INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

http://krieger.jhu.edu/internationalstudies

The International Studies major is an interdisciplinary program drawn from the departments of political science, history, economics, languages, sociology, and anthropology. There are three programs in International Studies: a regular undergraduate major leading to the B.A. degree in four years, and two accelerated programs leading to a B.A. and M.A. degree in five years. One of the accelerated programs is in partnership with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. and the other is with political science institute Sciences Po in Paris. The three programs, and all other aspects of the International Studies Program, are described on the International Studies website.

Programs

- International Studies, Bachelor of Arts (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/international-studies/bachelor-arts/)
- International Studies Five-Year Accelerated B.A./M.A. Program with Sciences Po (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/international-studies/ba-ma/)
- International Studies Five-Year Accelerated B.A./M.A. Program with the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/international-studies/ba-ma-sais/)

For current course information and registration go to https://sis.jhu.edu/classes/

Courses

AS.192.150. States, Regimes & Contentious Politics. 3 Credits.

This course introduces students to the study of politics and political life in the world, with a particular focus on the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa. Throughout the course, we will analyze the sources of order and disorder in modern states, addressing a series of questions, such as: why did nation-states form? What makes a state a nation? Why are some states democracies while others are not? How do people organize to fight oppression? Why does conflict sometimes turn violent? What are the causes of ethnic war? Drawing on a mix of classic works and contemporary scholarship, we will discuss the answers that scholars have formulated to address these and other questions, paying special attention to research design and the quality of argumentation.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences


Are you planning to do a research project for your independent study class, or preparing for a grant application, or working on a big research project for a research intensive class or graduation thesis, or just wishing to improve your research skills? If so, this course is for you! Through weekly two hour sessions over ten weeks, you will receive systematic training on major research tools, resources and techniques useful for any research project in international studies, political science, and other social science subjects. By the end of the course, you will be able to come up with a viable research topic, and complete a research statement that includes an abstract, problem statement and literature review based on in-depth research utilizing tools and techniques covered in the course. The skills you learn through the course will prepare you for any future research projects and advanced studies.

AS.192.225. Economic Growth and Development in East Asia. 3 Credits.

The course offers an overview of the complexities of East Asia’s development experience from a variety of perspectives, and it is divided into three parts to allow students to develop expertise in one or more countries and/or policy arenas, while also cultivating a broad grasp of the region and the distinct challenges of “East Asia fast-paced, sustained economic growth.” Part I considers the origins of Asian economic development, analyses the common economic variables behind the region’s success, looks at the East Asian financial crisis and its lessons and assesses whether or not East Asian countries have learned them. Part II will focus on the development experiences of individual countries, with an emphasis on the ASEAN economies, NIEs, Japan and China. Part III considers topics of special interest to Asia, including trends toward greater regional economic cooperation, both in the real and financial/monetary sectors, and issues related to poverty, migration, and inclusiveness.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.260. International Political Economy of Emerging Markets. 3 Credits.

This course examines the relationship between politics and international economics in emerging market and developing countries. Throughout the course, we apply different theories of international relations to understand foreign economic policymaking in emerging markets. Emphasis is also placed on critically evaluating these theories and developing critical-thinking skills. The course begins with an overview of theories of international political economy. The second section of the course focuses on developing countries’ embrace of economic globalization between the 1980s debt crisis and 2008 global financial crisis. We examine different political explanations for why emerging market and developing countries removed barriers to foreign trade and foreign investment in this period. The final section of the course explores how globalization has impacted emerging market economies. We consider how governments in these countries have dealt with the new challenges that have emerged in this era of economic globalization.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.192.270. International Migration, Diasporas and Development. 3 Credits.

International migration has emerged as one of most politically salient and contentious issues in the politics of advanced democracies. However, while the economic, political, and social impact of large immigrant inflows has prompted much debate and analysis in developed countries, the effects of emigration and diasporas on the source country are poorly understood. This seminar examines the economic and political challenges and opportunities of international migration and diasporas on countries of origin and policy options to address them. The seminar will examine a range of issues. Is the phenomenon of greater import in the current (and future) context than it has historically been and if so, why? How do selection characteristics of international migrants and reasons for leaving affect the country of origin? Why do diasporas differ in the forms of engagement with the country of origin? What explains the massive increases in financial remittances sent by immigrants to their countries of origin and what are their effects? The seminar will also examine non-pecuniary or “social” remittances, which reshape individual preferences and social norms and thereby influence economic, political, and social change. What are the human capital effects of international migration, ranging from the “brain-drain” of limited human capital to “brain-gain” effects arising from diasporic networks? How does the “long-distance” nationalism of diasporas that support more polarizing political parties and groups engaged in conflict affect international security? Finally, we will examine policies in both receiving and sending countries and how they affect outcomes in their countries as well as of migrants themselves. Are international agreements on migration feasible or will rising nationalism ensure that unilateral policies and bilateral arrangements prevail?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.192.280. China Under Revolution and Reform. 3 Credits.

China is an emerging world power with a long history, a rich culture, and complex political structures and processes. As a modern state, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) continues to amaze and confound observers both inside and outside its borders. More than three decades after opening its doors to the outside world, China remains as important as it is misunderstood. This course is designed to provide you with a road map to help understand the fascinating world of Chinese politics and the contemporary Chinese state. The course presumes no prior knowledge of China.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.290. Informational World Orders. 3 Credits.

We are on the cusp of a new era of contention in global politics. For decades, politicians and experts assumed that global information networks like the Internet had an inherently liberal bias, and would weaken autocratic regimes like China and Russia. Now, we are discovering that authoritarian countries can use technology too. The result is increased clashes over information technology between democratic countries and non-democratic countries, and among democratic countries too. All of them find themselves sharing the same global networks, and fighting over how these networks ought to work. In this course, we’ll debate the conflict between different informational world orders promoted by the US, Europe and China. We will examine when information technology helps strengthen democracy, and when it benefits autocracies instead. We’ll explore how information markets work, and work through the logic of political fights over artificial intelligence and surveillance.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.305. Global Energy and Environment: A Political Economy Approach. 3 Credits.

Global environmental deterioration is a major threat to human wellbeing. How do governments cooperate to address international environmental problems? Why is the global environmental regime structured as it is? Can international agreements and organizations solve global environmental problems? These are the primary questions addressed in this seminar. Among other topics, we cover research on global climate cooperation, the relationship between trade liberalization and the environment, North South negotiations on environmental agreements, environmental activism, and the problem of energy poverty in non-OECD countries. The seminar also provides students with an opportunity to conduct original research. In addition to weekly readings and discussion, the students write a final paper for the class based on empirical research on global environmental governance. Students also participate in a simulation of global climate negotiations under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.315. Politics of India. 3 Credits.

India is the world’s largest democracy and its second most populous country. This course introduces core issues in the study of modern Indian politics. The class is organized around the following topics: we trace India’s journey to Independence; the consolidation of democracy in the early decades; the relationship between the state and the economy; the state’s institutional architecture; how political parties and electoral campaigns operate; the threats posed by corruption, criminality and dynastic politics; the role of caste and religion in shaping politics; the political and economic consequences of economic liberalization; elections; and the recent rise of right-wing hindutva in the country. The focus is on building knowledge and understanding of the Indian case. But we will also consider to what extent India’s experience is reflective of more general theories of politics, and how they might change because of what India can teach us. Class sessions will be interactive, with plenty of opportunity for group discussion. The reading list is diverse and draws from political science, sociology, history, and anthropology.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.192.340. Refugees, Human Rights, and Sovereignty: Focus on Italy. 3 Credits.

Summer course in International Studies offered on the JHU Summer Program in Bologna.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.350. Capital and Climate: Italy in the Mirror of World History. 3 Credits.

Summer course offered on the JHU Summer Abroad Program in Bologna, Italy.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.192.360. Modern Warfare. 3 Credits.
This course examines modern warfare from the Second World War to the present. It takes a broad historical perspective. Strategic decision-making, technological change, experiences of the soldier, different concepts of warfare, and the effect of war on societies and the effect of societies upon war will be examined. Students will be introduced to critical texts and key primary source documents. The course will start with the Second World War. It will then go on to the nuclear revolution, the Korean War, and the early Cold War. From there, the subject matter will turn to examine people's war, focusing on Mao and the Chinese Civil War and then Vietnam. Next, the Arab-Israeli conflicts will be discussed before moving on to the strategic environment of the post-Cold War world and the long war against "terrorism" in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere. Finally, the course will look at recent technological change, clashes, and new players. Throughout, special attention will be paid to non-Western views and experience of war. The five main questions of the class will be: • How has the nature of warfare changed between 1939 and today? What is the nature of war today? What kind of war is possible today?• How has technology changed warfare?• What are the experiences of people, both soldiers and civilians, in war?• How has warfare affected societies and culture? How have societies and culture changed war?• How has warfare affected domestic and international political change?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.403. Qualitative Research. 3 Credits.
This class is designed to introduce students to qualitative methodology. Practically, students will gain first hand experience with qualitative research methods via research design, ethics review, in-depth interviewing, participant observation, and archival/primary source research. They will learn to deploy analytical techniques such as discourse analysis and process tracing. Students will also be asked to consider the merits of qualitative approaches more generally, and discuss the relative advantages of qualitative, experimental, and quantitative approaches. Questions that we will discuss include: What place should qualitative research have in a research design? Can qualitative research test hypotheses, or only generate them? Can qualitative research explain social phenomena, or only interpret them? What are the disadvantages and advantages of qualitative approaches compared to quantitative approaches? For what kinds of research questions are ethnographic techniques best suited? Is replicability possible for ethnographic field research? What criteria of evidence and analytical rigor apply on this terrain?

AS.192.404. Democracy, Autocracy and Economic Development: Korea, Indonesia, and Myanmar. 3 Credits.
East Asia's "miracle growth" has not gone hand in hand with a decisive move toward democracy. The course explores the reasons why democratization proceeds slowly in East Asia, and seems to be essentially decoupled from the region's fast-paced economic growth. The course is divided into three parts. Part I introduces the specifics of East Asia's economic development strategies as well as key concepts of democracy, authoritarianism and military rule and the tensions between these theories and the East Asian experience. Part II will focus on the economic and political development experiences of Korea, Indonesia and Myanmar in light of what discussed in Part I. Finally, Part III presents lessons emerging from the comparison of Korea's, Indonesia's and Myanmar's economic and political developmental trajectories.
Area: Humanities

AS.192.410. Kissinger Seminar on American Grand Strategy. 3 Credits.
Enrollment is at the discretion of the instructors and space in the course is limited. To apply, email a one-page resume, one-page personal statement on why you want to take the class including how it contributes to your professional interests, and a writing sample of less than ten pages to KissingerCenter@jhu.edu. This course is an initiative of the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS, meant to link SAIS with the undergraduate International Studies major at Homewood. It will expose exceptional undergraduate students to the study of grand strategy and the history of U.S. foreign policy. The bulk of the course will explore critical moments, themes, and people in the history of American grand strategy, from Washington's Farewell Address to the statecraft of Donald Trump. The seminar will be rooted in applied history—the study of the past as a way of better understanding the challenges and opportunities of the present and future. It will also be interdisciplinary, drawing on international relations theory and contemporary policy studies. The seminar will equip students to evaluate and contribute to intense debates about the future of American grand strategy. In addition to regular classroom meetings, the course will feature events at the SAIS campus in Washington, DC, including meetings with current and former policymakers. Transportation between Homewood campus and SAIS will be provided. These sessions will be followed by a dinner hosted by the Kissinger Center.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.415. The Battle of Ideas for the World Economy. 3 Credits.
This seminar is intended as a capstone intellectual experience for seniors and advanced juniors majoring in international studies. The course presumes some background in economics, comparative politics, and international relations. This course will hone your analytical and writing skills by exposing you to theoretically advanced forms of political economy argument in a "proposition-opposition" format. The seminar is organized around a series of thematic pairings, covering such political economy themes like free trade vs. protectionism, free market capitalism vs. socialism, democratic erosion vs. autocratic strength, hegemonic stability vs. US abdication of power, or whether the current populist wave has mainly economic or mostly cultural roots. Each segment will deal with a specific topic area. Our discussions will involve in-depth interrogations of the arguments of these 'pro-con' authors.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.192.420. Global Health Policy. 3 Credits.
The world's countries—low, middle and high-income alike—face numerous health challenges, many shaped by processes connected to globalization. We are presently amidst one of the greatest global health challenges of the past century—the COVID-19 pandemic. But there are others that persist, including combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, addressing non-communicable diseases, expanding health coverage and ensuring effective global governance for health. This course will examine these and other issues with an emphasis on facilitating your understanding and critical analysis of central issues in global health policy, and examining the role you can play to address health conditions—particularly those that affect disadvantaged populations.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.192.425. The Politics and International Relations of Iran. 3 Credits.
This course provides a basis for understanding the political, economic and security dimensions of Iran’s politics and the country’s role in World politics. It will discuss the Islamic Republic of Iran’s complicated political system and its international politics. A significant and geostrategically situated country, Iran is where Islamic ideology first attained power in form a major social revolution. The unfolding of that revolution has shaped the Middle East, and has posed one of the most important challenges to American foreign policy. As a revolutionary Islamic State Iran experienced a unique path to development and state-building. This course will introduce the students to the main ideological currents and political trends in Iranian politics. It will discuss the structure of its theocracy, and the working of its politics and economy. The course will also examine Iran’s foreign policy posture, with focus on U.S.-Iran relations, quest for nuclear power, and Iran’s regional policy.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.192.501. Internship- International Studies. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.192.591. Research- International Studies. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.192.598. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Approval Required.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.192.599. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Approval Required.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

Cross Listed Courses
Agora Institute

AS.196.300. Getting to Truth: How to Navigate Today's Media Jungle. 3 Credits.
Our democratic system depends on an informed public, but media today are polarized along ideological lines, undercut by economic and technological change and sometimes polluted with bogus stories written for profit or spin. In this course, taught by a veteran journalist, we will discuss the evolution of news, examine the current challenges and assess what citizens can do to get a fair understanding of what’s going on. We’ll use many concrete examples and students will have multiple writing assignments.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.196.306. Democracy by the Numbers. 3 Credits.
How is democracy doing around the world? This course will help students to answer this question and ask their own questions about political systems by examining a variety of quantitative measures of facets of democracy in the U.S. and internationally. We consider general indices as well as those that focus on specific normatively-appealing aspects—the absence of fraud in and broader integrity of the electoral process itself, the guarantees of fundamental human rights to all, governments’ effectiveness and accountability to the public, the equity of both representation and policy outcomes for minority groups and those historically disadvantaged or excluded, and the possibility and extent of civic engagement in non-government institutions. Wherever possible, the course will present evidence about the kinds of institutions and policies that seem to bolster democracy. Students can expect to gain hands-on experience with publicly-available subnational and national indicators of electoral and democratic quality.
Area: Humanities

AS.196.311. Democracy. 3 Credits.
Democracies around the world are under threat. This course introduces students to the philosophical foundations of democracy as well as the history of democratic revolutions, institutions, and principles. How can we defeat the most important contemporary challenges to democracy, including populism, authoritarianism and disinformation? And how can we revive the “democratic spirit” - in America and around the world?
Area: Humanities

AS.196.364. This is Not Propaganda. 3 Credits.
We live in an era of disinformation` mass persuasion and media manipulation run amok. More information was meant to improve democracy and undermine authoritarian regimes- instead the opposite seems to be happening. This course will take you from Russia to South Asia, Europe to the US, to analyze how our information environment has been transformed, why our old formulae for resisting manipulation are failing, and what needs to be done to create a model where deliberative democracy can flourish.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

Anthropology

AS.070.212. Minorites in South Asia. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce first-year students to the anthropology of modern South Asia from the lens of its varied minorities. We will interrogate ideas of nation, community, tradition, and belonging across the region to understand contemporary dilemmas of diversity, heterogeneity, and cultural citizenship.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.241. African Cities. 3 Credits.
Over the past two decades, African cities have absorbed rapid population increase without accompanying economic growth. Students will review the major challenges of this mode of urbanization and explore the vibrant ways residents have sought to meet them. Following anthropology’s commitment to lived experience, we will track these issues through the twists and turns of everyday life, and consider what they may say about urbanity more broadly in the 21st century. Topics include livelihood, the built environment, conflict and membership, and popular culture.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.070.267. Culture, Religion and Politics in Iran. 3 Credits.
This is an introductory course for those interested in gaining basic knowledge about contemporary Iran. The focus will be on culture and religion and the ways in which they become interwoven into different kinds of political stakes.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.295. Conflict and Security in a Global World. 3 Credits.
Students will be introduced to problems of global governance in the context of transnational conflicts, changing nature of war, new epidemics and pandemics, and the threats of planetary extinction. What are the ways security is imagined and what kinds of political passions are mobilized for security of people versus security of states.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.324. Latin America in a Fracturing World. 3 Credits.
This course examines the multiple and overlapping crises afflicting Latin America today through an ethnographic lens. Featuring conversations with authors of recent work on the region’s most pressing issues, we will explore the contours of knowledge production itself under conditions of precarity and violence. Discussions will include the retrenchment of borders, migration crises, the state management of life and death, the resurgence of authoritarianism, food insecurity, and resource conflicts.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.332. Reverberations Of The Korean War. 3 Credits.
This course will take the reverberations of the Korean War to examine the ways in which catastrophic violence is absorbed into and corrodes social life. Particular attention is paid to the transnational nature of conflict, how boundaries around peace and war are established, and how resistant and artistic work on the Korean War has critically engaged dominant frameworks of memory and trauma. Readings will draw from fiction, ethnography, historiography and will also include film. This course also draws from the public syllabus on Ending the Korean War.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.336. Ethnographic Perspectives on Brazil. 3 Credits.
This seminar offers an examination of Brazilian culture and politics through close readings of classic and contemporary ethnography. The course will track how anthropologists have approached the complexities and contradictions of Brazilian society. And, conversely, we will investigate how studies in Brazil have prompted challenges to and generated innovations in anthropological thought.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.342. Common Ground: Shared Resources, Social Economies. 3 Credits.
This course explores the idea and practice of the commons through various sites and objects (money, work, natural resources, urban land, knowledge and culture, etc.). We will examine the promise and limitations of local, grassroots social and economic forms of organization that propose alternatives to the market economy. Focusing on workers, consumers and housing cooperatives; community currencies; urban gardens; self-help associations; fair trade organizations and knowledge networks; we will enquire how these social economies propose autonomous forms of living together, and sharing resources, property and labor.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.359. Korean War. 3 Credits.
This course takes the Korean War as a site to both explore: 1) contemporary historical and political transformations in East Asia and globally and 2) the ways in which violence, catastrophic loss, and separation are woven into everyday life. It will explore the Korean War through film, fiction, historiography, and draw on comparative materials in anthropology.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.380. Slumworld: Life in informal Settlements. 3 Credits.
One quarter of the planet’s urban population lives today in slums, shantytowns, favelas, chawls, colonias and other forms of rudimentary settlements (according to UN Habitat). Despite their prevalence throughout the world, these places are still depicted as spaces of informality and abjection, rather than as sites of emergence of innovative and innovative, makeshift ways of producing the city. This course will combine ethnographic and geographical literature, as well as works of fiction and film to explore the lives of squatters and slum-dwellers in many regions of the world and examine in what way their practices, forms of dwelling, sociability, conflict and cooperation are constitutive of the urban experience.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.389. Precarity in South Korea through TV and Film:Aesthetics and everyday life. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores how precarity in South Korea gains expression in the medium of TV and film. In particular, this seminar will focus on how the moving image brings the viewer into the texture of everyday life. We will focus on the TV show Misaeng and include films such as Parasite and Burning. TV and film will be paired with readings on the transformations of intimate life in contemporary South Korea and comparative work on precarity.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.413. Reading Marx. 3 Credits.
This seminar offers a close reading of selected works of Karl Marx, along with supplemental secondary literature. We will explore how the central pillars of Marx’s thought—including dialectical materialism, critical political economy, and utopian socialist thought—shape his critical method in interrogating the logic of capital.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.425. Anthropology of Epidemics. 3 Credits.
In this course we will examine how forms of governance, politics, expert knowledge, and citizen actions are implicated in the emergence and management of epidemics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.465. Concepts: How to Read Hindu and Islamic Texts. 3 Credits.
What is the nature of anthropological concepts and what relations do they bear to concepts internal to a society? We invite students to think with key ideas from Hindu and Islamic traditions, asking if anthropological concepts are best seen as abstractions from the particular or as intertwined with ongoing lines of inquiry, say into the nature of the real and continual efforts to test it? Topics in ritual theory, grammar, aesthetics, translation, revelation, luminosity, figuration and the mythological among those to be considered.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive
Center for Africana Studies

AS.362.115. Introduction to Police and Prisons. 3 Credits.
This introductory course will examine policing and prisons in the United States and beyond, with a focus on racial inequality. It will consist of three parts. First, we will define key concepts in police and prison studies. Then, we will explore the contemporary state of prisons and policing in the United States and look at debates around the rise of "mass incarceration" and aggressive forms of policing in the final third of the 20th century. Third, we will explore policing and prison in other parts of the globe in the contemporary moment, highlighting similarities and differences from the U.S. case. What can studying the instruments of social control in other societies reveal about our own? Students will develop an understanding of major trends, keywords, and debates in the literature on policing and prisons, with particular reference to race and racism.
Area: Humanities

AS.362.160. Land, Labour and Environmental Rights and Struggles in Contemporary Africa. 3 Credits.
"Africa rising" has become an influential, albeit contested, narrative used by institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Economic Forum to describe the rapid economic growth in 21st century Africa. This rapid 'economic growth has been accompanied by another type of 'Africa Rising" – a mushrooming of social protest and popular uprisings across the continent. The course will introduce important theoretical perspectives, debates, and examples to equip students to critically examine contemporary social dynamics through the interconnected themes of land, labor and environmental rights and struggles that have gripped the African continent. What has given rise to these awakenings? Who are the actors involved in these actions? What are their demands and strategies? What lessons does it hold for social movement theory and development more broadly? The first section focuses on land reclamation movements, the new wave of 'land grabs' and responses from below. The second section presents the role of labour movements and its intersection with popular uprisings. The third section considers responses from communities and movements to the ecological destruction and climate change.
Area: Humanities

AS.362.207. Race and public policy in comparative perspective. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the relationship between racial inequality, racial politics, and policy-making in the western world, particularly as it concerns the fight for equality by people of African descent in the US, Canada, Britain, and France. It will cover historical and contemporary struggles over policy, beginning with the African-American civil rights movement, the ensuing War on Poverty and War on Drugs, and followed by contemporary debates over immigration, racial segregation, poverty and racial economic inequality across the four countries. We will take insights from theory and empirical research to study the role that racial constructs and politics play in policy designs, contests over power and resources, electoral representation, public opinion, social movements, and political change. Through case studies of policies aimed at racial inequality (e.g., affirmative action, police reform, urban revitalization), we will examine why and under what circumstances they arise, what form they take, and in what ways they alleviate or reproduce racial inequality. These questions will be considered in light of the broader impact of neoliberalism on normative ideas about policy, race, and inequality.
Area: Humanities

AS.362.315. Black Against Empire. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the confrontation of Black social movements with imperialism in the twentieth century. How, will we ask, have key Black internationalist thinkers conceptualized and defined diaspora, capitalism, imperialism, war, and the global? What have been the effects of war and repression, as well as economic growth and globalization, on Black internationalism? Readings may include texts by W.E.B. Du Bois, Angela Y. Davis, Frantz Fanon, Ashley Farmer, Claudia Jones, Robin D.G. Kelley, Claude McKay, Huey P. Newton, Walter Rodney, Malcolm X, etc. Students will complete a research paper on a topic of their own choosing related to Black internationalism in the twentieth century.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.362.412. Black Political Thought. 3 Credits.
This course examines how modern black political thought emerged through a series of critical engagements with Enlightenment ideas about universalism, progress, the authority of reason, and the foundations of citizenship. Course readings include texts by W. E. B. Du Bois, Angela Davis, James Boggs, Frantz Fanon, bell hooks, and others.
Writing Intensive

AS.362.413. African American Representations in the Western. 3 Credits.
The course will investigate American cinematic representations of African Americans, slavery (and more specifically its absence), the Civil War, and racial formation along the United States’ southwestern frontier in films produced from the 1950s through the contemporary period. The course closely examines American cinematic fantasies of the western frontier, frontier violence and the desire to escape or erase the tensions of race and slavery that have deeply permeated the American cultural consciousness, strongly shaping the production of American masculine ideals. The course will also take decided note of the national shift from liberal “Great Society Programs” of the 1960s to the conservative “neoliberal” social and cultural ideals in the 1980s and 1990s. Our purpose is to consider the organization and reformation of hegemonic power by way of the complex morality play the western film evokes, typically considering the interstitial geographies between blackness and whiteness, civilization and savagery, belonging and alienation, and metropolis and colonial outpost. We will privilege in our discussions the contested frontiers of racial domination. Films include “Buck and the Preacher,” “The Battle of Algiers,” “Sgt. Rutledge,” and “Django Unchained.”
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

Comparative Thought and Literature

AS.300.102. Great Minds. 3 Credits.
Introductory survey of foundational texts of modern philosophy, social and political thought, and literature. This semester will include works by Plato, René Descartes, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx, Virginia Woolf, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Iris Murdoch, Cora Diamond, Judith Butler, Kwame A. Appiah, Jacques Derrida, and others. The course is taught in lectures and in seminar discussions.
Area: Humanities

AS.300.237. Freshman Seminar: Tolstoy's War and Peace. 3 Credits.
Leo Tolstoy’s monumental novel War and Peace, which the author Henry James called “a loose baggy monster,” is a sui generis work of modern literature that offered a response and challenge to the European Realist novel and founded a Russian national myth. We will read the novel in translation, alongside its adaptations into opera, film, and Broadway musical.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive
**AS.300.311. Introduction to Intellectual History. 3 Credits.**

This course offers a conceptual and historical introduction to Intellectual History. What makes the "history of ideas" different from the history of other objects? What, if anything, distinguishes the history of ideas from the history of philosophy? What is it exactly that we call "ideas"? In what sense do they have a history? These are examples of the kind of questions addressed in the course.

Area: Humanities

**AS.300.313. Maintaining Social Order: Elements of Conservative Political Philosophy and its Critics. 3 Credits.**

The seminar will discuss (primarily German) political philosophy of a broadly "conservative" orientation in relation to three key periods of social and political upheaval: the Reformation, the French Revolution, and the crisis of parliamentary democracy in the Weimar Republic. Readings from these periods of European history will be approached under the common heading of "conservatism" for their shared preoccupation with how traditional sources of social unity are to be replaced following times of dramatic change and conflict. We will explore why different political crises have always led philosophers to reiterate the fundamental question of what binds political communities together. This preoccupation distinguishes the philosophical currents of conservative thought surveyed in this course from other, more familiar conservatism with purely reactionary agendas that reassert the superiority of a particular religion, culture, or ethnic group, the role of elites, or the dismantling of the state in favor of free market forces. Each section on conservative thought will conclude with the most relevant critiques from Leftist political opponents. Readings include Hobbes, Burke, de Maistre, Herder, Hegel, Nietzsche, Schmitt, Kant, Marx, and Marcuse.

Area: Humanities

**Writing Intensive**

**AS.300.315. Philosophical Conceptions of the Infinite. 3 Credits.**

What is the infinite? Can we comprehend it? Can we experience it? In this course we will explore various ways in which philosophers in the western tradition have answered questions such as these. In the first half of the semester, we will examine theoretical treatments of the infinite that inform how we understand the fabric of our world, from the ordinary objects around us to more sublime concepts of God, space, time, and mathematics. In the second half, we will turn to arguments in aesthetics and ethics that reveal an interplay between infinity and finitude occurring before our very eyes. Philosophers we will cover include Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Kant, Hegel, Russell, Levinas, and Arendt. Throughout, we will ask such fundamental questions as: what is the starting point of philosophy? what is its methodology? what can it achieve in terms of knowledge? and in terms of practice?

