

Requirements: Political Science

Social Sciences Division

Political science offers students a vibrant and challenging approach to the study of politics that focuses on analyzing current issues and debating the most profound and enduring problems of public life. The major combines a study of ancient and modern political philosophy with analyses of American politics, comparative politics and international relations. The department pursues three basic objectives in its curriculum: to explore the nature of politics — its purposes, limitations and significance in human life; to promote an understanding of various forms of political systems and of relations among them; and to develop a capacity for intelligent analysis and evaluation of public policies and a sensitive awareness of opposing points of view in the political debates of our time.

Throughout the program, the emphasis is on the fundamental ideas concerning human nature, justice and the purposes of government. Course readings present students with differing points of view. Students are encouraged to participate in discussion and debate of controversial questions.

New Students

The Department of Political Science offers several introductory courses for diversification. We especially recommend PSCI 101Y-102Y. It is the only political science course designed expressly for first-year students. Although PSCI 101Y-102Y is not required for a major in political science, we strongly recommend it as an introduction to the department's program. This course is broad in scope and is designed to provide an effective introduction to college work in the humanities and social sciences generally. If you wish to take a political science course for diversification as a sophomore or above, the department offers introductory courses in each of our sub-fields: PSCI 200D, 220, 221, 240 and 260. In the spring semester, first-year students who are taking PSCI 101Y may register for one of the following: PSCI 200D, 240 or 260.

Students who are interested in political science and wish to study off-campus during their junior year are especially encouraged to take PSCI 240 and 260 before going abroad.

Additional information for new students is available on the [department's webpage](#).

The Curriculum

Quest for Justice, PSCI 101Y-102Y

This year-long course is taught as a first-year seminar, with class size kept, as much as possible, to a maximum of 18 students. We offer seven sections of the course, all with common readings. Sessions are conducted through discussion, thereby helping students overcome any reservations they may have about their capacity to make the transition from high school to college work.

The course, which emphasizes the development of reading, writing and speaking skills, is an introduction to the serious discussion of the most important questions concerning

political relations and human well-being. These are controversial issues that in the contemporary world take the form of debates about multiculturalism, diversity, separatism, gender equality and the like; but, as students will discover here, these are issues rooted in perennial questions about justice. In the informal atmosphere of the seminar, students get to know one another well, and debate often continues outside of class.

So that students may prepare adequately for each class, assignments from the common syllabus tend to be short. The course is designed to develop analytical skills through careful reading and effective discussion. Six to eight brief analytical papers are assigned and carefully graded (for grammar and style as well as intellectual content). Instructors discuss the papers individually with students. Thus, this is also a "writing course" as well as one devoted to thinking and discussion.

The papers typically account for 60 percent of the course grade, with the remainder dependent on class participation and the final examination. On the first day of class of each term, every student receives a syllabus listing the assignments by date, due dates of the short papers, examination dates and all other information that will enable the student to know what is expected in the course and when.

Introductory Subfield Courses

The following courses are particularly recommended to sophomores, juniors and seniors who are new to the political science curriculum:

- **American Politics**
 - PSCI 200D Liberal Democracy in America
- **Political Philosophy**
 - PSCI 220 Classical Quest for Justice
 - PSCI 221 Modern Quest for Justice
- **Comparative Politics**
 - PSCI 240 Modern Democracies
- **International Relations**
 - PSCI 260 International Relations

There are a number of upper-level electives open to students without any prerequisites required, but we encourage students seeking exposure to political science to begin with the core courses of our curriculum:

- PSCI 101Y-102Y Quest For Justice
- PSCI 200D Liberal Democracy in America
- PSCI 220 Classical Quest For Justice
- PSCI 221 Modern Quest For Justice
- PSCI 240 Modern Democracies
- PSCI 260 International Relations

Requirements for the Major

Students majoring in political science must complete five (5) units in the subject including:

- PSCI 220 Classical Quest For Justice
- PSCI 221 Modern Quest For Justice
- PSCI 240 Modern Democracies
- PSCI 260 International Relations
- one (1) unit of work in American politics (The American politics unit consists of PSCI 200D and any semester course numbered from 300–315).
- half (0.5) unit of work in either comparative politics or international relations beyond the introductory courses in the subfields
- at least one PSCI seminar

The introductory course in political science, PSCI 101Y-102Y, is designed for first-year students and is recommended for all students considering a major in political science. Though not required, this course does count toward the major.

Senior Capstone

The Senior Capstone in political science is a five-hour comprehensive examination usually scheduled for the Saturday one week before spring break. The exam is divided into two parts, each of which require students answer one two-and-one-half hour question that cuts across subfields and requires integration and application of knowledge learned in various courses. In one part, the questions will focus more on political theory and, to a lesser extent, American politics. In the other, the questions will focus more on comparative, American and international politics.

Honors

The Honors Program in political science is designed to recognize and encourage exceptional scholarship in the discipline and to allow students to do more independent work in the subject than is otherwise permitted. Honors candidates are required to have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 or above and are admitted into the program based on an oral examination conducted by faculty members. Political science majors who are considering honors are encouraged (but not required) to enroll in PSCI 397 during their junior year.

Additional [information about the political science honors program](#) is available from the department.

Courses in Political Science

PSCI 101Y Quest for Justice

Credit: 0.5

This course explores the relationship between the individual and society as exemplified in the writings of political philosophers, statesmen, novelists and contemporary political writers. Questions about law, political obligation, freedom, equality and justice and human nature are examined and illustrated. The course looks at different kinds of societies such as the ancient city, modern democracy and totalitarianism, and confronts contemporary issues such as race, culture and gender. The readings present diverse viewpoints and the

sessions are conducted by discussion. The course is designed primarily for first-year students. Offered every year.

