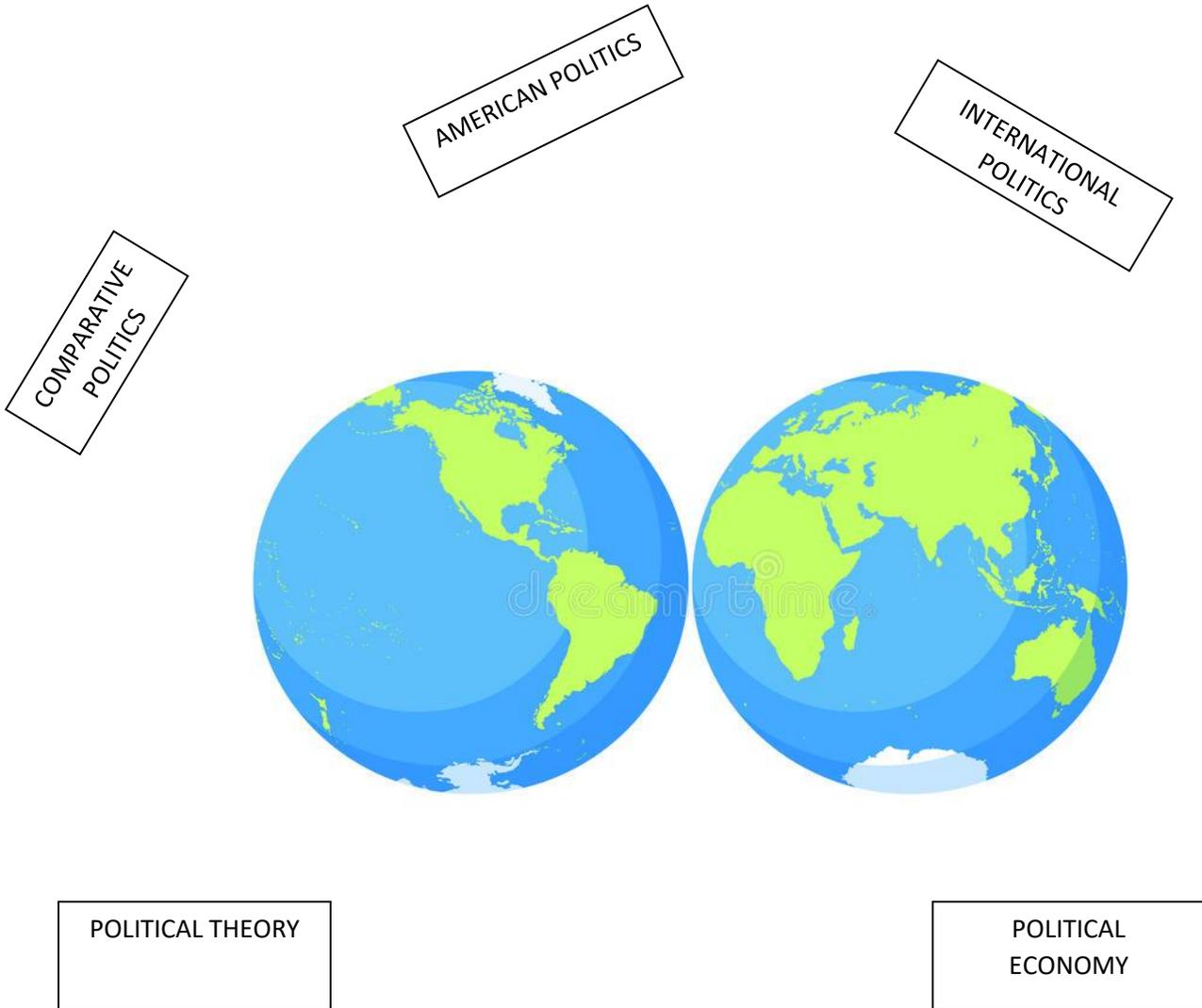


UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics
136 South 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6215



