Cold War continue to influence how policymakers approach contemporary issues in American foreign policy.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: one medium length paper, an in-class midterm and final exam, and a series of short assignments

Prerequisites: none; PSCI 202 is recommended but not required

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 261 (D2) PSCI 262 (D2) LEAD 262 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada  LEAD American Foreign Policy Leadership  PSCI International Relations Courses

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PSCI 265  (S)  The International Politics of East Asia

This course examines the political, economic, and cultural determinants of conflict and cooperation in East Asia. Throughout the semester, we will examine three distinct but inter-related aspects of international relations in East Asia: Security, economy, and culture by using some core concepts and theoretical arguments widely accepted in the study of international relations. We will engage some of the central questions and issues in the current debate on East Asia. Do East Asian countries seek security and prosperity in a way fundamentally different from the Western system? Is there a single best way to maintain regional order and cooperation across regions? Will a strong China inevitably claim its traditional place under the sun? Will Japan continue to live as a nation with enormous economic power but limited military means? What is the choice for South Korea between security alliance with the United States and national reconciliation with the North? What should be done to dissuade the authoritarian regime in North Korea from acquiring nuclear capabilities and lead it to different paths toward national survival? By the end of the semester, you will gain both a general perspective and substantive knowledge on East Asian international politics.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm exam, team debate, take-home final exam, class participation and other assignments

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)
PSCI 266 (S) The United States and Latin America  (DPE)
This course examines the most important political and diplomatic divide in the Western Hemisphere. The first half is a historical survey of U.S.-Latin American foreign relations from the early Spanish American independence movements through the end of the Cold War, with some emphasis on the latter. We consider how this history confirms or undermines influential views about U.S. foreign relations and about international relations generally. We also compare historical U.S. foreign policy toward the hemisphere to current policy globally. The second half covers the most important current issues in hemispheric relations: the rise of leftist governments in Latin America; the war on drugs; immigration and border security; and competition with China for influence. At the end we briefly reconsider current U.S. policies, in view of the economic and political evolution of Latin America, in historical perspective.

Class Format: more lecture in the first half, more discussion and several in-class debates in the second

Requirements/Evaluation: a map quiz, two short papers, a longer paper, and either another policy paper and a regular final exam, or a 10-page research paper and a short final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 35

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: In the paper that considers the first part of the course, the students weigh to what extent U.S. policy toward Latin America was affected by the largely derogatory attitudes of U.S. diplomats toward Latin Americans. A unit in the second part of the course critically analyzes current U.S. immigration policy in this context.

Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect LEAD American Foreign Policy Leadership PSCI International Relations Courses

Spring 2022

LEC Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm James E. Mahon

PSCI 268 (S) Israeli Politics
This is an introductory course on Israeli politics. Approaching questions historically, it discusses the evolution of Zionism before and after the founding of Israel, the immigration and assimilation of Jews from Arab states, and the changes in Israeli politics and society introduced by the acquisition of the West Bank and the ensuing occupation and settlements. The course also will address Israel's foreign policies, including its relationship with the USA, and the conflict with Palestinians.

Requirements/Evaluation: two papers and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: GBST Middle Eastern Studies Electives POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 270 (S) The Politics of Waste

Cross-listings: ENVI 241 PSCI 242 PSCI 270
Waste is not just a fact of life, it is a political practice. To create and maintain political order requires devising collective means to pile up, bury, burn, or otherwise dispose of stuff deemed dirty or disorderly: waste management is regime management. In turn, our feelings of disgust for anything deemed waste shape political deliberation and action on environmental policy, immigration, food production, economic distribution, and much more. The very effort to define "waste" raises thorny political questions: What (or who) is disposable? Why do we find the visible presence of certain kinds of things or persons to be unbearably noxious? How should we respond to the fact that these unbearable beings persist in existing, despite our best efforts to eliminate them? What is our individual and collective responsibility for creating and disposing of waste? Serious inquiry into waste is rare in political theory and political science—perhaps understandably, given that the study of politics is shaped by the same taboos that shape politics. In this seminar we will openly discuss unmentionable topics and get our hands dirty (sometimes literally) examining the politics of waste. We will take notice of the erasure of waste in traditional political theory and work together to fill these gaps. To do so, we will draw on work in anthropology, critical theory, history, urban studies, and waste management science; representations of waste in popular culture; and experiences with waste in our lives. This course is part of a joint program between Williams’ Center for Learning in Action and the Berkshire County Jail in Pittsfield, MA. The class will be composed equally of nine Williams students and nine inmates and will be held at the jail. An important goal of the course is to encourage students from different backgrounds to think together about issues of common human concern. Transportation will be provided by the college. *Please note the atypical class hours, Wed 4:45-8:30 pm* 

Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation, short essays, and a final paper

Prerequisites: not open to first-year students

Enrollment Limit: 9

Enrollment Preferences: final selection will be made on the basis of statements of interest solicited after pre-registration and interviews with the instructor

Expected Class Size: 9

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENVI 241 (D2) PSCI 242 (D2) PSCI 270 (D2)

Attributes: ENVI Environmental Policy PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 271 (F) Religion and the State

Cross-listings: REL 214 PSCI 271

Secondary Cross-listing

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution begins: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” What does “religion” mean in this formulation? Should “religion” be singled-out for exclusion from government? Are “religious” reasons ever legitimate reasons for laws, policies or popular political action? Should “religious” organizations be exempt from otherwise generally applicable laws? Is “religion” good or necessary for democratic societies? In this course we will respond to these and related questions through an investigation of “religion” as a concept in political theory. Particular attention will be given to the modern liberal tradition and its critics. Coverage will range from modern classics to innovative contemporary arguments. Classics may include John Locke’s A Letter Concerning Toleration, selections from Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s The Social Contract, James Madison’s Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments, Immanuel Kant’s Religion Within the Boundaries of Mere Reason, John Stewart Mill’s Three Essays On Religion, and John Dewey’s A Common Faith. More recent arguments may come from John Rawls, Alasdair MacIntyre, Nicholas Wolterstorff, Martha Nussbaum, Jeffrey Stout, Winnifred Sullivan, Brian Leiter and Andrew Koppelman.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two short papers, a midterm take-home exam, and a final take-home exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors, those interested in being Religion majors, and Political Science majors concentrating on Political Theory

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 214 (D2) PSCI 271 (D2)

Attributes: JLST Interdepartmental Electives
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 273 (F) Politics without Humans?

Cross-listings: ENVI 273 PSCI 273 STS 273

Primary Cross-listing

Are human beings the only beings who belong in politics? And is political involvement a unique or defining aspect of what it means to be human? Such questions are increasingly complex as the boundaries of "the human" become blurred by the rise of artificial intelligence, robotics, and brain implants; shifting attitudes towards both animal and human bodies; and the automation of economic and military decisions (buy! sell! attack! retreat!) that used to be the prerogative of human actors. How do visions of politics without humans and humans without politics impact our thinking about longstanding questions of freedom, power, and right? Can and should the link between humans and politics survive in an age in which "posthuman" or "transhuman" entities become central characters in the drama of politics? This class will consider these questions through readings, films and artifacts that bring political theory into conversation with science fiction, popular literature on the so-called "singularity" (the merger of humans with computers), science and technology studies, evolutionary anthropology, "new materialist" philosophy, and feminist theory.

Requirements/Evaluation: three 5- to 7-page papers, regular Glow posts, class participation

Prerequisites: please note that this is an introductory-level course with no prerequisites; first-year students and those with no background in political theory are welcome, as are more experienced students

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ENVI 273 (D2) PSCI 273 (D2) STS 273 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives ENVI Environmental Policy PHIL Related Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 280 (F) Silicon Valley: Digital Transformation and Democracy (WS)

Cross-listings: PSCI 280 STS 280 POEC 280

Primary Cross-listing

Nearly every country in the world seeks to drive economic growth by promoting digital technologies. The universal model is Silicon Valley. In this tutorial, students will examine the origins of the Silicon Valley model and other countries’ attempts to emulate it. Departing from "just so" stories of technological determinism, we take up the lens of comparative political economy to investigate the politics that allowed US tech firms to shape economic policy to meet their interests. It is no accident that tech became a symbol for economic growth in the 1970s, precisely when it also began to build powerful alliances in Washington. After investigating the origins of the Silicon Valley model, we trace attempts to adopt it in Europe and Asia, which highlight the model's political contingencies and some of the more salient conflicts over the tech sector. We focus on the ways in which the Silicon Valley model can threaten social welfare through economic inequality and precarious employment, and engage a variety of perspectives, including workplace ethnography, to examine these threats, as well as potential regulatory responses. The course concludes by considering what policies could be appropriate for supporting, while also regulating, the tech sector in the twenty-first century.

Requirements/Evaluation: Five 5-page papers; five 2-page responses; participation

Prerequisites: One introductory course in political science and/or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Preference will be given to sophomores or juniors majoring in a Division II field

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 280 (D2) STS 280 (D2) POEC 280 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will write essays each week. In addition, students will read each others' work and engage in structured critique.

**Attributes:** POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI American Politics Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Fall 2021

TUT Section: T1   TBA   Sidney A. Rothstein

**PSCI 281 (S) Contemporary African Politics** (DPE)

This course is an introduction to the contemporary politics of Africa, with the aim of sparking a life-long interest in the affairs of the region. Comprised of nearly 50 countries and home to over 1 billion people, sub-Saharan Africa is remarkable in its diversity, particularly in regards to a number of outcomes central to the study of political science: how do institutions of the past shape current dynamics of political competition and economic growth? Why are some countries stable democracies while others struggle with military coups or authoritarian rule? What sparks political violence and how can countries emerge from conflict? Our focus is both contemporary and comparative, organized thematically around common political experiences and attributes across the region. We begin with the legacies of colonialism, the slave trade, and the politics of liberation. We then interrogate dynamics central to political life in Africa over the 60 years since independence: the role of ethnic diversity in shaping competition, the prominence of patronage politics, and the evolution of elections. We next assess major dimensions that have historically shaped the study of African politics, including conflict and violence, economic development, and foreign aid. The final section takes a comparative approach to some of the most pressing issues in Africa today: health crises, migration and mobility, technological revolution, climate change, and the emerging power of women and youth.

**Class Format:** A typical class session will be about 60% lecture and 40% discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Class Participation, Map Quiz, 3 short papers (5 pages)

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** all first-years and sophomores; those juniors and seniors majoring in political science or concentrating in Global Studies.

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course takes the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity of sub-Saharan Africa as a starting point for understanding the contemporary politics of the region. The course addresses the legacies of systemic inequality as well as strategies of resistance to oppression. We also examine how ethnic and religious diversity shape political institutions, competition, and conflict, comparing different countries and over time.

**Attributes:** GBST African Studies Electives PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Spring 2022

LEC Section: 01   TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm   Elizabeth Iams Wellman

**PSCI 282 (F) Africanist Project to Black Consciousness**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 282 GBST 282

**Primary Cross-listing**

In 1957, when it was clear the African Nation Congress was unwilling to change its multiracialist and nonracialist language in favor of Africanist pronouncements, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe left the party and became the editor of The Africanist newspaper. Two years later he formed the Pan-Africanist Congress. Similarly frustrated that the National Union of South African Students was dominated by white liberals, in 1968 Bantu Steve Biko helped form the black-only South Africa Students' Organization and, four years later, was the key figure in founding of the Black People's Convention, created to promote black consciousness ideas within the broader South African population. This course focuses on Sobukwe's Africanist project and Biko's Black Consciousness Movement, the strategies against apartheid they promoted, and the visions of a free South Africa they imagined.
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation; 3 two-page response papers; and a 10-12 final paper.
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science Majors, Global Studies Concentrators, Africana Studies Concentrators
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 282 (D2) GBST 282 (D2)
Attributes: PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01   MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm   Ngonidzashe Munemo

PSCI 283  Political Economy of Public Policy Issues
In this course, students form groups that conduct a political and economic analysis of a public policy issue of their choosing. They do extensive reading, conduct interviews, write a major report on their findings and recommendations, and present and defend their findings in a public talk.
Class Format: student presentations
Requirements/Evaluation: group policy projects including an 80- to 100-page paper and 2-hour presentation
Prerequisites: POEC 253 or ECON 255, POEC 250, POEC 401; open only to Political Economy majors
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: open only to Political Economy majors
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading:
Unit Notes: required for the Political Economy major
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses   POEC Required Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 284  (F) The Politics of Economic Crises
The dominant world economies -- the USA, China, and the European Union -- are responding to the economic risks that might arise from the coronavirus with what have become the standard responses to economic crises. They are using debt to create liquidity, demand, and uphold credit markets. As a background to understanding the reasons for and histories of these policies, this course will read several important books that deal with the Great Depression, the financial crisis a decade ago, and the risks of debt.
Class Format: Taught Remotely
Requirements/Evaluation: Two papers of 8-10 pages are required, along with careful reading of the books.
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSCI Comparative Politics Courses
Not offered current academic year
PSCI 285 (F) The Revolutionary Generation: Galaxy of Leaders

Cross-listings: LEAD 285  PSCI 285  HIST 354

Secondary Cross-listing

The American Revolution produced a galaxy of brilliant and creative statesmen and intellectuals: Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, Adams. In this seminar, we will study their astounding accomplishments—a successful war of independence, a Constitution and Bill of Rights, enduring democratic political institutions, and a nascent party system. But mostly we will focus on their ideas, for they were thinking revolutionaries. We will examine in depth and in detail their superb writings, their letters and speeches as well as Madison and Hamilton's Federalist essays. We will also read recent interpretations of the founding generation by Gordon Wood, Joseph Ellis, Bernard Bailyn, and others.

