Politics

The major and minor in politics are administered by the Department of Politics: Professors Amy, Cocks, Ferraro, Gill, Khory, Pyle, Smith; Associate Professors Chen, Markovits (on leave Spring 2016); Assistant Professor Reiter; Visiting Five College Assistant Professor of Government Dionne; Visiting Lecturers in Politics Aslam, Forjwuor.

Overview

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

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

- Political theory tackles the contested meanings of freedom, equality, power, justice, community, and individuality, as well as the clashing ideological perspectives by which different people make sense of political life. It also explores the ideas of influential political theorists from Plato to Thomas Hobbes to Hannah Arendt.
- American politics studies the history and current organization of political institutions at the national, state, and local level in the United States. It also examines popular conflicts in America over private rights and material interests; racial, class, and gender inequality; and public goods, including the good of American citizenship itself.
- Comparative politics covers the spectrum of political histories, systems of government, public policies, political parties, and social movements across the world. It examines, for example, parliamentary systems, ethnic conflict, authoritarian regimes, immigration policy, and nationalist movements from Asia to Europe to the Americas to Africa and the Middle East.
- International politics investigates U.S. foreign policy, international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the World Criminal Court; the politics of population migrations; war, terrorism, and international security; and the political dilemmas sparked by economic globalization and such border-crossing problems as resource depletion and environmental decay.

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

Courses

Subfield Requirements

One course must be taken in each of the four subfields, ordinarily to be selected from the list below. With permission from the department chair, certain 300-level courses may substitute for a 200-level field requirement, but no 300-level course may be counted as satisfying both a field requirement and the three 300-level course requirement in politics.

- American politics:
  - Politics 104, American Politics
  - Politics 235, Constitutional Law: The Federal System
  - Politics 236, Civil Liberties
  - Politics 246, American Political Thought
  - Politics 266, Environmental Politics in America
- Comparative politics:
  - Politics 106, Comparative Politics
  - Politics 208, Chinese Politics
  - Politics 209, Contemporary Russian Politics
  - Politics 228, East Asian Politics
  - Politics 249, African Politics
  - International Relations 211, Middle East Politics
- International politics:
  - Politics 116, World Politics
  - Politics 247, International Law and Organization
  - Politics 270 / International Relations 270, American Foreign Policy
- Political theory:
  - First-year Seminars taught by Professors Markovits and Cocks
  - Politics 118, Introduction to Political Ideas
  - Politics 211, Ancient and Medieval Political Thought
  - Politics 212, Modern Political Thought
  - Politics 233, Introduction to Feminist Theory
  - Politics 246, American Political Thought
  - Critical Social Thought 250CL, Classics in Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought (when taught by Professor Cocks)

300-level Course Work Requirements

- Three courses (12 credits) at the 300 level, two of which (8 credits) must be taken at Mount Holyoke College. The remaining course (4 credits) may be completed at another institution, subject to departmental approval. No more than 4 credits of 395 may be counted toward this requirement of three courses at the 300 level.
- A single course at the 200 level offered at Mount Holyoke can be taken at the 300 level with the instructor’s permission, provided the student has already taken 8 credits in politics, and provided the instructor and student agree upon additional work.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- 16 credits in politics at the 200 level or above
- At least 4 credits must be at the 300 level

Courses

- These courses must span at least two of the department’s four subfields: American politics; comparative politics; international politics; political theory.
Other

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

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of politics can combine their course work in politics with a minor in education. In some instances course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of politics, please consult your advisor or the chair of the politics department. For information about the requirements for the minor in education, please consult "Teacher Licensure" in the Other Degree and Certificate Programs chapter and Ms. Lawrence in the psychology and education department.

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

Related Courses

These courses in other departments are available for credit in politics.

