

POLITICS (POLIT)

POLIT Courses

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

A. Abraham

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' characterized by diverse configurations of political institutions and social forces. 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, R. Darrow, C. Fernandez Anderson

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—including 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-200 Research Methods

Spring. Credits: 4

Develops students' skills in writing expository essays and introduces basic quantitative and qualitative research methods used in the social sciences and history. The course provides a foundation for writing research papers in advanced courses as well as for any honors thesis.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

A. Hilton

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: POLIT-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-211 Classical Political Thought

Fall. Credits: 4

This course traces the development of western political thought from classical Greece through medieval Europe. We will pay particular attention to the ways major writers characterized the relationship between the individual and community; the roles knowledge, reason, emotion, and rhetoric play in political life; the link between gender and citizenship; and the various forms political community can take.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

K. Henderson

Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors

POLIT-212 Modern Political Thought

Spring. 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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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.

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

Spring. 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

Spring. 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

Fall. 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

Fall. 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.

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

POLIT-235 Constitutional Law: The Federal System

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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. Abraham
Prereq: POLIT-104.

POLIT-236 Civil Liberties

Spring. 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

A. Abraham

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: POLIT-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

Spring. 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'**

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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 counteracting 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

The department

Prereq: POLIT-104.

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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-248TE Topics in Politics: 'Science, Technology and Public Policy'*Fall. Credits: 4*

As numerous controversies have made clear – from Galileo's heresy trial to contemporary disputes over vaccination – the purportedly neutral and objective results of scientific inquiry are in practice hotly contested and profoundly political. Students in this course will critically examine science and technology as social practices, in the hope of becoming more responsible users of these powerful tools. Course topics include how scientific and technical knowledge are produced and disseminated, how scientific and technical experts contribute to the policymaking process, and how research and innovation are governed through legislation, regulation, institutions, social norms and movements.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**R. Darrow***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**A. Aslam**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-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***Not Scheduled for This Year. 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***Not Scheduled for This Year. 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.

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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 precarity 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): Writing-Intensive

P. Smith

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

Prereq: 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

Prereq: 8 credits in the department including POLIT-116.

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

Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-319 War: What Is It Good For?

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-323 Comparative Politics of the Middle East

Spring. Credits: 4

This course presents the rise (and sometimes collapse) of modern states in the Middle East; the nature of legitimacy, modernization, state-civil society relations, and political culture and economy; and the role of religion with specific reference to Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey.

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

S. Hashmi

Prereq: 8 credits in Politics including POLIT-106 or POLIT-216.

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

Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

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

Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.

POLIT-342 Islamic Political Thought

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-359 Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia

Fall. 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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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

Fall. 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: 8 credits in Politics including 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

Spring. 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 malfeasance, 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 in Politics.

POLIT-378 Backsliding and Resilience in U.S. Democracy

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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

Fall. 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-387 Advanced Topics in Political Theory**POLIT-387AW Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Law and Inequality'**

Not Scheduled for This Year. 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

The department

Prereq: 8 credits in the department and POLIT-104.

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**A. Aslam**Prereq: 8 credits in the department and POLIT-118.***POLIT-387EC Advanced Topics in Politics: 'U.S. Elections'***Fall. Credits: 4*

Elections are critical moments in the life of modern democracy. They answer three fundamental questions: Who governs? Who gets what? Who are we? As such, they are both vital and deeply contested events. This course offers students a deep dive into the mechanics of United States elections, engaging with the process as both activists and analysts.

Outside the classroom, students will help local community organizations register voters ahead of the November elections. Inside the classroom, they will hone their data analysis skills by querying real-world election and polling datasets. By the end of the course, students will have a clearer understanding of U.S. elections, their flaws, and their potential.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning**A. Hilton**Prereq: 8 credits in the department.***POLIT-387EV Advanced Topics in Politics: 'U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy'***Spring. Credits: 4*

Environmental concerns are no longer a niche "special interest" in American politics. Today multiplying and intensifying ecological crises are getting harder to ignore, and the need for action is urgent. Deciding how to respond to and govern a climate-changed world is now one of the defining political challenges of our time. This course examines the history of environmental debates in the United States, the diverse range of actors and organizations participating in these debates, current laws and institutions regulating Americans' relationships with their environments at both the federal and state levels, and the processes for making and implementing public policy for the environment.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**R. Darrow**Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.***POLIT-387FP Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Feminists in Power'***Spring. Credits: 4*

What happens when feminists enter the halls of power, transforming critiques into law and policy? What occurs when feminists lead in a prosecutor's office or international bodies? This course examines the complexities of feminist governance, focusing on how some feminists shift from opposition to shaping laws, policies, and public opinion. We'll explore the NGO-ization of movements, transnational feminist thought, and debates around incarceration. Topics include sexual violence campaigns, campus rape policy, sex work, and harassment. Through theory and case studies, students will critically examine how feminism shapes and complicates policy outcomes.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**K. Henderson**Prereq: 8 credits in the department.**Advisory: Students are encouraged to complete POLIT-233 Intro to Feminist Theory or similar course before taking this course.***POLIT-387FX Advanced Topics in Politics: 'The Feminist Sex Wars'***Not Scheduled for This Year. 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.***POLIT-387HE Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Health and Inequality'***Not Scheduled for This Year. 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-387ND Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Law and Inequality'*Fall. Credits: 4*

The academic study of nationalism owes much to Benedict Anderson's conception of *Imagined Communities*. However, scholars should always remember that those social constructs impact the lived experiences of the people within them, especially when multiple conceptions of nationhood compete. This course examines what happens when competing visions of the American nation clash and traditionally dominant perspectives work to exclude traditionally marginalized communities from the political arena. When this happens, democratic norms and principles find themselves in the crosshairs. In this course, we will investigate the origins and spread of nationalism; the theory and practice of national mythologies; the theory and practice of democracy; and how these concepts operate in the United States. Critically, we will investigate how traditionally hegemonic communities leverage their conceptions of nationalism to erode democracy for individuals who do not fit into their idealized, exclusionary American nation.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**A. Abraham**Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors**Prereq: 8 credits in the department.***POLIT-387PC Advanced Topics in Politics: 'U.S. Foreign Policy: The President vs. Congress'***Fall. Credits: 4*

This course analyzes the tug-of-war between the executive and legislative branches in the making of U.S. foreign policy. We will discuss the powers given by the Constitution to the President and Congress in foreign affairs. We will also discuss how each branch has over time claimed informal powers. Issues studied include conflicts in the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East, climate change, cybersecurity, trade wars, nuclear non-proliferation, global pandemic, and immigration. Case studies are drawn from the Bush Sr. to the Biden administrations.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**A. Castleberry-Hernandez**Prereq: 8 credits in the department including POLIT-116***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-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'***Fall. 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

Code	Title	Credits
Politics		
POLIT-104	American Politics	4
POLIT-234	Black Metropolis: From MLK to Obama	4
POLIT-235	Constitutional Law: The Federal System	4
POLIT-236	Civil Liberties	4
POLIT-246	American Political Thought	4
POLIT-248DA	Topics in Politics: 'Defense Against the Dark Arts'	4
POLIT-248GE	Topics in Politics: 'Sex, Gender, and American Law'	4

POLIT-248PM	Topics in Politics: 'Parties and Movements in American Politics'	4	POLIT-272	Trade and American Foreign Policy	4
POLIT-252	Urban Politics	4	POLIT-305	International Society	4
POLIT-277	Dislocation: Class and Politics in the U.S.	4	POLIT-314	Political Violence: Causes and Solutions	4
POLIT-278	U.S. Elections	4	POLIT-319	War: What Is It Good For?	4
POLIT-343	Law and Religion	4	POLIT-327	Transitional Justice	4
POLIT-351	The Supreme Court	4	POLIT-333	Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace	4
POLIT-355	Race and Housing	4	POLIT-363	Political Economy of the European Union	4
POLIT-378	Backsliding and Resilience in U.S. Democracy	4	POLIT-365	Ethics and International Relations	4
POLIT-387AW	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Law and Inequality'	4	POLIT-366	Global Migration	4
POLIT-387EC	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'U.S. Elections'	4	POLIT-380	Nationalism and Ethnic Politics	4
POLIT-387EV	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy'	4	POLIT-384	Ending War and Securing the Peace: Conflict Mediation and Resolution in the 21st Century	4
POLIT-387ND	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Law and Inequality'	4			
POLIT-387PC	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'U.S. Foreign Policy: The President vs. Congress'	4			
POLIT-387PE	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'The 1%'	4			

Comparative Politics

Code	Title	Credits
Politics		
POLIT-106	Comparative Politics	4
POLIT-208	Chinese Politics	4
POLIT-209	Contemporary Russian Politics	4
POLIT-228	East Asian Politics	4
POLIT-230	Resistance and Revolution	4
POLIT-243	Introduction to Latin American Politics	4
POLIT-249	African Politics	4
POLIT-255PA	Gender and Power in Global Contexts: 'The Politics of Abortion in the Americas'	4
POLIT-267	The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises	4
POLIT-314	Political Violence: Causes and Solutions	4
POLIT-323	Comparative Politics of the Middle East	4
POLIT-327	Transitional Justice	4
POLIT-343	Law and Religion	4
POLIT-359	Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia	4
POLIT-363	Political Economy of the European Union	4
Russian & Eurasian Studies		
RES-240	Contemporary Russian Politics: From Lenin to Putin	4

International Politics

Code	Title	Credits
Politics		
POLIT-116	World Politics	4
POLIT-216	Middle East Politics	4
POLIT-218	Israel/Palestine: Fact/Fiction	4
POLIT-224	The United States and Iran	4
POLIT-226	The United States, Israel, and the Arabs	4
POLIT-232	Introduction to International Political Economy	4
POLIT-247	International Law and Organization	4
POLIT-267	The Politics of Finance and Financial Crises	4
POLIT-270	American Foreign Policy	4

Political Theory

Code	Title	Credits
Gender Studies		
GNDST-221QF	Feminist and Queer Theory: 'Feminist and Queer Theory'	4
Politics		
POLIT-118	Introduction to Political Ideas	4
POLIT-211	Classical Political Thought	4
POLIT-212	Modern Political Thought	4
POLIT-233	Introduction to Feminist Theory	4
POLIT-246	American Political Thought	4
POLIT-248GR	Topics in Politics: 'Grassroots Democracy'	4
POLIT-248TE	Topics in Politics: 'Science, Technology and Public Policy'	4
POLIT-305	International Society	4
POLIT-333	Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace	4
POLIT-342	Islamic Political Thought	4
POLIT-365	Ethics and International Relations	4
POLIT-372	Earthborn Democracy	4
POLIT-387FP	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Feminists in Power'	4
POLIT-387HE	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Health and Inequality'	4
POLIT-387PD	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Other Political Dreams'	4
POLIT-391RE	Pivotal Political Ideas: 'Reparations and the Politics of Repair'	4