Political Science

Departmental Office: 710 International Affairs Building; 212-854-3707
http://www.polisci.columbia.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies:
Prof. David Johnston, 720 International Affairs Building; 212-854-3955; d (ajn1@columbia.edu)(cj1@columbia.edu)(dcj1@columbia.edu)

Economics-Political Science Advisers:
Economics: Prof. Susan Elmes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1006 International Affairs Building; se5@columbia.edu
Political Science: Prof. Michael Ting, 701 International Affairs Building; 212-854-7945; mmt2033@columbia.edu

Political Science-Statistics Advisers:
Political Science: Prof. Andrew Gelman, 1016 Social Work Building; 212-851-2142; gelman@stat.columbia.edu
Statistics: Prof. Banu Baydil, 612 West 115th Street, Room 611; 212-853-1397; bb2717@columbia.edu
Statistics: Prof. Ronald Neath, 612 West 115th Street, Room 612; 212-853-1398; rcn2112@columbia.edu

The discipline of political science focuses on issues of power and governance and, in particular, on political institutions, both formal and informal. It also focuses on political behavior, political processes, political economy, and state-society relations.

The field consists of four substantive subfields: American politics, which covers topics such as national and local politics, elections, and constitutional law; comparative politics, which aims at understanding the political systems of other countries, both by studying individual states and by engaging in cross-national comparisons; international relations, which deals with the ways that states and other political actors behave in the international arena, including such topics as security, foreign policies, international organizations, and international economic relations; and political theory, which analyzes the history of normative political thought as well as of analytic concepts such as the nature of justice or liberty.

Other broad topics, such as “political economy,” or the study of the relationships between economic and political processes, overlap with the subfields, but also constitute a separate program (see below). Methodology, including statistical analysis and formal modeling, also occupies an important place in the discipline.

Advanced Placement

The department grants credit toward the major for work completed under the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Advanced Placement Program. Students receive 3 academic credits and exemption from POLS UN1201 Introduction To American Government and Politics or POLS UN1501 Introduction To Comparative Politics for scores of 5 in the United States and Comparative Government and Politics AP Exams.

Advising

The Department of Political Science offers a variety of advising resources to provide undergraduate majors and concentrators with the information and support needed to successfully navigate through the program. These resources are described below.

Undergraduate Advising Office

Students should take questions or concerns about the undergraduate program to the department’s undergraduate advising office first. If advisers cannot answer a student’s question, they then refer the student to the appropriate person.

The undergraduate advising office is staffed by a political science Ph.D. student who holds open office hours at least once per week (the schedule can be found on-line at https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-advising); students should stop by during these hours with questions about requirements, course selection, course of study, transfer and study abroad credit, and any other aspect of the program. Students may also reach the adviser by email at polisciadvising@columbia.edu.

Students should also visit the undergraduate advising office for assistance in completing the political science program planning form (available in the office, or on-line at https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-forms-library). The advisers must sign and date this form in the approval column next to any listed class that requires approval to be counted toward the program (transfer courses, non-traditional courses, etc.). These forms cannot be completed by faculty advisers. Each student’s planning form is kept on file in the department, so that each semester they may meet with an adviser to update it.

The advisers are also available to speak with students about more substantive issues, including research interests, internships, and post-college plans. Since the advisers have been through the graduate school application process, they are great resources with whom students may discuss the process. Also, because they are current Ph.D. students in the department, they are familiar with the research interests of political science faculty and can therefore refer students to a professor for thesis advice, a research assistant job, or a faculty member whose research corresponds to the student’s interests.

Requesting a Faculty Adviser

Often the best way for students to obtain advising from a faculty member is to contact a professor with whom they have taken a class in an area of interest. Students also have the option of having a faculty adviser assigned by the department. To request a faculty adviser, students should complete the Faculty Adviser Request Form and submit it to the undergraduate coordinator during the first two weeks of the semester.

Students may consult with their faculty adviser for any substantive issue, but still must visit walk-in advising hours to have courses approved, to fill out and update planning forms, and to discuss departmental requirements and regulations.

Director of Undergraduate Studies

The director of undergraduate studies oversees the undergraduate program and is available during office hours. While a student’s first stop for advising should be the undergraduate advising office, the director of undergraduate studies is available to answer any questions that the undergraduate advisers or the undergraduate coordinator cannot. In such cases, the undergraduate coordinator and advisers refer students to the director of undergraduate studies.

Economics-Political Science Adviser

Economics-political science majors may consult with the economics-political science adviser during office hours. Please note that students...
should also see an undergraduate adviser to discuss major requirements and fill out a planning form. For any questions about the economics–political science program that an undergraduate adviser cannot answer, students are referred to the economics-political science adviser.

Political Science–Statistics Adviser
Political science–statistics majors may consult with the political science-statistics adviser during office hours. Please note that students should also see an undergraduate adviser to discuss major requirements and fill out a planning form. For any questions about the political science–statistics program that an undergraduate adviser cannot answer, students are referred to the political science-statistics adviser.

Faculty At-Large
Students are encouraged to contact any professor for advice during his or her office hours, or by appointment, to discuss interests in political science, course selection, and other academic or post-college issues. The faculty may provide advice about graduate schools, suggest literature that the student might consult as sources for research, recommend specific courses or professors based on the student’s interests, or offer information about research opportunities with faculty. However, students should note that any issues surrounding departmental regulations and requirements, major certification, course approvals, etc., are addressed at the undergraduate advising office.

Honors Program
The department offers the Honors Program for a limited number of seniors who want to undertake substantial research projects and write honors theses. The honors thesis is expected to be at least 75 pages in length and of exceptional quality.

Honors students perform research as part of a full-year honors seminar (POLS UN3998-POLS UN3999, 8 points total) during their senior year, in place of the seminar requirement for majors. Honors students may, however, take regular seminars to fulfill other course requirements for the major. Theses are due in late March or early April. To be awarded departmental honors, the student must satisfy all the requirements for the major, maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major, and complete a thesis of sufficiently high quality to merit honors.

The honors seminar director provides general direction for the seminar. The honors seminar director supervises all students; each student also works with a faculty member in his or her major subfield (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, or political theory) and a preceptor. The honors seminar meets weekly for part of the year and addresses general issues involved in research and thesis writing, such as how to develop research questions and projects, methodology, sources of evidence, and outlining and drafting long papers. The sessions are also used for group discussions of students’ research and thesis presentations. Students are also expected to meet periodically with the supervising professor and preceptor.

Students who wish to apply to the Honors Program must notify the department in writing by the end of the spring semester of the junior year. Please check the department website for the official deadline. Normally no more than 10% of graduating majors receive departmental honors in a given academic year. Applicants are required to have already completed the methods requirement for the major.

Application Materials
Applications to the Honors Program must include the following:

1. A cover page with the student’s name, CUID number, e-mail address, and school (Columbia College or General Studies);
2. An official transcript, which may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar (http://www.registrar.columbia.edu/) in Kent Hall, or from Student Services Online (https://ssol.columbia.edu/) (SSOL);
3. A writing sample, preferably a paper written for a political science course;
4. A brief description (no more than one page) of a possible thesis topic.

Complete applications should be sent to:

Department of Political Science
Attn: Departmental Honors
420 West 118th Street
Mail Code 3320
New York, NY 10027

In addition, students are encouraged to find a faculty sponsor for their thesis proposal. Students who have identified a faculty sponsor should indicate the sponsor in the proposal; students without a faculty sponsor should identify a faculty member with whom they would like to work. Research areas for the political science department faculty are listed on the department’s website (http://www.columbia.edu/cu/polisci/). Students will be notified by e-mail of the decision taken on their applications before fall registration.

Departmental Prizes and Fellowships
The Department of Political Science administers the following prizes and awards. Unless otherwise noted, students do not play an active part in the nomination process. Rather, faculty members nominate students at their own discretion. Departmental prizes are reserved for political science majors.

Charles A. Beard Prize
A cash prize awarded every other year to the student who writes the best paper in political science during the academic year.

Caroline Phelps Stokes Prize
Allan J. Willen Memorial Prize
Edwin Robbins Academic Research/Public Service Fellowship
The Arthur Ross Foundation Award
A cash prize awarded to GS students for excellence in the field of political science.

Phyllis Stevens Sharp Fellowship in American Politics
The Phyllis Stevens Sharp Endowment Fund provides stipends each year during either academic semester or the summer for one or more Columbia College or School of General Studies students majoring or concentrating in political science to support research in American politics or policy making, or otherwise uncompensated internships in a government office, agency, or other public service organization. Each spring, the department invites students to submit fellowship proposals. Awards are announced in late April or early May.
Early Admission to the Master’s Degree Program in Political Science for Columbia and Barnard Political Science Undergraduates

While the Department of Political Science does not offer a joint bachelor of arts/master’s degree, it does allow Columbia and Barnard undergraduates to apply for early admission to its master’s degree program. This enables qualified undergraduates majoring or concentrating in political science to obtain the B.A. degree and M.A. degree in fewer than five years (ten semesters) from the time of their entrance into Columbia or Barnard, if they fulfill the M.A. course and residency requirements through summer course work after receiving the B.A. or accelerated study during the course of their undergraduate career.

Students should apply during the fall semester of their senior year for admission to the M.A. program in the following fall semester, after completion of the B.A. degree. The department and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences may award up to one-half residence unit of advanced standing and/or up to three courses (nine to twelve credits) of transfer credit for graduate courses (4000-level and above) taken at Columbia in excess of the requirements for the Columbia bachelor’s degree, as certified by the dean of the undergraduate school awarding the bachelor’s degree.

For further information about the application process and minimum qualifications for early admission, please contact the director of undergraduate studies.

For further information about requirements for the M.A. degree, see https://gsas.columbia.edu/degree-programs/ma-programs/political-science/.

Professors
Richard K. Betts
Jagdish Bhagwati (also Economics)
Alessandra Casella (also Economics)
Partha Chatterjee (Anthropology)
Jean L. Cohen
Michael Doyle (also School of International and Public Affairs; Law School)
Jon Elster
Robert Erikson
Virginia Page Fortna
Timothy Frye
Ester Fuchs (School of International and Public Affairs)
Andrew Gelman (also Statistics)
Donald P. Green
Bernard Harcourt (Law)
Fredrick Harris
Jeffrey Henig (Teachers College)
Shigeto Hirano
John Huber
Macartan Humphreys
Robert Jervis
David C. Johnston
Ira Katznelson (also History)
Sudipta Kaviraj (Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies)
Jeffrey Lax
Mahmood Mamdani (Anthropology)

Karuna Mantena
M. Victoria Murillo (also School of International and Public Affairs)
Andrew J. Nathan
Sharyn O’Halloran (also School of International and Public Affairs)
Justin Phillips
Kenneth Prewitt (School of International and Public Affairs)
Robert Y. Shapiro
Jack Snyder
Michael Ting (also School of International and Public Affairs)
Nadia Urbinati
Gregory Wawro (Chair)
Andreas Wimmer (also Sociology)
Keren Yarhi-Milo (also School of International and Public Affairs)

Associate Professors
Allison Carnegie
Daniel Corstange (also School of International and Public Affairs)
Turkuler Isiksel
Kimuli Kasara
Tonya Putnam

Assistant Professors
Sarah Daly
Nikhar Gaikwad
John Marshall
Carlo Prato
Joshua Simon
Yamil Velez

Lecturers
Michelle Chun
Elise Giuliano
Jessica Kimpell Johnson
Lara Nettelfield
Chiara Superti
Inga Winkler

On Leave
Profs. Daly, Doyle, Frye, Fuchs, Humphreys, Katznelson, Prato (2019-2020)
Profs. Carnegie, Corstange, Erikson, Phillips (Fall 2019)
Profs. Betts, Green, Jervis, Mamdani, Marshall (Spring 2020)

Guidelines for all Political Science Majors, Concentrators, and Interdepartmental Majors

Planning Forms
Major Planning forms are available on the department website (https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-forms-library/).

Policy on Double-Counting Courses

• Policies about double-counting courses to fulfill requirements in more than one major may be found here:
  • Columbia College (http://bulletin.columbia.edu/columbia-college/requirements-degree-bachelor-arts/)
  • School of General Studies (http://bulletin.columbia.edu/general-studies/undergraduates/degree-fulfillment-major/#double)
• Courses in the Core Curriculum do not fulfill requirements for the Political Science major.

Policy on Counting Credits outside the Department of Political Science
• Courses taken at other institutions or other Columbia departments may not be used to meet the requirement of a major or concentration in political science without the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. Students should secure such approval in advance of registration.

Pass/D/Fail and Grading Policy
• A grade of “Pass” is acceptable only for the first course taken toward the major or concentration.
  • The course used to fulfill the research methods requirement cannot be taken Pass/D/Fail.
  • Students must receive a grade of at least C- in order for a course to count towards the major or concentration.

AP Credit Policy
• Students who receive transfer credit for one or more AP exams in political science may count a maximum of one AP course toward the major or concentration, contingent upon completing an upper-level (3000 or higher) course with a grade of C or higher in the subfield in which the AP exam was taken. All transfer credits must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the undergraduate adviser (polisciadvising@columbia.edu).

Transfer Credit Policy
• A maximum of three 3-point or 4-point courses in Political Science may be transferred from other institutions toward the major; a maximum of two courses in Political Science may be transferred toward the concentration and the two interdepartmental joint majors. This includes study abroad and AP credit. All transfer credits must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the undergraduate adviser (polisciadvising@columbia.edu).
  • Students wishing to count transfer credits toward the major or concentration should send the undergraduate adviser (polisciadvising@columbia.edu) their transfer credit report, the syllabi of the courses they want to count toward departmental requirements, and a statement of how they want to apply the transfer credits to the requirements.

Independent Study Policy
• Independent Study (POLS UN3901 Independent Reading and Research I in the fall or POLS UN3902 Independent Reading and Research II in the spring) taken in fulfillment of course requirements for the major/concentration must be taken for at least 3 points of credit.

Course Requirements
Students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The subfields are as follows:

• American Politics (AP)
• Comparative Politics (CP)
• International Relations (IR)
• Political Theory (PT)

The major in political science requires a minimum of 9 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

Introductory Courses
Students must take two of the following introductory courses:
- POLS UN1201 Introduction To American Government and Politics
- POLS UN1501 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLS UN1601 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
- POLS UN1101 Political Theory I

NOTE: Introductory courses taken that do not fit into the Primary or Secondary Subfield will be counted in the Political Science Elective category.

Primary Subfield
Minimum three courses.

Minor Subfield
Minimum two courses.

Seminars
Two 4-point 3000-level seminars, at least one of which is in the student's Primary Subfield.

(See "Seminars" section below for more information)

Research Methods
Minimum one course in research methods. Courses that satisfy the research methods requirement are:
- POLS UN3220 Logic of Collective Choice
- POLS UN3704 RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS
- POLS UN3708 Empirical Research Methods
- POLS UN3720 RESEARCH DESIGN: SCOPE AND METHODS
- POLS GU4710 Principles of Quantitative Political Research
- POLS GU4712 PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2
- POLS GU4714 Quantitative Methods I: Probability and Statistical Inference
- POLS GU4730 Game Theory and Political Theory
- POLS GU4732 Research Topics in Game Theory
- POLS GU4764 Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys
- POLS GU4768 Experimental Research: Design, Analysis and Interpretation
- POLS GU4790 Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research
- POLS GU4792 Quantitative Methods: Research Topics

Political Science Electives
Minimum one course (in any subfield).
A student may take another course inside or outside the department that provides relevant training in research methods to satisfy this requirement only with the written permission in advance of the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the department’s undergraduate adviser. If a course outside the political science department is used to satisfy the research methods requirement, this same course cannot be used toward other majors/concentrations or programs.

Seminars

Students are expected to take two 3000-level 4-point seminars: one in their junior year and another in their senior year (with exceptions made for students on leave or studying abroad). They may choose from among the seminars offered, though at least one of the seminars taken must be in the student’s Primary Subfield (that in which at least 9 other points have been completed). Entry into seminars requires instructor’s permission.

For detailed seminar registration guidelines, see (http://polisci.columbia.edu/undergraduate-programs/seminar-registration-guidelines/) (https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars/). Seminars cannot be taken for R credit or Pass/D/Fail.

Barnard colloquia are open to students with the permission of the instructor. However, Barnard colloquia may not be used to fulfill the seminar requirement, though they may be used to fulfill subfield or elective requirements. Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the Barnard Political Science Department only. Please consult with the Barnard Political Science Department for more information.

Recommended Courses

In addition to political science courses, students are strongly advised, but not required, to take six points in a related social science field.

Major in Economics–Political Science

The major in economics-political science is an interdisciplinary major that introduces students to the methodologies of economics and political science and stresses areas of particular concern to both. This program is particularly beneficial to students planning to do graduate work in schools of public policy and international affairs.

Two advisers are assigned for the interdepartmental major, one in the Department of Economics and one in the Department of Political Science. Please note that the economics adviser can only advise on economics requirements and the political science adviser can only advise on political science requirements.

Course Requirements

For the political science part of the major, students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The corresponding introductory courses in both subfields must be taken, plus two electives in the Primary Subfield and one in the Secondary Subfield. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The economics–political science major requires a total of 59 points: 22 points in economics, 17 points in political science, 6 points in mathematics, 6 points in statistical methods, 4 points in a political science seminar, and 4 points in the interdisciplinary seminar as follows:

Core Requirements in Economics

Students must take all of the following core economics courses:

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN1105</td>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3211</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3213</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON UN3412</td>
<td>Introduction To Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or POLS GU4712</td>
<td>PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON GU4370</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Core Requirements in Mathematics and Statistics

Students must take all of the following core mathematics and statistics courses:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH UN1101</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH UN1201</td>
<td>Calculus III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT UN1201</td>
<td>Calculus-Based Introduction to Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economics Electives

Students must take two electives at the 3000 level or higher in the Department of Economics.

Political Science Courses

Students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The subfields are as follows: American Politics (AP), Comparative Politics (CP), International Relations (IR), and Political Theory (PT).

Primary Subfield: Minimum three courses, one of which must be the subfield’s introductory course.

Secondary Subfield: Minimum two courses, one of which must be the subfield’s introductory course.

Seminars

Students must take the following two seminars:

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECP GU4921</td>
<td>Seminar In Political Economy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

and a Political Science Department seminar, in the student’s Primary Subfield. Please select one of the following:

- POLS UN3911 or POLS UN3912 Seminar in Political Theory
- POLS UN3921 or POLS UN3922 AMERICAN POLITICS SEMINAR
- POLS UN3951 or POLS UN3952 Seminar in Comparative Politics
- POLS UN3961 or POLS UN3962 International Politics Seminar

* Students who wish to count toward the political science seminar requirement a course that is not in the above list of approved seminars must obtain permission from the political science Director of Undergraduate studies.

Barnard colloquia can count for seminar credit only with the written permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Note that admission to Barnard colloquia is by application to the Barnard political science department only.

Major in Political Science–Statistics

The interdepartmental major of political science–statistics is designed for students who desire an understanding of political science to pursue advanced study in this field and who also wish to have at their command
a broad range of sophisticated statistical tools to analyze data related to social science and public policy research.

Students should be aware of the rules regarding the use of the Pass/D/Fail option. Courses in which a grade of D has been received do not count toward the major requirements.

Political science–statistics students are eligible for all prizes reserved for political science majors.

The political science-statistics major requires a minimum of 15 courses in political science, statistics, and mathematics, to be distributed as follows:

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

- Students must choose a Primary Subfield to study. Within the subfield, students must take a minimum of three courses, including the subfield’s introductory course. The subfields and their corresponding introductory courses are as follows:

  **American Politics:**
  - POLS UN1201 Introduction To American Government and Politics

  **Comparative Politics:**
  - POLS UN1501 Introduction to Comparative Politics

  **International Relations:**
  - POLS UN1601 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

- Political Theory:
  - POLS UN1101 Political Theory I

- Additionally, students must take one 4-point 3000-level seminar in their Primary Subfield.

**Research Methods**

- Students must take the following two research methods courses:
  - POLS GU4710 Principles of Quantitative Political Research
  - or POLS UN3704 RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS
  - POLS GU4712 PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2

**STATISTICS**

- Students must take one of the following sequences:
  - Sequence A — recommended for students preparing for graduate study in statistics
    1.
    - MATH UN1101 Calculus I
    - MATH UN1102 Calculus II
    - MATH UN2010 Linear Algebra
    - STAT UN1201 Calculus-Based Introduction to Statistics
    - STAT GU4203 PROBABILITY THEORY
    - STAT GU4204 Statistical Inference
    - STAT GU4205 Linear Regression Models
    - STAT GU4206 Statistical Computing and Introduction to Data Science

  or

  - Sequence B — recommended for students preparing to apply statistical methods to other fields
    - STAT UN1101 Introduction to Statistics
    - STAT UN2102 Applied Statistical Computing
    - STAT UN2103 Applied Linear Regression Analysis
    - STAT UN2104 Applied Categorical Data Analysis
    - STAT UN3105 Applied Statistical Methods
    - STAT UN3106 Applied Data Mining

- Students must take an approved elective in a statistics or a quantitatively oriented course in a social science.

1. Students taking Statistics Sequence A may replace the mathematics requirements with both MATH UN1207 Honors Mathematics A and MATH UN1208 Honors Mathematics B.

**Concentration in Political Science**

**Program of Study**

To be planned with the department as soon as the student starts to register for courses toward the concentration. Students should not wait until they formally declare the concentration before meeting with an undergraduate adviser during the registration period to plan their programs for the concentration.

**Concentration Requirements**

Students must choose a Primary Subfield and a Secondary Subfield to study. The subfields are as follows:

- American Politics (AP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

The concentration in political science requires a minimum of 7 courses in political science, to be distributed as follows:

**Introductory Courses**

Students must take two of the following introductory courses:

- POLS UN1201 Introduction To American Government and Politics
- POLS UN1501 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLS UN1601 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
- POLS UN1101 Political Theory I

**Research Methods**

Students must take one of the following courses that satisfy the methods requirement:

- POLS UN3220 Logic of Collective Choice
- POLS UN3704 RESEARCH DESIGN: DATA ANALYSIS
- POLS UN3708 Empirical Research Methods
- POLS UN3720 RESEARCH DESIGN: SCOPE AND METHODS
- POLS GU4710 Principles of Quantitative Political Research
- POLS GU4712 PRINC OF QUANT POL RESEARCH 2
- POLS GU4714 Quantitative Methods I: Probability and Statistical Inference
- POLS GU4730 Game Theory and Political Theory
- POLS GU4732 Research Topics in Game Theory
- POLS GU4764 Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys
- POLS GU4768 Experimental Research: Design, Analysis and Interpretation
Political Science Electives
Minimum two courses (in any subfield).

* A student may take another course inside or outside the department that provides relevant training in research methods to satisfy this requirement only with the written permission in advance of the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the department's undergraduate adviser. If a course outside the political science department is used to satisfy the research methods requirement, this same course cannot be used toward other majors/concentrations or programs.

Recommended Courses
In addition to courses in political science, students are strongly advised, but not required, to take six credits in a related social science field.

American Politics
POLS UN1201 Introduction To American Government and Politics. 4 points.
Lecture and discussion. Dynamics of political institutions and processes, chiefly of the national government. Emphasis on the actual exercise of political power by interest groups, elites, political parties, and public opinion.

Spring 2020: POLS UN1201
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 1201  001/00381  T Th 10:10am - 11:25am  304 Barnard Hall  Michael Miller  4  128/120

Fall 2020: POLS UN1201
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 1201  001/00238  M W 8:40am - 9:55am  Room TBA  Michael Miller  4  132/300

POLS UN3208 State Politics. 3 points.
This course is intended to provide students with a detailed understanding of politics in the American states. The topics covered are divided into four broad sections. The first explores the role of the states in America's federal system of government. Attention is given to the basic features of intergovernmental relations and the historical evolution of American federalism. The second part of the course focuses on state-level political institutions. The organization and processes associated with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are discussed in depth. The third section examines state elections, political parties, and interest groups. Finally, the course concludes by looking closely at various policy areas. Budgeting, welfare, education, and morality policy are among those considered.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3208
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3208  001/10545  T Th 8:40am - 9:55am  517 Hamilton Hall  Justin Phillips  3  84/86

POLS UN3213 American Urban Politics. 3 points.
This course examines the pattern of political development in urban America, as the country's population has grown in urbanized locations. It explores the process by which cities and suburbs are governed, how immigrants and migrants are incorporated, and how people of different races and ethnicities interact in urbanized settings as well as the institutional relations of cities and suburbs with other jurisdictions of government. The course focuses both on the historical as well the theoretical understandings of politics in urban areas.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3213
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3213  001/14435  M W 6:10pm - 7:25pm  702 Hamilton Hall  Carlos Vargas- Ramos  3  65/86

POLS UN3220 Logic of Collective Choice. 3 points.
Much of politics is about combining individual preferences or actions into collective choices. We will make use of two theoretical approaches. Our primary approach will be social choice theory, which studies how we aggregate what individuals want into what the collective "wants." The second approach, game theory, covers how we aggregate what individuals want into what the group gets, given that social, economic, and political outcomes usually depend on the interaction of individual choices. The aggregation of preferences or choices is usually governed by some set of institutional rules, formal or informal. Our main themes include the rationality of individual and group preferences, the underpinnings and implications of using majority rule, tradeoffs between aggregation methods, the fairness of group choice, the effects of institutional constraints on choice (e.g., agenda control), and the implications for democratic choice. Most of the course material is highly abstract, but these abstract issues turn up in many real-world problems, from bargaining between the branches of government to campus elections to judicial decisions on multi-member courts to the allocation of relief funds among victims of natural disasters to the scoring of Olympic events. The collective choice problem is one faced by society as a whole and by the smallest group alike.

POLS UN3222 The American Congress. 3 points.
Prerequisites: POLS UN1201 or the equivalent, or the instructor's permission.
Inquiry into the dynamics, organization, and policy-making processes of the American Congress. Particular emphasis on the relationship of legislators to constituents, lobbyists, bureaucrats, the president, and with one another.

Fall 2020: POLS UN3222
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3222  001/14025  T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm  Room TBA  Gregory Wawro  3  104/125
POLS UN3225 American Constitutional History. 4 points.
This Course is intended to look at key developments of American History through the prism of Supreme Court decisions and their aftermath.
In essence, this Course will address three questions: 1. How did the Supreme Court reflect, and affect, historic patterns of U.S. development, and how did it impact the legal and economic framework of the United States? 2. How did the Supreme Court respond to, or worsen, crises in U.S. history? 3. How did the perception of individual and collective rights and liberties, and of the function and role of Governments -- both Federal and State -- evolve over time?

Spring 2020: POLS UN3225
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3225  002/16028  T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm  420 Pupin Laboratories  Robert Tortoriello  4  24/27

POLS UN3245 Race and Ethnicity In American Politics. 3 points.
This course examines the role of race in American politics and the political behavior of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Topics will include, but are not limited to, minority political participation, segregation, gentrification, group identity, implicit bias, political representation, media effects, and the role of race in political campaigns. This course examines the role of race in American politics and the political behavior of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Topics will include, but are not limited to, minority political participation, segregation, gentrification, group identity, implicit bias, political representation, media effects, and the role of race in political campaigns. The course focuses on the historical and contemporary roles of various racial and ethnic groups; and the initiation, demands, leadership and organizational styles, orientation, benefits, and impact on the structures and outputs of governance in the United States.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3245
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3245  001/14437  T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm  413 Kent Hall  Yamil Velez  3  55/70

POLS UN3285 Freedom of Speech and Press. 3 points.
Examines the constitutional right of freedom of speech and press in the United States. Examines, in depth, various areas of law, including extremist or seditious speech, obscenity, libel, fighting words, the public forum doctrine, and public access to the mass media. Follows the law school course model, with readings focused on actual judicial decisions.

Fall 2020: POLS UN3285
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3285  001/14026  M W 4:10pm - 5:25pm  Room TBA  Lee Bollinger  3  198/199

American Politics Seminars
POLS UN3921 AMERICAN POLITICS SEMINAR. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.
Prerequisites: the instructors permission. Pre-registration is not permitted. Seminar in American Politics Seminar. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars

Fall 2020: POLS UN3921
Course Number  Section/Call Number  Times/Location  Instructor  Points  Enrollment
POLS 3921  002/14029  T 12:10pm - 2:00pm  Room TBA  4  0/20
POLS 3921  003/14127  Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Room TBA  4  0/20
POLS 3921  004/14031  M 12:10pm - 2:00pm  Room TBA  4  0/20
POLS 3921  005/14032  W 6:10pm - 8:00pm  Room TBA  4  0/20
POLS 3921  006/14033  M 10:10am - 12:00pm  Room TBA  4  0/20
POLS 3921  007/14034  Th 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Room TBA  4  0/20
POLS 3921  008/14035  T 10:10am - 12:00pm  Room TBA  Yamil Velez  4  20/20
POLS 3921  009/14036  W 4:10pm - 6:00pm  Room TBA  Michael Ting  4  0/20
POLS UN3922 Seminar in American Politics. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: POLS UN1201 or the equivalent, and the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.
Seminar in American Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list.

For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars

Comparative Politics

POLS UN1501 Introduction to Comparative Politics. 4 points.
This course provides a broad overview of the comparative politics subfield by focusing on important substantive questions about the world today. The course is organized around four questions. First, why can only some people depend upon the state to enforce order? Second, how can we account for the differences between autocracies and democracies? Third, what different institutional forms does democratic government take? Finally, are some institutions more likely than others to produce desirable social outcomes such as accountability, redistribution, and political stability?

POLS UN3528 New and Old Forms of Political Protest. 3 points.
This course will introduce the students to the important topic of political protest. Each week we will address different aspects of the phenomenon: from the determinant to the actors and strategies of protest. We will discuss how the forms of protest have changed and the current role of the internet in general and social media in particular. Finally, we will discuss the role of the state and state repression, in particular censorship in the dynamics of protest. Since this is a comparative politics course, we will cover a range of different countries, including the United States, as well as both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
POLS 3540 COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF RACE. 3 points.
This course is a survey of the major trends, approaches and themes in the comparative study of the politics of race. The course's goals are four-fold. First, we will interrogate the key concepts that scaffold the course – race, politics (and international relations and law) and the comparative method. Second, we will tackle some key preoccupations of comparative political science such as race and state formation, nationalism, economic systems and their consequences. Third, we will explore the connections between race and policy formulation when it comes to restorative justice, affirmative action, immigration, criminal justice systems and human resource development. Fourth and finally, we will come to grips with how race and racism connect abstract communities and disparate peoples, shape national myths and narratives that factor into the current cycle of identity politics and practices. This course is a survey of the major trends, approaches and themes in the comparative study of the politics of race. The course's goals are four-fold. First, we will interrogate the key concepts that scaffold the course – race, politics (and international relations and law) and the comparative method. Second, we will tackle some key preoccupations of comparative political science such as race and state formation, nationalism, economic systems and their consequences. Third, we will explore the connections between race and policy formulation when it comes to restorative justice, affirmative action, immigration, criminal justice systems and human resource development. Fourth and finally, we will come to grips with how race and racism connect abstract communities and disparate peoples, shape national myths and narratives that factor into the current cycle of identity politics and practices. This course is a survey of the major trends, approaches and themes in the comparative study of the politics of race. The course's goals are four-fold. First, we will interrogate the key concepts that scaffold the course – race, politics (and international relations and law) and the comparative method. Second, we will tackle some key preoccupations of comparative political science such as race and state formation, nationalism, economic systems and their consequences. Third, we will explore the connections between race and policy formulation when it comes to restorative justice, affirmative action, immigration, criminal justice systems and human resource development. Fourth and finally, we will come to grips with how race and racism connect abstract communities and disparate peoples, shape national myths and narratives that factor into the current cycle of identity politics and practices.

POLS 3591 CIVIL WARS & POLITICAL VIOLENCE. 3 points.
This course will introduce students to leading contemporary research on civil wars and political violence. We will seek to answer questions including: Why does political violence occur? Does the presence of natural resources make civil wars more or less likely? When do rebel groups choose to target civilians? And how does the international community choose which conflicts to intervene in?

The course is broadly split into two parts. The first half will explore the causes, dynamics and consequences of civil wars, while the second half will focus on other forms of political violence, including terrorism, riots and anti-regime protests.

Spring 2020: POLS 3591
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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POLS 3591 | 001/14438 | M W 10:10am - 11:25am 703 Hamilton Hall | Sarah Lockwood | 3 | 20/25

POLS GU4403 The Political Economy of China. 3 points.
The purpose of this course is to introduce MA students and advanced undergraduate students to critical issues surrounding China's political and economic affairs, both domestically and internationally. The course is organized into five sections. In the first section, it discusses China's imperial past and the Republican Era. The next section covers China's radicalization under Mao. The third section investigates China's economic reform under Deng. The fourth section deals with the consequences of China's economic development. The fifth section focuses on the role China plays in international affairs and the implication of China's economic rise. It concludes with some discussion on China's economic future. Throughout the course, we will focus on identifying the key players and pay special attention to the preferences of these key players and the incentives and constraints facing them.

The course does not presume any prior knowledge of China or Chinese language, although some familiarity with basic concepts in political science or macroeconomics will be helpful.

POLS GU4406 Politics in Contemporary China. 4 points.
This course will be taught in Chinese.

This course focuses on the evolution of Chinese politics since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took power in 1949. It introduces and discusses the relationship between the two "three decades" (the three decades under Mao and the three decades of "reform and opening up"). More specifically, the course aims to (1) clarify some important historical facts, (2) analyze the ideological consideration of the "official" history sanctioned by the CCP and its epistemological impact, (3) make a comparison between official view and that of independent scholars about the history; (4) try to respond to some urgent problems faced by contemporary China, and (5) provide suggestions and principles for the reconstruction of the historiography of contemporary China. Students will learn how to understand the recent development Chinese politics, how to analyze the complex contemporary history and reality of China, and how to approach issues about China from a systematic perspective.

Spring 2020: POLS GU4406
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
POLS 4406 | 001/10553 | T 12:10pm - 2:00pm 001 B0 Claremont | Boshu Zhang | 4 | 18/25
POLS GU4407 Nine Thought Trends in China. 4 points.
This course will be taught in Chinese.

Prerequisites: fluency in Chinese (the course will be taught in Chinese, and a large number of readings will be in Chinese).
This is an elective course designed for both undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in the contemporary politics in China. The course focuses on nine major thought trends in China today that include 1) the Liberalism; 2) the New Authoritarianism; 3) the New Left; 4) Mao Left; 5) the Democratic Group within the Communist Party; 6) Governing through Confucian Theory; 7) Constitutional Socialism; 8) the so-called "Neither-Left and Nor-Right" Governing Theory; and 9) the New Nationalism Calling Tough Foreign Policies. China is deep in the social and political transition process, and the thoughts and actions of intellectuals themselves have formed an important part in this transition. In this sense, the course not only helps understand the thoughts of intellectuals, but also better help understand today's China affairs as a whole.

Fall 2020: POLS GU4407
Course Number: POLS 4407
Section/Call Number: 001/14315
Times/Location: T: 12:10pm - 2:00pm
Instructor: Ricardo Gutierrez
Points: 4
Enrollment: 27

POLS GU4412 ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA. 4 points.
This seminar seeks to introduce the students to the analysis of Latin American and Caribbean environmental politics. A large part of the world's natural resources are found in Latin America, including about a quarter of the planet's arable land and just over a fifth of its forest area as well as considerable fossil fuel reserves. Over the last few decades, the region has undergone three parallel processes: 1) the expansion of extractive and primary industries, 2) a growing social mobilization over environmental issues, and 3) the emergence of new state regulation on environmental protection. Latin American and Caribbean environmental politics is therefore the outcome of complex and often contradictory domestic and global political, social and economic factors. The course covers all those aspects by examining a wide range of environmental issues from a comparative perspective. As a result, students will acquire an overview of the most important environmental issues in the region as well as analytical tools to examine the politics of environmental degradation and protection from different perspectives.

Spring 2020: POLS GU4412
Course Number: POLS 4412
Section/Call Number: 001/16324
Times/Location: W: 2:10pm - 4:00pm
Instructor: Ricardo Gutierrez
Points: 4
Enrollment: 28

POLS GU4423 Political Economy Theory and Methods: Elites and Institutions. 4 points.
This course examines political institutions and elite behavior from a political economy perspective. Students will rigorously examine contemporary debates, focusing on how incentives and institutions drive the actions of politicians, bureaucrats, and journalists. Students will use formal models and design-based causal inference to generate hypotheses, identify causal effects from developed and developing democracies, and ultimately seek to interpret them. Ultimately, the goals of this course are twofold. The substantive goal is to familiarize students with foundational theoretical arguments and frontier empirical evidence pertaining to central questions in political economy. The methodological goal is to empower students to implement research designs that can effectively address the substantive questions driving their research.

This course is primarily intended for PhD students in political science and other social sciences. The course will assume familiarity with graduate-level game theory and econometrics/statistics. Advanced undergraduate and masters students will be admitted on a case by case basis.

POLS GU4434 Ethnic Politics Across Post-Soviet Eurasia. 4 points.
Various forms of ethnic politics have characterized politics in many states throughout Eurasia since 1991, from nationalist separatism to violent conflict to political competition among ethnic minorities and majorities. This course is designed to encourage students to think deeply about the relationship between ethnicity and politics. We will consider several questions. First, why does ethnicity become politicized? We investigate this question by examining nationalist secessionism and ethnic conflict—phenomena that mushroomed at the end of the Cold War. We will focus on East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, devoting special attention to the cases of Yugoslavia, the USSR, Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Chechnya. However, we will also study cases in which the dog didn’t bark, i.e. places where nationalist mobilization and ethnic violence either did not occur, or emerged and then receded as in the ethnic republics of the Russian Federation (including the “Muslim” regions of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, etc.). In the second part of the course, we will analyze ethnic politics after independent statehood was achieved throughout the post-Soviet space. How do nationalist state-builders try to construct a nation and a state at the same time? Have they incorporated or discriminated against minorities living within “their” states? How have ethnic minorities responded? We will study Ukraine, the Baltics and Kazakhstan where ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking populations form large portions of the population, devoting particular attention to the crisis in Ukraine. We will also examine how the post-conflict regions of Bosnia and Kosovo have dealt with ethnic pluralism. These cases allow us to gain greater understanding of how multi-ethnic states use forms of federalism, consociationalism, and power-sharing as state-building strategies.
POLS GU4436 POPULISM IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD. 4 points.

Populism is one of the political buzzwords of the early 21st century. It is central to current debates about politics, from radical right parties in Europe to left-wing presidents in Latin America to the Tea Party, Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump in the United States. But populism is also one of the most contested concepts in the social sciences. In line with a growing body of literature, populism should be defined in ideational terms, i.e., as a worldview that considers society to be separated into two homogeneous and antagonistic camps, “the pure people” versus “the corrupt elite,” and which argues that politics should be an expression of the volonté g´en´erale (general will) of the people. This course will provide an introduction to populism in theory and practice.

The first part of the course will discuss how scholars from di†erent parts of the world studied populism since this phenomenon entered the political and social science agenda in the late 1960s. Is populism an ideology? A strategy? A style of politics? A certain type of discourse? Something else? And, crucially, who are “the people” in populism? Could we, possibly, re-conceptualize populism in a way that is at the same time minimal and with sufficient discriminatory power, politically relevant, analytically compelling, operationally feasible, and clearly pointing to an opposite pole?

Beyond defining populism, this course also examines the phenomenon in the entirety of its geographical variants. Populism is an omnipresent, multifaceted, and ideologically boundless phenomenon. What distinguishes its various manifestations in Europe, Latin America, the United States, and elsewhere across time (old vs. new populisms), region (western vs. eastern; but also Nordic, Baltic, Southern European), regime type in which they develop (democracy vs. non-democracy), and ideological hue (right vs. left populisms)?

A second part of this course will look at actual populist strategies, how populist leaders gain their appeal, what social conditions increase the likelihood of a populist victory, how populists gain and maintain power. What are the determinants of voting motivation for populist parties? And how do they di†er from mainstream parties? This course will also examine what happens once populists come into office, as has happened several times in both Europe and Latin America? Cases such as Hungary, Greece and Venezuela are studied in order to understand the way in which populism comes to power and governs.

POLS GU4449 Cleavages, Conflicts and Bridges in Israeli Politics and Foreign Policy. 4 points.

Prerequisites: INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION REQUIRED

Conflicts, cleavages and contentiousness are a common feature of a democratic system of government in general. In this respect Israel is no exception. Apart from being the Start Up Nation and the Holy Land, in the minds of many around the world Israel is associated with conflict. Indeed, both internally and externally, Israeli politics is suffused with conflict and continuously has to live up to the challenge of preserving democracy in the presence of conflict. The achievements of Israel in the political, economic, international and social arenas were facilitated by the emergence of a pattern of politics, indeed, a political culture, that puts a strong emphasis on the pursuit of political accommodation among social groupings, political parties and ideological strands even at the expense of compromising their respective manifest interests, aspirations and programs. Moreover, the mobilization capabilities of Israeli governments have been remarkable by any standard. They were capable of inducing the citizens to accept willingly such burdens as high taxation, harsh economic measures and long conscript and reserve military service. Israel has done all these without loss of public support for its central political and social institutions. This class will focus on conflicts, external and internal. We will examine social, economic and political cleavages within the state of Israel. We will study the Arab-Israeli conflict and in particular the interaction of Israel with the Palestinians over the years. Finally, we will examine broader circles in which Israeli foreign policy applies and in particular in the context of US-Israel relations and regional conflicts in the aftermath of the Arab Spring and the Iran Deal.

POLS GU4453 Politics in Russia. 4 points.

This course begins by studying the late Soviet era—the 1970s through the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991—in order to understand what kind of political system and political culture Russia inherited. We spend some time analyzing why and how the Soviet Union—a superpower for 75 years—disintegrated suddenly and for the most part, peacefully. Then, the bulk of the course focuses on state-building in the Russian Federation. Russia’s effort to construct new political institutions, a functioning economy, and a healthy society represents one of the greatest political dramas of our time. Beginning with Yeltsin’s presidency in 1991 and continuing through the current eras of Putin, Medvedev, and Putin again, we consider phenomena such as economic reform, nationalism, separatism, federalism, war, legal reform, civil society, and democratization. The third part of the course addresses Russia’s foreign relations. Like its predecessor states, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, Russia is concerned with what kind of state it is (or should be) and where it stands in the international order. We will study how Russian elites make sense of Russia’s identity, as well as Russia’s policies toward the US, Europe, its “near abroad,” the Middle East, and China.

POLS GU4447 Drug-trafficking, Politics and Development in Latin America. 4 points.

There is wide evidence that the war against drugs has had limited results and great unintended consequences: It has been a major contributor to violence and crime in the region, generating great economic loss, corruption in political elites and important development dilemmas in peripheral regions where the presence of the state was been historically very limited. The objective of the course is to explore the conditions and consequences of organized crime in the region, relations between drug- traffic and counter-insurgencies, and the origins and operations of transnational gangs. We will also analyze the effect of drug-trafficking in the behavior of political elites, in the capacity of the state to face and the consequences for government corruption and victimization of the justice system.
POLSGU4454 Comparative Politics of South Asia. 4 points.
This course first compares the post-independence political histories of South Asian countries, particularly India and Pakistan. It then explores selected topics across countries: social and cultural dimensions of politics; structures of power; and political behavior. The underlying theme is to explain the development and durability of the particular political regimes – democratic or authoritarian – in each country.

POLSGU4461 Latin American Politics. 4 points.
This is a lecture class that seeks to introduce students to social scientific analysis while discussing the shifting dynamics of political representation in Latin America. In analyzing political representation in the region, it focuses on demands for political inclusion by different actors and how they were resisted or accepted by established elites in a process that moved from regime change to electoral rotation in power. The course covers these political dynamics and their institutional consequences since the onset of the twentieth century, starting with the Mexican Revolution, until the contemporary period where democracy is the predominant form of government and elections a crucial tool for social and political change. While analyzing the politics of Latin America, we will cover important political science concepts associated with democratic representation, social inclusion and the rule of law, such as social movement mobilization, political regime change, presidentialism, political party systems, political identities, state capacity, and institutional weakness.

POLSGU4472 Japanese Politics. 4 points.
Surveys key features of the Japanese political system, with focus on political institutions and processes. Themes include party politics, bureaucratic power, the role of the Diet, voting behavior, the role of the state in the economy, and the domestic politics of foreign policy.

POLSGU4473 Political Transitions in Southeast Asia. 4 points.
What political direction is Southeast Asia taking? Over the past two decades, Indonesia has been transformed from a military-dominated semi-authoritarian state to the region’s most vigorous and open political order. Meanwhile Thailand has experienced two military coups since 2006, and early patterns of political liberalization seem to be unraveling. And Burma has gone from international pariah to prospective new democracy.

Is it possible to see any overall regional trends? Are teleological assumptions of the inexorable rise of democracy being vindicated – or does much of the evident point in just the opposite direction? The module will examine the nature of transitions (and attempted transitions) to more open political systems in Southeast Asia, with a primary focus on Burma, Indonesia, and Thailand. After a brief review of the three cases, the course will adopt a thematic approach, first reviewing the character of the state, including national mythologies, the military and the relations between capital city and provinces. It will then explore aspects of transition, including the changing political economy, the rise of electoral politics, the role of religion and media, and the phenomenon of rally politics. Challenges to national elites from the regions will also be closely scrutinised. These themes and issues have a broader relevance to wider debates in comparative politics, which students will be encouraged to explore in their papers.

POLSGU4474 Politics, Justice and Human Rights in Southeast Asia. 4 points.
The course starts from the premise that questions of justice are essentially political, and their study cannot be safely left in the sole hands of lawyers and legal experts. In recent years, a number of important global trends have become evident in the study of justice. These include a growing focus on transitional justice – especially how the transition from an authoritarian regime, or from conditions of violent conflict, may best be handled. Another important trend is the so-called ‘new constitutionalism’ – efforts to strengthen checks and balances through establishing new institutions such as constitutional courts. A third trend concerns disturbing developments in the use of the criminal justice system for essentially political purposes. This course will explore how these recent trends are being played out in various parts of Southeast Asia.
POLS GU4476 Korean Politics. 4 points.
The course Korean Politics and Foreign Policy aims to advance knowledge of Korea's politics and foreign policy, with emphasis on that of South Korea, but with additional focus on North Korea. This course covers relevant political theory, contemporary history and issues of particular significance to Korean politics, including the growth of civil society and the contest for legitimacy internally and internationally. The course addresses the Peninsula's unique geopolitics, democratic and economic development in South Korea, and the politics and economics of the communist and Confucian North. Given today's tremendous global concern over North Korea's security challenges, the course examines in detail the ideological and political background behind the North's rapidly developing missile and nuclear capabilities and human rights violations. The course posits the aims and objectives of South Korea's international relations and success in the regional and global arena—which contrast starkly with that of North Korea. It assesses South Korea's relations with the United States and near neighbors China and Japan. Finally, it weighs prospects for inter-Korean cooperation, integration and unification.

Fall 2020: POLS GU4476
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 4476 001/15263 F 10:10am - 12:00pm 4 3/33

POLS GU4478 Domestic Russian Politics Since the Collapse of the Soviet Union. 3 points.
Over the last twenty-five years, Russia has transformed from a state weakened by years of economic decline and dominated by competing powerful actors into an authoritarian regime with imperial aspirations and global reach. Yet headlines seldom tell the whole story. Who is Vladimir Putin and what does the political system he presides over – often called the power vertical – consist of? What explains the electoral dominance of United Russia? Why are there massive but rare protests in Russia? What role does masculinity play in public politics in Russia? What motivated the collapse of the Soviet Union and the painful transition of the 1990s. Students will begin with an overview of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the painful transition of the 1990s. Students will then examine Russia’s current political regime as well as the political career of Vladimir Putin. The course will devote significant time to the topic of elections, protest and civil society in Russia before concluding with a look at Russia’s foreign policy ambitions.

Fall 2020: POLS GU4496
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 4496 001/14047 M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm 3 21/33

POLS GU4496 Contemporary African Politics. 3 points.
This course aims to teach students what, if any, answers social scientists have to the questions that concern anyone with an interest in African politics: 1) Why have democratic governments flourished in some countries and not others? 2) What institutions may enable Africans to hold their leaders accountable? 3) How do people participate in politics? 4) In what ways do aspiring African political leaders build public support? 5) To what extent does persistent poverty on the continent have political causes? and 6) Why is violence used to resolve some political disputes and not others?

Comparative Politics Seminars
POLS UN3951 Seminar in Comparative Politics. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: POLS V1501 or the equivalent, and the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted. Please see here for detailed seminar registration guidelines: http://polisci.columbia.edu/undergraduate-programs/seminar-registration-guidelines.
Seminar in Comparative Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars/ (https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars/)

Fall 2020: POLS UN3951
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3951 001/14039 W 12:10pm - 2:00pm Room TBA 4 0/20
POLS 3951 003/14038 T 10:10am - 12:00pm Room TBA 4 0/20

POLS UN3952 Seminar in Comparative Politics. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: POLS V1501 or the equivalent, and the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted. Please see here for detailed seminar registration guidelines: http://polisci.columbia.edu/undergraduate-programs/seminar-registration-guidelines.
Seminar in Comparative Politics. For most seminars, interested students must attend the first class meeting, after which the instructor will decide whom to admit.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3952
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 3952 001/16564 F 12:10pm - 2:00pm 317 Hamilton Hall 4 8/20
POLS 3952 002/16566 W 8:10am - 10:00am 317 Hamilton Hall 4 20/20

International Relations
POLS UN1601 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. 4 points.
Lecture and discussion. The basic setting and dynamics of global politics, with emphasis on contemporary problems and processes.

Spring 2020: POLS UN1601
Course Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 1601 001/14434 M W 11:40am - 12:55pm 312 Mathematics Building Katrin Katz 4 106/112

Fall 2020: POLS UN1601
Course Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
POLS 1601 001/00243 M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA Kimberly Marten 4 160/160
POLS UN3619 Nationalism and Contemporary World Politics. 3 points.
The causes and consequences of nationalism. Nationalism as a cause of conflict in contemporary world politics. Strategies for mitigating nationalist and ethnic conflict.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3619
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POLS UN3623 Ending War & Building Peace. 3 points.
This course provides an introduction to the politics of war termination and peace consolidation. The course examines the challenges posed by ending wars and the process by which parties to a conflict arrive at victory, ceasefires, and peace negotiations. It explores how peace is sustained, why peace lasts in some cases and breaks down in others and what can be done to make peace more stable, focusing on the role of international interventions, power-sharing arrangements, reconciliation between adversaries, and reconstruction.

Fall 2020: POLS UN3623
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POLS UN3630 Politics of International Economic Relations. 3 points.
This upper-level undergraduate course examines the intersection of politics and economics at primarily the international level. The course involves the careful reading and evaluation of the dominant theoretical and methodological approaches as currently used in the IPE field, as well as examination of prominent debates within the major IPE subject areas of trade, finance, development and globalization. This class does not have an economics or a specific political science prerequisite, but assumes a general understanding of historical and contemporary political and economic events. As a 3000-level course, this class would not be an appropriate choice for students who have not already taken introductory courses in political science, including international relations and comparative politics.

POLS UN3631 American Foreign Policy. 4 points.
This course is concerned with what policy the American government should adopt toward several foreign policy issues in the next decade or so, using materials from contradictory viewpoints. Students will be required to state fairly alternative positions and to use policy analysis (goals, alternatives, consequences, and choice) to reach conclusions.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3631
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POLS UN3648 Governing the Global Economy. 4 points.
Who governs the world economy? Why do countries succeed or fail to cooperate in setting their economic policies? When and how do international institutions help countries cooperate? When and why do countries adopt good and bad economic policies? This course examines how domestic and international politics determine how the global economy is governed. We will study the politics of trade, international investment, monetary, immigration, and environmental policies to answer these questions. The course will approach each topic by examining alternative theoretical approaches and evaluate these theories using historical and contemporary evidence. There will be an emphasis on applying concepts through the analysis of policy-relevant case studies designed specifically for this course.

Fall 2020: POLS UN3648
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POLS UN3680 Topics in International Security. 3 points.
This course explores how and why states and non-state actors use violent and non-violent strategies in international politics. While not all topics in international security can be covered thoroughly in one semester, this course will give a sampling of many of the topics, including military doctrines and strategies, diplomatic policies, social forces, civil wars, and roles of individuals. Though historical and current events will be used as examples to illustrate how various theories work, students should keep in mind that this is not a course on current events.

POLS UN3690 International Law. 4 points.
What is public international law, and what does it influence the behavior of states, corporations, and individuals in the international system? This introductory course engages these questions as well as the politics of applying and enforcing public international law in various contexts and issue areas. An understanding of basic international legal principles, institutions, and processes is developed through exploration of foundational cases, and by means of (required) participation in a multi-week group simulation of an international legal dispute.

POLS UN3871 CHINA’S FOREIGN RELATIONS. 4 points.
This course will review and analyze the foreign policy of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to the present. It will examine Beijing’s relations with the Soviet Union, the United States, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Third World during the Cold War, and will discuss Chinese foreign policy in light of the end of the Cold War, changes in the Chinese economy in the reform era, the post-Tiananmen legitimacy crisis in Beijing, and the continuing rise of Chinese power and influence in Asia and beyond.

This lecture course will analyze the causes and consequences of Beijing’s foreign policies from 1949 to the present.

Students must register for a mandatory discussion section.

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POLS GU4848 ISRAELI NATL SEC STRAT POL DEC. 4 points.
Ever since its establishment, Israel has confronted an external environment of nearly unremitting hostility. Repeated wars, perpetual hostilities at lower levels, the failed peace processes with the Palestinians and Syria, and even the “cold” peace with Egypt and Jordan, have reinforced this image. As a result, national security has been at the forefront of Israeli life for six decades. Israel has responded by building a disproportionate national security establishment and by developing a “hunkering down” decision making style. Due to the importance of the Middle East, from the Cold War to this day, as well as its own unique circumstances, Israel has also become an important player in the international arena, far beyond its size.

The course is designed for those with a general interest in Israel and the Middle East, especially those interested in national security affairs, military strategy, foreign policy and decision making, students of comparative politics and practitioners/future practitioners, with an interest in “real world” international relations and national security. It focuses on the basic tenets of Israeli foreign and defense strategy, the threats and opportunities facing Israel today, structures and processes of Israeli national security decision making, including their strengths and weaknesses, and the role of the peace process in Israel’s national security strategic thinking.

The course presumes reasonable familiarity with Israel and the Middle East. For those in need of further background, a number of basic texts are suggested below.

POLS GU4863 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. 4 points.
This course examines how domestic and international politics influence the economic policies of developing countries. We will critically evaluate different theoretical debates related to foreign economic policymaking in emerging markets, and introduce chief methodological approaches used in contemporary analyses. We will focus attention on different types of cross-border flows: the flow of goods (trade policy), the flow of people (immigration policy), the flow and location of production (foreign investment policy), the flow of capital (financial and monetary policy), and the flow of pollution (environment policy). In the process, we will address several themes that are central to understanding the politics of economic policymaking in emerging economies, including, the legacies of colonialism, trade protectionism and liberalization, globalization and the race to the bottom, the relationship between economic policy and culture, and development and redistribution. There will be an emphasis on applying concepts through the analysis of policy-relevant case studies designed for this course.

International Relations Seminars
POLS UN3961 International Politics Seminar. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.
Prerequisites: POLS UN1601 or the equivalent, and the instructor’s permission.
Seminar in International Politics. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list.

For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars/
POLS UN3962 INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SEMINAR. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.

Prerequisites: POLS V1601 or the equivalent, and the instructor’s permission.
Prerequisites: POLS UN1601 or the equivalent, and the instructors permission. Seminar in International Relations. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars

POLS UN3123 HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRITICAL TIMES. 3 points.
What are the foundations and purpose of human rights? Are they pure formal rights which are unable to alter global patterns of inequality, from extreme poverty to the refugee crisis, or are they instruments of claims for freedom and equality? Do they partake of a moralization of politics, the last utopia? Of some other project of structural transformation of the world? The course will examine key issues on human rights from philosophical and political perspectives. It has four components. The first section is an introduction to human rights from a historical and conceptual perspective, showing how the idea of individual and natural rights emerged throughout the Middle Ages up to the social contract theories of the 17th century, and how this idea was developed during the American and the French Revolution. The second section will focus on human rights in relation to justice, whether it is international criminal justice, or modern and contemporary theories of cosmopolitanism or of global constitutionalism in which human rights play a major role. The question of the basis and the universality of human rights will also be debated. The third section will be devoted to critical approaches to human rights, from Marxist, anti-modern and postmodern perspectives. The final section will examine how human rights can be considered as claims, or theoretical and practical tools in order to support women’s rights, social and economic rights, and political resistance.

POLS GU4110 Recent Continental Political Thought. 4 points.
This course will compare and contrast the theories of the political, the state, freedom, democracy, sovereignty and law, in the works of the following key 20th and 21st century continental theorists: Arendt, Castoriadis, Foucault, Habermas, Kelsen, Lefort, Schmitt, and Weber. It will be taught in seminar format.

Political Theory

POLS UN101 Political Theory I. 4 points.
What is the relationship between law and justice? Are capacities of political judgment shared by the many or reserved for the few? What does human equality consist of and what are its implications? Can individual freedom be reconciled with the demands of political community? What are the origins and effects of persistent gender inequalities? These are some of the crucial questions that we will address in this introductory course in political theory. The course is divided into five thematic sections, each addressing an enduring political problem or issue and centered on a key text in the history of political thought: 1. Laws, Obligations, and the Question of Disobedience; Sophocles, Antigone; 2. Democratic Citizenship and the Capacities of Political Judgment; Plato, Republic; 3. Origins and Effects of (In)equality; John Locke, Second Treatise of Civil Government; 4. Paradoxes of Freedom; Jean Jacques Rousseau, On the Social Contract; 5. The Woman Question; John Stuart Mill, The Subjection of Women.

POLS UN3100 Justice. 3 points.
An inquiry into the nature and implications of justice in areas ranging from criminal justice to social justice to the circumstances of war and peace, considering issues such as abortion, the criminalization of behavior, the death penalty, climate change, global poverty, civil disobedience, and international conflict.
POLS GU4112 SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS. 3 points.
Political action was a major topic of political debate throughout the twentieth century. A whole range of Marxist, existentialist, progressive, anarchist, and anticolonial thinkers wrestled with the legitimacy and efficacy of new forms of mass political action — such as the boycott, civil disobedience, and the general strike — as well as the possibility of armed revolution. These were all techniques of protest and mobilization that were extrainstitutional and often extra-legal. But their advocates put forward a range of arguments to show why these forms of mass action are necessary, legitimate, and democratic in form and purpose. This course returns to these debates to consider the distinctive moral and political dilemmas that arise from insurgent forms of mass political action.

Some of our organizing concerns and questions will include:
1. The morality and efficacy of violence and nonviolence as techniques of popular protest and collective mobilization; what counts as coercion in politics and when it might be judged permissible and necessary.
2. The meaning and experience of political action: what inspires people to act; the relationship between action, agency, and freedom; action as a form of self-making.
3. The means-ends question: how closely connected are political ideals to the forms of action used to bring them about; how political action prefigures political ends.
4. Anxieties about mass action and its unintended consequences; questions about how to channel, organize, and discipline popular revolt.

POLS GU4128 The Philosophy of Social Science. 4 points.
The class will offer a “tool-box” approach or “mechanism” approach to social-science explanations. We will discuss basic issues in the philosophy of explanation as well as selected tools or mechanisms.

POLS GU4132 Political Thought - Classical and Medieval. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Contemporary Civilization or a comparable introduction to political theory course.
The course examines the historical and theoretical foundations of democracy. The underlying assumption is that political arrangements and institutions are the embodiment of political ideas and theories. The course will investigate the historical emergence of democracy as a form of government based on equality before the law and equal access to all citizens to the deliberative, decisional and control processes. The historical starting point is identified in Solon’s reforms in Athens which dramatically broke the hegemony of ancient nobility; we will then study Cleisthenes’ reforms and their redefinition of citizenry; in the context of the new political ideal of isonomia. We will proceed to examine the theoretical debate of the fifth century BCE, which includes Herodotus (III, 80-82), Thucydides and Protagoras. We will then examine the criticism levelled at democracy by Socrates, Plato and Aristotle: their thought enables us to compare the ancient idea of democracy to our own. Finally, we will study the Roman contribution to the theory of democracy, namely Cicero’s ideal of ‘republic’ and the role that ius, codified law, played in it.

Political Theory Seminars
POLS UN3911 Seminar in Political Theory. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.
Seminar in Political Theory. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list. For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars/
POLS UN3912 Seminar in Political Theory. 4 points.
Priority given to senior majors, followed by junior majors, then all other students.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.
Prerequisites: the instructors permission. Pre-registration is not permitted.
Seminar in Political Theory. Students who would like to register should join the electronic wait list.

For list of topics and descriptions see: https://polisci.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-seminars/
Research Methods

POLS UN3220 Logic of Collective Choice. 3 points.
Much of politics is about combining individual preferences or actions into collective choices. We will make use of two theoretical approaches. Our primary approach will be social choice theory, which studies how we aggregate what individuals want into what the collective “wants.” The second approach, game theory, covers how we aggregate what individuals want into what the group gets, given that social, economic, and political outcomes usually depend on the interaction of individual choices. The aggregation of preferences or choices is usually governed by some set of institutional rules, formal or informal. Our main themes include the rationality of individual and group preferences, the underpinnings and implications of using majority rule, tradeoffs between aggregation methods, the fairness of group choice, the effects of institutional constraints on choice (e.g., agenda control), and the implications for democratic choice. Most of the course material is highly abstract, but these abstract issues turn up in many real-world problems, from bargaining between the branches of government to campus elections to judicial decisions on multi-member courts to the allocation of relief funds among victims of natural disasters to the scoring of Olympic events. The collective choice problem is one faced by society as a whole and by the smallest group alike.

POLS UN3704 Research Design: Data Analysis. 3 points.
This course examines the basic methods data analysis and statistics that political scientists use in quantitative research that attempts to make causal inferences about how the political world works. The same methods apply to other kinds of problems about cause and effect relationships more generally. The course will provide students with extensive experience in analyzing data and in writing (and thus reading) research papers about testable theories and hypotheses. It will cover basic data analysis and statistical methods, from univariate and bivariate descriptive and inferential statistics through multivariate regression analysis. Computer applications will be emphasized. The course will focus largely on observational data used in cross-sectional statistical analysis, but it will consider issues of research design more broadly as well. It will assume that students have mathematical background beyond high school algebra and no experience using computers for data analysis.

POLS UN3720 Research Design: Scope and Methods. 4 points.
This class aims to introduce students to the logic of social scientific inquiry and research design. Although it is a course in political science, our emphasis will be on the science part rather than the political part — we’ll be reading about interesting substantive topics, but only so far as they can teach us something about ways we can do systematic research. This class will introduce students to a medley of different methods to conduct social scientific research.
Senior Honors Seminar

POLS UN3998 Senior Honors Seminar. 4 points.
Prerequisites: admission to the departmental honors program.
A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis.

Fall 2020: POLS UN3998

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POLS UN3999 Senior Honors Seminar. 4 points.
Prerequisites: admission to the departmental honors program.
A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis.

Spring 2020: POLS UN3999

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Independent Reading and Research

POLS UN3901 Independent Reading and Research I. 1-6 points.

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Of Related Interest

Economics

ECPS GU4921 Seminar In Political Economy

Human Rights

HRTS UN3001 Introduction to Human Rights
HRTS W3930 International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights