

Yale University
Political Science Department
2017-2018 Provisional Course Listing

*Course numbers ending with “a” will be offered in the fall and those ending with “b” will be offered in the spring.

Empirical Analysis and Research Methodology

PLSC 500a, Quantitative Methods I: Research Design and Data Analysis Alexander Coppock

The first course in the Ph.D.-level sequence in quantitative methods. It provides a rigorous grounding in social-scientific research design, beginning with the specification of estimands or targets of inference. Modern computational approaches to data analysis and visualization are emphasized, with frequent practical application to political science datasets in the statistical programming language R. Topics include regression, classification, measurement, dimension reduction, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, permutation inference, prediction, and Monte Carlo simulation.

MW 9:00-10:15

PLSC 503b, Quantitative Methods II: Foundations of Statistical Inference Peter Aronow

An intensive introduction to statistical theory for quantitative social inquiry. Topics include foundations of probability theory, statistical inference from random samples, estimation theory, linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, and nonparametric identification.

HTBA

PLSC 504a, Advanced Quantitative Methods Fredrik Sävje

The aim of this course is to provide students with the understanding and tools to critically consume and conduct statistical research. The theme is the challenge of drawing reliable causal inference. We will learn: how to use graphical methods to transparently analyze and present data; how to discipline our analyses against multiple-comparisons bias; how to use nonparametric methods to avoid implausible assumptions; how strong research design is essential to causal inference; how Bayesian inference provides the mathematical vocabulary for thinking about scientific inference; how causal graphs allow us to express and analyze causal assumptions, choose control variables, and think about selection bias; how placebo tests allow us to test assumptions; how to build and understand Likelihood and Bayesian models including Logistic and Probit models; how to think about and analyze time-series cross-sectional data. We will review instrumental variables methods and regression-discontinuity designs, though it is assumed that you have already covered these in [PLSC 503](#). The course assumes students have command of the material covered in [PLSC 500](#) and [PLSC 503](#), including basic probability

As of August 29, 2017

theory, matrix algebra, and the linear regression model.
MW 2:30-3:45

PLSC 505a / SOCY 508a, Qualitative Field Research Elisabeth Wood

In this seminar we discuss and practice qualitative field research methods. The course covers the basic techniques for collecting, interpreting, and analyzing ethnographic data, with an emphasis on the core ethnographic techniques of participant observation and in-depth interviewing. All participants carry out a local research project. Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

T 9:25-11:15

PLSC 508b, Causal Inference and Research Design Peter Aronow

This seminar exposes students to cutting-edge empirical and statistical research across the social and health sciences, with a focus on topics relevant to causal questions in the domain of political science. The class features five or six presentations by visiting speakers (primarily faculty at other universities) who discuss their work. When visiting speakers are not present (roughly every other week), lectures and discussions focus on selected methodological topics, including experimental design, partial identification, design-based inference, network analysis, semiparametric efficiency theory, and qualitative/mixed-methods research. Statistical training at the level of [PLSC 503](#) is expected, though training in probability theory at the level of S&DS 541 or [ECON 550](#) is suggested.

HTBA

PLSC 510a, Introduction to the Study of Politics Elisabeth Wood

The course introduces students to some of the major controversies in political science. We focus on the five substantive themes that make up the Yale Initiative: Order, Conflict, and Violence; Representation and Popular Rule; Crafting and Operating Institutions; Identities, Affiliations, and Allegiances; and Distributive Politics. We divide our time between discussing readings on these subjects and conversations with different members of the faculty who specialize in them. There is also some attention to methodological controversies within the discipline.

Requirements: an annotated bibliography of one of the substantive themes and a take-home final exam.

M 1:30-3:20

PLSC 512b, Introduction to Experimental Methods in Political Science Alexander Coppock

An introduction to experimental methods as they can be used to study politics. Exploration of strengths and weaknesses of experimental and nonexperimental studies. Applications include the effects of television advertising, formation of political attitudes, and causes of voter turnout. Students participate in the design and implementation of an experiment. Knowledge of introductory statistics helpful but not required.

HTBA

As of August 29, 2017

PLSC 518b, Introduction to Game Theory Alexandre Debs

This course offers a rigorous introduction to noncooperative game theory. The goal of the course is to help students understand the key concepts and ideas in game theory and to provide students with a road map for applying game theoretic tools to their own research. Topics include strategic form games, extensive form games, and Bayesian games, among others. Students are assumed to have mathematical knowledge at the level of the Political Science Math Camp.

HTBA

PLSC 522b / SOCY 503b, Historical Approaches to the Study of Politics Steven Wilkinson

An overview of the how-to, and the payoff, of a historical approach to the study of politics. The course covers a wide range of topics, from the classics of political science and sociology to recent comparative historical work.

HTBA

PLSC 530a or b / S&DS 530a or b, Data Exploration and Analysis Staff

Survey of statistical methods: plots, transformations, regression, analysis of variance, clustering, principal components, contingency tables, and time series analysis. The R computing language and Web data sources are used.

TTh 9am-10:15am

PLSC 540a and PLSC 541b, Research and Writing Greg Huber and Ian Shapiro

This is a required course for all second-year students. It meets for the first six weeks of the fall term and the first six weeks of the spring term. The fall meetings are devoted to discussion of research design as well as individual student projects. The spring meetings are devoted to discussion of drafts of student papers. The work of the spring-term seminar includes criticism of the organization, arguments, data evaluation, and writing in each student's paper by the instructors and the other students. Using this criticism, and under the supervision of the instructors, each student conducts additional research, if necessary, rewrites the paper as required, and prepares a final paper representing the best work of which the student is capable. Students must submit a one-page outline of the proposed project for the first fall-term meeting and a complete draft of the paper at the first meeting in the spring.

TH 9:25-11:15

Political Theory

PLSC 553a, Social Justice Bruce Ackerman

An examination of contemporary theories, together with an effort to assess their practical implications. Authors this year include Peter Singer, Richard Posner, John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Michael Walzer, Marion Young, Avishai Margalit, and Cass Sunstein. Topics: animal rights, the status of children and the principles of educational policy, the relation of market justice to distributive justice, the status of affirmative action, and the rise of technocracy. Self-

As of August 29, 2017

scheduled examination or paper option. Follows Law School academic calendar. Also [LAW 20104](#).
MT 4:10-6:00

PLSC 565a, Democracy and Distribution Ian Shapiro

The attention showered in 2015 on Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* brought issues of inequality in the distribution of income and wealth to the forefront of public and scholarly attention. An enormous body of research has been produced over the past two decades to understand the nature of the dramatic rise in inequality, especially in the United States, and its causes. A long list of proposals for legal change has emerged in response to the outpouring of data and analysis. This course explores the facts and the causes of and political barriers to potential responses to these recent developments, principally but not exclusively in the United States. Ultimately, the question requires an examination of the relations between democracy and the distribution of income and wealth. Particular attention is paid to the ways in which different groups, classes, and coalitions affect, and are affected by, democratic distributive politics. Attention is paid to theories of distribution, politics of distribution, distributive instruments, and the implementation of policies affecting distribution. Substantive topics covered include regulation, protectionism, taxes, social insurance, welfare, public opinion, education, and unions. Follows Law School academic calendar.
M 2:00-4:00

PLSC 605a / PHIL 663a, Rethinking Sovereignty: Human Rights and Globalization

The crises of sovereignty and the end of sovereignty have been discussed in law, political science, and philosophy. Post-nationalist, cosmopolitan, as well as neoliberal critics of sovereignty abound. This course discusses alternative models of sovereignty, ranging from democratic iterations to popular constitutionalism, and considers the implications of these models for the definition and enforcement of rights. Recent developments in the U.S. and the European Union law regarding immigration and refugee issues are a special focus. Readings include Hobbes, Kant, Schmitt, Arendt, Kelsen, Habermas, Waldron, Walker, and Benveniste. Also [LAW 20662](#).
Th 10:30am-12:30pm