PSCI 102Y Quest for Justice

Credit: 0.5

See description for PSCI 101Y.

PSCI 200D Liberal Democracy in America

Credit: 0.5

The course explores the guiding principles, major institutions and national politics of the American political system. The Founders' view of liberal democracy and of the three branches of our government (presented in the "Federalist Papers") will provide the basis for consideration of the modern Supreme Court, presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, news media, and political parties and elections. The course concludes with Tocqueville's broad overview of American democracy and its efforts to reconcile liberty and equality. The themes of the course will be illustrated by references to current political issues, events and personalities. This course is the same as AMST 200D. This course counts towards the politics, culture and society requirement for the American studies major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or PSCI 101Y or permission of instructor. Offered every year.

PSCI 220 Classical Quest for Justice

Credit: 0.5

This course introduces students to classical political philosophy through an analysis of Plato's "Apology" and "Republic" and Aristotle's "Ethics" and "Politics." The course addresses enduring questions about the community, the individual, happiness and justice. Other themes to be discussed include the ideal political order, the character of virtue or human excellence, the relationship between politics and other aspects of human life (such as economics, the family and friendship), the political responsibility for education, and philosophy as a way of life. This is required for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every fall semester.

PSCI 221 Modern Quest for Justice

Credit: 0.5

This course examines and evaluates the world revolutionary challenge to classical political philosophy posed by such writers as Machiavelli in his "Prince," Hobbes in the "Leviathan," and political writings of Locke, Rousseau and Nietzsche. We will consider the differing views of these authors about how best to construct healthy and successful political societies; the role of ethics in domestic and foreign policy; the proper relations between politics and religion, and between the individual and the community; the nature of our rights and the origin of our duties; and the meaning of human freedom and the nature of human equality. This is required for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every spring semester.

PSCI 240 Modern Democracies

Credit: 0.5

Representative democracy came to be the most common form of government in Europe and the Americas in the 20th century, and in the last half of the century it became increasingly popular among the peoples of the rest of the world. Representative democracy takes many forms and confronts many challenges in its implementation. This course will explore the institutional variety of representative democracy, the causes of political stability and instability in democratic regimes, and the possibility of successful creation of democratic regimes in countries in which the political culture has not traditionally supported democracy. Case studies may include the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Russia, Brazil and Mexico. This is required for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or PSCI 101Y. Offered every year.

PSCI 260 International Relations

Credit: 0.5

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations. It first provides students with the analytical tools and concepts necessary to understand and explain the interactions of states and other actors in the international system. It then explores some of the most pressing political problems and challenges in the modern international system. The course will discuss issues such as the importance of power in the international system, the origins of war and peace, the challenges of the new global economy, security and terrorism, and the implications of these trends for the 21st century. This is required for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or PSCI 101Y. Offered every year.

PSCI 280 Political Analysis

Credit: 0.5 QR

Political scientists increasingly employ quantitative tools to analyze politics. In this course students will be introduced to the fundamentals of quantitative political analysis. The core of the course will be devoted to the basic linear regression model and its variants, which are used widely in political science research. We also will cover hypothesis formation and hypothesis testing, basic descriptive statistics and the presentation via tables and charts of the findings of quantitative analysis. To better situate quantitative analysis within the discipline, we also will introduce qualitative methods and discuss research design. This counts toward the methodology requirement in international studies. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 300 Congress and Public Policymaking

Credit: 0.5

Does the U.S. Congress possess the capacity for independent and effective law-making, budgeting and oversight of the executive? To what extent has Congress ceded policymaking responsibility to the president? How does congressional performance vary across policy areas and what accounts for these variations? How have recent reforms affected congressional performance? This course explores these questions by examining the

historical development and contemporary performance of the U.S. Congress. We will analyze the factors that influence the policymaking process, including the electoral setting in which legislators operate, the relationship of Congress to interest groups and the party and committee systems within the institution. We also will analyze the performance of Congress in several policy areas. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 301 The American Presidency

Credit: 0.5

This course explores different views of the presidency and the nature of presidential leadership. The Founders' view will be compared with developments since Franklin Roosevelt, including the imperial and post-imperial presidencies. A central concern will be understanding the constitutional powers of and restraints on the modern president. We will study presidential selection, the president's relations with other parts of the government and the president's role in domestic and foreign policymaking. The course concludes with a study of presidential leadership and of the proper ends and means by which to exercise political power, with particular attention to the presidencies of George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 302 Public Opinion and Voting Behavior

Credit: 0.5

This course examines the origins, nature and impact of American public opinion as expressed through polling and electoral behavior. Major topics include the measurement and nature of public opinion, the sources of political opinions and attitudes, the organization of citizen thinking about politics, the origins of voting decisions, and the impact of public opinion on the nature and direction of public policy. We study these topics with regard to a number of contemporary issues and elections, and in light of modern trends toward popular polarization. Particular attention is paid to the tension between normative expectations of democratic citizens and empirical research findings regarding their actual behavior. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 303 Campaigns and Elections

Credit: 0.5

This course examines the influence American citizens have on their government through political parties and elections. Major topics include the character of American parties; the political behavior and beliefs of citizens, especially as voters; recent history of the party system and elections; election campaigning; the role of the news media in elections; the impact of public opinion and elections on government policies; the future of the party system; and an evaluation of the party and electoral systems from the perspective of democratic theory. We pay special attention to current presidential and congressional

elections. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 310 Public Policy

Credit: 0.5

This course studies various views of the policymaking process in our national government and considers the different stages of policymaking, including how problems are defined, how new proposals emerge and how certain solutions make it onto the national agenda and are debated before adoption, altered during implementation and subsequently evaluated. We also will consider the role of politicians, experts and bureaucrats in policymaking, study why specific policies were adopted and debate whether these were the best possible policies. This course will analyze the policymaking process through case studies such as welfare reform, education and national health insurance. This course is one of the required foundation courses for the Public Policy Concentration and also is open to other upperclass students. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every year.