**University of Pennsylvania Political Science Department
Undergraduate Program
Course Booklet**

Spring 2021

<https://www.polisci.upenn.edu/undergraduate/courses>

102-301
Mondays

ICT For Development

Grossman, G
2 pm - 5 pm

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)—the internet, mobile phones, and all the other tools to collect, store, analyze, and share information digitally—have spread quickly. More households in developing countries own a mobile phone than have access to electricity or clean water. In Africa, for example, the number of mobile subscribers per 100 residents was effectively zero 20 years ago; it is over 75 per 100 residents today.

The seminar will focus on the role that ICTs innovations can play in improving development outcomes in low-income countries. The seminar would critically assess the promises and perils for utilizing ICTs in sectors such as agriculture, financial services, health and education. The seminar will especially focus on “ICTs for better governance”: to improve citizen voice and government responsiveness and accountability. Importantly, through class discussions we would not only highlight the benefits of Information and Communication Technologies for Development but also some of the challenges (e.g., that ICTs may widen political participation gaps by excluding marginalized populations).

This Penn Global seminar should be of interest to undergraduates from diverse background, such as engineering, political science, communication, sociology and business administration.

107-001
Mondays & Wednesdays

Introduction to Data Science

Trussler, M
1 pm – 2 pm

Understanding and interpreting large, quantitative data sets is increasingly central in social science and the business world. In this class, students will gain the ability to quickly and accurately find, collect, manage, and analyze data. Many courses in statistics mix together the teaching of technical proficiency and theoretical knowledge of statistics. This course, instead, will focus primarily in the first: building your skills in data science using the statistical programming language R. This class assumes no background in statistics, political science, or computer science. The hope is that students will continue to build on the skills learned in this class through other coursework in statistics. Indeed, this course is the entry point for the Survey Research and Data Analytics minor offered by the Program on Opinion Research and Election Studies (PORES).

110-001
Mondays & Wednesdays

Comparative Politics

Vitalis, R
11 am – 12 pm

This course is designed to introduce students to comparative political analysis. How can the political behavior, circumstances, institutions, and dynamic patterns of change that people experience in very different societies be analyzed using the same set of concepts and theories?

112-401**Socialism****Orenstein, M****Tuesdays & Thursdays****9 am – 10:30 am*****SCHEDULED WITH REES 133***

Socialism has become a hot topic in US politics. Some advocate it as an ideology that supports economic equality; others decry it as a path towards excessive state control. But what does the word socialism really mean? Why does it seem to mean different things to different people? What is the historical background of socialism? Are there meaningful differences between different forms of socialism or are they more or less the same thing? Which societies are socialist in practice, both past and present? What about the US: What are the different proposals US and other Socialists make today? What is their logic? How socialist are they? Are their policy ideas or bad? What effects would they have? This course will introduce students to socialism in theory and practice, with an emphasis on different models of Western social democracy and how they are impacting political discourse right now.

131-001**American Foreign Policy****Horowitz, M****Mondays & Wednesdays****2 pm – 3 pm**

Who makes US foreign policy? What are the “interests” of the United States? What sort of strategies are most likely to lead to success for the United States when it acts abroad? This course will cover those and other questions. In addition to studying the history of US foreign policy, the course will cover many current issues that face the United States, including: COVID-19, the war against ISIS, trade policy & development, the rise of China, climate change, nuclear proliferation and arms control, and others. These questions are of special importance given global turmoil and increasing concern about the sustainability of American power. The course presumes that you have a general knowledge of modern American history, but there are no formal course prerequisites.

152-001**International Political Economy****Davis, J****Tuesdays & Thursdays****3 pm – 4 pm**

This course examines the politics of international economic relations. The course will analyze the interplay between politics and economics in three broad areas: international trade, international finance, and economic development. In each section, we will first discuss economic theories that explain the causes and consequences of international commerce, capital flows, and economic growth. We will then explore how political interests, institutions, and ideas alter these predictions, examining both historical examples and current policy debates.

181-001**Modern Political Thought****Goldman, L****ASYNCH LECTURES**

This lecture serves as an introduction to a number of figures and themes in modern Western political thought spanning from the Renaissance to the 20th century. It aims to give students a sense of the scope of the Western tradition along with many of the debates within it. Thinkers treated will include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, and others, with an emphasis on questions about the relationship between nature and convention as well as the relationship between the individual and society. Other fundamental questions covered include the nature of freedom, equality, justice, property, and revolution.

207-001 **Applied Data Science** **Lapinski, J**
Tuesdays & Thursdays **10:30 am – 12 pm**

Jobs in data science are quickly proliferating throughout nearly every industry in the American economy. The purpose of this class is to build the statistics, programming, and qualitative skills that are required to excel in data science. The substantive focus of the class will largely be on topics related to politics and elections, although the technical skills can be applied to any subject matter. (Pre-req: PSCI 107 or PSCI 338)

208-401 **International Organization in Latin American** **Bartch, C**
Tuesdays & Thursdays **3 pm – 4:30 pm**
SCHEDULED WITH LALS 208

International organizations (IOs) play a powerful role in mitigating conflict at the global level. What role do they play in solving problems related to politics, economic development, corruption, inequality, and civil society in Latin America? How much power, influence, and control do they possess in the region? This course examines the role and impact international organizations have had on Latin America since the mid-20th century. After a review of theoretical perspectives on the significance of IOs in inter-American affairs, students will examine the workings, issues, and controversies surrounding IOs in Latin America, including the IMF, World Bank, UN, OAS, and ICC as well as regional organizations such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and area trade blocs and agreements of Mercosur, NAFTA, Pacific Alliance, ALBA, and others. Students will also explore the regional impact of civil society and human rights organizations. Students will also participate in the Washington Model OAS simulation.

212-001 **Development and Democracy in India** **Thachil, T**
Mondays & Wednesday **2 pm – 3 pm**

This course introduces students to the complex issues surrounding questions of political and economic development in India, the world's largest democracy. Over the course of the semester, we will use the concrete experiences from the past seven decades in India to ask and answer fundamental questions about the issues that drive politics and economic policy within this billion-person polity. Topics covered will include the relationship between democracy and growth, identity politics, poverty and inequality, and urbanization and migration.

213-401 **Latin American Politics** **Falleti, T**
Mondays & Wednesdays **2 pm – 3 pm**
SCHEDULED WITH LALS 213

This course examines the dynamics of political and economic change in twentieth century Latin America, with the goal of achieving an understanding of contemporary politics in the region. We will analyze topics such as the incorporation of the region to the international economy and the consolidation of oligarchic states (1880s to 1930s), corporatism, populism, and elitist pacts (1930s and 1940s), social revolution, democratic breakdown, and military rule (1960s and 1970s), transitions to democracy and human rights advocacy (1980s) market-oriented reforms (1990s), and the turn to the left of current governments (200s). The course will draw primarily from the experiences of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico. No prior knowledge of the region is required.

215-001
Thursdays

The European Union
Arguments and Evidence

O'Leary, B
10:30 am – 12 pm

This course will be taught experimentally in 2020. The object is to understand the European Union through UK exit (so-called "Brexit"). On October 1 2019 it was not known whether the UK's exit would happen on October 31 2019. Likewise, whether exit would occur with (or without) a formal withdrawal agreement with the EU-27. These matters may be unclear when this course starts, but in all scenarios the impacts will be long-term. The UK's exit negotiations provide an excellent opportunity to interpret the EU—and to understand why it is said, fairly or otherwise, that the provincial English, i.e., those living outside big cities, are just starting to understand the EU. The course begins with a capsule history of Europe and the EU, and of the structure and functioning of the EU's core institutions. We address whether the EU is or is becoming a novel political formation, a state, a super-state, a federation, an empire, or a confederation. The UK's volatile relationship with European integration, beginning in the 1940s, is explored up until the referendum of June 2016, and after. How a long-run internal crisis within the Conservative party interacted with crises within the EU and the Eurozone is part of our focus. Other topics to be treated include the expansion of the EU; the failure of the European Constitution and its replacement by the Lisbon Treaty; the EU's alleged crises of democratic legitimacy; the crises that the Euro has survived; and refugee & migration crises. Lastly, we consider whether the UK's possible secession from the European Union will trigger the break-up of the UK's two internal unions, that of Great Britain, and that between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

