POLITICAL SCIENCE (PSCI)

PSCI 009 Critical Writing Seminar in Political Science
This is a critical writing seminar. It fulfills the writing requirement for all undergraduates. As a discipline-based writing seminar, the course introduces students to a topic within its discipline but throughout emphasizes the development of critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills. For current listings and descriptions, visit the Critical Writing Program's website at http://writing.upenn.edu/critical.
For BA Students: Writing Requirement Course
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: WRIT 076
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 010 Freshman Seminars
Freshmen seminars are small, substantive courses taught by members of the faculty and open only to freshmen. These seminars offer an excellent opportunity to explore areas not represented in high school curricula and to establish relationships with faculty members around areas of mutual interest. See www.college.upenn.edu/admissions/freshmen.php
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 010, GSWS 010, LALS 107
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 105 The Study of Politics
This course introduces fundamental political questions, including the nature of political authority and political rights, the relationship between power and values, variation in the role and quality of government, origins of political institutions, and dynamics of international politics. Substantial consideration is given to contributions by classical political thinkers as well as contemporary political scientists. Attention is also paid to how the systematic study of politics – American politics, comparative politics, international politics and political philosophy – can deepen our understanding of complex public policy questions.
For BA Students: Society Sector
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 107 Introduction to Data Science
Understanding and interpreting large, quantitative data sets is increasingly central in political and social science. Whether one seeks to understand political communication, international trade, inter-group conflict, or a host of other issues, the availability of large quantities of digital data has revolutionized the study of politics. Nonetheless, most data-related courses focus on statistical estimation, rather than on the related but distinctive problems of data acquisition, management and visualization - in a term, data science. This course seeks to address that imbalance by focusing squarely on the tools of data science. Leaving this course, students will be able to acquire, format, analyze, and visualize various types of political data using the statistical programming language R. This course is not a statistics class, but it will increase the capacity of students to thrive in future statistics classes. ENTERING THIS CLASS... students are expected to have a basic familiarity with computation.
While no background in statistics, political science is required, students are expected to be generally familiar with contemporary computing environments (e.g. know how to use a computer) and have a willingness to learn a wide variety of data science tools.
Taught by: Hopkins
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 110 Introduction to Comparative Politics
This course is designed to introduce students to comparative political analysis. How can the political behavior, circumstances, institutions, and dynamic patterns of change that people experience in very different societies be analyzed using the same set of concepts and theories? Key themes include nationalism, political culture, democratization, authoritarianism, and the nature of protracted conflict.
For BA Students: Society Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PSCI 412
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 113 Intro To Decision Theory
For BA Students: Formal Reasoning and Analysis
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 115 Comparative Western European Politics
Comparative analysis of the political systems of Britain, France and West Germany, focusing on the making and implementation of public policy.
Taught by: Kennedy
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
PSCI 116 Political Change in the "Third World"
This is a comparative politics course that examines political and socio-economic change in the so-called "Third World," defined here as post-colonial developing areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The course is not as concerned with keeping up with current events as with analyzing the relationships between colonial legacies, the initial challenges of post-colonial political and socioeconomic development, and how these interact with contemporary problems and global trends. Although chiefly concerned with "political change" within countries, it will also devote substantial attention to economic, socio-cultural and international factors. The course is divided into three parts. The first examines the common and distinctive features of colonial rule in different regions as well as the varying challenges of political and economic development in diverse post-colonial settings. The second part focuses on elaborating on the themes developed in the first by looking more closely at the developmental experiences of Brazil, India, Algeria, Iran, Nigeria, and South Korea (with passing references to other countries as comparative referents). The third part focuses on trends and challenges that have emerged over the last two decades - including market reforms, democratization, and problems related to gender and the environment.

For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Sil
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 130 Introduction to American Politics
This course is intended to introduce students to the national institutions and political processes of American government. What are the historical and philosophical foundations of the American Republic? How does American public policy get made, who makes it, and who benefits? Is a constitutional fabric woven in 1787 good enough for today? How, if at all, should American government be changed, and why? What is politics and why bother to study it? If these sorts of questions interest you, then this course will be a congenial home. It is designed to explore such questions while teaching students the basics of American politics and government.

For BA Students: Society Sector
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 131 American Foreign Policy
This course analyzes the formation and conduct of foreign policy in the United State. The course combines three elements: a study of the history of American foreign relations; an analysis of the causes of American foreign policy such as the international system, public opinion, and the media; and a discussion of the major policy issues in contemporary U.S. foreign policy, including terrorism, civil wars, and economic policy.

Taught by: Horowitz, Vitalis
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 133 Introduction to African American Politics
This course is designed to provide an introduction to contemporary African American politics. We will examine how the underlying theory and structure of American political institutions affect African Americans' efforts to organize for effective political action. We will also analyze some of the political behaviors and strategies utilized by African Americans as they seek to impact the political system.

Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 134 United States Political Parties
This course is an analysis of parties in the United States, with special attention to democratic theory, the electoral process, electronic media, as well as political organizations and their influence on government decisions.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 135 The Politics of Food and Agriculture
Students will use course readings and their community service to analyze the institutions, ideas, interests, social movements, and leadership that shape the “politics of food” in different arenas. Service opportunities include work with the Urban Nutrition Initiative, Community School Student Partnerships, and the possibility of other placements as approved by the professors.
Taught by: Summers
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HSOC 135
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 136 Urban Politics in the United States
This course explores the political character of contemporary urban American life. Particular attention is given to the relationship between urban politics and policymaking – including the structural and ideological factors (e.g., dynamics of political economy, race, ethnicity, pluralism and gender) that constrain the policy context and shape the urban environment as a terrain for commingling, competition and conflict over uses of space. It makes considerable use of case studies to throw into relief the complex and sometimes subtle processes that shape urban life.

For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Reed
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: AFRC 136, URBS 136
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 138 Policymaking in the US
This course is an opportunity for students to combine the major theoretical perspectives on the policy process with practical application to current policy issues. Students will gain the theoretical tools to explain policy change, a comprehensive understanding of the actors that influence policymaking and politics, an overview of the major policy issues being debated, and experience writing policy documents.
Taught by: Martinez
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 139 Politics Of Poverty & Development
This academically based community service seminar will explore the ideas and theories, alliances and opposition that have shaped policy and organizing efforts addressed to the problems associated with urban poverty in the United States. There will be a special focus on the issues of increasing inequality, education, low wage work, health and nutrition, welfare reform and social security. Students will evaluate contemporary policy debates and programs in the light of selected case studies, readings, and their own experience working with community groups, institutions, and federal programs in West Philadelphia.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Summers
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 144 Communism
The rise and fall of Communism dominated the history of the short twentieth century from the Russian revolution of 1917 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. As a system of government, Communism is more or less dead, but its utopian ideals of liberation from exploitation and want live on. Communism remains the one political-economic system that presented, for a time, an alternative to global capitalism. In this course, students will gain an introduction to socialist and Communist political thought and explore Communist political and economic regimes - their successes and failures, critics and dissidents, efforts at reform, and causes of collapse. We will learn about the remnants of Communism in China, North Korea, and Cuba and efforts of contemporary theorists to imagine a future for Communism.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Orenstein
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EEUR 153, RUSS 134
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 150 Introduction to International Relations
This course is an introduction to the major theories and issues in international politics. The goals of the course are to give students a broad familiarity with the field of international relations, and to help them develop the analytical skills necessary to think critically about international politics. The course is divided into four parts: 1) Concepts and Theories of International Relations; 2) War and Security; 3) The Global Economy; and 4) Emerging Issues in International Relations.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Mansfield, Stanton
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 151 International Security
This lecture course introduces students to the subfield of international security or strategic studies. In order to grasp the usefulness of the theoretical ideas presented in readings and lectures, abstract concepts are linked with a study of the national security policies states have adopted in the decades following World War II. Topics include current debates about nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the Iraq war, Europe's changing international role, the rise of China, Asian "flashpoints" (Korea, the Taiwan Strait), and US security policy for the 21st century - considering some of the main strategic alternatives to the US as well as their implications for the types of forces deployed (the impact of the "revolution in military affairs," the future of missile defense, and the economic burden to be shouldered).
Taught by: Goldstein
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 152 International Political Economy
This course examines the politics of international economic relations. The course will analyze the interplay between politics and economics in three broad areas: international trade, international finance, and economic development. In each section, we will first discuss economic theories that explain the causes and consequences of international commerce, capital flows, and economic growth. We will then explore how political interests, institutions, and ideas alter these predictions, examining both historical examples and current policy debates.
Taught by: Gray
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 153 International Law & Institutions
This lecture course examines the role that international law and institutions play in international relations. The course begins by exploring broad theoretical questions - questions about why states create international law and international institutions; how states design institutions; the impact that institutional design may have on the effectiveness of international institutions; and the conditions under which states are likely to comply with the rules set out by international institutions and the dictates of international law. Specific topics include collective security institutions such as the League of Nations, the United Nations, and NATO; human rights law; the laws of war; international intervention and peacekeeping; international justice and the International Criminal Court; environmental law; international trade law and the World Trade Organization; economic development and the World Bank; and international finance and the role of the International Monetary Fund.
Taught by: Stanton
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 154 Politics of Global Environment
This course explores the emerging politics of global ecological decay and restoration occurring at the individual, local, nation-state, and international levels.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit
PSCI 156 Terrorism
This course is designed to stimulate an interest in the philosophy and methods of terrorism, to illustrate the varieties of conditions under which methods of terrorism are used; to outline the institutional conditions which permit and support the use of terrorism; and to understand the problems involved in “solving” the terrorism dilemma.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 180 Ancient Political Thought
Through reading texts of Plato (Socrates), Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas, the student encounters a range of political ideas deeply challenging to–and possibly corrosive of–today’s dominant democratic liberalism. Can classical and medieval thinking offer insight into modern impasses in political morality? Is such ancient thinking plausible, useful, or dangerous?
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Kennedy, Norton
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 185
Activity: Recitation
0 Course Units