PLSC 611b / PHIL 657b, Recent Work on Justice Thomas Pogge

In-depth study of one contemporary book, author, or debate in political philosophy, political theory, or normative economics. Depending on student interest, this might be a ground-breaking new book, the life's work of a prominent author, or an important theme in contemporary political thought.
M 3:30pm-5:20pm

PLSC 642a, Tocqueville Bryan Garsten

A close reading of Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, along with major influences, such as Rousseau, Pascal, and Montesquieu, and near contemporaries, including Constant,

As of August 29, 2017

Guizot, and Marx.
T 1:30-3:20

PLSC 649b, The Political Philosophy of Rousseau Steven Smith

Close reading of some of the major works of Rousseau, concentrating on his political theory, his writings on education and the family, and his conception of the philosophic life. Consideration of interpretations of Rousseau from the past century.
HTBA

International Relations

PLSC 656a / GLBL 579a, Global Governance Yuriy Sergeyev

Examination of global policy problems, the acceleration of interdependence, and the role, potential, and limits of the institutions of global governance to articulate collective interests and to work out cooperative problem-solving arrangements. Consideration of gaps in global governance and controversies between globalization and state sovereignty, universality, and tradition.
W 1:30-3:20

PLSC 662a, Strategy, Technology, and War Paul Bracken

An integrated, comprehensive examination of technology and strategy in the field of national security. Key concepts—technology strategy, macro-organizational behavior, strategic posture—describe the international strategic environment. Analysis of the changing structure of defense in light of new dynamics: a second nuclear age; the spread of advanced technologies to China, India, militia groups, etc.; network-centric and information warfare; private equity investment in defense and intelligence; and a shifting locus of innovation to lower-tier firms. This interdisciplinary course crosses boundaries of management, politics, and economics.
MW 11:35am-12:50pm

PLSC 676a, Global Climate Governance Detlef Sprinz

An overview of global climate governance, including overarching conceptual frameworks, a variety of empirical subdomains, interlinkages with other policy fields, and modeling central challenges encountered in global climate governance. Students prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the term. T 9:25-11:15

PLSC 695a, International Relations: Concepts and Theories Nuno Monteiro

As of August 29, 2017

The course examines theories of international relations and evaluates empirical evidence in favor of or against those theories. It surveys the main theoretical traditions in international relations and considers how empirical methods can be used to identify causation in the international relations field. Students acquire broad familiarity with the diverse literature in this field, learn to identify opportunities for new research, and apply rigorous methodology to evaluate theoretical claims. The course is designed for students who plan to pursue doctoral-level research in international relations and want to pass the Ph.D. qualifying exam in the field.

T 1:30-3:20

PLSC 696b, International Relations: Research Design Jason Lyall

This course introduces students to the various methodological challenges that arise while conducting empirical research in international relations as well as possible research designs for overcoming them. This course, which builds directly on [PLSC 695](#), draws heavily, though not exclusively, on research issues that arise in the subfield of international security. Each week we tackle a key debate: proposed topics include (1) explaining the origins, conduct, and outcomes of inter- and intrastate wars; (2) the sources of military effectiveness; (3) the uses and limits of coercive diplomacy; and (4) the effects of transnational forces and actors. We use these debates as springboards for broader discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of different research approaches, including experimental, quasi-experimental, observational, and interview and archival-based work. [PLSC 695](#) is strongly recommended.

HTBA

PLSC 698a, International Political Economy Didac Queralt

This course examines how domestic and international politics influence the economic relations between states. It addresses the major theoretical debates in the field and introduces the chief methodological approaches used in contemporary analyses. We focus attention on four types of cross-border flows and the policies and international institutions that regulate them: the flow of goods (trade policy), the flow of capital (financial and exchange rate policy), the flow and location of production (foreign investment policy), and the flow of people (immigration policy).

F 1:30-3:20

Comparative Politics

PLSC 709a, Comparative Constitutional Law Bruce Ackerman

An effort to define the key concepts adequate for an evaluation of the worldwide development of modern constitutionalism since the Second World War. Enrollment limited. Follows Law School academic calendar.

TH 2:10-4:00

As of August 29, 2017

PLSC 734a or b / SOCY 560a or b, Comparative Research Workshop Julia Adams

This weekly workshop is dedicated to group discussion of work-in-progress by visiting scholars, Yale graduate students, and in-house faculty from Sociology and affiliated disciplines. Papers are distributed a week ahead of time and also posted on the website of the Center for Comparative Research (<http://ccr.yale.edu>). Students who take the course for a letter grade are expected to present a paper-in-progress the term that they are enrolled for credit.

T 11:50-1:20pm

PLSC 738a, Turkish Politics Aysen Candas

Issues in Turkish politics. Continuity and change in historical institutional legacies with specific focus on the internal contradictions between these legacies, such as Ottomanism, Kemalism, secular vs. religious nationalism, and Islamism. Elaboration of major issues of Turkey's "divided society" concerning the ends of state, secularism vs. Islamism, top-down reformism vs. majoritarianism, and minority rights.

T 3:30-5:20

PLSC 755b, European Politics David Cameron

Comparison of the political systems of the major European countries. Topics include political institutions, electoral politics and political parties, public policies, and contemporary problems.

HTBA

PLSC 756a, The European Union David Cameron

Origins and development of the European Community and Union over the past fifty years; ways in which the often conflicting ambitions of its member states have shaped the EU; relations between member states and the EU's supranational institutions and politics; and economic, political, and geopolitical challenges.

T 3:30-5:20

PLSC 766b, Politics and Markets Peter Swenson

Examination of the interplay between market and political processes in different substantive realms, time periods, and countries. Inquiry into the developmental relationship between capitalism and democracy, including the developmental and functional relationships between the two. Investigation of the politics of regulation in areas such as property rights; social security; international finance; and product, labor, and service markets. Topics include the economic motives of interest groups and coalitions in the political process.

HTBA

PLSC 777b Comparative Politics I: Research Design Katharine Baldwin

This course, the first in the yearlong introduction to the study of comparative politics for Ph.D. students in political science, examines the purpose and methodology of comparative inquiry.

As of August 29, 2017

Designed to introduce students to the study of comparative politics and to assist students in developing research topics and strategies, the course explores key themes—the origins of political regimes, the building of nations and states, ethnicity and nationalism, collective action, the politics of welfare states, and the logic of institutional change—through the critical reading and discussion of classic and contemporary works.

HTBA

PLSC 778a, Comparative Politics II Stathis Kalyvas

The second part of a two-part sequence designed to introduce graduate students to the fundamentals of comparative politics, including the major debates, topics, and methods.

PLSC 779a / ANTH 541a / HIST 965a, Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development Peter Perdue, Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan, and James Scott

An interdisciplinary examination of agrarian societies, contemporary and historical, Western and non-Western. Major analytical perspectives from anthropology, economics, history, political science, and environmental studies are used to develop a meaning-centered and historically grounded account of the transformations of rural society. Team-taught.

W 1:30pm-5:20pm

Political Economy

PLSC 712a, Comparative Political Economy Frances Rosenbluth

Introduction to issues in political economy across time and place. The field's diverse theoretical underpinnings and its place in the context of political science and of the social sciences more generally; theoretical perspectives such as materialism, institutionalism, and cognition/culture/beliefs; interactions between government and the economy in democratic and nondemocratic regimes and in developed and developing countries.

F 9:25-11:15

PLSC 714a, Corruption, Economic Development, and Democracy Susan Rose-Ackerman

A seminar on the link between political and bureaucratic institutions, on the one hand, and economic development, on the other. A particular focus is the impact of corruption on development and the establishment of democratic government. Enrollment limited to fifteen. Follows Law School academic calendar.

T 2:10-4:00

PLSC 717a, Business and Government after Communism Ian Shapiro

As of August 29, 2017

Reassessment of business's place in society—and its relations with government—in an era when alternatives to capitalism are moribund. Topics include the role of business in regime change, corruption and attempts to combat it, business and the provision of low-income housing and social services, and privatization of such core functions of government as prisons, the military, and local public services.

T 3:30-5:20pm

American Politics

PLSC 800a, Introduction to American Politics Jacob Hacker

An introduction to the analysis of U.S. politics. Approaches given consideration include institutional design and innovation, social capital and civil society, the state, attitudes, ideology, econometrics of elections, rational actors, formal theories of institutions, and transatlantic comparisons. Assigned authors include R. Putnam, T. Skocpol, J. Gerring, J. Zaller, D.R. Kiewiet, L. Bartels, D. Mayhew, K. Poole & H. Rosenthal, G. Cox & M. McCubbins, K. Krehbiel, E. Schickler, and A. Alesina. Students are expected to read and discuss each week's assignment and, for each of five weeks, to write a three- to five-page analytic paper that deals with a subject addressed or suggested by the reading.

M 3:30-5:20

PLSC 801a, Political Preferences and American Political Behavior John Henderson

Introduction to research methods and topics in American politics. Focus on ideas about choice that are useful for the study of politics. Topics include utility theory, heuristics and biases, proximity vs. directional voting, Bayesian updating, retrospective voting, priming and framing, the role of emotion, and the consequences of political ignorance.

W 1:30-3:20

PLSC 803a, American Politics III: Institutions Kelly Rader

A graduate-level course, open to undergraduates, designed to introduce students to research on American political institutions. We examine different explanations for and models of the sources of institutions, discuss their internal organization and governance, and consider the effects of institutions on outcomes of interest. Topics include alternatives to institutions, agenda-setting models, influences on bureaucratic decisions, the size of government and state building, congressional organization, the presidency, policy feedback and path dependence, and interest groups. Course work includes reading and writing assignments.

W 3:30-5:20

PLSC 828b / AMST 828b, American Political Development Stephen Skowronek

An examination of patterns of political change and institutional development in the United States. The course considers patterns of reform, the political construction of interests and

As of August 29, 2017

movements, problems of political culture, party building, and state building.
HTBA

PLSC 833a, Interest Groups, Money, and Influence in American Politics Ian Turner

What is the role of money in politics? How is it used to influence public policy? In this course we will read contemporary research by social scientists on topics including campaign finance, lobbying, and interest group formation and maintenance that help to answer these questions.
T 9:25-11:15

PLSC 836b, Formal Models of Accountability Ian Turner

This graduate course, open to advanced undergraduates, surveys key applications of game theory and related methods to the study of political/democratic accountability and representation. Topics we will cover include electoral competition, delegation, political agency, governmental veto players, and special interest politics. While the focus is on understanding applied work in American politics and political economy, previous training in game theory is required. Students will build upon their previous game theory training to become informed consumers of scholarship utilizing the methodology and begin to learn how to apply game-theoretic logic to their own work.
HTBA

PLSC 838b, Politics of the Environment Peter Swenson

Historical and contemporary politics aimed at regulating human behavior to limit damage to the environment. Goals, strategies, successes, and failures of movements, organizations, corporations, scientists, and politicians in conflicts over environmental policy. Focus on politics in the U.S., including the role of public opinion; attention to international regulatory efforts, especially with regard to climate change.
HTBA

PLSC 853a, U.S. National Elections David Mayhew

An investigation of electoral realignments, voting for president and Congress, voter turnout, incumbency advantage, nominations, and campaign finance. Paper.
W 1:30-3:20

PLSC 860b, Advanced Topics in Quantitative American Politics Greg Huber

This course reviews significant substantive findings and the most important recent developments in research design in quantitative American politics. The course provides a forum for students to initiate and complete a collaborative research project with the instructors. Prerequisite: although attention is not exclusively restricted to experimental research, enrollment requires permission of the instructor and is limited to students with an adequate statistics background and demonstrated research interest in work that focuses on empirical examination of causal relationships.
HTBA

As of August 29, 2017

PLSC 877a, Constitutional Courts Under Pressure Dieter Grimm

Currently, a number of democratic states are undergoing a transformation toward more authoritarian regimes. Often populist parties claim for themselves the exclusive representation of the will of the people. As a consequence, institutions that may exercise veto powers find themselves under pressure, especially constitutional courts or supreme courts with the power of judicial review. This is the case, for instance, in Hungary, Poland and Turkey. However, the phenomenon is not totally new. There are other examples in history, some with similar, some with different backgrounds (the US, Germany and Austria in the 1930s; Germany in the early years of the Federal Republic; Russia, Israel, some Latin American states more recently). In the course we will explore these cases with the purpose of finding out which forms the events took, whether similar patterns are at work, which arguments are used, and how successful they were.
MW 4:10-6:00

Research Workshops

PLSC 930a and PLSC 931b, American Politics Workshop Greg Huber, Kelly Rader

The course meets throughout the year in conjunction with the ISPS American Politics Workshop. It serves as a forum for graduate students in American politics to discuss current research in the field as presented by outside speakers and current graduate students. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
W 12pm-1:15pm

PLSC 932a and PLSC 933b, Comparative Politics Workshop Katharine Baldwin and Daniel Mattingly

A forum for the presentation of ongoing research by Yale graduate students, Yale faculty, and invited external speakers in a rigorous and critical environment. The workshop's methodological and substantive range is broad, covering the entire range of comparative politics. There are no formal presentations. Papers are read in advance by participants; a graduate student critically discusses the week's paper, the presenter responds, and discussion ensues. Detailed information can be found at <https://campuspress.yale.edu/cpworkshop>. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
T 12pm-1:20pm

PLSC 934a and PLSC 935b, Political Theory Workshop Seyla Benhabib, Karuna Mantena, and Hélène Landemore

An interdisciplinary forum that focuses on theoretical and philosophical approaches to the study of politics. The workshop seeks to engage with (and expose students to) a broad range of current scholarship in political theory and political philosophy, including work in the history of political

As of August 29, 2017

thought; theoretical investigations of contemporary political phenomena; philosophical analyses of key political concepts; conceptual issues in ethics, law, and public policy; and contributions to normative political theory. The workshop features ongoing research by Yale faculty members, visiting scholars, invited guests, and advanced graduate students. Papers are distributed and read in advance, and discussions are opened by a graduate student commentator. Detailed information can be found at <http://politicaltheory.yale.edu>. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
W 4:15pm-6:00pm

PLSC 936a and PLSC 937b, Order, Conflict, and Violence Stathis Kalyvas

The OCV seminar series focuses on processes related to the emergence and breakdown of order. The key assumption is that understanding and studying these processes requires better theoretical and empirical foundations and calls for challenging existing disciplinary and methodological divides. The seminar series is, therefore, dedicated to the presentation of cutting-edge work from all social science disciplines and includes the presentation of ongoing research by Yale graduate students. Detailed information can be found at <http://ocvprogram.macmillan.yale.edu>. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
M 5:00pm-7:00pm

PLSC 938a and PLSC 939b, Leitner Political Economy Seminar Series Deborah Beim, Giovanni Maggi, Milan Svolik

This seminar series engages research on the interaction between economics and politics as well as research that employs the methods of political economists to study a wide range of social phenomena. The workshop serves as a forum for graduate students and faculty to present their own work and to discuss current research in the field as presented by outside speakers, faculty, and students. Detailed information can be found at <http://leitner.yale.edu/seminars>. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
TH 12pm-1:20pm

PLSC 940a and PLSC 941b, International Relations Workshop Alexandre Debs, Didac Queralt

This workshop engages work in the fields of international security, international political economy, and international institutions. The forum attracts outside speakers, Yale faculty, and graduate students. It provides a venue to develop ideas, polish work in progress, or showcase completed projects. Typically, the speaker would prepare a 35- to 40-minute presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session. More information can be found at <http://irworkshop.yale.edu>. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.
W 12pm-1:20pm