Requirements/Evaluation: three papers, weekly class presentations, and active participation in all discussions

Prerequisites: none; courses in Leadership Studies or Political Theory or early American History are very helpful for admission to this seminar

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: students with a background in Leadership Studies, American History or American Political Science

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 285 (D2) PSCI 285 (D2) HIST 354 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada HIST Group P Electives - Premodern LEAD American Domestic Leadership LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Susan Dunn

PSCI 286 (F) Conservative Political Thought

Conservative thinkers claim to be leading an intellectual transformation away from the tired nostrums of liberalism. They see themselves as original, dynamic, serious. This course will read leading conservative political thinkers with a view to identifying their central tenets, both negative and positive. What is it that they oppose and support? What, if anything, defines contemporary conservative thinking? Is it a coherent body of thought, a doctrine, or a collection of disparate and conflicting thinkers? What is the relationship of thinkers who emphasize the market, order, and traditional values? And what are their views on diversity, citizenship, and race, and how do heterodox leftists fit with conservative critiques of managerial liberalism?

Requirements/Evaluation: Two 8-10 page papers and final exam

Prerequisites: Political Science Majors

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors/Seniors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01  TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm  Michael D. MacDonald

PSCI 287 (F) The Firm (DPE)

Cross-listings: PSCI 287  POEC 287

Primary Cross-listing

The rise of gigantic tech firms--Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon--has sparked widespread worries about the role of business power in capitalist democracy. Are these firms monopolies? How can they be better regulated? Should they be? This course studies the politics of business by centering
analysis on the firm. From the perspective of the workplace, we investigate the firm as an arena of power, where workers and managers meet each other in continuous contests for control. From the perspective of the public sphere, we investigate the firm as an actor whose power maps uneasily onto the channels of democratic representation. Approaching the firm as both arena and actor in a number of capitalist democracies, we will compare the politics of business across different sectors, but will focus especially on tech and finance.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Class participation; two 5- to 7-page essays; one presentation; one final essay

**Prerequisites:** One introductory course in political science and/or permission of the instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Preference will be given to sophomores or juniors majoring in a Division II field

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 287 (D2) POEC 287 (D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course studies power through the lens of class, applying that lens to understand how power functions in the employment relationship, as well as the way that firms exercise power in society more generally.

**Attributes:** POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01  TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am  Sidney A. Rothstein

**PSCI 288  (F)  Transnational Political Movements**

This course focuses on the international dimensions of when people demand political change. We explore transnational dynamics of contentious politics, including how international actors shape domestic campaigns for democracy, peace, and justice, as well as how global advocacy movements (e.g. climate change) are organized and mobilized. Building from an international relations framework, the course brings together a variety of texts, including documentaries, social media, and guest speakers working on the front lines of global advocacy (refugee rights, anti-colonial liberation struggles, and contemporary pro-democracy movements). We critically analyze how external actors and resources inform politics on the ground, both around the world and over time, as well as evaluate the normative implications of "foreign intervention."

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Participation, 3 short papers, final project

**Prerequisites:** PSCI 202, PSCI 204, or permission of the instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** PSCI majors (or intended majors)

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSCI International Relations Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Elizabeth Iams Wellman

**PSCI 289  (S)  The welfare state in comparative perspective**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 289  POEC 289

**Primary Cross-listing**

Modern life has, in some ways, become less risky. You are unlikely to be trampled by a mammoth. But social risk has not disappeared—you could lose your job, get into an accident, or find yourself plunged somehow into poverty. Most countries around the world have built elaborate institutions to ensure citizens' welfare by protecting some people from some risks, but not all people and not all risks. Moreover, these institutions vary considerably both over time and between countries. This course examines those institutions. Our goal is to explain how and why welfare states vary and why there
is so much inequality in the distribution of risk. We will do so by investigating the different kinds of institutions that mediate risks throughout the lifecycle, from parental leave to old age pensions, and by comparing these institutions between different countries. While focusing primarily on the welfare states of Western Europe, we will also examine how the politics of social risk unfold around the world, extending our investigation to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We will conclude by reflecting on what lessons the welfare state offers for managing this century’s biggest social risk: climate change.

Requirements/Evaluation:  3 essays; 2 presentations; participation
Prerequisites:  One introductory political science course and/or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit:  16
Enrollment Preferences:  Political science majors, political economy concentrators
Expected Class Size:  16
Grading:  no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 289 (D2) POEC 289 (D2)
Attributes:  POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Spring 2022
SEM Section:  01    MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Sidney A. Rothstein

PSCI 291  (S)  American Political Events
Scandals. Wars and assassinations. Contested elections, Supreme Court decisions, and constitutional amendments. As large as they loom in our daily experience and our historical memory, these sorts of events--concrete, discrete things that happen in and around the political world--are often underestimated as catalysts of political change. Indeed, in the study of American political development, we often look to complex processes and underlying causes as explanations for how and why ideas, institutions, and policies both emerge and evolve. Yet for all our focus on long-term and subtle causal mechanisms, events often serve as political turning points in ways that vary over time, last for extended periods of time, and are not always entirely predictable at the time. Beginning from the presumption that change often has proximate as well as latent causes, this tutorial focuses on events as critical junctures in American politics. Our concern with these events is not with why they happened as or when they did but, rather, with how they altered the American political order once they did--with how they caused shifts in political alignments, created demands for political action, or resulted in a reordering of political values. Over the course of the semester, we will look at ten different types of events, ranging from those that seem bigger than government and politics (economic collapse) to those that are the daily grist of government and politics (speeches), in each instance juxtaposing two different occurrences of a particular category of event. In so doing, we will seek to use controversial and consequential moments in American politics as a window into deeper questions about political change and the narratives we tell about it.

Requirements/Evaluation:  five 5-to 7-page essays, five 2- to 3-page critiques, and a final 4-page reflection
Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit:  10
Enrollment Preferences:  first-years and sophomores considering a major in Political Science
Expected Class Size:  10
Grading:  no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)
Attributes:  PSCI American Politics Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 306  (S)  What is Power?
Cross-listings:  REL 308  STS 308  SOC 308  PSCI 306
Secondary Cross-listing
What is power? Despite the importance of notions of power across the social sciences, there is a broad lack of consensus. Is power essentially domination or resistance? Is it freedom, empowerment, privilege, or oppression? Are there forms of unequal social power which are morally neutral or
even good? Is power the kind of thing held by individuals, races, genders, classes, discourses, causal mechanisms, institutions, or social structures? What is the connection between social and physical power? Does power obey laws? How does power relate to technology? Or knowledge? Or agency? Or ideology? This course begins with the observation that power is often described as a causal relation—an individual's power is supposed to equal their capacity to produce a change in someone else's behavior. This suggests that the better we can understand the nature of cause and effect, the better we can understand power. Fortunately, in recent decades philosophers have made significant progress in theorizing causation. Hence, this seminar will put two very different bodies of theory in conversation: critical theory about power and philosophy of science about cause and effect. We will trace classic philosophical accounts of power and causation (in European and Chinese philosophy), as well as more recent developments in philosophy of science, political theory, and other fields. The insights we gain in this course from analyzing the nature of power should empower us to more effectively transform society. It will help students in the social sciences to understand the nature of causation in the social world, and it will help students interested in political action to better understand the nature of power. Thinkers to be considered may include: Aristotle, Amy Allen, Hannah Arendt, Bourdieu, Judith Butler, Nancy Cartwright, Foucault, Gramsci, Byung-Chul Han, Han Feizi, Giddens, Hobbes, Hume, Locke, Steven Lukes, Machiavelli, J.L. Mackie, Marx, Nietzsche, Sunzi, and Max Weber.

Class Format: Remote

Requirements/Evaluation: critical annotations for every class, midterm review essay (4-6 pages), final essay (10-12 pages)

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors, STS concentrators,

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 308 (D2) STS 308 (D2) SOC 308 (D2) PSCI 306 (D2)

Attributes: PHIL Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 308 (F) In Search of the American State

When Donald Trump campaigned in 2016 to "drain the swamp," he built on the idea held by Republicans since Ronald Reagan's 1981 pronouncement that "government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem." Skepticism of government has deep roots and strong resonance throughout American political history. Despite this, national government has grown in scope and size for much of this history, including under both Democratic and Republican administrations. This tension over what government is doing and what it should be doing is only heightened in times of crisis, such as the moment the country is in now. This course explores the relationship between citizens and their government by examining the growth of the American state in various arenas over time, as well as the assaults on government legitimacy in recent years. We will assess traditional theories about the weakness of the American state in light of arguments about the state as: regulator of family and "private" life, adjudicator of relations between racial and ethnic groups, manager of economic inequalities, insurer of security, and arbiter of the acceptable uses of violence and surveillance.

Class Format: This course will be taught remotely, in a quasi-tutorial style with students meeting with the instructor weekly in small discussion groups.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be responsible for writing three 5-page papers and three 2-page papers, and will also be asked to take responsibility for managing discussion and presenting work at different points in the semester.

Prerequisites: at least one class in American politics

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year
PSCI 310  (F)  New York City Politics from the Blackout to Bloomberg  (WS)

Cross-listings:  PSCI 310  LEAD 332  PSCI 332

Primary Cross-listing

This course examines New York City's political history from the 1970s to the present—a period during which the city underwent staggering economic and social changes. In the mid-1970s, New York was a poster child of urban crisis, plagued by arson and housing abandonment, crime, the loss of residents and jobs, and failing public services. By the early 21st century, the city had largely met these challenges and was once again one of the most diverse and economically vital places on earth—but also one marked by profound inequality. This course will examine how New Yorkers have contested core issues of capitalism and democracy—how those contests have played out as the city itself has changed and how they have shaped contemporary New York. Broad themes will include the city's role as a showcase for neoliberalism, neoconservatism, technocratic centrism, and progressivism; the politics of race, immigration, and belonging; the relation of city, state, and national governments; and the sources of contemporary forms of inequality. Specific topics will include policing, school reform, and gentrification. As the primary assignment in the course, students will design, research, and write a 20-page paper on a topic of their choice.

Requirements/Evaluation:  active class participation, 2-page preliminary proposal, 10-page research proposal, 2-page peer feedback, 18- to 20-page research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 310 (D2) LEAD 332 (D2) PSCI 332 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will develop their research papers over the course of the semester, receiving from the instructor at each stage of the process timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement. Feedback will take the form of written comments, class workshops, and one-on-one meetings with the professor.

Attributes: LEAD American Domestic Leadership  LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership  PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 311  (F) Congress

Cross-listings:  LEAD 311  PSCI 311

Primary Cross-listing

Even before the pandemic, scholars, pundits, and the public thought Congress was in a state of crisis. Riven by polarized partisanship and gridlock, the most powerful assembly in the world seemed incapable of representing citizens and addressing problems. This seminar focuses on how Congress organizes itself to act as a collective body. In an organization comprised of equals, how and why do some senators and representatives acquire more power and authority than others? How does Congress act as an institution and not just a platform for 535 individuals? Why does Congress not act, especially when the U.S. confronts so many pressing problems, and how do legislators justify inaction? In what ways does this institution promote or hinder the legitimacy, responsiveness, and responsibility expected of a democratic governing institution?

Class Format: For fall of 2020, this class will be remote, with twice weekly synchronous discussion sessions. A few brief lectures will be put up on Glow to review before the relevant class section. Class discussion will draw on student questions posted on Glow as well as the process of developing and conducting original research.

Requirements/Evaluation:  class participation, two short papers, and a final research paper

Prerequisites: PSCI 201 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors with American Politics concentration and Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
LEAD 311 (D2) PSCI 311 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 312  (S)  American Political Thought  (WS)
Cross-listings: PSCI 312  LEAD 312

Primary Cross-listing
From democracy to liberty, equality to community, foundational ideas -- about what makes for good government, about what constitutes the good society, about what is necessary to lead a good life -- define the American political tradition and consume the American political imagination. Designed not only to uncover these (sometimes melodious, sometimes cacophonous) values but also to place current ideological debates about them in a broader developmental context, this tutorial will offer a topical tour of American political thinking from the birth of nationalism in the colonial period to the remaking of conservatism and liberalism in the early twenty-first century. Utilizing primary source material ranging from presidential speeches to party platforms, newspaper editorials to novels, we will seek to interrogate -- reconciling where possible, distinguishing where necessary, interpreting in all instances -- the disparate visions and assessments of the American political experience offered by politicians, artists, intellectuals, activists, and ordinary citizens over the course of more than two centuries. Our focus, then, is nothing less than the story of America -- as told by those who lived it.

Class Format: For spring 2021, this course will be taught remotely, with a few synchronous seminar classes at the start and end of the course bookending weekly synchronous tutorial sessions.

Requirements/Evaluation: five 5- to 7-page essays, five 2- to 3-page critiques, and a revised and extended 10- to 12-page final essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and prospective majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 312 (D2) LEAD 312 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Weekly writing with extensive attention to feedback, revision, and improvement.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership  PHIL Related Courses  PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 313  (S)  Race, Culture, Incarceration
Cross-listings: AMST 322  INTR 322  AFR 322  PSCI 313

Secondary Cross-listing
This course explores racially-fashioned policing and incarceration from the Reconstruction era convict prison lease system to contemporary mass incarceration and "stop and frisk" policies of urban areas in the United States. Also explored will be political imprisonment in the United States.