International Relations

All courses taught by Profs. Doerr, Hashmi, or Western, including:
- 211 Middle East Politics
- 222 The United States, Israel, and the Arabs
- 224 The United States and Iran
- 319 The United States and the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights
- 323 Comparative Politics of the Middle East
- 333 Just War and Jihad: Comparative Ethics of War and Peace
- 365 Ethics and International Relations

Russian and Eurasian Studies

All courses taught by Prof. Jones, including:
- 240 Contemporary Russian Politics
- 241 Russia and the West
- 242 Oil and Water Don’t Mix: Geopolitics, Energy, and the Environment
- 312 Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways Across the Eurasian Continent
- 313 The New Democracies
- 316FR Foreigners Within, Foreigners Without: The EU and Its New Neighbors
- 330 Nationalism
- 350 Revolutions

Course Offerings

POLIT-104 American Politics

Fall and Spring

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

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

D. Amy, C. Pyle, P. Smith

Credits: 4

POLIT-106 Comparative Politics

Fall

This course provides an introduction to comparative political analysis, one of the four subfields of political science. The primary objective is to help students understand how the 'modern' world, one characterized by the rise of industrialized nation-states, took form and what shape it might take in the post-Cold War era. We will examine how the challenges of economic development, social transformation, and nation-building sparked the emergence of alternatives to 'modernity' characterized by diverse configurations of political institutions and social forces. We will also assess how globalization and the re-emergence of local identities may be redefining our understanding of 'modernity.'

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

C. Chen

Credits: 4

POLIT-116 World Politics

Fall and Spring

This course is a survey of contending approaches to the study of conflict and cooperation in world politics. Examines key concepts--including balance of power, imperialism, collective security, deterrence, and interdependence--with historical examples ranging from the Peloponnesian War to the post-Cold War world. Analyzes the emerging world order.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

K. Khory, A. Reiter, V. Ferraro

Credits: 4

POLIT-118 Introduction to Political Ideas:

POLIT-118PF Introduction to Political Ideas: 'Political Freedom'

Fall

What is freedom? What makes freedom political? How has political freedom been understood over time? What are the obstacles on the way to freedom? Is freedom something we even desire? This course will introduce students to the concept of political freedom through diverse readings that include Greek tragedy, modern political thought, the Book of Exodus, Dostoyevsky's Grand Inquisitor, and social science research.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course

A. Aslam

Credits: 4

POLIT-200 Foundations of Africana Studies

Not Scheduled for This Year

This reading and writing-intensive course draws upon the intellectual traditions of African American, African, and African diasporic studies in order to explore the connections and disjunctures among people of African descent. While the course pays attention to national, regional, and historical contexts, it asks this question: what do African descended people have in common and when and how are their experiences and interests different?

