

Yale University

Department of Political Science

Course offerings by subfield – Last updated: May 23, 2025

* Course numbers ending with a are offered in the Fall, b courses are offered in the Spring. ab courses are offered in the Fall and Spring. a/b courses are offered in the Fall or Spring.

Core Courses

PLSC 510/5100a. Introduction to the Study of Politics (Various Instructors)

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.

PLSC 540/5400a/541/5410b. Research and Writing (Various Instructors)

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.

PLSC 546/5460b Prospectus Writing Workshop (Various Instructors)

A non-credit workshop for third-year Ph.D. students in the Political Science department, in which they develop, revise, and present their prospectus.

American Politics

Core Courses

PLSC 800/8000a. Introduction to American Politics. Jacob Hacker, Greg Huber, Shiro Kurkiwaki.

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.

PLSC 8030/8030b. American Political Institutions. Kevin DeLuca, Greg Huber.

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.

PLSC 810/8100a. American Political Preferences and Behavior. Joshua Kalla.

Introduction to research methods and topics in American political behavior. Focus on decision-making from the perspective of ordinary citizens. Topics include utility theory, heuristics and biases, political participation, retrospective voting, the consequences of political ignorance, the effects of campaigns, and the ability of voters to hold politicians accountable for their actions.

Elective Courses

PLSC 812/8120a. American Progressivism and Its Critics. Stephen Skowronek.

The progressive reform tradition in American politics. The tradition's conceptual underpinnings, social supports, practical manifestations in policy and in new governmental arrangements, and conservative critics. Emphasis on the origins of progressivism in the early decades of the twentieth century, with attention to latter-day manifestations and to changes in the progressive impulse over time.

PLSC 820/8200b. Rise of Presidentialism in the United States. Stephen Skowronek.

This course is about the rise and makeshift character of "presidentialism" in the United States. It examines different sources of power that have, singly and in combination, put the presidency at the center of government and politics. These include: (1) popular power: in elections, public opinion, parties, and social movements; and (2) institutional power: in control of the executive branch, military command, and war making. Readings delve into cases in which each of these sources of power figured prominently. In every particular, the seminar considers the strains that this power has put on the constitutional frame.

PLSC 837/8370a. Gender Politics. Andrea Aldrich.

Exploration of theoretical and empirical work in political science to study the relationship between gender and politics in the United States and around the world. Topics include women's representation in legislative and executive branch politics in democratic regimes; the impact of gender stereotypes on elections and public opinion; conditions that impact the supply

and demand of candidates across genders; and the underrepresentation of women in political institutions.

PLSC 828/8280b. 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 movements, problems of political culture, party building, and state building.

PLSC 839/8390a. Congress in the Light of History. David Mayhew.

A critical investigation of the United States Congress, the primary democratic institution in the American political system. Focus on individual members of Congress, institutional features, and the role of Congress within the larger separation-of-powers system.

PLSC 841/8410b. Democracy and Bureaucracy. Ian Turner.

Exploration of what government agencies do and why; focus on issues of accountability and the role of bureaucracy in representative democracy. Understanding how bureaucracy works internally and how it is affected by interactions with other political actors and institutions.

PLSC 854/8540b. The American Political Economy. Jacob Hacker.

This course examines the American political economy—the ways in which the U.S.' distinctive political institutions mediate the relationship between markets and governance and produce fundamental social outcomes. Topics include the power of economic interests, rise of the knowledge economy, and territorial distribution of economic and political advantage in America's federated system of governance.

PLSC 859/8590a. Reconstructing the American Constitution. Bruce Ackerman.

An examination of the statutory and constitutional reforms required to reinvigorate democratic accountability and individual liberty in the United States. Enrollment limited to fifteen. Permission of the instructor required. Meets on the Law School calendar.

PLSC 865/8650b. Policy Making under Separation of Powers. Christina Kinane.

This seminar provides an overview of the literature on the politics of separation of powers, with an eye toward understanding how the various interbranch constraints on American political institutions impact the development and implementation of public policy.

PLSC 868/8680a. Gender and Sexuality in American Politics and Policy. Dara Strolovitch.

This seminar familiarizes students with foundational work on and approaches to the study of gender and sexuality in American politics and public policy. It explores empirical work that addresses these topics, a range of theoretical and epistemological approaches to them, and the social scientific methods that have been used to examine them. It explores the history, findings, and controversies in research about gender and sexuality in American politics and political science, examining work within several subfields of American politics (e.g., political development; public law; political behavior; legislative studies; public policy; interest groups and social movements), important work from other disciplines, and research that does

not fit neatly into traditional disciplinary categories, paying particular attention to the implications of this “messiness” for the study of gender, sexuality, and politics. We are attentive to the complicated histories of science and social science when it comes to the study of gender and sexuality and to the ways in which gender and sexuality intersect with other politically relevant categories, identities, and forms of marginalization, such as race, ethnicity, class, and ideological and partisan identification.

PLSC 869/8690b. Current Topics in American Politics. Alan Gerber.

This course covers recent exemplars, from working papers to classics, in American behavior and institutions. The first half of the course discusses a selection of important papers, and class sessions focus on the key decisions made by researchers and the research methods that they employed. The second half of the course includes discussion and analysis of papers that are identified by students as central to their own research, and class sessions focus on in-depth discussion of student research ideas and proposals.

Workshops

PLSC 930/9300a / 931/9310b. American Politics Workshop. (Various Instructors)

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. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

Comparative Politics

Core Courses

PLSC 777/7770a. Comparative Politics I. Kate Baldwin, Isabela Mares. Didac Queralt.

This course is part of a two-term course series designed to introduce students to the study of comparative politics. This half of the sequence focuses on issues related to research design and methodology in comparative politics. Although there are a handful of weeks devoted entirely to methodological debates, most of our weekly discussions are focused around one book as an exemplar of a particularly interesting or important research design. The course is helpful for students who plan to take the comparative politics field exam.

PLSC 778/7780b. Comparative Politics II. Kate Baldwin, Jenniver Gandhi, Didac Queralt, Isabela Mares.

This survey course provides a general introduction to the field of comparative politics, with an emphasis on the most important theories and research themes. Topics include the foundations of political regimes, state formation, identity and nationalism, party development, electoral reforms, programmatic and clientelistic linkages, and social policy development. At the same time, the course seeks to strengthen students’ analytical skills in evaluating comparative research and prepare students to take the examination in comparative politics.

Elective Courses

PLSC 709/7090a. 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.

PLSC 714/7140a/b. Corruption, Accountable Government, and Democracy. Susan Rose-Ackerman.

A seminar on the link between corruption, government accountability, and democratic institutions. The seminar draws on research from law, economics, and political science with a comparative focus.

PLSC 720/7200a. Sexual Violence and War. Elisabeth Wood.

Analysis of patterns of sexual violence in war. Assessment of how well scholars in various disciplines and policy analysts account for these patterns.

PLSC 722/7220b. Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems. Andrea Aldrich.

This course explores democratic representation through political parties around the world and the effects of electoral systems on party system development. We critically examine the role of political parties in the representation of societal interests, party system evolution, the consequences of electoral law, and challenges facing modern political parties today with a particular focus on the growth of authoritarian and far-right parties around the world. Prerequisite: introductory course in American politics or comparative politics. It is helpful, although not mandatory, to have taken a course on research design in the social sciences.

PLSC 723/7230b. Political Power and Inequality in Latin America. Ana De La O.

Overview and analysis of politics in Latin America. The emergence of democracy and the forces that led to the unprecedented increase in inequality in the twentieth century. Topics include institutional design, historical legacies, corruption, clientelism, and violence.

PLSC 728/7280b. Democracy and Executive Power: Policymaking Accountability in Comparative Perspective. Susan Rose-Ackerman.

Democratic governments pass regulatory statutes that the executive implements through rules and adjudications. This seminar examines the democratic accountability of rulemaking processes, drawing on the cases of the US, the UK, France, and Germany. It emphasizes the roles of both public participation and technocratic knowledge, and it considers the role of the courts in the review of executive policymaking. Students are expected to post short reaction papers on the reading several times during the term and either write a take-home exam or submit a term paper that ordinarily fulfills the substantial paper requirement for J.D. students. Two units for those taking the exam; three units for those writing a term paper. Self-scheduled examination or paper option.

PLSC 732/7320b. The War in Ukraine. David Cameron.

This course examines in detail why Russia decided in February 2022 to begin a “special military operation” that turned out to be nothing less than a full-fledged war against Ukraine. While it is obviously not a course in military strategy and operations, it considers certain important developments since the war began nearly two years ago, including most recently the Ukrainian counteroffensive that began in early June. But the focus is primarily on understanding why the war happened and why, almost two years later and notwithstanding the immense costs to both sides, it continues today.

PLSC 748/7480b. Nationalism in the World. Maria Jose Hierro.

Nationalism is the most powerful political force in the world. It can explain why countries come together and why countries come apart. It can also explain why people praise and trust those who belong to the nation and despise and distrust those who do not. This course introduces students to the study of nationalist thought and practice. The course first examines the concept of nationalism and other adjacent concepts, and reviews different theoretical approaches to the study of nationalism. From here, the course moves to examine nationalist practices: the origin of the nation, the crafting of a national identity, the practice of inclusion and exclusion, the relationship between nationalism and democracy and nationalism and conflict, nationalism in the postcolonial world, and nationalism in the world today. The course examines nationalist thought and practice in different geographic areas and relies on both theoretical and empirical literature from several disciplines (history, economics, sociology, psychology, and political science) to understand the power of nationalism in the world today.

PLSC 756/7560a. 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.

PLSC 761/7610a/b. Democracy, Dictatorship, and Regime Change. Jennifer Gandhi. Milan Svolik. Examines key topics, major contributions, and recent advances in the study of democratization, authoritarian politics, and regime change.

PLSC 763/7630b. State Formation. Didac Queralt.

Study of the domestic and international determinants of functional states from antiquity to the present. Analysis of state formation in Europe from premodern times and outside Europe from colonial times. Topics include centralization of power, capacity to tax, and contract enforcement.

PLSC 779/7790a. Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development.

Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan, Elisabeth Wood, and Marcela Echeverri Munoz.

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.

PLSC 780/7800a. Law and Society in Comparative Backsliding. Egor Lazarev.

This advanced seminar is about the functions of law across historical, political, and cultural contexts. We discuss what is law, why people obey the law, and how societies govern themselves in the absence of strong state legal institutions. The class explores the relationship between law and colonialism as well as the functioning of law under authoritarianism and democracy, and in conflict-ridden societies.

PLSC 782/7820a. Political Institutions. Jennifer Gandhi.

This course examines core theoretical problems that institutions address and substantive illustrations of those problems and solutions from across the various subfields in political science. The course also covers the challenges of developing theories related to institutional change and of empirically assessing the impact of institutions.

PLSC 783/7830a. Democratic Backsliding. Milan Svolik.

This class examines the process of democratic backsliding, including its causes and consequences. Our analysis builds on prominent contemporary and historical cases of democratic backsliding, especially Hungary, India, Poland, Russia, and Venezuela. Implications for democratic stability in the United States are considered.

PLSC 793/7930a. Governing China. Daniel Mattingly.

Study of the politics of contemporary China with a focus on recent research. Topics include authoritarianism, representation, local governance, elite politics, censorship, propaganda, protest, and the rule of law.