Requirements/Evaluation: brief analytical papers and group presentations.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 314 (F) How Change Happens in American Politics

Cross-listings: PSCI 314 LEAD 314

Primary Cross-listing

An unprecedented assault on the U.S. Capitol, the rise of white nationalism, a pandemic, a volatile economy, racial reckoning, and rapidly evolving environmental crises have all rocked American politics in the last year. What might we expect to come next? From the Founding to the present, the American political order has undergone cataclysmic and thoroughgoing transformations, yet it has also proven to be remarkably enduring. How can this be? Where do we find continuities and where upheavals? What accounts for the continuities, and what for the changes? What sorts of transformations have been possible, and who or what has made them possible? Finally, what are the costs of change (and of continuity)--and who pays them? The goal of this course is to assess American political change, or lack of, and to gain a sense of the role that political leaders have played in driving change. We will examine when and how individuals and leadership have mattered vis-à-vis broader historical and contextual factors, including economic developments, demographic change, war, and constitutional and institutional parameters. After examining general models of change and of leadership, we will consider specific case studies, such as civil rights for African-Americans, gender equality, labor advances, social conservatism, and populism. We will consider some of the complicated legacies of change. Finally, we will look at arguments that America has been "exceptional"--or, unlike other countries--as well as critiques of these arguments, to help us gain an understanding of future prospects for political transformation.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation in weekly meetings as well as weekly essays or critiques

Prerequisites: previous course in American politics or American history

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 314 (D2) LEAD 314 (D2)

Attributes: LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses

Fall 2021

TUT Section: T1 TBA Nicole E. Mellow

PSCI 315 (S) Parties in American Politics

Cross-listings: LEAD 315 PSCI 315

Primary Cross-listing

Is the American party system bankrupt? It has been said that parties are essential to democracy, and in the U.S., political parties have played a central role in extending democracy and organizing power. But their worth is a continuing subject of debate. Parties have been celebrated for linking citizens to their government and providing the coherency and unity needed to govern in a political system of separated powers. Yet they have also been disparaged for inflaming divisions among people and grid-locking the government. Other critics take aim at the two-party system itself, claiming that the major parties fail to offer meaningful choices to citizens. This course will investigate this debate over parties by examining their nature and role in American political life, both past and present. Throughout the course, we will explore such questions as: What constitutes a party? For whom do they function? How and why have they changed over time? Why a two-party system, and what role do third parties play? Is partisanship good or bad for democracy? For governance? What is the relationship between parties and presidents? How does partisanship become tribalism or hyper-partisanship, and can this be prevented? This semester, we will explore answers to these questions in a tutorial-style seminar format.

Class Format: This course will be taught remotely in a quasi-tutorial style format with students meeting with the instructor weekly in small discussion groups.
**Requirements/Evaluation:** Students will be responsible for writing three 5-page papers and three 2-page critiques. Students will also be asked to take responsibility for managing discussion and presenting work at different points in the semester.

**Prerequisites:** PSCI course at the 200 or 300 level or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**
LEAD 315 (D2) PSCI 315 (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

**PSCI 316 (S) Policy Making Process**

Politics as usual. It's a phenomenon we all love to hate. But what does it mean? When government policy is decided by politics, does that mean the policy is necessarily bad? Can we get rid of politics in policy making or improve on it somehow? What would "politics as unusual" look like anyway? This class examines the policy making process with particular emphasis on the United States: How do issues get defined as problems worthy of government attention? What kinds of alternatives are considered as solutions to these problems? Why do we end up with some policies but not others? Do certain kinds of processes yield better policies than others? How should we decide what constitutes a good policy?

**Class Format:** In spring 2021, this course will be taught remotely.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** several short papers, research paper, class participation

**Prerequisites:** one course in PSCI or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science and Political Economy majors, and students with an interest in public policy

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC U.S. Political Economy + Public Policy Course PSCI American Politics Courses PSCI Research Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Cathy M. Johnson

**PSCI 317 (F) Environmental Law**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 317 ENVI 307

**Secondary Cross-listing**

We rely on environmental laws to make human communities healthier and protect the natural world, while allowing for sustainable economic growth. Yet, despite 40 years of increasingly varied and complex legislation, balancing human needs and environmental quality has never been harder than it is today. Environmental Studies 307 analyzes the transformation of environmental law from fringe enterprise to fundamental feature of modern political, economic and social life. ENVI 307 also addresses the role of community activism in environmental law, from local battles over proposed industrial facilities to national campaigns for improved corporate citizenship. By the completion of the semester, students will understand both the successes and failures of modern environmental law and how these laws are being reinvented, through innovations like pollution credit trading and "green product" certification, to confront globalization, climate change and other emerging threats.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** several short writing assignments, a term research project, and active participation in class

**Prerequisites:** ENVI 101 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 14

**Expected Class Size:** 14
Coastal communities are home to nearly 40% of the U.S. population, but occupy only a small percentage of our country's total land area. Intense population density, critical transportation infrastructure, significant economic productivity, and rich cultural and historic value mark our coastal regions as nationally significant. But, coastal and ocean-based climate-induced impacts such as sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification pose extraordinary challenges to our coastal communities, and are not borne equally by all communities. This seminar considers our relationship with our ocean and coastal environments and the foundational role our oceans and coasts play in our Nation's environmental and economic sustainability as well as ocean and coastal climate resiliency. Through the lens of coastal and ocean governance and policy-making, we critically examine conflict of use issues relative to climate change, climate justice, coastal zone management, fisheries, ocean and coastal pollution and marine biodiversity.

Class Format: This class is taught only at Williams-Mystic in Mystic, Connecticut and includes coastal and near-shore interdisciplinary field seminars, and 10 days offshore.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly Readings; Class Participation; Small and large group strategy exercises (written and oral); Written Research Project: issues paper and draft research paper; Final Research Project: multiple formats available

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 23

Enrollment Preferences: must be enrolled at Williams-Mystic in Mystic, Connecticut

Expected Class Size: 22

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: must be enrolled at Williams-Mystic in Mystic, Connecticut

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

MAST 351 (D2) ENVI 351 (D2) PSCI 319 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Each student will write one 3-5 page research issues paper and one 8-10 page draft research paper as well as a final project with written components equaling 5-8 pages. Each submission receives written feedback from the professor, including research guidance, input on grammar, structure, language, analysis. Students also receive verbal feedback in individual conferences to discuss research paper organization, analysis, structure and grammar as well as final project input.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Coastal and ocean policy issues relating to climate change, coastal zone management, fisheries, ocean pollution and marine biodiversity impact environmental and climate justice. Students examine coastal governance while considering the disproportionate burdens on underrepresented populations in U.S. coastal communities caused by climate change and coastal policies. Students analyze multi-disciplinary evidence and work to strengthen their integrative, analytical, writing, and advocacy skills.

Attributes: ENVI Environmental Policy EXPE Experiential Education Courses POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses
PSCI 320  (F)  Heroes and Villains: Iconic Leadership and the Politics of Memory

Cross-listings:  PSCI 320  LEAD 320

Secondary Cross-listing

Americans have been arguing intensely in recent years about how we should remember the leaders from our nation's past. Does Thomas Jefferson's statue belong on a university campus? Should college dorms be named for John C. Calhoun and Woodrow Wilson? Should Harriet Tubman's portrait replace Andrew Jackson's on the $20 bill? In this course we will look at how people in the United States and elsewhere have used their leaders' images to hash out larger political issues of national identity, purpose, and membership. Why has historical commemoration gotten so contentious--or has it always been contentious? What's really at stake when we depict our leaders? How (if at all) should we reconcile contemporary morality with historical context in assessing the leaders from our past? To address these questions, we will study portrayals of some of the most famous leaders in American history--including Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Our sources will include political speeches, literature, film, and journalism as well as monuments and museum exhibits; though our examples will be drawn mostly from the United States, our conceptual framework will be transnational. As a final assignment, students will write a 10-12 page paper examining the politics of memory for a leader of their choice.

Requirements/Evaluation:  two short (5- to 6-page) essays and a 10- to 12-page research paper

Prerequisites:  previous course in Leadership Studies, or Political Science, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit:  19

Enrollment Preferences:  Leadership Studies concentrators, Political Science majors

Expected Class Size:  19

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 320 (D2) LEAD 320 (D2)

Attributes:  LEAD American Domestic Leadership  LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership  PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 321  (F)  Immigration Politics in the U.S.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that non-Hispanic whites will no longer be the majority racial group in the U.S. by 2044. This demographic change is fueled by past and current immigration, and the politics surrounding American immigration policy have intensified as a result. Donald Trump's rise to the presidency was fueled in part by his pledge to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico. Meanwhile, efforts to reform the nation's immigration laws have been stuck in gridlock for years. How did we get to this point and what does the future hold? Why is immigration policy so contentious? What is at stake, and what do different groups believe to be at stake? To answer these questions, we will examine immigration from a multidisciplinary lens, but with special attention to immigration politics and policy. We will examine the history of immigration to the U.S. and the policies that have shaped it; recent developments in electoral and protest politics; the policy initiatives of the Trump administration, the Republican Congress, and state and local governments; and the incorporation of immigrants into U.S. society and politics, past and present.

Requirements/Evaluation:  one 2- to 3-page paper; one 5- to 7-page paper; one oral presentation; one 15- to 20-page research paper; and class participation

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  14

Enrollment Preferences:  Political Science majors

Expected Class Size:  14

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

Attributes:  POEC International Political Economy Courses  PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Fall 2021
PSCI 323  (F)  Law and Politics of the Sea
The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea gathered into one place what most countries considered in 1982 to be scattered ancient laws about piracy, transit through other countries' territorial waters, jurisdiction over ships, and so forth. It also created ocean zones, with rules for each, and proposed a system for taxing firms that it licensed to exploit minerals on the high seas. This course explores the politics and practices that arise from UNCLOS. We first engage with the treaty's content and exclusions, next examine the incentives it provides states and criminals, and last assess the way that geopolitical and climate change create new opportunities and constraints for states, firms, international organizations, and activists. Cases include piracy, claims in the South China Sea, bonded labor, refugee quarantine, Arctic transit, and ocean pollution.

Requirements/Evaluation:  three 6-page papers, longer final paper, class participation including weekly posts
Prerequisites:  PSCI 202 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit:  18
Enrollment Preferences:  Political science majors, Marine Studies majors, seniors
Expected Class Size:  12
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)
Attributes:  MAST Interdepartmental Electives  PSCI International Relations Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 328  (F)  Human Rights Claims in International Politics  (WS)
For decades, people and countries have used "human rights" to advance their position, delegitimize their opposition, and lodge their interests in an unassailable political category. This research seminar investigates who uses this category, to what ends, and with what success. How people ground this concept--what they think its origin is--does matter, but evaluating those foundations is not our focus. Politics is our focus. Who gains and loses from the idea that people have human rights? Does the concept fit well with, and reinforce, some institutions and configurations of power, and make others difficult to sustain (or even to conceive)? Why not simply claim that something is an interest rather than also a right? How has "human rights" been deployed in international politics, and by whom? The class is divided into four sections. The first concentrates on common readings on these questions, and prioritizes discussion, explication, and hypothesis brainstorming. The second introduces social science methodology, covering hypotheses, literature reviews, and evidence while continuing half time with materials about human rights. The third emphasizes research design, allowing students to finalize their own project while bringing in primary sources such as original documents, debates, and data. The last quarter of class focuses on student projects, on integrating and revising research to produce a set of findings and an evaluation of their meaning. The course is designed to teach political science majors the nuts, and maybe also the bolts, of social science research.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Class discussion, short writing, worksheets, peer reviews, drafts of various sections, final paper, final presentation
Prerequisites:  Two classes in political science, at least one of which must be in international politics.
Enrollment Limit:  12
Enrollment Preferences:  Political science majors
Expected Class Size:  12
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)  (WS)
Writing Skills Notes:  Students write frequent short pieces, and revise/rewrite an increasingly long draft in sections over the course of the semester.
Attributes:  PSCI International Relations Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01   TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm   Cheryl Shanks

PSCI 329  Politics of the Powerless
American politics is often unequal, and well-organized advantaged interests tend to triumph. What do disadvantaged interests do in light of these power dynamics? Give up? Compromise? Struggle on? Why do relatively powerless interests sometimes win in American politics? Is it because they
have an exceptional leader? A phenomenal strategy? Fortuitous events? This course examines the political dynamics of disputes in which disadvantaged interests push for major change. We will study past campaigns and then research and discuss contemporary reform efforts.

Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, two short papers, and research paper
Prerequisites: one course in Political Science or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors with interest in American politics
Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: Distributions:
Attributes: PSCI American Politics Courses  PSCI Research Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 330  (S)  American Political Thought in Hemispheric Context
Cross-listings:  PSCI 330  GBST 330
Primary Cross-listing
Actors living during the Age of Revolutions witnessed an astounding number of social, political, and cultural changes. In the short period between 1775 and 1830 more than thirty popular insurgency movements took control of the American hemisphere, most of them by organizing around the principles of republican politics. In this course, we study the peoples, demands, and visions that comprised the popular movements of the Age of Revolutions to reconstruct the canon American Political Thought in hemispheric context. This course emphasizes the comparative features of post-colonial movements in the Americas and centers the contributions of indigenous, raced, gendered, and ethnicized communities. The course schedule is divided into two sections. The first half of the class situates the political and theoretical problems of American Political Thought by engaging with scholarship on post-colonial movements, decolonial thought, democratic theory, and theories of popular rule. The second half of the course contextualizes these frameworks by putting them in conversation with studies of revolutionary change, popular imagination, and case studies on revolutionary movements throughout the Americas. Students are expected to engage in archival research, as well as work with both primary and secondary sources on the Age of Revolutions. The class will meet remotely and hold synchronous discussions.
Class Format: The class will meet remotely for synchronous lecture and discussions. Recorded class sessions will be uploaded for any students who cannot meet synchronously.
Requirements/Evaluation: Regular attendance, consistent class participation, three Glow posts, three two-page reflection papers, and a final research paper of 10-12 pages
Prerequisites: At least one prior course in political theory, social theory, history of the Americas (either the United States or Latin America), or permission of instructor.
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Concentrators in political theory in Political Science, then majors or concentrators in Political Science, American Studies, Global Studies, and Latino/a Studies
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 330  (D2)  GBST 330  (D2)
Attributes:  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  AMST pre-1900 Requirement  GBST Latin American Studies Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 331  (F)  The Politics of Algorithms
Cross-listings:  STS 349  AMST 349  PSCI 331
Primary Cross-listing
Every day, you interact with or through computer algorithms. In ways often obscure to users, they structure communication or conduct in social media,
education, healthcare, shopping, entertainment, dating, urban planning, policing, criminal sentencing, political campaigns, government regulation, and war. Moving from the emergence of cybernetics during World War II through such contemporary examples as facial recognition software, this seminar approaches algorithms as complex technological artifacts that have social histories and political effects. Asking how algorithms are political and what that tells us about politics today (particularly in the U.S.), we will consider how their design expresses forms of power and their deployment shapes ways of living. What behaviors do different algorithms solicit, reward, discourage, or stigmatize? What kinds of selfhood and relationships do they promote or thwart? How do various algorithms influence political partisanship and beliefs and intersect with existing hierarchies of race, class, gender, and sexuality? When inequities are built into a design, can that be addressed by rooting out "bias," or do such efforts miss something more inherent in the kinds of artifacts algorithms are or what they can be in a capitalist economy? Might developments in artificial intelligence transform our sense of the human or even threaten the species? Many of the seminar's themes, including democracy, power, inequality, judgment, deliberation, publicity, subjectivity, and agency, are central to political theory, but readings and course materials will also be drawn from such fields as media theory, surveillance studies, sociology, American studies, critical data science, film, and contemporary art. The course neither requires nor teaches any computer science skills.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class attendance and participation, regular short posts or exercises, and either three eight-page essays or one 8-page essay and one longer final paper.

Prerequisites: At least one course in political, cultural, or social theory or the critical study of science and technology, or permission of the instructor. Not open to first-year students.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science and American Studies majors and STS concentrators; then qualified students from all other majors welcome, space permitting.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ST 349 (D2) AMST 349 (D2) PSCI 331 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Mark T. Reinhardt

PSCI 332 (S) The Body as Property (DPE)

From an ethical standpoint, human bodies are fundamentally different from objects that can be owned, acquired, and exchanged. Yet history furnishes us with countless examples of laws, administrative rules, and social conventions that treat the human body as a form of property. The institution of slavery is a particularly egregious example. But there are other examples of treating the body as property that seem more ambiguous, or even benign: the employment contract in which bodily services are offered in exchange for payment; the feminist slogan "my body, my choice"; or even the every-day transfer of bodily properties into creative projects that then become part of the things people own --- chairs, tables, houses, music, art, and intellectual property. If it is not itself a form of property, how can we explain the use of the human body to acquire possessions, create wealth, and mediate the exchange of other kinds of property? These and other tensions between the concept of property and that of humanity will be the focus of this course. How is property defined, and how far should law go to erode or reinforce distinctions between property and humanity? Course readings focus on Locke, Hegel, Marx, and critical perspectives from feminist theory, critical theory, and critical legal studies (Cheryl Harris, Alexander Kluge, Oskar Negt, Carole Pateman, Rosalind Petchesky, and Dorothy Roberts, among others).

Class Format: Hybrid: Tutorial pairs with both students on campus will meet in person for the majority of our sessions (some weeks may be online). Pairs with one or both students learning remotely will meet exclusively online.

Requirements/Evaluation: five 5- to 7-page essays, five 2- to 3-page critiques, and a revised and extended 10- to 12-page final essay

Prerequisites: prior coursework in political theory, cultural theory, philosophy, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors (priority given to those concentrating in Political Theory ); Justice & Law Studies concentrators (priority given to those with extensive JLST coursework).

Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course fulfills the Difference, Power, and Equity (DPE) requirement by examining how, in the context of legally-sanctioned power relations, bodily differences are constructed, monetized, and used to generate wealth. Race, class, and gender inequalities are central to the analysis.

Attributes: JLST Interdepartmental Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 333 (F)  Asian/African American Cultural and Political Theory

Cross-listings: PSCI 333  AFR 344  AMST 325

Secondary Cross-listing

Contrasted as "model minorities" or "incorrigible minorities" Asian Americans and African Americans have been pitted against one another in social standing and political objectives. However, throughout the twentieth century, African/Asian solidarity and alliances existed in political movements and literary and cultural productions. From Ho Chi Minh's anti-lynching writing, the founding conference of the WIDF (Women's International Democratic Federation) in China in 1945, through the Bandung Conference, coalitions against U.S. wars in Southeast Asia, and alignments with Chinese anti-imperialist endeavors, black and Asian peoples have joined in international political formations. Contributions to theory include the writings and activism of Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, Richard Wright, Robert Williams, Yuri Kochiyama, Grace Lee and Jimmy Boggs, Ishmael Reed, and Amiri Baraka; films of Bruce Lee; music of Fred Ho; revolutionary praxis of Mao Tse Tung's Little Red Book and his writings on art and society; the Marxism of the Black Panther Party; the Afro-futurism of Sun Ra and Samuel Delany; and contemporary "Afro-pessimism." Such cultural works depict futurities and possibilities for Black and Asian diasporas. This seminar examines theory, politics, literature, film, and music produced from and linked to twentieth-century movements against capitalism, racism, colonialism, and imperial wars to think through how Black and Yellow Power have shaped solidarity to challenge white supremacy and racial capitalism. Requirements: One midterm paper (5-6 pp.) = 30%; final paper/project (10-12 pp.) with a creative option = 50%; short response paper and GLOW posts = 10%; participation (attendance and class discussion) = 10% Course cap: 19 Priority given to AMST majors, Africana concentrators

Requirements/Evaluation: One midterm paper (5-6 pp.) = 30%; Final paper/project (10-12 pp.) with a creative option = 50%; Short response paper and GLOW posts = 10%; Participation (attendance and class discussion) = 10%

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: AMST majors, Africana concentrators

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 333 (D2) AFR 344 (D2) AMST 325 (D2)

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01  M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm  Dorothy J. Wang, Joy A. James

PSCI 334 (S)  Theorizing Global Justice

While economic exchanges, cultural convergence, and technological innovations have brought people in different parts of the world closer together than ever before, globalization has also amplified differences in material wealth and social inequalities. Ill health, inadequate sanitation, and lack of access to safe drinking water are increasingly common. Yet, more than ever before, the means exist in affluent regions of the world to alleviate the worst forms of suffering and enhance the well-being of the poorest people. How are we to understand this contradiction as a matter of justice? What is the relationship between justice and equality, and what do we owe one another in a deeply divided world? Course readings will engage your thinking on the central debates in moral philosophy, normative approaches to international political economy, and grassroots efforts to secure justice for women and other severely disadvantaged groups. Key theorists include Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum, John Rawls, Thomas Pogge, Nancy Fraser, Paul Farmer, Vandana Shiva, Majid Rahnema, and Enrique Dussel.
Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: oral presentation, weekly blog posts, and three papers (3 pages, 7 pages and 8-10 pages)

Prerequisites: at least one course in political theory or philosophy or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and concentrators in Political Theory

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives  JLST Interdepartmental Electives  PHIL Related Courses  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Spring 2022

LEC Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Nimu Njoya

PSCI 335  (F)  Racial Equity, Liberal Democracy, and Democratic Theory  (DPE)

In Ta-Nehisi Coates' best-selling book Between the World and Me, he says that in the wake of the non-indictment of former police officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown "I did not tell [my son] that it would be okay, because I have never believed it would be okay." With admissions like this, Coates stoked a long-standing debate about the prospects for racial equity in liberal democracies like the United States. In this course, we look at this debate, examining what black thinkers in particular have said about whether racial equity can be achieved in a liberal democracy founded on racial domination and why they come to the conclusions they do. Then, we examine what contemporary democratic theorists have had to say about how racial equity might be achieved and how they have sought to advance this goal through their writing. Can the strategies theorists propose and employ really aid in the advancement of racial equity? Which are more and less promising? We end by asking: Do anti-democratic means have to be employed to fully realize democracy? What anti-democratic means? Authors we will engage include Coates, bell hooks, Charles Mills, Melvin Rogers, Chris Lebron, Lawrie Balfour, and Danielle Allen.

Requirements/Evaluation: class facilitation, group reflections (three 4-page responses), book review (6-8 pages), final essay (12-14 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class centers sociological and political theoretical questions about race inequity and equity in a liberal democratic society. It features black writers' perspectives on inequity and equity. The course nurtures the skill of speaking across difference by requiring students to write responses as groups and encouraging deep student participation by making students class facilitators.

Attributes: PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 337  (S)  Visual Politics

Cross-listings: PSCI 337  ARTH 337

Primary Cross-listing

Even casual observers know that appearances matter politically and that the saturation of politics by visual technologies, media, and images has reached unprecedented levels. Yet the visual dimensions of political life are at best peripheral topics in contemporary political science and political theory. This seminar explores how our understanding of politics and political theory might change if visuality were made central to our inquiries. Treating the visual as a site of power and struggle, order and change, we will examine not only how political institutions and conflicts shape what images people see and how they make sense of them but also how the political field itself is visually constructed. Through these explorations, which will consider a wide variety of visual artifacts and practices (from 17th century paintings to the optical systems of military drones and contemporary
forms of surveillance), we will also take up fundamental theoretical questions about the place of the senses in political life. Readings may include excerpts from ancient and modern theorists, but our primary focus will be contemporary and will bring political theory into conversation with other fields, particularly art history and visual studies but also film and media studies, psychoanalysis, cognitive science, and STS. Possible authors include Arendt, Bal, Belting, Benjamin, Browne, Buck-Morss, Butler, Clark, Connolly, Crary, Deleuze, Fanon, Foucault, Freedberg, Garland-Thompson, Hobbes, Kittler, Machiavelli, Mercer, Mitchell, Mulvey, Plato, Rancière, Sartre, Virilio, Warburg, and Zeki.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular, engaged class participation, several Glow posts, and three 7- to 8-page papers

Prerequisites: at least one prior course in political theory, cultural theory, visual studies, or art history; or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science and Art History majors (including students in the grad program); then qualified students from all disciplines welcome, space permitting

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 337 (D2) ARTH 337 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 339 (F)(S) Politics in Dark Times: Hannah Arendt (WS)

Cross-listings: PSCI 339 JWST 339

Primary Cross-listing

Hannah Arendt (1906-75) bore witness to some of the darkest moments in the history of politics. Born a Jew in Germany, Arendt lived through—and reflected deeply on—two world wars, the rise of totalitarianism, and the detonation of the first atomic bomb. She narrowly escaped imprisonment by the Gestapo and internment in a refugee camp in Vichy France before fleeing to New York. Yet, in the face of these horrors, Arendt never lost her faith in political action as a way to express and renew what she called "love of the world." She wrote luminously about the darkness that comes when terror extinguishes politics and the shining, almost miraculous events of freedom through which politics is sometimes renewed. In this tutorial, we will investigate what Arendt's vision of politics stands to offer to those struggling to comprehend and transform the darkest aspects of the contemporary political world. Our time and Arendt's are similarly darkened by the shadows of racism, xenophobia, inequality, terror, the mass displacement of refugees, and the mass dissemination of lies. It may be tempting to conclude from these similarities--as some recent commentators have--that we are witnessing the return of "totalitarianism" as Arendt understood it. She would be the first to refuse to use inherited concepts as if they were keys to unlock the present. Her words and her example should impel us to reject shortcuts to authentic understanding, the "unending activity by which...we come to terms with and reconcile ourselves to reality." We will turn to Arendt as an interlocutor, not a guide, as we seek to reconcile ourselves to the contingency and specificity of past and present political realities. And we will search her works and our world for embers of hope that even seemingly inexorable political tragedies may yet be interrupted by assertions of freedom in political action.

Requirements/Evaluation: five 5-page papers; five 2-page responses; a final revision of a prior paper; participation

Prerequisites: a prior course in political theory, philosophy, or critical theory, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Theory concentrators, Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 339 (D2) JWST 339 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: You will receive feedback from me and your tutorial partner on your five papers (each 5 pages long and spaced evenly through the semester). This feedback will inform the revision you submit at the end of the semester of a paper of your choosing. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: JWST Elective Courses PHIIL Related Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses
PSCI 340 (S) Why States Fail
This course considers the origins of political violence and state failure at the end of the 20th century. It seeks to address why there was a resurgence of political violence at the dawn of the 21st century. Toward that end, we begin by considering competing explanations of political violence (ethnicity, democratization, natural-resource endowments, and predatory elites). We then move on to the empirical section of the course in which we cover case studies of state failure in parts of Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: seminar participation, two oral presentations and a research paper proposal
Prerequisites: one of the following: PSCI 201, 202, 203, 204, 229, 243, 250, 254 or the permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors
Expected Class Size: 14
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Spring 2022
SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Ngonidzashe Munemo

PSCI 342 (S) Beyond the welfare state
"Not me. Us" became a rallying cry of Bernie Sanders’ presidential campaign in late 2019. Sanders’ slogan reflects a vision of a robust welfare state, defined by a widespread commitment to solidarity, where citizens share social risks as well as economic rewards. But what role can the welfare state play in the twenty-first century? How have its constitutive institutions, from pensions to unemployment insurance, evolved since the post-war “Golden Age”? Is solidarity possible only in utopia, or can we realize it in the world as well? This course identifies the political conditions under which welfare states developed in the twentieth century, and examines how they have responded to globalization, immigration, digital transformation, and other contemporary challenges. If the welfare state has a future, it will look different from the past, but how? Taking up a handful of alternative paradigms, from social investment to mutual aid, we will assess different trajectories of solidarity in the twenty-first century.