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

Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive

P. Smith

Credits: 4
**POLIT-208 Chinese Politics**  
*Spring*  
This course examines the politics of contemporary China. Beginning with an assessment of the origins of the Chinese Revolution, the course then examines core institutions and events in the People's Republic, including the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, post-Mao reforms, and the Tiananmen Incident. In addition, the course analyzes the changing nature of state-society relations, the emergence of new social and political identities, and China's role in the international arena.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*C. Chen*  
*Prereq: Politics 106.*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-209 Contemporary Russian Politics**  
*Fall*  
Russia was transformed by communist revolution into a global superpower that challenged the dominant ideologies of liberalism and nationalism. It became a powerful alternative to capitalism. In 1991, this imperial state collapsed and underwent an economic, political, and cultural revolution. What explains the Soviet Union's success for 70 years and its demise in 1991? What sort of country is Russia as it enters the twenty-first century? Is it a democracy? How has Russia's transformation affected ordinary people and Russia's relationship to the West?  
*Crosslisted as: Russian and Eurasian Studies 240*  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*S. Jones*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-211 Ancient and Medieval Political Thought**  
*Not Scheduled for This Year*  
Through the works of the ancient tragedians and comedians, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Seneca, Augustine, Aquinas, and Pizan, this course explores themes in ancient and medieval political thought. In alternating years, the course will be taught as either a survey of a wide array of authors or as a more thematically focused study of just a few writers. In either format, we will pay particular attention to the ways these writers characterized the relationship between the individual and community; the roles knowledge, reason, emotion, and rhetoric play in political life; the link between gender and citizenship; and the various forms political community can take.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*E. Markovits*  
*Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-228 East Asian Politics**  
*Not Scheduled for This Year*  
This course examines the dramatic rise of East Asia in the post-World War II period in comparative perspective. The focus will be on understanding the process and consequences of rapid development in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China. Assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the 'East Asian model of development' and explores how different developmental experiences and policies affect state-society relations, social and political identities, and prospects for peace and cooperation throughout the region.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*C. Chen*  
*Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.*  
*Prereq: Politics 106.*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-229 Propaganda and War**  
*Spring*  
This course explores propaganda techniques and mobilization for war. Drawing on recent comparative and historical examples, we will analyze war mobilization strategies and different forms of propaganda, its control, and dissemination from a variety of cross-cultural perspectives. We will address the following questions: Why is propaganda necessary? What is the media's relationship to state propaganda efforts? How do states control information in an age of 'citizen journalists' armed with cell phones? How do activists and protest movements contest state propaganda? We conclude by examining key trends in the development of mass media forms and technologies and their implications for global politics.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*K. Khory*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-230 Resistance and Revolution**  
*Not Scheduled for This Year*  
This course examines the dynamics and causes of protest, rebellion, and revolution. Topics include the three 'great' revolutions - the French, Russian, and Chinese - as well as such social science theories as moral economy, rational choice, resource mobilization, political culture, and relative deprivation. Attention will be devoted to peasant protest and elite responses to resistance movements. The objectives of the class are to familiarize students with alternative explanations of revolutionary change and to provide students with an opportunity to link general theories to specific case studies.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*C. Chen*  
*Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.*  
*Prereq: Politics 106.*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-233 Introduction to Feminist Theory**  
*Fall*  
This course explores the overlapping dualities of the feminine and the masculine, the private and the public, the home and the world. We examine different forms of power over the body; the ways gender and sexual identities reinforce or challenge the established order; and the cultural determinants of 'women's emancipation.’ We emphasize the politics of feminism, dealing with themes that include culture, democracy, and the particularly political role of theory and on theoretical attempts to grasp the complex ties and tensions between sex, gender, and power.  
*Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 221CC*  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*E. Markovits*  
*Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors*  
*Credits: 4*