217-401
Mondays & Wednesday

Russian Politics

Sil, R
3 pm – 4 pm

SCHEDULED WITH PSCI 517 and REES 217

This course examines Russian politics, with an eye to how political, economic and social changes have been engineered, experienced, and perceived by Russians. This necessarily entails a consideration of historical baselines, including the Soviet era. Thus, the first part of the course, which runs up until Spring Break, examines the origins and evolution of the Soviet regime from Lenin to Gorbachev. The second part delves into the evolution of post-Soviet Russia in the domains of politics, economics, society and foreign policy, first during the early years of transition under Boris Yeltsin, and then under Vladimir Putin. In this section, we will cover Russia's "hybrid" political system, the fluctuations in economic growth, and changing social conditions over time. In the process, we will also consider the origins and role of oligarchs, patterns of political protest, social/demographic trends and the management of Russia's energy resources. In all these domains, we will consider what the empirical evidence suggests relative to the images that are most commonly presented in the West and to other comparable countries from outside the West. We will also seek to better understand the drivers of Russia's foreign policy and the sources of the sharp decline in US-Russia relations, with a focus on the prospects for rebuilding pragmatic forms of cooperation between Russia and the West after a series of problematic encounters – including the ongoing turmoil in eastern Ukraine, the showdown over sanctions and election interference, and ongoing competition for greater influence in different regions of the world. In all these areas, attention will be paid to different comparative referents in a changing global context. For those with graduate standing and/or advanced background in Russian studies, graduate credit is available.

This course will have live lectures during the assigned, class time; however, lectures will be recorded and available on Canvas. Attendance is not required at lectures which is why the class time has been removed from the registrar.

220-001
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Slow Moving Crises

Jones-Correa, M
3 pm – 4:30 pm

The course will focus on ‘slow-moving policy crises’ (such as climate change, population growth/change, water availability, etc.). Each of these areas involved a policy area with a seemingly high probability of negative consequences where the need for policy coordination seems clear but the pressures for coordination are often somewhat removed, since the consequences of policy action or inaction may be felt only years down the road. How should politicians and policy makers evaluate the appropriate response to the problems posed by these processes? If the usual policy making framework is inadequate to responding to these kinds of processes and the problems they pose, then how can the institutions and processes of policy-making be amended to allow for improvement? What lessons can be drawn from other fields (psychology, economics, political science, sociology, etc.) and other decision-making arenas?

229-301
Thursdays

China’s Political Economy

Hou, Y
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Since China embarked on its economic reform in 1978, the Chinese economy has grown at an unprecedented annual rate of 9.5 percent for more than three decades. More than 500 million people were lifted out of poverty. China is now the second largest economy in the world, the world’s largest trading nation, and the holder of the biggest foreign exchange reserves.

In this seminar course, we will examine the political logic behind China’s economic growth. We will cover topics of political economy including: the institutional foundations of growth, the political logic of China’s economic reform, bureaucracy, corruption/anti-corruption, integration into the world economy, social welfare, among others.

PSCI219 or some knowledge of China’s history, political system and the economy is required. Knowledge of Chinese language or culture will be beneficial.