Class Format: Course will be fully remote, composed of three elements: (1) Asynchronous lectures, (2) Student discussion groups, (3) Synchronous class meetings
Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation; Two short papers; Two presentations; Take-home final essay
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: Potential and actual PSCI and POEC majors
Expected Class Size: 16
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses  PSCI Political Theory Courses  Not offered current academic year

PSCI 343 (F) Democratic Erosion
Cross-listings: GBST 342  PSCI 343

Primary Cross-listing
A central tenet of political science is that once a country reaches a certain level of political and economic development, democracy will endure indefinitely. The contemporary moment calls on us to revisit this assumption. This course explores the causes and consequences of democratic erosion through the lens of comparative politics. We ask three central questions to inform our investigation: 1) What is democracy and its alternatives? 2) How do we identify democratic breakdown? and 3) What are strategies to counteract backsliding when it occurs? Importantly, this course is not intended as a partisan critique of any particular American politician or political party. Rather, it is designed to provide an opportunity to engage, critically and carefully, with claims about the state of democracy in the US and elsewhere; to evaluate whether those claims are valid; and, if they are, to consider strategies for mitigating the risk of democratic erosion here and abroad. Readings draw from academic scholarship, media commentary, and current events as they unfold. We will address both empirical and normative dimensions of the issues, as well as learn about examples of democratic erosion around the world from early 20th century until today. As a collaborative class taught at dozens of other colleges, the course enables you to engage in debates about democratic erosion with students throughout the US and around the world.

Class Format: As a hybrid course, the class will feature both in-person and online components. I will post 1-2 short lectures on GLOW to accompany assigned readings/media for the week. Our scheduled course time will be a mix of discussions, interactive learning exercises, and presentations. At least one class per week will be held in-person; whether the other class will be online or in-person will depend on a number of factors, including the distribution of students taking the course on campus or remotely.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active Class Participation, 3 Short Response Papers, Country Case Study (15-20 pages, written incrementally throughout semester) and Presentation.

Prerequisites: Prior coursework in political science or permission of instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science Majors, Global Studies Concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 342 (D2) PSCI 343 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 344 (S) Palestinian Nationalism

Palestinian Nationalism: This tutorial will cover the history, bases of support, objectives, and accomplishments and failures of Palestinian nationalism over the past century. It will address how the Palestinian nation has been defined, who has defined it, what factions and classes have controlled its organizations, and the reasons why it has failed to achieve its goals. The tutorial will address the evolution of Palestinian nationalism historically and thematically, employing both primary and secondary sources. The readings will consist mostly of Palestinian authors, with an emphasis on documents, histories, and political analyses. Two questions will anchor the tutorial: how is the nation defined and what, if any, class interests are folded into various definitions?

Requirements/Evaluation: Read the assigned materials, write a 5-page paper every other week, and comment on the student's partner's paper in the other weeks.

Prerequisites: Political Science Majors and students with background in Middle East

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Political Nationalism

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2022

TUT Section: T1 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Michael D. MacDonald

PSCI 345 (S) The Meaning of Life and Politics in Ancient Chinese Thought
Primary Cross-listing

How can we live a good life? What standards should we use to judge how political power is constituted and used? This class will involve students in close reading of, and exegetical writing about, core texts of ancient Chinese philosophy in English translation. The purpose is to gain an understanding of a number of different perspectives on life and politics, especially Confucianism, Legalism and Daoism. While the primary focus will be on the meaning of the texts in the context of their own times, contemporary applications of core concepts will also be considered. The class will begin with background readings, since no prior work in Chinese philosophy or history is assumed. Then the class will read significant portions of the following canonical works: Yi Jing, Analects, Mencius, Daodejing, Zhuangzi, and Han Feizi.

Class Format: The class will be hybrid with both online and in-person sessions.

Requirements/Evaluation: two 5-page papers and one 15-page paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: preference to seniors but all are welcome.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 345 (D2) PSCI 345 (D2) ASST 345 (D2)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 346 (S) Radical Theories of Political Struggle: Anti-Black Racism and the Obama Administration

Cross-listings: PSCI 346 AFR 334 INTR 334

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar reviews contemporary theories of "anti-black racism"; their articulation or assimilation within current political movements and mobilizations; and the influence and impact such theories-expressed in and/or as activism-on social justice and civil rights. Critical race theory, Afro-pessimism, feminist/queer theory and the works of the incarcerated are studied. Theorists studied include: Frank Wilderson; Angela Davis; Derrick Bell; Cheryl Harris. Students write weekly mini-reflection papers on assigned readings and collectively make analytical presentations.

Requirements/Evaluation: 1 research paper (50%); 2 presentations with summaries (40%); active engagement in class discussions (10%); weekly student presentations consist of 15 minutes of analysis with written summaries and Q/A; 1st quarter of semester: thesis and outline; 2nd and 3rd quarters: 2-page summaries integrating assigned texts into research analysis; 4th quarter: edit final paper

Prerequisites: familiarity with one of the following: critical race theory; Africana/Black studies; feminist anti-racist political movements

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: students will be asked to submit a paragraph on their research interest relevant to the seminar

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 346 (D2) AFR 334 (D2) INTR 334 (D2)

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 349 (S) Cuba and the United States (WS)

With the passing of the Castro brothers' regime on the horizon, we examine the long and deeply felt history of dependence and conflict between Cuba and its colossal neighbor to the north. It begins with the political economy of the colony, then covers the Cuba-US relationship from José Martí and 1898 through the Cold War to the present, emphasizing the revolutionary period. Tutorial topics include: sovereignty and the Platt Amendment; culture
and politics; race and national identity; policies on gender and sexual orientation; social programs; political institutions; the post-Soviet "Special Period"; the evolution of the Cuban exile community in the US; and the fraught agenda of reform and generational transition. Materials include journalism, official publications, biographies, travel accounts, polemics, policy statements of the US government, and a wide range of academic works.

Class Format: a lecture in the first week; then ten weeks of tutorial; then a discussion class in the final week
Requirements/Evaluation: five 5- to 6-page papers, five 1- to 2-page responses, and one 1-page essay for the final class
Prerequisites: any course on Latin America or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (WS)
Writing Skills Notes: Assignments are graded and returned weekly. After each student has written one long paper and one response, professor meets with them individually to discuss the composition and presentation of each genre.
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Space and Place Electives GBST Latin American Studies Electives LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect PSCI Comparative Politics Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 351 (S) The New Left and Neoliberalism in Latin America (DPE)
Cross-listings: PSCI 351 GBST 351
Primary Cross-listing

Recent years have seen a resurgence of the political left in Latin America. This course seeks to understand the origins of this new left, the ideas and character of its protagonists, the neoliberal philosophy it opposes, and the arena of democratic politics it inhabits today. We first read polemics from both sides, before stepping back to consider Latin American political economy, including the twentieth-century left, from a more historical and analytical perspective. With this preparation, we then look more closely at major contemporary figures and movements in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, and other countries. After considering explanations of the rise of the left and assessments of its performance in power, we end our common readings by asking what it might mean today to be on the left in Latin America--or anywhere--both in policy and political terms.

Class Format: discussion then seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: three short essays, a 1-page reflection paper, and a 12-page research proposal
Prerequisites: a course on Latin America and a course in Economics or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 351 (D2) GBST 351 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The New Left in Latin America originated in efforts to remedy inequalities born of the Conquest, uneven capitalist development, and racial prejudice. Its neoliberal foes generally do not doubt the existence of these inequalities, but they question the proposition that the state could adequately address them. This course engages, contextualizes, and deepens the debate.
Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI Research Courses

Spring 2022
LEC Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm James E. Mahon
PSCI 352  (F) Politics in Mexico  (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 352  PSCI 352

Primary Cross-listing

Geography has decreed that the futures of Mexico and the United States will be tightly bound. Yet Mexico enters this future with a very different past, a distinctive political system, important cultural differences, and mixed feelings about its neighbor to the north. This course has four parts differing in content and format. The first is historical and mostly lecture. It considers several themes, including the slow emergence of a stable national state and the interplay between politics and economic change. In the second section, following a modified tutorial format, we consider politics and cultural policies around Mexican national identity in the twentieth century, looking at films, journalism, popular music, and cultural criticism. Topics include the politics of race; rapid urbanization, especially in the valley of Mexico; and the cultural impact of the turn toward the north, after 1990, in economic policy. Then, after a few discussion classes on migration, organized crime, political corruption, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other issues facing the current government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador, we turn to a seminar-style discussion of student research projects.

Class Format: lectures will be recorded for viewing before class sessions; four weeks of modified tutorials in pairs or small groups online; discussion classes to include in-person and online, in distinct sections if appropriate; online seminar

Requirements/Evaluation:  map quiz; one three-page and three two-page essays; two one-page commentaries; and a seven- to eight-page research proposal, an early version to be presented to the class in online seminar

Prerequisites: some knowledge of Mexican history

Enrollment Limit:  15

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors and seniors

Expected Class Size:  14

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 352 (D2) PSCI 352 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: One unit of the course directly engages the tension between racial and cultural diversity, on one side, and national identity in 20th century Mexico. Another critically analyzes the reception in Mexican national discourse of the experiences of discrimination suffered by migrants in the USA.

Attributes: GBST Latin American Studies Electives  LATS Countries of Origin + Transnationalism Elect  POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 354  (F) Nationalism in East Asia

Cross-listings: PSCI 354  ASIA 245  ASST 245  HIST 318

Primary Cross-listing

Nationalism is a major political issue in contemporary East Asia. From anti-Japanese demonstrations in China, to tensions on the Korea peninsula, to competitive elections in Taiwan, to debates in Japan about the possibility of a woman ascending the Chrysanthemum Throne, national identity is hotly debated and politically mobilized all across the region. This course begins with an examination of the general phenomena of nationalism and national identity. It then considers how nationalism is manifest in the contemporary politics and foreign relations of China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea and Taiwan.

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers; final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit:  25

Enrollment Preferences: in the following order, seniors, juniors, sophomores, then first-years

Expected Class Size:  25

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 354 (D2) ASIA 245 (D2) ASST 245 (D2) HIST 318 (D2)
PSCI 357 (S) Leadership and the Anxieties of Democracy

Cross-listings: PSCI 357 LEAD 425

Secondary Cross-listing

This capstone course examines the challenges and opportunities facing political leaders in contemporary liberal democracies. We will begin by surveying institutional constraints confronting contemporary political leaders: globalization, sclerotic institutions, polarization, endemic racism, and a changing media environment, among others. Then, we will look at some important factors that shape how followers approach would-be leaders: inequality and economic precarity; identity and group consciousness; notions of membership, community, and hierarchy; and declining local institutions. While the course will focus primarily on the United States, our conceptual framework will be global; though our main interest will be contemporary, we will also examine previous eras in which democratic leadership has come under great pressure. Our primary questions will be these: Why does transformative leadership seem so difficult today? How does political leadership in the 21st century differ from leadership in earlier eras? What conditions are necessary to sustain effective leadership in the contemporary world? As a final assignment, students will craft an 18-20-page research paper on a topic of their choice related to the themes of the course.

Requirements/Evaluation: Seminar participation, research proposal, peer workshop, research paper, in-class research presentation

Prerequisites: LEAD 125 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Open to Leadership Studies concentrators or with the permission of the instructor; preference given to Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 357 (D2) LEAD 425 (D2)

Attributes: LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership PSCI Research Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Mason B. Williams

PSCI 360 (S) Right-Wing Populism

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the political scientist Francis Fukuyama famously declared "the end of history". From now on only liberal democracy, free market capitalism, and global integration had a future. Everything else—including political ideology, nationalism, conservative religion, and sovereignty—was consigned to the ash heap. Thirty years later the future looks seriously derailed. A right-wing populism marked by Brexit, Trump, Le Pen, and a host of "far-right" political movements in the very heartland of democratic globalizing capitalism has shaken liberal certainties. This course is an investigation into contemporary right-wing populism in Europe and North America in its social, economic, and political context. We will discuss theories of right-wing populism’s appeal from both Left and Right perspectives. We will also investigate several cases of right-wing populism including France’s National Front, Sweden’s Swedish Democrats, Hungary’s Fidesz and Jobbik, Poland’s Law and Justice Party, as well as Donald Trump and the American alt-right. Finally we will entertain right-wing populism as both a cause and a symptom of a crisis in liberal democracy.