PSCI 181 Modern Political Thought
This course will provide an overview of major figures and themes of modern political thought. We will focus on themes and questions pertinent to political theory in the modern era, particularly focusing on the relationship of the individual to community, society, and state. Although the emergence of the individual as a central moral, political, and conceptual category arguably began in earlier eras, it is in the seventeenth century that it takes firm hold in defining the state, political institutions, moral thinking, and social relations. The centrality of “the individual” has created difficulties, even paradoxes, for community and social relations, and political theorists have struggled to reconcile those throughout the modern era. We will consider the political forms that emerged out of those struggles, as well as the changed and distinctly “modern” conceptualizations of political theory such as freedom, responsibility, justice, rights and obligations, as central categories for organizing moral and political life.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Hirschmann, Kennedy, Norton
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 681
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 182 Contemporary Political Thought
This course is intended as a general introduction to political theory since 1900, examining prominent theorists of politics including Max Weber, Hannah Arendt, Carl Schmitt, Isaiah Berlin, Jurgen Habermas, John Rawls, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida. Our theme for the Fall 2012 course will be: The Disenchantment of the World? Topics include: the nature of the the political and the concern, particular to the last century, that politics is itself under attack; the spread of liberal democracy across the globe and a critical appraisal of the moral meaning of this regime; contemporary theories of social justice; and an exploration of various issues pertaining to violence and the politics of security.
Taught by: Green, Hirschmann
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 183 American Political Thought
Whether America begins with the Puritans and the Mayflower Compact, or with the Declaration of Independence and the Revolution, it is founded in resistance to empire. In the generations between, Americans have desired, dreaded and debated empire. This course will focus on empire and imperialism in American political thought. We will read primary texts addressing empire: from the departure and dissent of the Puritans, and Burke’s Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies, to twentieth and twenty-first century debates over America’s role in the world. These texts will include political pamphlets and speeches, poetry, novels, policy papers and film.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science Sector
Taught by: Norton
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 198 Selected Topics in Political Science
Consult department for detailed descriptions. More than one course may be taken in a given semester. Recent titles have included: The Analysis of Presidential Elections, Conservative Political Economy, and Political Geography.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 201 Politics, Society and Social Science
Everyday human behavior poses puzzles that political scientists, economists, sociologists, and other social scientists have attempted to answer. Often their respective answers or “theories” differ widely; and sometimes even their most widely agreed-upon answers seem to defy common sense or ask us to believe in highly improbable findings. This new lecture course familiarizes students with different approaches to understanding politics, society, and social science in relation to everyday questions, intriguing puzzles, and improbable findings about human behavior. It focuses on contemporary American politics and society, and draws mainly on literatures featuring work by leading U.S. social scientists. In addition, the course explores the conceptual boundaries between the political, social, and economic domains in which people interact with one another; the differences among and between different much-acclaimed models for understanding human behavior; and the philosophical underpinnings and moral implications associated with schools of thought about how best to describe, analyze, and evaluate what people do--and why they do it!
Taught by: Dilulio
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit
PSCI 204 Political Participation
The course offers a broad understanding of the political tactics citizens implement to voice their policy preferences to government. This course introduces students to the mode, scope, and theoretical perspectives of political engagement. Analyzing political behavior that ranges from voting behavior to political protest, the course will address a variety of questions: Who engages in politics and why? What are the individual factors that hinder or facilitate engagement in the political arena? How have citizens political actions changed over time? While the course will mainly focus on the United States setting, it does offer a comparative perspective by considering political engagement in non-democratic regimes.
Taught by: Gillion
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 208 International Organizations in Latin America
International Organizations play a powerful role in mitigating conflict at the global level. What role do they play in solving problems related to global politics, economic development, corruption, inequality and civil society in Latin America? How much power, influence and control do they possess in the region? This course examines the role and impact international organizations have had on Latin America since the mid-20th century. After a review of theoretical and methodological perspectives on the significance of IOs in international relations, students will examine the workings, issues and often controversies surrounding IOs in Latin America, including the IMF, World Bank, UN, OAS and ICC as well as regional organizations such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and area trade blocs and agreements of Mercosur, NAFTA and others. Students will also explore the regional impact of transnational civil society organizations, such as human rights organizations and the International Olympic Committee. Students will be invited to participate in the Washington Model OAS from April 10-17.
Taught by: Bartch
Also Offered As: LALS 208
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 210 Contemporary African Politics
This class provides an introduction to contemporary African politics. The core questions that motivate the course are (i) to what extent are political outcomes in contemporary Africa a consequence of its history, culture and geography? (ii) Why are state structures and institutions weaker in Africa than elsewhere? (iii) What accounts for Africa’s relatively slow economic growth? (iv) Why have some African countries been plagued by high levels of political violence while others have not? (v) What explains the behavior of key African actors: parties or politicians?
Taught by: Grossman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 257, AFST 257
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 211 Politics in the Contemporary Middle East
This course is an introduction to the most prominent historical, cultural, institutional, and ideological features of Middle Eastern politics. Typical of the questions we shall address are why processes of modernization and economic change have not produced liberal democracies, why Islamic movements have gained enormous strength in some countries and not others, why conflicts in the region—between Israel and the Arabs, Iran and Iraq, or inside of Lebanon—have been so bitter and protracted; why the era of military coups was brought to an end but transitions to democracy have been difficult to achieve; why Arab unity has been so elusive and yet so persistent a theme; and why oil wealth in the Gulf, in the Arabian Peninsula, and in North Africa, has not produced industrialized or self-sustaining economic growth.
Taught by: Vitalis or Lustick
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 211
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 212 Japanese Politics
This course examines the politics and policies of contemporary Japan, applying a range of theoretical perspectives to analyze both recent history and current events. We will survey the core political institutions of the postwar era, examine patterns of political interaction, and investigate current debates over policy. The 1990s have been marked by political change at many different levels in Japan and the course will investigate the significance of these changes, as well as enduring continuities. Recent changes have included the introduction of a new electoral system, shift from one party rule to coalition government rule, breaking the bureaucracy, a financial crisis and prolonged economic stagnation. In the latter part of the course, we will focus in particular on the puzzle of how Japan’s political economic structures and policies could have proven so successful for so long and yet so disastrous of late. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to think about Japanese politics in a comparative context and to consider the functioning of the Japanese political system in the context of more theoretical debates in political science.
Taught by: Amyx
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 559, PSCI 512
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 213 Latin American Politics
This course examines the dynamics of political and economic change in twentieth century Latin America, with the goal of achieving an understanding of contemporary politics in the region. We will analyze topics such as the incorporation of the region to the international economy and the consolidation of oligarchic states (1880s to 1930s), corporatism, populism, and electoral politics (1930s and 1940s), social revolution, democratic breakdown, and military rule (1960s and 1970s), transitions to democracy and human rights advocacy (1980s), market-oriented reforms (1990s), and the turn to the left of current governments (2000s). The course will draw primarily from the experiences of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico. No prior knowledge of the region is required.
Taught by: Falleti
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: LALS 213
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit
PSCI 214 Political Economy of East Asia
This course examines the interplay between politics and economics in East Asia. A major course objective is to reconcile the region's past success with the difficulties experienced in many of these countries more recently. Another primary objective is to consider in what ways and to what degree the growth experiences of the high-performing economies in East Asia shed light on the prospects for long-term success of reforms currently underway in China and Vietnam. The first half of the course begins by exploring the causes and consequences of the rise of industrial Asia. The second half of the course examines the challenges to sustained growth faced by many countries in this region in recent years. The course concludes by examining the challenges faced by China and Vietnam today in their attempt to embrace more market-oriented economic systems.
Taught by: Wang, Amyx
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 104, EALC 504, PSCI 514
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 215 The European Union
This lecture course, after introductory sessions which outline the EU's core institutions, is built on an exposition of the works of major thinkers who have reflected on the European Union's origins, outcomes and significance. It critically reviews their arguments, especially their relevance to major recent crises, notably: the failure of the European Constitution, the current crisis of credibility facing the Euro. Whether the European Union is a confederation, a federation, an empire, or a novel political formation shall be examined. Whether its recent major widening signals an end to its institutional deepening will be discussed. Whether the Union has "a democratic deficit" is examined, as is the claim that in external relations it represents a novel form of soft power.
Taught by: O'Leary
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 216 Government and Politics of East Asia
The course will examine the relationship between culture, state, and economy of Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. It will also analyze the nature and workings of political institutions (including political parties and bureaucracy).
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 217 Russian Politics
This course will present an in-depth examination of political, economic and social change in post-Soviet Russia within a historical context. After a brief discussion of contemporary problems in Russia, the first half of the course will delve into the rise of communism in 1917, the evolution of the Soviet regime, and the tensions between ideology and practice over the seventy years of communist rule up until 1985. The second part of the course will begin with an examination of the Gorbachev period and the competing interpretations of how the events between 1985 and 1991 may have contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union. We will then proceed to make sense of the continuities and changes in politics, economics and society in contemporary Russia. Important topics will include the confrontations accompanying the adoption of a new constitution, the emergence of competing ideologies and parties, the struggle over economic privatization, the question of federalism and nationalism, social and political implicatons of economic reform, and prospects for Russia's future in the Putin and post-Putin era.
Taught by: Sil
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: PSCI 517, RUSS 217
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 218 Politics of Post War Western Europe
This course examines political institutions, processes and events in postwar Western Europe. The focus will be a comparative analysis of such topics as political parties and systems, electoral behavior, as well as social and economic policy. We will also examine the way in which domestic processes and policies interact with membership in the European Union.
Taught by: Lynch
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 219 Contemporary Chinese Politics
This lecture course introduces students to the politics of the Peoples Republic of China. Complementing offerings in other departments, this course emphasizes events in the period since the Chinese Communist Party established its regime in 1949. In addition to surveying the political history of contemporary China, we will assess the meaning of these events by drawing upon theories about the nature and significance of ideology and organization in communist regimes, factionalism and its relationship to policy formulation and implementation, and general issues of political and economic development. Although the principal focus is on the domestic politics of the PRC, the course includes several lectures examining China's international relations.
Taught by: Goldstein
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit
PSCI 220 Comparative South Asian Politics
The comparative study of South Asian politics begins with many antecedent questions. What are the reasons why a strong national political identity in the Indian subcontinent was not consolidated and territorial boundaries defined until the advent of the British Raj? Alternatively, given major regional diversities, why did the subcontinent not become differentiated into a large number of national states on the model of Europe? To what extent was the movement toward a unified territorial state weakened by colonial policies that recast social groups in terms of new pan-Indian categories based on caste and religious identities? What factors led to the partition of the subcontinent at the time of independence on the basis of religion, and what consequences did partition have for the strategies adopted by each state to develop an overarching national identity and universal principles of legitimate state power? Although the greater part of the course will address these questions by analyzing the social and political dynamics of democracy in India, they are equally relevant for understanding the difficulties encountered by Pakistan in defining a core identity and a stable form of government.