**POLIT-235 Constitutional Law: The Federal System**  
*Fall*  
This course examines the impact of U.S. constitutional law on the legitimacy of different assertions of governmental power. Topics include judicial review; congressional control of court jurisdiction; federal regulation of the economy; and the relative powers and authority of the president, Congress, and the courts in national emergencies, foreign relations, war, and covert action, including torture and assassination. Case method.  
*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*  
*C. Pyle*  
*Prereq: Politics 104.*  
*Credits: 4*
West's strategic energy interests? exploitation, corruption, and instability? How important are the new states to the shortages. Is the new oil industry a source of prosperity or an instrument for pipelines, the region is threatened by environmental catastrophe and water Eastern Europe and China. While a new 'Great Game' is being fought between Western, Far Eastern, and Middle Eastern powers for control over energy Caucasus became new centers of geopolitical rivalry. The new states are a source Following the collapse of the USSR and the Gulf War, Central Asia and the environment. Topics include the development of the capitalist economy and its critics, the politics of trade and investment, and the phenomenon of global poverty. POLIT-240 International Political Economy Not Scheduled for This Year This course examines the interaction of politics and economics in the global economy. Topics include the development of the capitalist economy and its critics, the politics of trade and investment, and the phenomenon of global poverty. POLIT-242 Oil and Water Don't Mix: Geopolitics, Energy, and the Environment Not Scheduled for This Year Following the collapse of the USSR and the Gulf War, Central Asia and the Caucasus became new centers of geopolitical rivalry. The new states are a source of energy (oil and gas) for Western powers and a vital transit corridor between Eastern Europe and China. While a new 'Great Game' is being fought between Western, Far Eastern, and Middle Eastern powers for control over energy pipelines, the region is threatened by environmental catastrophe and water shortages. Is the new oil industry a source of prosperity or an instrument for exploitation, corruption, and instability? How important are the new states to the West's strategic energy interests? POLIT-246 American Political Thought Spring This course explores limited government, popular sovereignty, representative institutions, checks and balances, republicanism, liberty, equality, democracy, pluralism, liberalism, and conservatism, and how these concepts have developed during three centuries of American politics and in contrast to European thought. The focus is not on the writings of the 'great thinkers' but on the 'habits of thought' of the American people and on ideas implicit in laws and institutions that affect the allocation of authority and power within the constitutional order. POLIT-247 International Law and Organization Spring This course presents international norms and institutions for regulating conflict, including promoting economic well-being, protecting human rights, exploring and using outer space, and controlling exploitation and pollution of the oceans. The course considers international agreements, problems of lawmaking, interpretation, and compliance; nationality and the status of foreigners and their investments; the principle of self-determination; and interests of postcolonial states as they impinge on the international legal order. POLIT-249 African Politics Fall This course covers African politics from the pre-colonial period to the contemporary era, examining local experiences of democracy, governance, and economic development in light of varied colonial experiences, independence movements, international political economy, and informal sources of political power. Students will read closely historical, theoretical, and creative texts on African Politics, and consult contemporary media coverage of Africa. POLIT-252 Urban Political Economy Not Scheduled for This Year This course draws on both historical and contemporary sources to address critical issues and problems facing cities. Topics are organized around the following questions: How have cities come to take their shape and character over time? How are economic and social inequalities mapped onto the urban landscape? How are differences of race, class, and gender negotiated through urban institutions and community struggles? This course will have equal numbers of Mount Holyoke and Holyoke Community College students, and be team taught with Professor Mary Orisich, Economics, Holyoke Community College. POLIT-254 Russia and the West Spring Since its creation at the beginning of the twentieth century, the Soviet Union dominated the minds of Western foreign policymakers. None of the West's policies in the Middle East, the Third World, Europe, or China after World War II can be understood without the study of Soviet foreign policy. We will examine the development of Soviet foreign policy since 1917 and, following the collapse of the USSR in 1991, the role played by Russia and Russia and the former Soviet republics in the far more complex and multipolar 'New World Order.'
should U.S. policy be toward the emerging new states of the Baltics, Central Asia, and Caucasus?

Crosslisted as: Russian and Eurasian Studies 241
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Jones
Credits: 4

POLIT-266 Environmental Politics in America
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course offers a critical investigation of the questions of power, politics, and principles surrounding environmental issues in the United States. Topics include a history of U.S. environmental policy and an analysis of the workings of our major environmental policy-making institutions: Congress, the executive branch, the courts, and private corporations. A variety of approaches to environmental activism are also examined, including mainstream environmentalism, grassroots activism, deep ecology, and others.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
D. Amy
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

POLIT-270 American Foreign Policy
Not Scheduled for This Year
In this examination of American foreign policy since 1898, topics include the emergence of the United States as a global power, its role in World War I and II, its conduct and interests in the cold war, and its possible objectives in a post-cold war world. Particular attention is paid to the relationship between domestic interests and foreign policy, the role of nuclear weapons in determining policy, and the special difficulties in implementing a democratic foreign policy. See http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/afps98.htm http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/afps98.htm for a more detailed description.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
V. Ferraro
Prereq: Politics 116.
Credits: 4

POLIT-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.

POLIT-302 Urban Policy
Fall
Gentrification, unemployment, crime, failing schools, disinvestment, mass incarceration—what comes to mind when you think of the inner city? In response to a constrained fiscal environment, cities have increasingly adopted neoliberal policy approaches to address seemingly intractable urban problems. The seminar will study current research to assess the political and economic impact of this neoliberal policy regime on housing, education, and public safety.