Requirements/Evaluation: two short papers; one long term paper; discussion questions; class participation

Prerequisites: one course in comparative politics or social theory; or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 16

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)
Attributes:  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses  PSCI International Relations Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Spring 2022
SEM Section: 01  TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm  Darel E. Paul

PSCI 361  (F) The CIA and American Foreign Policy
Cross-listings:  PSCI 361  LEAD 361  HIST 355

Primary Cross-listing

Despite an American aversion to espionage captured by Secretary of State Henry Stimson's oft-cited (yet unsubstantiated) remark, "Gentlemen don't read each other's mail," intelligence history in the United States dates back to the Revolutionary War. Still, it took the shock of Pearl Harbor for the United States to establish a permanent peacetime civilian intelligence service independent of another federal department--the Central Intelligence Agency. Since then, the agency and others which comprise the loose entity called the Intelligence Community (IC) have played a pivotal albeit intensely controversial role in US foreign and national security policies. Yet their roles and missions remain largely misunderstood and divisive, as attested to by recent debates surrounding the multiple investigations of the 9/11 tragedy, the flawed pre-war estimates of Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) capabilities, the reporting on Benghazi, the Snowden revelations, and much more. This course seeks to provide greater understanding of the relationship between intelligence and US foreign and national security policy by examining the CIA's and IC's roles and responsibilities, illuminating their history alongside the history of America and the World, assessing their successes and failures, evaluating their reforms, and correlating their behavior and capabilities with US values and institutions.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Midterm, several short papers, and a research paper.
Prerequisites:  None
Enrollment Limit:  14
Enrollment Preferences:  Political Science and History Majors, prior coursework in American foreign policy.
Expected Class Size:  14
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 361  (D2) LEAD 361  (D2) HIST 355  (D2)
Attributes:  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  Richard H. Immerman

PSCI 364  (F) Noam Chomsky and the Radical Critique of American Foreign Policy

Noam Chomsky emerged as one of the most influential figures in the development of modern linguistics during the 1950's. However, since the Vietnam War, Chomsky has also established himself as perhaps the most influential critic of American foreign policy and the Washington national security establishment. This tutorial will examine his wide-ranging critique of American foreign policy over the last half century, focusing on his analysis of the role that he believes the media and academics have played in legitimizing imperialism and human rights abuses around the world. We will also explore the controversies and criticisms of his work from both the right and the left because of his political stance on issues ranging from the Arab-Israeli conflict to humanitarian intervention to free speech. Finally, we will also examine how Chomsky's views, largely considered to be radical for much of his life, have become far more mainstream over time.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Students will write five 6-7 page papers over the course of the semester. On weeks that students are not writing the lead paper, they will write a 1-2 page critique of the essay submitted by their tutorial partner.
Prerequisites:  One of the following courses is strongly recommended : PSCI 120, 127, 202.
Enrollment Limit:  10
Enrollment Preferences:  Students with some previous coursework in American foreign policy or world politics.
Expected Class Size:  10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: International Relations Subfield

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: LEAD American Foreign Policy Leadership  PSCI International Relations Courses

Fall 2021

TUT Section: T1  TBA  James McAllister

PSCI 367  (S)  Decolonizing International Relations  (DPE)

The Oxford English Dictionary defines Decolonization as "the withdrawal from its colonies of a colonial power; the acquisition of political or economic independence by such colonies." The emergence of an international system of sovereign states—the core foundation of international relations—presumes the process of dismantling systems of domination, extraction, and exclusion ended long ago. However, there is increasing recognition that International Relations in all forms, including theory, research, and policy, continue to be structured by traditional paradigms of power (e.g., white, male, elite). This course begins with the premise that knowledge is embedded within, and often reproduces, power hierarchies. Thus, this class is organized as a collaborative investigation with the aims of: 1) examining how whiteness and other historically dominant perspectives shape International Relations theory and research areas; 2) expanding and improving our understanding of International Relations through different lenses (e.g., race, class, gender, disability, indigenous, queer, subaltern); and 3) exploring the implications of a more inclusive approach to International Relations, both within the classroom as well as contemporary decolonization movements in the US and around the world.

Requirements/Evaluation: Participation, 3 response/reflection papers, annotated bibliography

Prerequisites: One prior course in International Relations or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class encourages students to recognize the power dynamics inherent within, and reproduced by, the study of International Relations as structured by traditionally dominant paradigms. This class provides students with the tools to critically identify, decenter, and deconstruct dominant lenses as well as the opportunity to engage with, and apply, an inclusive approach centering a more expansive range of theoretical perspectives and knowledge production.

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Elizabeth Iams Wellman

PSCI 369  (S)  The Crisis of Leadership

Cross-listings: PSCI 369  LEAD 369

Secondary Cross-listing

It is now a commonplace that the liberal democracies of Europe and North America (and beyond) are facing a "crisis of leadership." In country after country, champions of cosmopolitan values and moderate reform are struggling to build sufficient popular support for their programs. These failures have created space for a politics of populism, ethno-nationalism, and resentment—an "anti-leadership insurgency" which, paradoxically, has catapulted charismatic (their critics would say demagogic) leaders to the highest offices of some of the largest nations on earth. In this course, we will seek to understand the challenges liberal, cosmopolitan leadership has encountered in the 21st century and the reasons why populist, nationalist leadership has proven resurgent. We will begin by examining institutional constraints facing political leaders: globalization, sclerotic institutions, polarization, endemic racism, and a changing media environment. Then we will look at some important factors which shape how followers approach would-be leaders: inequality and economic precarity; identity and group consciousness; notions of membership, community, and hierarchy; and declining local institutions. Our primary questions will be these: Why is transformative leadership so difficult today? How does political leadership in the 21st century differ from leadership in earlier eras? What conditions are necessary to sustain effective leadership in the contemporary world?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, regular response papers, research proposal, research paper; this is a research course; the primary written assignment will be a research paper which students will develop over the course of the semester
Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors, Leadership Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 369 (D2) LEAD 369 (D2)

Attributes: LEAD American Domestic Leadership

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 370  (F) The Political Thought of Frantz Fanon  (WS)

Cross-listings: PSCI 370  PHIL 360  AFR 360  LEAD 360

Secondary Cross-listing

Martinican psychiatrist, philosopher, and revolutionary Frantz Fanon was among the leading critical theorists and Africana thinkers of the twentieth century. Fanon ushered in the decolonial turn in critical theory, a move calling on those both within and outside of Europe to challenge the coloniality of the age and to forge a new vision of politics in the postcolonial period. This course is an advanced seminar devoted to a comprehensive examination of Fanon's political thought. We will begin with an analysis of primary texts by Fanon and end by considering how Fanon has been interpreted by his contemporaries as well as activists and critical theorists writing today.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, weekly online reading response papers, a class presentation, two 7-page essays, and one 20-page final research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators, Leadership Studies concentrators, and Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 370 (D2) PHIL 360 (D2) AFR 360 (D2) LEAD 360 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students write weekly online reading response papers, two 7-page essays, and one 20-page final research paper. Students receive feedback from me throughout, meet with me 1-on-1 to discuss 7-page essays to then revise/re-submit, and also receive feedback before final submission. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives  AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 372  (S) CAPSTONE: Sylvia Wynter, Black Lives, and Struggle for the Human

Cross-listings: PSCI 372  AFR 450

Secondary Cross-listing

How do we judge the value of life? What is the significance of death and arbitrary threats to our existence? Why probe modern notions of black and blackness? What defines optimism, pessimism, enslavement, freedom, creativity, and being human? Do black lives matter? This capstone seminar will explore these and related questions through an examination of the life and work of Jamaican novelist, playwright, cultural critic, and philosopher Sylvia Wynter. Methodologically interdisciplinary, the course shall examine written and audiovisual texts that explore Wynter's inquiries into the central seminar queries. We will study figures and movements for black lives whose geopolitics frame the milieu of Wynter's work. Our examination of intellectuals and activists, with their explicit and implicit engagements with Wynter, shall facilitate assessing the possibilities, challenges, and visions of black living. We will also explore the current implications of Wynter's thought for Africana political theory, Afro-futurism, social justice, human rights, and critiques of liberal humanism. In the latter half of the course, students will have the opportunity to design, conduct, and present their own final
research projects.

**Class Format:** Remote format. This class will be taught synchronously primarily.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and participation; a 7-page midterm essay; class presentation; and a final research project

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Africana Studies concentrators and Political Science majors

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

PSCI 372 (D2) AFR 450 (D2)

**Attributes:** AFR Core Electives  PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**PSCI 373 (S) Black Marxism: Political Theory and Anti-Colonialism** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** AFR 340  INTR 341  PSCI 373  PHIL 341

**Secondary Cross-listing**

The seminar involves a critical engagement with key Africana political leaders, theorists and liberationists. We will examine the Pan-African writings of: Cedric Robinson (*Black Marxism*); Walter Rodney (*How Capitalism Underdeveloped Africa*), Eric Williams (*Capitalism and Slavery; From Columbus to Castro*); Frantz Fanon (*The Wretched of the Earth*); Malcolm X (*Malcolm X Speaks*); Amilcar Cabral (*Resistance and Decolonization; Unity and Struggle*); C. L. R. James (*The Black Jacobins*).

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Attend all classes. Papers are due 24 hours before the start of class. Participate in class discussions.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Juniors and Seniors.

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)  (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

AFR 340 (D2) INTR 341 (D2) PSCI 373 (D2) PHIL 341 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Three thesis papers at five pages each (each receiving critical feedback from professor); one thesis paper revision with critical feedback from professor and peers, including one letter of revision explaining the student's revision process; one keyword glossary where students develop rigorous definitions of course key terms; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** This course focuses on anti-colonial struggles against European powers. Research will include the concept of "internal colonies" in the US.

Not offered current academic year

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**PSCI 375 (S) Modern Jewish Political Theory**

**Cross-listings:** JWST 492  PSCI 375  REL 330

**Secondary Cross-listing**

By the late 19th century, Jews across Europe were faced with an urgent political problem. Amidst bourgeoning national self-consciousness throughout the continent, despite the liberatory promises of the Enlightenment, Jews remained a vulnerable, segregated, and stigmatized minority population. Jews had to decide where to pin their hopes. Should they ally themselves with the liberals or the communists? Should they embrace nationalism or cosmopolitanism? Should they, perhaps, abandon Europe altogether and re-constitute themselves elsewhere? If so, should they focus their efforts on relocation to the historical land of Israel? Or could they go anywhere? Wherever they might go, should they aspire to build a modern Jewish nation-state, a semi-autonomous Jewish community, or some other arrangement? Should this coincide with the cultivation of a distinctively Jewish
modern language? If so, should it be Hebrew or Yiddish? In this course we will assess various answers to these questions proffered by Jewish political thinkers in the modern period. We will pay particular attention to the construction of "Jews" and "Judaism" in these arguments. And we will ask persistently: what constitutes a "Jewish justification" for a political claim in modern Jewish political theory? Coverage will include: Jewish liberalism, political Zionism, Yiddishist autonomism, messianic quietism, and other views. We will read mostly primary sources, including texts by: Hermann Cohen, Theodore Herzl, Chaim Zhitlowsky, Franz Rosenzweig, Leo Strauss, Hannah Arendt, and many others.

Requirements/Evaluation: six short (1-2 pages) response papers; two 6- to 8-page papers, each analyzing a different view in depth; a final 18- to 20-page paper that incorporates the two previously submitted 6-8 page papers, but also compares the two views and adjudicates between them

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors, Jewish Studies concentrators, and Political Science students on the "Theory" track

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

JWST 492 (D2) PSCI 375 (D2) REL 330 (D2)

Attributes: JWST Capstone Course JWST Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 376 (S) Angela Davis: Political Theory, Activism, and Alliances (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: LEAD 319 PSCI 376 INTR 320 AMST 308

Secondary Cross-listing

This seminar examines the political thought, activism, and iconography of abolitionist Angela Davis. The seminar involves a critical engagement with the philosopher, former political prisoner, and their relationship with other theorists, authors and activists. Readings include: Angela Davis: An Autobiography; Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson; The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis; Women, Race, and Class; If They Come in the Morning.

Requirements/Evaluation: Requirements: students attend each seminar class and come prepared to discuss the readings. Papers are due by email 24 hours before the seminar begins.

Prerequisites: Preferences: Juniors and Seniors who have taken courses in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Juniors and Seniors with previous courses taken in Africana Studies, American Studies, Political Science, Philosophy.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 319 (D2) PSCI 376 (D2) INTR 320 (D2) AMST 308 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three thesis papers at five pages each will receive critical feedback from the professor; one of the three papers will be revised with critical feedback from professor and peers, accompanied by a one-page statement explaining student's revisions; one keyword glossary where students define their key terms used in the paper; one roundtable discussion based on the final paper.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines political activism in the 1960s-1970s during the Cold War in which the civil rights, black power and student anti-war movements challenged traditional US domestic and foreign policies. Examining the differential powers of university Regents, governors, presidents, and police forces and prison administrations in relation to social justice movements led by people under the age of thirty, we examine the structures of institutional power and the agency of cadre theorists.

Attributes: AFR Core Electives AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01 M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm Joy A. James
PSCI 377 (S)  The Black Radical Tradition

Cross-listings:  PSCI 348 AFR 348 PSCI 377 LEAD 348

Secondary Cross-listing

The black radical tradition is a modern tradition of thought and action begun after transatlantic slavery's advent. Contemporary social science and the humanities overwhelmingly portray it as a critique of black politics in the latter's liberal, libertarian, and conservative forms. This tutorial unsettles that framing, first by situating the black radical tradition as a species of black politics, and second through expanding the boundaries of black politics beyond the United States. Central to the black radical tradition's architecture are inquiries into the concepts of freedom, race, equality, rights, and humanism; meaning of "radical"; the national-transnational relationship; notions of leadership; status of global capitalism; the nexus of theory and praxis; and revolutionary politics. We begin with examinations of these central notions and debates, and then move to investigations of the political thought of four key late modern Afro-Caribbean and African-American thinkers within the tradition: Walter Rodney, Sylvia Wynter, Cedric Robinson, and Angela Davis.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance; five 5-page essays, five 2-page critiques, and one 1-page essay for the final class

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Africana Studies concentrators, Leadership Studies concentrators, and Political Science majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 348 (D2) AFR 348 (D2) PSCI 377 (D2) LEAD 348 (D2)

Attributes: AFR Core Electives PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 382 (F)  The Politics of Migration: Citizen, Immigrant, Alien, Refugee  (DPE)

Currently 272 million international migrants live in a country different from where they were born, an increase of 78% since 1990. What are the social, economic, and political consequences of unprecedented global mobility in both destination countries and countries of origin? This class investigates one of the most polarizing and relevant issues of our time: the politics of migration. Throughout the semester we interrogate four themes central to migration politics: rights, representation, access, and agency. The course is organized with a focus on status: which "categories" of people (i.e. citizens, migrants, refugees) have differential access to rights, services, and representation and why. Drawing on political speeches, documentary films, humanitarian campaigns, and a variety of academic texts, we critically analyze how those categories are constructed, as well as the political work they do in making claims, justifying policies, and shaping public opinion. The class situates contemporary US migration policies within a global context and over time, placing the US case in conversation with considerations of migration politics and policies in countries around the world. As an experiential education course, we will (virtually) attend a US naturalization ceremony as well as interview officials from organizations working with migrants and refugees here and abroad.