PLSC 837/8370a. Gender Politics. Andrea Aldrich.

Exploration of theoretical and empirical work in political science to study the relationship between gender and politics in the United States and around the world. Topics include women's representation in legislative and executive branch politics in democratic regimes; the impact of gender stereotypes on elections and public opinion; conditions that impact the supply and demand of candidates across genders; and the underrepresentation of women in political institutions.

Workshops

PLSC 734/7340a/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.

PLSC 932/9320a / 933/9330b. Comparative Politics Workshop. (Various Instructors).

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>. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

PLSC 942/9420a / 943/9430b. Political Violence and Its Legacies Workshop. Elisabeth Wood.

The MacMillan Political Violence and Its Legacies (PVL) workshop is an interdisciplinary forum for work in progress by Yale faculty and graduate students, as well as scholars from other universities. PVL is designed to foster a wide-ranging conversation at Yale and beyond about political violence and its effects that transcends narrow disciplinary and methodological divisions. The workshop's interdisciplinary nature attracts faculty and graduate students from Anthropology, African American Studies, American Studies, History, Sociology, and Political Science, among others. There are no formal presentations. Papers are distributed one week prior to the workshop and are read in advance by attendees. A discussant introduces the manuscript and raises questions for the subsequent discussion period. To help facilitate a lively and productive discussion, we ban laptops and cellphones for the workshop's duration.

Formal Theory

Core Courses

Math Camp (Summer). Adam Meirowitz.

PLSC 518/5180b. Introduction to Game Theory. Alex Debs. Adam Meirowitz, Milan Svobik.

This course offers a rigorous introduction to noncooperative game theory. The goal 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.

PLSC 520/5200b. Advanced Models of Political Economy. Ian Turner.

This is a second course in Ph.D.-level game theory. The course builds on skills developed in PLSC 5180 and focuses on the transition from consumers to producers of theoretical models. Possible topics to be covered include comparative statics, dynamic games, mechanism design, global games, and models of information transmission and persuasion. The course consists of learning new technical skills as well as in-depth study of substantive applications in political economy.

Elective Courses

PLSC 519/5190b. Introduction to Formal Political Economy. Emily Sellars. Milan Svolik.

This course surveys key applications of game theory and related methods to the study of politics and political economy. Topics include electoral competition, political accountability, special interest politics, delegation, political agency, legislative bargaining, collective action, and regime change.

PLSC 531/5310. Formal Models of American Politics. Ian Turner.

This course surveys applications of game theory (and potentially other related methods) to the study of American politics, broadly. It is intended for graduate students in political science and related disciplines who have taken (at least) an introductory course in game theory. Topics we may cover include electoral competition, special interest politics, delegation, political agency, and policy-making processes.

PLSC 532/5320. Formal Models of Comparative Politics. Milan Svolik.

PLSC 533/5330a. Advance Models of International Relations. Alex Debs.

This course offers a survey of game-theoretic models of international relations. Students learn how to evaluate and present existing models and how to develop their own research projects. Topics covered include nuclear deterrence theory, war duration, the democratic peace, militarization and war, mediation, and mutual optimism.

Political Economy

Core Courses

Math Camp (Summer). Adam Meirowitz.

PLSC 698/6980a/b. 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).

PLSC 712/7120b. Comparative Political Economy. Milan Svolik.

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.

PLSC 721/7210a. Political Economy of Development. Rohini Pande and Gerard Padro.

This course analyzes empirically and theoretically the political, institutional, and social underpinnings of economic development. We cover an array of topics ranging from power structures to corruption, state capacity, social capital, conflict, democratization, and democratic backsliding. We focus on recent advances to identify open areas for further research.

Elective Courses

PLSC 520/5200b. Advanced Models of Political Economy. Ian Turner.

(Please see course description under Formal Theory)

PLSC 706/7060. Historical Political Economy. Isabela Mares Didac Queralt.

PLSC 714/7140a/b. Corruption, Accountable Government, and Democracy. Susan Rose-Ackerman.

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 746/7460a. The Economics and Politics of Migration. Emily Sellars.

This course provides an introduction to contemporary social science research on immigration and emigration. Key questions we examine include: (1) Why do people migrate (or not)? Who migrates and why? Where do people migrate? (2) What are the consequences of migration for migrants and for the broader economy/society? for politics? (3) What is the relationship between migration and conflict? (4) How do different types of migration (for example, female vs. male migration, high-skill vs. low-skill migration, refugee flows vs. “economic” migrants, internal vs. international migrants, etc.) differ and how do those differences matter for public policy? (5) What are some of the methodological challenges associated with measuring and studying migration? (6) What are some of the political challenges associated with creating migration policies? Throughout, we review important methods and theories for the social-scientific study of migration. We also read new work on the research frontier of this topic, drawing on examples from both developed and developing countries across the world. Students have the opportunity to develop their own research projects on the politics and economics of migration.

PLSC 763/7630a/b. State Formation. Didac Queralt.

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 854/8540b. The American Political Economy. Jacob Hacker.

(Please see course description under American Politics)

Workshops

PLSC 938/9380a/939/9390b. Leitner Political Economy Seminar Series. (Various Instructors.)

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>. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

International Relations

Core Courses

PLSC 695/6950a/b. International Security. Alexandre Debs, Noam Reich.

This course covers the main theories and problems in international security, including the causes of war; the security dilemma; military effectiveness; coercion and crisis bargaining; nuclear proliferation. Students acquire broad familiarity with the canonical literature in international security and learn how to identify opportunities for new research. The course is designed for master's students in Global Affairs and Ph.D. students in Political Science.

PLSC 698/6980a/b. 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).

Elective Courses

PLSC 533/5330a. Formal Models of International Relations. Alexandre Debs.

(Please see course description under Formal Theory)

PLSC 664/6640a. Technology and War. David Allison.

A seminar on the interplay between technology and war; an examination of the impact of new technologies on strategy, doctrine, and battlefield outcomes as well as the role of conflict in promoting innovation. Focus on the importance of innovation, the difference between evolutions and revolutions in military affairs, and evaluating the future impact of emerging technologies including autonomous weapons and artificial intelligence.

PLSC 665/6650b. The Politics of International Migration: Integration Prospects and Challenges. Nicholas Sambanis.

This course engages with cutting edge social science research on immigration. We review basic facts concerning global immigration patterns and focus on explaining individual-level attitudes toward immigrants by uncovering mechanisms of anti-immigrant bias and testing different ways to reduce such bias. We ask how we should conceive of membership in a democratic society. Going beyond the question of acquiring a formal legal status (e.g. citizenship) that entitles members to a set of rights, we ask whether citizenship implies the sharing of a common identity. What determines that identity in countries with ethnic vs. civic concepts of nationalism and can immigrants acquire it? Is there a set of norms or behaviors that are expected of citizens—native and immigrants alike—and will adherence with those norms be effective in reducing anti-immigrant bias? The course considers challenges of integrating immigrants in native society and reviews empirical studies that test ways to address such challenges. Students become familiar with all prevalent theoretical perspectives on immigration in political science. The course focuses heavily on research design; students have the opportunity to observe or participate in reviewing/replicating/extending published empirical studies with a view to designing their own empirical research on the subject of immigration, broadly conceived.

PLSC 667a/6670a. Domestic Politics in International Relations. Soyoung Lee.

This class explores the interplay between domestic politics and international relations. We examine questions such as how does domestic politics affect the foreign policy choices of leaders and states? Who are the key domestic actors and what do the actors want? How do domestic actors form their preferences? Do domestic political institutions matter, and if so, how? Topics include rallying and diversionary conflict, war and the fate of leaders, domestic interest groups and sectoral politics, elite messaging and propaganda, democratic peace, and the rise of populism and nationalism. Students also have a chance to develop their own research skills by writing and presenting a research paper outline. Assignments also include writing practice referee reports and response papers. This class is aimed at political science Ph.D. students interested in international relations.

PLSC 673/6730a. International Conflict. Michael-David Mangini.

Why do states pay the costs of war when they could resolve their differences by negotiation? When do states choose war over sanctions? What types of economic relations make conflict less likely? This course is an overview of international conflict for advanced undergraduate students and early graduate students. Topics include the causes of war, understanding alliances, colonialism, state formation, and the political economy of conflict.

PLSC 677/6770a. New Challenges for International Cooperation: Automation and Climate Change.

Carlos-Felipe Balcazar.

International Political Economy (IPE) scholars largely focus on investigating how can countries achieve and sustain international cooperation. This is of utmost importance because international cooperation generates lower transaction costs, which can increase global well-being, and because it creates conditions that tie the hands of political actors to participate in

violent conflict. While international cooperation has faced many challenges since World War II, two new challenges have currently become center-focus for IPE scholars: the domestic and international political consequences of automation and the impending societal consequences of climate change. This course tackles these two relevant issues in world politics. Overall, the course takes a hands-on approach: We closely interrogate the arguments and evidence presented in the readings, prioritizing depth of analysis over quantity of articles covered. Then, on the basis of these inputs, our goal is to propose and test (new) theories that help us understand the implications that automation and climate change pose for world politics. The course has two parts: In the first part, we cover numerous puzzles in the study of the International Political Economy of technological change. In particular, we try to understand its redistributive consequences and the implications that automation has had for sustaining the commitment in Embedded Liberalism. We also inquire about the need for an approach of tackling the political consequences of automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) through global governance. In the second part, we address the multiple threats that climate change poses for social and political stability. Most importantly, we explore how can we create domestic coalitions in support of climate policy and how societies can achieve international cooperation regarding climate change despite its diffuse impacts.

Prerequisites: Notions of quantitative analysis and (or) game theory are strongly recommended but not required.

PLSC 681/6810b. Coercion in the Globalized Economy. Michael-David Mangini.

This course is divided into two parts: 1) the theory of economic coercion and (2) applications of the theory. In each part we study relevant interests, interactions, and institutions: how the choices of states, groups, and individuals interact to affect each other's interests within an institutional framework that favors some outcomes. This framework helps guide our study throughout the course.

PLSC 683/6830b. Causal Inference for IR and IPE with Substantive Applications. Carlos-Felipe Balcazar.

Causal inference is of importance to rigorously test theoretical hypotheses in international political economy (IPE) and international relations (IR). However, collecting data, estimating causal effects, and performing correct statistical inference is challenging in these fields: Problems such as small sample sizes, missing data, self-selection, omitted variable bias, spatial correlation, interference, and poor measurement, among others, plague the field, leading to incorrect (and at best misleading) claims that undermine the scientific endeavor. The objective of this course is to help students understanding the aforementioned challenges in the study of substantive topics in IR and IPE, and to instruct them in the design of commensurable research as recently defined by Ashworth and colleagues in 2021, in their book *Theory and Credibility*. To this end, we review various papers on IPE and IR that make an exemplary use of the various tools of causal inference with strong theoretical foundations. We also get acquainted with the state-of-the-art tools for research design and for estimating causal effects, interaction effects, and their standard errors with the objective of understanding various alternatives for addressing measurement and inference issues in key areas of study in IR and IPE.

PLSC 6840a. China's International Relations. Feng Zhang.

This course examines China's international relations with a focus on both historical context and contemporary developments. Beginning with imperial China's traditional foreign relations and the "century of humiliation," the course traces the evolution of Chinese foreign policy through the Cold War period to the present day. Students analyze China's relationships with major powers and regions, including the United States, Russia, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and India, while exploring critical issues such as the Taiwan question, territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and China's growing role in global governance. Special attention is paid to understanding the drivers of China's recent assertive turn in foreign policy under Xi Jinping, theories of international relations as applied to China's rise, and the implications of China's increasing power for the international order. Through engagement with scholarly works and contemporary policy debates, the course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of China's foreign relations and its emergence as a global power.

PLSC 6850a. Chinese Thinking on International Relations. Feng Zhang.

How have the Chinese thought about international relations and their country's role in the world? How has such thinking influenced China's foreign relations past and present? This advanced seminar canvasses Chinese thinking on international relations from the imperial epoch to the present, focusing on the post-1949 era of the People's Republic of China. It is structured around three core engagements: the historical background of Chinese thinking; policy thinking of the successive PRC leaderships; and new strands of thinking at present. It examines both the evolutionary process of thinking and a body of prominent ideas and doctrines. Throughout the course, students have the opportunity to place China's foreign policy in a broader and deeper intellectual context than is often the case.

PLSC 690/6900a/691/6910b. Identity and Conflict Lab. Nicholas Sambanis.

The Identity and Conflict Lab (ICL), led by Professor Nicholas Sambanis, is launching a new graduate-level course focusing on the politics of intergroup conflict broadly conceived. The lab's research is motivated by major problems of our time, such as civil war, ethnic violence, racial prejudice, and religious intolerance. The lab sponsors research on all these areas, with a particular focus on identity politics: how social identities shape individual behavior, how conflict affects identities, and what interventions are effective in reducing conflict. The ICL course reviews the state of the debate on key topics in which the ICL has active research and identifies new research questions that lab affiliates can address by collecting new data and applying cutting edge analysis in a collaborative setting. The lab involves affiliated faculty at Yale and other universities, post-doctoral fellows, and students. The lab promotes an interdisciplinary, multimethod approach to the study of conflict. Students affiliated with the lab must attend workshops and meetings biweekly and are expected to complete reading assignments, comment on lab affiliates' work in progress, and present their own work to the lab on suitable topics decided in consultation with the lab director. Students taking this course have opportunities to join ongoing lab projects depending on their interests and skills. For more information, please send inquiries to nicholas.sambanis@yale.edu. Open to graduate students only. Graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Each term is .5 credits.

PLSC 732/7320b. The War in Ukraine. David Cameron.
(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 763/7630a/b. State Formation. Didac Queralt.
(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

Political Theory

Core Courses

PLSC 509/5090a. Philosophy of Science for the Study of Politics. Ian Shapiro.
An examination of the philosophy of science from the perspective of the study of politics. Particular attention to the ways in which assumptions about science influence models of political behavior, the methods adopted to study that behavior, and the relations between science and democracy. Readings include works by both classic and contemporary authors.

PLSC 562/5620b. The English-Speaking Enlightenment. Anthony Kronman. Steven Smith.
Beginning in the first half of the seventeenth century, and lasting until the latter part of the eighteenth, the Enlightenment brought a sweeping reassessment of age-old beliefs about morality, religion, politics and the ends of human life. But the Enlightenment was not a single event. There were different streams of thought within it. The assumptions and implications of these different Enlightenments were at points quite distinct, even conflicting. In this seminar, we will examine one of these Enlightenments—the one centered in eighteenth century London and Edinburgh—through a close reading of selected works by four of its leading figures: David Hume, Adam Smith, Edmund Burke and Edward Gibbon. The goal of the seminar is to identify points of difference and commonality among these four writers, to explore the contours of the English-speaking Enlightenment as a distinctive intellectual tradition, and to examine its relevance today. Limited enrollment. A paper is required.

PLSC 568/5680b. Democracy in Weimar: Creativity, Crisis, & Revolution. Lucia Rubinelli.
This course examines the political and legal theory that developed in Germany between the two World Wars. This was an extremely turbulent time, which saw attempts at socialist revolution, counter-revolution, and a deep economic crisis. It also coincides with the first appearance of the masses on the scene of European politics, which led to a period of wild political, cultural, and sexual experimentation. In this course, we explore this exceptional time of Western history by looking at Luxemburg's theory of revolution and its impact on the politics of the Weimar Republic, Weber's diagnosis of the challenges posed by mass democracy, Kelsen's democratic relativism, and Schmitt's theory of democratic dictatorship. We examine these crucial texts in political thought by reading them in their historical and cultural context: we analyze the historical premises and consequences of the Weimar Republic and discuss the

cultural and social atmosphere that characterized those fateful years as narrated in contemporary literature.

PLSC 571/5710a. Designing and Reforming Democracy. David Froomkin and Ian Shapiro.

What is the best electoral system? Should countries try to limit the number of political parties? Should chief executives be independently elected? Should legislatures have powerful upper chambers? Should courts have the power to strike down democratically enacted laws? These and related questions are taken up in this course. Throughout the term, we engage in an ongoing dialogue with the *Federalist Papers*, contrasting the Madisonian constitutional vision with subsequent insights from democratic theory and empirical political science across the democratic world. Where existing practices deviate from what would be best, we also attend to the costs of these sub-optimal systems and types of reforms that would improve them.

PLSC 6720a. Edmund Burke and the Age of Empire. David Bromwich.

A partial survey of the political writings of Burke in the context of the theory of empire and of revolution. We emphasize his writings on India and France, which reveal a common theme: innovation—sudden change in a way of life—always depends on violence, whether its agents are internal or external to the society. We touch on a wider subject: the birth of modern ideology, from the demand for systematic excuses to justify empire and revolution.

PLSC 578/5780a/b. What is the University?. Mordechai Levy-Eichel.

The University is one of the most influential—and underexamined—kinds of corporations in the modern world. It is responsible both for mass higher education and for elite training. It aims to produce and disseminate knowledge, and to prepare graduates for work in all different kinds of fields. It functions both as a symbol and repository of learning, if not ideally wisdom, and functions as one of the most important sites of networking, patronage, and socialization today. It is, in short, one of the most alluring and abused institutions in our culture today, often idolized as a savior or a scapegoat. And while the first universities were not founded in the service of research, today's most prestigious schools claim to be centrally dedicated to it. But what is research? Where does our notion of research and the supposed ability to routinely produce it come from? This seminar is a high-level historical and structural examination of the rise of the research university. We cover both the origins and the modern practices of the university, from the late medieval world to the modern day, with an eye toward critically examining the development of the customs, practices, culture, and work around us, and with a strong comparative perspective. Topics include: tenure, endowments, the committee system, the growth of degrees, the aims of research, peer-review, the nature of disciplinary divisions, as well as a host of other issues.

PLSC 5795/5790a. Rousseau's Emile. Bryan Garsten.

A close reading of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's masterpiece, *Emile*. Though the book poses as a guide to education, it has much grander aspirations; it offers a whole vision of the human condition. Rousseau called it his "best and worthiest work" and said he believed it would spark a revolution in the way that human beings understand themselves. Many historians of thought believe that the book has done just that, and that we live in the world it helped to create—a

claim we consider and evaluate. Presented as a private tutor's account of how he would arrange the education of a boy named Emile from infancy through young adulthood, the book raises fundamental questions about human nature and malleability; how we learn to be free; whether we can view ourselves scientifically and still maintain a belief in free will; whether we are in need of some sort of religious faith to act morally; how adults and children, and men and women, ought to relate to one another; how the demands of social life and citizenship affect our happiness—and more. Ultimately the question at issue is whether human beings can find a way to live happily and flourish in modern societies.

PLSC 581/5810a. Socialism and Democracy, 1820-1940. Lucia Rubinelli.

This course explores the history of socialist political thought by focusing on how socialist thinkers addressed the problem of political organization and how they viewed democracy and its institutions. The course looks at Utopian socialism, the problem of political organization in Marx and Engels, Proudhon's arguments for anarchism, the Paris Commune and its afterlife in socialist theorizing, debates about direct democracy in the Second International, controversies over the role of parliaments, political parties and the masses in the first decades of the twentieth century, the soviet as a novel political form, the question of feminism, Lenin and Luxemburg's debate about imperialism, and socialist theories of the postcolonial state. The course is structured around key primary texts, which are accompanied by secondary readings and suggestions for books and movies.

PLSC 582/5820a. Politics and the Passions. Giulia Oskian.

This seminar explores different paradigms in political psychology. Classical political theory, since Plato and Aristotle, observed that any set of political institutions needs to be supported by corresponding public ethics, and, conversely, promotes, orients, or inhibits certain emotions. What people are afraid of, angry at, indignant about, or hopeful for varies according to political circumstances so that, as Montesquieu and Tocqueville noticed, the passions of a democratic citizen are inevitably different from those of someone living in a hierarchical society. However, more recent political theory tends either to disregard the relation between shared emotions and political institutions or to view it as a social pathology. On the one hand, emotional phenomena are simply dismissed as mere deviations from the behavior expected from the highly abstract ideal of a rational citizen; on the other hand, when appreciated, the impact of emotions on political life is most often interpreted as a pathological feature of current democracies. Departing from both these strands of theory, this seminar explores the emotional foundations of public ethics, political practices, and institutions, as well as the political potential of psychological realism. Focusing on moments of political mobilization, social conflict, and institutional change, which bring to the foreground the emotional component of politics, we retrace emotional transformations together with the evolution of the psychological and moral discourses: How are our emotional experiences related to social expectations? In what way can political movements induce us to reorient our feelings and find new objects for our anger, indignation, fear, or hope? The seminar is structured in three parts. An introductory part compares different methods in the study of emotions and their political relevance. In the second part we study the psychological conditions for the emergence of authoritarianism in 1920s–1930s continental Europe. Based on readings by Theodor Adorno and Erich Fromm we

discuss questions such as: Is there such a thing as an authoritarian personality? What social conditions foster its development? How can people come to desire to escape from freedom? The third part explores the emancipatory potential of psychological realism: we discuss militant texts from classical feminist (Simone de Beauvoir, Carol Gilligan) and black (James Baldwin, Audre Lorde) political thought, which relate the possibility of a deep and lasting social reform to a transformation of the emotional disposition of the citizenry.

PLSC 597/5970a. Lincoln's Statecraft and Rhetoric. Steven Smith.

This class is based on a reading and interpretation of Lincoln's major speeches and letters. Its purpose is to understand his views on the problem of slavery, equality, and race in American society, but also to consider the relation of words to deeds in the practice of his statecraft. We also situate Lincoln within the history and theory of statesmanship.

PLSC 602/6020a. Political Epistemology. Helene Landemore.

We arguably live in the age of "alternative facts" and "post-truths"—or, as philosopher Harry Frankfurt presciently theorized it, "bullshit." By contrast, this course aims to explore the new and burgeoning field of "political epistemology," for which the concepts of knowledge and even truth—both factual and moral—are central to politics. Political epistemology can be described as a branch of philosophy inquiring into how to acquire knowledge and into what we ought to believe in the political realm. It deals with the ways societies generate, process, and diffuse knowledge and beliefs. Typical questions in political epistemology relate to whether we can know anything in politics and to the epistemic status of political beliefs in general. Between the Charybdis of moral relativism and the Scylla of authoritarian dogmatism, is there any room for something like "political truths"? How would we best attain them and how would we know that we have? Political epistemologists are also concerned with the question of "peer-disagreement" and the proper epistemic stance to hold with respect to peers, typically other citizens, with whom we disagree. In this course we thus seek to understand better the ways in which political institutions and procedures (somewhat broadly construed, such as national assemblies, electoral rules, parties, the media, courts, etc., but including also social norms) generate and process knowledge. We also study the ways in which certain social, economic, and political arrangements may generate what has been diagnosed as "epistemic injustice" and how this specific type of injustice may be redressed and should be dealt with by both political theorists and political actors.

PLSC 611/6110b. 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.

PLSC 617/6170b. Democracy and Deliberation. Helene Landemore.

The course examines the connection between the idea of democracy and the practice of deliberation. While deliberation is at the core of contemporary normative theories of "deliberative democracy," deliberation is not by itself democratic. One of the aims of the

seminar is to clarify to what extent democracy needs to be deliberative and to what extent deliberation can be democratic.

PLSC 623/6230a. Rethinking the Political Enlightenment. Ian Shapiro.

The calamities wrought by Fascism and Nazism, together with growing disillusionment at the excesses and direction of Soviet communism and then Mao's China, led many postwar intellectuals to rethink the Enlightenment's promise. In politics, that promise had centered on the creation of durable political institutions based on scientific principles that would foster, expand, and protect human freedom. We study the ways in which the harsh realities of twentieth-century politics led political theorists to modify, recast, and in some cases reject these Enlightenment aspirations, and we evaluate those responses from the perspective of our contemporary politics. Readings are drawn from, among others, Jonathan Israel, James Tully, Hannah Arendt, Herbert Marcuse, Nicos Poulantzas, Jürgen Habermas, Leo Strauss, Isaiah Berlin, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, Anthony Appiah, Nancy Fraser, Carole Pateman, Judith Shklar, Quentin Skinner, J.G.A. Pocock, Michael Walzer, and Iris Marion Young. Among the themes discussed are the connections between Enlightenment aspirations and the ideas of modernization, progress, and democracy; the advantages and limitations of periodization in the study of political theory; and teleological conceptions of history.

PLSC 6235a. Rethinking the Political Enlightenment. Nazmul Sultan.

This seminar traces the historical and conceptual formation of the modern state, from its formative theoretical articulations in early modern Europe to its globalization in the twentieth century. The course begins by exploring how the emergence of the idea of the sovereign state in seventeenth-century Europe inaugurated a new way of thinking about the problems of political authority and legitimacy. This vision would mature over the eighteenth century, while also triggering numerous skeptical rejoinders that arguably culminated in pluralist critiques in the early twentieth century. While this story forms one strand of the seminar, its main focus is on the transformation of the modern state in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We examine how the rise of the social imbued the idea of the state with new purposes and how an expanded conception of administrative power facilitated a powerful reconceptualization of the state-society relationship. We explore these problems against the backdrop of the rise of democracy in the nineteenth century. The course also considers the globalization of the state-form in the wake of decolonization and postwar international order—asking how the modern state became the global standard, and with what tensions and contradictions. We analyze the intellectual formation of the developmental state, focusing especially on the expanded vision of executive power that propelled postcolonial founding projects across Asia and Africa. Readings include canonical texts in political thought (Hobbes, Tocqueville, Weber, Laski, Nehru), as well as more recent studies in the intellectual history of the modern state. The seminar approaches the problem of the modern state from a global perspective, engaging historiographies from both European and non-European contexts.

PLSC 640/6400a. Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy. Giulia Oskian and Isaac Nakhimovsky.

This seminar explores key concepts in modern political philosophy at a level appropriate for graduate students (to help prepare for the political theory field exam) and for advanced undergraduates who have completed substantial course work in intellectual history and/or political theory. This term our thematic focus is on the relation between civil society and state institutions, as it has been conceptualized by political philosophy.

PLSC 644/6440b. The Idea of Statesmanship. Steven Smith.

Who is a statesman and what are the ideal qualities required for the office? This remains one of the enduring questions of political philosophy. This course examines the art of statesmanship in ancient and modern political thought. We consider examples of statecraft in both ancient Greece and Rome and the Hebrew Bible before viewing examples of modern statesmanship using Machiavelli, Hume, Burke, the *Federalist Papers*, and Abraham Lincoln. We consider the statesman's role in different contexts, as political founder, preserver, and reformer. We also consider what kind of education is necessary to best carry out the work of statecraft.

PLSC 645/6450a. Machiavelli and His Readers. Steven Smith.

Machiavelli remains one of the most widely discussed and debated figures in the Western political canon. This course offers a close reading of his two major treatises, *The Prince* and *The Discourses on Livy*, as well as important sections from Livy's history of Rome. We then consider influential nineteenth- and twentieth-century interpreters of Machiavelli, from Hegel to Gramsci to Leo Strauss.

PLSC 646/6460b. Open Democracy. Helene Landemore.

This course explores institutional innovations aiming to take democracy beyond the stage of "representative government" from both empirical and normative perspectives. The goal is to understand what democracy could and should mean in the twenty-first century.

PLSC 709/7090b. Comparative Constitutional Law. Bruce Ackerman.

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 859/8590b. Reconstructing the American Constitution. Bruce Ackerman.

(Please see course description under American Politics)

Workshops

PLSC 934/9340a/935/9350b. Political Theory Workshop. (Various Instructors).

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 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>. Open only to graduate students in the Political Science department. Can be taken as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

Qualitative and Archival Methods

Core Courses

PLSC 505/5050b. Qualitative Field Research. Egor Lazarev, Dan Mattingly and 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.

PLSC 522/5220a/b. Historical Approaches to the Study of Politics. Jonny Steinberg, 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.

PLSC 523/5230a/b. Mixed Methods Research. Elizabeth Parker-Magyar.

This course trains students to design and critique a range of quantitative, qualitative, and experimental research methods. The course begins with a discussion of concept formation, defining quantities of interest, and the advantages and disadvantages of bringing descriptive vs. causal evidence to bear. We then analyze the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative tests, experimental designs, case-based approaches (case studies, case selections, and cross-case comparisons), and interpretive methods such as process tracing. Next, the course discusses the research design choices of two award-winning books using mixed methods research; it then evaluates the qualitative and quantitative data in isolation and in combination. The final assignment builds on the course material to produce a mixed method research design proposal.

PLSC 799/7990b. Micro-historical Analysis in Social Science Research. Isabela Mares.

In recent years, historical research has experienced a remarkable resurgence across all social sciences. This course introduces students to a vibrant new wave of historical scholarship and prepares them to conduct original research on these topics. To understand the methodological choices made in recent historical scholarship, each week of the course pairs “classic” and contemporary research on some of the most important topics across social science disciplines, including democratization and the extension of suffrage, democratic erosion and breakdown, the development of fiscal capacity, the development of national identities, political culture, gender norms, and so on. The course prioritizes a hands-on approach based on an active examination of the most salient design choices made by these studies and on the replication of the results.

Elective Courses

PLSC 508/5080a/b. Causal Inference and Research Design. P 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. Readings and discussions focus on selected methodological topics, such as experimental design, partial identification, design-based inference, network analysis, semiparametric efficiency theory, and qualitative/mixed-methods research. Topics vary from year to year.

PLSC 777/7770a. Comparative Politics I. Kate Baldwin, Isabela Mares.

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 778b/7780. Comparative Politics II. Kate Baldwin, Jennifer Gandhi, Didac Queralt, Isabela Mares. (Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 812/8120a. American Progressivism in Theory and Practice. Stephen Skowronek.

(Please see course description under American Politics)

PLSC 828/8280b. American Political Development. Stephen Skowronek.

(Please see course description under American Politics)

Quantitative Empirical Methods

Core Courses

PLSC 500/5000a. Foundations of Statistical Inference. P Aronow, Melody Huang.

This course provides an intensive introduction to statistical theory for quantitative empirical inquiry in the social sciences. Topics include foundations of probability theory, statistical inference from random samples, estimation theory, linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, and a brief introduction to identification.

PLSC 503/5030b. Causal Inference. P Aronow, Melody Huang.

This course provides an intensive introduction to the methods used in political science for quantitative empirical inquiry. Topics include: missing data, causal inference, selection on observables, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity designs, and panel (TSCS/longitudinal) data.

PLSC 536/5360a. Applied Quantitative Research Design. Shiro Kuriwaki.

Research designs are strategies to obtain empirical answers to theoretical questions. This class trains students with the best practices for implementing and communicating rigorous quantitative social science research. We cover econometrics techniques of causal inference, prediction, and missing data. These include fixed effects, time series, instrumental variables,

survey weighting, and shrinkage. This is a hands-on, application-oriented class. Students practice programming, statistics, and data visualizations used in exemplary quantitative social science articles. Formal section enrollment is not required but highly encouraged.

Elective Courses

PLSC 508/5080a. Causal Inference and Research Design. P 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. Readings and discussions focus on selected methodological topics, such as experimental design, partial identification, design-based inference, network analysis, semiparametric efficiency theory, and qualitative/mixed-methods research. Topics vary from year to year.

PLSC 511/5110b. Applied Machine Learning and Causal Inference Research Seminar. Jasjeet Sekhon.

In this seminar we discuss recent advances in machine learning and causal inference. Emphasis is placed on research designs and methods that have succeeded. We carefully examine successful examples to see why they work. The seminar is also a forum for students to discuss the research designs and methods needed in their own work. It should be particularly helpful for students writing their prospectus or designing a major research project. Applications are drawn from a variety of substantive domains including political science, economics, medicine, and public health.

PLSC 523/5230a. Mixed Methods Research. Various Instructors

This course trains students to design and critique a range of quantitative, qualitative, and experimental research methods. The course begins with a discussion of concept formation, defining quantities of interest, and the advantages and disadvantages of bringing descriptive vs. causal evidence to bear. We then analyze the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative tests, experimental designs, case-based approaches (case studies, case selections, and cross-case comparisons), and interpretive methods such as process tracing. Next, the course discusses the research design choices of two award-winning books using mixed methods research; it then evaluates the qualitative and quantitative data in isolation and in combination. The final assignment builds on the course material to produce a mixed method research design proposal.

PLSC 524/5240a/b. YData: Data Science for Political Campaigns. Joshua Kalla.

Political campaigns have become increasingly data driven. Data science is used to inform where campaigns compete, which messages they use, how they deliver them, and among which voters. In this course, we explore how data science is being used to design winning campaigns. Students gain an understanding of what data is available to campaigns, how campaigns use this data to identify supporters, and the use of experiments in campaigns. The course provides students with an introduction to political campaigns, an introduction to data science tools

necessary for studying politics, and opportunities to practice the data science skills presented in [S&DS 523](#).

PLSC 5280a. Design-Based Inference for the Social Sciences P Aronow.

Introduction to design-based statistical approaches to survey sampling and causal inference. Design and analysis of complex survey samples and randomized experiments, including model-assisted approaches. Discussion of recent advances in this paradigm, including inference in network settings.

PLSC 530/5300ab/ S&DS 530ab. Data Exploration and Analysis. Jonathan Reuning-Scherer.

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.

Workshops

MacMillan-CSAP Workshop on Quantitative Research Methods. (Various Instructors)

Other courses

PLSC 990/9900ab, Directed Reading. (Various Instructors)

By arrangement with various faculty. Course must be approved by Political Science Director of Graduate Studies.