Crosslisted as: Africana Studies 302
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
P. Smith
Prereq: Politics 100, a politics First-Year Seminar, or Africana Studies 200.
Credits: 4

POLIT-308 Nationalism
Not Scheduled for This Year
Nationalism is one of the greatest challenges to multiethnic states. They have had to create new strategies to deal with the demands of ethnic minorities. Taking the four states of Spain, Canada, Russia, and the former Yugoslavia as examples, we will focus on nationalist movements within these states and the central governments' responses. What has been the effect of the Communist legacy? Are there alternatives to federalism as a way of managing national claims? What socioeconomic policies have governments used to control ethnic tensions? What role can international organizations play in finding solutions to ethnic conflict?

Crosslisted as: Russian and Eurasian Studies 330
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Jones
Prereq: 8 credits from politics, international relations or Russian and Eurasian studies.
Credits: 4

POLIT-313 The Politics of Poverty
Spring
This course is an analysis of economic inequality in America and an exploration of the power relationships, interests, and ideological conflicts surrounding this problem. Topics include the distribution of income and wealth in the United States; the relationship of poverty to race, sex, and class divisions; conservative, liberal, and radical perspectives on poverty and poverty policy.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
D. Amy
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in department including Politics 101 or 104 and permission of instructor.
Credits: 4

POLIT-314 Political Violence: Causes and Solutions
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course is an examination of political violence. Throughout the semester, the course covers the various manifestations of political violence, focusing on diverse topics such as genocide, ethnic conflict, interstate war, terrorism, and civil war. The course explores the debates in the field of political science regarding the nature and causal factors behind these types of violence. The course also examines how to end violence, how to maintain peace, and how societies should attempt to heal from periods of violence.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Reiter
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics.
Credits: 4

POLIT-316FO European Studies Seminar: 'Foreigners Within, Foreigners Without: The EU and its New Neighbors'
Not Scheduled for This Year
The enlargement of the European Union (EU) to Central and Eastern European countries has generated new neighbors to the east and south - the Western Newly Independent States (WNIS) of Russia, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine, and Southern Mediterranean countries (SMCs) Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. Europe's new neighbors make up 410 million inhabitants, but their GDP capita is barely one tenth of the European Union's. This has brought problems for the EU, including migration pressures, human trafficking, and refugees. How is the EU dealing with these issues and how will relations with the new neighbors affect the domestic and foreign policies of the EU?

Crosslisted as: Russian and Eurasian Studies 316FR
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Jones
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 4 credits at the 200 level in a Division III subject.
Advisory: Students not meeting the prerequisite but with a 200-level Division I course may contact the instructor for permission.
POLIT-321 Politics of Decolonization
Fall
This seminar is a critical exploration of the various processes, accounts and theories of colonialism and decolonization in Africa and the Americas. The aim is to chart alternative paths to rethinking the meaning and impact of these terms. Focusing on the various colonial/imperial tools employed to subjugate, exploit and dominate colonized subjects, we will examine how liberal discourses/structures that are assumed to embody the terms of freedom and sovereignty have now become extensions of the colonial they were initially employed to overcome. The main objective of this course is to explore various approaches to redefining decolonization noting the changing meaning of colonialism.
Crosslisted as: Africana Studies 321
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
B. Forjwuo
Credits: 4

POLIT-327 Transitional Justice
Fall
As societies emerge from authoritarian rule or civil war, they face the daunting task of engaging past human rights violations. States have a myriad of options at their disposal, ranging from granting blanket amnesties to hosting complex trials and truth commissions. In making these decisions, new leaders face pressures from former authoritarian actors, victims' groups, and international organizations. This course analyzes the problems facing societies with past human rights violations, the numerous options they have at their disposal to engage these abuses, and the political, legal, economic, and moral ramifications of each choice. Most importantly, it asks—does transitional justice work?
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
A. Reiter
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: Jr, Sr, with 8 credits in Politics.
Credits: 4

POLIT-329 Politics and Greek Tragedy
Not Scheduled for This Year
Students in this course will explore ancient Greek tragedy as a way of thinking through such central problems of political life as freedom, identity, responsibility, and justice. The course will place the ancient texts in their particular historical context, while also attending to the material as a springboard for confronting contemporary political questions. The course will also address the broader implications of turning to ancient material and to literature as sources for political theorizing.
Crosslisted as: Classics 329
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
E. Markovits
Prereq: 8 credits in Politics or Classics.
Credits: 4