Class Format: As a hybrid course, the class will feature both in-person and online components. I will post 1-2 short lectures on GLOW to accompany assigned readings/media for the week. Our scheduled course time will be a mix of discussions, interactive learning exercises, and presentations. At least one class per week will be held in-person; whether the other class will be online or in-person will depend on a number of factors, including the distribution of students taking the course on campus or remotely.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, 3 short papers (3 pages each), policy project (8-10 pages), and presentation.

Prerequisites: Prior course work in political science or global studies.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors, Global Studies Concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the politics of migration with a focus on the power inherent within particular
categorizations of people in relation to the state (i.e. citizens, migrants, aliens, refugees). We compare policies shaping the lives of migrants around
the world, with particular considerations of how race, gender, age, and religion shape migration experiences (and migration policy). We focus on rights,
access, and migrant agency throughout the course.

Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 386 (F) Identity Politics: Conflicts in Bosnia, Israel-Palestine, Northern Ireland, & South Africa
Identities have been either the stakes, or the guise taken by other kinds of conflicts, in Bosnia, Israel-Palestine, Northern Ireland, and South Africa for
centuries. They have led to, or expressed, political divisions, clashing loyalties, and persistent and sometimes consuming violence. They also have
produced attempts by both internal and external actors to resolve the issues. This research seminar will engage the origins of the conflicts and the role
of identities in them, the role of disputes about sovereign power in creating and intensifying them, the strategies for reconciling them that are adopted
domestically and internationally, the deals that have been struck or have not been struck to bring peace in these societies, and the outcomes of the
various efforts in their contemporary politics. The course will begin by reading about both the general theoretical issues raised by conflicts in these
"divided societies" and various responses to them. After familiarizing ourselves with what academic and policy literatures have to say about them, we
then will read about the histories and contemporary politics in each society. With that as background, students will choose an aspect or aspects of
these conflicts as a subject for their individual research.

Requirements/Evaluation: 2 10-12-page papers
Prerequisites: Political Science majors
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors or permission of instructor
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSCI Research Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 388 (S) Comparative Political Economy
Cross-listings: PSCI 388 POEC 388
Primary Cross-listing
This course examines the relationships between broad economic structures and political institutions. We consider why and how the spread of
capitalism led to the birth of democracy in some countries, but dictatorships in others? Here we look closely at whether it is economic development
which leads to the spread of democracy, or whether it is economic crises which make the movement to democracy possible. Finally, we examine
whether the emergence of a neoliberal economic order has affected the organization of political society?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 4 tutorial-style papers, 6 response papers, 1 revised paper
Prerequisites: PSCI 201-04 or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science Majors, Political Economy Majors
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 388 (D2) POEC 388 (D2)
Attributes: PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Spring 2022
TUT Section: T1 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Ngonidzashe Munemo
PSCI 397 (F) Independent Study: Political Science

Political Science independent study.

Prerequisites: open to junior majors with permission of the department chair

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2021
IND Section: 01 TBA Mark T. Reinhardt

PSCI 398 (S) Independent Study: Political Science

Political Science independent study.

Prerequisites: open to junior majors with permission of the department chair

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2022
IND Section: 01 TBA Mark T. Reinhardt

PSCI 410 (S) Senior Seminar in American Politics: The Politics of Belonging

Although many people have described America as inclusive, political debates about belonging have often been contentious and hard-fought. This seminar will focus on the politics of belonging in America. What does it mean to be an American? If the U.S. is a nation of immigrants, why is immigration reform so difficult to achieve? Are legal citizenship and formal political rights sufficient for belonging? Or does full inclusion rest on the ability to exercise civil and social rights as well? Does income inequality threaten the political equality necessary for a strong democracy? As we examine the debates over inclusion, we will consider different views about the relationship among political, civil, and social rights as well as different interpretations of American identity, politics, and democracy.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, short weekly writing assignments, two short papers, a 20-page research paper and presentation

Prerequisites: at least one course in American politics

Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: senior Political Science majors with American Politics concentration

Expected Class Size: 11

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives PSCI American Politics Courses PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 411 (F) Advanced Study in American Politics

A full year of independent study (481-482) under the direction of the Political Science faculty, to be awarded to the most distinguished candidate based upon competitive admissions. The candidate, designated the Sentinels of the Republic Scholar, receives a research stipend to cover costs associated with the proposed project. The Sentinels Scholar may submit her/his essay for consideration for honors in Political Science. Admission is awarded on the basis of demonstrated capacity for distinguished work and on the proposal’s promise for creative contributions to the understanding of topics on the federal system of government. Anyone with a prospective proposal should contact the department chair for guidance.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Not offered current academic year
American politics are in upheaval, and most Americans believe the country to be headed down "the wrong track." Yet assessments of what is at the heart of the country's problems vary. Many worry that the United States is threatened by anti-democratic actors intent on consolidating white nationalist power and corporate rule. Yet at the same time, others worry that the U.S. has abandoned the Anglo-Protestant traditions that made it strong and has entered a period of moral decay and decline. What are we to make of these different assessments? What do left and right see when they survey the nation, and why is what they see so different? Any diagnosis of contemporary maladies is premised on a vision of what a healthy functioning republic looks like. Our task in the seminar is to uncover and interrogate those visions. We will do this by exploring different interpretations of the American political order, each with its own story of narrative tensions and possible resolutions. We will then use our investigation of how different authors, and different traditions, understand the nation to help us assess contemporary politics and come to our own conclusions about what animates conflicts.

Requirements/Evaluation: brief weekly writing assignments; three short essays; and oral examination
Prerequisites: at least one course in American politics
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: senior Political Science majors with a concentration in American politics
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSCI American Politics Courses

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Nicole E. Mellow

PSCI 413  (S)  Senior Seminar in American Politics: Polarized America

With red states and blue states, partisan divisions in Congress, and even disputes about wearing masks to protect against the coronavirus, few question the fact of a polarized America. But what is the polarization about and what caused it? Is it manufactured by a political elite using the rules of the game to maintain power while ignoring the concerns of the people? Is it a capitalist strategy to divide the public in order to advance the interests of the wealthy corporate elite? Does it reflect a polity divided by racial and ethnic tensions with different visions of the nation's past and future? Does it reflect increased inequality in a fast-changing global economy? How can a government of separated institutions operate and come to collective decisions given this discord? Can the framers' vision of deliberative, representative government meet the challenges of a polarized polity?

Class Format: For fall of 2020, this course will be remote, with twice weekly online discussions. Students will submit discussion questions through Glow and those will be used to set the agenda for our conversations. Each student will be responsible for planning and leading one class meeting.
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, weekly writing assignments, two short papers, final project
Prerequisites: At least one course in American politics
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Seniors majoring in political science with concentration in American politics
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSCI American Politics Courses

Spring 2022
SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Cathy M. Johnson

PSCI 420  (F)  Senior Seminar: The Nuclear Revolution

Cross-listings: LEAD 420  LEAD 330  PSCI 420

Primary Cross-listing

This is a course about international politics in the nuclear age. In broad terms, it focuses on a very basic question: Does international politics still work
essentially the same way as it did in the prenuclear era, or has it undergone a "revolution," in the most fundamental sense of the word? The structure of the course combines political science concepts and historical case studies, with the goal of generating in-depth classroom debates over key conceptual, historical, and policy questions. Classes will be taught remotely. The basic format of the course will be to combine very brief lectures with detailed class discussions of each session's topic. The course will begin--by focusing on the Manhattan Project--with a brief technical overview of nuclear physics, nuclear technologies, and the design and effects of nuclear weapons. The course will then examine the following subjects: the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan; theories of the nuclear revolution; the early Cold War period; the development and implications of thermonuclear weapons; the Berlin and Cuban missile crises; nuclear accidents; nuclear terrorism and illicit nuclear networks; the future of nuclear energy; regional nuclear programs; preventive strikes on nuclear facilities; nuclear proliferation; and contemporary policy debates.

Class Format: This course will be taught remotely. All class discussions will be synchronous.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, three 8- to 10-page papers

Prerequisites: PSCI 202

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science major seniors with an International Relations concentration

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LEAD 420 (D2) LEAD 330 (D2) PSCI 420 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 421 (S) Senior Seminar: The Liberal Project in Global Politics

Cross-listings: PSCI 441 PSCI 421

Primary Cross-listing

The most powerful actors in global politics are liberal ones, and a liberal project around democratic states, international law and organizations, and free trade dominates the global agenda. This course is an investigation into this global liberal project, engaging both theory and practice. We will discuss signature liberal theorists both classic and current as well as some of their most notable critics. We will also attend to empirical evaluations of signature liberal efforts around democratization, human rights, and development. The course ends with a discussion of the successes and failures of the European Union as the principal embodiment of the liberal project today.

Requirements/Evaluation: 2-4 papers of 5-7 pages, several short oral presentations, daily discussion questions, 12-15 page final paper, class participation

Prerequisites: senior Political Science major or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: senior Political Science majors concentrating in International Relations or Comparative Politics

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 441 (D2) PSCI 421 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Darel E. Paul

PSCI 422 (S) Senior Seminar in Human Rights in International Politics and Law

Cross-listings: JLST 403 PSCI 420 PSCI 422
The idea that all humans have rights simply because they are human-independent of anything they might do or achieve-has transformed local and international politics, probably permanently. This concept's place in international politics, its strengths and limitations, depend on how people use it. Beginning with the 18th-century's transatlantic movement to abolish slavery, we will examine international movements and institutions that have affected what human rights mean, to whom, and where. Readings draw on philosophy, history, sociology, and international relations, but as a political science class we emphasize politics. Who benefits from the idea of universal human rights? Who loses? How does this idea about individual value liberate and entrap? Does this idea ultimately reinforce American hegemony, or plant the seeds of a non-American order?

Requirements/Evaluation: three lead essays, three critique essays, and one final essay
Prerequisites: PSCI 202, senior standing, permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 18
Enrollment Preferences: PSCI majors, senior JLST concentrators; seniors
Expected Class Size: 18
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
JLST 403 (D2) PSCI 420 (D2) PSCI 422 (D2)
Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 423  (F)  Humanitarianism as Ideology and Strategy
Since the mid-1980s, humanitarianism has been one dominant attitude that powerful countries, organizations and people have adopted with regard to poverty or disaster elsewhere. Humanitarianism aims at rescue, striving to keep people alive until some solution can be found. It aims not to address crises' causes nor to assist with solutions--which it considers political--just to keep human bodies alive. Critics contend that humanitarianism produces harm, provides structural incentives for people to do more or less than they need to, and deepens inequality between actors and targets. They contend that it legitimates the status quo, in which such things are bound to happen. This course confronts humanitarianism as an ideology through reading its defenders and critics, and as a political strategy assessing its usefulness.
Class Format: three students start class discussion every day; one reads a short (4-page) essay and two read shorter (two-page) essays
Requirements/Evaluation: three longer essays, six shorter essays, constructive participation
Prerequisites: PSCI 202 and at least one elective in international relations
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Political science seniors then juniors; other seniors, then juniors
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Cheryl  Shanks

PSCI 431  Senior Seminar in Political Theory: Rethinking the Political
What is politics? The question, an important part of political theory at least since Socrates, has taken on renewed significance in recent years, as theorists have sought to rethink the political in response to twentieth century dictatorships and world wars; feminist, queer, anti-racist, post- and decolonial struggles; the transformations wrought by neoliberal globalization; the emergence of "algorithmic governance"; the recent resurgence of populist nationalism; and deepening recognition of climate crises. This seminar engages some of the major attempts at rethinking produced in the 20th and 21st centuries, particularly at those that, characterizing liberalism as masking structures of subordination and elements of conflict in political life, undervaluing the importance of citizen action and public space, or being ill-suited to altered technological and ecological conditions, seek to rework or move beyond it. In addition to those who argue for an expanded and emancipatory conception of politics, we will consider arguments against politics

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Regular, engaged class participation; short Glow posts; one 6-8 page paper; one 10-12 page paper

**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing and two or more theory courses or consent of instructor. Non-majors with theory interests and backgrounds are welcome

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Juniors and seniors concentrating in political theory

**Expected Class Size:** 11

**Grading:****

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

**PSCI 432 (S) Senior Seminar: Critical Theory**

This course takes a critical look at the nexus of money and political power in the United States and world politics, using the concept of "racket society" to guide our inquiry. The theory of "rackets" was first put forward by Frankfurt School theorists in the 1940s as a way of analyzing linkages among organized crime, cartels, monopolies, corporate interests, and political institutions. Their project, which we will recreate in this course, was to trace the effects of the adaptation of the legal system (and other state institutions) to the conglomeration of capital and the concentration of wealth in a few hands. The flow of money offers insights into these deeper trends. Course readings begin with the work of Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Franz Neumann, Friedrich Pollock, and Herbert Marcuse, paying special attention to their discussion of the anti-democratic effects of money on political institutions. We will also look carefully at their critique of legal frameworks that protect the wealthy while criminalizing the poor. Although these concerns were not exclusive to the Frankfurt School, the approach they took had some unique features. Having fled Nazi Germany and re-established their research institute in exile the United States, Horkheimer and his colleagues brought an outsider-insider perspective to the problem. Among our questions are the following: How did the intellectual heritage of the Frankfurt School and their experiences in Germany shape their analysis of racket society in 1940s America? Does the theory of rackets still have analytical power today? Given the massive expansion of the U.S. economy and the role of transnational capital in driving economic globalization in recent decades, what insights might the early Frankfurt School offer critics of anti-democratic tendencies in world politics today?