Area: Humanities

**AS.300.317. The Russian Novel. 3 Credits.**

This course introduces students to the nineteenth century Russian novel and considers its lasting impact on world culture. We will read classic masterpieces of the psychological and philosophical novel, and their experimental forerunners. Short lectures on historical and cultural context and on methods of literary analysis will be combined with intensive group discussion. Novels include Anna Karenina, Crime and Punishment, Eugene Onegin, Dead Souls, and Hero of our Time.

Area: Humanities

**Writing Intensive**

**AS.300.322. Lu Xun And His Times: China's Long 20th Century And Beyond. 3 Credits.**

The "founding father of modern Chinese literature," Lu Xun (1881-1936) saw himself as a contemporary of writers like Gogol, Ibsen, and Nietzsche in creating his seminal short stories and essays, and likewise, he has been seen by numerous Chinese, Sinophone, and East Asian writers as their contemporary since his lifetime until today. In this course, we will survey Lu Xun's canonical works and their legacies through a comparative approach. What echoes do Lu Xun's works have with the European and Russian texts he engaged with? Why did his works manage to mark a "new origin" of Chinese literature? How were his works repeated, adapted, and appropriated by Chinese writers from the Republican period through the Maoist era to the post-socialist present, even during the Covid-19 pandemic? How do we assess his cross-cultural reception? Are his times obsolete now that China is on the rise? Or, have his times come yet? Through our comparative survey, Lu Xun's works and their afterlives will offer us a window onto China's long twentieth century and beyond in a transnational context. All materials are provided in English translation.

Area: Humanities

**AS.300.324. Cinema of the 1930s: Communist and Capitalist Fantasies. 3 Credits.**

Comedy and musical comedy film flourished in the USA during the Great Depression as well as in the USSR during the Stalinist Great Terror. This course will compare films of the era in a variety of genres (musical, epic, Western, drama), examining the intersections between politics and aesthetics as well as the lasting implications of the films themselves in light of theoretical works on film as a medium, ethics and gender.

Area: Humanities

**Area: Humanities**

**AS.300.328. Contemporary Sinophone Literature and Film. 3 Credits.**

A survey of contemporary literature and film from the peripheries of the Chinese-speaking world, with a special focus on Hong Kong, Taiwan, and overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, the Americas, and Europe. We will not only examine literary and filmic works in the contexts of the layered histories and contested politics of these locations, but will also reexamine, in light of those works, critical concepts in literary and cultural studies including, but not limited to, form, ideology, hegemony, identity, history, agency, translation, and (post)colonialism. All readings are in English; all films subtitled in English.

Area: Humanities

**AS.300.330. Modern East Asian Literatures Across Boundaries. 3 Credits.**

Modern literature in East Asia is as much defined by creation of national boundaries as by their transgressions, negotiations, and reimaginations. This course examines literature originally written in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean in light of contemporary understandings of political, social, and cultural boundary demarcation and crossings. How do experiences of border-crossing create and/or alter literary forms? How, in turn, does literature inscribe, displace, and/or dismantle boundaries? Our readings will include, but not limited to, writings by intra- and trans-regional travelers, exiles, migrants, and settlers; stories from and on contested borderlands and islands (e.g. Manchuria, Okinawa, Jeju); and works and translations by bilingual authors. All readings are provided in English translation.

Area: Humanities
AS.300.331. The Authoritative Image: Russian Cinema from Stalin to Putin. 3 Credits.
Vladimir Putin's charismatic authority has a deep history in Russian culture. We'll investigate that history through cinema, which Lenin called “the most important of the arts.” While Soviet cinema often served as immersive propaganda, directors also found ways to question authority and power. Films to be screened range from Sergei Eisenstein’s Ivan the Terrible (1944) to the 2013 documentary Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer. This course will combine study of Russian and Soviet culture from the end of World War II to the present with study of film history, style, and technique.
Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.300.332. From Chekhov to Chernobyl: Russian Literature of Environmental Catastrophe. 3 Credits.
Environmental degradation and disaster offer a steady backdrop to the 20th century in Russia and the Soviet Union. While the Soviet regime promised mastery over the environment and Russian culture valorized the harmonization of humans with the natural world, environmental catastrophe proved the folly of those dreams. We will read works by authors who have grappled with this ongoing catastrophe and its implications for relations between human beings and the world. Texts range from short stories and novellas to modernist experimental fiction and documentary prose. We will also engage with materials in special collections and screen selected films. Authors include: Chekhov, Bulgakov, Platonov, Solzhenitsyn, Rasputin, Petrushevskaya, and the Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich.
Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.300.341. Transwar Japanese and Japanophone Literatures. 3 Credits.
A survey of Japanese and Japanese-language literatures produced in Japan and its (former) colonies during the “transwar” period, or the several years before and after the end of WWII. This periodization enables us to take into account the shifting boundaries, sovereignties, and identities amid the intensification of Japanese imperialism and in the aftermath of its eventual demise. We aim to pay particular attention to voices marginalized in this political watershed, such as those of Japanese-language writers from colonial Korea and Taiwan, intra-imperial migrants, and radical critics of Japan's “postwar” regime. Underlying our investigation is the question of whether literature can be an agent of justice when politics fails to deliver it. We will introduce secondary readings by Adorno, Arendt, Levinas, Derrida, and Scarry, among others, to help us interrogate this question. All readings are in English.
Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.300.343. The Cinema of Revolution. 3 Credits.
This course examines global political revolutions through cinema and the ways in which cinema helped to make political revolutions. Early cinema was intimately intertwined with the Russian revolution, and Russian revolutionary cinema had a profound impact on the ways in which media was used for revolutionary purposes through the 20th century and around the world. Students will be introduced to films from a number of different countries, and the history and context of their production and reception. They will also learn methods of film analysis and produce their own video essay.
Area: Humanities

AS.300.346. Russian Avant-Garde Cinema. 3 Credits.
Russian cinema was born out of the intense artistic experimentation of the fin-de-siècle avant-garde and developed in a climate of dramatic political and cultural change in the twenties and thirties. While subject to draconian censorship in the Soviet period, it nonetheless engaged in active dialogue with the film industries of Western Europe and America and had a lasting impact on world cinema. This course examines the extraordinary flourishing of avant-garde cinema in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 30s including films by Eisenstein, Vertov, Pudovkin, and Dovzhenko, their theoretical writings, and their far-reaching influence on film and film theory. All readings in English, films subtitled in English.
Area: Humanities

Writing Intensive

AS.300.410. China in Imagination. 3 Credits.
What is China? This question has gained new relevance amid the nation’s recent rise as a global power. We survey how China was imagined, represented, and conceptualized in literature, film, and philosophical writings from mainland China, overseas Chinese communities, East Asia, and the West from the late nineteenth century to the present. Through exploring this complex history, we aim to understand China and the contemporary world in a diversified, historically self-reflective way. Topics of discussion include, but not limited to, representation, identity, form, allegory, exile, diaspora, modernism, translation, world history, and universality. All readings are in English; all films subtitled in English.
Area: Humanities

Earth Planetary Sciences

AS.271.360. Climate Change: Science & Policy. 3 Credits.
Prereq: 270.103 or permission of instructor. This course will investigate the policy and scientific debate over global warming. It will review the current state of scientific knowledge about climate change, examine the potential impacts and implications of climate change, explore our options for responding to climate change, and discuss the present political debate over global warming.
Area: Natural Sciences

AS.271.401. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credits.
Environmental Ethics is a philosophical discipline that examines the moral relationship between humans and the natural environment. For individuals and societies, it can help structure our experience of nature, environmental problems, human-environmental relations, and ecological awareness. Beginning with a comprehensive analysis of their own values, students will explore complex ethical questions, philosophical paradigms and real-life case studies through readings, films and seminar discussions. Traditional ethical theories, including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics will be examined and applied. Environmental moral worldviews, ranging from anthropocentric to ecocentric perspectives, will be critically evaluated. Organized debates will help students strengthen their ability to deconstruct and assess ethical arguments and to communicate viewpoints rooted in ethical principles. Students will apply ethical reasoning skills to an examination of contemporary environmental issues including, among others, biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, climate change, and overpopulation. Students will also develop, defend and apply their own personal environmental ethical framework. A basic understanding of modern environmental history and contemporary environmental issues is required. Prior experience with philosophy and ethics is not required.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive
AS.271.402. Water, Energy, and Food. 3 Credits.
The water, energy and food (WEF) nexus is a topic of growing interest in the research and policy communities. This course will survey WEF concepts and principles, introduce tools of analysis, and engage students in case studies of critical WEF issues in the United States and internationally.

AS.271.403. Environmental Policymaking and Policy Analysis. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a broad introduction to US environmental policymaking and policy analysis. Included are a historical perspective as well as an analysis of future policymaking strategies. Students examine the political and legal framework, become familiar with precedent-setting statutes such as NEPA, RCRA, and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and study models for environmental policy analysis. Cost benefit studies, the limits of science in policymaking, and the impact of environmental policies on society are important aspects of this course. A comparison of national and international policymaking is designed to provide students with the proper perspective. This course is taught in conjunction with an identical graduate course. All students will be expected to perform at a graduate level.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.271.405. Energy and Politics. 3 Credits.
In the 21st century, energy supply and consumption are critical subjects for international politics, social development, and the future of the environment. Policies that determine energy supply and consumption come to being in complex institutional, national, and international contexts. This course will equip students with the necessary background to analyze energy policy issues and contribute to them in a meaningful manner. It also involves examination of wide-ranging debates over the switch to renewables, the use of unconventional energy sources, and the environmental consequences of energy choices.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

East Asian Studies
AS.310.106. Introduction to Korean History and Culture. 3 Credits.
This course offers a comprehensive overview of Korean history and culture from ancient times to the modern era. Through primary, secondary, and audio-visual sources, students will become familiar not only with the overall contours of the entirety of Korean history, but also with its cultural and religious legacy. The course combines lectures and class discussions.
Area: Humanities

AS.310.222. The Religions of Korea. 3 Credits.
This course offers an overview of the religions of Korea, both indigenous and foreign, old and new. Attention will be paid to the history of these religions, their impact on society, as well as their teachings and objectives. Students will engage with various forms of secondary as well as primary sources including scriptures, sermons, and religious tracts.
Area: Humanities

AS.310.230. Chinese Politics and Society. 3 Credits.
This introductory course will familiarize students with the major dynamics of political and social change in contemporary China since 1949. The course will be divided chronologically into four main topics: 1. The contested processes of nation-state making in modern China before 1949; 2. The making of the socialist system during the Mao Years and its dismantling since 1978; 3. The Reform Era transformation to a market economy with Chinese characteristics; 4. The dynamic relationships among the state, market and society since the new millennium. Students will explore how scholars have explained major political and social changes with reference to individual and collective rationalities, specific organizational and institutional arrangements, and specific strategic and cultural mechanisms of Chinese political and social habits.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.302. China, Human Rights, and U.S. Policy Responses. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores select human rights issues in China (e.g., human rights impacts of the management of COVID-19, the Hong Kong protests, mass detentions/forced labor in Xinjiang province) and the extraterritorial reach of China's human rights challenges. As a practice and policy-oriented course, we will also investigate different responses and actions taken by the U.S. government and Congress, including hearings, legislation, reports, statements, etc. Class assignments include advocacy for Chinese prisoners of conscience (each student will "adopt" one currently detained PoC), and written work that mirrors real-world writing. We'll also have several human rights advocates and experts visit the class to share their experiences and insights. This seminar explores select human rights issues in China (e.g., human rights impacts of the management of COVID-19, the Hong Kong protests, mass detentions/forced labor in Xinjiang province) and the extraterritorial reach of China's human rights challenges. As a practice and policy-oriented course, we will also investigate different responses and actions taken by the U.S. government and Congress, including hearings, legislation, reports, statements, etc. Class assignments include advocacy for Chinese prisoners of conscience (each student will "adopt" one currently detained PoC), and written work that mirrors real-world writing. We'll also have several human rights advocates and experts visit the class to share their experiences and insights.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course aims to inspire students to explore the impacts, meanings, and explanations of social transformation in contemporary China, via the lens of documentary photography. The photographic images of selective topics will include the products of photojournalism and documentary photography, and several documentary films, by both Chinese and non-Chinese photographers. While one picture is worth thousand words, one picture may also provoke countless interpretations. Students are strongly encouraged to read broadly about different aspects of social transformations in contemporary China, and to select and curate their own subjects of photo images. The spirit of comparative study of documentary photography of China and other parts of world will be strongly encouraged. Active class participation is imperative. A small exhibition on the campus will be organized by the Spring semester. The course is designed for upper division undergraduates. Cross-listed with Sociology and International Studies (CP).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.310.305. Southeast Asia and US Security Strategy. 3 Credits.
This survey course is designed to introduce students to Southeast Asia – the ten member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus Australia and New Zealand. Southeast Asia is an integral part of the broader region of East Asia and a geographic bridge to the Indian subcontinent (South Asia). Southeast Asia has been one of the great success stories in the saga of modernization and development of post-colonial Afro-Asia over the last six decades. Its resulting economic importance is matched by its strategic significance given the presence of imbedded jihadist networks and the emergence of China as a regional great power and aspirant superpower. Nevertheless, the region has been largely overlooked by senior foreign policy and defense officials in Washington. This course will equip students to fill that void by examining the region from the perspective of national security strategy – broadly understood in its multiple dimensions. Students will be challenged to formulate some element of a viable U.S. national security strategy for the region.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.320. Sociology of Urban China. 3 Credits.
Urban China has gone through two major social transformations since 1949: the embrace of a central planning socialist system between early 1950s and late 70s, and the embrace of neo-liberal market economy in the so-call “socialism with Chinese characteristics” since 1980. While the political regime remains the same over time, many profound changes have occurred in economic life, social life, cultural life, spiritual life and civil life. What really happened in the social transformation of urban China? What would explain those changes? How did people in different walk of life deal with those huge and deep social transformation? To address these concerns, we will exam a list of issues. Topics includes changes in population and demographic characteristics, employment structure and job market, workplace and residential communities, income and wealth distributions, segregation impacts of urban household registration systems, urban consumption patterns, courting cultures and dressing codes, spiritual practices, and social mobility and social stratifications. In the realm of public policies, we will pay special attentions to the issues of transportation, housing, medical service, public education, social insurance, and environmental protection. We will also study the characteristics of contentious politics and how social conflicts of power, interest, justice, cultural and belief were processed in urban China.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.322. Korean History Through Film and Literature. 3 Credits.
In this course, students will engage with select topics in Korean history from premodern and modern times and examine how the past has been represented through various forms of film and literature. This will be combined with readings of academic articles to allow students to gauge the distance between scholarship and cultural expressions of history. Through this, students will be introduced to the highly contested and often polarizing nature of Korean history and the competition surrounding historical memory. Prior coursework in East Asian Studies strongly recommended.
Area: Humanities Writing Intensive

AS.310.323. The History and Culture of North Korea. 3 Credits.
This course investigates the history and culture of North Korea. In doing so, the class seeks to address topics not often discussed in the media and eschew a focus on international relations and security issues. Course material include conventional scholarship, political tracts, biographies, movies, as well as works of fiction. For the final project, students will write a research paper on a topic of their choice.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.328. Global Health and Human Rights: COVID-19 Case Studies from Asia. 3 Credits.
Using the lens of international human rights, humanitarian law, and the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this seminar explores a range of Covid-19 response and prevention issues and best practices focusing on case studies, including China, Japan, Taiwan, India, and South Korea, among others. We will examine the human rights-based guidance from the UN for Covid-19 response and prevention as well as the geopolitics of PPE and vaccine distribution (i.e., “mask” and vaccine diplomacy). The course will explore approaches to the balancing of rights and duties, including freedom of movement, freedoms of association and assembly, individuals’ right to health, duties to others, rights to privacy, freedom of expression, disinformation and governments’ emergency powers (and their limits) to protect public health. Inequities and discrimination exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic will also be discussed. Several health and human rights advocates and experts will visit the class to share their experiences and insights.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.340. Development and Social Change in Rural China. 3 Credits.
This course will survey the major issues of development and social change in rural China since 1950s. These issues will be addressed in chronological order. They include land ownership and land grabbing, organization of rural economic, political, and social life, rural elections and village governance, development strategies, urban-rural relationship in resource allocation, rural modernization strategies in regard to irrigation, clean drinking water, electricity supply, hard paved road, education and rural medical service, women’s rights and family life, rural consumption, and etc. This course will prepare students, both empirically and analytically, to understand what happened in rural China from 1949 to the present, and how we can engage in policy and theoretical discussions based on what we learn.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.402. Labor Politics in China. 3 Credits.
This course explores the transformation of labor relations in China over the past century. It will cover the origins of the labor movement, the changes brought about by the 1949 Revolution, the industrial battles of the Cultural Revolution, the traumatic restructuring of state-owned enterprises over the past two decades, the rise of private enterprise and export-oriented industry, the conditions faced by migrant workers today, and recent developments in industrial relations and labor conflict. The course is designed for upper division undergraduates and graduate students. Cross-listed with Sociology and International Studies (CP).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive
AS.180.217. Game Theory in Social Sciences. 3 Credits.
Game Theory is the study of multiple person decision problems in which the well-being of a decision maker depends not only on his own actions but also on those of others. Such problems arise frequently in economics, political science, business, military science and many other areas. In this course, we will learn how to model different social situations as games and how to use solution concepts to understand players' behavior. We will consider various examples from different fields and will play several games in class. The emphasis of the class is on the conceptual analysis and applications and we will keep the level of mathematical technicalities at the minimum -- high school algebra and one term of calculus will be sufficient. Students who took AS.180.117 are not eligible to take AS.180.217.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not have previously taken AS.180.117.; AS.180.102 or instructor permission
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.221. The Informal Economy: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why We Care About It. 3 Credits.
The informal economy is one of the most complex economic and political phenomena of our time. It exists in rich and poor countries alike, currently employs almost half of the world's workers, about 1.8 billion people, and totals to economic activity of around $10 trillion. If the informal economy were an independent nation, it would be the second-largest economy in the world, after the United States and before China. In today's globalizing environment, are informal economies a poverty trap or an engine of growth? Do they stimulate entrepreneurship and popular empowerment, or promote exploitation? How does an improved understanding of the size and organization of informal economies affect service provision, social policy or taxation? What are the implications of the informal economy for social cohesion and political politics? The proposed course will address these (as well as other) questions related to the informal economy to offer students an understanding of such complex phenomenon from a variety of perspectives. The course will comprise three parts. Part 1 will explore the complexities of the informal economy, and the effects of informality on policies of inclusive growth. Part 2 will draw on empirical evidence and comparative case studies to examine informal economies in various regions, including Africa, East Asia, North and South America, and Europe, highlighting variations in activities, relations with the state, global integration and economic outcomes. Finally, Part 3 will discuss the ongoing economic policy shift from punitive measures to accepting informality as a virtual space through which citizens flow from job-seeker to compliant entrepreneurs.

Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.223. Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. 3 Credits.
Many sub-Saharan African countries are among the least developed countries in the world. In this course, we explore the economic development experiences of African countries, with more focus on sub-Saharan Africa. The course starts with a historical perspective, delves into development strategies, and examines evidence on successes and failures of some case study countries. We conclude by analyzing the many challenges that these countries continue to face in their development process. Elements of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics are required prerequisites. There would be group presentations on assigned readings.

Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.180.228. Economic Development. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive survey of economic behavior by households, farms and firms in poor countries and the role of and for governments. Discussions include measurement of income levels, economy-wide equilibrium, sources of growth, agriculture and industry, international trade and investment, savings, population, fertility, education, health, income distribution and public finances. Applies economic theory rigorously to interpret and evaluate the economic experience of poor countries. Diagnostic test on Elements of Economics is required in the second week. Grading based on 3 exams and one paper.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.180.229. Economics of Health and Education in South Asia. 3 Credits.
Human capital is an important factor of economic growth in South Asian economies, along with physical capital and technology. Addressing health and education challenges has implications for improving a country’s human capital formation and income growth. In this course, we look at past and present health and educational outcomes in South Asian Countries. We discuss the gaps in access to education and health care services, the quality of education and health care services as well as the impacts on the productivity of the labor force. We also empirically analyze the link between economic growth and human capital development. Furthermore, we focus on some challenges and future policy options for economies in South Asia.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.233. Economics of Transition and Institutional Change. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the comparative analysis of institutions of existing capitalist systems and to the historical evolution of those institutions. By comparing the economic systems of different nations, we will try to reveal the institutional setups that either contribute or hinder economic performance. We will also examine the process of countries transforming their economies and investigate the factors that determine the differences in reforms’ outcomes between countries.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.180.238. Rethinking Economics After the Great Recession. 3 Credits.
The financial crisis that began in the United States in 2007 threw virtually the entire world into recession. This class will look at the causes of the crisis and at how it unfolded. It will look into the conventional wisdom of economists, circa 2006, and why that wisdom proved to be so wrong. It will examine the financial innovations that contributed to the crisis, at the reasons financial regulators were blindsided, and at the reforms enacted after the crisis.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.180.240. JHU Bologna: History of Banking. 3 Credits.
Economics course offered on the JHU Summer Program in Bologna. Permission required. Must be taken for a letter grade. Open to students on the JHU/Bologna summer program only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.241. International Trade. 3 Credits.
Theory of comparative advantage and the international division of labor: the determinants and pattern of trade, factor price equalization, factor mobility, gains from trade and distribution of income, and theory and practice or tariffs and other trade restrictions. Recommended Course Background: AS.180.101.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.242. International Monetary Economics. 3 Credits.
This course presents International Monetary Economics theory and applies it towards gaining an understanding of recent events and current policy issues. The theory presented in this course covers a broad range of topics including exchange rate determination, monetary and fiscal policy in an open economy, balance of payments crisis, the choice of exchange rate, and international debt. The insights provided by these theoretical frameworks will enable us to discuss topics such as the global financial crisis, global financial imbalances, the Chinese exchange rate regime, and proposed changes in the international financial architecture.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.246. Environmental Economics. 3 Credits.
This course presents a broad overview of the key issues in modern environmental economics with a focus on understanding and solving urban pollution challenges in developed and developing nations. This course explores how cities and nations can achieve the "win-win" of economic growth and reduced urban pollution. Special attention is paid to the incentives of households, firms and governments in reducing the production of pollution. The course examines a number of pollution challenges including; air, water, noise, garbage and the global challenge of climate change.
Area: Humanities

AS.180.261. Monetary Analysis. 3 Credits.
This course analyzes the financial and monetary system of the U.S. economy and the design and implementation of U.S. monetary policy. Among other topics, we will examine the role of banks in the economy, the term structure of interest rates, the stock market, the supply of money, the role of the Federal Reserve in the economy, the objectives of monetary policy in the United States and current monetary policy practice.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.266. Financial Markets and Institutions. 3 Credits.
Understanding design and functioning of financial markets and institutions, connecting theoretical foundations and real-world applications and cases. Basic principles of asymmetric information problems, management of risk. Money, bond, and equity markets; investment banking, security brokers, and venture capital firms; structure, competition, and regulation of commercial banks. Importance of electronic technology on financial systems.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.180.289. Economics Of Health. 3 Credits.
Application of economic concepts and analysis to the health services system. Review of empirical studies of demand for health services, behavior of providers, and relationship of health services to population health levels. Discussion of current policy issues relating to financing and resource allocation.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.102
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.180.303. Topics in International Macroeconomics and Finance. 3 Credits.
The course will review selected topics in international macroeconomics and finance. The topics for the Fall of 2019 include: financial globalization; international portfolio diversification; capital account liberalization and the choice of the exchange rate regime in emerging markets; the global financial safety net; macroeconomic adjustment in the euro area.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.101 AND AS.180.102 AND AS.180.302
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.338. Political Economy and Development. 3 Credits.
Good governance is associated with desirable outcomes across countries and societies: higher life satisfaction, greater income per capita, lower child mortality, longer life expectancy, less disease, etc. But these statistical associations in the data are not sufficient to establish either that good governance truly causes such societal outcomes, or what types of policies produce them. This course asks: What are the determinants of good governance? Is good governance "good" beyond its intrinsic desirability? If so, how? We use a data-driven approach, focusing on quantitative empirical methods and their applications to policy. The goal is to develop skills to be savvy consumers, as well as producers, of policy-relevant evidence related to issues of governance, in rich and poor countries alike. Topics will include: democracy, corruption, conflict, culture, mass media, quotas, and foreign aid.
Prerequisite(s): (AS.180.301 OR AS.180.401) AND AS.180.334
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.349. Economics of Race, Gender and Culture. 3 Credits.
Economics is a quantitative social science studying general human behavior. This course will overview recent contributions in the economics of race, gender, and culture, and will introduce how economists study controversial issues on these topics. Students majoring in other social science disciplines are welcome to take this course. Another goal of this course is to make students become familiar with causal analysis tools popular in economics research. It is strongly recommended to take at least one econometrics course before taking this one, or at least taking it in the same semester.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.351. Labor Economics. 3 Credits.
The course discusses various issues in labor markets from the perspective of economic theory. We first study the major forces at work that shape labor market behavior; firms’ labor demand and workers’ labor supply. Then we discuss the equilibrium behavior of employment and wages. Using these tools, we also cover various applied topics in labor economics, such as minimum wage regulations, male-female wage differentials, human capital investment, worker mobility, and unemployment.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.301 OR AS.180.401
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.355. Economics of Poverty/Inequality. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the economics of poverty and inequality. It covers the measurement of poverty and inequality, facts and trends over time, the causes of poverty and inequality with a focus on those related to earnings and the labor market, and public policy toward poverty and inequality, covering both taxation and government expenditure and programs. By the nature of the material, the course is fairly statistical and quantitative. Students should have an intermediate understanding of microeconomic concepts. Basic knowledge of regression analysis is also helpful.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.301
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.180.361. Rich Countries, Poor Countries. 3 Credits.
Why are some countries rich while some other countries poor? Why does a country's income per person generally grow over time? We try to analyze these questions using the theoretical and empirical growth literature. We will study seminal growth models, and also try to explain cross-country income differences in terms of factors like geography, institutions and global integration. Knowledge of regression analysis (including instrumental variables estimation) is required.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.302 AND (AS.180.334 OR AS.180.434)
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.389. Social Policy Implications of Behavioral Economics. 3 Credits.
Economists increasingly incorporate insights from psychology into models of rational decision-making. Known as "behavioral economics", this line of research considers how, for example, emotions, rules-of-thumb, biased beliefs and time-inconsistent preferences influence how we make choices. Behavioral economics increasingly pervades policy discussions on topics as diverse as: obesity, the role of media, subprime mortgages and voting patterns. Behavioral models are certainly novel, but do they help us to design superior social policies? With the goal of preparing students to address this question, this course (1) provides a thorough overview of the main contributions of behavioral economics, highlighting departures from more traditional economic models and (2) emphasizes how behavioral economic models might (or might not) improve how we think about social policy.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.301 OR AS.180.401;AS.180.334 OR AS.180.434 can be taken concurrently.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.180.390. Health Economics & Developing Countries. 3 Credits.
Benefits of good health and its costs. Health demand and supply in poor countries. Welfare economics of Public Health. This is a writing seminar. There are some lectures on how to write a paper and on the substance of the economics of international health but the focus and only assignment is a 40-page paper by each student under the supervision of the instructor.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.301 or AS.180.401;Students may not take AS.180.390 if they took AS.180.391.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.180.391. Economics of China. 3 Credits.
Discussion of the economic experience of Post-War China, primarily emphasizing topics rather than historical narrative: agriculture, industry including corporate governance and public enterprises, international trade, population, migration, education, health, public finances among other topics. This course is writing intensive and the only assignment for the course is a 40 page paper on some aspect of the Chinese economy to be done under the close supervision of the instructor. The course is not primarily a lecture course, although there will be some lectures on how to do a paper and on the substance of the Chinese economic experience.
Prerequisite(s): AS.180.301 OR AS.180.401; Students may not take AS.180.390 if they took AS.180.391.
Writing Intensive