POLIT-350 Revolutions
Spring
Revolution is far from over. First came the explosion in Eastern Europe, the collapse of the USSR, the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan, bloodless overthrows of old elites in Indonesia and the Philippines, and what Hugo Chavez calls the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela. The goal of revolutions may no longer be socialism, it may not even be directed at greater liberty. But revolutions continue to affect millions of people’s lives and reflect states’ responses to global change and social dislocation. They are still with us as the Arab Spring so clearly demonstrated. We will examine revolutions, their beginnings, their victories, and their ends.
Crosslisted as: Russian and European Studies 350
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
S. Jones
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics, International Relations, or Russian and Eurasian Studies.
Credits: 4

POLIT-353 The Politics of Work
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar explores the contentious relationship between work and politics. The focus will be on workplace dynamics and how technological change, gender, methods of labor organization, and management philosophy affect the way in which authority is structured and perpetuated. The experiences of such regions as the United States, Japan, and China will also be used to shed light on the future of labor and work in an age of increasing globalization.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
C. Chen
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Credits: 4

POLIT-356 Black Migrations
Spring
This seminar is a comparative examination of the migration of African-descended people within and to the United States. It looks at in succession the original African diaspora through the Atlantic slave trade; the Great Migration of African Americans from the South; the immigration to the U.S. of African-descended people from the West Indies; and last, the movement of Africans from the continent to the United States since 1965 when immigration laws became more inclusive. We will evaluate the process of African Americanization for each new migratory group in all of its cultural and political ramifications. Course material includes articles, books, films, novels, and guest speakers.
Crosslisted as: Africana Studies 356
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
P. Smith
Prereq: Africana Studies 200.
Credits: 4

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

POLIT-358 Justice: Theory and Practice
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course explores various theories of justice, examining the most dominant approaches to the subject within modern and contemporary political theory, as well as the relation of justice and democracy and questions of identity, recognition, and inclusion. The course will also focus...
POLIT-359  Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia  
**Fall**  
This course examines the dramatic emergence of democratic institutions and civil society in East Asia. The primary aim of the class is to help students understand and analyze the process of democratization unfolding in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. We will also evaluate China’s recent, albeit limited experiments with democratic practices. We will begin by contrasting Western perspectives of democracy with both traditional and more contemporary Asian understandings of democracy. We will then focus on the actual processes of democratic consolidation in each of the cases, especially the developments that precipitated political crisis and ultimately, political change.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives  
C. Chen  
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.  
Prereq: 8 credits in the department.  
Credits: 4

POLIT-361  Politics and Rhetoric  
**Not Scheduled for This Year**  
People have long accused politicians of using rhetoric to pander to audiences and get what they want regardless of the truth. But democratic politics depends on communication to persuade and motivate others. In this course, we will analyze classical writings on rhetoric, contemporary democratic political theory, and hear from professionals in order to probe the relationship between rhetoric and politics. Students will also engage in an extended campaign simulation, in which they devise, implement, and react to campaign rhetorical strategies. Prior work in political theory is required and prior work in American Politics is strongly recommended.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive  
E. Markovits  
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics including at least one theory course.  
Credits: 4

POLIT-366  International Migration  
**Fall**  
This course examines migration and transnational processes from a comparative perspective. It focuses on the relationship between globalization and international migration, with special attention to transnational networks and diaspora politics. We will explore major theories, forms, and patterns of migration in global politics; the involvement of diaspora organizations in the politics of host and home states; and the implications of migration and refugee flows for state sovereignty, national identity, and citizenship. We will conclude by analyzing the key debates and framing of immigration policies and models of citizenship in Europe and the United States.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
K. Khory  
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.  
Prereq: 8 Credits from the department.  
Credits: 4

POLIT-367  Decision Making  
**Not Scheduled for This Year**  
On decision making, and the pathologies of decision making, in American politics. When, and to what extent, can we say that a particular policy decision is the result of rational choice, institutional processes, pluralistic pressures, or other forces? When are individual or collective decisions likely to be marred by ‘groupthink,’ selective attention, or self-deception? To what extent, if at all, may collective decisions be considered rational or moral? When are challenges to authority, or to dominant opinion, likely to make a difference?  
 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
C. Pyle  
Instructor permission required.  
Prereq: Politics 104.  
Credits: 4

POLIT-368  The International Politics of Petroleum  
**Not Scheduled for This Year**  
The development of the petroleum industry as the dominant energy source in the 20th century. The relationship between private corporations associated with exploration, production, refining, and marketing or oil and the various governments with whom they operate. The transition from a political economy dominated by American production to a truly global enterprise. The environmental consequences of petroleum consumption and the possibilities for a non-petroleum energy system.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences  
V. Ferraro  
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.  
Credits: 4

POLIT-369  Black Radicalism  
**Spring**  
The struggles and ideas of transatlantic black radicals have changed the ways we think and study -- through the formation of Africana/African-American/Black-Studies -- and the ways in which we express thoughts and ideas -- through culture and politics. In this seminar, we will study the interdisciplinary history of black radicalism in the 20th century in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa. This interdisciplinary history is animated by a central debate over the role of black internationalism, if any, in domestic black radical thought and action in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa.  
Crosslisted as: Africana Studies 369  
 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives  
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive  
P. Smith  
Prereq: Africana Studies 200.  
Notes: There will be a number of shared classes/discussions with the Africana Studies Senior Seminar at Williams College, both in person and through video-conference, who will be sharing the same syllabus. We will make a class visit to Williams, and we will host a visit from the Williams seminar. The shared meetings will be organized around speakers, presentations, and local activists.  
Credits: 4

POLIT-373  The Politics of Transformation in China and India  
**Spring**  
This seminar provides a structured comparison of two ‘emerging giants,’ China and India. Interdisciplinary in scope, the class draws upon various approaches and frameworks to analyze the economic, social, and political development of the two countries. Topics include the impact of market-based reforms and migration, demands for representation and increased political participation, nationalism, environmental degradation, and human capital. We will conclude with a focus on China-India relations and their aspirations for great power status in Asia and beyond. Students will develop and refine ‘real world’ skill sets through the writing of policy memos, simulations, and formal presentations.
POLIT-385 International Security
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course focuses on the recasting of global security concerns after the end of the cold war. It pays special attention to the problems of economic and ecological security; the relationship between security and democracy; humanitarian intervention; nuclear proliferation; and terrorism. The course concludes with analysis of specific initiatives for achieving both common and comprehensive security.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
K. Khory
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in department.
Credits: 4

POLIT-387 Advanced Topics in Political Theory
POLIT-387VS Advanced Topics in Political Theory: 'Violence and the State'
Fall
This course examines the role of violence in the state's ability to preserve order and the rule of law. We will weigh the costs and effectiveness of state violence, arguments for the necessity of violence, the entwinement of the law with violence, the state's concern for organizing and managing life within its borders, and whether sovereignty must entail violence. We will conclude the course by considering the emergence of non-violence as a political strategy.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
A. Aslam
Credits: 4

POLIT-388 Post-Communist Transitions
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar examines and analyzes the dramatic transformation of former Leninist regimes—specifically, Russia, Eastern Europe, and China—in historical and comparative perspective. Focuses on understanding why Leninism imploded, and the challenges confronting nations making a ‘transition from socialism.’
Assesses the impact and consequences of the Leninist legacy on economic and political institutions, and state-society relations, and the definition of national identity and community.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
C. Chen
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits in department. Politics 106 recommended.
Credits: 4