**Requirements/Evaluation:** regular class participation, short (1 pg) response papers, and drafts leading up to a 15-page final essay

**Prerequisites:** junior or senior standing required; in addition, prior coursework in political theory, cultural theory, philosophy, or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Senior Political Science majors with concentration in Political Theory, then other Political Science majors

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSCI Political Theory Courses

Spring 2022

**PSCI 440 (F) Challenges to Neoliberalism in the United States and Europe since the Financial Crisis**

After emerging from the Cold War as the unrivaled model for capitalist societies, neoliberal capitalism has been subject to a series of challenges in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008-10. This seminar, after discussing briefly the institutions and logic of neoliberalism, will address recent challenges to it from both the left and the right in the United States and Europe. Specifically, the seminar will address the election of Donald Trump as president, the furor around Brexit in the United Kingdom and the authority of the European Union in Europe, and challenges to the hegemony of global finance and controversies around immigration in both the United States and Europe.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** in addition to participating in discussions about the readings, students are required to present to the class their written
proposals for a research

Prerequisites: must be a senior Political Science major
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors specializing in the Comparative Politics subfield
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 441 (S) Senior Seminar: The Liberal Project in Global Politics

Cross-listings: PSCI 441 PSCI 421

Secondary Cross-listing

The most powerful actors in global politics are liberal ones, and a liberal project around democratic states, international law and organizations, and free trade dominates the global agenda. This course is an investigation into this global liberal project, engaging both theory and practice. We will discuss signature liberal theorists both classic and current as well as some of their most notable critics. We will also attend to empirical evaluations of signature liberal efforts around democratization, human rights, and development. The course ends with a discussion of the successes and failures of the European Union as the principal embodiment of the liberal project today.

Requirements/Evaluation: 2-4 papers of 5-7 pages, several short oral presentations, daily discussion questions, 12-15 page final paper, class participation
Prerequisites: senior Political Science major or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: senior Political Science majors concentrating in International Relations or Comparative Politics
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 441 (D2) PSCI 421 (D2)
Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses

Spring 2022
SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Darel E. Paul

PSCI 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Political Science

The senior major, having applied for and been accepted into the honors program during the second semester of the junior year, will devote the senior year to researching and writing a substantial and original work of scholarship, under the supervision of a faculty mentor to be assigned by the department. The final work will be submitted for evaluation by a committee made up of the faculty supervisor and two additional readers to be chosen by the department, in consultation with the supervisor. Thesis writers will not only work with their advisors but will participate in a weekly honors seminar supervised by a faculty member in political science. The seminar (which is one component of the 493-W31-494 designation and not a separate course) will provide a focused forum for the exchange of ideas among the honors students, who will regularly circulate sections of their theses-in-progress for peer review and critique. The faculty seminar leader's primary role is one of coordination and guidance.

Class Format: Course will be taught remotely
Requirements/Evaluation: Progress on thesis
Prerequisites: Writing an honors thesis in political science
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Permission of instructor
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2021
HON Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Michael D. MacDonald

PSCI 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Political Science
The senior major, having applied for and been accepted into the honors program during the second semester of the junior year, will devote the senior year to researching and writing a substantial and original work of scholarship, under the supervision of a faculty mentor to be assigned by the department. The final work will be submitted for evaluation by a committee made up of the faculty supervisor and two additional readers to be chosen by the department, in consultation with the supervisor. Thesis writers will not only work with their advisors but will participate in a weekly honors seminar supervised by a faculty member in political science. The seminar (which is one component of the 493-W31-494 designation and not a separate course) will provide a focused forum for the exchange of ideas among the honors students, who will regularly circulate sections of their theses-in-progress for peer review and critique. The faculty seminar leader's primary role is one of coordination and guidance.

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2022
HON Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Michael D. MacDonald

PSCI 495 (F) Individual Project: Political Science
With the permission of the department, open to those senior Political Science majors who are not candidates for honors, yet who wish to complete their degree requirements by doing research--rather than taking the Senior Seminar--in their subfield of specialization. The course extends over one semester and the winter study period. The research results must be presented to the faculty supervisor for evaluation in the form of an extended essay.

Prerequisites: two elective courses in the major's subfield specialization
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 496 (S) Individual Project: Political Science
With the permission of the department, open to those senior Political Science majors who are not candidates for honors, yet who wish to complete their degree requirements by doing research--rather than taking the Senior Seminar--in their subfield of specialization. The course extends over one semester and the winter study period. The research results must be presented to the faculty supervisor for evaluation in the form of an extended essay.

Prerequisites: two elective courses in the major's subfield specialization
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 497 (F) Independent Study: Political Science
Political Science independent study.
Prerequisites: open to senior Political Science majors with permission of the department chair
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
IND 498 (S) Independent Study: Political Science

Political Science independent study.

Prerequisites: open to senior Political Science majors with permission of the department chair

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Winter Study

PSCI 12 (W) Adam Smith

Adam Smith has had enormous influence on the philosophy of economic life and on economic policy, especially in the English-speaking world. He was also surprisingly egalitarian, subtle, and occasionally witty. This course briefly surveys his most influential works. It concentrates on The Theory of Moral Sentiments and The Wealth of Nations, but will also include short selections from other writings, background reading about his biography and the world of the Scottish Enlightenment, and important contributions from the critical scholarly literature.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: by demonstrated interest

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: $10

Winter 2022

PSCI 14 (W) JA SelCom: A Case Study in Selection Processes

This course will explore the nature of selection processes. What does an optimal selection process look like? How do our implicit biases materialize in selection? These are just a few of the questions that we will seek to understand through guest speakers from The Davis Center, Psychology Department, Admissions, and the Career Center. The majority of the time will be dedicated towards applying these ideas in selecting the next class of Junior Advisors, an undertaking that will allow students to examine selection processes in general. Readings will cover topics such as organizational behavior and human decision processes, social networks and organizational dynamics, and gendered wording and inequality.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: selection based on a small assignment and/or conversations with the instructors

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: none

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses
PSCI 15  A Politics of Compassion for the 21st Century

Purpose: Here is a simple question: do you believe the American political system is working well today and will adequately address the country's needs in the 21st century? If not, what might a different model, a different attitude about politics and "who gets what in society," might look like. This course, offered by a political science professor who is also an ordained Zen Buddhist priest, explores a radical alternative based on the simple idea that if we are to survive and thrive as a global community in 100 years from now, we must move from a philosophy of "me" to one of "we." Based on the professor's 30 years of college-level political science teaching and over 40 years of a Zen Buddhist meditation practice, the course will explore a "Politics of Compassion," drawing from the teachings of the Buddha through the "Engaged Buddhists," such as the Dalai Lama, today. In addition to the historical and philosophical treatment of politics from a Buddhist point of view, we will practice Zen meditation on a daily basis. Regardless of one's particular religious, or non-religious, background, the course will provide a supportive opportunity to explore one's moral and political beliefs and at the end of the day ask oneself the proverbial question: what is my life really about? Is it about my ego in the form of making money and/or becoming famous, or is it about how to use my privileges and education to help alleviate suffering in the world? We will explore the issues of the climate crisis, poverty, race, sexism, violence, criminal justice, etc. in the process of reflecting on these questions.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper; all students will do a class presentation of their 10-page research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: seniority: seniors, juniors, etc.

Grading:

Unit Notes: Tom Redden '77 is a political scientist and ordained Zen Buddhist priest, who is writing a book on "Buddhist politics." He holds a doctorate in political science and masters in education as well as 'Third World' Development Studies from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He has lived and travelled all over the world, continues a 40-plus year daily meditation practice, and was voted Faculty of the Year five times by students at Southern Vermont College where he taught.

Materials/Lab Fee: none

Not offered current academic year

PSCI 17  (W) State Constitutions, State Courts, and Individual Rights

Cross-listings: JLST 17  PSCI 17

Primary Cross-listing

Most people are familiar with the idea that the federal constitution, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, can serve as an important (albeit controversial) tool for protecting individual rights. Cases involving rights to same-sex marriage, abortion, and gun ownership are just a few recent examples of the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal constitution taking center stage in battles over individual rights. But there is another, equally important, source of individual rights that is sometimes overlooked and understudied: state constitutions. Each state has its own constitution, which may contain different rights and protections from those in the federal constitution. In this class, we'll take a look at the role of state constitutions and courts in protecting individual rights and influencing federal constitutional interpretation. From assessing the constitutionality of compelled sterilization to protecting citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures, we'll examine the interplay between state and federal courts and constitutions. To do this, we'll work through 51 Imperfect Solutions: States and the Making of American Constitutional Law, by Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton (class of 1983). As a final project, students will choose a legal issue, evaluate its chances of success under the federal constitution and their home state constitution (or state constitution of their choosing), develop a basic litigation strategy aimed at achieving their objectives, and present that evaluation and strategy to the class.

Requirements/Evaluation: final project or presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: by seniority

Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: Susan Yorke is an appellate attorney in the Bay Area and teaches at Berkeley Law. Erin Lagesen is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals. Both Susan and Erin went to Williams, where they double majored in English and Mathematics.

Materials/Lab Fee: approximately $35 for books

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 18 (W) Media, Politics, and Power
The course engages students with short readings and videos presenting critical ideas about traditional and digital media and the formation of power. Students discuss and use those ideas to explore the political-economic relations of a chosen media channel—such as social media or entertainment (like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Spotify etc.) or news (like CNN, NewsMax, TheIntercept) or financial exchange (like BitCoin or RobinHood). Students first explore the contents, interfaces, or other interior aspects of their chosen media channel. Second, students will investigate the exterior relations of parent companies with government(s), markets, and social movements such as MAGA, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and others.

Requirements/Evaluation: final project or presentation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: instructor's discretion
Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: James (he/him) is an activist and researcher and author of numerous studies on media, communication, and power. In addition to conducting research for political organizations and movements, his writing appears in Blackwell’s International Encyclopedia of Communication, Editor & Publisher, TruthOut, and other publications. He was a campaign writer for US Rep. Bobby Rush and is currently a PhD candidate in the Communication department at UMass Amherst.

Materials/Lab Fee: none

PSCI 21 (W) Fieldwork in Public Affairs and Private Non-Profits
The class will meet 3 hrs, 3 afternoons a week. An additional 6-10 hrs work on your own involves critically reviewing media content and issues of media ownership. Early course sessions discuss readings and videos on theory. Later sessions involve students helping each other look for patterns between the interior contents of media channels and the larger relations and strategies of media companies. Work outside of class will at times consist in consuming media and curating selections to share with the class. This requires at home work of viewing videos and/or reading articles or blogs or social media threads or examining web interfaces. From your review, will choose examples for class discussion that you think may show political processes at work, such as construction of political ideologies or of race, gender, or other hierarchies. At other times, at home work will involve viewing videos (such as government hearings with CEOs, stockholder meetings, or investor calls, etc.) or reading news articles or other documents (annual reports, etc.). From these materials, students will select examples for class discussion that may show political-economic relations such as corporate market strategies, government-industry partnerships, or efforts to influence regulations. Through class discussions and presentations, students provide and receive mutual support enabling new views on media as product of, and means to, political struggle. Evaluation is based on a final presentation like a website, social media campaign, or PowerPoint presentation that can, at your choice, be publicly shared.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 30
Enrollment Preferences: statement of interest
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: none
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses
PSCI 22 (W) LIFT: Learning Intervention for Teens
This mentorship-based course pairs Williams students with teenagers involved in the Berkshire County juvenile justice system. LIFT is an official Commonwealth of Massachusetts probation diversion program. This is a student-led course, sponsored by Pittsfield Chief of Police Mike Wynn ’93 and Professor Cheryl Shanks, but entirely run by Williams students who have served as mentors or directors in the past. Our goal is to empower the teenagers through positive peer mentorship and allow them to take ownership of an independent project of the teen’s choosing. The project and other course activities aim to cultivate initiative, creativity, focus, and skills in areas such as goal-setting, research, and communication, which the teenagers can then carry forward to their school, work, and home lives. The course culminates with a project presentation in which each mentor/mentee pair formally presents their work to an audience that includes professionals in the juvenile court system, state elected officials, chiefs of police, district attorneys, the teens’ peers and families, and faculty and community members. Williams students are expected to attend trainings, meet with their teens three times a week, co-facilitate a final presentation, and keep a weekly journal detailing their meetings. Because LIFT is an after-school program, this course meets Tuesday through Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm. Students interested in serving as mentors should write a paragraph of interest explaining why they believe they would be a successful mentor in this program. Those paragraphs should then be emailed to student directors Regina Fink (raf3), and Julia Lim (jsl3), cc'ing Cheryl Shanks (cshanks@williams.edu).

Requirements/Evaluation: final project or presentation and journal and weekly statements
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: students will be evaluated based on a statement of application, and the directors reserve the right to accept fewer than 10 applicants
Grading: pass/fail only
Unit Notes: Mike Wynn is the Chief of the Pittsfield Police Department and graduated from Williams in 1993.
Materials/Lab Fee: none
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Winter 2022
LEC Section: 01 TBA Cheryl Shanks

PSCI 30 (W) Senior Essay: Political Science
Political Science senior essay.
Class Format: senior essay
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2022
HON Section: 01 TBA Mark T. Reinhardt

PSCI 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Political Science
To be taken by students registered for Political Science 493-494.
Class Format: thesis
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2022
HON Section: 01 TBA Mark T. Reinhardt

PSCI 32 (W) Individual Project: Political Science
To be taken by students registered for Political Science 495 or 496.
PSCI 33 (W) Advanced Study in American Politics

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Not offered current academic year

PSCI 99 (W) Independent Study: Political Science

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2022
IND Section: 01 TBA Mark T. Reinhardt