Taught by: Frankel
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 221 Comparative Health Politics
This course examines the relationship between politics and the health of populations in the world’s rich democracies, including the United States. The key questions the course addresses are how and why countries differ in their health care policies, public health policies, and policies that affect the social determinants of health. There are no prerequisites, but prior coursework in comparative politics at the 100 or 200 level will be helpful.

Taught by: Lynch
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 222 Issues Comp Pol/Gender
Struggles over gender roles and rights have been prominent in the Middle East and North Africa since the 19th century and continue to mark contemporary political and social discourses. Since the colonial period, gender categories and sexualities have been critiqued and negotiated on behalf of empire, the nation, modernity, personal freedom; today debates and struggles over global rights, islamic law, and modernity continue to mark politics. Despite the particularity of ideas and events in the region, a comparative framework helps to overcome exoticization of the region and develop a more acute understanding. The topics of the course include engagement with the discourse of the Exotic Other, the effects of modernity, the role of nationalism and the state, state-society negotiation, islamic formulations, and continuously, the question: where does change come from? Issues of the veil and islamic dress the expansion of anti-gay laws, the disciplining of bodies in state and social settings - these issues of gender and sexuality extend the realm of the political into intimate spaces. Assignments include a midterm and a short paper that develops research and analytical skills. The course is 200 level. While background in the study of the Middle East or gender is not necessary, an introductory political science or social science course is required.

Taught by: Harrold
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 225
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 223 Issues Comp Pol/Gender
Struggles over gender roles and rights have been prominent in the Middle East and North Africa since the 19th century and continue to mark contemporary political and social discourses. Since the colonial period, gender categories and sexualities have been critiqued and negotiated on behalf of empire, the nation, modernity, personal freedom; today debates and struggles over global rights, islamic law, and modernity continue to mark politics. Despite the particularity of ideas and events in the region, a comparative framework helps to overcome exoticization of the region and develop a more acute understanding. The topics of the course include engagement with the discourse of the Exotic Other, the effects of modernity, the role of nationalism and the state, state-society negotiation, islamic formulations, and continuously, the question: where does change come from? Issues of the veil and islamic dress the expansion of anti-gay laws, the disciplining of bodies in state and social settings - these issues of gender and sexuality extend the realm of the political into intimate spaces. Assignments include a midterm and a short paper that develops research and analytical skills. The course is 200 level. While background in the study of the Middle East or gender is not necessary, an introductory political science or social science course is required.

Taught by: Harrold
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 225
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 224 Political Economy of Development
The course surveys some of the principal themes in the political economies of lower income countries. The questions we shall seek to address cover a broad terrain. Who are the key actors? What are their beliefs, interests and motivations? What are their constraints? How are these being affected by closer economic linkages between national economies? While there is no single integrative framework or paradigm into which these themes neatly fit, a common thread is the changing dynamics and interplay between the local, the national, and the global. A familiarity with basic economic concepts will be helpful, but is not necessary.

Taught by: Kapur
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 228 Education for Democracy in Latin America and the U.S.
Taught by: Batch
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LALS 227
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 229 China's Domestic Politics
This is an advanced course on the main issues of contemporary Chinese politics, economy and social change. There is a strong focus on the reform period (post 1978). We will spend considerable time and energy on understanding the major themes and challenges of China’s reforms, including the political system, the legal system, the inequality, foreign direct investment, village elections, lawmaking, environmental degradation, social opposition, corruption, and religion. We also investigate the many political and social consequences of reform and changing landscape of Chinese politics. A prior course on Chinese politics (for example, PSCI 219) is highly recommended.

Taught by: Hou
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: PSCI 219 or equivalent highly recommended
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 231 Race and Ethnic Politics
Taught by: Gillion
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 232
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 232 Introduction to Political Communications
This course is an introduction to the field of political communication, conceptual approaches to analyzing communication in various forms, including advertising, speech making, campaign debates, and candidates’ and office-holders’ uses of news. The focus of this course is on the interplay in the U.S. between television and politics. The course includes a history of televised campaign practices from the 1952 presidential contest onward.