AS.100.108. Making America: Black Freedom Struggles to 1896. 3 Credits.
From slave revolts on the West African coast to national conventions and civil war, people of African descent have defined freedom and struggle in terms of kinship, diasporic connection, and fighting antiblack violence. This course explores the arc of that history and its role in the making of America.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.115. Modern Latin America. 3 Credits.
Latin American history since 1800 taking on big questions of world history: the emergence of republics, migration voluntary and involuntary, development and environmental change, and fights for civil rights and liberties.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.123. Introduction to African History: Diversity, Mobility, Innovation. 3 Credits.
Introduction to three major themes in African history, from the precolonial era to the present.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.129. Introduction to Modern Jewish History. 3 Credits.
Jewish history 1750-present in Europe, the Near East, the US, Israel; the challenges of modernity and new forms of Jewish life and conflict from Enlightenment and emancipation, Hasidism, Reform and Orthodox Judaism to capitalism and socialism; empire, nationalism and Zionism; the Holocaust. Extensive attention to US Jewry and State of Israel.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.154. Modern Mexico from the Alamo to El Chapo. 3 Credits.
In this course we will explore what it means to think and write across multiple cultures in the contemporary world. What do we gain and/or lose when we think and write across cultural boundaries? How do knowledge and experience of two or more cultures help us think and act critically, creatively, and ethically? What does plurality of cultures mean to universal discourses such as science and technology? How can cultural differences help or hamper our efforts to tackle global problems like climate change? These are some of the guiding questions that we will investigate together in this course by examining novels, essays, autobiographies, travelogues, philosophical writings, and films that engage with multiplicity of cultures between East Asia – especially China, Japan, and Korea – and the West as well as within East Asia.
Area: Humanities

AS.100.117. History of Brazil. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities

AS.100.104. Modern Europe and the Wider World. 3 Credits.
The Modern European World familiarizes students with key moments, ideas, communities, individuals, and movements which have formed European History since the Revolutionary era.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.107. FYS: Thinking and Writing Across Cultures - East Asia and the West. 3 Credits.
In this First-Year Seminar, we will explore what it means to think and write across multiple cultures in the contemporary world. What do we gain and/or lose when we think and write across cultural boundaries? How do knowledge and experience of two or more cultures help us think and act critically, creatively, and ethically? What does plurality of cultures mean to universal discourses such as science and technology? How can cultural differences help or hamper our efforts to tackle global problems like climate change? These are some of the guiding questions that we will investigate together in this course by examining novels, essays, autobiographies, travelogues, philosophical writings, and films that engage with multiplicity of cultures between East Asia – especially China, Japan, and Korea – and the West as well as within East Asia.
Area: Humanities

History
AS.100.102. The Medieval World. 3 Credits.
This course will explore selected topics in the political, economic, social, and intellectual history of Western Europe in the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the thirteenth century. Special emphasis will be given to understanding the ways in which medieval society functioned as a pioneer civilization, compelled to reorganize itself after the almost total collapse of the ancient world, and to the interplay between material and cultural forces in the processes of social organization.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.103. Early Modern Europe & the Wider World. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the history of Europe and its interactions with Africa, the Americas, and Asia during the early modern period (c. 1400-1800). Topics include: the Renaissance, the Reformation, International Relations and Warfare, Colonialism, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Revolutions.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.100.170. Chinese Cultural Revolution. 3 Credits.
The Cultural Revolution was Mao Zedong’s last attempt to transform Chinese society spiritually and structurally. The events of this period were marked by social upheaval, personal vendettas, violence, massive youth movements, and extreme ideological pressure. This course will explore the Cultural Revolution from a variety of perspectives, focusing on the relationship between events in China from 1966-1976, and their interpretation in China and the West during the Cultural Revolution decade and since. (Previously offered as AS.100.219 and AS.100.236. )
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.180. Themes and Concepts in Jewish History. 3 Credits.
The course will introduce the student to the main themes and debates in Jewish historiography.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.216. Reformation and Counter Reformation Europe. 3 Credits.
This course explores the series of religious and political conflicts that make up what are known now as the Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Europe.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.224. Slavery in the Americas and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1450-1890. 3 Credits.
This course explores the origins, organization and abolition of the institution of Slavery in the Americas, the Transatlantic slave trade and their impacts on the formation of the Early Modern World c. 1450-1890.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.100.233. History of Modern Germany. 3 Credits.
There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. We explore politics, culture, economics and society to understand Germany and its role within Europe and the world from the 18th century to the ‘Refugee Crisis’, climate change and EU politics today.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.234. The Making of the Muslim Middle East, 600-1100 A.D.. 3 Credits.
A survey of the major historical transformations of the region we now call the ‘Middle East’ (from late antiquity through the 11th century) in relation to the formation and development of Islam and various Muslim empires.
Cross-listed with Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Islamic Studies.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.243. China: Neolithic to Song. 3 Credits.
This class offers a broad overview of changes in China from Neolithic times through the Song Dynasty (roughly from 5000 BCE through the 13th century CE) and will include discussion of art, material culture, and literature as well as politics and society. Close readings of primary sources in discussion sections and extensive use of visual material in lectures will help students gain firsthand perspective on the materials covered. Not open to students who have previously taken AS.100.208.
Cross listed with East Asian Studies
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.246. Iberia in Asia: Early Modern Encounters and Exchanges. 3 Credits.
This course examines Iberian-Asian relations in the early modern period. It enriches and complicates our understandings of important concepts, such as colonialism, religious conversion, and global trade.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.100.248. Japan in the World. 3 Credits.
An introduction to Japan’s history from 1700 to the present, with emphasis on the influences of an increasing global circulation of ideas, goods, and people in early modern and modern times. Topics include samurai, nation-building, gender, imperialism, World War II, the postwar economy, and contemporary popular culture.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.100.260. Boom, Bust, and the Rise of Financial Capitalism in America. 3 Credits.
This course explores how political, social, and legal contestation shaped the development of American financial capitalism. The course also focuses on how financial crises precipitated change throughout United States history.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.100.268. Jewish and Christian mysticism in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period. 3 Credits.
This course will trace the historical development of Jewish and Christian mysticism between the 12th and the 17th centuries.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.270. Europe since 1945. 3 Credits.
This class focuses on Europe from the end of World War II until today. We will discuss such topics as the Cold War, the welfare state, the arms race, decolonization, migration, 1989, European integration and the EU. We will cover academic literature, movies, documentary films, textual and visual primary sources, and more.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.273. A Comparative History of Jewish and Christian Mysticism. 3 Credits.
This course will trace the historical development of Jewish and Christian mysticism between the 11th and the 19th centuries.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.282. Race & Power in Modern South Africa. 3 Credits.
Overview of modern South African history, with a focus on the origins of the racial state and the development of black liberation movements.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive
AS.100.283. Making and Unmaking Queer Histories, 1800-Present. 3 Credits.
Making and Unmaking Queer Histories introduces students to the major themes and historical developments which shape contemporary understandings of LGBTQ+-identified subjects and communities in the US and Western Europe.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.292. Revolucionarios! Social Movements and Radical Politics from the Spanish Empire to the Catalan Crisis. 3 Credits.
This course examines different radical movements such as anarchism, communism, fascism, nationalism and feminism in the context of the Hispanic world from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first century. Course is in English. No Spanish required.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.303. Old Regime and Revolutionary France. 3 Credits.
Examines the history of France from the reign of Louis XIV to the French Revolution, focusing on early modern society, popular culture, absolutism, the Enlightenment, overseas empire, and the French and Haitian Revolutions.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.305. Peter to Putin: Survey. 3 Credits.
Seminar on modern Russia. No midterm and no final. 6 short weekly journals, two short papers, and two small quizzes.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.308. Introduction to the History of Jewish Mysticism. 3 Credits.
The course will familiarize the student with the history of the main phenomena of Jewish mysticism from the ancient times to the present.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.310. The French Revolution. 3 Credits.
Political, social and cultural history of one of the great turning-points in European history. Previously offered as AS.100.204.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.311. The Qing Empire and its Global Context. 3 Credits.
This is an upper level undergraduate class. It offers a case-based global history of early modern empires.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.312. The Transatlantic Slave Trade, c. 1450-1850. 3 Credits.
The course explores the origins, organization and abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade c. 1450-1850. It delves into the historiographical debates over the impact of the trade on the development of Africa, Europe and the Americas in the early modern period.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.318. The Rise and the Fall of the Modern City: An Environmental History Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course explores how environmental history analyzes the transformations of cities in the West from 1750 to the early 2000s. An emphasis will be placed on historiographical debates and concepts, but also on agency and relations of power. The course also analyze how the environment is a construct, a production of discourses, representations, and debates.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.100.360. The Modern British World: Imperial Encounters, Regimes, and Resistance, from the American Revolution to the present. 3 Credits.
The Modern British World introduces some of the major events, themes, and controversies that led to Britain’s global dominance and ultimate decline as an imperial power. This course focuses on varying forms of imperial governance, the interrelationships between metropole and colony, and the formation of British and colonial national identities.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.361. Age of Tolstoy. 3 Credits.
Tolstoy and his era, 1820s to 1910s. Topics include state and politics, empire, the Russian identity, and forms of cultural expression. Students consider “War and Peace” and other masterworks.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.365. Culture & Society in the High Middle Ages. 3 Credits.
This course will cover the period commonly known as the High Middle Ages, that is, the civilization of Western Europe in the period roughly from 1050 to 1350. It is a period of exceptional creativity in the history of Western Europe and in medieval history specifically, a time when many of the most characteristic institutions of Europe came into being.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.369. Themes and Concepts in Jewish History. 3 Credits.
The course will introduce the student to the main themes and debates in Jewish historiography from the 19th century to the present.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.371. Modernity, Catastrophe, and Power in Jewish History: 1881 to the Present. 3 Credits.
Jewish history, politics, and culture across a century of enormous transformations and transformative enormities in Europe, the US, and the Middle East. Topics include: impacts on Jewish life of World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the post-imperial reordering of the Eastern Europe and the Middle East; Zionism and other modes of Jewish contester politics; the consolidation of American Jewry; Nazism and the Holocaust in Europe; formation and development of the State of Israel; the global reordering of Jewish life amid current-currents of the Cold War, conflict in the Middle East, and success in the US. Substantial attention to recent and contemporary history including the dramatic changes in Israeli society and polity over the past forty years and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.373. Crime, Punishment, Felony and Freedom: Law and Society in Pre-Modern England. 3 Credits.
Using legal texts as a window into English society, we will address the changing nature of royal power, trial by jury, treason, felony, and the freedoms enshrined in the Magna Carta.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.374. Conquest, Conversion, and Language Change in the Middle Ages. 3 Credits.
Examines case-studies of imperial conquests (Islamic, Mongol, reconquista, early colonialism) and attendant changes in religion (Christianization; Islamization) and in language (Arabization; transition from Latin to European vernaculars) across medieval Eurasia.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.376. The Haitian Revolution in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
An advanced undergraduate seminar tracing the history of the Haitian Revolution from its origins in the early modern Atlantic world to its global impact and continuing legacies in the present.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.381. Law & Custom in Colonial Africa. 3 Credits.
Examines how colonial rule transformed African legal systems, while Africans used European law for political resistance and personal gain. Research project based on colonial South African court records.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.384. Intoxicated: Commodities & Globalization in the Early Modern World. 3 Credits.
Each week we examine a commodity that defined a new era of global connectivity in the centuries after 1492, including money, medicines, slaves, and fashion.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.386. The Cold War as Sports History. 3 Credits.
Sport is our key to understanding the Cold War. We will investigate how the Cold War has shaped sports, the Olympic movement, the role of athletes in public, and international competitions and how Cold War sports relate to race, gender, and class.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.387. Everyday Life in the Medieval Middle East. 3 Credits.
Explores the daily lives of non-elites in the medieval Middle East—food; housing; clothes; marriage and divorce; urban festivals—through primary documents (e.g. letters, court records) and artifacts (e.g. clothing). Pre-requisite for enrollment: Students must have taken one history course.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.389. History of Law and Social Justice. 3 Credits.
Cause lawyering aims to change the status quo. This course examines histories of this approach to social justice, from battles against the slave trade to contemporary campaigns for marriage equality.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.394. Brazilian Paradoxes: Slavery, Race, and Inequality in Brazil (from a Portuguese Colony to the World’s 8th Largest Economy). 3 Credits.
Place of contrasts, Brazil has a multi-ethnic cultural heritage challenged by social and racial inequalities. Its political life remains chaotic. We will examine these problems through Brazilian history and culture.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.395. History of Global Development. 3 Credits.
This course explores development as an ideology and a practice. From colonialism to the Cold War to contemporary NGOs, we will interrogate the history of our attempts to improve the world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.399. Decolonization and Citizenship in Africa, 1945-2015. 3 Credits.
Critically explores issues of decolonization and citizenship in Africa from WWII to the present. Emphasis on political inclusion and exclusion, and violence, fostered by nationalist movements and postcolonial African governments.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.100.403. Law & Custom in Colonial Africa. 3 Credits.
Examines how colonial rule transformed African legal systems, while Africans used European law for political resistance and personal gain. Research project based on colonial South African court records.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.100.404. John Locke. 3 Credits.
Seminar style course in which John Locke's major works will be read intensively, together with some of his contemporaries' works, and select scholarly interpretations.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.408. Theorizing the Age of Enormity: Social Theory and the History of the 20th Century. 3 Credits.
We will read and analyze key works of social and critical theory produced in relation to 20th and 21st century problems of state and society, nationalism, empire, totalitarianism, genocide, capitalism, political order, gender, race, sexuality, secularism, religion, environmental catastrophe. Possible readings include Weber, Du Bois, Adorno, Arendt, Foucault, Balibar, Beckamong others.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.409. Israel and Palestine from 1967 to the Present: a Current and Entangled History. 3 Credits.
Through intensive and extensive reading, we will explore contemporary Israeli society, politics, and culture, contemporary Palestinian society, politics, and culture under occupation, and the historical processes that have shaped both societies and their ongoing entanglement.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.413. London 1580-1830: The History of Britain's capital city. 3 Credits.
Seminar-style class analyzing the social, cultural, gender, religious, economic, and political history of London from Shakespeare's time through revolutions, plague, fire, and commercial, colonial, and industrial expansion.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.415. The Holocaust in Jewish History and in Global Culture. 3 Credits.
Key works on the history of Nazi Germany's murder of European Jewry during the Second World War; Jewish responses; the recasting of Jewish and global thought in relation to this signal event; genocide and 'ethnic cleansing' since the Holocaust.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.418. Comparative Slavery: Haiti and Brazil. 3 Credits.
Haiti is born after a powerful slave insurrection (1804). Brazil was the last country to abolish slavery (1888). Why did these slave societies, which shared many common characteristics, have such different histories? This course will use anthropological and historical studies to examine the long history of how rules and understandings about sex, sexuality, and gender have mattered in how people think about Islam.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.421. Sex, Law and Islam. 3 Credits.
ISIS, "virgins" in paradise, the sexual slavery of Yazidi women... This course will use anthropological and historical studies to examine the long history of how rules and understandings about sex, sexuality, and gender have mattered in how people think about Islam.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.422. Society & Social Change in 18th Century China. 3 Credits.
What did Chinese local society look like under the Qing Empire, and how did it change over the early modern era?
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.423. Multiethnic Japan. 3 Credits.
An advanced undergraduate seminar on the intertwined histories of race, ethnicity, and empire in Japan and its former colonies from the early twentieth century to the present.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.424. Women & Modern Chinese History. 3 Credits.
This course examines the experience of Chinese women, and also how writers, scholars, and politicians (often male, sometimes foreign) have represented women's experiences for their own political and social agendas.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.426. Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe. 3 Credits.
Witchcraft, magic, carnivals, riots, folk tales, gender roles; fertility cults and violence especially in Britain, Germany, France, and Italy.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.430. Gender and Sexuality in African History. 3 Credits.
An upper-level history reading seminar with a focus on histories of gender and sexuality in colonial and postcolonial Africa.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.438. The City Victorious: Medieval Cairo. 3 Credits.
What was medieval Cairo like? Students explore urban life in this imperial capital (969-1517), including food and market habits; relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims; patronage; plague, drought, and famine. Pre-requisite for enrollment: Students must have taken two history courses.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.441. Migration and the Americas. 3 Credits.
From the Spanish Conquest to contemporary debates in the US, this course looks at the great diversity of migrations that have shaped life in the Americas.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.442. The Intellectual History of Capitalism, 1900 to present. 3 Credits.
This course examines shifting understandings of the philosophical foundations, political implications, and social effects of the market economy since the early twentieth century.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.444. Migrants and Refugees in Africa. 3 Credits.
A history of forced and voluntary migration and displacement in Africa, its causes and consequences, with a focus on refugees and labor migrants since 1960.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.450. History Research Lab. 3 Credits.
In this course, students participate in a research "laboratory," engaging in direct research on an area of faculty's research, leading to the development of a collective, digital humanities project.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.100.478. Japan from its Peripheries. 3 Credits.
An advanced undergraduate seminar on the history of modern Japan from the perspective of regions and people often considered as belonging to its geographical, cultural, social, and political peripheries.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.482. Historiography of Modern China. 3 Credits.
Study of Western, Chinese, and Japanese understandings of the history of China, emphasizing their implications for cultural understanding and for policy.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.100.488. The Caribbean World, 1450-1850. 3 Credits.
The Caribbean was the key focal point of overseas European expansion in the early modern world. This course traces developments in the region from the Tainos to Toussaint Louverture.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.497. The Year 1968: Rebels, Revolutions & the Right-Wing Backlash. 3 Credits.
The sixties were a decade of unrest, failed revolutions, and fundamental change across Europe and the US. We will look at how these years changed the world through the lens of national case studies and community engagement.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.499. Film and Propaganda in Nazi Germany. 3 Credits.
By examining a range of cinematic works—from explicitly ideological pseudo-documentaries to entertainment films—this course will explore the transmission of propaganda into the everyday culture of Nazi Germany.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

History of Art
AS.010.212. Mirror Mirror: Reflections in Art from Van Eyck to Velázquez. 3 Credits.
Explores the different ways Early Modern painters and printmakers incorporated mirrors and optical reflections into their works for the sake of illusion and metaphor, deception and desire, reflexivity and truth-telling. Connecting sense perception and ethical knowledge, embedded mirror images often made claims about the nature of the self, the powers of art, and the superiority of painting in particular.
Area: Humanities

AS.010.320. Art of Colonial Peru. 3 Credits.
Viewed within the dynamic historical context of colonial society, we consider the pictorial, sculptural, and architectural programs that ensued in viceregal Peru (1532-1825). We examine the role of religious orders, art schools, artisan guilds and cofradía, and consider the social and political implications of art patronage.
Area: Humanities

AS.010.329. Building an Empire: Architecture of the Ottoman Capitals, c. 1300–1600. 3 Credits.
Centered on modern-day Turkey and encompassing vast territories in Asia, Africa, and Europe, the Ottoman Empire (1299 – 1923) was the longest lived and among the most powerful Islamic states in history, with an artistic tradition to match. This course explores the functional and symbolic role that architecture played during the empire’s formative centuries, when three successive capital — Bursa, Edirne, and Istanbul — served to visualize the sultans’ growing claims to universal authority. With reference to mosques, palaces, tombs, and other categories of architecture, the course will examine the buildings in their artistic, social, and political contexts. Themes to be addressed include patronage and audience, architectural practice and the building trade, ceremonial and ritual, topography and urban planning, and the relationship of Ottoman architecture to other traditions.
Area: Humanities

AS.010.338. Art and the Harem: Women’s Spaces, Patronage, and (Self-)Representation in Islamic Empires. 3 Credits.
Long characterized in the Western imagination as exotic realms of fantasy, harems in Islamic tradition served as private domestic quarters for the women of elite households. This course explores the harem—as an institution, a physical space, and a community of women—from various art-historical perspectives, considering such topics as the harem’s architecture, the agency of its inhabitants as patrons and collectors, the mediating role of eunuchs in the harem’s visual and material culture, and the ability of harem women to make their mark through public artistic commissions. Our case studies will address a range of Islamic geographical and chronological contexts, though we will focus on the empires of the early modern period and, above all, the famous harem of the Ottoman sultans at the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. In challenging popular misconceptions, the course will also look at the wealth of exoticizing imagery that the harem inspired in Western art, which we will consider through Orientalist paintings at the Walters Art Museum and illustrated rare books at Hopkins itself.
Area: Humanities

AS.010.352. Modern and Contemporary Art: Middle East and South Asia. 3 Credits.
This course will explore modern and contemporary art in colonial and postcolonial contexts from Bangladesh to northern Africa. How do artists negotiate demands to support their national and local identities while participating in modernism across borders? What role do secularism and spirituality have in modern art? How do anticolonial, Marxist, and feminist politics shape art in these regions? How do global economic forces and the rise of powerful collectors, private museums, and international art fairs shape art and artists working across this geographic area? We will foreground the role of women as artists, collectors, patrons, and scholars throughout.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive
AS.010.410. The Epistemology of Photography. 3 Credits.
This seminar will ask how photography produces ways of knowing: how does photography’s reality-effect shape its dissemination and absorption? Is photography’s emergence during the colonial era coincidental or catalytic? How is memory (re)constituted in a photography-saturated world? What kinds of histories does photography encourage and discourage? Is a photograph an object? We will read across disciplines (literature, anthropology, history, history of art, political science, theory) to investigate the epistemology of photography and the photograph.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.010.461. The Double: Identity and Difference in Art Since 1900. 3 Credits.
"Doubling" is a grammar of resemblance and difference: in works of doubling a presentation of two shapes, images or bodies, often in a symmetrical format, forces us to compare them—to perceive how they are alike and unalike. The art of doubling causes us to "see double" and to see ourselves in the act of seeing; it forces us to perceive the differences between things and bodies, catalyzing a reflection on identity. Doubling is a recurring theme of modern and contemporary art, apparent in painting, sculpture, photography, video, film, and performance. While few artists are strictly "doublers," many practitioners have embraced tactics of repetition and reversal, staged perceptual contradictions, or explored doubled and divided selves (Doppelgängers, shadows, twins, and pairs); the course will aim to understand why. The class is organized in anticipation of an exhibition opening at the National Gallery of Art in May 2022.
Area: Humanities

History of Science, Medicine, and Technology

AS.140.227. Race, Racism and Medicine. 3 Credits.
How can we think about the interconnections between racism, theories of race and the practice of medicine? Living at a moment when racial disparities in health outcomes in the United States are still very stark, this course will provide a historically grounded approach to thinking about the roles that race and racism have played in healthcare, the production of health disparities as well as the role of medicine in the development of racist thought. While much of this course will focus geographically within the United States, this class will also explore global histories of medicine, encountering questions of race and medicine in Africa, the South Pacific and Asia. In addition to the analysis of primary source documents and historical texts, students will also be introduced to theoretical approaches to the study of race and racism from W.E.B. DuBois, Sylvia Wynter, Frantz Fanon and others.
Writing Intensive

AS.140.231. Health & Society in Latin America & the Caribbean. 3 Credits.
Healthcare is complex in Latin America and the Caribbean, where many people supplement biomedicine with plant and diet-based remedies, as well as religious and shamanic services. This course will cover the history of health and society in Latin America and the Caribbean from 1750 to the present, covering such topics as: medicine and the Spanish inquisition; disease control and tropical medicine; the medical knowledge of enslaved and indigenous peoples; reproduction and nation-state formation; and healthcare during the Cold War and its aftermath. Throughout, we will also consider the ways in which ideas about race, gender, indigeneity, class, and disability have affected people’s access to healthcare. By the end of the course we will understand why leading scholars have referred to Latin America and the Caribbean as a “laboratory” for the production of medical knowledge. We will discover how that knowledge has been influenced by common people as well as professionals, and how it has influenced medical practice around the world. This is a discussion-based seminar course. It does not assume any previous knowledge of the history of medicine or Latin American and Caribbean history.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.140.312. The Politics of Science in America. 3 Credits.
This course examines the relations of the scientific and technical enterprise and government in the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries. Topics will include the funding of research and development, public health, national defense, etc. Case studies will include the 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic, the Depression-era Science Advisory Board, the founding of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, the institution of the President’s Science Advisor, the failure of the Superconducting Supercollider, the Hubble Space Telescope, the covid pandemic, etc.
Area: Humanities

AS.140.328. Science and Technology in Slave Regimes. 3 Credits.
This course explores the questions that arise when we juxtapose slave regimes with scientific and technological change. We’ll consider very broad questions, such as, was slavery compatible with modernity? As well as study specific cases where slavery and technology intersected, such as the cotton gin or sugar cane plantations, but also the existence of “modern” scientific societies within slave regimes. We’ll explore these questions from a trans-national perspective by comparing cases in the Antebellum US, Cuba, Brazil, Haiti and other countries.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.140.339. Science & Technology in the Development of Modern Latin America. 3 Credits.
This seminar will survey the development of science and technology in modern Latin America, and explore their dynamics in the context of cultural, political, and economic forces.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.194.398. Godzila and Fukushima: Japanese Environment in History and Films. 3 Credits.
Japan is often described as “nature-loving” and is considered to be one of world leaders in environmental protection policies. Yet current environmental successes come on the heels of numerous environmental disasters that plagued Japan in the past centuries. Juxtaposing Japanese environmental history and its reflection in popular media, the course will explore the intersection between technology, environment, and culture. Students are encouraged to enroll in AS.140.198, “Technology and Environment in Japanese Films and Anime” (1 credit) to attend movie screenings accompanying the course.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.140.423. Science and Science Fiction in Global Perspective. 3 Credits.
What can we learn from science fiction about the history of science and technology? What ideas about science do Sci-Fi novels manifest? Is the relationship between science and science fiction always the same, across different time periods and geographical areas? This course will explore these questions by taking a comparative perspective. Each meeting we will read a Sci-Fi novel from Europe, America, South and East Asia, and discuss it in conjunction with historical writing about relevant scientific developments. Reading Sci-Fi novels from 17th-century Germany, 19th-century England and India, and 20th-century Japan, China, Korea and the US, the students will explore how actual scientific developments were reflected in fiction, and what fictional depictions say about the aspirations and anxieties provoked by new technologies.

