Overview and Contact Information

The word “politics” in ordinary conversations may refer to struggles for power or justice among antagonistic individuals or groups; the ties that bind subjects to rulers or citizens to states; the election of representatives, passage of laws, and voicing of public opinion in democratic societies; and international relations among different polities, whether they be empires, multinational federations, or nation-states. The phrase “international politics” encompasses the waging of war and conducting of peace, the pursuit of national interests in competition with other states, norms of interaction among sovereign states, projects of humanitarian intervention, and collective efforts to enhance state security, global order, and human rights.

The study of such a complex subject has traditionally been divided into four overlapping fields:

• Political theory tackles the contested meanings of freedom, equality, power, justice, community, and individuality, as well as the clashing ideological perspectives by which different people make sense of political life. It also explores the ideas of influential political theorists from Plato to Thomas Hobbes to Hannah Arendt.

• American politics studies the history and current organization of political institutions at the national, state, and local level in the United States. It also examines conflicts in America over private rights and material interests; racial, class, and gender inequality; and public goods, including the good of American citizenship itself.

• Comparative politics covers the spectrum of political histories, systems of government, public policies, political parties, and social movements across the world. It examines, for example, parliamentary systems, ethnic conflict, authoritarian regimes, immigration policy, and nationalist movements from Asia to Europe to the Americas to Africa and the Middle East.

• International politics investigates U.S. foreign policy, international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the International Criminal Court; the politics of population migrations; war, terrorism, and international security; and the political dilemmas sparked by economic globalization and such border-crossing problems as resource depletion and environmental decay.

The Department of Politics at Mount Holyoke College offers students courses within all four fields as well as courses that cross the lines between them.

See Also

• Law, Public Policy & Human Rights (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/law-public-policy-human-rights/)

• Journalism, Media, and Public Discourse (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/journalism-media-public-discourse/)

• International Relations (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/international-relations/)

Learning Goals

Students in the Politics major should:

• Understand political systems at the local, national, and international levels, and how they relate to one another.

• Acquire the vocabulary with which to analyze historical and contemporary political thought and developments.

• Demonstrate the ability to investigate political questions and to write and speak cogently about their findings.

• Critically assess texts, speeches, and other forms of political communication, and the academic political science literature.

• Understand what it means to be a thoughtful and active citizen, engaging in debates about justice and power.

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 32 credits:

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Subfield Requirements</td>
<td>16</td>
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One course must be taken in each of the four subfields, ordinarily to be selected from the list below:

American politics:
POLIT-104 American Politics
POLIT-235 Constitutional Law: The Federal System
POLIT-236 Civil Liberties
POLIT-246 American Political Thought

Comparative politics:
POLIT-106 Comparative Politics
POLIT-208 Chinese Politics
POLIT-209 Contemporary Russian Politics
POLIT-228 East Asian Politics
POLIT-243 Introduction to Latin American Politics
POLIT-249 African Politics

International politics:
POLIT-116 World Politics
POLIT-232 Introduction to International Political Economy
POLIT-247 International Law and Organization
POLIT-270 American Foreign Policy

Political theory:
POLIT-118 Introduction to Political Ideas
POLIT-233 Introduction to Feminist Theory
POLIT-246 American Political Thought

300-level Course Work Requirements

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<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three courses (12 credits) at the 300 level</td>
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<td>Two of which (8 credits) must be taken at Mount Holyoke College</td>
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<td>The remaining course (4 credits) may be completed at another institution, subject to departmental approval</td>
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<td>4 additional credits in politics at the 200 or 300 level</td>
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Total Credits 32

1 With permission from the department chair, certain 300-level courses may substitute for a 200-level field requirement, but no 300-level course may be counted as satisfying both a field requirement and the three 300-level course requirement in politics.

2 No more than 4 credits of POLIT-395 may be counted toward this requirement of three courses at the 300 level.

3 A single course at the 200 level offered at Mount Holyoke can be taken at the 300 level with the instructor's permission, provided the student has already taken 8 credits in politics, and provided the instructor and student agree upon additional work

Additional Specifications

- Students must obtain the approval of the department chair at the time they register for their next-to-last semester.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of politics can combine their course work in politics with a minor in education. In some instances course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of politics, please consult your advisor or the chair of the politics department. Further information about the minor in education (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/#minortext) and the Teacher Licensure program (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/#teacherlicensuretext) is available in other sections of the catalog, and consult Professor Lawrence in the psychology and education department.

Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the politics department and in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Additional information about the Licensure Program, including application materials, can be found on the Teacher Licensure Program website (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/teacher-licensure/).