Taught by: Jamieson
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 226
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
PSCI 233 Introduction to African American Politics
This course is an historical survey of the main bases and substances of politics among black Americans and the relation of black politics to the American political order. Its two main objectives are: 1) to provide a general sense of pertinent historical issues and relations as a way of helping to make sense of the present and 2) to develop criteria for evaluating political scientists’ and others’ claims regarding the status and characteristics of black American political activity.
Taught by: Reed
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 234 Changing American Electorate
In 1960, a Democratic candidate won a very narrow Presidential victory with just 100,000 votes; in 2000, the Democratic candidate lost but received 500,000 more votes than his opponent. Still, contemporary scholars and journalists have made a variety of arguments about just how much the American political landscape changed in the intervening 40 years, often calling recent decades a transform ation. This course explores and critically evaluates those arguments. Key questions include: how, if at all, have Americans political attitudes and ideologie s changed? How have their connections to politics changed? What has this meant for the fortunes and strategies of the two parties? How have the parties base voters and swing voters changed? What changes in American society have advantaged some political messages and parties at the expense of others? Focusing primarily on mass-level politics, we consider a wide range of potential causes, including the role of race in American politics, suburbanization, economic transformations, the evolving constellation and structure of interest groups, declining social capital, the changing role of religion, immigration, and the actions of parties and political elites. For three weeks in the semester, we will take a break from considering broader trends to look at specific elections in some depth.
Taught by: Hopkins
Course not offered every year
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 236 The Public Policy Process
This course introduces students to the theories and practice of the policy-making process. There are four primary learning objectives. First, understanding how the structure of political institutions matter for the policies that they produce. Second, recognizing the constraints that policy makers face when making decisions on behalf of the public. Third, identifying the strategies that can be used to overcome these constraints. Fourth, knowing the toolbox that available to participants in the policy-making process to help get their preferred strategies implemented. While our focus will primarily be on American political institutions, many of the ideas and topics discussed in the class apply broadly to other democratic systems of government.
Taught by: Levendusky, Meredith
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 237 The American Presidency
This course surveys the institutional development of the American presidency from the Constitutional convention through the current administration. It examines the politics of presidential leadership, and how the executive branch functions. An underlying theme of the course is the tensions between the presidency, leadership, and democracy.
Taught by: Gottschalk
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 238 Congress
This course is designed to introduce students to the study of Congress and of legislative behavior generally. The course will examine legislative procedures, congressional institutions (committees, subcommittees, leadership structure), campaigns and elections, legislative behavior (voting, constituency service, policy leadership), and the policymaking environment (interest groups, executive branch, media). Particular emphasis will be placed on consideration of whether and how electoral concerns affect legislative behavior and the structure of congressional institutions. In addition, the course will consider congressional behavior within the broader context of representation. There are no prerequisites for this class, but students are expected to have at least a rudimentary understanding of American politics and government.
Taught by: Lapinski
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 242 Business Govt & Pub Pol.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 244 Elections & Engagement
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 245 Inter-American Relations
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 251 Arab Israeli Relations
In this course the Arab-Israeli dispute from 1948 to the present will serve as a vehicle for understanding how domestic and global political processes interact to shape, contain, or aggravate Middle Eastern wars between states and non-state actors. Particular stress will be placed on understanding how wars affect international politics in states and political organizations and how ideological and structural features of states and organizations find expression in wars and complicate or enable the search for peace. In addition, the key features of the conflict will be interpreted as both a clash between the political interests of national and/or religious groups and as a reflection of global political power struggles. Attention will be given toward the end of the course to alternative ideas about possible resolution of the conflict as well as to the increasingly prominent argument that, in this case, there is no solution.
Taught by: Lustick
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 248
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit
PSCI 252 War, Strategy and Politics
This class examines the strategy and politics of warfare, focusing on the way actors plan military campaigns and the factors that are likely to lead to victory and defeat. The course readings center in particular on the factors driving changes in warfare and civil-military relations. The course will cover a wide range of topics from theories of war-fighting to historical military campaigns to insurgency warfare, terrorism, and the future of war.
Taught by: Horowitz
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 253 International Politics of the Middle East
This course will focus primarily on episodes of external intervention by Great Powers in the politics of Middle Eastern states. We shall begin by examining the emergence of the Middle Eastern state system after the disappearance of the Ottoman Empire in the early part of the 20th century. This discussion will provide opportunities to develop key concepts in the study of international politics and will serve as crucial historical background. We shall then turn our attention to the primary concern of the course - a systematic consideration of the motives, operational results, and long-term implications of a number of important examples of intervention by Great Powers in the Middle East. Among the episodes to be considered will be British policies toward the end of World War I, in Palestine in the 1930s, and, along with the French, in Suez in 1956. Soviet intervention in the first Arab-Israeli war, in 1948, will be analyzed along with Soviet policies toward Egypt in the early 1970s. American intervention in Iran in 1953 and in the Gulf War in 1991 will also be examined.
Taught by: Lustick
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: JWST 253, PSCI 553
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 254 Politics of the European Union
This course explores the political economy of European integration. It is organized in three parts: First, we analyze the political and economic forces that have driven the process of European integration since World War II. We review the milestones of European integration in historical perspective and discuss different theoretical perspectives explaining the path and outcome of European integration. Second, the course takes an in-depth look at the institutions and decision-making processes of the European Union (EU). It analyzes the structure and operation of the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Court of Justice, and explores how these institutions interact to shape EU policy. Third, we examine EU policymaking in key policy areas, including regulatory policies, redistributive politics, economic and monetary affairs, and external relations.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 255 The Causes of War & Peace
The existence and endurance of war provides one of the most important puzzles of politics: why is it that people keep making use of such a destructive and painful way of resolving their disputes? This course addresses this question and the related question of what factors contribute to peace, focusing on both academic and popular explanations for conflict, including among others anarchy, over-optimism, shifting power, diversionary war, the malevolent influence of war profiteers, and a variety of explanations grounded in culture, religion and other ideational variables. In this discussion, we will focus on both interstate and civil wars, and on both the onset and the eventual termination of war. At various points in the course we will discuss a wide range of historical and contemporary cases, including the World Wars, Vietnam, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, the various Arab-Israeli wars, the India-Pakistan rivalry, and a number of recent civil conflicts such as the wars in Yugoslavia, Congo, and Sudan. The course concludes with a discussion of strategies for managing ongoing conflicts and for securing peace in post war settings.
Taught by: Weisiger
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 256 International Relations of the United States and Asia
This course is one of the first arising out of scholarship on cold war international history. It draws on declassified government documents and other archival records to provide a window into the world-view of decision-makers who need to make national security policy based on incomplete information about ambiguous threats. The materials reveal a great deal about the importance of divergent historical perspectives and strategic cultures in the foreign policy-making process. The main focus of the course is on the intersection of the cold war and the rise of Asian nationalism. At the core of the analysis is the clash between America's global strategy of military containment against the Soviet Union and the assertion of Indian, and Chinese nationalism, concerned with preventing the United States from succeeding to Great Britain's imperial rule. The course examines new patterns of power after the Cold War, especially the emergence of two major powers in Asia - China and India - and the issues raised by the U.S. unilateralist use of military power to preserve its predominant position.
Taught by: Weisiger
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 257 International Relations of South Asia
One of the great accidents of history is the Partition of the subcontinent into the two states of India and Pakistan, and the onset of the cold war as a global struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. Indo-Pakistan wars over Kashmir, the dismantling of Pakistan by India and the creation of Bangladesh, Pakistan's support for Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, and the acquisition by both countries of nuclear arsenals has marked the region as potentially the most dangerous area in the world. This course analyzes the changing security environment from 1947 until the present including the involvement of the United States, Soviet Union/Russia and China, and assesses the prospects for averting chaos in greater South Asia.
Taught by: Frankel
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
PSCI 258 International Human Rights
What exactly should be considered a fundamental "human right"? What is the basis for something is a fundamental human right? This course will examine not only broad conceptual debates, but will also focus on specific issue areas (e.g., civil rights, economic rights, women's rights), as well as the question of how new rights norms emerge in international relations.
Taught by: Doherty-Sil
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PSCI 558
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 259 Chinese Foreign Policy
This seminar examines the influences on and patterns of China's international relations. Topics to be covered include the following: theoretical approaches to analyzing foreign policy; the historical legacy and evolution of China's foreign policy; contemporary China's foreign policy on traditional national security concerns as well as economic, environmental, and humanitarian issues; China's military modernization; China's foreign policy in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America; China's rise and its implications for relations with the United States. The class is a seminar in which student preparation and participation will essential. Students planning to enroll in the course must have taken PSCI 219 or, with the instructor's permission, its equivalent. You are expected to complete all required readings each week and come to seminar meetings prepared to discuss them.
Taught by: Goldstein
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: MUST HAVE TAKEN PSCI 219 OR EQUIVALENT
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 267 Int'l Aff:Russia&Easteur
For BA Students: Society Sector
Also Offered As: EEUR 152, RUSS 123
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 271 Constitutional Law: Public Power & Civil Rights to 1912
This course explores the creation and transformations of the American constitutional system's structures and goals from the nation's founding through the period of Progressive reforms, the rise of the Jim Crow system, and the Spanish American War. Issues include the division of powers between state and national governments, and the branches of the federal government; economic powers of private actors and government regulators; the authority of governments to enforce or transform racial and gender hierarchies; and the extent of religious and expressive freedoms and rights of persons accused of crimes. We will pay special attention to the changing role of the Supreme Court and its decisions in interpreting and shaping American constitutionalism, and we will also read legislative and executive constitutional arguments, party platforms, and other influential statements of American constitutional thought.
Taught by: Smith
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 269, PPE 270
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 272 American Constitutional Law II
This course examines American constitutional development from the eve of WWI through the second Obama administration. Topics include the growth of the New Deal and a Great Society regulatory and redistributive state, struggles for equal rights for racial and ethnic minorities, women and GLBT Americans, contests over freedoms of religion and expression, criminal justice issues, the Reagan Revolution and the revival of federalism and property rights, and issues of national security powers after September 11, 2001. Lectures are on videos and class time is devoted to in-depth discussions.
Taught by: Smith
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 275 Muslim Political Thought
This seminar offers an introduction to Muslim political thought. Chronologically the course ranges from the medieval period to the present. Particular attention will be given in the later part of the course to the renaissance of Muslim political thought in recent years and to the development of political Islam, including the work of such thinkers as Said Qutb and Hasan Turabi. We will also study the roots of this renaissance in classical philosophy of the medieval period (Al Farabi, Al Ghazali, Ibn Khaldun, Ibn Tufayl) and the liberal age.
Taught by: Norton
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: NELC 282, RELS 243
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 280 Feminist Political Thought
This course is designed to provide an overview of the variety of ideas, approaches, and subfields within feminist political thought. Readings and divided into three sections: contemporary theorizing about the meaning of "feminism", women in the history of Western political thought; and feminist theoretical approaches to practical political problems and issues, such as abortion and sexual assault.
For BA Students: Society Sector
Taught by: Hirschmann
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 280
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 282 Lying, Cheating, Stealing, and Killing: How to Think About Professional Ethics
Professionals - in business, medicine, law, and politics - face myriad ethical dilemmas in their daily work life that challenge, and sometimes conflict with, the moral commitments that guide their everyday life. This course systematically examines the ethical dimensions of these four professional roles, asking questions such as: Are there limits to what we should sell? How far should competitors go to "win"? Who should get ventilators in a flu pandemic? Is it morally permissible for physicians to assist in suicide? Should lawyers represent terrorists or child killers? How far does attorney-client privilege go? Is it morally justifiable to torture enemy combatants? Should politicians lie?
Taught by: Allen/Emanuel/Hirschmann/Strudler
Also Offered As: BIOE 282
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
PSCI 298 Selected Topics in Political Science
Consult department for detailed descriptions. More than one course may be taken in a given semester. Recent titles have included: Leadership & Democracy; Conservative Regimes.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 312 Democracy in Africa
In this course, we will examine the impact of historical context, leadership, constitutionalism, political parties, civil society, economic reform, regime legitimacy, and the international community of the democratic transition process in sub-Saharan Africa. Specific country case studies will be examined both comparatively and regionally, given the increasingly interdependent nature of political and economic transition on the continent. The goal of the seminar is to provide students with the tools necessary to understand the democratic transition process in Africa in a way that is also relevant to other regions in the world.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 314 Democracy in Latin America
Since the inception of the twenty first century, Latin America has undergone major economic, social, and political transformations. Many of the neoliberal policies of the last quarter of the twentieth century were reversed or revisited, economic inequality decreased significantly across the region, and anumber of governments turned to the left of the political spectrum, often instituting major public policy and constitutional reforms. How have those changes affected citizenship and democracy in the region? In particular, have citizens' channels for representation and participation changed in the recent past? What has happened to local participatory institutions since the return tothe right in some countries of the region? The course will explore these and related questions. Students will develop their own research projects throughout the semester. While not a requirement, the ability to read Spanish or Portuguese will significantly enhance students' learning experience.
Taught by: Falleti
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: LALS 314
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 320 Who Gets Elected and Why? The Science of Politics
What does it take to get elected to office? What are the key elements of a successful political campaign? What are the crucial issues guiding campaigns and elections in the U.S. at the beginning of the 21st century? This class will address the process and results of electoral politics at the local, state,and federal levels. Course participants will study the stages and strategies of running for public office and will discuss the various influences on getting elected, including: Campaign finance and fundraising, demographics, polling, the media, staffing, economics, and party organization. Each week we will be joined by guest speakers who are nationally recognized professionals, with expertise in different areas of the campaign and election process. Students will also analyze campaign case studies and the career of the instructor himself. Edward G. Rendell is the former Mayor of Philadelphia, former Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and former Governor of Pennsylvania.
Taught by: Rendell
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GAFL 509, URBS 320
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 327 Modern India
Also Offered As: PSCI 527
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 330 PIW Semester Core Seminar: Conducting Public Policy Research in Washington DC
This seminar is taught in Washington D.C. for students enrolled in the Washington Semester Program. It includes an orientation to observation and research in the Washington Community and a major independent research project on the politics of governance.
Taught by: Martinez
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
2 Course Units