POLIT-391 Pivotal Political Ideas
POLIT-391CF Pivotal Political Ideas: ‘Citizen and the Foreigner’
Spring
On the antinomy of the citizen and the foreigner. We will examine both classic theories of citizenship and practical challenges to those theories posed by diasporic groups and other cultural strangers such as exiles, refugees, economic migrants, and stateless populations. We also will consider the pressures placed on traditional notions of citizenship by transnational social and environmental problems, as well as by the power of global economic forces over domestic political communities.
Croslisted as: Critical Social Thought 391CF
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Cocks
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics or Critical Social Thought.
Credits: 4

POLIT-391CN Pivotal Political Ideas: 'The Idea of Conservatism'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course explores such contested political concepts as democracy, power, nationalism, freedom, identity, alienation, civil society, and the public sphere – as those concepts have been interpreted by diverse currents of political thought. This fall we will examine the idea of conservatism, focusing on the intellectual legacy of Edmund Burke, Leo Strauss, and Ayn Rand, as well as the political writings of contemporary conservatives and the platforms of popular tendencies such as the Tea Party movement.
Croslisted as: Critical Social Thought 391CN
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Cocks
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics or Critical Social Thought.
Credits: 4

POLIT-391CT Pivotal Political Ideas: 'Capitalism'
Fall
After reviewing the classic defense of capitalism as an engine of freedom, progress, and productivity, we will examine major shifts in the critique of capitalism from the early 19th to the early 21st century. This critical conceptual history will range over successive claims that capitalism foments labor exploitation and class inequality, imperialism, instrumentalism, the commodification of culture, the privatization of the commons, and the remaking of subjectivities to suit market imperatives. The course will conclude with Pope Francis’s charge that the global capitalist system endangers ‘whatever is fragile, like the environment’ and devours everything ‘in the way of increased profits.’ Is Francis right, and if so, what are possible cures for these ills?
Croslisted as: Critical Social Thought 391CT
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Cocks
Prereq: One course in political theory or critical social thought.
Credits: 4

POLIT-391PW Pivotal Political Ideas: 'The Concept of Power'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This topics course explores such contested political concepts as democracy, freedom, alienation, civil society, and the public sphere, as those concepts have been interpreted by diverse currents of political thought. This semester we will focus on the concept of power, with special emphasis on the work of three maverick scholars -- Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, and James C. Scott -- who in different ways have shaken up both conventional and radical thinking on the subject.
Croslisted as: Critical Social Thought 391PW
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Cocks
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 8 credits from Politics or Critical Social Thought.
Credits: 4

POLIT-391SV Pivotal Political Ideas: 'Sovereignty'
Not Scheduled for This Year
An exploration of the idea of sovereignty, from its articulation as absolute monarchical authority in the 16th and 17th centuries to its metamorphosis as popular sovereignty in the 18th and 19th centuries to current debates over whether sovereign power is outmoded both domestically and in international
relations. Drawing on historical as well as political theoretical texts, we will assess sovereign power and sovereign freedom as political ideals and consider whether we should lament or applaud the difficulty of actualizing them in political life.

Crosslisted as: Critical Social Thought 391SV
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Cocks
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: jr, sr, 8 credits in politics, international relations, or critical social thought.
Credits: 4

POLIT-392 Portraits of Political Thinkers

POLIT-392HA Portraits of Political Thinkers: 'Hannah Arendt'
Not Scheduled for This Year
This topics course explores the life, affiliations, and ideas of a political theorist who has made a special contribution to the self-understanding of our age. In addition to the writings by that thinker, we also will read biographies and secondary commentaries as well as selected essays by authors who have influenced our thinker or who have been influenced by her or him. The thinker for this year is Hannah Arendt, who has written controversial but influential works on revolution, violence, and totalitarianism; the nation-state and statelessness; imperialism and racism; and anti-Semitism and Zionism.

Crosslisted as: Critical Social Thought 392HA
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Cocks
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Prereq: 4 credits in political theory, philosophy, or critical social thought.
Credits: 4

POLIT-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-8
Course can be repeated for credit.

See Also
- Law, Public Policy & Human Rights
- Journalism, Media, and Public Discourse
- International Relations