Writing Intensive

Islamic Studies

AS.194.105. Islam and its Cultural and Religious Diversity, 600-1600. 3 Credits.
While media often present Islam as a fairly univocal and compact cultural and religious system, news reports about tensions, hostility and at times open conflict within the Islamic world itself are frequent. Unity and internal diversity characterize Islam nowadays and have historical roots that have deeply shaped Islam since its very inception. This course will explore the historical origins of the dynamics of unity and diversity in Islam from the predication of Muhammad and the expansion of the first caliphate, to the formation of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal empires. By focusing on the historical events and the cultural production of the first millennium of Islam, this course will offer a thorough historical introduction to its cultural and religious complexity.
Area: Humanities

AS.194.201. Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the Medieval World. 3 Credits.
The three most widespread monotheisms have much more in common than is generally portrayed: a common founding figure, a partly shared succession of prophets, closely comparable ethical concerns and religious practices, a history of coexistence and of cultural, religious, social and economic interaction. This course will focus on a number of key texts and historical events that have shaped the relationships between Jews, Muslims, and Christians during the Middle Ages and contributed to their reciprocal construction of the image of the “other.” The geographical center of the course will be the Mediterranean and the Near and Middle East, a true cradle of civilizations, religions, and exchange.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.194.202. Never Forget: Muslims, Islamophobia, and Dissent after 9/11. 3 Credits.
In partnership with the social justice organization Justice for Muslims Collective, this community-engaged course and oral history project will explore how diverse Muslim communities navigated and contested belonging and political and cultural agency amidst state-sponsored violence and national debates on race, gender, citizenship and national security after 9/11 and during the ongoing War on Terror. Through history, ethnography, first-person narratives, film, fiction, and online resources, students will learn about the impact of 9/11 on American Muslim communities. This includes cultural and political resistance to imperialism, racism, and Islamophobia as well as to intersectional inequities within Muslim communities that were intensified in the context of Islamophobia. Students will learn about community activism and organizing from JMC, and complete a participatory action research project with the organization. This project is an oral history archive that will address gaps in the documentation of movement histories when it comes to early organizing against War on Terror policies by Muslim communities and communities racialized or perceived as Muslim. Students will be trained to record stories of resistance among leaders who organized and responded at the local and national-level in the Greater Washington region, to support the building of an archive that will shape a wide variety of future organizing and advocacy efforts.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.194.205. Islamic Mysticism: Traditions, Legacies, Politics. 3 Credits.
For over a thousand years, the Sufi tradition has been a dynamic force in Islamic social, political and spiritual life. The tradition offers a treasure trove of devotional literature and music, philosophical treatises, contemplative practices, and institutions of social and political organization. After unpacking the politics of the term “Sufi,” we will trace the historical development of the tradition from the early ascetics in Iraq and Syria to the age of trans-national Sufi orders, with case studies from South Asia, Turkey, and the United States. We will then move into some of the key constructs of the tradition of spiritual growth and character formation: the divine-human relationship, the stages of the spiritual path, contemplative and practical disciplines, ideas of sainthood, discipleship and ethical perfection, and the psychology of love. Throughout the class, we will explore the nature of experiential language and interrogate the tradition through the lens of gender. We will also experience Sufism through ritual and music.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.194.210. Race, Gender, Citizenship: Being Muslim in America. 3 Credits.
This course explores how American Muslims navigate and contest complex notions of belonging in the context of national conversations on race, gender, citizenship, and national security. With a focus on specific case studies that range from Black Muslim movements of the early twentieth century to the ongoing War on Terror, the course adds complexity to the public conversation on what it means to be Muslim - and what it means to be American. We will draw on history, ethnography, first-person narratives, films, blogs, documentaries and fiction. As a Community Engaged course, the class will include site visits and learning with and from Muslim communities in Baltimore.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.194.220. The Qur'an: Text and Context. 3 Credits.
For 1400 years, the Qur'an has played a central role in Muslim intellectual, spiritual, artistic and ritual life. This course will explore the sacred scripture of Islam through its foundational ideas, history of the text and thematic development, literary style, history and methods of interpretation, and role in Muslim spiritual and ritual life. We will also explore how the Qur'an weaves through literature, music and the visual arts.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.194.230. African-Americans and the Development of Islam in America. 3 Credits.
Muslims have been a part of the American fabric since its inception. A key thread in that fabric has been the experiences of enslaved Africans and their descendants, some of whom were Muslims, and who not only added to the dynamism of the American environment, but eventually helped shape American culture, religion, and politics. The history of Islam in America is intertwined with the creation and evolution of African American identity. Contemporary Islam in America cannot be understood without this framing. This course will provide a historical lens for understanding Islam, not as an external faith to the country, but as an internal development of American religion. This course will explicate the history of early Islamic movements in the United States and the subsequent experiences of African-Americans who converted to Islam during the first half of the twentieth century. We will cover the spiritual growth of African American Muslims, their institutional presence, and their enduring impact on American culture writ large and African-American religion and culture more specifically.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.194.305. Cultures of Pilgrimage in Islam. 3 Credits.
The hajj pilgrimage to Mecca is one of the pillars of Islam. But Muslims around the world also take part in many other pilgrimages, from the massive annual Shia pilgrimage to Karbala to the smaller ziyarat "visits" to Sufi saint shrines, to travel to centers of Islamic learning, to pilgrimage to isolated natural features like mountains, trees, valleys. What are the theologies that propel the act of travel in Islam? How are cities, architectures, economies shaped by these cultures? And how are these traditions affected by the wars and colonial projects that plague many Muslim-majority countries in the contemporary world? Readings in this course will draw from anthropology, philosopy, Islamic interpretive texts (tafsir), and travelogues.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Modern Languages and Literatures

AS.211.202. Freshman Seminar: A Thousand Years of Jewish Culture. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Ashkenazi Jews through their vernacular, Yiddish, from the settlement of Jews in German-speaking lands in medieval times to the present day. Particular emphasis will be placed on the responses of Yiddish-speaking Jews to the challenges posed by modernity to a traditional society. In addition to studying a wide range of texts—including fiction, poetry, memoir, song, and film—students will learn how to read the Yiddish alphabet, and will prepare a meal of traditional Ashkenazi dishes. No prior knowledge of Yiddish is necessary for this course.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.217. Freshman Seminar: From Rabbis to Revolutionaries: Modern Jewish Identities. 3 Credits.
Many Jews in the modern period abandoned the traditional religious way of life, but continued to identify strongly as Jews, and even those who remained committed to tradition had to adapt. Through the prism of the Yiddish language, the vernacular of Eastern European Jewry, this course will explore different ways in which Jews reacted to historical developments and embraced political and cultural movements of their time, from the founding of modern Yiddish theater in Romania, to the creation of a Jewish autonomous region in the far east of the Soviet Union, to the development of avant-garde poetry in New York. In addition to studying a wide range of texts—including fiction, poetry, memoir, song, and film—students will learn how to read the Yiddish alphabet, and will explore food culture by preparing a meal of Eastern European Jewish dishes. No prior knowledge of Yiddish is necessary for this course.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.222. Italian Cinema: The classics, the Forgotten and the Emergent. 3 Credits.
This course traces the history of Italian cinema from the silent era to the new millennium, highlighting its main trends and genres, and reflecting on the major transformations modern and contemporary Italian society experienced over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We shall examine iconic films such as Vittorio De Sica's Bicycle Thieves, Federico Fellini's La Dolce Vita, Michelangelo Antonioni's L'Avventura, and Pier Paolo Pasolini's Mamma Roma, that received international recognition and influenced other national, cinematic productions. We shall also look at the work of less famous, or independent filmmakers who received less critical attention. While this class takes an historical approach, it also includes a theoretical component and introduces students to the specificity of the cinematic language, examining films in relation to the mise-en-scène, frame composition, camera movements, editing, and sound. This class is taught in English.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.224. Made in Italy: Italian style in context. 3 Credits.
Italy and the "Italian style" have become synonym of exquisite taste, class, and elegance thanks to the quality of Italian craftsmanship. This course will explore some of the major factors that contributed to the rise of Italian fashion and Italian industrial design as iconic all around the world. The classes will focus on the main protagonists and art movements that influenced the development of Italian style. We will analyze trends, clothing, and style not only in a historical context, but also through a critical apparatus that will include themes related to gender, culture, power, and politics. The course is taught in English. No knowledge of Italian is required, but those who can read in Italian will have an opportunity to do so. Everyone will learn some Italian words and expressions.
Area: Humanities
AS.211.231. Freshman seminar: Planet Amazonia: Culture, History, and the Environment. 3 Credits.
Without Amazonia, global warming could reach levels that threaten life on the planet. Yet, in an era of deforestation and climate change, Amazonia itself might be on the verge of disappearance, with disastrous consequences for the world. This course proposes interdisciplinary perspectives on Amazonia through a range of works drawn from history, anthropology, archeology, environmental studies, literature, and the arts. We’ll look at texts by European travelers and missionaries who contributed to the paradoxical image of Amazonia as a “virgin paradise” or a “green hell”; scientific studies and artists’ depictions of the region’s flora and fauna; the often-overlooked history of human occupation of the region; and projects to colonize, develop, or conserve the world’s largest tropical forest. What importance does Amazonia hold for Latin American and global geopolitics? How do art and literature, including indigenous writings, create, reinforce, or deconstruct clichés about the region? What alternative futures for our planet can Amazonia help us to imagine? Minors in Latin American Studies may count the class toward the Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture concentration.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.265. Panorama of German Thought. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to major figures and trends in German literature and thought from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. We will pay particular attention to the evolution of German political thought from the Protestant Reformation to the foundation of the German Federal Republic after WWII. How did the Protestant Reformation affect the understanding of the state, rights, civic institutions, and temporal authority in Germany? How did German Enlightenment thinkers conceive of ethics and politics or morality and rights? How do German writers define the nation, community, and the people or das Volk? What is the link between romanticism and nationalism? To what degree is political economy, as developed by Marx, a critical response to romanticism? How did German thinkers conceive of power and force in the wake of World Wars I and II? What are the ties that bind as well as divide a community in this tradition? We will consider these and related questions in this course through careful readings of selected works.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.316. Brazilian Cinema and Topics in Contemporary Brazilian Society. 3 Credits.
The course is taught in ENGLISH - This course is an introduction to the academic study of cinema as a communicative art and to Brazilian film. The films selected focuses on films from the late 1950s to the present and highlight import episodes and challenges in the advancement of the Brazilian society as well as its cinematic production with a special view to the film aesthetics through analysis from a number of critical perspectives, including class, race, gender as well as ethnicity, nationalism or national identity, colonialism, social changes, and the politics of representation. In this sense, the films and documentaries that we will be watching and studying encompass the period from the rise of New Cinema (Cinema Novo) up to films exploring the most recent trends, including movies launched up to 2016. Students wishing to do the course work in English, for 3 credits should register for section 01. Those wishing to earn 4 credits by doing the course work in Portuguese should register for section 02. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM. May not be taken on a Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory basis.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.327. Ecocinema: Framing Italy's Environmental Crises. 3 Credits.
Over the past decade, growing numbers of filmmakers in Italy have addressed ecological crises in their work. This class takes an eco-critical approach to contemporary Italian cinema, examining a body of compelling place-centered stories that deal with local and global issues. Defining the scope of eco-cinema and the ways we can interrogate films as ecological texts, we shall screen earth-centered films that raise consciousness about the consequences of human manipulation of the natural world; the complicity of industry, government, and organized crime in creating environmental crises; and the effects of economic and social malaise. Screenings include iconic films such as Michelangelo Antonioni’s Red Desert (1963), more recent, critically acclaimed films such as Matteo Garrone’s Gomorrah (2008), Alice Rohrwacher’s Happy as Lazzaro (2018), and many others.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.328. Berlin Between the Wars: Literature, Art, Music, Film. 3 Credits.
Explore the diverse culture of Berlin during the heyday of modernism. During the Weimar Republic, Berlin became a center for theater, visual arts, film, music, and literature that would have an outsized impact on culture throughout the world and the twentieth century. The thinkers, artists, and writers drawn to interwar Berlin produced a body of work that encapsulates many of the issues of the period: the effect of the modern city on society; “the New Woman”; socialist revolutionary politics; the rise of the Nazis; and economic turmoil. While learning about interwar Berlin’s cultural diversity, we will take a special look at works by Jewish writers and artists that engage with the question of ethnic, religious, and national identity in the modern world, specifically in the context of Berlin’s rich Jewish history and the rise of anti-Semitism in the interwar period. All readings will be in translation.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.329. Museums and Identity. 3 Credits.
The museum boom of the last half-century has centered largely around museums dedicated to the culture and history of identity groups, including national, ethnic, religious, and minority groups. In this course we will examine such museums and consider their long history through a comparison of the theory and practice of Jewish museums with other identity museums. We will study the various museological traditions that engage identity, including the collection of art and antiquities, ethnographic exhibitions, history museums, heritage museums, art museums, and other museums of culture. Some of the questions we will ask include: what are museums for and who are they for? how do museums shape identity? and how do the various types of museums relate to one another? Our primary work will be to examine a variety of contemporary examples around the world with visits to local museums including the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of the American Indian.
Area: Humanities
AS.211.331. Vagabonds and Ramblers: Space & Place in Women's Cinema. 3 Credits.
In recent times in Italy, a new generation of women filmmakers has found its own space in the traditionally male dominated film industry. This “counter cinema” abounds with female city walkers, migrants, vagabonds and other types of urban nomads, whose movement through space signifies a quest for freedom, gestures of protest and rebellion, and a search for place. We start by looking at the work of a pioneer filmmakers such as Elvira Notari, the first woman director in Italy, and then discuss the issue of gender and space in contemporary films by directors Francesca Comencini, Alice Rohrwacher, and Eleonora Danco. To enrich the analysis, we shall also examine films directed by non-Italians who deal with the theme of women's mobility and their centrality/marginality from different socio-geographic contexts. Other directors included will be Agnès Varda (France), Chantal Akerman (Belgium), Haifa al-Mansur (Saudi Arabia), and Xiaolu Guo (China) Readings will include essays by Laura Mulvey, Ann E. Kaplan, Linda Williams, and Patricia White.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.333. Representing the Holocaust. 3 Credits.
How has the Holocaust been represented in literature and film? Are there special challenges posed by genocide to the traditions of visual and literary representation? Where does the Holocaust fit in to the array of concerns that the visual arts and literature express? And where do art and literature fit in to the commemoration of communal tragedy and the working through of individual trauma entailed by thinking about and representing the Holocaust? These questions will guide our consideration of a range of texts — nonfiction, novels, poetry — in Yiddish, German, English, French and other languages (including works by Primo Levi and Isaac Bashevis Singer), as well as films from French documentaries to Hollywood blockbusters (including films by Alain Resnais, Claude Lanzmann, and Steven Spielberg). All readings in English.
Prerequisite(s): Cannot be taken by anyone who previously took AS.213.361
Area: Humanities

AS.211.341. Power and Resistance in French Political Thought. 3 Credits.
Even as a strong, divine-right monarchy emerged in France, following the Renaissance wars of religion, rebellious French thinkers never stopped questioning the foundations of power. They focused critically not only on the claims of authority issuing from the top, but also on the submissiveness of the governed and the reach of propaganda. This course examines how power shapes minds and bodies, from absolutism to the Revolution, to democratic laïcité. Readings include works by La Boétie, Montaigne, Loyseau, Bayle, Rousseau, Saint-Just, Maistre, Tocqueville, Foucault, Lefort, Rancière and the Assemblée Nationale. Readings and discussion in English.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.349. JHU Bologna Program: Food for Thought: Gastronomy, Politics & Identity. 3 Credits.
Italian Culture course offered on the JHU Summer Program in Bologna. Permission required. Must be taken for a letter grade. Open to students admitted to the JHU Summer Program in Bologna only.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.360. Franco-American relations. 3 Credits.
Historical allies, yet rivals in trade; partners in intellectual exchange, yet baffled by each other’s culture: in this course we will examine core elements of the relationship between France & the US through the lens of diplomacy, commerce, language, food, cinema, the arts, friendship, feminism, parenting, ethnicity, health, climate change, and social justice. Students will develop and exercise critical thinking habits while working toward the learning outcome of a deeper cross-cultural understanding of France and the US. In the bigger picture, interactions between the two countries will be considered as a significant model of international relations. Course is taught in English.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.361. Narratives of Dissent in Israeli Society and Culture. 3 Credits.
In this course we will study and analyze the notion of dissent in Israeli society and culture on its various literary and artistic forms. We will examine the emergence and the formation of various political and social protest movements, such as the Israeli Black Panthers, Israeli feminism and the 2011 Social Justice protest. We will discuss at length the history and the nature of dissent in the military and in relation to Israeli wars and will track changes in these relation. Significant portion of the course will be dedicated to the literary, cinematic and artistic aspects of Israeli protest and their influence on Israeli discourse. We will explore the nature and role of specific genres and media such as the Israeli satire, Israeli television, newspaper op-ed and the recent emergence of social media. Students wishing to work in English exclusively for 3 credits should enroll in section one. Students who are fluent in Hebrew and are wishing to attend an additional hour-long Hebrew discussion session per week with Professor Cohen (time TBD in consultation with enrolled students) for 4 credits should enroll in section 2.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.386. Italian Cinema. 3 Credits.
Italian Cinema: The Classics, The Forgotten, The Emergent. This course traces the history of Italian cinema from the silent era to the contemporary period, highlighting its main trends and genres, and reflecting on the major transformations modern and contemporary Italian society experienced over the twentieth and twentieth-first centuries. We shall discuss iconic films such as Vittorio De Sica's Bicycle Thieves, Federico Fellini's La Dolce Vita, Michelangelo Antonioni's L'Avventura, and Pietro Paolo Pasolini's Mamma Roma, (the classics) that received international recognition and had a global impact on film history, and also rare archival films by pioneer women filmmakers from the silent era (the forgotten). Finally, we'll discuss films released in the last decade (the emergent) that address issues such as migration and the ecological crisis. (Zoom Q&As with filmmakers will be part of curriculum). While this class takes an historical approach, it also includes a theoretical component and introduces students to the specificity of the cinematic language, examining films in relation to frame composition, camera movements, editing, and sound. This is an intensive writing class taught in English.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive
Italians of immigrant origins and those of immigrants themselves, we'll retracing Italy's colonial history, and recognizing the experiences of intersectional framework. Examining Italy's internal, 'Southern question,' national identity through literary, film, and visual archival material in an representation of blackness and racialized otherness, whiteness, and the #Blacklivesmatter movement? This multimedia course examines colonial past? And, in what way have Black youth in Italy embraced country. How are they forcing it to broaden the idea of 'Italianess'? How do their counternarratives compel Italy to confront its ignored racism while challenging Italy's self-representation as a 'White'

The course is taught in English, but ONE extra credit will be given to students who wish to do the course work in Portuguese. Those wishing to do the course work in English for 3 credits should register for section 01. Those wishing to earn 4 credits by doing the course work in Portuguese should register for section 02. Section 01: 3 credits in ENGLISH Section 02: 4 credits in Portuguese (instructor's permission required).

**Recommended Course Background:** AS.210.301 or AS.210.302 or permission of instructor.

**Area:** Humanities

**Writing Intensive**

**AS.211.401. La France Contemporaine. 3 Credits.**

Students will explore contemporary French society and culture through a wide variety of media: fiction and non-fiction readings (graphic novels, news periodicals, popular magazines), films, music, art, websites, and podcasts. A diverse range of hands-on activities in addition to guided readings will help students develop cultural awareness as we discuss topics such as education, politics, humor, sports, cuisine, immigration, slang, and national identity, as well as the historical factors that have influenced these facets of French and francophone culture. Recommended Course Background: AS.210.301 or AS.210.302 or permission of instructor.

**Area:** Humanities

**AS.211.423. Black Italy. 3 Credits.**

Over the last three decades Italy, historically a country of emigrants—many of whom suffered from discrimination in the societies they joined—became a destination for hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees from various countries, and particularly from Africa. Significant numbers of these immigrants came to Italy as a result of the country's limited, though violent colonial history; others arrive because Italy is the closest entry-point to Europe. How have these migratory flows challenged Italian society's sense of itself? How have they transformed the notion of Italian national identity? In recent years, growing numbers of Afro- and Afro-descendant writers, filmmakers, artists and Black activists are responding through their work to pervasive xenophobia and racism while challenging Italy's self-representation as a 'White' country. How are they forcing it to broaden the idea of 'Italianess'? How do their counternarratives compel Italy to confront its ignored colonial past? And, in what way have Black youth in Italy embraced the #Blacklivesmatter movement? This multimedia course examines representation of blackness and racialized otherness, whiteness, and national identity through literary, film, and visual archival material in an intersectional framework. Examining Italy's internal, 'Southern question,' retracing Italy's colonial history, and recognizing the experiences of Italians of immigrant origins and those of immigrants themselves, we'll explore compelling works by writers and filmmakers such as Igiaba Scego, Gagliella Ghermandi, Maza Megniste, Dagmawi Yimer, and others.

**Area:** Humanities

**AS.211.478. Power and Resistance in French Political Thought. 3 Credits.**

Today France is a multicultural, multi-ethnic society fractured by the memories of colonialism. Throughout the country's history, French thinkers – classical and contemporary – have questioned the foundations of power and focused critically not only on the claims of authority issuing from the top, but also on the compliance of the governed. What it is, they ask, that makes people stick together and recognize each other as citizens of one country? Is there such a thing as a shared history, and is Fraternité something more than a slogan? Works by La Boëtie, Montaigne, Diderot, Robespierre, Tocqueville, Gobineau, Camus, Sartre, Memmi, Foucault and others.

**Prerequisite(s):** Students may not have previously completed AS.212.341.

**Area:** Humanities

**AS.212.311. The Martyr's Crown: Sacrifice in the Renaissance. 3 Credits.**

During the Renaissance, the dominance of Catholicism in Western Europe was challenged by a host of Protestant ideologies. Numerous conflicts – often tied to religious tensions – broke out across Europe. In these conflicts, both Catholic and Protestant sides used the figure of the martyr to bolster support for and faith in their respective causes. This course will examine well-known Renaissance martyrological texts, as well as artistic depictions of martyrs, in order to understand the role that these representations played in the period's many religious wars. This course will also take advantage of local collections (the Walters, the BMA, JHU's Special Collections). Two classes a week will be taught in English; a third discussion section will be offered in French for those wishing to take the course for French credit. For French credit, students should sign up for section 2, and they should have already completed AS.210.301. This course is also writing intensive.

**Area:** Humanities

**Writing Intensive**

**AS.212.331. Paris 1900. 3 Credits.**

Held in Paris, the 1900 World's Fair introduced to the modern world such striking innovations as subways, moving images on giant screens, escalators, colossal electrical shows, and the first painting by Pablo Picasso to be shown on French soil. Focused on key cultural and socio-political events surrounding this momentous turn-of-the-century display of wealth and power, this course examines the paradoxes of a modernizing French nation which even as it promoted individual rights alongside technology and economic growth was headed towards world conflict. Students will perform original research by exploring the rare book collection at JHU as well as the substantial digital archives now documenting the period.

**Area:** Humanities
AS.212.345. French in Switzerland. 3 Credits.
Nearly 30% of the Swiss are native French speakers. But what do we really know about them, what distinguishes them from French speakers in neighboring France? While the language both speak is identical, their social and cultural practices set them worlds apart: the way they interact socially, engage politically, think imaginatively, engage with nature, cook and even love. This highly interactive course explores the social and cultural practices of the French Swiss and how they came to play a key role in national and international critical and political thought; we will analyze how, in a nation composed of four different language groups and an immigrant population of nearly 20%, the French Swiss contribute to maintaining the country’s highest standard of democratic practices; likewise, from an international perspective, we will study how French Switzerland developed a historic role in providing and enabling peaceful forums for international dialogue and peace talks (UN, WHO, UIT, etc.)
Prerequisite(s): AS.210.301 OR AS.210.302
Area: Humanities

AS.212.353. La France Contemporaine. 3 Credits.
Students will explore contemporary French society and culture through a wide variety of media: fiction and non-fiction readings (graphic novels, news periodicals, popular magazines), films, music, art, websites, and podcasts. A diverse range of hands-on activities in addition to guided readings will help students develop cultural awareness as we discuss topics such as education, politics, humor, sports, cuisine, immigration, slang, and national identity, as well as the historical factors that have influenced these facets of French and francophone culture. Recommended Course Background: AS.210.301 or AS.210.302 or permission of instructor.
Prerequisite(s): Students may not have taken AS.211.401.
Area: Humanities

AS.212.361. French Identities: Race, Gender, Religion, and Sexual Preference in Contemporary France. 3 Credits.
How should a just society come to terms with persistent inequalities? France, the country of liberty, equality and fraternity, that offered sanctuary from US racism to such figures as James Baldwin, Richard Wright, and Miles Davis and legalized same-sex marriages two years before the US did, is now deeply divided. This course explores the tensions and contradictions between the universalist and color-blind ideals of the French republic and the realities of discrimination in contemporary French society. Topics studied include the status of the concept of race in political discourse, the law forbidding signs of religious belief in the public schools and responses to it; and how American initiatives like Black Lives Matter, #metoo and critical gender studies have both sparked French activism and political movements and generated a powerful backlash. Conducted in English with optional additional discussion section in French.
Area: Humanities

AS.212.413. For the Record: Jazz Cultures of Modern France. 3 Credits.
Across the 20th century, mainstream and avant-garde French culture was deeply impacted by the presence of African American musicians and performing artists hailing from the jazz tradition. From the Josephine Baker craze of the 1920s to the second post-war which welcomed the innovations of bebop and sixties-era free improvisation, metropolitan France proved a space where expatriate and exiled African Americans could both perpetuate the tradition and innovate by turns. At the same time, French taste-makers, critics, and musicians eager to adopt new forms and styles debated the extent to which American jazz music in its various strains could be made French. This course in transcultural French studies will feature readings in music criticism, history, and literature, as well as frequent close listening. It will culminate in an international symposium (to be held Nov. 15 and 16; attendance mandatory) uniting noted scholars and legendary jazz musicians. Although some background in French language and basic musical notation is desirable (students are encouraged to engage in original-source research), all core course readings will be provided in English.
Area: Humanities

AS.212.431. Style, Gender and Politics from Marie-Antoinette to the Burqini. 3 Credits.
From effeminate kings, to slutty queens, to post-revolutionary dandies, to the manifest invisibility adopted by some French citizens today, debates on the gendering and styling of political bodies have always been central to power struggles in France. Students will read from sociology, history and literature in order to understand the complex interplay among fashion, gender and political identity. Taught in English, but French minor/major credit possible by completing written work in French and by attending a weekly discussion section conducted in French. Students interested in the 4-credit French option should enroll in section 2. All others should enroll in section 1. Special Notes: This course is meant to be a small class experience. Enrollment limits will be strictly enforced.
Area: Humanities

AS.213.270. Die Erfindung der Moderne. 3 Credits.
Taught in German. An introduction to key conceptions of modernity elaborated in the German-language cultural context. We consider the rise of historical awareness and the question of whether history has a purpose, modernity’s difference from ancient and medieval times, secularization and the crisis of meaning, the role of intellectual reflection and subjectivity, the relation between cultural production, political power, and economic processes. Excerpts in the original German from works by Kant, Schiller, Novalis, Hegel, Heine, Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Benjamin, Heidegger
Prerequisite(s): AS.210.362 or placement exam.
Area: Humanities

AS.213.423. Reflections on Modernity. 3 Credits.
Taught in English. Reflections on Modernity takes up the problems conflicts, and possibilities of modernity in aesthetic, literary, and philosophical texts. Questions about the modern self, our relationship to nature, to urban experience, to history and language, and the role of the artist and writer in reflecting on modern life. Texts include works by such authors as Kant, Nietzsche, Baudelaire, Weber, Rilke, Hofmannsthall, Simmel, Heidegger, Habermas, Foucault.
Area: Humanities
AS.214.321. The Prince and the Demagogue: Machiavelli to House of Cards. 3 Credits.
Niccolo Machiavelli’s The Prince is undoubtedly one of the most influential political works in the history of western culture. Read and discussed in many ways, the early-sixteenth-century booklet has been the object of controversial interpretations, which have fueled its myth. Who is Machiavelli’s prince? Is he a tyrant, a good ruler, or a demagogue? How does Machiavelli’s prince move between ethics, politics, and rhetoric? Often evoked in contemporary political discourse and popular culture, Machiavelli’s prince embodies a flexible idea of power that is most difficult to pin down. Moving from a close reading of the text within its original context, this course will consider not only the classical sources that inform The Prince, but also the presence of Machiavelli in today’s political culture and fiction. Special attention will be given to the contribution of Italian philosopher Antonio Gramsci, whose interpretation of Machiavelli’s thought is one of gateways to the reception of The Prince in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course is taught in English. Italian Majors and Minors should register for section 02.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.214.362. Italian Journeys: Medieval and Early Modern. 3 Credits.
The Truth behind the Courtly Façade: «Of ladies, knights, of passions and of cutthroat competition»: the truth behind the romantic façade. What did life actually look like at Italian courts of the 1400’s and 1500’s? We will reconstruct life at a Renaissance court through Italian history, literature, music and art of this period. Who were the stars of these scenes? We will explore the complex and intricate world of the Italian courts, including Florence and Ferrara, through the works of art they produced. The course will concentrate on historical, literary and visual representations including modern media such as film and television.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.215.290. Latin American Critical Perspectives on Colonialism: From the ‘World Upside Down’ to the ‘Coloniality of Power’. 3 Credits.
This course, taught in English, examines how indigenous and local (postcolonial) intellectuals in Latin America responded to the ideology and practices of Spanish Colonialism in the earliest post-conquest years (1532), continued to battle colonialism during the period of the wars of independence, and finally arrived at the production of an analysis that shows how modernity is but the other face of colonialism. Among key works to be discussed are Guaman Poma’s illustrated sixteenth-century chronicles, D.F. Sarramíentno’s _Civilization and Barbarism_ (1845), and Aníbal Quijano’s “Coloniality of Power” (2000).
Writing Intensive