PSCI 331 Latino Politics
Also Offered As: LALS 331
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 332 Survey Research & Design
Survey research is a small but rich academic field and discipline, drawing on theory and practice from many diverse fields including political science and communication. This course canvasses the science and practice of survey methods, sampling theory, instrument development and operationalization, and the analysis and reporting of survey data. Major areas of focus include measurement and research on survey errors, application to election polling, new frontiers in data collection, overall development of data management and introductory statistics.
Taught by: Dutwin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 332
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 333 Political Polling
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 393
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 334 Emergency Response
Also Offered As: COMM 375
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 335 Healthy Schools
This Fox Leadership and academically based community service seminar will use course readings and students’ own observations and interviews in their service learning projects in West Philadelphia schools to analyze the causes and impact of school health and educational inequalities and efforts to address them. Course readings will include works by Jonathan Kozol, studies of health inequalities and their causes, and studies of No Child Left Behind, the CDC’s School Health Index, recess, school meal, and nutrition education programs. Course speakers will help us examine the history, theories, politics and leadership behind different strategies for addressing school-based inequalities and their outcomes. Service options will focus especially on the West Philadelphia Recess Initiative. Other service options will include work with Community School Student Partnerships and the Urban Nutrition Initiative.
Taught by: Summers
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HSOC 335
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 336 Congress, Elections and American Democracy
Taught by: Lapinski
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 337 Pres. Primaries & Elections
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 338 Statistical Methods PSCI
The goal of this class is to expose students to the process by which quantitative political science research is conducted. The class will take us down three separate, but related tracks. Track one will teach some basic tools necessary to conduct quantitative political science research. Topics covered will include descriptive statistics, sampling, probability and statistical theory, and regression analysis. However, conducting empirical research requires that we actually be able to apply these tools. Thus, track two will teach how to implement some of these basic tools using the computer program Stata. However, if we want to implement these tools, we also need to be able to develop hypotheses that we want to test. Thus, track three will teach some basics in research design. Topics will include independent and dependent variables, generating testable hypotheses, and issues in causality. Students are expected to have one semester of Calculus or permission of instructor. The class satisfies the College of Arts and Science Quantitative Data Analysis requirement.
Taught by: Meredith
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 357 Internat'l Develop. Pol.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 358 International Law
This course intends to familiarize the student with the concept of “law”, its use as a constitutive and regulative force in the international arena, and the expanding scope of international law through the inclusion of transnational law and human rights.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 374 Communication & Congress
Taught by: Felzenberg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 374
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 397 Topics in International Politics
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 398 Selected Topics in Political Science
Consult department for detailed descriptions. More than one course may be taken in a given semester. Recent titles have included: Sustainable Environmental Policy & Global Politics; Shakespeare and Political Theory. One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COMM 393
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 402 Us-Latin American Rel
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LALS 402
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 404 Media and Politics
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COMM 404
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 410 Compar Pol Communication
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: COMM 403
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 412 Comparative Politics
This seminar focuses on comparative political systems. Themes include political participants, leadership, institutions, instability, and system transformation in developed and less developed countries.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 417
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
PSCI 413 Evidence Based Policies of Economic and Political Development
This class provides a "hands-on" introduction to the promises and limitations of using Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) to inform policy makers, practitioners, and academics of the conditions under which policies likely would have a positive effect on economic and political outcomes, in the context of international development. This course has three parts: the first is devoted to understanding the "nuts and bolts" of running field experiments / RCTs in developing countries. In part, we will be reading Glennester and Takavarasha's Running Randomized Evaluations: A Practical Guide. In addition, we will discuss core behavioral concepts from both behavioral economics and social psychology (prospect theory). The second part of the course will be devoted to demonstrating how schools have used RCTs to inform core policy debates (e.g. What are some effective ways to reduce corruption? How can we improve the performance of frontline service providers? How can politicians be more responsive to their constituents?) In the third part, students will be presenting their own research proposals, explicitly designed to address either a core policy question in the developing world or—for those interested—in the USA. Here students will have an opportunity to partner with the Social and Behavioral Sciences Team (https://sbst.gov), which is under the National Science and Technology Council.