PSCI 312 American Constitutional Law

Credit: 0.5

The course explores basic issues in constitutional law relevant to the principles and problems of our liberal democracy. We begin with cases of the Marshall Court, which lay the foundations of our constitutional order and define the role of the judiciary. But most of the course is devoted to controversial themes in our 20th-century jurisprudence. Emphasis will be placed on recent Supreme Court decisions in the areas of equal protection of the laws, due process, the right to privacy, freedom of speech and press, religious freedom and the separation of powers. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 313 Making U.S. Foreign Policy

Credit: 0.5

The course analyzes how the American political system produces foreign policy decisions. In seeking to discover the domestic influences on American foreign policy, we shall examine how the original framers of the constitution intended for the policy process to proceed. We then will use case studies of American foreign policy decision-making to explore how policy actually gets formed, examining the role of various political institutions, including the president, Congress, the news media, public opinion, the bureaucracies of state and defense and the National Security Council. Our case studies will include turning points in Cold-War American foreign policy such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War as well as more current issues and events, including Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. How does a democracy make foreign policy? How does a democracy make decisions in an environment of partisan conflict and lack of consensus on the proper course of policy? This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 314 Constitutional Law 2: Powers and Institutions

Credit: 0.5

This course explores basic issues in constitutional law relevant to the principles and problems of our liberal democracy. The focus will be on cases devoted to the division of powers between the three branches of government, federalism, regulation of commerce, voting rights and presidential war powers. We will examine the historical development of the Supreme Court as jurisprudence in these areas of law and consider various methods of constitutional interpretation. This counts toward an upper-level American politics course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 315 Gender and Politics in the U.S.

Credit: 0.5

This course will examine the participation of women in American political life. We will trace the development of feminism out of broader political and intellectual movements and consider the situation of women in American society today. We also will look at women in their roles as voters, candidates, party activists and public officials. The ways in which gender relations are defined by public policy and law will be a focus, with particular attention given to constitutional equality, workplace and family issues and reproductive rights. This counts toward the American politics requirement for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 320 Historicism

Credit: 0.5

Toward the 19th century, a number of thinkers began to embrace a novel idea: Man does not have a fixed and enduring nature, but is the product of his times. History and culture replaced nature as the proper objects of philosophic inquiry, and eventually the possibility of philosophy itself was cast in doubt. In this course, we will examine the roots of historicism in Rousseau, Burke and Kant, and its mature expression in Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche. We might also examine notable 20th century historicists, like Collingwood and MacIntyre and thinkers who question the basic historicist premise, like Davidson and Strauss. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

PSCI 323 Politics and Literature

Credit: 0.5

This course explores perennial issues of politics broadly understood, as they are treated in literature. Topics vary from year to year. Most recently the course has focused on the question of freedom and tyranny by reading works that span periods, such as Xenophon's "Hiero," Shakespeare's "Julius Ceasar," Büchner's "Danton's Death," Dostoevsky's "Demons" and Platenov's "The Foundation Pit." Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 332 African American Political Thought

Credit: 0.5

This course will examine the writings of African American political authors and their contribution to contemporary political theory. It will consider the issue of race in America through authors including Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois and Ralph Ellison, along with more recent considerations of race and politics from theoretical and developmental perspectives. It will examine the role of race in defining American thought and do so in terms of broad questions about the meaning of equality, the structure of democracy, the formation of identity and the integration or disintegration of community. This counts toward the upper-level American politics requirement and also counts toward the American studies major and the African Diaspora Studies Concentration.

PSCI 340 Revolutions

Credit: 0.5

This course provides a comparative analysis of the process of revolutionary change, covering the origins, development and outcomes of revolutions. It will focus on two or three classic revolutions (France, Russia or China) and one or two modern cases to be determined (e.g. the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the revolutions of 1989 in Eastern Europe, the Arab Spring of 2011). A number of theoretical issues will be addressed, including the relationship between revolutionary elites and "backwards elements" such as the peasantry; the tensions between the revolutionary process and the political requirements of revolutionary states; and the role and relative importance of leadership, ideology, and structural factors in shaping the outcomes of revolutions. The question of whether social media have changed the character and potential of social revolutions also will be addressed. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three to four years.

PSCI 342 Politics of Development

Credit: 0.5

Alternative strategies of economic development pose the most difficult political choices for those countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America not yet blessed by economic prosperity. This course seeks to accomplish three related goals. First, it will explore the contending theories of development that have shaped the debate about development in the past half century: modernization theory, dependency theory, theories that emphasize state-led development and theories that seek to define sustainable development. Second, it will compare alternative strategies of development, especially as exemplified by successful (or thought-to-be successful) developing and developed countries. Third, it will consider a set of contemporary issues that complicate the efforts of countries to develop: globalization, environmental catastrophe, population growth and human rights considerations. Throughout, the definition of development and the desirability of economic growth will be questioned. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 345 European Politics and the European Union

Credit: 0.5

Many view the European Union as a model of international economic and political integration. The member states have pooled their sovereignty in a way that is unique in the history of political systems. They have not only removed barriers to trade between the countries, but they have implemented a common currency and gradually developed a common foreign and security policy. This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of the history, structure and policymaking process of the European Union and its impact on the member states. It also is designed to provide students with an understanding of the motivations that led independent nation states to pool their sovereignty, the theoretical debates and issues surrounding integration, and the current issues and challenges facing the European Union. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every four years.

PSCI 346: Riots, Ballots and Rice: Comparative Asian Politics
Credit: 0.5

This course will explore the roots and realities of the explosive changes rocking Asia today, with an eye to the politics that shape and are shaped by them. Headlines today point to human-rights violations, democratic elections, and riots against corruption and pollution amidst phenomenal economic development. We will look at the historical growth and modern development of the Chinese, Japanese and Indian nation-states and compare their changes and challenges so as to draw larger lessons about the processes of social and political change in a particularly vital and important region of the world. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 347 Democracy and Development in Latin America
Credit: 0.5

This course in contemporary Latin American politics examines the region's substantial and interconnected processes of political and economic change. We also consider the ongoing challenges for the quality of the region's democracies, particularly in light of poverty, inequality and globalization. Focus cases typically include Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala and/or Brazil. Key themes include the authoritarian regimes of the mid- to late 20th century, transitions to democratic rule, economic policy changes, human rights, political institutions, poverty and inequality, and populism. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 351 States, Nations, Nationalism
Credit: 0.5

This course provides an introduction to comparative political development. It focuses on two key issues in the development of the contemporary world: the rise of the modern state and the emergence of modern nationalism. By analyzing the processes of state and nation-building in selected countries, we will come to understand the means by which state power is constructed, maintained, and legitimated in political systems as varied as absolutist

monarchies and modern nation-states. And by examining nationalism in a variety of historical and geographical settings, we will begin to comprehend the intriguing power and persistence of national identities in an increasingly multinational world. Although the course will be explicitly analytic and comparative in character, analysis will be supplemented as appropriate with case studies drawn from countries around the world. This course in contemporary Latin American politics examines the region's substantial and interconnected processes of political and economic change. We also consider the ongoing challenges for the quality of the region's democracies, particularly in light of poverty, inequality and globalization. Focus cases typically include Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala and/or Brazil. Key themes include the authoritarian regimes of the mid- to late 20th century, transitions to democratic rule, economic policy changes, human rights, political institutions, poverty and inequality, and populism. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 355 Immigration, Citizenship and National Identity

Credit: 0.5

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon posing both opportunities and challenges for immigrants, their families, their countries of origin and the countries to which they move. Immigration policy often inspires virulent debates over border control, national identity, admission and citizenship policies, "guest" workers and bilingualism. The issues raise fundamental questions about human rights, citizenship and a political community's rights to define and defend itself. The challenges are exacerbated by the fact that contemporary immigration is managed by nation-states, while migrants move in response to global economics and transnational relationships. This course deals with these issues by examining the social, economic and political forces giving rise to immigration today; the different ways nations have chosen to define citizenship and how those rules affect immigrants; the different strategies nations have used to incorporate immigrants; attempts to control immigration and their consequences; and the implications of immigration for recipient societies. About half of the course deals with the immigration experience and controversies in the United States, particularly with respect to migration from Mexico. The other half looks at these issues in Western Europe as well as in the developing world. This course is sometimes taught with a community-based research component, depending on the instructor. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 360 The Relations of Nations

Credit: 0.5

With the rise of China, Middle East chaos and renewed Russian interventions, the international order continues to transform itself. This course will examine the modern history of these transformations, using specific periods and events, like the Spanish Armada, the Congress of Vienna, and World Wars I and II, as vantage points from which to assess the changes that have taken place both in the arrangement of the international state system and the character of the states composing it. The course has two chief pedagogic

aims: (1) to create a context for understanding our current situation, and (2) to learn something about what is permanent and what is variable in human beings faced with the most decisive choices. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 361 Globalization

Credit: 0.5

Globalization has become an increasingly prominent phenomenon in contemporary politics. Some argue that globalization can generate a world of increased wealth and international peace. Others contend that globalization undermines traditional culture and generates social conflict. This course investigates the origins and nature of globalization. It explores the key actors, institutions and processes that gave rise to and shape modern globalization; the potential benefits that globalization brings; and the sources and nature of the modern backlash against globalization. The course concludes by exploring the implications of globalization for the nation-state and international order. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

Instructor: Hart

PSCI 362 America and the World in the 21st Century

Credit: 0.5

This course explores the U.S. role in world politics at the beginning of the 21st century. Not only does the United States face a number of new challenges — from building democracy in the Middle East, to defending against catastrophic terrorism, to managing globalization — but many of the institutions and alliances that previously served U.S. interests and structured world order have come under increasing stress from U.S. actions. We will explore topics such as whether the United States should pursue a more multilateral or unilateral foreign policy, American relations with key allies and how to manage the most important challenges of the 21st century. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 363 Global Environmental Politics

Credit: 0.5

This course covers a variety of issues in environmental politics, placing special emphasis on global problems, politics and policy. Topics to be addressed will include population growth, consumption and consumerism, resource degradation, climate change and energy. We also will examine environmental governance and the prospects for environmental activism in the coming century. Although the course examines environmental issues around the globe, we may focus on certain countries or regions in order to examine those issues in greater detail. Case studies and films will be used as appropriate to supplement lectures and discussions. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every year.

PSCI 366 Global Poverty, Policy, and Politics

Credit: 0.5

This comparative politics course examines the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in the developing world. Topics include the conceptualization, definition and measurement of poverty and inequality; the lived reality of urban and rural poverty around the globe; individual, structural and governmental causes of and solutions to poverty; and the possibilities for grassroots empowerment, public policy, international organizations, philanthropy and foreign aid to reduce poverty and inequality. This counts towards an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major.

PSCI 374 Civil Wars and Failed States

Credit: 0.5

Since 1945, the vast majority of conflicts have taken place within states. Indeed, by the 1970s civil wars or wars within states had become the dominant form of warfare, noteworthy both for their intensity and duration. This course surveys theories about the causes, process, management and resolution of this pervasive form of modern conflict. It also looks at how the international community has and continues to deal with these conflicts, focusing on such topics as peacekeeping, the (adverse) effects of humanitarian aid and transitional justice. Historical and contemporary civil wars, ranging from the Yugoslav War to the conflict in the Sudan, will serve as case studies, which we will analyze in-depth. The course aims to provide students with strong theoretical and historical foundations, which can assist them in recognizing the difficult choices policy-makers face when intervening in civil wars. For instance, students will come to appreciate the tension between states rights, human rights and whether to intervene in a civil war. Students should walk away from the course prepared to think through policy options associated with the prevention, management and resolution of civil wars. This counts toward an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PSCI 397 Junior Honors Seminar

Credit: 0.5

This seminar is intended to prepare students to undertake and successfully complete a substantial independent research project. To do so, we will read and discuss past examples of successful senior theses. Then we will consider different approaches to social science research, including close comparative, institutional or policy analysis. We will emphasize the formulation of tractable research questions and how to define research objectives in ways likely to lead to successful research projects. Students will design a research project on a topic of their interest and complete a major paper on that theme. Students will read and critique each other's work. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

PSCI 398 Junior Honors Seminar

Credit: 0.5

See the description for PSCI 397.

PSCI 400 Politics of Journalism

Credit: 0.5

This seminar studies political journalism and its impact on American politics. Each year we focus on a different aspect of the politics of the news media in modern America. Usually, we will examine the relationship between the press and the presidency. We begin with the evolution from the Founders' constitutional office into the modern presidency, which stresses leadership of public opinion through the press. We also trace a parallel evolution of journalism through partisanship to passive objectivity and on to a modern emphasis on scandals and adversarial stances. The seminar concentrates on the modern era of the permanent campaign, in which a personal and rhetorical president sees manipulation of the press as fundamental to the job. Presidential conduct of foreign policy in this media age will receive significant attention. Current news serves as a testing ground for the ideas advanced by scholars, journalists and politicians. This counts for either an upper-level American politics course or upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing and permission of instructor.

PSCI 404 News Media and American Politics

Credit: 0.5

How is American democracy shaped by the constantly evolving relationships among politicians, journalists and citizens? What is news? How do journalists define their job? Is the news more a medium that allows politicians to manipulate the public, or is it the media that shapes public opinion? Or is it possible that the audience influences the news as much as it is influenced by it? The conflict between the media and the government is analyzed in terms of the constitutional rights of a free press and a political battle between an adversarial or biased press and a government of manipulating politicians. Current news serves as a testing ground for the ideas advanced by scholars, journalists and politicians. This counts for either an upper-level American politics course or upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 420 Plato's Symposium

Credit: 0.5

This seminar will be devoted to a close reading of Plato's Symposium, his dialogue on Eros, which corrects or supplements the anti-erotic teaching of the Republic. Almost everyone sometimes wonders about the bewitching power of love, and for nearly 2500 years, readers have found that Plato had anticipated their questions and had thought about them profoundly. Among the topics we will discuss are love and death, love and justice, love and god, love and happiness, and love and philosophy. Although politics is rarely in the foreground of the dialogue, it is ever present in the background and finally bursts onto the scene in the person of Alcibiades — a man whose Eros leads him toward a political life that verges on tyranny. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every other year.

PSCI 421 Socrates Seminar

Credit: 0.5

This seminar will be devoted to a close reading of Plato's "Gorgias," the sister dialogue of the "Republic." Today, students often wonder: Why bother with Plato and his Socrates? Isn't their thought clearly outmoded? In studying the "Gorgias" — Plato's most sustained reflection on the human concern for justice — we will give him a chance to reply and make the case for the undiminished importance of his thought for politics and the good life. The guiding questions of the seminar will be: What is justice? Why do we care about it? And how is it related to politics and philosophy? This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every other year.

PSCI 422 Thucydides: War and Philosophy

Credit: 0.5

This seminar will be devoted to a careful reading of Thucydides' "History of the Peloponnesian War." The themes of the course will be Thucydides' account of international relations, the connections between foreign and domestic politics, and his account of human nature and of political morality. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

PSCI 423D Aristophanes: Politics and Comedy

Credit: 0.5

Today, political comedians are a mainstay of our culture, with Jon Stewart leading the pack. But while their insights are often astute, they are rarely profound and never add up to a teaching that goes very far. To see the heights and depths that are possible in comedy, we will study four plays by Aristophanes, the unrivaled master of combining comic vulgarity with a wisdom equal to that of the philosophers. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. This course is the same as IPHS 423D. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 425 Machiavelli and Shakespeare

Credit: 0.5

In this seminar we will explore various points of contact in the respective political understandings of Machiavelli and Shakespeare. Our readings will include selections from "The Prince," "The Discourses" and Machiavelli's plays, and selections among Shakespeare's history plays, tragedies and comedies. Today, political comedians are a mainstay of our culture, with Jon Stewart leading the pack. But while their insights are often astute, they are rarely profound and never add up to a teaching that goes very far. To see the heights and depths that are possible in comedy, we will study four plays by Aristophanes, the unrivaled master of combining comic vulgarity with a wisdom equal to that of the philosophers. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