Course Offerings

POLIT-104 American Politics

*Fall and Spring. Credits: 4*

Offers an overview of the American political system and the theories of those who both celebrate and criticize it. Focuses on the institutions of American politics, including the Constitution, the presidency, Congress, the courts, parties, elections, interest groups, and movements seeking political change. Also includes a theoretical focus: a critical examination of the varieties of liberalism, conservatism, pluralism, and democracy that inform the practice of American politics.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

R. Darrow, A. Hilton, P. Smith, The department

Requirements for the Minor

At least 16 credits:

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<th>Code</th>
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<td></td>
<td>12 credits in politics at the 200 level or above</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>At least 4 credits in politics at the 300 level</td>
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Courses must span at least two of the department's four subfields.¹
POLIT-106 Comparative Politics
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course provides an introduction to comparative political analysis, one of the four subfields of political science. The primary objective is to help students understand how the ‘modern’ world, one characterized by the rise of industrialized nation-states, took form and what shape it might take in the post-Cold War era. We will examine how the challenges of economic development, social transformation, and nation-building sparked the emergence of alternatives to modernity. We will also assess how globalization and the re-emergence of local identities may be redefining our understanding of modernity.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
C. Chen, C. Fernandez Anderson, The department

POLIT-116 World Politics
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course is a survey of contending approaches to the study of conflict and cooperation in world politics. Examines key concepts—balance of power, imperialism, collective security, deterrence, and interdependence—with historical examples ranging from the Peloponnesian War to the post-cold war world. Analyzes the emerging world order.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Hashmi, K. Khory, C. Mitchell, A. Reiter

POLIT-118 Introduction to Political Ideas
Fall. Credits: 4
This course introduces students to the study of political thought, focusing on such concepts as freedom, power, equality, justice, and democracy. Over the course of the semester, students will develop a theoretical vocabulary with which to analyze both the history of political thought and contemporary politics. This course is writing-intensive; students will have the opportunity to rigorously analyze texts and hone their ability to write confidently and effectively.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
A. Aslam, K. Henderson

POLIT-208 Chinese Politics
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines the politics of contemporary China. Beginning with an assessment of the origins of the Chinese Revolution, the course then examines core institutions and events in the People’s Republic, including the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, post-Mao reforms, and the Tiananmen Incident. In addition, the course analyzes the changing nature of state-society relations, the emergence of new social and political identities, and China’s role in the international arena.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
C. Chen
Advisory: Politics 106 recommended.

POLIT-209 Contemporary Russian Politics
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Russia was transformed by communist revolution into a global superpower that challenged the dominant ideologies of liberalism and nationalism. It became a powerful alternative to capitalism. In 1991, this imperial state collapsed and underwent an economic, political, and cultural revolution. What explains the Soviet Union’s success for 70 years and its demise in 1991? What sort of country is Russia as it enters the twenty-first century? Is it a democracy? How has Russia’s transformation affected ordinary people and Russia’s relationship to the West?
Crosslisted as: RES-240
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
N. Sabanadze

POLIT-212 Modern Political Thought
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Through readings authored by canonical thinkers such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Nietzsche, Burke, but also more contemporary thinkers reflecting on the emergence and practices of modern state power and discourses, we will trace the development of key political concepts such as sovereignty, the “science” of politics, natural rights, rationality, and tradition, in order to weigh the promise and peril of each idea.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Aslam
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

POLIT-216 Middle East Politics
Spring. Credits: 4
Introduction to the peoples and politics of the Middle East. Begins with the historical situation of the region in the early twentieth century and challenges to the Ottoman Empire. Traces how the clash of nationalisms and imperialisms shaped the emergence of independent states before and after World War II, the rise of Pan-Arab and Zionist ideologies, the subsequent Arab-Israeli conflicts, the intra-Arab disputes, and the superpower rivalry and its influence on regional politics.
Crosslisted as: JWST-216
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Hashmi
Prereq: POLIT-116.

POLIT-218 Israel/Palestine: Fact/Fiction
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This seminar traces the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through autobiography, novels, and film. It focuses on the birth of Israel and the creation of a Palestinian diaspora, the toll war and terrorism have taken on both sides, and the mental and physical barriers that separate Israelis and Palestinians today.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Hashmi

POLIT-224 The United States and Iran
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Explores America’s relationship with Iran from the end of World War II to the present. Examines America’s close ties to the Shah and the political, social, and economic causes of the Iranian revolution, with emphasis on the role of Shi’ite Islam. Concludes with analysis of politics and society in the Islamic Republic under Khomeini and his successors.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Hashmi
Prereq: POLIT-116.
POLIT-226 The United States, Israel, and the Arabs

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

Surveys the constants and variables in U.S. foreign policy toward Israel and the Arabs since the end of World War II to the present. Analysis of domestic determinants of U.S. policy, including lobbies, ideology, and the international system. Consideration of U.S. policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict, intra-Arab disputes, and the Gulf War.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives

S. Hashmi
Prereq: POLIT-116.

POLIT-228 East Asian Politics

Fall. Credits: 4

This course examines the dramatic rise of East Asia in the post-World War II period in comparative perspective. The focus will be on understanding the process and consequences of rapid development in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China. Assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the 'East Asian model of development' and explores how different developmental experiences and policies affect state-society relations, social and political identities, and prospects for peace and cooperation throughout the region.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

C. Chen
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Advisory: POLIT-106 recommended

POLIT-230 Resistance and Revolution

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course examines the dynamics and causes of protest, rebellion, and revolution. Topics include the three 'great' revolutions - the French, Russian, and Chinese - as well as such social science theories as moral economy, rational choice, resource mobilization, political culture, and relative deprivation. Attention will be devoted to peasant protest and elite responses to resistance movements. The objectives of the class are to familiarize students with alternative explanations of revolutionary change and to provide students with an opportunity to link general theories to specific case studies.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

C. Chen
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.
Advisory: POLIT-106 recommended.

POLIT-232 Introduction to International Political Economy

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course examines the theory and practice of the politics of international trade and economics, focusing on the spread of global trade, global financial flows, causes and effects of globalization and migration, and the intersection of trade and environmental issues. Major themes include tensions between the developed and developing world, various development strategies, and the impact of a rising China on both the developed North American and European economies and developing economies.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

C. Mitchell
Prereq: POLIT-116.

POLIT-233 Introduction to Feminist Theory

Fall and Spring. Credits: 4

This course explores the overlapping dualities of the feminine and the masculine, the private and the public, the home and the world. We examine different forms of power over the body; the ways gender and sexual identities reinforce or challenge the established order; and the cultural determinants of 'women's emancipation.' We emphasize the politics of feminism, dealing with themes that include culture, democracy, and the particularly political role of theory and on theoretical attempts to grasp the complex ties and tensions between sex, gender, and power.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

K. Henderson
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

POLIT-234 Black Metropolis: From MLK to Obama

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

Black Metropolis refers to the more than half a million black people jammed into a South Side ghetto in Chicago at mid-twentieth century that featured an entrenched black political machine, a prosperous black middle class, and a thriving black cultural scene in the midst of massive poverty and systemic inequality. This course will follow the political, economic, and cultural developments of what scholars considered to be the typical urban community in postwar United States. We will examine such topics as Martin Luther King's failed desegregation campaign; Harold Washington, first black mayor; William Julius Wilson's urban underclass thesis; and the rise of Barack Obama.

Crosslisted as: CRPE-234

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives

P. Smith

POLIT-235 Constitutional Law: The Federal System

Fall. Credits: 4

This course examines the impact of U.S. constitutional law on the legitimacy of different assertions of governmental power. Topics include judicial review; congressional control of court jurisdiction; federal regulation of the economy; and the relative powers and authority of the president, Congress, and the courts in national emergencies, foreign relations, war, and covert action, including torture and assassination.

Case method.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

A. Hilton, J. Wuest
Prereq: POLIT-104.

POLIT-236 Civil Liberties

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course addresses the federal Constitution and civil liberties. Topics include the authority of the courts to read new rights into the Constitution; equal protection of the laws and affirmative action for racial minorities, women, gays, and non-citizens. Also, freedoms of expression, association, and the press. Emphasis on the appropriateness of different methods of interpreting law. Case method.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

J. Wuest
Prereq: POLIT-104.
POLIT-243 Introduction to Latin American Politics

Spring. Credits: 4

Why has Latin America struggled to achieve democratic stability? Why is it the region of the world with the highest economic inequality? How have the periodic political and economic crises allowed for creative experimentation with policy alternatives to create a more equal and sustainable social order? This course examines the political and economic evolution and transformation of Latin America from the time of the European conquest until these very days, with a particular focus on the 20th century. It will also analyze how these general trends took specific shapes in each of the 7 countries studied: Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Venezuela and Bolivia.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
C. Fernandez Anderson

Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Advisory: Politics 106 (Comparative Politics) is recommended.

POLIT-246 American Political Thought

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course explores limited government, popular sovereignty, representative institutions, checks and balances, republicanism, liberty, equality, democracy, pluralism, liberalism, and conservatism, and how these concepts have developed during three centuries of American politics and in contrast to European thought. The focus is not on the writings of the 'great thinkers' but on the 'habits of thought' of the American people and on ideas implicit in laws and institutions that affect the allocation of authority and power within the constitutional order.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
The department
Prereq: POLIT-104, or HIST-270, or HIST-170 and HIST-171.

POLIT-247 International Law and Organization

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course presents international norms and institutions for regulating conflict, including promoting economic well-being, protecting human rights, exploring and using outer space, and controlling exploitation and pollution of the oceans. The course considers international agreements, problems of lawmaking, interpretation, and compliance; nationality and the status of foreigners and their investments; the principle of self-determination; and interests of postcolonial states as they impinge on the international legal order.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Reiter
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

POLIT-248 Topics in Politics

POLIT-248DA Topics in Politics: 'Defense Against the Dark Arts'

Fall. Credits: 4

Popular narratives about American politics today are often horror stories or crime stories, set in a realm of dirty tricksters, snake-oil salesmen and swamp creatures. Does entering the political arena mean going over to the dark side? This course separates myths, caricatures and textbook idealizations from the more complicated realities about political operators and their machinations. Participants will study the dark arts of electoral manipulation, propaganda, influence-peddling, and other cynical and subterranean political stratagems, learning how these tricks are performed, with the aims of countering their influence and designing more democratic modes of governance.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
R. Darrow

POLIT-248GE Topics in Politics: 'Sex, Gender, and American Law'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

How does the law police or protect sexuality? Why do activists and attorneys spar over theories of gender identity? How did abortion become the seeming center of American politics? This course examines sexual and gender oppression and liberation in the U.S. from the nineteenth century to the present. We will explore how sexual and gender minorities won civil rights struggles, how those rights have been rolled back, and how these political conflicts have transformed the meanings of liberty and equality. In this pursuit, we will consult court cases, social movement histories, police records, "gayborhood" maps, labor union contracts, and other means by which law shapes identity and desire.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
J. Wuest
Prereq: POLIT-104.

POLIT-248GR Topics in Politics: 'Grassroots Democracy'

Spring. Credits: 4

The central focus of this course is to explore theory and organizing practices of grassroots democracy. Each week the seminar will move back and forth between historical and theoretical reflection and reflection upon the experience of organizing communities. The course is motivated by citizens acting together to generate responses to the most challenging questions and issues of the present.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Aslam

POLIT-248PM Topics in Politics: 'Parties and Movements in American Politics'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course explores the relationship between political parties and social movements in the United States. Through a historical examination of abolitionist, labor, civil rights, and other movements, we will analyze how formal electoral politics intersects with the more fluid politics of protest and direct action. We will look at how parties have grown out of, allied with, co-opted or eschewed movements for social change. Students will develop a clear analytical sense of the conditions that facilitate successful movement-party dynamics, concluding with critical assessments concerning the impact of the Tea Party, Occupy Wall Street, and Black Lives Matter.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
A. Hilton
Prereq: POLIT-104.

POLIT-249 African Politics

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a historically informed comparative study of African politics. The course views Africa as a distinct region with a vital role in the international system, reviewing major theories designed to explain patterns of African politics and the variations between and within African states. The course is motivated by the need to understand the legacies of colonialism, the relative weakness of the African state, and the variation of political and economic development in the continent. Finally, the course examines some aspects of social change and political reforms in post-independence Africa, such as democratization, international relations, and the role of civil society.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
The department
POLIT-252 Urban Politics
Fall. Credits: 4
This course draws on both historical and contemporary sources to address critical issues and problems facing cities. Topics are organized around the following questions: How have cities come to take their shape and character over time? How are economic and social inequalities mapped onto the urban landscape? How are differences of race, class, and gender negotiated through urban institutions and community struggles?
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
P. Smith
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Advisory: Introductory course in American history or social sciences.

POLIT-255 Gender and Power in Global Contexts

POLIT-255PA Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas'
Fall. Credits: 4
The Americas have been characterized by the strictness of their laws in the criminalization of abortion. In some countries abortion is criminalized even when the woman's life is at risk. What role have women's movements played in advancing abortion rights? What has mattered most for a movement's success, its internal characteristics or external forces? Has the way the movement framed its demands mattered? How has the political influence of the Catholic and Evangelical churches influenced policies in this area? We will answer these questions by exploring examples from across the region through primary and secondary sources.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
C. Fernandez Anderson

POLIT-267 The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
The development and operation of stable and effective banks and financial markets has a tremendous impact on the economy and political stability of rich and poor countries alike. A stable financial system may be a necessity for economic growth and a financial crisis can wipe out decades of growth in weeks. This course will critically examine the debates around regulation of finance and management of financial crises in both the advanced capitalist states and emerging markets. It will examine specifically the Latin American debt crisis, the East Asian financial crisis, the 2007-2009 trans-Atlantic financial crisis, and the European debt crisis.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
C. Mitchell
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

POLIT-269 Social Movements: Theory and Praxis
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Why do people mobilize? When do they do so? Why and how do they create movements? Are social movements successful paths towards social change? If so, under which conditions? This course will review the main theories of social movements and use them to analyze cases from around the world. Some of the cases we will take up are the Arab Spring, the American civil rights movement, women and indigenous movements in Latin America, the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, and the environmental movement in Europe.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
C. Fernandez Anderson
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Advisory: POLIT-106 (Comparative Politics) is recommended.

POLIT-270 American Foreign Policy
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
In this examination of American foreign policy since 1898, topics include the emergence of the United States as a global power, its role in World War I and II, its conduct and interests in the cold war, and its possible objectives in a post-cold war world. Particular attention is paid to the relationship between domestic interests and foreign policy, the role of nuclear weapons in determining policy, and the special difficulties in implementing a democratic foreign policy.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
The department
Prereq: POLIT-116.

POLIT-272 Trade and American Foreign Policy
Fall. Credits: 4
Trade policy has been central to American political debates since independence. Whether free trade, fair trade, or protectionism is best for America has been hotly debated for centuries. Decisions to trade or not to trade have also long been linked to other domestic and foreign policy issues including abolitionism and the Civil War, securing allies in the Cold War, building peaceful relations with China, and cementing U.S. global leadership. This course examines the shifting coalitions arguing over U.S. trade policy, the shifting goals they seek to accomplish via U.S. trade policy, and the international effects of U.S. trade.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
C. Mitchell
Prereq: POLIT-116.

POLIT-273 Public Policy
Spring. Credits: 4
Want to change your government for the better? This course is concerned with the practical business of how, focusing on the often invisible and underappreciated public servants who do the hard work of designing, implementing and enforcing the policies and programs on which modern societies depend. Their work is often nonideological, yet modern democracies have long harbored suspicions of the power of unelected bureaucrats. Students in this course will study these debates over the organization and functions of modern state administration, familiarize themselves with policymaking processes, and engage in designing practical solutions to some of the most pressing social issues of the present.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
R. Darrow

POLIT-277 Dislocation: Class and Politics in the U.S.
Spring. Credits: 4
Dislocation from work and home has been a common experience of the working class in the United States since World War II. Whether caused by factors such as the gentrification of urban neighborhoods and rural towns, deindustrialization, urban renewal, automation, or the precariousness of low-wage employment, the working class experience of dislocation continues today. This course will examine the decision making behind the policies and practices that have dislocated many working class Americans, as well as how these people have adjusted, accommodated, resisted, and sometimes fought dislocation from their jobs and homes. In this course, class is viewed as a social position shaped by power relations. While race and gender will be taken into account, our main focus will be understanding and explaining the common experience of the working class majority in the U.S.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Social Sciences
Prereq: POLIT-104 or POLIT-252, or 8 credits in Politics.
POLIT-278 U.S. Elections

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Elections are at the core of both the vitality and fragility of American democracy. Free and responsive government is hard to imagine without elections, yet U.S. elections suffer from relatively low turnout, increasing polarization, invisible money, racial and gender inequality, partisan gerrymandering, and new forms of voter disenfranchisement. This course offers students an overview of American elections by placing the November elections in historical and comparative perspective and following their development in real time. Students will also gain on-the-ground experience working in the local community as voter registrants and get-out-the-vote activists in the run-up to the November elections. By then end of the semester, students will have developed an in-depth understanding of the workings of American electoral institutions and behavior as well as transferrable skills for organizing and mobilizing political action.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Hilton
Prereg: POLIT-104.

POLIT-295 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required.

POLIT-305 International Society

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
An intensive reading course in theories of international society; the idea that states and peoples are or should be linked to each other through a web of shared values and institutions. It focuses on the work of Hedley Bull, Immanuel Kant, and John Rawls. How did these three men understand international society? What are or should be the values and institutions that give rise to it and support it? What implications do their visions of international society have for war and peace, state sovereignty, religion, democracy, capitalism, distributive justice, human rights, and international law? What responses and criticisms have their arguments engendered?
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Hashmi

POLIT-312 Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways across the Eurasian Continent

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
The silk roads were ancient transportation and trade links that wound their way across the Eurasian continent, or by sea through the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, to Europe. They carried silk, glass, jade, and moved religions and literatures across continents. Today, the new silk roads carry oil, gas, drugs, capitalism, and immigrants seeking better lives. We will investigate the parallels between the ancient and modern silk roads and the contemporary strategic, cultural, and economic significance of these new highways, which link China, Central Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, and Europe.
Crosslisted as: RES-312
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
The department
Prereg: 8 credits in Politics, International Relations, History, or Russian and Eurasian studies.

POLIT-314 Political Violence: Causes and Solutions

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course is an examination of political violence. Throughout the semester, the course covers the various manifestations of political violence, focusing on diverse topics such as genocide, ethnic conflict, interstate war, terrorism, and civil war. The course explores the debates in the field of political science regarding the nature and causal factors behind these types of violence. The course also examines how to end violence, how to maintain peace, and how societies should attempt to heal from periods of violence.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Reiter
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereg: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-319 War: What Is It Good For?

Fall. Credits: 4
A multidisciplinary exploration of the ways humans have understood, represented, experienced, and justified war over time and across cultures. Using art, literature, and film in addition to social scientific research, this course considers the many different meanings war has in human societies. It analyzes possible causes of war, including innate human drives, gender differences, socialization, regimes, and ideological and resource competition in a condition of international anarchy. It probes how war is experienced by soldiers and civilians. Finally, it examines justifications for war from a range of ethical perspectives.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Hashmi
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors

POLIT-327 Transitional Justice

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
As societies emerge from authoritarian rule or civil war, they face the daunting task of engaging past human rights violations. States have a myriad of options at their disposal, ranging from granting blanket amnesties to hosting complex trials and truth commissions. In making these decisions, new leaders face pressures from former authoritarian actors, victims’ groups, and international organizations. This course analyzes the problems facing societies with past human rights violations, the numerous options they have at their disposal to engage these abuses, and the political, legal, economic, and moral ramifications of each choice. Most importantly, it asks—does transitional justice work?
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Reiter
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors

POLIT-333 Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Why do we moralize about war? When is war justified, if ever? What restraints should soldiers accept? This course examines these issues within the context of Western and Islamic thought. Study of the origins and evolution of both traditions is combined with consideration of important topics of current concern, such as intervention, weapons of mass destruction, and women and war.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Hashmi
Prereg: 8 credits in Politics.
POLIT-341 Political Islam
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course covers Islamic responses to European imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly the emergence of Islamic modernism; the growth of Islamic movements in the Arab world and South Asia and their responses to secular nationalism and socialism; and a survey of the ends to which religion is applied in three types of regimes: patrimonial Saudi Arabia, revolutionary Iran, and military-authoritarian Pakistan.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Hashmi
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-342 Islamic Political Thought
Spring. Credits: 4
This course examines Islamic political thought from the origins of Islam to the present. It considers how Muslim thinkers over the past 14 centuries have understood such fundamental political concepts as the state, leadership, and law. The seminar also includes modern Muslim reflections on political concepts of Western origin, such as democracy, nationalism, and civil society.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Hashmi
Prereq: POLIT-116 and 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-343 Law and Religion
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course explores the relationship between law and religion through a comparative study of eight countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Israel, and India. It focuses on the role of religion in the constitutional law of these countries, both in the text of constitutional documents and in judicial interpretation of these texts. Starting with an analysis of the religion clauses in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the seminar explores questions relating to the separation of religion and state, religious liberty, and the proper role of courts in negotiating societal disputes over religion.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Hashmi
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-351 The Supreme Court
Spring. Credits: 4
This course will focus on the most important cases decided by the United States Supreme Court since 1803. Each week will focus on a different seminal Supreme Court case and the political context surrounding the case. The cases will focus on topics such as judicial review, reproductive rights, school desegregation, free speech, gay marriage, and affirmative action. As a final project, students will create a presentation on a Supreme Court case that is not covered in the course. Students will also submit reaction papers each week. The learning objectives of the course include: understanding how to read a federal court case, examining the way politics influences Supreme Court decisions, and exploring the way Supreme Court decision making has an impact on American society.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
D. Holley
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: POLIT-104 or POLIT-235.

POLIT-355 Race and Housing
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines the role of race in the construction of housing markets and policies in United States. It will consider housing markets and policies in the larger context of postwar American Political Development. We will also examine how African Americans, Latinx, Asian Americans, and whites embraced, accommodated, and protested segregated housing markets and discriminatory policies. Topics discuss include racial and class segregation, fair housing, public housing, urban redevelopment, and gentrification.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
P. Smith
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics including POLIT-104, POLIT-234, or POLIT-252.

POLIT-357 War and Peace in South Asia
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Rising inequality, political instability, and radicalism mark South Asia – a region of contested histories, ideologies, and territories. We will explore the history and causes of enduring conflicts such as Kashmir and the wars in Afghanistan, separatist movements in Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka, and potential conflicts over scarce water and energy resources. We will conclude with analysis of the role of external powers in South Asia, for example, China and the U.S., and assess the prospects for peace in the region.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
K. Khory
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics.

POLIT-359 Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines the dramatic emergence of democratic institutions and civil society in East Asia. The primary aim of the class is to help students understand and analyze the process of democratic unfolding in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. We will also evaluate China’s recent, albeit limited experiments with democratic practices. We will begin by contrasting Western perspectives of democracy with both traditional and more contemporary Asian understandings of democracy. We will then focus on the actual processes of democratic consolidation in each of the cases, especially the developments that precipitated political crisis and ultimately, political change.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
C. Chen
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors

POLIT-363 Political Economy of the European Union
Spring. Credits: 4
This course examines the political, economic, and cultural forces driving debates around the creation, expansion, and reform of the European Union. It examines the economic and political logic for integration, as well as the cultural and economic challenges pushing against integration, and provides an in-depth look at the specific challenges facing the EU.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
C. Mitchell
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics/International Relations.
POLIT-365 Ethics and International Relations
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Do ethical considerations matter in international relations? Should they? These questions are examined from the perspective of Western writers on these specific issues: just war, intervention, human rights, weapons of mass destruction, and distributive justice. The course also considers challenges to the international system posed by the critiques and responses of non-Western states and peoples.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Hashmi
Prereq: POLIT-116.

POLIT-366 Global Migration
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines voluntary and forced migrations from local, regional and global perspectives. It focuses on contemporary population movements and their historical antecedents, paying particular attention to colonial legacies and the immigration policies of European states and the U.S. We will debate the costs and benefits of migration, the ethical and normative implications of asylum policies and the treatment of refugees, and rights and obligations of citizenship. The course concludes with an analysis of the global compact for migration and the institutional and legal frameworks for protecting migrant rights and refugees.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
K. Khory
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 Credits from Politics

POLIT-372 Earthborn Democracy
Fall. Credits: 4
The relationship between ecology and democracy has a complex history and an uncertain future. Ecological crises threaten all forms of life on earth, and democracy too is an endangered species, as popular discontent, elite malefiance, and unresponsive institutions herald democratic crisis if not collapse. If our present political concepts and institutions are inadequate for meeting the challenges of living in right relation with the more-than-human world, these inadequacies are themselves symptoms of a failing political-cultural story and a lack of concrete practices of ecological renewal. Course readings will excavate political practices and stories illustrating the interdependence necessary to inspire and orient the work of ecological renewal.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
A. Aslam
Prereq: 8 Credits from Politics

POLIT-378 Backsliding and Resilience in U.S. Democracy
Fall. Credits: 4
American democracy is in trouble. But when has it not been? Since the election of Donald Trump, observers have increasingly begun to question basic assumptions about the apparent stability of the American constitutional regime. Yet critical observers, activists, and political movements across the past two centuries have persistently called attention to the deficits of U.S. democracy and sought to rectify them. Is America presently at risk of “democratic backsliding”? Or will U.S. democracy prove resilient? This course puts the current distemper of U.S. democracy in historical perspective by examining the complex and contradictory patterns of democratic development from the Founding to the present.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
A. Hilton
Prereq: 8 credits in the department and POLIT-104.

POLIT-380 Nationalism and Ethnic Politics
Fall. Credits: 4
This course examines ethnic and nationalist ideologies and movements in contemporary politics. It will focus on major theories and approaches to the study of nationalism, the role of nationalism in state-building and modern warfare, and the mobilization of ethno-nationalist identities by political entrepreneurs and movements including anticolonialism and fascism. Drawing on cross-regional examples from Asia, Europe and the United States, we will analyze the causes of ethnic conflict and political violence, the global resurgence of nationalism, and the rise of populist movements. We will also consider multiculturalism and cosmopolitan alternatives to nationalism.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
K. Khory
Prereq: 8 credits in politics.

POLIT-384 Ending War and Securing the Peace: Conflict Mediation and Resolution in the 21st Century
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
How do we end political violence and achieve peace? This course focuses on the context for negotiation and bargaining strategies, including what types of actors are involved in negotiations, the contours of the mediation environment, the timing of intervention and talks, the use of leverage to get warring parties to the table, and the transformation of processes across multiple stages from initial mediation to implementation to enforcement. The course also examines several peacemaking strategies in depth, including resource sharing, territorial autonomy and partitions, elections and powersharing agreements, refugee crisis management, and demobilization and reintegration programs.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Reiter
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-385 International Security
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course focuses on the recasting of global security concerns after the end of the cold war. It pays special attention to the problems of economic and ecological security; the relationship between security and democracy; humanitarian intervention; nuclear proliferation; and terrorism. The course concludes with analysis of specific initiatives for achieving both common and comprehensive security.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
K. Khory
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics including POLIT-116.
POLIT-387 Advanced Topics in Political Theory

POLIT-387DE Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Democratic Desire'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
If democracies trace their origins back to insurrections -- whether, to name three, the American, French, or Haitian -- how do we make sense of the near-universal condemnation of January 6th insurrections or of those participating in uprisings in Ferguson, Baltimore, Portland, Seattle, Athens or Madrid over the last decade as threats to democracy? This paradox points to an underdeveloped concept of desire across democratic theory that would explain the basis for the people to rule themselves. This course will explore democratic desire as both the desire not to be ruled by others and the desire for collective self-rule. Beginning with feminists writing about erotic power such as Audre Lorde and the varied practices of so-called "pleasure activists," we will understand the role of desire in politics, how it can be tapped into, why it can be so unruly, and why it is repressed. Tracing desire's anarchic element, our readings will examine "wild democracy" and the polymorphism of desire, as pathways for cultivating a healthy desire for exercising power and cooperating with others through organizing and movement practices. Readings may include titles by Anne Norton, adrienne marie brown, Lama Rod Owens, Norman O. Brown, Bonnie Honig, and Saidiya Hartman.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
J. Wuest
Prereq: 8 credits in the department and POLIT-104.

POLIT-387AW Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Law and Inequality'
Spring. Credits: 4
The gap between the rich and the poor in the United States today is as wide as it was during the Great Depression. Some scholars and lawmakers have called our era the "Second Gilded Age," a reference that evokes images of robber barons and monopolists, the "billionaire class" of yesteryear. This seminar poses the question: what does law have to do with it? Together, we will explore all the ways that "law," "politics," and "economics" are messily entwined, and how those entanglements explain who has wealth, who gets healthcare, who goes to jail, and who decides climate change policy.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
J. Wuest
Prereq: 8 credits in the department and POLIT-104.

POLIT-387PD Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Other Political Dreams'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course examines dreams of other politics, trying to recognize what is distinctive in a diverse set of traditions beyond their resistance to liberal-democracy's entwinement with contemporary capitalism. Spanning anarchism, Afro- pessimism and Afro-futurism, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement, we will examine political actions and thought that do not identify themselves as democratic and even define themselves as anti-democratic in order to name politics they aspire towards. Special attention will be given the picture of collective belonging and action that emerges in these works along with the techniques of figuring these visions and of gathering community around them.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
A. Aslam
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-387HE Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Health and Inequality'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course is designed to provide students with both an in-depth study of the political and social determinants of health and with queer, feminist, and postcolonial theorizations of health and the body. We will question and theorize what "health" is as well as study how economic and social inequality distribute unequal life chances. We will examine how race, class, gender, sexuality, and citizenship combine to help some survive and even profit from disease and illness while others perish and experience shame, stigma, and financial insecurity. We will study how politicians, scientists, and public health officials have treated different communities and how various marginalized communities have fought back for improved life chances.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
K. Henderson
Prereq: 8 credits in the department.

POLIT-387FX Advanced Topics in Politics: 'The Feminist Sex Wars'
Spring. Credits: 4
In the late 1970s through the 1980s, a series of contentious debates erupted in American feminism over pornography, prostitution, sadomasochism, and other issues related to sex, power, pleasure, desire, erotic community, and violence. This was a time of prolific theorizing and bitter conflict known as the "feminist sex wars." This course tries to make sense of some common contemporary discourses on pornography, sexual representation, sexual conduct, and sexual ethics by exploring their sources in the feminist political and theoretical debates of the sex wars, as well as examining how feminist engagement with these issues was entangled in larger political, cultural, and philosophical contexts. We will also question how the feminist sex wars are remembered and theorized today and what kind of stories about the feminist sex wars are repeatedly told in different institutional contexts.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
K. Henderson
Prereq: 8 credits in the department.