AS.215.309. An Interdisciplinary Introduction to the Study of Latin America. 3 Credits.
The course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the study of Latin America. It brings together archeology, ethno-history, art history, literature and environmental studies.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.215.350. Mexico: A cultural history from the Olmecs to the Mexican revolution of 1910. 3 Credits.
The offers a survey of Mexican culture from the formative years of the Olmecs (2000 b.c.) to the Mexican revolution of 1910. History of ideas, matrix social formations, art and literature are the focus of this historical overview.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.215.380. Modern Latin American Culture. 3 Credits.
Taught in Spanish. This course will explore the fundamental aspects of Latin-America culture from the formation of independent states through the present—in light of the social, political, and economic histories of the region. The course will offer a general survey of history of Latin-America, and will discuss texts, movies, songs, pictures, and paintings, in relation to their social, political, and cultural contexts. May not be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
Prerequisite(s): AS.210.312; Students may earn credit for AS.211.380 or AS.215.380, but not both.
Area: Humanities

AS.215.390. Modern Spanish Culture. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the fundamental aspects of Spanish culture from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. The course will offer a general survey of the history of Spain and will discuss texts, movies, songs, pictures, and paintings in relation to their social, political, and cultural contexts. This course will be of particular interest for students planning on spending a semester abroad in Spain—specially for those students going to the JHU Fall Semester in Madrid, at Carlos III University. Taught in Spanish. Recommended Course Background: AS.210.311 or appropriate Webcase score. AS.215.390 was formerly numbered AS.211.390
Prerequisite(s): Students may not have previously completed AS.211.390.
Area: Humanities

AS.215.404. Cuba Between Heresy and Revolution. 3 Credits.
We will examine the Stalinist and Leninist refashioned doctrines of Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara; Cuba’s Devil’s Pact with Obama; the decline to near breakdown of Cuba-Venezuela Alba dual nation Chavismo; and the startling implications that all of it poses to the rise of sham populism in America. We will press hard into the fabric of Cuba’s battered daily lives, mostly in greater Havana, but also in Miami. Among others, the work of filmmaker Fernándo Pérez, the fiction of Leonardo Padura, and Mariel exodus artists will inform our discussions. Our shared hypothesis: that post-revolutionary national sovereignty, coupled with Cuban exile irredeemment, may have engendered the island’s dual nation status, tied to Miami’s so-called Cuban enclave. As a result, a theologico-political confessional crisis continues into infinity in terms of plural and bipolar heresies supported by US electoral mapping and lobbying, and in some minds having Cuba become the Fifty-First US state.
Area: Humanities

AS.215.409. Catalonia and Independence. 3 Credits.
What is the Catalan independence movement? Where did it come from? What, exactly, does it advocate? This seminar will examine the history, politics, and culture of Catalonia in an attempt to understand why the push for independence has grown over the past decade. We will focus especially on the impact of nationalism, ideology, social history, economics, law, and language on the construction of Catalan identity. But we will also compare Catalonia to other regions in the Iberian Peninsula (the Basque Country, Galicia) as well as across Europe (Scotland, Northern Italy) and North America (Québec) in order to better understand how movements for regional autonomy and independence emerge today.
Taught in English.
Area: Humanities
AS.215.412. Populism. 3 Credits.
What do Hugo Chávez, Marine Le Pen, and Donald Trump have in common? According to many from across the political spectrum, they are all populists. But what is populism, exactly, and how can it describe such disparate phenomena as left-wing social movements, xenophobic anti-immigrant policies, and economic redistribution? This advanced seminar will examine the history, culture, and political theory of populism. We will pay special attention to the resurgence of populism after the Great Recession and examine a number of cases from Latin America, Europe, and the United States.

AS.215.417. Literature of the Great Recession. 3 Credits.
The Great Recession—sometimes called the financial crisis or the economic crisis of 2008—brought financial markets to a halt and created significant political turmoil across the North Atlantic. But its impact on culture, and literature especially, has often been ignored. This seminar will travel across Europe, from Dublin to Madrid, from London to Reykjavik in order to examine how literature has registered this most recent economic crisis. We will focus on how crisis is narrated and the ways in which literary works have managed to provide a voice for marginalized social, economic, and political demands.
Area: Humanities

AS.215.442. Whose Caribbean and the Epic of Race. 3 Credits.
We will study literary claims of epic colonial possession and aesthetic dispossession through close readings of five works in reverse chronological order: V.S. Naipaul’s late historical novel, A Way in the World (1994); Derek Walcott’s transoceamic poem, Omeros (1990); Alejo Carpentier’s short anti-Enlightenment moral tale, El reino de este mundo (1949) and his short tale in celebration of Afro Cuban wizardry, Viaje a la semilla (1944); Aimé Césaire’s prose poetry, mixed chronicle, Cahier d’un retour au pays natal, or Notebook of a Return to the Native Land (1939-1947). We will address questions of temporality and historicity (Heidegger) and a base-materialist political blocking of wild dreams as attainable through translation (Bataille). Such formal and epistemic problems will draw us into issues of race across the colonial spectrum of Caribbean histories.
Area: Humanities

AS.215.469. Mapping Identity in Modern Spain. 3 Credits.
What social, political, and economic forces make groups of people appear out of place in a given society? How have literary works contributed to countering the marginalization of certain groups? This course will look at how modern Spanish artists, writers, and intellectuals wrestled with questions of identity and marginalization. We will critically examine how the modern Spanish state was forged from restrictions on cultural difference and consider the various marginalized groups that were left in its wake. These groups include various peoples (e.g. the Romani), ideologies (e.g. anarchism, socialism, communism), social and economic classes (e.g. peasants, the working class), and regional identities (e.g. Catalonia, the Basque Country). Key texts in modern Spanish literature will prompt our investigation into how writers and artists reflected on, contested, and expressed the marginality of the country’s various internal others. Taught in Spanish.
Area: Humanities

AS.216.305. Representations of the Other(s) in Israeli Culture. 3 Credits.
This course will use the concept of the Other to study the ways in which various marginal groups in Israel are represented in contemporary Israeli films, TV drama, prose-fiction, poetry and visual art. As a nation-state which was founded on the premise of a utopian vision of a just and fair society and as a promise for a safe haven for Jews escaping their status as Others, contemporary Israeli culture offers a unique case study. The course will run as a research seminar in which students will be encouraged to actively engage in analyzing the ways in which cultural productions depict the Other/s and Otherness as well as the social, political and psychological motivations and implications of these depictions. We will ask questions such as: who is considered as Other and by whom? What roles do the cultural representations play in shaping national collective identity, stereotypes and the perception of the self as Other? And how collective memory shapes Otherness?
Area: Humanities

AS.216.342. The Holocaust in Israeli Society and Culture. 3 Credits.
This course examines the role of the Holocaust in Israeli society and culture. We will study the emergence of the discourse of the Holocaust in Israel and its development throughout the years. Through focusing on literary, artistic and cinematic responses to the Holocaust, we will analyze the impact of its memory on the nation, its politics and its self-perception.
Area: Humanities

AS.216.373. War in Israeli Arts and Culture. 3 Credits.
In this course we will study the various representations of what functions as one of Israel’s most unifying and yet dividing forces: war. By analyzing literary and cinematic works as well as visual art and popular culture we will attempt to understand the role of war in shaping Israeli society, culture and politics. Topics such as commemoration and mourning, heroism, dissent and protest, trauma and memory and the changing image of the soldier will stand at the center of the course.
Area: Humanities

AS.217.425. Latin American EcoCriticism. 3 Credits.
Increased awareness of climate change has led to a shift in the way we address and intervene in environmental issues in the new millennium. Yet the interest in making sense of the environment has a long history in literature and the arts. How have Latin American writers and artists understood and depicted their environments and environmental questions? How do the form and content of texts and cultural artifacts influence our understanding of the non-human world? Can works of fiction shape ecological transformations? In this course we will discuss texts from the early colonial period to the present, including the literary works of Graciliano Ramos, Horacio Quiroga, and Clarice Lispector; political ecology; film; Ana Mendieta's earth-body art; contemporary experiments in bio-art; postcolonial theory; and the intersection of environmental justice with such topics as nationalism and human rights. Going beyond ecocriticism’s original focus on the Anglo-American world, we will engage recent scholarship on Latin America and its development throughout the years. Through focusing on literature, art, and film, this course will study Latin America’s response to the effects of economic crisis of 2008—brought financial markets to a halt and created significant political turmoil across the North Atlantic. But its impact on culture, and literature especially, has often been ignored. This seminar will travel across Europe, from Dublin to Madrid, from London to Reykjavik in order to examine how literature has registered this most recent economic crisis. We will focus on how crisis is narrated and the ways in which literary works have managed to provide a voice for marginalized social, economic, and political demands.
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Area: Humanities
AS.217.427. Radical Women: Brazilian Literature, Art, and Culture. 3 Credits.
The vast body of work produced by women artists and writers in Brazil has been marginalized by canonical cultural narratives, which are now being contested by a spate of scholarly and artistic projects. This course spotlights the production of women from the early twentieth century to the present, including renowned and lesser-known works. We'll discuss art, literature, and film alongside feminist theory, exploring radicality as it relates to aesthetics and politics. How do women's art, literature, and thought engage with and transform Brazilian cultural production? What are their contributions to global discussions about gender and sexuality? How do these works respond to historical events? Among the topics addressed are the body, feminism, race, indigeneity, and politics. We'll study Clarice Lispector's acclaimed stories, the first Brazilian proletarian novel written by modernist icon Patricia Galvão, known as Pagu, the diaries of Carolina Maria de Jesus, the emblematic paintings of Tarsila do Amaral, and Lygia Clark's artwork, as well as the booming scene of contemporary cinema and poetry. The course is taught in English, but those interested in doing the coursework in Portuguese (4 credits) should register for section 02.
Area: Humanities

Near Eastern Studies
AS.130.170. Diplomacy and Conflict in the Ancient Middle East. 3 Credits.
The Middle East is home to the invention of agriculture, cities, and writing. It is also in the Middle East that we find evidence of humanity's earliest diplomatic activity in, for instance, the actual letters sent by ancient kings to one another, the treaties drawn up after their conflicts, and the inscriptions that commemorate their conquests. In this course, we examine texts such as these to explore questions such as: How do we characterize the international system of the ancient Middle East? Does this system change over the approximately two millennia for which we have documentation? Is it better to approach ancient diplomacy through present-day eyes or in the context of ancient world-views? Is an understanding of diplomacy in the ancient Middle East relevant to our understanding of modern international relations? All texts read in translation.
Area: Humanities

AS.130.216. History of the Jews in Pre-Modern Times, from the Middle Ages to 1789. 3 Credits.
A broad survey of the significant political and cultural dynamics of Jewish history in the Medieval, Early-Modern, and Modern Eras.
Area: Humanities

Philosophy
AS.150.205. Introduction to the History of Modern Philosophy. 3 Credits.
An overview of philosophical thought in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We shall focus on fundamental questions in epistemology (knowledge, how we acquire it, its scope and limits), metaphysics (the ultimate nature of reality, the relation of mind and body, free will), and theology (the existence and nature of God, God's relation to the world, whether knowledge of such things is possible): all questions that arose in dramatic ways as a result of the rise of modern science. The principal philosophers to be discussed are Descartes, Locke, Hume and Kant, though we shall also make the acquaintance of Spinoza, Leibniz and Berkeley.
Area: Humanities

AS.150.237. Foundations of Modern Political Philosophy. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to modern political philosophy through an intensive study of the classic texts. The focus will be on the nature and limits of political authority under modern social conditions. Authors included are Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Mill.
Area: Humanities

AS.150.240. Intro-Political Philosop. 3 Credits.
Course reviews and explores canonical texts in political philosophy.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.150.355. Philosophy of Law. 3 Credits.
In this course we will examine major issues in the philosophy of law, including the nature of law, the role of the Constitution in legal decisions, and the justification of punishment. No previous knowledge of law or philosophy is required.
Area: Humanities

AS.150.404. The Idea of Power. 3 Credits.
The Idea of Power surveys seminal texts in the history of political thought on the nature, promise, and dangers of political and social power; it also critically engages contemporary texts on race and gender power relations.
Area: Humanities

AS.150.408. The Ethics of Climate Change. 3 Credits.
In this course we consider ethical issues related to climate change and climate change policy. These include issues about how we ought to distribute the burden of mitigation and adaption, what we owe to future generations and to the non-human world, and about our responsibilities as individuals (with respect, for example, to our diets). We briefly consider geoengineering and issues related to the widespread reliance on cost-benefit analyses in climate policy.
Area: Humanities

AS.150.425. Enlightenment Moral and Political Theory. 3 Credits.
An examination of some of the central texts of the Enlightenment, including works by Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Kant.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.150.428. Spinoza's Theological Political Treatise. 3 Credits.
The course is an in-depth study of Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise. Among the topics to be discussed are: Spinoza's Bible criticism, the nature of religion, philosophy and faith, the nature of the ancient Hebrew State, Spinoza's theory of the State, the role of religion in Spinoza's political theory, the freedom to philosophize, the metaphysics of Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise, and finally, the reception of the TTP.

AS.150.440. The Making of Black Lives Matter. 3 Credits.
This course explores the history of black thought that informs the ethics of the contemporary movement for black lives.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.150.492. Plato's Republic. 3 Credits.
This course will be a close reading of Plato's Republic, with special attention to the parallel of city and soul, the relevance of metaphysics to politics, and the relation of aristocracy, democracy and tyranny.
Area: Humanities
Political Science

AS.190.101. Introduction to American Politics. 3 Credits.
This course examines the ideals and operation of the American political system. It seeks to understand how our institutions and politics work, why they work as they do, and what the consequences are for representative government in the United States. Emphasis is placed on the federal government and its electoral, legislative, and executive structures and processes. As useful and appropriate, attention is also given to the federal courts and to the role of the states. The purpose of the course is to understand and confront the character and problems of modern government in the United States in a highly polarized and plebiscitary era.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.102. Introduction To Comparative Politics. 3 Credits.
To understand politics, the sound bites of the modern media take us only so far. In this course, we will take a step back and implement an intellectually rigorous method. Scholars of comparative politics use the method of comparison in order to illuminate important political phenomena of our times. Following this method, we will embark on a scholarly tour of the world and compare the politics of various countries. We will also trace these politics back to their historical sources. We will work from the assumption that there is something to be gained from such comparisons across space and time.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.108. Contemporary International Politics. 3 Credits.
An introduction to international politics. Emphasis will be on continuity and change in international politics and the causes of war and peace. The first half of the course will focus on events prior to the end of the Cold War, including the Peloponnesian War, the European balance of power, imperialism, the origins and consequences of WWI and WWII, and the Cold War. The second half will focus on international politics since 1990, including globalization, whether democracies produce peace, the impact of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and the prospects for peace in the 21st century. Theories of realism and liberalism will also be considered. This course was previously AS.190.209.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.109. Politics of East Asia. 3 Credits.
This course examines some of the central ideas and institutions that have transformed politics in the contemporary world through the lens of East Asia, focusing on Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China. We analyze two enduring themes of classic and contemporary scholarship in comparative politics: development and democracy. The purpose is to introduce students to the various schools of thought within comparative politics as well as to the central debates concerning East Asian politics.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.111. Introduction to Global Studies. 3 Credits.
This course surveys scholarly approaches to processes, relations, institutions, and social structures that cross, subvert, or transcend national borders. The course will also introduce students to research tools for global studies. Students who have taken Contemporary International Politics 190.209 or International Politics 190.104 may not register.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.137. Freshman Seminar: Choosing a President. 3 Credits.
This course investigates core questions of what constitutes political freedom, what limits on freedom (if any) should be imposed by authority, and the relationship between freedom, responsibility, and political judgement. Spanning texts ancient, modern, and contemporary, we shall investigate how power inhabits and invigorates practices of freedom and consent. Among the questions we will consider: Can we always tell the difference between consent and coercion? Are morality and freedom incompatible? Is freedom from the past impossible? By wrestling with slavery (freedom’s opposite) we will confront the terrifying possibility that slavery can be both embodied and psychic. If our minds can be held captive by power, can we ever be certain that we are truly free? The political stakes of these problems will be brought to light through a consideration of issues of religion, gender, sexuality, civil liberties, class and race.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.204. Ancient Political Thought. 3 Credits.
The premise of this course is that a political perspective is tied up with a (meta)physical one, that is to say, with ideas about the nature of Nature and of the status of the human and nonhuman elements within it. How is the universe ordered? Who or what is responsible for it? What place do or should humans occupy within it? How ought we to relate to nonhuman beings and forces? We will read three different responses to such questions and show how they are linked to a particular vision of political life. In the first, the world into which human are born is ordered by gods whose actions often appear inexplicable: Prometheus Bound by Aeschylus, Oedipus the King by Sophocles, and Hippolytus by Euripides will represent this tragic vision of the cosmos. In the second, Plato, in Republic and Phaedrus, the forces of reason and eros play central and powerful roles. In the third, Augustine of Hippo presents a world designed by a benevolent, omnipotent God who nevertheless has allowed humans a share in their own fate. We end the course with Nietzsche’s Birth of Tragedy, which offers a perspective on these three visions of the world – the tragic, the rational, and the faithful – which will help us evaluate them in the light of contemporary political and ecological concerns.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.190.207. The Power of Rhetoric. 3 Credits.
In a time when people claim language "has no preference to facts, truths, or realities," the power of rhetoric is both vilified and lauded in the strongest possible terms. According to some, rhetoric is responsible for the dismissal of everything from political dissent to science as a species of "fake news". By contrast, others argue public life cannot be repaired without a "restoration" of rhetoric. What are these people talking about? This course will help us figure this out. Students will be introduced to the art of persuasive speech, writing, and visual media so as to be prepared to critically examine and evaluate the claims made for and about the role of language in contemporary politics. Topics will include informal logic, appeals, fallacies, figures and tropes. Among others, we will read texts by Aristotle, Austin, Barthes, Foucault, Freud, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Zizek. In addition to a number of short exercises and writing assignments throughout the semester, there will be a midterm and a final paper.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.217. Introduction to International Relations Theory. 3 Credits.
This course is a broad introduction to international relations theory in a format that encompasses lecture and discussion. We will explore mainstream theoretical perspectives and critiques of those perspectives, as well as more recent developments in the field.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.220. Global Security Politics. 3 Credits.
Contemporary and emerging technologies of nuclear (weapons, terrorism, energy) outer space (missiles, missile defense, asteroids), biosecurity (bioweapons, pandemics, terrorism) and cyber (war, spying, surveillance) and implications for security, international politics, arms control, and political freedom.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.226. Global Governance. 3 Credits.
Global problems like poverty, financial instability, human rights abuses, and climate change threaten both international order and human well-being. In the absence of a world state, these problems must be addressed by an increasingly complex, transnational network of organizations and social groups. First, we will aim to understand and explain how global problems are governed through detailed case studies of International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Amnesty International and more. Second, we will critically evaluate the successes and failures of these organizations and explore the possibilities for improving democratic governance at the global level.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.227. U.S. Foreign Policy. 3 Credits.
This course will provide an analysis of US foreign policy with a focus on the interests, institutions, and ideas underpinning its development. While the course will offer a broader survey, the emphasis will be on important developments during the Cold War, such as the articulation of containment strategies and nuclear deterrence, and the analysis of contemporary foreign policy questions, including the problems of terrorism and failed states. In addition to security issues, attention will also be paid to significant developments in international trade policy.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.244. Weapons of Mass Destruction. 3 Credits.
This course examines the impact of weapons of mass destruction on global politics and American interests. The first half of the course focuses on nuclear weapons, examining their development and targeting throughout the Cold War. The second half of the course examines contemporary issues involving nuclear weapons (including arms control, nuclear zero, terrorism, proliferation and defense). It also considers other weapons of mass destruction (or disruption) including chemical, biological, radiological and cyber weapons. The growing concerns about Artificial Intelligence will also be addressed. Requirements include a midterm and a final exam.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.245. The Politics of Global Development. 3 Credits.
Development is often assumed to be an economic issue. In this course we examine the politics of development on a global scale. We begin by looking at the colonial and Cold War histories of development. We then use these histories to contextualise contemporary development issues that directly affect international relations such as aid and debt, humanitariansism, food security, land "grabs", migration and indigenous rights. The course also seeks to understand the ways in which the issues underlying global development have always connected and continue to connect the peoples and polities of the Global North and Global South.

AS.190.249. Fictional World Politics: International Relations Through Fiction. 3 Credits.
The plots and settings of fictitious works provide "cases" for the exploration of international relations theories. Incorporates literature, film, and works of IR scholarship.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.255. Race and Racism in International Relations. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the foundational importance of race and racism to the construction of our contemporary global order. Topics include the Crusades, European imperialism, eugenics, Apartheid, freedom struggles, decolonization, and global development.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.264. What You Need to Know About Chinese Politics (Part 1). 3 Credits.
What you need to know about Chinese politics covers the major scandals, political events, and policy debates that every China watcher needs to know. This first module of a two-semester experience brings together two professors, Prof. Andrew Mertha (SAIS) and Prof. John Yasuda (KSAS), with very different perspectives on China’s past achievements, its political and economic futures, and the global implications of China’s rise. The course seeks to give ample coverage to every major political question about China that is often missed in a semester long class. In addition to lively debates between the instructors, students can also expect guest speakers from the policy world, business, and the academy for a fresh take on what’s going on in China today.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.267. Introduction to Political Economy. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the fundamental questions and concepts of political economy: money, commodities, profit, and capital. The course will study the nature of economic forces and relations as elements larger social and political orders.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.281. Virtue, Labor, and Power (Classics of Political Thought II). 3 Credits.
This is not a class in the history of political thought. Instead, it is an opportunity for a selective, circumscribed, but very focused engagement with some of the most powerful and provocative texts in that history. We will read selections from six thinkers (Socrates, Machiavelli, Locke, Marx, Nietzsche, and Foucault), focusing on three themes (Virtue, Labor, and Power). These texts have all profoundly shaped the way we think about politics, and they are texts that resonate with our own political problematics today.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.282. Authority and Liberty. 3 Credits.
Beginning with Plato, and using Nietzsche's history of metaphysics as a guide, this course serves as an introduction to Euro-American political thought by analyzing the philosophical foundations of political authority. In addition to works by Plato and Nietzsche, readings will include works by Kant, Mill, Hart, and Foucault.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.284. Classics of Political Theory: Political Freedom. 3 Credits.
This course investigates core questions of what constitutes political freedom, what limits on freedom (if any) should be imposed by authority, and the relationship between freedom, responsibility and political judgment. Spanning texts ancient, modern and contemporary, we shall investigate how power inhabits and invigorates practices of freedom and consent. Among the questions we will consider: Can we always tell the difference between consent and coercion? Are morality and freedom incompatible? Is freedom from the past possible? By wrestling with slavery (freedom's opposite) we will confront the terrifying possibility that slavery can be both embodied and psychic. If our minds can be held captive by power, can we ever be certain that we are truly free? The political stakes of these problems will be brought to light through a consideration of issues of religion, gender, sexuality, civil liberties, class and race.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.300. Racial Inequality, Policy and Politics in the US. 3 Credits.
While policies were passed to ensure equal opportunity for racially subjugated Americans, the United States witnessed increasing stratification of wealth and income and deepening concentration of poverty, stagnation in closing racial gaps, and new forms of inequality posed by the striking upsurge in contact with the criminal justice system at the bottom of the skills ladder and concentration of wealth at the top. At the same time, the welfare state came under attack and faced challenges posed by an aging population, women entering the labor force, deindustrialization, and international pressures of globalization. Social spending withered in some areas while spending on citizens was increasingly likely to happen through tax expenditures and private means. This course investigates the politics around these developments and competing perspectives in debates over redistributive policies in the United States and their impact on inequality, particularly race and gender inequality. We will examine the contours of inequality and explanations for why it has expanded over the past several decades. We explore why the US is exceptional in both the level of inequality it tolerates and the generosity and types of remedies to alleviate poverty in comparison to its European counterparts and debate the role of race, unions, electoral politics and institutions. We investigate several specific cases of persistent racial inequality -- concentrated poverty, segregation, and incarceration. We investigate both how policies have reinforced racial and gender divisions from a top-down perspective as well as examining under what conditions the disadvantaged contest inequality, exploring how political struggle shapes policy from the bottom-up. The last part of the course examines the consequences of inequality and social policy for representation and citizenship and how economic inequality affects political representation and responsiveness of elites to masses.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.306. Latin American Politics and Society in Comparative and Historical Perspective. 3 Credits.
The seminar will introduce students to the political and economic trajectories of Latin America as a whole and of individual countries, including Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. Special attention will be paid to the long-term trajectory of the political regime (democracy versus dictatorship) and of economic development (variations in GDP per capita). Competing theories, from economic dependence to historical institutionalism, will be examined for their contribution to our understanding of Latin America’s relative economic backwardness and low quality democracies.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.307. Race, Politics and Literature. 3 Credits.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.190.308. Democracy and Dictatorship: Theory and Cases. 3 Credits.
The course will cover three topics: 1) The conceptualization of political regime, democracy and authoritarianism. We will also consider neighboring concepts of other macro-political structures—government, state, and administration—in order to be able to demarcate what is distinctive about the study of political regimes. 2) The characterization of political regimes in most Western and some non-Western countries, in history and today. We will centrally focus on the so called “Waves of Democratization,” but we will also consider stories with less happy outcomes, that is, processes that led to the breakdown of democracies and the installation of repressive dictatorships. 3) The explanation(s) of the stability and change of political regimes around the world. Theoretical accounts of regime change come in many flavors—emphasis on economic versus political causes, focus on agents and choices versus structures and constraints, international versus domestic factors, among others. We will consider most of them.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.311. Disposable People: Race, Immigration and Biopolitics. 3 Credits.
This course will explore theories and practices of race and immigration in order to illuminate the proliferation of populations regarded as disposable in contemporary politics. We will pay special attention to the contestable criteria used to determine eligibility for membership in the human race. We shall also examine how political power influences the relays between citizenship status and those whose lives are worthy of protection, and those who should be allowed to die.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.315. Asian American Politics. 3 Credits.
This course examines issues of political identity, political incorporation, and political participation of Asian Americans. Themes include Asian American panethnicity, the struggle for immigration and citizenship, Asian American electoral politics, political activism and resistance since the 1960s, and the impact of Asian Americans on the politics of race and ethnicity in the United States.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.320. Politics Of East Asia. 3 Credits.
Examines some of the central ideas and institutions that have transformed politics in the contemporary world through the lens of East Asia, focusing on Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China. Topics include state-society relations, late development, nationalism, democratization, political culture, social movements, and globalization.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.322. Future of American Democracy. 3 Credits.
For the most part, observers of American politics have not considered the possibility that the American democratic regime might be at risk. But the unexpected election of Donald Trump in 2016 and the subsequent course of his presidency have occasioned a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety about whether democracy in the United States is at risk and whether American political institutions can withstand the stresses of contemporary politics. This course will use the Trump era to explore the conditions that seem to threaten the stability of the American regime. We will begin by exploring the political circumstances that led to Trump’s rise. We will then examine what we can learn from the experience of other countries about the conditions that make democracy either robust or fragile. Finally, we will consider how a set of contemporary political conditions in the United States—extreme partisan polarization, intense racial antagonism, growing economic inequality, and expanded executive power—contribute to the challenges facing American democracy today and in the future.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.324. The Law of Democracy: The United States and Canada in Comparative Perspective. 3 Credits.
The Law of Democracy refers to the statutes, court decisions, and other practices that govern the electoral processes. Although the United States and Canada have a great deal in common, they have approached many of the problems involved in institutionalizing democracy quite differently. Recognizing these differences should contribute to understanding both the strengths, and the problems, of the two approaches. Specific topics will include the right to vote, political finance, delineation of district boundaries, electoral dispute resolution, and the role of electoral management bodies and elections administrators.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.325. Finding Equality in Law and Society. 3 Credits.
In this class, we will ask questions about the relationship between equality, law, and society. We will investigate how people have used law in their movements for greater equality, and ask whether law has served these movements well and how it has worked. We will pay particular attention to movements based on race, gender, and economic class.

AS.190.326. Democracy And Elections. 3 Credits.
An examination of most aspects of democratic elections with the exception of the behavior of voters. Topics include the impact of various electoral systems and administrative reforms on the outcome of elections, standards for evaluations of electoral systems, and the impact of the Arrow problem on normative theories of democratic elections.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.327. Politics of Information. 3 Credits.
Considers global and comparative politics of information, information technologies, and the Internet. Examines governance of information (ownership of information, rights to information, privacy) and governance of information technologies (domain names, social media websites, etc.).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.329. National Security-Nuclear Age. 3 Credits.
This course examines the impact of weapons of mass destruction on international politics with an emphasis on security issues. The first half of the course focuses on the history of nuclear weapons development during the Cold War and theories of deterrence. The second half of the class considers contemporary issues including terrorism, chemical and biological weapons, ballistic missile defense and proliferation.
Requirements include a midterm, final and a ten page paper.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.330. Japanese Politics. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the major debates and issues of postwar Japanese politics. Topics include nationalism, electoral politics, civil society, and immigration.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.331. America and the World. 3 Credits.
This course is a survey of the unique position of the United States in world politics. We will cover the broader international relations literature on the dynamics of hegemony and empire, from work in the realist tradition to more critical approaches. The course will encompass security politics as well as the economic and monetary dimensions of American influence. Interested students must have at least completed one 100 or 200 level introductory course in international relations.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.332. The University in Democracy. 3 Credits.
From the founding of the United States to the COVID-19 pandemic, modern universities have evolved into expansive, complex institutions that play a variety of indispensable roles in the support of democratic societies. They educate citizens as well as specialists; produce new knowledge that shapes discourse and public policy; foster reasoned debate; and act as engines of social mobility. They also incite a great deal of controversy, criticism, and distrust, including for how they have performed these roles. In this course, we will study the centuries-long relationship between universities and democracy, and assess how successfully these institutions (including Johns Hopkins) are fulfilling their most profound functions today.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.333. American Constitutional Law. 3 Credits.
This course covers enduring debates about the way the Constitution has structured the U.S. government and about which powers the Constitution assigns to the federal government and to the states. We will examine these debates in the context of American political history and thought by studying the writings of prominent participants, and landmark Supreme Court cases.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.334. Constitutional Law. 3 Credits.
Topics include executive and emergency power, racial and gender equality, and selected free speech and religious freedom issues.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.335. Imagining Borders. 3 Credits.
What is a border and why do borders matter in global politics. What do borders mean under conditions of globalization? An examination of the politics of borders, transborder flows, and networks within and across borders. The readings which come from political science and other disciplines, will include theoretical and case-specific works.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.338. Comparative Political Behavior. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the study of political behavior, emphasizing electoral behavior in democratic countries.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.339. American Racial Politics. 3 Credits.
Recommended Course Background: AS.190.214
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.340. Black Politics I. 3 Credits.
This course is a survey of the bases and substance of politics among black Americans and the relation of black politics to the American political system up to the end of Jim Crow. The intention is both to provide a general sense of pertinent issues and relations over this period as a way of helping to make sense of the present and to develop criteria for evaluating political scientists' and others' claims regarding the status and characteristics of black American political activity.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.341. Korean Politics. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the historical and institutional foundations of modern South Korean politics. Topics include nationalism, political economic development, civil society, globalization, and ROK-DPRK relations. Recommended students should take Intro to Comparative Politics or a course related to East Asia first.(CP)
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.343. Research Seminar on Political Parties. 3 Credits.
This seminar has two basic objectives: both theoretical and empirical study of selected topics in the comparative literature on political parties, and the ultimate production of a publishable-quality (or conference-presentable-quality) paper. Topics will include (but not be limited to) the place of parties in political theory and the nature of party systems, party organization, and party behavior in the United States and other countries.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.344. Seminar In Anti-Semitism. 3 Credits.
Jews exercise a good deal of power in contemporary America. They are prominent in a number of key industries, play important roles in the political process, and hold many major national offices. For example, though Jews constitute barely two percent of America's citizens, about one-third of the nation's wealthiest 400 individuals are Jewish and more than ten percent of the seats in the U.S. Congress are held by Jews.
One recent book declared that, "From the Vatican to the Kremlin, from the White House to Capitol Hill, the world's movers and shakers view American Jewry as a force to be reckoned with." Of course, Jews have risen to power in many times and places ranging from the medieval Muslim world and early modern Spain through Germany and the Soviet Union in the 20th century. In nearly every prior instance, though, Jewish power proved to be evanescent. No sooner had the Jews become "a force to be reckoned with" than they found themselves banished to the political margins, forced into exile or worse. Though it may rise to a great height, the power of the Jews seems ultimately to rest on a rather insecure foundation. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies. Course is open to juniors and seniors.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.346. Foundations of International Relations Theory. 3 Credits.
This course is a broad conceptual introduction to international relations theory in a format that stresses close reading and critical discussion. We will explore mainstream theoretical perspectives and critiques of those perspectives, as well as more recent developments in the field. By the end of the course, students will have a firm grasp of the core issues and debates in the field. The course is conceptually demanding; interested students should have at least completed an introductory course in political science.
AS.190.347. A New Cold War? Sino-American Relations in the 21st Century. 3 Credits.

"Can the United States and China avoid a new Cold War? One might think not given the disputes over the South China Sea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, human rights, trade, ideology and so much more. Moreover, competition for influence in the developing world and American concerns as to whether China will replace it as the preeminent world power suggest a new Cold War is in the offing. Nevertheless, their extensive economic ties and need to work together to solve common problems such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, and pandemics argues against a continuing confrontation. This course will examine whether cooperation or conflict will define Sino-American relations, and whether a new Cold War—or even a shooting war—lies in the future."  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.348. Business, Finance, and Government in E. Asia. 3 Credits.

Business, Finance, and Government in East Asia explores the dynamics of East Asia’s economic growth (and crises) over the last fifty years. We will examine Japan’s post-war development strategy, the Asian tiger economies, and China’s dramatic rise. Centered on case studies of major corporations, this course examines the interstate politics of business and economics in East Asia, and considers the following questions: How have businesses navigated East Asia’s complex market environment? In what ways can the state foster economic development? How has the financial system been organized to facilitate investment? What are the long-term prospects for growth in the region?  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.355. Comparative Racial Politics. 3 Credits.

This course surveys the major trends and approaches to the comparative study of race in political science and critically examines the link between race and politics. Topics include race and state formation, citizenship and national membership, immigration, racial regimes, and the political economy of race.  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.356. The Social Contract and its Discontents. 3 Credits.

This course focuses on one of the most powerful stories told in the tradition of western political theory: the story of the social contract. This story is about the constitution of legitimate political authority. It is told in many ways and each version makes different assumptions, in particular about human nature, the power of reason, the value of order, and the character of justice. We examine this often-conflicting assumptions and explore how they continue to inform the way we think about the possibilities and problems of politics. Readings include texts by Arendt, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Freud, Pateman, the Federalists, Derrida, and Douglass. Final grades are based on class participation, two exams and two papers.  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.190.366. Free Speech and the Law in Comparative Perspective. 3 Credits.

This class explores the ideas and legal doctrines that define the freedom of speech. We will examine the free speech jurisprudence of the U.S. in comparison to that of other systems, particularly the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the Supreme Court of Canada.  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.368. Political Arts: Dada, Surrealism, and Societal Transformation. 3 Credits.

An exploration of the political aims, tactics, and strengths and liabilities, of Dada and Surrealism, as it operated in Europe and the Americas in the years between the World Wars, with a comparison to political conditions today.  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.370. Chinese Politics. 3 Credits.

This course is designed to help students better understand the politics of China. Lectures will focus on the tools of governance that China has employed to navigate its transition from plan to market, provide public goods and services to its citizens, and to maintain social control over a rapidly changing society. The course will draw heavily from texts covering a range of subjects including China’s political economy, social and cultural developments, regime dynamics, and historical legacies. Students interested in authoritarian resilience, governance, post-communist transition, and domestic will find this course particularly instructive.  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.372. Decolonizing Politics. 3 Credits.

This course introduces students to the colonial logics that underpin key categories and concepts in Political Science. Working through four sub-fields — political theory, political behavior, comparative politics and international relations, the course also introduces students to alternative knowledge traditions, emanating from minority communities and colonized peoples, which seek to explain the stuff of Political Science via anti-colonial logics.  
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.373. The Politics of Public Policy. 3 Credits.

This course is an introduction to the political structure and process of making public policy in the United States. Public policymaking is, above all, an arena in which policy professionals try to bring systematic evidence and scientific knowledge to bear to diagnose, understand, and solve social problems. At the same time, policymaking also takes place in a political environment, in which strategic and purposive actors contend for power and seek to advance their own goals and realize their own visions about how the world ought to be changed for the better. The goals that participants in the policymaking process pursue may take a variety of forms: substantive policy outcomes, of course, but also power, political advancement, or material advantage. The actors who populate the process, moreover, may disagree about the goals they seek and making policy — especially in democratic political systems — requires some means of resolving these disagreements. Actors also differ in the resources they have at their disposal to seek their goals — power, money, organization, for example, but also knowledge and expertise. Finally, policymakers cannot do anything they want in pursuit of their goals. They are constrained by the rules and structures that make up the policymaking system. These factors — actors, goals, resources, knowledge, and rules — shape the politics of policymaking and frame the strategic options available to policymakers.
**AS.190.379. Nationalism and the Politics of Identity. 3 Credits.**
Nationalism ties powerful organizations to political mobilization, territory, and individual loyalty. Yet nationalism is typically studied in isolation from other social formations that depend upon organizational—individual linkages. Alternative types of identity category sometimes depend similarly upon organizations that collect and deploy resources, mobilize individuals, erect boundaries, and promote strong emotional connections among individuals as well as between individuals and institutions. In this class, we study classic and contemporary works on nationalism, drawn from multiple disciplinary and analytic traditions, in the comparative context of alternative forms of identity. The focus of the class will be primarily theoretical, with no regional or temporal limitations.

**AS.190.380. The American Welfare State. 3 Credits.**
This course analyzes the distinctive US welfare state in historical and comparative perspective. We begin with a survey of the policy context, an historical overview from the poorhouses through the Great Society, and a tour of welfare states across the rich democracies. We then survey developments—and explain the actual workings of policy—across jobs, education, welfare, pensions, and health care. We explore the institutional and political factors behind their divergent trajectories through conservative revival and the age of Trump. Students will write a seminar paper exploring policy development over time in a program or area of their choosing. Enrollment restricted to Social Policy minors only. Prerequisite(s): Students may take AS.190.380 or AS.360.380, but not both.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

**AS.190.381. Global Environmental Politics. 3 Credits.**
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

**AS.190.382. Democracy and Development: Theory and Cases. 3 Credits.**
Most wealthy countries are democracies. But not all democracies are wealthy—India, Costa Rica, and Mongolia are prominent examples of poor countries with democratic regimes. The course will examine the relation between economic development and political democratization under three big questions. (a) Under what conditions, and through which mechanisms, does economic development promote democracy? (b) If economic development is not possible in the foreseeable future, how do countries achieve stable democratization? (c) Under what conditions, and through which mechanisms, does democracy foster economic development?

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

**AS.190.384. Urban Politics & Policy. 3 Credits.**
An analysis of public policy and policy-making for American Cities. Special attention will be given to the subject of urban crime and law enforcement, poverty and welfare, and intergovernmental relations. Cross-listed with Africana Studies
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.190.385. Urban Politics and Policy. 3 Credits.**
An analysis of public policy and policy-making for American Cities. Special attention will be given to the subject of urban crime and law enforcement, poverty and welfare, and intergovernmental relations. Cross-listed with Africana Studies.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.190.387. Parties and Elections in America. 3 Credits.**
Considers how parties and elections structure political conflict, and facilitate (or not) democratic control of government. Topics include campaigns, voting behavior, election administration, money in politics, presidential nomination, and party coalitions.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

**AS.190.388. Race and the Politics of Memory. 3 Credits.**
This is a writing intensive, advanced undergraduate political theory seminar. The course will examine the politics of memory: how power shapes what is available to be remembered, the timing and occasions of memory, who is allowed to remember, and the spaces inside of which remembrance takes place. Specifically, the seminar will explore how segregated memory enables racial segregation and racial inequality. Toward that end, we shall investigate political and theoretical interventions potentially equipped to contest contemporary forms of racial amnesia haunting what some have labeled a “post-truth” world.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.190.389. China’s Political Economy. 3 Credits.**
This course examines the most important debates about China’s political economic development. After exploring Mao Zedong’s disastrous economic policies, we will consider the politics of reform and opening under Deng Xiaoping, and finally conclude with China’s state capitalist policies across a variety of issue areas. The course will cover literatures on financial reform, public goods provision, foreign trade and investment, agriculture, corruption, business groups, and regulatory development. Where possible we will draw comparisons with the economic experiences of other East Asian nations as well as other post-communist states.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.190.390. Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism. 3 Credits.**
Since antiquity, global politics have been defined by the struggle between imperialism and anti-imperialism. This course examines the arguments that have accompanied this struggle, considering influential texts written to defend or to denounce empires, as well as contemporary scholarship on imperial and anti-imperial ideologies. We will focus in particular on how imperial conflicts shaped natural law, international law, liberalism, and cosmopolitanism, as well as the connections between imperialism and contemporary capitalism, development assistance, and humanitarian intervention. The fundamental questions for the course are: What is an empire? and What would it mean to decolonize our world, our international institutions, and our minds?

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.190.391. Nonviolent Resistance in World Politics. 3 Credits.**
In this seminar we examine the origins, dynamics, and consequences of nonviolent struggles around the world. How do ordinary people organize for social change? What are the differences in people power campaigns in authoritarian and democratic contexts? When does nonviolent resistance succeed or fail, and what are the political consequences of these outcomes? In answering these questions, we will study the central ideas behind nonviolent action, learn about the most important scholarly discoveries in this field and analyze paradigmatic cases. Students will choose a historical or contemporary nonviolent movement to interrogate throughout the semester, as we learn new concepts, theories, and empirical patterns to make sense of them.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.190.394. Comparative Politics of the Middle East and North Africa. 3 Credits.
This course examines the domestic, regional, and transnational politics of the Middle East and North Africa. The class is organized into three units. The first examines major armed conflicts—anti-colonial, intra-state, and inter-state—from 1948 through the 1990s. It uses these historical moments as windows onto key issues in Middle Eastern and North African political issues such as external intervention/occupation, human rights, sectarianism, social movements, and memory politics. Unit Two focuses on policy relevant issues such as democratization, minority populations, religion and politics, and gender. In Unit Three, students will explore the politics of the Arab Uprisings through critical reading and discussion of new (post-2011) scholarship on MENA states, organizations, and populations. Enrollment limited to Political Science and International Studies majors.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.396. Capitalism and Ecology. 3 Credits.
Capitalism and Ecology focuses on the relations between capitalism and climate during the era of the Anthropocene. How do capitalist processes of fossil extraction, consumption, production and governance contribute to the pace of climate warming, glacier flows, the ocean conveyor system, species loss and other phenomena? What are the effects and the possible modes of political response? How do the nonhuman, self-organizing processes such as glaciers, oceans and climate change on their own as they also amplify the effects of capitalist emissions? The course combines texts on capitalism and activism with those by geoscientists on how the nonhuman systems work. Books by authors in the fields of political theory, geology, anthropology, economics, philosophy and ethnology will be drawn upon. Authors such as Michael Benton, Brian Fagan, Hayek, Naomi Klein, Fred Hirsch, Fred Pearce, van Dooren and Connolly are apt to be read to engage these issues. A previous course in political theory is recommended. The class is organized around student presentations on assigned readings. Two papers, 10-12 pages in length. Extensive class discussion.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.398. Politics Of Good & Evil. 3 Credits.
The Politics of Good and Evil examines comparatively a series of classical myths and modern philosophies concerning the sources of evil, the nature of goodness and nobility, the relations of culture to politics, nature and the gods, the degree to which any metaphysic or theological faith is certain, and so on. It is a course in "elemental theory" in the sense that each text pursues challenges and disrupts others we read. Often the reader is disrupted existentially too, in ways that may spur new thought. A previous course in political theory or a theoretical course in the humanities is advised. A high tolerance for theory is essential. Texts on or by Sophocles, Job, Genesis ("J" version), Augustine, Voltaire, Nietzsche, James Baldwin, W. Connolly and Elizabeth Kolbert form the core of the class. Assignments: 1) One 12 page paper and a second 5-7 page paper, both anchored in the readings; 2) a class presentation on one text; 3) regular attendance and quality participation in class discussions.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.402. Environmental Racism. 3 Credits.
This is an undergraduate political theory seminar that addresses the disproportionate impact of environmental destruction on racially stigmatized populations. We shall examine the logics of power whereby the natural world is subjected to exploitation and domination, in tandem with the subordination of racial subjects historically identified as closer to nature. Likewise, we will explore political and theoretical challenges to environmental racism, such as those posed by indigenous communities, decolonial theory, and political movements contesting the intersection of racial inequalities and ecological crises.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.403. Arendt/Foucault. 3 Credits.
This upper-level undergraduate writing intensive course brings together the work of Hannah Arendt and Michel Foucault to focus on their critiques of modernity and their discussions of political change/revolution. Although Arendt and Foucault are often understood as coming from and supporting different political theoretical traditions, the course will also explore ways in which their shared debt to the work of Friedrich Nietzsche illuminates sometimes surprising commonalities and complementary positions. There is no final exam in this course but in addition to reading assignments, students will be required to write three papers.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.190.404. Race and Debt: Living on Borrowed Time. 3 Credits.
This is an advanced undergraduate seminar that explores how racial stigma functions as a marker of being always already in debt. In view of the legacies of settler-colonialism, imperialism and chattel slavery, how is it that those from whom so much has been taken are nevertheless regarded as perpetually in debt? We shall examine the moral, economic and racialized logics of power through which a range of political subjects come to be regarded as ungrateful “takers” as opposed to “makers,” and owing a debt to society. In so doing, we will investigate how temporality functions as a tool of power by considering how the indebted are made vulnerable to precarity, discipline, and disposability—in effect, forced to live life on borrowed time.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.406. The Executive Branch. 3 Credits.
In the 19th Century America was noted for its courts, political parties and representative institutions. Today, America’s political parties and representative institutions have declined in importance while the institutions of the executive branch have increased in importance. This seminar will examine the nation’s key executive institutions and aspects of executive governance in the U.S. Students will alternate primary responsibility for week’s readings. Every student will prepare a 10-15 page review and critique of the books for which they are responsible in class.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.407. Geopolitics, Nuclear Weapons and World Order. 3 Credits.
Intensive examination of unresolved debates about the implications of nuclear weapons for world order, focusing on deterrence, strategy, arms control, multipolarity, proliferation, terrorism, and abolition, as well as roles of liberal, democratic, and constitutional political forms and popular public involvement. Readings from classic and contemporary sources.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.408. Sovereignty: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Issues. 3 Credits.
This seminar provides an in-depth exploration of the concept of sovereignty by examining its historical development, current controversies, and its salience in international relations scholarship. Works in political theory and the international law literature will also inform our discussion. The course is open to advanced undergraduate students with previous coursework in political science.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.410. Beyond Bob Marley: Exploring the Rastafari Movement in the Greater Baltimore Area. 3 Credits.
This course uses a community-based learning approach to inquire into the presence of the Rastafari community in the Baltimore area. Most people will have heard of Rastafari through the music of Bob Marley. People might not know, however, that Rastafari emerges out of and has been part of a global history of liberation struggles. This course is co-taught with a local Rastafari organization. You will be intellectually and practically equipped to take part in a project of original research on the Rastafari presence in the Baltimore region, starting with the demonization of the movement in the 1980s “war on drugs” and including the movement’s response.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.412. Political Violence. 3 Credits.
An examination of the ways in which violence has been used to secure political ends. Topics include terrorism, assassination, genocide, coups, rebellions and war itself. Students examine what makes types of political violence unique and what unites them. (Formerly AS.190.372)
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.418. The End of Whiteness. 3 Credits.
This is a writing intensive, advanced undergraduate political theory seminar on racial formation. Specifically, the course explores the end of whiteness in multiple senses of the phrase. First, to what extent do the ends served by whiteness change, or remain continuous, over time? What power hierarchies and political goals have white identity been engineered to advance historically? We shall then examine the contemporary phenomenon whereby the end of white supremacy is conceived by some as the end of the world. This, in turn, will lead us to investigate how we should best understand white disavowal of threats of climate change and pandemics/health-care crises currently coursing through white identity politics. The last part of the course will be dedicated to exploring the end of whiteness in terms of the theories and practices potentially required to dismantle whiteness as white supremacy. Readings include Du Bois, Fanon, Painter, Baldwin, Moreton-Robinson, Hartmann, Olson
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.419. Race and Segregated Time. 3 Credits.
This course explores how time, and not just space, is segregated along racial lines. We shall examine how racial injustices are experienced as impositions on human time, how resistance to racial inequality has often been figured in temporal terms, and what it means to think in untimely ways that challenge how the extended lifespans of racially dominant groups is contingent upon the foreshortened lifetimes of racial others. Readings will bring political theory into contact with contemporary experiences of race, such as: criminal (in)justice, environmental racism and the proliferation of human disposability. Recommended Course Background: One Political Theory course.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.421. Violence: State and Society. 3 Credits.
This course will examine violence that occurs mainly within the territory of nominally sovereign states. We will focus on violence as an object of study in its own right. For the most part, we will look at violence as a dependent variable, though in some instances it will function as an independent variable, a mechanism, or an equilibrium. We will ask why violence starts, how it “works” or fails to work, why it takes place in some locations and not others, why violence take specific forms (e.g., insurgency, terrorism, civilian victimization, etc.), what explains its magnitude (the number of victims), and what explains targeting (the type or identity of victims).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.423. Planetary Geopolitics. 3 Credits.
With the tools of geopolitics, course explores political debates over globalization of machine civilization and changes in scope and pace, space and place, and role of nature in human affairs.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.424. Policy Disasters. 3 Credits.
Investigates the causes of large-scale policy disasters, examining the role of ideology, psychology, organization design and political incentives. Examples may be drawn from the Iraq War, Bay of Pigs, Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Financial crisis, Shuttle Challenger disaster. economic development policy, privatization, and the Great Society. Limited to seniors or with permission of instructor. (CP / AP)
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.425. The New Deal and American Politics. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores how the New Deal, the fundamental moment in the post-Civil War United States, has structured politics and government across a variety of domains ever since. Topics include presidential leadership, executive power, political parties, labor, race, and the welfare state.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.426. Qualitative Research. 3 Credits.
This class is designed to introduce students to qualitative methodology. Practically, students will gain first-hand experience with qualitative research methods via research design, ethics review, in-depth interviewing, participant observation, and archival/primary source research. They will learn to deploy analytical techniques such as discourse analysis and process tracing. Students will also be asked to consider the merits of qualitative approaches more generally, and discuss the relative advantages of qualitative, experimental, and quantitative approaches. Questions that we will discuss include: What place should qualitative research have in a research design? Can qualitative research test hypotheses, or only generate them? Can qualitative research explain social phenomena, or only interpret them? What are the disadvantages and advantages of qualitative approaches compared to quantitative approaches? For what kinds of research questions are ethnographic techniques best suited? Is replicability possible for ethnographic field research? What criteria of evidence and analytical rigor apply on this terrain?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.427. Political Economy of Japan and Korea. 3 Credits.
This upper-level seminar examines some of the major debates and issues of postwar Japanese and South Korean political economy. Topics include nationalism, gender politics, civil society, immigration, and US-Japan-South Korea trilateral relations.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.190.428. The Politics of Disaster in the Middle East and Beyond. 3 Credits.
This course examines the politics of natural and man-made disasters, including war, forced migration, drought, famine, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, and epidemics. Focusing on the Middle East, it also presents comparative cases from Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and North America. In doing so, the class will examine the unique ways that different types of disasters interact with governance structures; social and economic inequalities; medical infrastructure; gender; race and ethnicity; and political cleavages. Throughout the course, students will learn basic elements of research design and methods in addition to welcoming experienced disaster response and analysis practitioners to class. Finally, the Politics of Disaster in the Middle East and Beyond addresses some of the philosophical aspects of working in and studying disaster-affected contexts, bringing an ethical sensibility to policy-relevant analysis.

AS.190.429. The Political Bases of the Market Economy. 3 Credits.
Although “the market” is conventionally understood as separate from “politics,” the modern market economy did not arise in a political vacuum. In fact, the very separation between the economy and politics is itself the product of a politically potent set of ideas. This course is an upper-division reading seminar on the origins and evolution of the modern market economy. Readings will include Smith, Marx, Weber, Polanyi, Keynes, Hayek, Friedman, Becker, and Foucault. Recommended course background: Introduction to comparative politics OR any college-level course in social or political theory.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.430. Time and Punishment. 3 Credits.
“If you can’t do the time, don’t do the crime.” According to ask.com, this common expression was made popular in the 1970s by the theme song for the television show “Beretta.” Aside from amusing us with the irony that the star of “Beretta” was Robert Blake who was later charged with the murder of Bony Lee Bakely, the expression raises a profound issue: What is the relationship between punishment and time? This course will explore that question. Topics to be discussed include different philosophical understandings and experiences of time, views of mortality and fate, theories of punishment, specific punishments in the U.S. (including sentences of juveniles, life, death, and LWOP), as well as punishments that are not specifically meted out but are known to be the consequences of political, social, and economic circumstance. Students will read texts in criminology, political theory, philosophy, and jurisprudence, as well as a selection of Supreme Court cases, novels, and short stories. This writing intensive course is limited to undergraduates who have taken at least one “Classics of Political Thought” course (190.280, 190.281, 190.282, or 190.283).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.431. Global Climate Governance. 3 Credits.
This course will offer an in-depth study of the history and politics of global climate governance. It will examine the central actors, agreements, and policy proposals that shape climate governance.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.432. The Politics of Race in the US. 3 Credits.
Race has been and continues to be centrally important to American political life and development. In this course, we will engage with the major debates around racial politics in the United States, with a substantial focus on how policies and practices of citizenship, immigration law, social provision, and criminal justice policy shaped and continue to shape racial formation, group-based identities, and group position; debates around the content and meaning of political representation and the responsiveness of the political system to American minority groups; debates about how racial prejudice has shifted and its importance in understanding American political behavior; the prospects for contestation or coalitions among groups; the “struggle with difference” within groups as they deal with the interplay of race and class, citizenship status, and issues that disproportionately affect a subset of their members; and debates about how new groups and issues are reshaping the meaning and practice of race in the United States.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.433. Race and the Politics of Punishment in the US. 3 Credits.
Contact with criminal justice has become a primary way that many Americans see and experience government, particularly those from race-class subjugated communities. Yet, our field has been slow to appreciate the development of the carceral state or to consider its manifold for citizenship. In this advanced undergraduate seminar, we will survey key debates around punishment, state violence, and surveillance, with a particular focus on research that takes institutional development, history and racial orders seriously. Why did the carceral state expand in "fits and starts" and with what consequence for state-building? We explore its (racialized and gendered) relationship to other key systems: foster care, social provision, labor relations and the labor market, and immigration enforcement. A core preoccupation of this course will be to understand the ways in which the criminal justice system "makes race" and how debates about crime and punishment were often debates about black inclusion and equality. How does exposure to criminal justice interventions shape political learning, democratic habits, and racial lifeworlds? In addition to policy, political discourse, and racial politics, we will employ works from a range of fields - history, sociology, law and criminology - and a range of methods (ethnography, historical analysis, quantitative and qualitative). Required books include: Khalil Muhammad's Condemnation of Blackness: race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America, Elizabeth Hinton's From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime, David Oshinsky’s Worse than Slavery; Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice, Bruce Western's Punishment and Inequality in America, and Michael Fortner's Black Silent Majority. The Rockefeller Drug Laws and the Politics of Punishment.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.434. Does Israel Have a Future?. 3 Credits.
Israel is one of the only countries whose existence is openly challenged. This class will examine the future of Israel focusing on international and domestic threats to its continued existence as a Jewish democracy. Outside threats to be considered include nuclear attack and the growing international movement to delegitimize Israel. Domestic challenges include demographic changes, the role of religion in governance, and doubts as to whether one can be a Jewish state and still be a democracy. Lessons from the destruction of the ancient Israelite kingdoms and from contemporary state deaths will be included. The course will conclude by considering efforts that Israel can undertake to meet the threats it faces.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.437. Race and Ethnic Politics in the United States. 3 Credits.
Race has been and continues to be centrally important to American political life and development. In this course, we will engage with the major debates around racial politics in the United States, with a substantial focus on how policies and practices of citizenship, immigration law, social provision, and criminal justice policy shaped and continue to shape racial formation, group-based identities, and group position; debates around the content and meaning of political representation and the responsiveness of the political system to American minority groups; debates about how racial prejudice has shifted and its importance in understanding American political behavior; the prospects for contestation or coalitions among groups; the “struggle with difference” within groups as they deal with the interplay of race and class, citizenship status, and issues that disproportionately affect a subset of their members; and debates about how new groups and issues are reshaping the meaning and practice of race in the United States.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.190.438. Violence and Politics. 3 Credits.
This seminar will address the role of violence—both domestic and international—in political life. Though most claim to abhor violence, since the advent of recorded history, violence and politics have been intimately related. States practice violence against internal and external foes. Political dissidents engage in violence against states. Competing political forces inflict violence upon one another. Writing in 1924, Winston Churchill declared—and not without reason—that, "The story of the human race is war." Indeed, violence and the threat of violence are the most potent forces in political life. It is, to be sure, often averred that problems can never truly be solved by the use of force. Violence, the saying goes, is not the answer. This adage certainly appeals to our moral sensibilities. But whether or not violence is the answer presumably depends upon the question being asked. For better or worse, it is violence that usually provides the most definitive answers to three of the major questions of political life—statehood, territoriality and power. Violent struggle, in the form of war, revolution, civil war, terrorism and the like, more than any other immediate factor, determines what states will exist and their relative power, what territories they will occupy, and which groups will and will not exercise power within them. Course is open to juniors and seniors.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.440. European Politics in Comparative Perspective. 3 Credits.
Europe has been in a sense the first testing ground for theories of comparative politics, but many outsiders now see Europe as a pacified and somewhat boring place. This course will question conventional wisdom through an examination of European politics in historical and cross-national perspective. We will apply the comparative method to the study of European politics today, and conversely we will ask what Europe tells us more generally about politics. We will see that Europe is still a locus of intense conflict as well as remarkably diverse experimentation. Topics will include: political, legal, and economic governance; the evolution of democracy and fundamental rights, the welfare state, class stratification, immigration and race, the role of religion; European integration and globalization. Recommended background: Introduction to Comparative Politics.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.442. Civil Society. 3 Credits.
This course explores classic and contemporary debates on the concept of civil society and critically examines its analytical value in light of recent developments. Topics include the relationship between civil society, the state, and markets, the role of civil society in development and democratization, social capital, and global civil society. This course is open to graduate students from any discipline. Advanced undergraduate students must obtain permission from the instructor and are expected to keep up with graduate students during class discussions.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.443. Politics of Outer Space. 3 Credits.
Intensive examination of the political aspects of human activities in outer space, past, present and future, with focus on militarization, earth-remote sensing, surveillance, navigation, resource exploitation, the Outer Space Treaty, and colonization.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.450. Power. 3 Credits.
Power is a – if not the – key concept of international relations, yet there is no single definition of power that is accepted by all scholars in the field. In this course we will critically examine definitions of power from classic and contemporary works of international relations, political science, and related areas of study.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.451. Geopolitics. 3 Credits.
Intensive exploration of theories of how geography, ecology, and technology shape political orders. Case studies of ancient, early modern, global, and contemporary topics, including European ascent, industrial revolution, tropics and North South divide, climate change, geo-engineering and global commons (oceans, atmosphere and orbital space
Writing Intensive

AS.190.452. Party Politics from the Founding to the Progressives. 3 Credits.
Though the torchlight parade has long since passed, American parties still stand in the shadow of the nineteenth-century Party Period. This course seeks to untangle the ideologies and practices of party politics from the Founding to the Progressive Era. Topics include the rise of mass parties, political violence, the coming of the Republican Party, the party politics of Reconstruction and westward expansion, corruption and the political machine, Populism, and movements for reform. We pay particular attention to comparisons between past and present, and to opportunities taken and foregone.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.454. Nuclear Weapons and World Politics. 3 Credits.
An intensive examination of competing theories of the role of nuclear weapons in world politics and alternative global security orders. Focus on nuclear weapons and the interstate system, deterrence, war fighting, arms control, proliferation and terrorism, with select historical and contemporary case studies.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.455. Comparative Racial Politics. 3 Credits.
This upper-level seminar surveys the major trends and approaches to the comparative study of race in political science and critically examines the link between race and politics. Topics include race and state formation, citizenship and national membership, immigration, racial regimes, and the political economy of race. Recommended background: Courses in comparative politics, political economy, immigration, and racial politics
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.456. Politics of TransHumanism. 3 Credits.
Examination of politics of human biological and cybernetic augmentation, and replacement with focus on stratification, weaponization, collectivization, extinction and irregulation.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.471. The University and Society. 3 Credits.
In the 20th century, American universities became the envy of the world, leading in most categories of scholarly productivity and attracting students from every nation. In recent years, though, American higher education has come to face a number of challenges including rapidly rising costs, administrative bloat, corporatization and moocification. We will examine the problems and promises of American higher education, the political struggles within the university and the place of the university in the larger society. Upper classes and Grad Students only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.473. Political Polarization. 3 Credits.
The American constitutional order, which was designed to operate without political parties, now has parties as divided as any in the democratic world. This course will examine explanations of how this happened, the consequences of party polarization for public policy and governance, and what if anything should be done about it.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.479. Imag(in)ing Cities. 3 Credits.
Cities exert a substantial degree of control over American life. Throughout the 20th and early years of the 21st Century they have been centers of industry, of social change, of political change. And in part because of their status, scholars have begun to theorize about cities. The purpose of this class is to interrogate these theories through a filmic lens. Students will be exposed to readings and then in the second half of the semester, to films about cities that implicitly and explicitly speak to and about these theories. Some coursework in urban studies preferred, though not necessary.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.119. Freshman Seminar: Thinking Critically through the Global South. 3 Credits.
This seminar exposes students to tools for thinking critically about life and politics by introducing them to contemporary debates in International Relations and Political Theory that have been proposed by authors from the Global South. Topics include, but are not limited to: development, postcolonial studies, environment, knowledge production, and gender and sexuality.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course explores various theoretical attempts to broaden the meaning of “politics” by examining three spheres of action typically equated with “personal” life: work, family, and consumption. The following questions orient our inquiry: what does the phrase “the personal is political” mean, and what sort of political solutions does it typically endorse? What can we learn about politics by studying family dynamics? Why do Americans work so much, and how does “work ethic” discourse promote punitive social policies? What is the relationship between our everyday acts of consumption and larger political phenomena such as climate change and racialization processes? What can theories of intersectionality tell us about such dynamics?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.216. Freshman Seminar: By Any Means Necessary? Political Theories of Violence. 3 Credits.
Questions of violence are as old as questions of politics itself. Are politics and violence essentially the same or is politics fundamentally non-violent? Is violence the only way to achieve political change? Has the state been a force for eliminating violence and securing freedom or has it only created more conflict? Who gets to define what counts as violent, and for what purposes? This course engages such questions through a theoretical lens, often focusing on political actors and activists responding on the ground to these pertinent questions. It asks students to reconsider what they normally think violence, non-violence, and politics are. We will particularly investigate this angle through the lens of race and colonialism—reading such figures as Michel Foucault, Franz Fanon, Mao Zedong, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Angela Davis, and Ida B. Wells—as well as focusing on histories of state formation and state violence.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.191.217. Freshman Seminar: International Politics from the Global South. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the interests and preferences of developing countries in international politics. The formal and informal rules of international politics tend to favor the interests and preferences of powerful countries: richer states, with better technologies and superior military capabilities. Sometimes, however, the interests and preferences of great powers do not align with what the rest of the countries want, especially with states in the Global South. We will analyze what developing countries do to restrain the leeway of powerful countries, particularly when their interests and preferences conflict. The course is divided into four main sections: a review of theories about international order and international hierarchies, tools to restrain great powers, review of strategies from countries in Latin America, Africa, and East Asia, and areas of disagreements between the Global North and the Global South.

AS.191.303. Critical Race Theory, Law, and Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
In this course, students will gain a foundational understanding of critical race theory, including its genesis in legal theory. The course will examine its relationship and importance to social movements, including through key concepts like intersectionality. The course will also use critical race theory to grapple with law, racial segregation, and the criminal justice system in the United States.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.191.306. The Citizen and the Foreigner in South Asia. 3 Credits.
This course will take students through the histories of belonging and non-belonging of the peoples that populate South Asia. This will involve examining the administrative as well as emotional consequences of colonial rule, the politics of legal and illegal identity documents, the continuing legacies of the partition of the Indian subcontinent, climate-change-related migration, refugee experiences and detention centers, and the dimensions of caste and tribal identities on citizenship. Towards the latter end of the course, we will examine how citizenship is an ongoing process that is intimately connected to national identity and competing ideas of who and what constitutes the nation. The course will end with considering some implications for development on citizenship.Recommended Course Background: Prior courses in Comparative Politics or South Asian Politics.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.191.307. Democracy and Political Psychology: Ideals and Realities of Democratic Citizenship. 3 Credits.
This course confronts the expectations of democratic theory regarding the way citizens should think and behave with findings from political psychology with respect to how they do think and behave. Divergences of the ideals and realities of democratic citizenship often seem quite glaring and discomforting. What are the conclusions we should draw from such mismatches? Should we simply accept them or is there something to be done about them? Alternatively, should democracy be redefined or abdicatated altogether? The course will center on the experience of the advanced industrial democracies ‒ the places where one would presume democracy to work best. In addition to addressing substantive questions, the course also aims to equip students with approaches, methods, and techniques they can use in conducting their own empirical research.
AS.191.309. Theory of Conversation. 3 Credits.
What are the purposes of conversation, and how do we navigate these purposes? How do we excuse, justify, and explain ourselves to one another; how do we forgive each other; how do we come to agree with one another? When do we reach the conclusion that we have nothing more to say, and why? In this course, we will approach these and similar questions through the tradition of ordinary language philosophy as represented by Wittgenstein, Austin, and Cavell. We will then apply the method of ordinary language philosophy to conversations found in the plays of Beckett and Shakespeare, as well as the films of Hawks and McCarey. Students will be expected to write a short paper each week. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.191.313. Why We Punish. 3 Credits.
A multidisciplinary exploration of the justifications and problems associated with punishment broadly defined, including prison sentences, personal acts of revenge, and military reprisals. Course texts will include international court cases, philosophical texts, and classic legal thinkers, in addition to fiction and news articles. Particular attention will be paid to when punishment is (or is not) cruel, deserved, or proportionate; when restraint should be shown; and whether it is desirable to abolish it altogether. Case studies will include the practice of solitary confinement, cycles of retaliatory violence in communal conflicts, the death penalty, and International Criminal Court efforts to punish perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Writing intensive.

AS.191.315. The Domestic Politics of Israel. 3 Credits.
Israel's politics and history are complex, involving multiple military conflicts, domestic struggles and dynamic international relationships. This course will focus on Israel's domestic politics by tracing the story of the development of its party system and the parties composing it. A parliamentary democracy with a proportional representation electoral system, Israel's party system includes multiple parties who represent the various segments of Israeli society. What are the origins of this party system and the parties within it? What changes have they experienced and what are the factors that influence those changes? Who are the important actors and what might be motivating them? How have these parties influenced the development of Israel's domestic politics? Using both historical and statistical materials, these questions and others will serve as our guide on a journey to a better understanding of Israel's domestic politics, from its inception to the present day. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.191.316. Theories of Power. 3 Credits.
The course introduces the most prominent theories of power in the Western political theory canon and the ways in which defining this contested concept also configures our understanding of politics and social life. Theories of power are divided into three broad sections, organized by way of the different images of politics that they project. In the first part of the course, we cover theories of power that convey a conventional image of politics as an activity (conflictual or consensual) between political actors on the municipal, national, or international stage. Here, we will read both the classical theories of power as domination (‘power over’) and those that theorize power as a capacity for social action (‘power to’). In the second part of the course, we examine the theories of power that express an expanded image of politics, as that which permeates social life: from workplaces, schools, and hospitals, to families and romantic relationships. Here, we study the ways in which our modes of being and social life are constituted by both local (micro) and structural (macro) power dynamics. In the last section, we explore naturalist theories of power that convey the most expansive image of politics as a material activity of nonhuman and human actants alike, constitutive of the world itself. Here, we dive into both the classical and contemporary accounts of power that help us come to terms with the political agency (nonhuman) animals, viruses, electrical grids, ocean currents, and forest fires. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.317. No Justice, No Peace: Perspectives from Post-conflict Responses. 3 Credits.
The slogan "No Justice, No Peace" has been uttered both as a call to arms for social unrest and as a warning that a lack of perceived justice in a society will mean lack of peace. While the demand is made in a variety of contexts ranging from urban protests in response to racial injustices to states in the aftermath of protracted civil strife or state sponsored violence, a discussion of the kind of justice that is demanded with the slogan or the kind of peace that is foreseen is often missing from the public invocations of 'no justice, no peace.' This course aims to examine invocations of "no justice, no peace" and mechanisms employed to respond to its demands. As such, the course readings will explore conceptions of justice and peace envisioned in a variety of post-conflict contexts. Students will be encouraged to evaluate and question the conceptions of justice and peace and the shifts in their meanings overtime through an examination of primary sources such as U.N. resolutions, Security Council Meeting Notes, UNCHR reports, international NGO reports, international tribunal reports in addition to seminal texts on the concepts of justice, peace and reconciliation. Students will be encouraged to articulate the ways in which response mechanisms delivered or failed to deliver the promises of justice, peace and futile reconciliation. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.191.335. Arab-Israeli Conflict. 3 Credits.
The course will focus on the origin and development of the Arab-Israeli conflict from its beginnings when Palestine was controlled by the Ottoman Empire, through World War I, The British Mandate over Palestine, and the first Arab-Israeli war (1947-1949). It will then examine the period of the Arab-Israeli wars of 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982, the Palestinian Intifadas (1987-1993 and 2000-2005); and the development of the Arab-Israeli peace process from its beginnings with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty of 1979, the Oslo I and Oslo II agreements of 1993 and 1995, Israel’s peace treaty with Jordan of 1994, the Road Map of 2003; and the periodic peace talks between Israel and Syria. The conflict will be analyzed against the background of great power intervention in the Middle East, the rise of political Islam and the dynamics of Intra-Arab politics, and will consider the impact of the Arab Spring.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.344. Belonging to Nature in the Anthropocene. 3 Credits.
This course explores debates in contemporary environmental political thought concerning humanity’s relationship to nature in the Anthropocene. The Anthropocene refers to the era in which “human” activity becomes a force of “nature”—when the impact of human activity on natural processes manifests itself in the stuff of the Earth. For many of us, these planetary transformations are hardly noticeable in day-to-day life, but they are dramatic: we are living through the Earth's sixth mass extinction. What is our relationship to these transformations? Do we have the power to stop them, or at least to minimize their harmful effects? Course readings and films introduce multiple visions of the human/nature relationship and examine the responses they recommend to these and other questions. The political stakes of these visions are brought to light as we consider: How do visions of the human/nature relationship shape and texture core political concepts like freedom, agency, responsibility, and progress? What do they suggest about the strategies most likely to motivate action amid the uncertainty of the Anthropocene? How do these visions subtly (and not so subtly) relegate some to the realm of “nature” so that others can be classified as “human”?
Writing Intensive

AS.191.345. Russian Foreign Policy. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the evolution of Russian Foreign Policy from Czarist times to the present. The main theme will be the question of continuity and change, as the course will seek to determine to what degree current Russian Foreign Policy is rooted in the Czarist (1613-1917) and Soviet(1917-1991) periods, and to what degree it has operated since 1991 on a new basis. The main emphasis of the course will be on Russia’s relations with the United States and Europe, China, the Middle East and the countries of the former Soviet Union—especially Ukraine, the Baltic States, Transcaucasia and Central Asia. The course will conclude with an analysis of the Russian reaction to the Arab Spring and its impact both on Russian domestic politics and on Russian foreign policy.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.347. The Political Economy of Climate Change. 3 Credits.
Scientists tell us that continued reliance on fossil fuels to drive our economies causes global warming, which in turn poses an existential threat to humanity as we know it. But the major tools of societies to steer a clean energy transition—climate and energy policies—often fail, lack ambition, and vary widely from country to country. This is puzzling: Why is it so difficult to pass meaningful policies even though the stakes are so high? How to explain the varying responses to the same problem? In this course, students study the struggle over energy and climate policies through case studies of large industrialized countries. Besides other things, we will ask why the US failed to install any kind of meaningful climate policy, if and how the problems of the EU’s carbon market can be solved, why China cancelled over 100 coal-fired power plants in 2017, and why cloudy Germany became a solar energy powerhouse.
Writing Intensive

AS.191.354. Congress and Foreign Policy. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to the Congressional role in foreign policy. The Constitution grants the President the authority to conduct foreign policy. Yet it also gives Congress a substantial role in the shaping of foreign policy. The distinct roles are not always clear, creating an inherent tension between these two branches of government and efforts on each side to increase their power. This class will address the “rules of the road” in conducting American foreign policy and how they change. The class will go beyond theory to include case studies that show the tension between Congress and the Administration – including the Iran Agreement, Climate Change, the use of sanctions and American policy towards Cuba. The course will include guest lecturers who work in Congress on the various aspects of foreign policy – including appropriations, intelligence, oversight and investigations. We will address the Congressional role in ratification of treaties and in declaring war. The class will consider the different ways that each branch of government approaches human rights, arms sales and sanctions. The class will also address the domestic political aspects of foreign policy – including the role of advocacy groups and special interests and the political use of Congressional investigations. Most of these classes will be in Washington, DC to facilitate guest speakers. Several classes will meet at the US Congress.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.359. North Korea, Identity, and International Politics. 3 Credits.
This course analyzes the role of identity and foreign policy in contemporary North Korea. We begin with an overview of North Korea’s political economic development and the role of national identity in state formation. We will then use those concepts to explore North Korea’s relations with South Korea, China, and the United States through topics such as regime security, nuclear weapons, human rights, and social change. The course ties together academic literature, journalistic sources, and policy research with in-class activities and writing assignments. It is recommended that students have taken a survey course on International Relations (e.g., Global Security Politics, Contemporary International Politics).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.191.389. The Politics of Race and Ethnicity in the Postcolonial Society. 3 Credits.
The postcolonial society offers a unique terrain for the study of comparative racial politics, providing a setting for which racial and ethnic politics often take place between predominately non-white groups. In this course, students will examine contemporary understandings of the concepts of race and ethnicity and how they are deployed politically in the postcolonial society, enabling students to make deeper explanations about the relationship between race, ethnicity and national inclusion as global phenomena that are the persistent and widespread legacies of colonialism, nationalism and white supremacy. Specifically, students will become familiar with the processes of colonization and decolonization—as well as postcolonial theories of resistance—that structure group politics today, drawing upon theoretical sources from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. These theoretical and historical tools will be used to study racial and ethnic politics across a range of postcolonial cases, including Indonesia, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, Colombia and Brazil.
Writing Intensive

AS.191.406. Capitalism: Politics and Political Thought in a Market Economy. 3 Credits.
The United States is a capitalist economy and we live in a capitalist world. This a fact we take for granted and therefore spend little time examining. Capitalism’s proponents attribute our society’s unprecedented wealth and technological advances to this economic system. Some go so far as to claim that modern democracy and social progress are impossible without a capitalist economy. Critics point to growing social inequality and a slew of environmental ills as proof of capitalism’s unsustainability. Some suggest that capitalism is antithetical to true democracy and human flourishing. But what exactly is capitalism? How did it evolve in the USA and how does the form capitalism takes in the United States differ from the forms it takes elsewhere? And, crucially, how is capitalism shaped by — and how does it shape — contemporary politics? And how exactly is this all related to liberalism, conservatism, neoliberalism, libertarianism, socialism, and democratic socialism? This seminar is designed to help students critically approach these questions. Rather than taking simplistic pro-contra approach, this seminar will examine capitalism along four axes: as a political-economic system, a corollary set of structures and institutions, the force behind a specific form of state organization, and the determinant of how society and individuals act and see themselves. To explore these issues, we will focus on a number of contemporary political issues, with a primary geographic focus on the United States, including the following: the debates over the welfare state and socialized healthcare; unions, lobbies, and special interests; the connection between capitalism, culture, and ideology; the effects of a capitalist organization of labor of questions of race, gender, and citizenship; the commodification of the environment and other species; and the process of critique, resistance, and social change in a capitalist system. Throughout, we will discuss the theoretical and empirical arguments put forward by a historically and disciplinarily broad range of thinkers including Karl Marx, Simone Weil, John Locke, Adam Smith, Robert Nozick, Thomas Sewell, Nancy Fraser, David Graeber, Melinda Cooper, Andreas Malm, and Guy Debord, through to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Elon Musk.
Writing Intensive

AS.191.415. Fear and Loathing: Writing About Contemporary American Politics. 3 Credits.
This course is focused on reading, analyzing, and, most importantly, producing writing about the American political experience and contemporary events in American politics. We will use scholarly, print, and new media sources from different sides of the political spectrum, drawing on political and literary theory to inform our discussions. We will then try to do better: Students will write and workshop a variety of pieces of different lengths and styles, spending in-class time on peer critique, presentations, and writing exercises, which they will compile into a writing portfolio. We will discuss and write op-eds, memoirs, long-form book reviews, commentary essays, and satire. Throughout, we will devote considerable class time to critique and discussion of students’ writing. Readings will include works by James Baldwin, William F. Buckley, Claudia Rankine, Hunter S. Thompson, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Alexander Chee, Angela Nagle, and Omar el Akkad. We will draw on political commentary from sources ranging from The Washington Post to Jacobin to The Onion, through to Facebook and Twitter. Throughout, we will consider a wide range of topics pertinent to writing about politics, including questions of the make-up of the public sphere and diverse audiences, the use of voice and language, the deployment of facts and rhetoric, the place of fiction and humor in political critique, and the rise of fake news and trolling.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

Program in Latin American Studies

AS.361.130. Introduction to Latin American Studies. 3 Credits.
The goal of this course is to provide an overview of Latin America, analyzing political and cultural aspects, chronologically organized. We will begin by studying the origins of the multi–ethnic societies, starting with the ancient civilizations and their transformation under colonization. It is important to understand the survival of cultural traits among indigenous peasants today in the countries that were the cradle of civilization: Mexico, Guatemala and the Andean countries. In the republican era the course will focus on the classical Caribbean dictators in the first half of the 20th century and their reflection in the literature, comparing the historical reality with the magic representation in the work of Garcia Marquez. The course will scrutinize the most important revolutions in the continent: the Mexican, Cuban and Bolivian revolutions and the geopolitics of USA in the Americas. Weekly lectures related to the assigned reading will focus on specific periods, topics and regions. After each lecture, we will review the material, connecting specific details from the readings with the more theoretical aspects provided in my lecture. The course has a website where the PowerPoint presentations will be posted. Students are encouraged to post their questions, comments and suggestions on the web after their readings. Students will be given a study guide for each lecture, which will be the basis for the exams. Our perspective on Latin America will be enhanced by a selection of few films related to the topics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.361.335. Colombia at War. 3 Credits.
The history of Colombia comes down to a tale of armed conflicts, protracted and renewed civil wars, coups, ethnic cleansing riots, narco wars, besides the struggles for independence from Spanish colonial rule and extractive capitalist exploitation. We will study the literary, journalistic, and historical record about warring and uncivil Colombia through fiction from Gabriel García Márquez (The General in his Labyrinth and News of a Kidnapping), Fernando Vallejo (The Virgin of the Assassins), and Juan Gabriel Vázquez (The Sound of Things Falling and The Secret History of Costaguana). We will also delve into the current peace process and disarming of the FARCS and the perils and promises that the absorption of the former combatants and recalcitrant holdovers pose to the skeptical and hopeful citizens and various political factions.
Area: Humanities

AS.361.336. Hugo Chávez, Fidel Castro, and Bolivar’s Venezuela. 3 Credits.
Are the current extreme hard times in Venezuela’s Bolivarian Republic irreversible? Is there a ballpark somewhere for Thomas Jefferson and Simón Bolivar to hold a debate match about democracy, achieved emancipations, republican values and the lure of dictatorship? The course welcomes serious and sharply political dialogue about ideals of democratic republicanism in clash from the rise and apparent fall of Fidelismo and Chavismo in the Caribbean region to the agitations and alliances dictated by Trump’s seizure of American politics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Program in Museums and Society

AS.389.201. Introduction to the Museum: Past and Present. 3 Credits.
This course surveys museums, from their origins to their most contemporary forms, in the context of broader historical, intellectual, and cultural trends including the social movements of the 20th century. Anthropology, art, history, and science museums are considered. Crosslisted with Archaeology, History, History of Art, International Studies and Medicine, Science & Humanities.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.389.405. Visualizing Africa. 3 Credits.
Examines the history of African art in the Euro-American world, focusing on the ways that Western institutions have used African artworks to construct narratives about Africa and its billion residents.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

Sociology

AS.230.143. Global Migration: Refugees, Economic Migrants, and Borders. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the different forms, catalysts, and consequences of global migration. Even as the plight of migrants and refugees has elicited the sympathy of millions worldwide, the majority of them still encounter closed borders and draconian immigration regimes on the fringes of more “desirable” destinations in Europe, Australia, and the United States, and many others remain in limbo in their countries of origin or in transit states. Are these border restrictions new? Or are they consistent with states’ long-standing ways of regulating who is and is not worthy of being admitted through their borders? Throughout the course, we will trace the divergent factors that prompt refugees and economic migrants to migrate, juxtaposing these with the responses of states, international treaties, and humanitarian organizations to their movement and arrival in host countries. Using a variety of written and verbal assignments, we will question the fundamental categories of migration: What is an economic migrant? What is a refugee? How are they different or similar? Whose interests do such categories serve, and how have they been used justify governmental practices of inclusion and exclusion over time?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.147. Introduction to Islam Since 1800. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to contemporary Islam and Muslim societies from approximately 1800 to the present. Key themes will include the colonial encounter, state formation and reform, revolution, Islamic revival, and globalization. Reflecting Islam’s status as a world religion, the course will touch on developments around the Muslim-majority world and in the West.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.150. Issues in International Development. 3 Credits.
Why do billions of people continue to live in poverty? What obstacles stand in the way of secure and dignified lives for all? Who is most likely to bring about change, what strategies should they follow, and what kinds of institutions should they put in place? This course will introduce the main theoretical perspectives, debates, and themes in the field of international development since the mid-20th century. It has three sections. The first section focuses on debates over the optimal conditions and strategies for generating economic growth and on the relationship between growth, human welfare, and inequality. The second section presents critical assessments of development interventions from various perspectives. The third section considers the role of social movements in shaping development and social change in the 21st century.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.175. Chinese Revolutions. 3 Credits.
This course introduces the origins, operation and impacts of five major revolutions in modern China between 1850 and 1950. These include the Taiping Rebellion, the republican revolutions, federalist and southern automatic movements, labor strikes as well as peasant rebellions. It draws on the existing historiography that examines China’s transition from an empire to a republic, impacts of western and Japanese influences to China, as well as the continuity and change of Chinese social organizations. Cross list with International Studies and East Asian Studies. Fulfills IS History requirement.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.230.213. Social Theory. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on four classical social theorists whose ideas have greatly influenced how we study and understand society: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and W.E.B. DuBois. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of how each theorist answered three major questions: 1) what is the origin, structure and historical dynamic of modern society?; 2) how do we gain an accurate knowledge of society?; 3) what are the conditions of possibility for freedom in modern society? In comparing, applying and critiquing their respective theories, students will advance their own theory of society.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.219. Land, Labor and Environmental Movements in Contemporary Africa. 3 Credits.
The course examines the new wave of social protest and popular uprisings in contemporary Africa through the interconnected themes of land, labor, and environmental movements. Attention will be placed on the early 21st century.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.221. Global Social Change. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to issues of global social change, with a particular focus on the challenges of international development and the contemporary globalization process. Specific themes include world income inequality and global poverty, the rise of supranational organizations (e.g. WTO and EU) and their relations with sovereign states, anti-globalization activism, the rise of China and India in the global economy, and the origins as well as consequences of the current global economic crisis and global pandemics, among others. Lectures will be aided by documentary films and other multi-media materials. Special Note: Fulfills Economics requirement for IS GSCD track students only. Formerly offered as AS 230.353. Students who took AS.230.353 cannot take AS.230.221.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.222. Land, Labor, Environmental Rights and Struggles in Contemporary Africa. 3 Credits.
The course examines the new wave of social protest and popular uprisings in contemporary Africa through the interconnected themes of land, labor and environmental struggles. Attention will be placed on the early 21st century.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.224. Freshman Seminar: Public Opinion and Democracy. 3 Credits.
How does public opinion shape electoral behavior and the contours of democracy in the United States, and how have these relationships changed as techniques for measuring public opinion have evolved since the early twentieth century? To consider this question, the course introduces alternative perspectives on the features of a healthy democracy, including both historical perspectives and current arguments. Interweaved with this material, the course examines how public opinion is measured and interpreted by private pollsters, survey researchers, and data journalists. Emphasis is placed on the alternative claims that opposing analysts adopt, as well as how the technologies of data collection and analysis shape the permissibility of conclusions. Students will learn to interpret public opinion patterns, which requires a brief presentation of basic concepts from survey sampling, including what to make of the polling industry’s most boring concept: margin of error.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.228. Colonialism in Asia and Its Contested Legacies. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the impacts of colonialism in East and Southeast Asia. Special attention will be paid to the social and economic development in British Singapore and Hong Kong as well as Japanese Korea and Taiwan. Topics include free-trade imperialism, colonial modernity, anticolonial movements, pan-Asianism, and post-war U.S. hegemony.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.229. Capitalism, Development, and Resistance in South Korea. 3 Credits.
This course examines the origins, processes, and consequences of economic development in South Korea. Attention will be paid to the rise of big business, strong state, and contentious society in the post-1945 period. The first part of the course focuses on the academic debates on Korea’s economic miracle and introduces theories of late development and state formation. The second part of the course explores labor unrest and social conflicts that have emerged in response to capitalist development in twentieth and twenty-first century Korea.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.233. Inequality and Social Change in Contemporary China. 3 Credits.
This course examines the trajectory of economic development in China since the beginning of market reforms in the late 1970s, with a special focus on social inequality and forms of resistance that have emerged in response to the expansion of the market economy. The first part of the course focuses on understanding the academic debates around China’s economic miracle and introduces students to theories about the relationship between market expansion and social resistance. The second part focuses on key thematic topics including the rural/urban divide, rural protest, urban inequality and labor unrest, gender and sexuality in social movements, environmental protests, and the politics of ethnic relations.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.238. Beyond the Wall: The Political Economy of the US and Mexico. 3 Credits.
Examining the exchange of culture, people, and commodities between the United States and Mexico since the 19th century, this course asks not just how US practices and policies have shaped Mexican society, but how, in turn, Mexico has shaped the United States. We will examine the social, political, and economic forces that have long pulled these two societies together – and pushed them apart.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.239. Coffee, Tea and Empires. 3 Credits.
The course introduces the transformation of the coffee and tea industries in the long nineteenth century against the backdrop of European and Japanese colonial expansion. It surveys the social changes in the colonial world under the development of the cash crop economy. It also analyzes how the consumption of such caffeinated beverages became sources of heritage makings both in the metropoles and colonies and the latter’s postcolonial reconstructions.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.230.244. Race and Ethnicity in American Society. 3 Credits.
Race and ethnicity have played a prominent role in American society and continue to do so, as demonstrated by interracial and interethnic gaps in economic and educational achievement, residence, political power, family structure, crime, and health. Using a sociological framework, we will explore the historical significance of race and its development as a social construction, assess the causes and consequences of intergroup inequalities and explore potential solutions.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.251. War and State: A Social Science Survey. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce you to the cornerstone literature of contemporary social sciences on war and nation-state. Literature in this course comes from a variety of disciplines including sociology, political science, history and archaeology. We will start with basic definitions of key concepts of “war”, “state” and “state formation”. Then we will read different theories of how evolutions in war and military gave rise to modern states as we see today. After that we will survey a stream of historical cases of war and state formation across Europe, Asia and Africa in different historical periods. Finally, we will contemplate what influences war and military continue to exert in contemporary societies and states, and the challenges that lie ahead.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.265. Research Tools for Global Sociology and Development. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to a range of software programs that are critical for conducting social scientific research in the 21st century. Students will develop competency in the use of computer programs for statistical analysis, database management, the creation of maps and timelines, and the presentation of research reports. The course uses examples from ongoing social science faculty research projects at Johns Hopkins on global inequality and international development. Required for GSCD track students. Course previously titled "Research Tools and Technologies for the Social Sciences"
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.275. Revolution, Reform and Social Inequality in China. 3 Credits.
This course explores various aspects of social inequality in China during the Mao Zedong and the post-Mao reform eras. We will examine inequality within villages, the rural/urban divide, urban inequality, education and health policies, and gender and ethnic inequality. Each of these issue areas will be tackled analytically, but the aim is also to understand what it was/is like to live in China during and after the Mao era. Formerly offered as AS.230.321.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.304. (Making Space For) Black Thought. 3 Credits.
How do we think about the power relations at work in the scholarship we read and in the important texts we consider essential to our educational experience? This course will critically investigate the role that concepts of race and racism have played in formulating dominant perceptions of who can be the producers of knowledge and what constitutes authoritative knowledge itself. We will consider how and why thinkers and scholarship produced outside of Europe and North America are too often ignored for their scholarly contributions and the dynamics that lead to this situation. We will also explore how and why new and important perspectives emerge from engaging and centering voices from beyond traditional canonical works. With a particular focus on the forms of knowledge arising from European Enlightenment approaches to concepts of thought reason and objective knowledge, this course will critically engage students with a wide range of thinkers such as GWF Hegel, W.E.B. Du Bois, Angela Davis, Ralph Trouillot, Sadiya Hartman, Walter Rodney, Derek Walcott, Sylvia Wynter and Frantz Fanon. This course will focus largely on thinkers engaging within the Black Atlantic and black diaspora traditions to question how we might consider voices and thought from beyond Eurocentric positions in our own scholarly practice.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.306. Plagues, Power, and Social Control. 3 Credits.
While developments in biomedicine and health care have led to the eradication, cure and management of many human health problems, disease, illness and health have also been the focus for aggressive social controls and population management. The technologies and practices of disease control and health management have been foundational to some of the most aggressive structures of oppression in recent history such as the Jewish Ghetto, the Concentration Camp, the South African Township and techniques of segregation. This course seeks to explore how epidemics and disease control are linked to larger questions of power, state craft and international dynamics. This course asks how have outbreaks of infectious disease shaped social and political action? How do societies respond to outbreaks and why? What do epidemic moments tell us about global structures of power and the dynamics of control? Drawing on historical cases including plague during the European Renaissance and before, the HIV/AIDS Pandemic and the West African Ebola Outbreak of 2013-2016, this course will introduce students to the history and practices of disease control as well as important theoretical perspectives by which to understand the sociological and historical effects of disease and the responses to them. Students will engage sociological concepts such as biopolitics, social construction of disease and illness and biosecurity and produce a final research paper examining the outcomes and responses to an epidemic event to show mastery of the topics covered in the course.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.230.315. Advanced Topics in International Development. 3 Credits.
This class offers an advanced engagement of various topics in international development. The course begins with an historical examination of the actors and global events, as well as the intellectual debates, that birthed the field of international development as a discrete area of study and practice. We will then analyze the evolving theories that dominated the first five decades of the international development effort. The final part of the course will examine more recent perspectives that have attempted to fill the intellectual void left by the demise of the traditional development paradigm. Here we will cover topics that span the global North and South, including issues of race/caste/ethnicity, migration, gender, and right-wing nationalism. Some prior knowledge of international development is recommended.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.316. African American Family. 3 Credits.
This course is an examination of sociological theories and studies of African-American families and an overview of the major issues confronting African-American family life. The contemporary conditions of black families are explored, as well as the historical events that have influenced the family patterns we currently observe. Special attention will be given to social policies that have evolved as a result of the prominence of any one perspective at a given point in time.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.317. Sociology of Immigration. 3 Credits.
This course surveys sociological theories and research on immigration to the U.S. Theoretical approaches include theories of international migration, economic sociology, immigration, and assimilation. Research topics include the impact of U.S. immigration laws and policies on immigrant inflows and stocks, self-selection of immigrants, the impact of immigration on the native-born population and the U.S. labor market and economy, and the adaptation of the first and second generations.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.318. State and Society in Modern India. 3 Credits.
This course examines the complex, at times conflicting, relationship that has emerged between Indian seats of power from above and Indian expressions of society from below. Attention will be placed on the period between 1947 to the present.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.319. Gender and International Development. 3 Credits.
This course employs a comparative perspective to examine the gendered impact of international development experiences and policies. Students will discuss the historical evolution of how the concept of gender has been constructed, conceptualized, and integrated into international development theory and practice. The course will also examine how greater international development. In particular, we will examine structural theories of poverty reduction, individual theories of power and processes of stratification at the household and family level. Specific issue areas will include the globalization, class and work political participation and social movements. Cross-listed with International Studies (CF; IR). Fulfills Economics requirement for IS GSCD track students only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.325. Global Social Change and Development Practicum. 3 Credits.
This course provides "hands on" research experience in the field of global social change and development. The course fulfills the "research practicum" requirement for Sociology majors and is required for the GSCD track.
Prerequisite(s): AS.230.265 or permission of instructor.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.326. Sociology of the Military-Industrial Complex. 3 Credits.
Students will critically examine the U.S. military-industrial complex and the social relations that constitute it in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries by drawing on works from sociology, history, political science, geography, and economics. Over the course of the semester, we will interrogate how (and by whom) war is made. In 2020, over a third of the record-breaking U.S. Department of Defense budget was earmarked for the procurement of weapons and supplies from for-profit armaments firms. Billions more flow to private companies that provide services from security and combat to cleaning and food preparation to the military. Over 2 million people are directly employed by the U.S. military, and countless more by its myriad private contractors. This sprawling network of private corporations, armed services, political actors, and workers constitute the military-industrial complex. By examining this network of actors that "make war," students will explore the social, political, and economic dimensions of U.S. militarism and their changes over time.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.332. Race, Racism & Racial Privilege. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the concepts of race, racism, racial privilege in contemporary America, and the West in general. Examples from other countries will be integrated as well. Historical contexts such as the colonialism, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Civil Rights movement, and the post Civil Rights era will help to provide an understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural forces processes that have constructed and shaped the concepts of race and the racialized subject over time.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.335. Medical Humanitarianism. 3 Credits.
Humanitarian organizations play life-preserving roles in global conflicts, and have front-row views of disasters ranging from the 2010 Haiti earthquake to the 2011 Fukushima tsunami in Japan. Yet even while they provide vital assistance to millions of people in crisis, such organizations are beset by important paradoxes that hinder their capacity to create sustainable interventions. They work to fill long-lasting needs, but are prone to moving quickly from one site to the next in search of the latest emergency. They strive to be apolitical, yet are invariably influenced by the geopolitical agendas of global powers. How do such contradictions arise, and what is their impact upon millions of aid recipients around the world? Drawing on case studies from South Sudan to Haiti, this course addresses these contradictions by exploring how and why medical aid organizations attempt, and sometimes fail, to reconcile short-term goals, such as immediate life-saving, with long-term missions, such as public health programs and conflict resolution initiatives.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.230.337. Global Crises: Past and Present. 3 Credits.
This course will compare the current global crisis with previous major crises of historical capitalism through a combination of theoretical and historical readings. Throughout, we will ask: What can a study of past crises tell us about the nature and future trajectory of the current global crisis? Special emphasis will be placed on (1) “the late-nineteenth century great depression”, (2) the Great Depression of the 1930s, and (3) the period of crisis and stagflation in the 1970s. We will be particularly concerned to understand the differential social and geopolitical impact of the crises. Which social classes bore the brunt of the disruptions in economic activity in each crisis? Which geographical areas or geopolitical groupings lost out (or benefited) from the crisis? How have environmental and ecological challenges resurfaced in each crisis including today? Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.342. Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution in Latin America. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the dynamics of transformative social change in Latin America and the Caribbean through analyses of resistance, rebellion, and revolution. Because revolutionary change is at once the most transformative and the most rare, this course will cover the exemplary cases of the Haitian, Mexican, and Cuban revolutions, but then also ask how theorists have understood the dynamics of both open rebellion and of everyday resistance in societies deeply structured by racial, gender, and class power, situated within an unequal world system. Attending to both local and global dynamics, this course will ask how Latin American dynamics have both conformed to and challenged universalist theories of social change. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.348. Climate Change and Society. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on the social dimensions of climate change. Drawing on global and multi-disciplinary scholarship, we will address such issues as: the history of fossil capitalism; the relationship between social inequality and “vulnerability” to climate change (including heat waves, drought, rising seas, and extreme weather); climate migration and the political economy of “adaptation”; the merits of various mitigation strategies, including the Green New Deal, conservation offsets, and geo-engineering; the roots of climate denialism; and climate justice movements. Students will write a final research paper on a sociological aspect of climate change. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.230.350. Capitalism, Dependency, and Development in Latin America. 3 Credits.
This course examines Latin American insertion into the global capitalist economy from the colonial period to the present. Examining various historical, sociological, and political-economic theories, this course will ask not only how Latin American economies and societies have developed their particular characteristics, but also how theorists within and outside the region have understood Latin American development over time. Development over time. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.351. Capitalism, Development and Resistance in South Korea. 3 Credits.
This course examines the trajectory of capitalist development in South Korea (hereafter, Korea) in the twentieth and the early twenty-first centuries. We will examine debates around the political economy of development in Korea as well as class formation and social and labor protest. This course is designed to help students explore the dynamics of capitalist development and workers’ movements in Korea as a case of late development in the global South. The course also draws on theoretical perspectives and methodological tools from comparative and world-historical sociology to better understand the Korean case. Prerequisite(s): Students may not have completed AS.230.217 previously. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.230.352. Chinese Diaspora: Networks and Identity. 3 Credits.
This course combines lecture and class discussion. It examines the history and historiography of Chinese overseas migration. Major issues include overseas Chinese as “merchants without empire,” Chinese exclusion acts in the age of mass migration, the “Chinese question” in postcolonial Southeast Asia, as well as the making and unmaking of Chinese identity in the current wave of globalisation. Prerequisite(s): Students may not have completed AS.230.217 previously. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.362. Migration & Development. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the relationship between international migration and development. The course first introduces theories of international migration, immigrant integration, and international development. Building on this foundation, we then examine how immigrants interact with their homeland and how sending country governments tap their diaspora to improve development outcomes. Cross-listed with International Studies (CP, IR). Fulfills Economics requirement for IS GSCD track students only. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.230.363. Sociology of Dispossession. 3 Credits.
The “grabbing” of land and natural resources has, in recent years, generated widespread political conflict across the world and put dispossession on the agenda of academics and policy-makers. Nevertheless, compared to other social relations of power, land dispossession has not been central to scholarly or public understandings of capitalism, the state, development, or politics. In this class, we will collectively explore the nascent field that we might call the sociology of dispossession. We will examine existing theories of dispossession, and proceed to challenge, reconstruct or supplant those theories as we consider a wide range of historical examples of dispossession from the English Enclosures and colonial plunder to contemporary urban redevelopment and rural land grabs. This is a reading- and writing-intensive seminar. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.230.366. Black Social Thought and Social Movements. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the reciprocal relationship between Black social thought and social movements. How have social movements informed thinkers who grapple with questions of freedom and liberation in racially and economically stratified societies, and how have their ideas affected movement tactics? This course will look at 20th century movements and investigate connections between theory and practice through concepts like civil disobedience, internal colonialism, Black feminism, Black internationalism, and others. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive
AS.230.367. Islamic Finance. 3 Credits.

Today, Islamic finance is a global industry comprising nearly $2 trillion in assets, with hubs from Kuala Lumpur to Dubai to London. But half a century ago, nothing called “Islamic finance” existed. So where did Islamic finance come from? Why is it growing so fast? And what does it mean for finance to be Islamic? We discuss the ban on riba in the Quran and hadith, finance in early and medieval Islamic societies, petrodollars and the birth of Islamic banking in the 1970s, the rise of Islamic capital markets since 2000, contemporary shariah-compliant financial structures, and the constitution of piety through financial practice.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.369. Sociology in Economic Life. 3 Credits.

This course discusses how geopolitics, technology as well as social differentiation (such as race, class and gender) shape the structure of economic actions. Special attention will be paid to patterns of state-business relationship, labor processes, migrant economy, globalization and international division of labor.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.367. Nations, States, and Boundaries. 3 Credits.

This course explores the historical origins and development of the modern global political order based on sovereign nation-states, the crisis of this order through the twentieth century, as well as the unraveling of this order at the turn of the twenty-first century. We will focus on how dominant political organizations in the changing world order (such as states, political parties, and transnational governing bodies) have been shaped by different social forces (such as classes and ethnic groups) and vice versa. Topics covered include rise and fall of modern nationalism, formation of regional and global governing structures, “civilizational” turn of global politics, waves of separatism and redrawing of nation’s boundaries after the Cold War, politics of immigration and citizenship, among others.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.230.368. Refugees, Human Rights, and Sovereignty. 3 Credits.

What is a refugee? Since World War II, states that have pledged to offer protection to refugees have frequently been drawn instead to the dictates of nationalism and communitarianism, which prioritize concern for their own citizens, rather than to the needs of forced migrants. As a result, even those migrants that have been formally recognized as refugees according to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention have not been assured of protection, and other migrants have been even less assured. In this course, we will locate the reasons for this reality in the legal, political, and historical underpinnings of political asylum. What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee? How has the refugee category been redefined and contested by international bodies since 1951? How are the ambiguities of real-life violence and persecution simplified in asylum adjudication interviews that require clear, factual narratives? What kinds of protections are offered to asylum seekers, whether by UN bodies, NGOs, or host governments, and how have such protections varied geographically and historically? Finally, what protections, if any, are afforded to those migrants who are fleeing not persecution but rather “merely” endemic poverty or climate-induced displacement? The course draws on literature from sociology, history, anthropology, and international refugee law in order to understand the capacity (or lack thereof) of human rights discourses and declarations to contravene state sovereignty in the name of protecting the rightless.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.230.385. Schooling, Racial Inequality and Public Policy in America. 3 Credits.

After examining alternative explanations for why individuals obtain different amounts and types of educational training, the course focuses on how an individual’s family background and race affect his or her trajectory through the educational system. The course covers the specific challenges that have confronted urban schooling in America since the 1960s, including the classic literature on the effects of school and community resources on student achievement as well as the development and later evaluation of school desegregation policies. The course also considers case studies of current policy debates in the US, such as housing segregation and school resegregation, voucher programs for school choice, and the motivation for and consequences of the establishment of state-mandated testing requirements. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed upon the alternative modes of inquiry and writing which opposing scholars, policymakers, and journalists use to address these contentious topics.

Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive
AS.230.393. Global Health and Human Rights. 3 Credits.
Is access to healthcare a fundamental human right? If so, then which global actors are obligated to provide healthcare to whom, and for how long? How do meanings of health and illness vary across time and place? And finally, how are human rights principles translated into frontline practice in order to promote well-being? This course takes a critical interdisciplinary approach to these questions through a series of global case studies ranging from humanitarian aid in post-tsunami Sri Lanka to anti-FGM (female genital mutilation) campaigns in Ghana. How do international NGOs, UN bodies, and governments collaborate (or compete) to distribute healthcare in places beset by dire resource shortages? Do human rights principles carry legal weight across borders, and if so, could access to healthcare services and essential medicines be litigated in order to compel governments to provide it? And finally, what cultural assumptions do human rights discourses carry with them, and what happens if rights-based approaches are poorly received by recipient populations? Moving beyond the basic principle of healthcare as a human right, this course aims to bring this idea's history and politics into focus by offering an in-depth exploration of its ethics and implementation.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.395. Contemporary Social Theory. 3 Credits.
What is the structure of society, how does it change, and how is it reproduced? What is the relation between social structures and our ideas about them? What are the conditions of possibility for human freedom? This course will examine how major social theorists of the 20th century advanced novel answers to these questions as they grappled with the historical events and social concerns of the 20th century—the Russian revolution and its degeneration into Stalinism, the failure of communist movements in the West, the rise and fall of fascism and Nazism, the consolidation of capitalist democracies and welfare states, the emergence of anti-colonial movements in the Third World, and the persistence of race, gender and sexuality as forms of domination. In addition to understanding and comparing theories, we will assess their usefulness for understanding the present. This is a reading and writing-intensive seminar.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.396. Politics and Society. 3 Credits.
This seminar surveys key problems of political sociology including the rise of the modern state, the origins and nature of liberal democracy, sources of authority, the relationship between political and economic power, the nation-state and nationalism, states and war, ideology and political contention, collective identity, social movements, and social revolutions. Fulfills Comparative Politics for International Studies.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.397. The Political Economy of Drugs and Drug Wars. 3 Credits.
In the United States, we spend more than $100 billion annually on illegal drugs—and the government spends more than $50 billion a year to combat their sale and use. These statistics raise important and complicated social questions. This course will examine the production, sale, use, and control of illegal drugs from a historical and sociological perspective. We will have three objectives: to understand the social construction of drug use and illegality in the United States and other rich countries; to uncover the political and economic consequences of drug trafficking in those countries that produce drugs, particularly in Latin America; and to examine the political economy of drug control through the so-called War on Drugs, both domestically and internationally.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.230.405. Neoliberalism. 3 Credits.
Neoliberalism, a political project that seeks to subject all aspects of social life to free market forces, has ascended to orthodoxy in developed and developing countries alike over the last four decades. This course is a reading seminar focused on some of the key classic and cutting-edge original texts that critically examine and debate the origins, socio-political impacts, and crisis of the neoliberal project. It will cover such topics as the genealogy of the neoliberal idea, neoliberal state, informalization of works, neoliberal cities, rise of the one percent, and global governance. Class will be a mix of lecture and seminar-style discussions. Requirements include reading memo, class presentation, and a term paper.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.435. The China Boom. 3 Credits.
This course addresses the origins, global impacts, and demise of China’s economic ascendency as a world economic and political powerhouse at the turn of the twenty-first century. The course will cover the historical origins of the China boom and impacts of the boom on global political economic order. It will also address the social-political imbalances within China that contribute to the global financial crisis and recent slowdown of the Chinese economy. Particular topics include late imperial and Maoist legacies’ relation to contemporary economic growth, stages of China’s capitalist development, China’s outward investment in the developing world, formation and limits of US-China economic symbiosis, and China’s participation in global governance, among others.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.230.440. Port Cities and Historical Capitalism in Maritime Asia. 3 Credits.
The goal of the seminar is to examine the prospects and limits of understanding the incorporation of Asia in the capitalist world-system from the prism of oceanic connections. The theoretical thrust of this course is to develop but also to adapt Janet Abu-Lughod emphasis on the connections across port cities and littoral in the Afro-Eurasian continents before the long sixteenth century in her Before European Hegemony. But instead of looking at a port city as its adjacent hinterland polity’s gateway to global trade in the premodern era, the course examines the multifarious coast-hinterland relationships. The readings are organized by a chronological order, which begins with the historical maritime silk road between the third and thirteenth centuries, and will be followed by Asian port cities in the European age of empire and postwar American-led Cold War Structure, as well as the present-day Chinese New Silk Road Diplomacy. Students are expected to select an issue of regional tensions and to analyze its historical root.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Study of Women, Gender, Sexuality

AS.363.301. Feminist and Queer Theory. 3 Credits.
This course will encourage encounters with a number of concepts from a critical gendered perspective, including: sameness/difference, identity politics, race/gender, loyalty, security, queer ethics, and queerness in media.
Writing Intensive
AS.363.328. Beyond the Global West: Gender/Sexuality, Post-colonialism & Global Capitalism: Feminist Inquiries from Asian Perspectives. 3 Credits.
This course examines gender and sexuality issues in both East and South Asian Societies and situates subject matters in the broader contexts of post-colonialism, state formation, revolution and global capitalism.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.363.335. Poetics and Politics of Sex: Gender and Modernity. 3 Credits.
This course explores the complex and diverse ways in which gender and sexuality have been imagined, constituted and unsettled by the artistic creations and political institutions of modernity around the world. Emphasizing the close relationship between politics and aesthetics, we will study works of cinema and literature to gain a deeper understanding of gender and sexuality with respect to some of the themes of modernity, such as human rights, modernism, psychoanalysis, religion and secularism, the postcolonial order and globalization. Each week, selections from a literary or cinematic work will be paired with a theoretical reading that responds to similar themes and concerns.
Area: Humanities

For current faculty and contact information go to http://krieger.jhu.edu/internationalstudies/directory/