236-401
Mondays & Wednesdays

Public Policy Process

Meredith, M
10 am – 11 am

SCHEDULED WITH PPE 312

This course introduces students to the theories and practice of the policy-making process. There are four primary learning objectives. First, understanding how the structure of political institutions matter for the policies that they produce. Second, recognizing the constraints that policymakers face when making decisions on behalf of the public. Third, identifying strategies that can be used to overcome these constraints. Fourth, knowing the toolbox that is available to participants in the policy-making process to help get their preferred policies implemented. While our focus will primarily be on American political institutions, many of the ideas and topics discussed in the class apply broadly to other democratic systems of government. Students will be evaluated based on two policy memos, a final exam, and participation in recitation sections. This class will have asynchronous lectures and synchronous recitation sections.

237-001
Tuesdays & Thursdays

The American Presidency

Gottschalk, M
10:30 am – 11:30 am

This course surveys the institutional development of the American presidency from the Constitutional convention to today. It examines the politics of presidential leadership, how the executive branch functions, and the tensions between the presidency, leadership, and democracy. This course will be taught synchronously and attendance at lecture and discussions sections is mandatory.

258-001
Mondays & Wednesdays

Human Rights

Doherty-Sil, E
1 pm – 2 pm

What exactly should be considered a fundamental "human right"? What is the basis for something is a fundamental human right? This course will examine not only broad conceptual debates, but will also focus on specific issue areas (e.g., civil rights, economic rights, women's rights), as well as the question of how new rights norms emerge in international relations.

259-301
Tuesdays

Chinese Foreign Policy

Goldstein, A
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

This seminar examines the influences on and patterns of China's international relations. Topics to be covered include the following: theoretical approaches to analyzing foreign policy; the historical legacy and evolution of China's foreign policy; contemporary China's foreign policy addressing traditional national security concerns as well as economic interests and issues of global governance (e.g., climate change, public health, cyber and internet regulations); China's military modernization; China's relations with the United States; and, China's role in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Important message for Spring 2021: The class is a small seminar (capped at 14 students) in which student preparation and participation are essential. While we are limited to online learning, each week the seminar will meet in a live (synchronous) Zoom session for two hours. Before each seminar meeting, students will be responsible for viewing a recording that will be posted on the course website. Early in the semester, these recordings will be lectures by the professor. Later in the semester, these recordings will be student presentations of brief papers addressing supplemental reading about the week's topic.

Finally, many of you will be taking classes while living outside the US. I encourage you to review this course description and, when it is available, review the course syllabus to decide if, in light of your own country's laws, you are willing and able to take this class and complete all of its requirements.

Students planning to enroll in the course should email the instructor (agoldstn@upenn.edu) to request a permit. Priority in issuing permits will be given to students who have taken PSCI 219 (or its equivalent).

260-001 **Ethics and International Relations** **Pollack, M**
Wednesdays **ASYNC**
LECTURES

This course offers an introduction to ethical issues in international relations. In it, we ask whether morality, as opposed to interests, should play any role in international affairs – and if so, *which* morality and what rules should apply, and what the international community, states, and individual citizens should do in response to the great moral challenges of our time, including war, violence, war crimes, poverty, inequality, human rights violations, and climate change.

272-001 **American Constitutional Law** **Smith, R**
Mondays & Wednesdays **3 pm – 4 pm**

This course explores the structures, purposes, and transformations in the American constitutional system from World War I to the present. Issues include the division of powers between state and national governments and the branches of the federal government; economic powers of private actors and governmental regulators; the authority of governments to enforce or reduce racial and gender hierarchies; and the extent of religious and expressive freedoms, privacy rights, and rights of persons accused of crimes.

313-401 **People of the Land: Indigeneity** **Falleti, T**
Mondays & Wednesdays **and Politics in Argentina and Chile** **5 pm – 6:30 pm**
SCHEDULED WITH LALS 313

This undergraduate seminar compares the evolution of relations between settler colonial nation-states and indigenous people and movements throughout the Americas, with a particular focus on the Mapuche people of the Patagonia region, in the south of nowadays Argentina and Chile. The main goal of the course is to comparatively study the organization of indigenous communities and analyze their political demands regarding pluractionality, self-determination, territory, prior consultation, living well, and intercultural education and health care, as well as the different ways in which settler colonial nation-states accommodate or respond to such demands. The course is organized in three parts. The first part of the course studies indigenous rights in international law and in global affairs, particularly in the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and the international Labor Organization. The second part of the course studies indigenous organization, movements, parties, and political representation in Latin America since the 1990s when indigenous demands acquired national and international notoriety throughout Latin America. The third part of the course zooms in a comparative analysis of the relationship between the Mapuche (Maipu: land; -Che: people) and the formation and evolution of the settler colonial nation -states in Argentina and Chile. Once international travel resumes, the course will have an eight-day travel component. Students will travel to the south of Argentina to visit indigenous Mapuche communities to experience and learn first-hand about their culture, intercultural education and health, recuperation of identity and language practices, difference models of economic sustainability, and of territorial claims and arrangements – including co-management between indigenous communities and the National Parks system.

330-301
Mondays

Politics & Power/Policy Making in DC

Martinez, D
7 pm – 8 pm

Designed to complement a policy internship, this two-credit course will focus on content and skills that are likely to be useful in typical Washington offices. Students will develop literacy on the most pressing policy topics and will work on writing and presentation skills. All students will participate in a virtual DC-based internship for at least ten hours a week. The course is composed of mostly asynchronous modules with a few synchronous meetings. There is significant coursework and more regular meeting times over the first month of semester, providing preparation for internships and then allowing more time for internships once the semester is underway. Students will also need to spend time before the semester begins securing their internship. I strongly encourage students to email me as soon as they register for the course.

332-401
Thursdays

Survey Research & Design

Dutwin, D
3 pm – 6 pm

SCHEDULED WITH COMM 332

Survey research is a small but rich academic field and discipline, drawing on theory and practice from many diverse fields including political science, communication, sociology, psychology, and statistics. Surveys are perhaps the most ubiquitous tool of measurement in the social sciences today. Successful practitioners develop expertise in the art and science of survey methodology, including sampling theory and practice, questionnaire instrument development and operationalization, and the analysis and reporting of survey data. Survey researchers are scientists of the method itself, testing various practices by which surveys can be improved upon, as well as developing a keen understanding of the nature of error in surveys and how to control it.

This course is a canvas course on survey research and design, highly experiential but also based upon introductory statistical theory and analysis.

398-301
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Congress & The President

Dauster, W
3 pm – 4 pm

How do the Constitution's checks and balances work in practice? And where are they not working? This course examines the fault lines between Washington's two most powerful institutions — Congress and the President — how they clash, and where they work together. Students learn how Congress and the President share and compete for power in lawmaking, spending, investigations, nominations, foreign policy, and impeachment. The course is designed to foster skills in formulating strategies for conducting policy in an environment of institutions competing for power.

398-302
Wednesdays

PIW: International Policymaking

Denburg, A
6 pm – 9 pm

This course will provide students with an in-depth, practical analysis of foreign policy and foreign policy making, with a view from Washington. It will also provide a baseline global literacy, through the lens of emerging ideas, institutions, interests, and actors, and focus on a framework for understanding shifts already underway in how Washington views the world. We will utilize less traditional resources, and instead, focus on practical and “real-world” course material as well as less non-traditional instruction methods – utilizing and analyzing the sources and resources that policy makers in Washington rely upon. These include, long-form journalism, official government documents, hearings and Congressional debate, think tank products, and news sources. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of guest-speakers, all of whom have held senior official and non-governmental roles in American foreign policy making and influencing. Guest speakers will provide unique insight into their own experiences at the highest levels of foreign policy making and advocacy, and offer guidance as to how to pursue careers in foreign policy, national security, and international development.