Advisory: Strongly recommended that students take POLIT-233 or GNDST-101 before taking this course.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
K. Henderson
Prereq: 8 credits in the department.
POLIT-387PE Advanced Topics in Politics: 'The 1%'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
In recent years, scholarship on American politics has challenged the idea that our government has upheld and expanded basic democratic principles since the fall of Jim Crow. This scholarship notes a growing wealth gap since the 1970s and 1980s that has given rise to a "New Gilded Age." Along with this rising wealth gap, the United States has also endured rising incarceration rates, a shrinking middle class, an eroding public sphere, and charges that plutocracy -- or governance by the rich -- has overtaken American democracy. In this course we will explore, investigate, and challenge several arguments and assumptions at the heart of these critiques of contemporary US politics. Students will read and discuss cutting edge scholarship and journalism exploring the inequality debates, including inquiries into the complex interrelations of race, gender, and class.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Hilton
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics including POLIT-104.

POLIT-391 Pivotal Political Ideas
POLIT-391RE Pivotal Political Ideas: 'Reparations and the Politics of Repair'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine arguments for reparations for slavery with an eye towards understanding what withholding and extending reparations have meant for American democracy and citizenship. We will contextualize arguments for reparations within a larger conversation about repairing democratic norms, institutions, and social conditions within recent democratic theory. Together we will investigate what historical and ongoing injustices and inequalities reparations are meant to repair, how reparations would address those harms, and how arguments for reparations have mobilized social activists on both sides of the question. Our readings will span history, legal studies, politics, literature and the arts and arguments for reparations to be paid by the American state down to institutions such as corporations, universities, and other jurisdictions.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
A. Aslam
Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.

Courses Meeting Politics Subfield Requirements for the Major

American Politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-104</td>
<td>American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-234</td>
<td>Black Metropolis: From MLK to Obama</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-235</td>
<td>Constitutional Law: The Federal System</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-236</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-245</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-248DA</td>
<td>Topics in Politics: 'Defense Against the Dark Arts'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-248GE</td>
<td>Topics in Politics: 'Sex, Gender, and American Law'</td>
<td>4</td>
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Comparative Politics

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-106</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-208</td>
<td>Chinese Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-209</td>
<td>Contemporary Russian Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-228</td>
<td>East Asian Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-230</td>
<td>Resistance and Revolution</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-243</td>
<td>Introduction to Latin American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-249</td>
<td>African Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-255PA</td>
<td>Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas'</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-267</td>
<td>The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-269</td>
<td>Social Movements: Theory and Praxis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-314</td>
<td>Political Violence: Causes and Solutions</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>POLIT-327</td>
<td>Transitional Justice</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>POLIT-341</td>
<td>Political Islam</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>POLIT-343</td>
<td>Law and Religion</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>POLIT-359</td>
<td>Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-363</td>
<td>Political Economy of the European Union</td>
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Russian & Eurasian Studies

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>RES-240</td>
<td>Contemporary Russian Politics: From Lenin to Putin</td>
<td>4</td>
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International Politics

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-116</td>
<td>World Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-216</td>
<td>Middle East Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-224</td>
<td>The United States and Iran</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-226</td>
<td>The United States, Israel, and the Arabs</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-232</td>
<td>Introduction to International Political Economy</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-247</td>
<td>International Law and Organization</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-267</td>
<td>The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-270</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-272</td>
<td>Trade and American Foreign Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-305</td>
<td>International Society</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-312</td>
<td>Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways across the Eurasian Continent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-314</td>
<td>Political Violence: Causes and Solutions</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-319</td>
<td>War: What Is It Good For?</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>POLIT-327</td>
<td>Transitional Justice</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-333</td>
<td>Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-357</td>
<td>War and Peace in South Asia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-363</td>
<td>Political Economy of the European Union</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-365</td>
<td>Ethics and International Relations</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-366</td>
<td>Global Migration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-380</td>
<td>Nationalism and Ethnic Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-384</td>
<td>Ending War and Securing the Peace: Conflict Mediation and Resolution in the 21st Century</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-385</td>
<td>International Security</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Political Theory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Gender Studies</strong></td>
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<td>GNDST-221QF Feminist and Queer Theory: ‘Feminist and Queer Theory’</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Politics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-118</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Ideas</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-212</td>
<td>Modern Political Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>POLIT-233</td>
<td>Introduction to Feminist Theory</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-246</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-248GR</td>
<td>Topics in Politics: ‘Grassroots Democracy’</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-305</td>
<td>International Society</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-333</td>
<td>Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-342</td>
<td>Islamic Political Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>POLIT-365</td>
<td>Ethics and International Relations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-372</td>
<td>Earthborn Democracy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-387HE</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Politics: ‘Health and Inequality’</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIT-387PD</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Politics: ‘Other Political Dreams’</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLIT-391RE</td>
<td>Pivotal Political Ideas: ‘Reparations and the Politics of Repair’</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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