

Yale University
Department of Political Science
Course offerings by subfield

* Course numbers ending with a c 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 510a. 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 540a /541b. 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 575a/576b 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 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.

PLSC 803b. American Political 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.

PLSC 810a. 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 595b. Malcolm X and the Dilemmas of Black Radicalism: Thought, Praxis, Judgment.

Brandon Terry

(Please see course description under Political Theory)

PLSC 812a. 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 837a. 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 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 movements, problems of political culture, party building, and state building.

PLSC 841b. 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 854b. 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 859a. 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 865b. 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 868a. 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 873a. The U.S. Constitution and Comparative Constitutional Law. Akhil Amar, Steven Calabreski.

This seminar provides a comparative perspective on American constitutional law by looking at analogous case law and institutions from fifteen of the G-20 nations that are constitutional democracies: the United Kingdom; France; Germany; Italy; Japan; India; Canada; Australia; South Korea; Brazil; South Africa; Mexico; Indonesia; and the European Union. Topics include: (1) why have a written constitution and comparative amendment and secession rules? (2) the origins of judicial review in each country and its foundational case; (3) a comparison of the separation of powers; (4) comparative federal regimes; (5) comparative bills of rights or unenumerated rights; (6) comparative protections of equality; (7) comparative freedom of expression cases; (8) comparative freedom of religion cases; (9) comparative civil, criminal, and appellate procedure; (10) comparative protection of property rights and of economic liberties; (11) comparative judicial protection of social welfare entitlements; and (12) comparative guaranties of democracy in each country's constitution. The required text is Calabresi, *The U.S. Constitution and Comparative Constitutional Law* (Foundation Press, 2016). Paper required.

Workshops

PLSC 930a / 931b. 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 777a. Comparative Politics I. Isabela Mares. Kate Baldwin

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 778b. Comparative Politics II. Elizabeth Nugent. Didac Queralt

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 678ab. Japan and the World. Frances Rosenbluth

The historical development of Japan's international relations since the late Tokugawa period; World War II and its legacy; domestic institutions and foreign policy; implications for the United States; and interactions between nationalism and regionalism.

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.

PLSC 712b. Comparative Political Economy. Frances McCall 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.

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.

PLSC 722b. 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 723b. 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 748b. 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 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.

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.

PLSC 763b. 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 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.

PLSC 772b. Political Economy of Gender in South Asia. Sarah Khan

This course focuses on the political and economic underpinnings and implications of gender inequality in South Asia. We draw on evidence from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India to guide our theoretical and empirical inquiry into the following broad questions: What is gender, and what approaches do social scientists use to study gender inequality? How does gender

inequality manifest in different social, economic, and political spheres e.g. the household, the labor market, the electorate, the government? What are the cultural and structural drivers of gender inequality? How effective are different approaches to tackling gender inequality in South Asia?

PLSC 779a. 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 780a. 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 783a. Democratic Backsliding. Milan Svoblik

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 793a. 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 837a. 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 734ab. 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 932a / 933b. 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 942a / 943b. 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). Andrew Bridy

PLSC 529a. Mathematics for Political Science. Andrew Bridy

This course builds on the material seen in math camp. It covers foundational concepts and techniques in mathematics that are relevant to quantitative and formal research. Students learn to read and write rigorous mathematical proofs. Topics include real analysis, optimization, and probability theory.

PLSC 518b. Introduction to Game Theory. Alex Debs. 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.

Elective Courses

PLSC 519b. Formal Models of Domestic Politics. Emily Sellars

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. 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. Formal Models of Comparative Politics. Milan Svolik

PLSC 533a. Formal 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.

PLSC 534a. Theories of Distributive Justice: Formal Models of Political Theory. John Roemer

We survey the main theories of distributive justice proposed by political philosophers since John Rawls, including A. Sen, R. Dworkin, G.A. Cohen, and R. Arneson. We use economic models to study these theories, and we critique them from the economic and philosophical viewpoints. We then read Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. If time permits, we introduce a microeconomic theory modeling how people cooperate in economic settings, to be contrasted with Nash equilibrium, a model of how people compete.

Political Economy

Core Courses

Math Camp (Summer). Andrew Bridy

PLSC 698a/b. International Political Economy. Didac Queralt, Tyler Pratt

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 705a. Introduction to Political Economy. John Roemer

The course is an introduction to important economic ideas: preferences and rationality, Pareto efficiency, economic equilibrium in a capitalist economy, externalities, the role of the state, uncertainty and von Neumann-Morgenstern utility, the principle of insurance, elementary game theory (Nash equilibrium), the median voter theorem, political equilibrium with party competition, distributive justice, equality of opportunity, and Arrow's impossibility theorem. These topics are essential tools for political economists.

PLSC 712b. 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.

PLSC 721a. 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 534a. Theories of Distributive Justice: Formal Models of Political Theory. John Roemer
(Please see course description under Formal Theory)

PLSC 575a. Political Economy of Distribution in Democracies. John Roemer

Political competition in democracies is party competition. We develop, from the formal viewpoint, theories of how parties compete in democracies. The familiar "median voter theorem" of A. Downs is the simplest example of such a theory, but it is inadequate in several ways. We develop a theory in which parties (1) compete over several issues, not just one issue, as in Downs; (2) are uncertain about how citizens will respond to platforms; and (3) represent constituencies in the population. Applications, particularly to the theory of income distribution and taxation, are studied. We conclude the course with several lectures on the theory of Kantian optimization, which provides micro-foundations for how players in a game cooperate with each other, with applications to taxation and income distribution.

PLSC 706. Historical Political Economy. Didac Queralt

PLSC 714a. Corruption, Economic Development, and Democracy. Susan Rose-Ackerman
(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 725b. Empirical Political Economy. Ebonya Washington

An overview of the field of empirical political economy. While students are expected to familiarize themselves with the most prevalent models in the field, the emphasis in this course is on the applied work. Students attain a working knowledge of the literature, learn to critically evaluate the literature, and most importantly develop the skills to come up with interesting, workable, and theoretically grounded research questions that will push that literature forward.

PLSC 746a. 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 763ab. State Formation. Didac Queralt

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 854b. The American Political Economy. Jacob Hacker

(Please see course description under American Politics)

Workshops

PLSC 938a/939b. 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 695a. International Security. Alexandre Debs

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 698a. International Political Economy. Didac Queralt. Tyler Pratt

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 533a. Formal Models of International Relations. Alexandre Debs

(Please see course description under Formal Theory)

PLSC 678b. Japan and the World. Frances Rosenbluth.

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 680b. Non-State Actors in World Politics. Sarah Bush.

Non-state actors are increasingly important to world politics. This course introduces the variety of non-state actors that are currently influencing our world, with a special emphasis on nongovernmental organizations and transnational networks (of advocates, criminals, government officials, and terrorists). We explore how these actors interact with states, intergovernmental organizations, and each other. The course covers issues relating to war, peace, human rights, democracy, the global economy, the environment, and international law.

PLSC 699b. International Organization. Tyler Pratt.

PLSC 763a/b. State Formation. Didac Queralt

(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

Political Theory

Core Courses

PLSC 509a. 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 534a. Theories of Distributive Justice: Formal Models of Political Theory. John Roemer
(Please see course description under Formal Theory)

PLSC 568b. 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 581a. 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 583b. Contemporary Critical Theory. Seyla Benhabib

An examination of the themes of statelessness, migration, and exile in the works of Arendt, Benjamin, Adorno, Shklar, and Berlin.

PLSC 595b. Malcolm X and the Dilemmas of Black Radicalism: Thought, Praxis, Judgment.

Brandon Terry

This course closely examines the speeches, published writings, debates, and unpublished texts of Malcolm X, as well as his philosophical influences and critics, to evaluate, assess, and critique

their enduring influence as ways of thinking about central themes in political theory and the “ethics of the oppressed.” These include identity, racial and gender ideology, resistance to oppression, crime and “deviance,” racial solidarity, religious innovation and interpretation, the critique of Christianity, European empire and its legacies, virtue ethics, and revolutionary politics. By reading these texts alongside prominent posthumous biographical, interpretive, and critical treatments of Malcolm’s significance, this course also foregrounds overlooked questions of praxis and judgment. The hope is to reflect upon the decisions Malcolm made as a self-professed radical leader and organizer while trying to organize the truly disadvantaged, contribute to radical social movements, navigate religious conflict, and evade government repression.

PLSC 597a. 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 602a. 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 617b. 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 623a. 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 640a. Advanced Topics in Modern Political Philosophy. Giulia Oskian

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 644b. 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 645a. 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 646b. 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 709b. Comparative Constitutional Law. Bruce Ackerman
(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 859b. Reconstructing the American Constitution. Bruce Ackerman
(Please see course description under American Politics)

PLSC 868a. Gender and Sexuality in America. Dara Strolovitch
(Please see course description under American Politics)

PLSC 873a. The U.S. Constitution and Comparative Constitutional Law. Akhil Reed Amar and Steven Calabresi
(Please see course description under American Politics)

Workshops

PLSC 934a/935b. 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 505b. Qualitative Field Research. Egor Lazarev, 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 522a/b. 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.