398-303
Mondays

Language Power & Violence

Shafer, M
3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Recent decades have seen an explosion of attention to how language, speech, and discourse can inflict harm, function as forms of power, and even embody violence in everyday life. Activists and academics alike have drawn on ideas such as *hate speech*, *epistemic violence*, and *power-knowledge* to identify, theorize, and contest the workings of language in relation to conflict, identity, oppression, and expression. But the major contemporary approaches to understanding power and discourse (or language and harm) are sometimes in tension with each other, for they often presume different theories of language, draw on competing accounts of violence and power, and are oriented toward divergent political and ethical projects. To understand how such theories should inform contemporary debates about freedom of speech, the dynamics of activist movements, and the politics of culture, we must understand how each approach works, where its insights are strongest, and what its weaknesses might be. This course therefore intensively surveys major approaches in philosophy and social theory to understanding language, violence, and power. We will examine what each approach makes visible about language and what each approach likewise makes it harder to see, and we will analyze the relationships—both complementary and contradictory—between competing accounts. Readings from J. L. Austin, Judith Butler, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Michel Foucault, Miranda Fricker, Charles R. Lawrence, Catharine MacKinnon, Ferdinand de Saussure, Gayatri Spivak, Ludwig Wittgenstein, etc.

398-304
Tuesdays

China & The World 21st Century

Moore, S
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Over the past forty years, China has become a country of first-rank economic, political, and military importance. But while much of the focus on “China’s rise” has focused on its security and economic dimensions, China’s role in fundamentally global environmental, scientific, and technological issues are increasingly animating politics both within China and outside its borders. This course will examine the “China dimension” of key global scientific, technological, and environmental issues and trends. Its focus will be global rather than China-specific, and will explore the political implications and dynamics of China’s growing role in fundamentally global issue areas and sectors. It will moreover focus not on traditional fields like trade and security, but instead on newer and emerging ones like climate change and artificial intelligence. In terms of literature and concepts, the seminar will broadly cover material from three subfields that fall under the American Political Science Association Section 15: science and technology studies, innovation studies, and environmental politics. This course will be conducted in a seminar format, and will be divided into two main parts, one focused on environmental issues, and the second on science and technology.

398-305
Wednesdays

International Organization

Lee, B
3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

This course is a seminar on international cooperation and international organizations (IOs) for students of international relations. The primary purpose of the course is to enhance students’ understanding of the ways in which IOs facilitate or hinder international cooperation. How and to what extent have IOs been used in resolving conflicts between nations? How have IOs facilitated the achievement of common goals (i.e. climate change)? Can we facilitate international cooperation by changing the design features of IOs? How do IOs interact with domestic political systems? The emphasis throughout the course is on the role of politics on understanding why IOs operate as they do and on recent episodes that illustrate the issues.

398-306
Wednesdays

Japan: Politics and Power

Smith, S
5 pm – 8 pm

Japan’s rise to major power status in the first half of the 20th century ended in war and defeat in 1945, and yet in the second half, the Japanese people rebuilt their nation to once again achieve global renown as an economic superpower. Today, Japan marshals an array of instruments as it seeks to navigate the increasingly complex geopolitics of Asia. This course will examine how domestic politics in Japan have shaped the nature of Japan’s international power in the postwar era. Particular attention will be paid to domestic debates on Japan’s relations with the United States, with its neighbors in Asia – including China and the Koreans – as well as Japan’s increasingly important ties with nations outside of Asia. It will conclude by comparing Japan’s foreign policy strengths and weakness during three phases of the postwar world order: The Cold War, the post Cold War, and today’s era of emerging U.S.-China strategic competition.

410-401	Race & Racism Contemporary	Hanchard, M
Thursdays	World	1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
<i>SCHEDULED WITH AFRC 465 and LALS 465</i>		

This undergraduate seminar is for advanced undergraduates seeking to make sense of the upsurge in racist activism, combined with authoritarian populism and neo-fascist mobilization in many parts of the world. Contemporary manifestations of the phenomena noted above will be examined in a comparative and historical perspective to identify patterns and anomalies across various multiple nation-states. France, The United States, Britain, and Italy will be the countries examined.

437-401	Race & Criminal Justice	Gottschalk, M
Tuesdays		1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
<i>SCHEDULED WITH AFRC 437. AFRC 638 and PSCI 638</i>		

This advanced-level seminar analyzes the politics of "crime in the streets" and "crime in the suites." Key topics include the causes and consequences of mass incarceration; the rise of the carceral state; racial, economic, and gender disparities in punishment; similarities and differences between how crime in the streets and crime in the suites are punished; the Great Recession; the opioid crisis; and environmental crimes and global warming. It is designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate and professional students. This course will be talk synchronously and attendance is mandatory.

498-301	How Divided is America	Levendusky, M
Tuesdays		1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

We hear every day that Americans are deeply, perhaps irrevocably, divided. Congress has become almost completely dysfunctional, with partisan bickering more common than actual legislating. Even ordinary voters seem to be increasingly divided, and they do not just disagree on the issues, but they actively dislike and distrust one another.

How did we get here? Just how divided are we, why did these divisions occur, and what are their consequences? Is there anything we can do to overcome them? The class begins by exploring the origins of elite polarization, focusing on Congress, and then delves into the literature on mass polarization. We explore how a wide variety of changes in politics, the media, and society—ranging from the rise of issue activists, the growth of social media, and changes in America's religious landscape—factor into how American politics has changed in the past few generations. We'll draw on readings from Political Science, Economics, History, Sociology, and Communications to help us unpack what has changed, and why that matters.

Responsibilities for the class include careful parsing of each week's assigned readings (roughly 200 pages per week), active participation in each week's discussion, 4 short response papers, a midterm essay exam, and a final research paper.

498-302
Wednesdays

Key Questions in Political Theory

Green, J
2 pm – 5 pm

This course is a basic introduction to certain fundamental topics in political theory. It aims to provide students with concepts and ideas by which to more clearly make sense of political reality. In general, the course proceeds by elucidating major distinctions, such as: ancient vs. modern; deontology vs. consequentialism; “Athens” vs. “Jerusalem” (or: reason vs. revelation); thinking vs. knowing; liberalism vs. democracy; sovereign power vs. disciplinary power; being secular vs. being a secularist; politics as subset of morality vs. political responsibility as requiring the transgression of morality; the grounds of legitimate authority (tradition vs. legal-rational vs. charisma); etc. Overall, the course has three goals: (i) to introduce students to alternate approaches to the practice of political theory; (ii) to introduce students to numerous relatively self-contained debates important to contemporary political theorists; and (iii) to address major figures from the history of political thought, with an eye toward explaining what makes them vital to political theorists today.

498-303
Wednesdays

Election Law: 2020 Election

Meredith, M
2 pm – 5 pm

The 2020 highlighted the importance of the laws governing the administration of elections in the United States. This class consists of two parts. First, we will learn about how the constitution, important historical laws, and court cases have structured the conduct of elections in the United States. Second, we will examine how these laws guided how election administrators and courts thought about changes to election administration during the 2020 primaries and the presidential election. Topics covered include voting rights, representation and (re)districting, ballot access, corruption, and campaign finance.

Grades will be based on class participation, an in-class presentation, and multiple writing assignments.

552-301
Thursdays

Game Theory

Weisiger, A
9 am – 12 pm

This course provides an introduction to non-cooperative game theory and its applications to political science. The goal of the course is to provide students with the background and understanding necessary to read published game-theoretic work in political science journals. To that end, the course covers the basic concepts of game theory, including Nash equilibrium and its main refinements, simultaneous and sequential games, repeated games, and games of incomplete and private information. In addition, we will cover some of the central models used in political science, notably models of public choice (such as the median voter theorem) and models of bargaining and conflict.