Taught by: Grossman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GAFL 530
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 415 Comm & Democratization
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COMM 433
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 418 Evolution, Politics and Computer Simulation
In this course we shall explore how recent developments in evolutionary theory relate to larger questions raised by students of complexity and complex adaptive systems. We shall study how they together provide a basis for important critiques of standard approaches in political science and enable fascinating and powerful understandings of politics and political phenomena – including national identity and identity change, state formation, revolution, globalization, and leadership. An important vehicle for the application of these insights for understanding politics is computer simulations featuring agent-based modeling. Students will use "PS-I" an agent based computer simulation platform, to develop their own models, conduct experiments, test hypotheses, or produce existence proofs in relation to popular theoretical positions in contemporary political science. No knowledge of computer programming is required.

Taught by: Lustick
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PPE 476
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 419 Democ & Decentralization
Are decentralization reforms fostering local community participation and improving the quality of democracy in Latin America? Are they, insted, posing a threat to democracy and development? In the last thirty years, Latin American countries have undergone major reforms that devolved fiscal resources, administrative responsibilities, and political authority from the central governments to the states and municipalities. These decentralization reforms have radically altered the political landscape in Latin America, even in the countries that have since then tried to recentralize power, such as Venezuela. What were the main causes of the decentralization movement? Who were the main national and international actors who pushed forward these reforms? What have the main political, fiscal, and policy consequences of decentralization been? These are some of the questions this course will focus on. The experiences of decentralization in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Mexico will be studied. Although prior knowledge of Latin American politics is not required, additional readings will be assigned to the students who have not taken at least one introductory course in Latin American politics, history or cultures.

Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LALS 419
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 431 Leadership & Democracy
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 433 Social Movements
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 433
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 434 Advanced Topics in American Politics
This seminar is designed to serve as a "capstone" experience for advanced undergraduates interested in American politics. It exposes students to some of the issues currently being studied and debated by the leading scholars in the field. For each topic we will read works that take competing or opposing positions on an issue; for example we will examine the current controversy over the causes and and consequences of divided government. Students will write a research paper analyzing one of the debates.

Taught by: Gillion
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 434
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 436 Political Psychology
How do campaign advertisements influence voters’ perceptions and behavior? What roles do emotions play in politics? Do we all harbor some measure of racism, sexism, or homophobia, and what role do these stereotypes play in political behavior? How and why do ideologies form, and how does partisanship influence the way that voters understand the political world? How do people perceive threat, and what are the psychological consequences of terrorism? These questions, and many others, are the province of political psychology, an interdisciplinary field that uses experimental methods and theoretical ideas from psychology as tools to examine the world of politics. In this course, we will explore the role of human thought, emotion, and behavior in politics and examine the psychological origins of citizens’ political beliefs and actions from a variety of perspectives. Most of the readings emphasize politics in the United States, though the field itself speaks to every aspect of political science.
Taught by: Margolis
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 437 Race & Criminal Justice
Why are African Americans and some other minority groups disproportionately incarcerated and subjected to penal sanctions? What are the political, social and economic consequences for individuals, communities, and the wider society of mass incarceration in the United States? What types of reforms of the criminal justice system are desirable and possible? This advanced seminar analyzes the connection between race, crime, punishment, and politics in the United States. The primary focus is on the role of race in explaining why the country’s prison population increased six-fold since the early 1970s and why the United States today has the highest incarceration rate in the world. The class will likely take field trips to a maximum-security jail in Philadelphia and to a state prison in the Philadelphia suburbs.
Taught by: Gottschalk
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 437, AFRC 638, PSCI 638
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 439 Exper Methods of Inquiry
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 498, PSCI 635
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 441 Theory Practice&Purpose
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 442 LEADERSHIP
Taught by: DIIULIO
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 441 Theory Practice&Purpose
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 470 Executive Power in Metropolitan American Politics
Focusing on presidents, governors, and big-city mayors, this course will explore a wide range of historical and recent examples of executive leadership and decision-making. How do their actions in office shape and get shaped by long-term historical and political forces? How and why do executive office holders use (and occasionally abuse) their power? What opportunities exist to transform both policy and public opinion? What kinds of constraints circumscribe the options available and limit the impact of executive choices? Exploring presidents such as Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson and Barack Obama, governors including Ronald Reagan, Nelson Rockefeller and Bill Clinton and mayors like Richard Daley, Sr. and Jr., Ed Koch, and Ed Rendell, this course at once examines the personalities and predilections of individuals as well as the political ideas and institutions that shape their time in office. Registration in this course is by permission of the instructors only. To seek a permit for the course please provide a short personal statement of not more than one page with the following information: your name and contact information; your year; your major; other courses you have taken on related subjects; how this course would fit into your larger academic and intellectual development; any other personal or extenuating circumstances you think it would be useful for us to know about you.
Email personal statements to Peter Siskind (siskind@sas.upenn.edu) no later than April 3 and enrollment decisions will be made by April 18.
Taught by: Rendell;Siskind
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 481 Political Theory & Public Policy
This course will explore the relevance of canonical work in modern political theory - Locke, Kant, Mill, and Marx - to various public policy and practical political issues. We will consider what political philosophy has to contribute to practical issues: not only what philosophy can tell us about the ethics of practical issues, but also how public policy makers might utilize political philosophy to create better policy. We will also explore whether and how reading political philosophy in light of specific concrete issues encourages us to look at both the theories and the policies differently than if each were considered on their own.
Taught by: Hirschmann
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 484 Meaning of Democracy
This course provides a broad, humanistic survey to some of the most important ideas, debates, and problems connected to the study of democracy. The course is divided into three segments: the democratic citizen (in which we explore ethical issues pertaining to the experience of democracy as a way of life); the democratic People (in which we investigate some of the best and most recent attempts to come to grips with the difficult, yet fundamental, notion of the People); and the democratic world (in which we examine issues pertaining to democratization and development, including the tension between democracy and individual liberty and the relationship between democracy and global capitalism).
Taught by: Green
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 496 Dcc Research Seminar
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
0.5 Course Units

PSCI 497 Political Science Honors
This is a mandatory seminar for all students planning to submit an honors thesis for the purpose of possibly earning distinction in Political Science upon graduation. The course is aimed at helping students identify a useful and feasible research question, become familiar with the relevant literatures and debates pertaining to that question, develop a basic understanding of what might constitute "good" and "original" research in different subfields, and set up a plan for conducting and presenting the research. The course is also aimed at building a community of like-minded student researchers, which can complement and enrich the honor student's individual experience of working one-on-one with a dedicated faculty thesis advisor. Students apply in the spring of their junior year for admissions to the honors program and enrollment in PSCI 497.
Taught by: Doherty-Sil
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 498 Selected Topics in Political Science
Consult department for detailed descriptions. Recent topics include: Globalization; Race & Criminal Justice; Democracy & Markets in Postcommunist Europe.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 504 Urban Politics
The intention of this course is to prepare students for urban research in any setting. It is a graduate level course, which reviews the intellectual traditions of the field and endeavors to establish the present state of research. It is comparative and international in perspective though many of the sources are American. The latter reflect the intellectual milieu of political science in the country where this University is located.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 505 The American Legislative Process
The theory of legislative process with a focus on the American Congress and its antecedents. The evolution of legislative rules will be stressed. The evolution will be used to analyze Congressional "reform." The course format is a combination of lectures, discussions, and guest speakers.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 510 Electoral Systems
This course examines alternative arrangements by which democracies choose leaders, representatives, and governments through competitive elections. Some of the material is also relevant to voting on policies in legislatures, committees, and referendums. The treatment is comparative and theoretical, but students may focus on particular systems through reports and papers.
Taught by: Nagel
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 511 Society and Politics in India
This course examines the experience of representative democracy in India and the country's development record in a historical framework. It will ask questions such as: How did representative democracy emerge in India, and what explains its persistence? What are the sources of its vulnerability? What kind of a sense of nationhood does this democratic experience rest upon? What are the exclusions built into this conception of nationhood? What is the relationship between India's development experience and its democratic experiment? How have India's "traditional" institutions adapted or failed to adapt to modern circumstances? Why has India performed well in certain economic sectors even while its record in providing basic social services has been dismal? How have the Indian State and its public institutions managed and coped with these changes? And how has India's self-perception about its place in the world changed in recent years, and what are its implicatons?
Taught by: Kapur, Frankel
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 514 Political Economy of East Asia
This course begins by exploring the causes and consequences of the rise of industrial Asia, paying particular attention to the role played by political institutions. It then examines the political economic challenges faced in recent years by many countries in this region. What explanations may be given for the rapid growth experienced in the region? And, how can we reconcile the success of the past with the difficulties experienced in more recent years? The role of national financial systems in supporting or undermining growth and the politics of financial crisis management and financial system reform will be explored in depth.
Taught by: Amyx
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 104, EALC 504, PSCI 214
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 515 Political Institutions and Economic Performances
Comparative study of whether and how political institutions (political regimes, constitutional rules, party and electoral systems) affect economic performance (economic growth, investment, income distribution). This course fulfills the University's quantitative skills requirement.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: PSCI 215
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills Quantitative Data Analysis requirement