PLSC 523a. Mixed Methods Research. Salma Mousa, Elizabeth Nugent

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 527b. From Concept to Measure. Sarah Khan

This course focuses on a specific aspect of the research design process: the operationalization of abstract into concrete measures that can be used for analysis and inference. The task of operationalization is common to qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method research, and this course draws on lessons from varied approaches. Readings are divided equally between (1) foundational theoretical texts dealing with broad concepts of interest to social scientists with an interest in politics (including but not limited to identity, norms, preferences, responsiveness, and accountability) and (2) recent approaches to measuring these concepts in the fields of political science, psychology, sociology, and economics. Key assignments include a paper critiquing the measurement strategy and developing an alternative measure in response to an existing study, and an original research proposal. There is flexibility to devote time to concepts and measurement strategies that are of particular relevance to enrolled students' dissertations/thesis projects, if not already included on the syllabus.

PLSC 799b. 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 508b. Causal Inference and Research Design. Fredrik Savje

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 777a. Comparative Politics I. Isabela Mares
(Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 778b. Comparative Politics II. Elizabeth Nugent (Please see course description under Comparative Politics)

PLSC 812a. American Progressivism in Theory and Practice. Stephen Skowronek
(Please see course description under American Politics)

PLSC 828b. American Political Development. Stephen Skowronek
(Please see course description under American Politics)

Quantitative Empirical Methods

Core Courses

PLSC 529a. Mathematics for Political Science. Andrew Bridy
This course builds on the material seen in math camp. It covers foundational concepts and techniques in mathematics that are relevant to quantitative and formal research. Students learn to read and write rigorous mathematical proofs. Topics include real analysis, optimization, and probability theory.

PLSC 500a. Foundations of Statistical Inference. Fredrik Savje
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 503b. Theory and Practice of Quantitative Methods. Peter Aronow
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 536a. Applied Quantitative Research Design. Alex Coppock
This course focuses on applications of observational and experimental quantitative research

designs to answer both descriptive and causal questions. We characterize designs using the Model, Inquiry, Data strategy, Answer strategy (MIDA) framework and learn about them through simulation. The work is heavily application-driven: each week's problem set involves describing the ex ante properties of a design and reproducing empirical findings using modern data analysis procedures, i.e., the Tidyverse philosophy and set of packages for R. This skills course is designed for students who intend to conduct quantitative empirical research in the future, either inside or outside the academy.

Elective Courses

PLSC 506b. Measurement, Estimation, and Inference. John Henderson

This course covers a wide array of machine-learning techniques that aim to improve our understanding of political phenomena through better measurement, estimation, and inference. Topics include measurement, reliability and error concepts, text and web scraping, supervised and unsupervised learning, Bayesian inference, cluster and topic modeling, ideal point scaling, and some advanced topics in statistical inference. The aim of the course is to provide students with a host of practical tools that can be used to evaluate and replicate other research, as well as to help students address methodological issues arising in their own work.

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PLSC 511b. 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 512b. The Design and Analysis of Randomized Field Experiments in Political Science.

Alexander Coppock

Randomized field experiments are deployed across the social sciences to answer well-posed theoretical questions and to generate new information from which to build fresh theories of

social interaction and behavior. Experiments are attractive because they enable the researcher to (mostly) ground statistical and causal inferences in features of the research design rather than assumptions about the world. This course covers the design and analysis of both introductory and advanced experimental designs, using the textbook by Gerber and Green (2012) as the main guide. Strong emphasis is placed on developing practical skills for real research scenarios. Given resources, how should subjects be assigned to conditions? How many treatment arms should be included? How do we plan to analyze the resulting data? The course has a relatively heavy workload: weekly problem sets in R that will prepare students for 95 percent of experimental research tasks they will encounter in the field.

PLSC 523a. Mixed Methods Research. Salma Mousa, Elizabeth Nugent

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.

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PLSC 530ab / S&DS 530ab. Data Exploration and Analysis. Ethan Meyers

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.

PLSC 537b. The Logic of Randomized Experiments in Political Science. Alex Coppock

Instruction in the design, execution, and analyzation of randomized experiments for businesses, nonprofits, political organizations, and social scientists. Students learn to evaluate the impact of real-world interventions on well-defined political, economic, and social outcomes. Specific

focus on randomized experimentation through field and survey experiments, with design and analysis principles extending to lab and so-called natural experiments.

Workshops

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

Other courses

PLSC 990ab, Directed Reading. (Various Instructors)

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