PSCI 426 John Locke's Liberalism

Credit: 0.5

In this seminar, we will explore the liberalism of John Locke, perhaps the most important founder of liberal democracy. Mindful of the criticisms leveled since Locke's time against liberal democracy, we will be particularly interested in recapturing the original arguments on its behalf. We will aim to see liberalism as it came to light and to assess, insofar as is possible from Locke's own writings, its intentions and its anticipated effects. Our readings will be drawn from Locke's works on politics, education, religion and epistemology. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 427 The Political Philosophy of Montaigne

Credit: 0.5

Montaigne's "Essays," one of the acknowledged classics of modern thought, contains a breathtaking, wide-ranging and dialectically complex account of the human soul in its confrontation with others, with the world, and with itself. Apparently artless and off-the-cuff, the essays require the most careful reading. The course will consist of close reading of many of these essays in order to understand the position Montaigne ultimately takes on human nature and on the political implications of that position. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

PSCI 428 The Political Thought of Nietzsche

Credit: 0.5

Nietzsche's thought is in one sense the culmination of the tradition of political philosophy, in another its destruction, and in yet another, the chief obstacle and point of perpetual return to his successors. In this course, we will read one book, "Beyond Good and Evil," with great care. That will help us understand the paradoxical way in which Nietzsche writes, the implications of his radical relativism for thought, culture and politics and whether he has a political teaching at all, and if so, what kind. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

PSCI 431 Ambition and Politics

Credit: 0.5

In this course we will examine the presence and rightful place of ambition in politics. We will read literature, biography and political theory in an attempt to answer the following questions: Is the desire to rule a permanent and independent feature of political practice? Is it compatible with concern for the common good? Must ambition be limited, or somehow rendered undangerous? Can it be? Readings may include Homer, Xenophon, Plutarch, Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, the "Federalist Papers" and Bullock's "Hitler: A Study in Tyranny." This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years

PSCI 432 The Idea of Community

Credit: 0.5

Political thinkers regularly claim to have discovered the community best suited to man, the just community. Yet suspicion toward the idea of community also enjoys a venerable history. Is not the individual prior to, and thus more important than, the community? Don't communities usually stifle, violate and oppress individuals, particularly members of the minority? Individualism is so pervasive in the most advanced countries that many now wonder if we have gone too far. Has concern for the individual at the expense of the community made us selfish, disconnected, alienated and unhappy? In this seminar we will read classic statements on the ideal community (e.g., Thomas More's "Utopia," Rousseau's "Social Contract," Huxley's "Brave New World") on our way toward studying contemporary "communitarian" thinkers (e.g., Bellah, Barber, Heidegger, MacIntyre, Putnam, Sandel, Walzer). We will begin the semester by viewing Ang Lee's film "The Ice Storm" and end it by reading Hawthorne's "Blithedale Romance," a fictional account of the socialist experiment at Brook Farm. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

PSCI 441 Latin American Politics in Film and Fiction
Credit: 0.5

This course examines key political events and debates in Latin America (1970s to the present), through the lens of film and the pages of fiction, using works by Latin American directors and writers. We examine the works of fiction not from a literary or artistic perspective, but as political arguments that both reflect the political debates at the time they are created, contribute to a nation's self-understanding or "collective memory" about critical moments in a nation's life and influence how readers/viewers understand political issues and questions. Students view films outside of class time. Knowledge of Spanish is not necessary. This counts toward a seminar or second comparative international relations course and may count for the Latino/a studies concentration, MLL/Spanish area studies, and international studies. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every other year.

PSCI 442 Contemporary Latin American Politics
Credit: 0.5

This advanced comparative politics seminar focuses on contemporary Latin America with emphasis on the institutions and quality of democracies in the region. Focusing on institutions, civil society and norms, we will analyze contemporary Latin American democracies from the perspectives of representation, participation, legitimacy, accountability and the rule of law. We examine successes and innovations, as well as problems and challenges for democracy. Readings draw on data and case studies of many countries, but most of the course does not focus on particular countries, but rather on core concepts and theoretical approaches used to analyze politics in the region. The seminar uses advanced readings and a strong emphasis on discussion, in-class presentations, and writing. Prior coursework in Latin America or PSCI 240 is recommended but not required. May be used toward Latino/a concentration, MLL-Spanish area studies, or international studies concentration, with permission of program director. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor.

PSCI 445 Seminar in European Politics

Credit: 0.5

European governments face a number of challenges in the 21st century —welfare and job-market reform, immigration, right-wing party activity and the forging of a new European identity. In this seminar, we will explore some of the major economic, social and political issues facing European nations since the collapse of communism in 1989. The course focuses in particular on Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, with some attention to Sweden, the Netherlands and the countries of Eastern Europe. This counts towards either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

PSCI 446 The Politics of the Welfare State

Credit: 0.5

During the late 19th and 20th centuries, the advanced industrialized democracies in Europe and North America set up extensive social welfare systems in order to reduce class inequalities and eliminate risks across the life cycle. These included income support, family benefits, health care, pensions, unemployment, disability insurance and child care programs. Beginning in the 1970s, these social welfare programs faced a variety of social and economic challenges, including the aging of the population, globalization, changes in family structure, the feminization of the labor force and deindustrialization. This has led to welfare retrenchment and restructuring. In this seminar, we examine the different welfare regimes across the United States and Europe and discuss the challenges confronting postwar welfare arrangements. We explore the politics surrounding the creation and retrenchment of welfare states across different political settings and in specific policy areas including pensions, health care and family policy and we look at the future of the social welfare state. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

PSCI 447 Inequality and Democracy

Credit: 0.5

High levels of economic inequality are one of the most important challenges confronting liberal democracy today. The increasing concentration of wealth among society's richest citizens contributes to the belief that economic and political outcomes are determined by the interests of a few wealthy insiders and subverts faith in liberal democracy as a public endeavor for pursuing the common good. This upper-level seminar considers the causes and implications of growing social inequality for the U.S. and other liberal democracies. This includes issues such as the tensions that arise between liberal democracy's two fundamental claims to legitimacy: private liberty and public equality. How do economic outcomes shape politics, and how does politics shapes economic outcomes? Do liberal democracies exhibit a pro-business bias, and does today's growing social inequality threaten the long-run growth and political stability of liberal democratic states? This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing.

PSCI 448 Left, Right and Center: Comparative Political Parties

Credit: 0.5

Political parties are one of the most critical institutions in representative democracy, but in recent years, the electoral support for mainstream political parties has declined and new single issue and populist parties have emerged. This seminar explores the formation, role and changing nature of political parties in democratic politics. In particular we examine several important questions regarding political parties: How and why do political parties emerge in democratic systems? Why have new parties emerged in some countries? What impact do they have on established parties and party competition? What determines party success and failure? The course draws on theoretical and empirical work on party formation and party system change and draws examples from Europe and the United States. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing and PSCI 240 or permission of instructor.

PSCI 450 Human Rights in World Politics

Credit: 0.5

Human rights represent an incredibly powerful idea that is a source of great controversy in contemporary world politics. Seeking to avert the horrors of another world war, state officials came together in the late 1940s to craft a body of laws governing what rights humans are entitled to, simply on the basis of being human. These laws embody aspirations of what it means to live a life of dignity. They additionally constitute important political tools that an array of actors in world politics have mobilized around to achieve different goals. However, human rights law and norms face challenges. In particular, questions of whether rights apply universally persist. Moreover, there is a disconnect between the aspiration and realization of human rights in practice. This struggle over human rights, what they mean and their realization represent the foci of the course. In the first part of the course, we will explore the foundations of the modern human rights regime in history and theory. Next, we will examine how the human rights regime operates. In the last section of the course, we will study a number of human rights issues, ranging from torture debates to women's and children's rights. Students also will perform a simulation on a major human rights issue. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of the instructor.

PSCI 460 The Role of Morality and Law in International Politics

Credit: 0.5

The following issues will be examined in this seminar: the Western justified-war tradition; the concept and conduct of humanitarian military interventions; the ability of moral values to influence calculations of interest and to restrain the use of power in foreign policy; the problematic nature of justice in international politics; the ability of international laws and organizations to have a positive influence on the conduct of nations; and the impact that the United States, by far the most powerful nation in the world today, might have for good or ill on the levels of peace, prosperity and liberty in the world. This counts toward either

an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing.

PSCI 464 International Law

Credit: 0.5

This course presents an overview of the concepts, operation, genesis and content of international law and organizations, both with respect to the international community generally and with particular reference and application to the United States. Our primary focus is public international law — those legal regimes and apparatus made by and for states and the handful of nongovernmental organizations endowed with international legal personality. We also will touch upon private international law, with respect to corporations and individuals in such areas as trade and crimes. Contemporary issues covered include the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the law of armed conflict (LOAC), international trade and human rights law (HRL) and emerging issues such as environmental and outer space law. This course will familiarize students with the current state of the international legal order, will situate international law among competing theoretical approaches and will provide a toolkit for analyzing contemporary international controversies. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing.

PSCI 465 International Terrorism

Credit: 0.5

This course explores the causes and consequences of international terrorism. It examines how terrorists use violence to shape identities and achieve social change; the grievances that give rise to modern terrorism; the goals of modern terrorist groups such as al Qaeda; and the potential for "catastrophic terrorism" using weapons of mass destruction. The final segment of the course explores the complex issues raised by the terrorist challenge to liberal democratic states and the rule of law. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 466 National Security Law

Credit: 0.5

Cicero is credited with saying that the laws are silent during war. But military commanders today often go nowhere without legal counsel at their side. A growing apparatus of international and domestic law now shapes and regulates America's foreign relations and military operations to a remarkable degree — from high politics of diplomacy to rules of engagement for a young soldier stationed at a checkpoint in Afghanistan. Perennial issues include how the American separation of powers affects the authority to initiate hostilities, balancing security with civil liberties, the status of international law in U.S. courts and government secrecy. This course will highlight current and emerging controversies, such as terrorism and the law of armed conflict, drones and targeted killing, extraordinary rendition, interrogation and torture, military commissions, intelligence gathering, enemy

combatant detention and cyber-attack. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing. Offered every two years.

PSCI 470 Power, States and Markets: The Making of Modern Social Order
Credit: 0.5

This seminar explores the complex and dynamic relations between the state and market, the two most pervasive institutions that structure modern social life. We will examine issues such as the role of state violence in constructing political and economic order, the political foundations of markets, how warfare led to the emergence of modern states and global capitalism, the political sources of economic growth and decline, and how markets can undermine states and social order. The seminar will read scholars from a diverse array of disciplines, including political science, economics, history, and sociology, and will draw on a wide range of empirical materials, ranging from medieval Europe and colonial Africa to modern Africa and the advanced industrial states. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every two years.

PSCI 471 Politics of Transitional Justice
Credit: 0.5

The post-Cold War era has witnessed horrific violence against civilians. Both Bosnia and Rwanda fell prey to genocidal campaigns. 'Ethnic cleansing' became a common term in international parlance. Child soldiers are now the face of countless conflicts. In establishing an array of transitional justice mechanisms such as the permanent International Criminal Court members of the international community have sought to curb such atrocities, and perhaps break the cycles of violence that perpetuate them. Such efforts have raised a number of questions. In particular, how should states and societies contend with legacies of mass atrocity? What are the appropriate mechanisms for addressing massive human rights abuses? Should states institute war crimes trials, truth commissions, reparations, institutional reforms, mobile justice units, traditional justice, or should they simply try to forget and move forward from their violent pasts? And, how do such transitional justice mechanisms translate at the local level? What is their impact, both positive and negative? Is it possible to realize the "truth" about past violence? Is it possible to realize "justice?" This course explores these questions and others. The first part of the course will provide a theoretical and philosophical framework for thinking about transitional justice. We will then focus on specific transitional justice mechanisms, ranging from the ICC to mobile justice units. We will also address the impact of such mechanisms on local communities and how well they meet their intended goals. We will conclude with a Transitional Justice Conference, which will wrap-up with discussion about the limits and potential of transitional justice. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor.

PSCI 475 China in the World
Credit: 0.5

This seminar explores the People's Republic of China from a political science perspective, focusing on enduring historical and political issues as well as current challenges. Topics to be covered will include challenges of China's 20th-century nation-building and economic development (revolution and independence; Mao's China vs. Reform China), contemporary regional and global foreign relations, and the challenges of 21st-century development. This latter includes a broad range of institutional and policy change (such as marketization, globalization, civil freedoms, elections and citizenship) as well as outcomes from these changes (protests, censorship, inequality, pollution, urban sprawl, consumerism and rural-urban divide). Topics will remain flexible to respond to the rise of current issues, such as minorities, cyber-security, maritime borders, intellectuals, dissidents, etc. The course is organized as a seminar, with a high level of student engagement, including weekly student-run discussion. A substantial research project is required as well as an oral presentation. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every three years.

PSCI 476 International Organization

Credit: 0.5

International organizations are essential, yet controversial actors in world politics. At the start of the 21st century, there were over 50,000 international organizations working on an array of issues. Their work affects the lives of billions of people. Consider any contemporary war, trade dispute, financial crisis, human rights issue, or environmental concern and international organizations are likely involved, if not playing a central role. They work to halt war crimes, rebuild war-torn societies, reduce extreme poverty and disease, promote gender equality, help states confront environmental problems and overcome financial crises. International organizations have nonetheless been subject to relentless criticism, with critics claiming that they aggravate the very problems they are supposed to solve. This course explores the role of international organizations in world politics. We will look at how past and current international organizations have grappled with a host of issues, ranging from terrorism to criminal accountability for egregious international crimes. In so doing, students will learn about the origins, politics and effects of diverse international organizations, including the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Criminal Court and Amnesty International. This counts toward either an upper-level comparative politics or international relations course or an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing and permission of the instructor.

PSCI 480 Science and Politics

Credit: 0.5

This seminar examines the relationship of science and politics from early modernity to the present and considers the probable course and character of that relationship in the future. Topics to be considered include Galileo's conflict with the Church, the theory of evolution, social Darwinism, and the origins and implications of nuclear weapons research. We also will examine a number of contemporary controversies at the intersection of science and

politics, including genetic testing and therapy, intelligence testing and the IQ debates, climate change, and the debates surrounding the science and politics of AIDS. Issues such as the value neutrality of science, the politics of risk assessment and the proper role of scientists in shaping policy also will be examined. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Offered every three to four years.

PSCI 483 The Political Philosophy of Rousseau

Credit: 0.5

In this seminar we will examine "Emile," which Rousseau considered to be his most important and most comprehensive work — in brief, as the reply, point to point, to Plato's "Republic." Whereas Plato became famous for presenting an imaginary city, Rousseau presents an imaginary soul or person; his philosophical novel covers the education of Emile from birth until just after marriage. Our discussion will conform to the scope of the themes of the book: nature, economics, morality, religion, sexuality, aesthetics and politics. This counts toward an upper-level seminar for the major. Prerequisite: junior standing.

PSCI 493 Individual Study

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Individual study in political science is available to students who want to pursue a course of reading or complete a focused research project on a topic not regularly offered in the department's curriculum. To enroll, a student must prepare a proposal in consultation with a member of the political science faculty who has suitable expertise and is willing to work with the student over the course of a semester. The proposal should include a statement of the questions the student plans to explore, a preliminary bibliography, a schedule of assignments, a schedule of meetings with the faculty member and a description of the elements that will be factored into the course grade. The student also should briefly describe any prior coursework that particularly qualifies him or her to pursue the project independently. The department chair must approve the proposal. The department expects the student to meet regularly with the instructor for at least the equivalent of one hour per week. Reading assignments will vary depending on the topic but should approximate a regular departmental course in that field. Students should expect to write at least 30 pages over the course of the semester for an individual study bearing 0.50 units of credit. The chair must receive proposals by the third day of classes. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline.

PSCI 497Y Senior Honors

Credit: 0.5

The senior honors candidate works with two members of the department to prepare a major essay on a topic of his or her choice, which is then defended before an outside examiner in May. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.

PSCI 498Y Senior Honors
Credit: 0.5

This course is a continuation of 497Y. Prerequisite: permission of department chair.