PSCI 516 African Political Econ
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 515
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 517 Russian Politics
This course will present an in-depth examination of political, economic and social change in post-Soviet Russia within a historical context. After a brief discussion of contemporary problems in Russia, the first half of the course will delve into the rise of communism in 1917, the evolution of the Soviet regime, and the tensions between ideology and practice over the seventy years of communist rule up until 1985. The second part of the course will begin with an examination of the Gorbachev period and the competing interpretations of how the events between 1985 and 1991 may have contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union. We will then proceed to make sense of the continuities and changes in politics, economics and society in contemporary Russia. Important topics will include the confrontations accompanying the adoption of a new constitution, the emergence of competing ideologies and parties, the struggle over economic privatization, the question of federalism and nationalism, social and political implicatons of economic reform, and prospects for Russia’s future in the post-Yeltsin era. This course may also be taken as a graduate seminar (PSCI 517) with the permission of the instructor and the completion of additional requirements.
Taught by: Sil
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: PSCI 217
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 519 Cities in the Global Econ
Also Offered As: URBS 519
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 521 Comparative Business-State Relations
History and theory of the state’s role in formation of modern industrial capitalism. Comparative industrial policies, comparative industrial structure, business-state and state-labor relations, and foreign economic relations. Emphasis on Western Europe but includes the United States and East Asia.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 522 Public Administration
This course focuses on three principal functions of leaders in public organizations: establishing and instilling purpose, motivating cooperative effort, and making decisions based on undistorted communication.
Taught by: Nagel
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 525 Intro to Pol Comma
Also Offered As: COMM 525
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 527 Modern India
Also Offered As: PSCI 327
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 532 The Political Economy of North-South Relations
This course concerns the political economy of “North-South” relations. The seminar will investigate key concepts and perspectives about the political economy of North-South relations by examining a variety of attempts at economic transformation in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 533 Comparative Political and Economic Change
A comparative exploration of the politics and economics of the formation of states and the development of capitalism, both historical and contemporary, and an examination of contending theoretical perspectives about them. Examples will be taken from Europe since the sixteenth century, nineteenth and twentieth century Latin America and Asia, and contemporary Africa.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 534 Political Culture and American Cities
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 533
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 535 Inequality & Race Policy
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 524
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 545 Politics & Education
Also Offered As: EDUC 595
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 550 International Politics
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 552 Game Theory
This course provides an introduction to non-cooperative game theory and its applications to political science. The goal of the course is to provide students with the background and understanding necessary to read published game-theoretic work in political science journals. To that end, the course covers the basic concepts of game theory, including Nash equilibrium and its main refinements, simultaneous and sequential games, repeated games, evolutionary game theory, and games of incomplete and private information. In addition, we will cover some of the central models used in political science, notably models of public choice (such as the median voter theorem) and models of bargaining.
Taught by: Weisiger
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 556 American Foreign Policy
A detailed study of our foreign policy issues with special emphasis on (1) the international realities of the 21st Century (2) the strategic challenges to our national security (3) the diplomatic options available for regional conflict and (4) the moral imperatives of our global leadership
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 152
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

PSCI 557 Politics of the Soviet Successor States and Eastern Europe
This course is an advanced research seminar on Soviet and post-Soviet politics. Students will be expected to develop and complete a substantial research paper. Class sessions will center on recent developments in the study of the politics of Russia and other Soviet successor states and on student presentations of research in progress.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 558 Human Rights
This course will examine the theoretical, historical and political foundations of contemporary human rights debates. The course will cover not only broad conceptual issues, but also specific issue areas (e.g., civil rights, economic rights, women's rights, business and human rights), as well as the question of how new rights norms emerge and diffuse in the international arena. The course is open to students in the Master of Liberal Arts Program, as well as students who are actively pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies in Global Human Rights.
Taught by: Doherty-Sil
Also Offered As: PSCI 258
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

PSCI 560 The Organization of World Politics
This course examines the organizational features of international life. Instead of focusing on one or several international organizations by means of an institutional analysis the scope of this course is more analytical; it explores the role of norms in structuring interactions (informal organizations) as well as the organizational designs of formal international organizations.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 566 Government and Politics of East Asia
This course will explore the changing character of the state in Japan and Korea (North and South), and its relationship with the society and economy. The nature of politics in these countries will be studied through political parties, pressure groups, and elections? Questions explored will include the following: "Who governs?" How does the state in Japan and Korea differ from those in Western nations? How did the state in these countries evolve and how did its relationship with the society evolve? What role did the state play in developing respective economies?
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 567 East Asian International Relations
This course will begin with an examination of the changing context of East Asian International Relations & will survey the foreign policy strategies employed by the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan and Korea since the turn of the century. This will be followed by analyses of interaction among these countries. What were the forces, assumptions and motives behind each strategy? Who chose the policy and why? How effective were various strategies? What are the problems underlying various sets of relationships now? Who makes the decisions, and under what domestic and foreign environment? What are the future prospects?
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 568 Politics and Society in Modern India
Taught by: Frankel
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 580 Contemporary Political Philosophy
Significant contributions to political philosophy in the twentieth century. This course will alternate with PSCI 581.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 582 Gender Power and Feminist Theory
This seminar will take up some of the "foundational" texts in contemporary feminist theory as well as some of the newest work, to explore the ways in which power operates through gender and sex. Subsidiary themes that will be developed include: the still relevant modernism/postmodernism debate as it relates to feminism; the intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality and class and how feminists can and do talk about "women"; the role of "the body" in relation to social constructivism; the relevance of feminist theory to policy issues, and which theoretical approaches are the most appropriate or have the most powerful potential. Room will be left on the syllabus for student input into the readings. This course is open to undergraduates who have had some prior course work in GSWS and/or political theory; undergraduates are advised to contact the professor to discuss their preparation before enrolling.
Taught by: Hirschmann
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 582
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 583 American Political Thought
A consideration of one or a few topics, individuals, or eras in American political thought.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 584 Political Philosophy
An examination of basic theoretical problems of political science divided into three parts. First, specific features of social sciences will be examined and three most important general orientations of social sciences (analytical, interpretative and critical) will be compared and analyzed. Second, basic concepts of social and political sciences will be studied: social determination, rationality, social change, politics, power, state, democracy. Third, the problem of value judgments will be considered: Is there a rational, objective method for the resolution of conflicts in value judgments? Is morality compatible with politics?
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 584
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 586 Justice
A consideration of a fundamental political concept, justice, in the works of selected political philosophers.
Taught by: Kennedy
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 590 The Nature of Political Science
The origins, development, and current status of the discipline and profession of political science.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 596 Hegel and Marx
Taught by: Kennedy
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 598 Selected Topics
Consult department for detailed descriptions. More than one course may be taken in a given semester. Recent titles have included: Race Development and American International Relations, Hegel and Marx, and Logic of the West.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 600 International Relations Theory
This purpose of this course is two-fold. First, the survey course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of theories of international politics. During the course of the semester we will examine neo-realism, power transition theory, hegemonic stability theory, the modern world system, international regimes and interdependence, the democratic peace, bureaucratic politics, organizational theory, constructivism, and decision making theory. Second, the course will sharpen students’ research design skills. The written assignments require students to take the often abstract theories presented in the readings and develop practical research designs for testing hypotheses derived from the theories. The papers will not include data collection or the execution of actual tests. Rather, they will focus on the conceptual problems of designing tests which eliminate competing hypotheses, operationalizing variables, and identifying potential sources of data. Student’s grades will be based on five short research designs and discussion leadership.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 605 Great Books Comp Pol
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 609 Comparative Pol Comm
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 609
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 610 Comparative Political Analysis
This seminar is aimed primarily at graduate students planning to take doctoral exams in comparative politics. It provides a critical survey of the field of comparative politics, tracing the intellectual history of the field, examining shifts in conceptual frameworks and research traditions, and comparing alternative methodological approaches. The first half of the course generally examines how processes of political, economic, and social change have been theorized in the social sciences from the mid-19th century to the present. In this process, particular attention is paid to the bifurcation between theories that emphasize the “universal” (e.g. the homogenizing effects of specific processes or variables) and the “particular” (e.g. the persistence of distinctive historical legacies and trajectories). Since this bifurcation is reinforced by distinct styles and methods of research, the seminar also probes the recent battles between rational-choice, cultural, and structuralist scholars, while considering the trade-offs between varieties of formal, quantitative, and qualitative methods. In the second half, the focus shifts to the range of substantive problems investigated by scholars in the field of comparative politics. These topics cover the complex relations among nations, states and societies; the origins, consolidation, and patterns of democratic governance; political economy in relation to development processes and social policies; the intersection of international/global economy and domestic politics; the dynamics of revolutions and social movements; and alternative problematiques constructed from the point of view of real actors such as workers, women, and local communities. In all cases, As a whole, the course is designed to provide an introduction to important issues and debates that comparativists have regularly engaged in; to help you understand the assumptions behind, and differences between, particular approaches, methods, and styles of research; to examine whether current debates are spurring new or better research in a given field in light of past approaches; and to gauge whether there has been progress, fragmentation, or stagnation in the field of comparative politics as a whole.
Taught by: Sil
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 614 Political Identity & Political Institution
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 615 Political Economy of Development
This course examines the debate in development studies arising from recognition that economic models, theories, methods, and strategies abstracted from the specific experience of western societies and cultures do not have general applicability. A broader social science approach is adopted, one which emphasizes the need to understand the social structures and cultures of the developing countries, the capabilities of weak versus strong states, and the links with the international system that influence transformative processes to which industrializing economies are subjected. The readings offer an overview of the most influential theories of development and underdevelopment that structured debate from the 1960's through the 1990's, and focus on the elements of these approaches that advance understanding of development and stagnation in several key countries, including Brazil, Mexico, India and selected countries in East and Southeast Asia.
Taught by: Grossman
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 616 Financial Statecraft
This graduate level seminar explores the evolving political dynamics of 'FINANCIAL STATECRAFT'. We will examine the relationship between financial flows and traditional foreign policy concerns, seeking to understand why and how governments have attempted to harness or constrain financial markets and institutions in the service of foreign policy goals. Specific topics include the introduction of capital flow guarantees or restrictions, imposition of financial sanctions on non-state actors, underwriting of sovereign debt in currency crises, currency unions and other forms of currency cooperation, and foreign exchange reserve management.
Taught by: Amyx
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 618 International Political Economy
Examination of the relationship between the international, political, and economic systems from a variety of theoretical perspectives that have emerged in the postwar period, including liberalism, transnationalism, statism, Marxism, and dependency.
Taught by: Mansfield
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 619 Strategic Studies Seminar
This seminar offers graduate students an introduction to the subfield of international relations labeled strategic studies (or security studies). In addition to exploring key theoretical issues, we consider their usefulness for understanding relevant events in international politics since World War II. Although the course emphasizes the distinctive features of great power strategy in the nuclear age, we also look at the continuing role of conventional forces, the strategic choices of lesser powers, and selected security problems in the post-Cold War world (e.g., proliferation, terrorism).
Taught by: Goldstein
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 621 Power and Resistance in the United States
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 623 The Politics of Gender
This is a course on the categories and construction of gender, sex and sexuality. The literature is so vast, the debate so vigorous, and the changing shape of thought so rapid that the absurdity of the pretense to provide a "comprehensive" or a "definitive" account is more than usually evident. The course foregrounds works that put gender, sex and sexuality - and with them the subject - in question. One set of works is drawn from political and feminist theory and includes writings by Judith Butler, Jacques Lacan, Guy Hocquenham, Monique Wittig, and Nancy Fraser. Through the use of works from comparative politics and cultural studies, the interrogation of the sexual subject reveals itself as an interrogation of political economies and political institutions. This aspect of the course addresses the question of gender in relation to race, class, and diverse political situations, including those of colonialism and liberalism, welfare policy and immigration law.
Taught by: Norton
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 631 American Political Development
Analyzes important patterns of continuity and change in American politics by examining the development of the American State from a comparative and historical perspective. Covers issues and debates central to not only the subfield of American politics, but also the discipline of political science more broadly. These include the role of the state, political culture, interests, ideas, and institutions in political development, and the role of history in political analysis. Open to advanced undergraduates with the permission of the instructor.
Taught by: Gottschalk
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 633 Hegemonic Analysis: Theories and Applications
An important strain within contemporary political science has been the attempt to explain how power is exercised through the manipulation or exploitation of consciousness, habits, and cultural predispositions. One of the key concepts in the study of these issues is that of "hegemony" - the establishment of particular beliefs as commonsensical presumptions of political life. In this course that notion will be systematically explored. Of particular interest will be how authors who conduct hegemonic analysis cope with the problem of analyzing the effect of what the objects of their analysis, by definition, do not and, in some sense, cannot, think about. Illustrations of hegemonic phenomena and attempts to analyze them will be drawn from a variety of fields, such as political theory, historiography, comparative politics, American politics, rational choice theory, agent based modeling, and epistemology.
Taught by: Lustick
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 635 Exp Design & Iss Causal
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 615, PSCI 439
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 637 Survey American Institutions
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 638 Race & Criminal Justice
Taught by: Gottschalk
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 437
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 649 Chinese Politics
This course is designed to provide a high-level introduction to the study of Chinese politics. After surveying China's political history, we turn to a closer examination of several key issues in the contemporary study of Chinese politics. The themes we cover include issues of political legitimacy, political participation, policy formulation and implementation, revolutionary and reformist strategies of political change, and the domestic and international influences on a regime's foreign policy.
Taught by: Goldstein
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 650 Development of American Political Institutions
A political and historical interpretation of current American political institutions and practice focused on the federal system, the main national institutions, and various regime questions.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 652 American Politics
This seminar will survey the literature in a variety of subfields of American politics but will focus primarily on American political institutions. Emphasis will be on exposing graduate students in the seminar to the field of American politics, the methodologies employed in its study, the work of leading scholars, and the topics currently being debated by those scholars. The course is also designed to lay the groundwork to enable students to conduct original research. As such, the preparation of a research design proposal will be a key part of the seminar.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 655 Democracy in Comparative Perspective
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LALS 655
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 670 Recent Democratic Theory
This seminar explores a series of interrelated debates that have important implications for the design of democratic institutions, the expectations by which they are judged, and the spirit that animates actions within them. The course makes no attempt to survey a vast literature, but the principal readings have been selected because of their outstanding quality and influence.
Taught by: Nagel
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 680 Constitutional Thought
A broadly theoretical approach to the constitutional dimension of the study of politics, with emphasis on the problems of constituting a political form, the nature and authority of a constitution, and systematic standards of interpretation, using the United States Constitution as an exemplar.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 681 Modern Political Theory
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PSCI 181
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 690 The Logic of Social Inquiry
An introduction to the nature and development of theoretical knowledge in the social sciences with emphasis on political science.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 692 Advanced Statistical Analysis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GAFL 611
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 693 Research Methods in Political Science
An introduction to the design and execution of research to generate information about the nature and behavior of political actors, organizations and systems. Techniques covered include unobtrusive measures, case studies, direct observation, experimentation, content analysis and survey research. Historical and interpretive approaches may also be covered.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 694 Advanced Research Method
The purpose of this class is three-fold. First, the course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of statistical models (e.g., event count models, limited dependent variables, and survival analysis) as well as problems associated with statistical research (e.g., heteroscedasticity, autocorrelation, and selection bias). Second, the course is designed to give students practical experience in data analysis. Students will complete a number of assignments using a wide variety of well known data sets (e.g., Polity III, World Value Systems, National Election Studies, Democratic and Local Governance, Correlates of War, Militarized Interstate Disputes, International Crisis Behavior, Penn World Tables, General Social Survey, United Nations Crime Survey). Third, the course will explore the relationship between qualitative and quantitative analysis. Requirements will include weekly assignments, discussion leadership, and a final paper. While PSCI692 is not a prerequisite for this course, some prior exposure to statistical analysis (including regression) is recommended.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
PSCI 710 The Politics of Africa
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 710
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 711 Pol/Soc Hist Afr Diasp
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 710
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 798 Selected Topics in Political Science
Consult department for detailed descriptions. More than one section
may be given in a semester. Recent titles have included: Interpreting
the Canon; State, Self, & Society; U.S. Policy in Europe; and Dissertation
Writing.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

PSCI 805 Analysis Election Data
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COMM 706, COMM 805
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit