POLITICAL SCIENCE

http://politicalscience.jhu.edu

The programs of the Political Science Department are designed to help students attain a deeper understanding of politics and civic life in its various dimensions. The department encourages students to become sophisticated theoretically and to study politics in global and comparative perspective. We divide the curriculum into American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and International Relations (and Law and Politics at the graduate level). Students are encouraged to develop expertise in several of these areas.

The department has 32 faculty members. The undergraduate program offers a broad range of courses about politics and government at local, state, national, and international levels. In addition to taking courses on the Homewood campus, students can do independent research under the guidance of a faculty mentor, take courses at the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C., and participate in the Atchison Public Service Undergraduate Fellowship Program at the Johns Hopkins Washington Center.

Intellectual Orientation

In addition to our work within the traditional fields of Political Science, faculty research engages four clusters of activity that cut across the various subfields while speaking to core questions of politics: power and inequality, identities and allegiances, agency and structures, and borders and flows.

Power and Inequality

In many ways, political science is the study of power. This includes the wide array of rules, authority structures, and forms of violence at the local, national, transnational, and international levels, as well as how the value, distribution, and accumulation of resources create conditions of security and insecurity among nation states, regions, economic classes, or populations.

Identities and Allegiances

A second cluster of research centers on questions of identity and the various allegiances and attachments organized around them. These include how racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual identities inform citizenship and nationalism, the organization of civil society, or the formation of social movements.

Agency and Structure

A third cross-cutting area of activity in the department explores questions of agency and structures. Agency includes entrepreneurship, innovation and creative action, and the agency of material things. Structures include formal and informal institutions, particularly the rules, roles, and regulations that guide human relations in the public, private, and non-profit worlds, among states and within them, at the global level and in local communities.

Borders and Flows

A fourth cluster examines borders and flows. Research in this area examines the movement of people, ideas, material objects, and natural forces across space and over time. A focus on borders and flows informs the study of territorial regimes, sovereignty, religious intensities, immigration and diasporas, globalizing capital, information, and ecological politics.

Undergraduate Programs

Political Science courses can contribute to two different majors:

Political Science, Bachelor of Arts

The major in political science described below is designed for students interested in intensive study of the institutions, theory, and problems of politics, government and modern political culture.

International Studies, Bachelor of Arts

The department contributes to an interdisciplinary program leading to B.A. or B.A./M.A. degrees in International Studies. This program and its requirements are described under International Studies (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/international-studies/).

Programs

- Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/political-science/political-science-bachelor-arts/)
- Political Science, PhD (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/political-science/political-science-phd/)

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

Courses

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 liberal 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.190.180. Introduction to Political Theory. 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 Aeschylyus, Oedipus the King by Sophocles, and Hippolytus by Euripides will represent this tragic vision of the cosmos. In the second, Plato, in Republic and in 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 mid-term and a final paper.

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.190.223. Understanding the Food System. 3 Credits.
This course examines the politics and policies that shape the production and consumption of food. Topics include food security, obesity, crop and animal production, and the impacts of agriculture on climate change. We will also consider the vulnerabilities of our food system to challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as efforts to transform food and agriculture through new food technologies and grass-roots movements to create a more democratic food system.
Prerequisite(s): Students who have completed AS.190.405 may not enroll in this class.
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 provides an analysis of US foreign policy with a focus on the interests, institutions, and ideas underpinning its development. It offers a broad historical survey that starts with US involvement in the First World War, covers major developments of the twentieth century, and concludes with contemporary issues. Important themes include the developments underpinning the emergence of the liberal world order, strategies of containment during the Cold War, nuclear deterrence and antiproliferation efforts, the politics of international trade, alliance politics, technological and security policy, and the re-emergence of great power competition.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.228. The American Presidency. 3 Credits.
Over the past several decades, the power and importance of America's presidency have greatly expanded. Of course, presidential history includes both ups and downs, some coinciding with the rise and fall of national party systems and others linked to specific problems, issues, and personalities. We should train our analytic eyes, however, to see beneath the surface of day-to-day and even decade-to-decade political turbulence. We should focus, instead, on the pronounced secular trend of more than two and a quarter centuries of American history. Two hundred years ago, presidents were weak and often bullied by Congress. Today, presidents are powerful and often thumb their noses at Congress and the courts. For better or worse, we have entered a presidentialist era.
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 contextualize contemporary development issues that directly affect international relations such as aid and debt, humanitarianism, 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
Writing Intensive

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.190.269. What you need to know about Chinese Politics, Part 2. 3 Credits.
This serves as a two-semester survey of Chinese politics from 1911-Present. This second module explores the politics of the reform and post-reform eras.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.283. Human Security. 3 Credits.
While traditional studies on security have focused largely on border protection, sovereign authority of the state, and interstate alliances, the threats posed to everyday people were not a central focus of security analyses until the end of the Cold War. The human security approach has evolved as a challenge to conventional thinking on security. This course will introduce the notion of human security, trace its emergence and evolution in the global political discourse, explore the theoretical scholarship from which it developed, and evaluate its effectiveness as a framework for addressing the most egregious threats human beings face today. From refugee flows, gender inequality, ethnic conflict, mass atrocities, poverty, to climate change, human security scholarship and policy has sought to examine the various threats to the lives of people that transcend national borders and allow us to break out of narrow thinking to develop innovative and globally-minded solutions.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
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 inheres 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.190.319. Policy & Politics Design. 3 Credits.
The study of public policy is the study of power—who has it, how it is acquired, and how policies themselves grant or diminish the power of individuals and groups. It is also the study of choice—how political actors make consequential decisions to deploy their resources in different ways, some of which enhance magnify their power while others diminish it. This class will examine the scholarly literature on how public policy is made and how it can be changed. We will also engage directly with actors seeking to change public policy, in order to integrate our academic knowledge with their practical experience.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
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
topic 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.190.328. Political Thought in the Americas. 3 Credits.
Reflection on political ideas and institutions in the United States is often
oriented by the notion that the US is in some sense exceptional. For some
commentators, the US is exceptionally democratic, exceptionally stable,
exceptionally productive, and exceptionally innovative. For others, the
US is exceptionally racist, exceptionally unequal, exceptionally violent,
and exceptionally unhealthy. What both sides share is a common point
of comparative reference in Europe. For all these commentators, Europe
is the norm against which all of the exceptional qualities of the US stand
out. In this course, we will ask how well notions of US exceptionalism
stand up against the different comparative references found in the
Americas, focusing in particular on the history of political thought in
the Americas. We’ll begin by studying texts from the pre-colonial and
colonial periods, noting similarities and differences between the political
institutions, economies, and social and racial hierarchies of in the regions
that comprised British, Spanish, Portuguese, and French America. Next,
we’ll consider the US, Latin American, and Caribbean independence
movements, early constitutionalism, and debates on women’s role
in society, slavery, and the rights of Indigenous Americans, asking
what, if anything, distinguished the US from its neighbors in its early
years. Finally, we’ll examine theories of imperialism, racism, patriarchy,
exploitation, and environmental destruction that have emerged from the
Americas in the course of the 20th century, to see how both shared and
divergent historical experiences have shaped perspectives relevant to
contemporary political issues.
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.190.331. 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 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.190.342. Black Politics II. 3 Credits.
Recommended Course Background: AS.190.340.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.343. 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 DPRK relations. Recommended students should take Intro to Comparative Politics or a course related to East Asia first. (CP)
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

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 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 interplay between politics 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.190.350. Political Violence. 3 Credits.
An examination of the ways in which violence has been used to secure political ends. Topics include civil wars, targeted killings, terrorism, ethnic conflict and war itself. Students examine what makes types of political violence unique and what unites them.
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.190.357. The State of Nature. 3 Credits.
Though it is possible to imagine ways of addressing the multiple crises the world will face as the atmosphere warms, seas rise, and pollutants seep into the surface of the planet, any serious proposal will require a degree of coordination amongst nation-states that has proven impossible to achieve in the past. In this course, we will consider this difficult situation by treating it as an instance of an old problem in political theory: how to escape the infamous "state of nature," where individuals struggle to obtain the resources they need to survive at others' expense, rather than cooperating to satisfy their needs and address the threats they face in common. First, we will study some influential reflections on the state of nature by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Freud, and Pateman, as well as efforts to apply the logic of the state of nature to problems in international politics by Kant, Wendt, Waltz, Enloe, and others. Then we will read contemporary work on the international politics of climate change and ask what it would take to start building the better world that is possible today.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.365. Research and Inquiry in the Social Sciences. 3 Credits.
How do we assess research in the social sciences? What makes one study more persuasive than another? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the main methods used in research in the social sciences? What are the elements that go into designing a research project? This course considers these questions, introducing students to the basic principles of research design.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

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
Writing Intensive

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.190.374. Political Violence. 3 Credits.
This undergraduate seminar is designed to introduce students to the comparative study of political violence and intra-state conflict. We will examine social science theories and empirical studies on a wide range of forms of political violence, including civil war, coups, state repression, communal violence, riots, terrorism, genocide, and criminal-political violence. We will study these phenomena at the micro, meso and macro levels, and focus on understanding their causes, dynamics, outcomes, and aftermath. The class will also equip students with an ability to analyze political violence by using social scientific tools.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.377. 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.190.379. 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.190.386. The Right to the City. 3 Credits.
Over the past several years the city has been the center of almost every
significant political struggle we’ve had over the past several years,
from Occupy Wall Street to Black Lives Matter. Theorists, activists, and
scholars have argued for a specific "right to the city". What does that right
look like? What might it look like? How has it informed political struggle
over space and time? This course will seek to answer this question.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

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
Writing Intensive

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. Race and American Democracy. 3 Credits.
While the United States has long been a democracy for white men, it
has mostly been anything but democratic when seen through the eyes
of Black Americans. But progress toward the expansion of democracy
has occurred at a few times in American history. What made American
democratization possible, and how might the United States again move
toward more complete and inclusive democracy?

AS.190.391. 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-empial 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.190.393. 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 pursued 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.190.405. Food Politics. 3 Credits.
This course examines the politics of food at the local, national, and global level. Topics include the politics of agricultural subsidies, struggles over genetically modified foods, government efforts at improving food safety, and issues surrounding obesity and nutrition policy. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students only. Cross-listed with Public Health Studies. A student who takes AS.190.223 (Understanding the Food System) in Summer 2021 cannot also enroll in this course.
Prerequisite(s): A student who takes AS.190.223 (Understanding the Food System) cannot also enroll in this course.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
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.190.408. 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.190.409. Research Seminar in State Politics. 3 Credits.
The United States Constitution creates a federal system that leaves a great deal of power in the hands of the individual states. Each year, the states collectively adopt nearly 20,000 new laws, an average of 400 per state, while the U.S. Congress in recent years has on average enacted hardly more than 150 new statutes. In terms of spending, state and local governments collectively spent $3 trillion dollars last year—almost as much as the federal government. The states are especially important in the realms of education, health care, environmental policy and transportation. In all these areas, to be sure, the states share power with the federal government but possess considerable discretionary authority. Despite the importance of the states, most Americans know little about them. Hardly anyone knows much about their state's executive branch or legislature. In a recent survey, most Americans couldn't say whether their state had a constitution (they all do). In this seminar we will explore some of the mysteries of state politics. Each student will develop a research project designed to discover something about the states that no one else knows.
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 demonstration 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 has 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

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.190.431. 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.190.433. 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 Fortnite'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

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
Writing Intensive
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

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 commodification. 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.190.474. Philosophy of Law. 3 Credits.
The philosophy of law or jurisprudence investigates the nature of law and what makes law, as it were, law. Thus, this course will examine various ways in which law has been defined and understood. It will also consider how law is distinguished from other systems of norms and values, such as morality, and how law is distinguished from other aspects of government, such as politics. In addition, the course will introduce students to discussions of legal reasoning and interpretation. Students will be required to participate in class discussion, take three exams, and write one paper.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.476. Frantz Fanon's Global Politics: Racism, Madness, and Colonialism. 3 Credits.
"The abnormal is he who demands, appeals, and begs" – Frantz Fanon. This course explores the writings and politics of Frantz Fanon, the radical anti-colonial author, psychiatrist, diplomat, and revolutionary who inspired decolonial and anti-racist struggles across the globe. We will situate Fanon's writings in the global historical context of decolonization, and ask how they can illuminate contemporary questions of madness, racism, fascism, and empire. In addition to reading Fanon's work, we will trace his influence on radical social movements, political thought, and global politics, and explore the limits and promises of culture, art, and film for social transformation.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.498. Thesis Colloquium. 3 Credits.
Open to and required for Political Science majors writing a thesis. International Studies majors writing a senior thesis under the supervision of a Political Science Department faculty member may also enroll. Topics include: research design, literature review, evidence collection and approaches to analysis of evidence, and the writing process. The course lays the groundwork for completing the thesis in the second semester under the direction of the faculty thesis supervisor. Students are expected to have decided on a research topic and arranged for a faculty thesis supervisor prior to the start of the semester. Seniors. Under special circumstances, juniors will be allowed to enroll. Enrollment limit: 15.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.499. Senior Thesis. 3 Credits.
Seniors also have the opportunity to write a senior research thesis. To be eligible to write this thesis, students must identify a faculty sponsor who will supervise the project.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.501. Internship-Political Science. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.502. Political Science Internship. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.504. Internship-International Relations. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.535. Independent Study - Freshmen. 3 Credits.
Permission required.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.536. Independent Study-Freshmen. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.537. Independent Study-Sophomores. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.538. Independent Study-Sophomores. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.539. Independent Study-Juniors. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.190.540. Independent Study-Juniors. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.
AS.190.541. Independent Study-Seniors. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.190.542. Independent Study-Seniors. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.190.543. Independent Research. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.190.544. Independent Research. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.190.592. Summer Internship. 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.190.598. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.190.599. Research - Summer. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.190.601. Qualitative Research.
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.190.602. Introduction to Quantitative Political Science.
An introduction to measurement and data analysis in contemporary American political science. Measurement topics will include the formation of indices and cumulative scales. Analytic topics will topics include sampling variations, statistical association and causation, as manifested in contingency tables and correlation and regression. Emphasis will be on fundamental concepts and assumptions, and on comprehension and evaluation of the scholarly literature. Advanced undergraduates by permission only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.604. Foucault and Kant.
This seminar will explore Kant and Foucault comparatively across the registers of ontology, morality, epistemology, time, and politics. How does each move into and across these registers? How do the two thinkers inform and challenge one another? Texts will include: Kant, The Critique of Practical Reason, Conflict of the Faculties, Perpetual Peace and Other Essays, The Anthropology (sections); Foucault, The Order of Things (chapters), Discipline and Punish, “On the Genealogy of Ethics,” “What Was Enlightenment?”, and Subjectivity and Truth.

AS.190.605. Environmental racism.
Environmental racism has largely been understood in terms of environmental policy-making that discriminates against people of color, particularly with respect to the state-sanctioned siting of toxic waste facilities, the distribution of pollutants, food-deserts, and the exclusion of non-white peoples from leading positions in the environmental movement. This graduate seminar explores environmental racism more broadly, pushing beyond its conventional, place-based understandings and approaching the corresponding logics that produce human disposability and environmental waste from the standpoint of both space and time. Examining colonial legacies of coding racial others in terms natural disasters, epidemics, infestations, non-human animals and dirt, we shall investigate how the natural world is subjected to exploitation and domination in tandem with the subordination of racial subjects historically identified with nature and rendered expendable. In other words, we shall illuminate the logics of power through which race-making coincides with waste-making. Accordingly, we will explore political and theoretical challenges to environmental racism in multiple registers; such as those posed by indigenous studies, decolonial thinkers and Afro-diasporic theories contesting the intersection of racial biopolitics, ecological crises and racial capitalism in an era of proliferating human disposability. Authors considered may include; Mbembe, Du Bois, Hage, Glissant, Césaire, Wynter & Chakrabarty.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.607. Decolonizing the Episteme: Knowledge, Empire and the Academy.
What complicity does the Western academy have with empire? How might the development of certain intellectual dispositions be implicated in the challenges of imperial rule? And how might such implications have produced influential concepts and theories? In this course we will consider the ways in which - and extent to which - the academy's claim to epistemic privilege has a colonial provenance. Seniors permitted with instructor permission only.

What do the process philosophies of Bergson, Whitehead and Daoism have to say to political manifestos advanced by writers such as Marx and Engels, Naomi Klein, Hardt and Negri, Dziga Vertov, Haitian and French revolutionaries, Folco Portinari. How, in turn, can the latter illuminate, deform, or inform them? The readings in this seminar bounce back and forth between the cosmic politics of process philosophy and a variety of short manifestos designed to speak to the vicissitudes of today.

AS.190.612. Comparative Citizenship and Immigration Politics.
Graduate students only. Examines the contemporary political dynamics of migration, citizenship, and race concentrating on North America, Europe and East Asia. We will focus on how citizenship and immigration policies shape immigrant political identities, claims, and strategies as well as how immigrants impact public debates and policies in receiving societies.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
An exploration of the political aims and tactics, and strengths and liabilities, of Dada and Surrealism, as it operated in Europe and the Americas in the years between and after the World Wars. Readings by Andre Breton, Leonora Carrington, Georges Bataille, Roger Caillois, Meret Oppenheim, College of Sociology, and others. Seniors allowed by permission of instructor only.

AS.190.616. American Political Development.
An examination of state-building and nation-building throughout American political history. (AP)

This graduate seminar considers the relationship between finance and state building in both the developing and developed world. Topics will explore the role of central banking, the development of equity and debt markets, bubble economy politics, the effects of financialization, and financial regulatory politics.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.619. Great Powers in the Middle East and North Africa.
How have Great Powers shaped the history and politics of states in the Middle East and North Africa? For over a century, Great Powers have been extensively involved in the region: they established colonies, protectorates, and mandates during colonial period; afterward, they employed military force to constrain and shape regimes. Focusing primarily on Great Britain, France, and the United States, this course examines the causes and consequences of foreign military intervention from colonial conquest through the post-colonial period. Students will critically assess claims that link Great Power actions to current-day conditions in the region through evaluating contemporary scholarship and analyzing the history of selected cases.

This seminar explores the philosophies of Stengers, Nietzsche and Whitehead comparatively, focusing on their philosophies of agency, multitemporality, affect in ethics and politics, flirtations with panexperientialism, and accounts of planetary/culture imbrications. We will also read contemporary engagements with all three on subjectivity, biology and politics, the Anthropocene, democracy, the shapes of logic, and the vicissitudes of time. Primary texts by Stengers may be Another Science is Possible and Thinking with Whitehead, by Nietzsche Daybreak, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, and the Late Notebooks. For Whitehead, Process and Reality and Modes of Thought. Presentation, class discussions, and a seminar paper.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.621. Poesis and Politics.
This graduate seminar will investigate how an aesthetic approach to political concepts and practices – in particular the concept of the polity and the practice of judgment – responds to, troubles, and complicates political thought. In the company of Plato, Kant, Heidegger, Arendt, and Auden, we will explore two related sets of questions. First, what are the advantages and disadvantages of figuring the polity as a work of art or as an artistic creation? Second, how might poetry play a role in politics? Students will be required to submit weekly response papers and write a final 20-30 page paper on a topic related to the course, drawing on the work of at least two of the thinker-poets discussed.

AS.190.622. Republicanism, Realism, and Liberalism.
Close reading of major texts in western political thought on violence, security and politics developed by republicans, realists and liberals
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course focuses on the affective dimensions of law, a power that both creates and preserves the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties. Two related questions will guide our examination of the affection dimensions of law: What are the grounds of law? Why do we obey law? Students will turn in response papers every week on the reading. In addition, there will be a 20-30 page paper due at the end of the semester.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.625. Theories of Comparative Politics.
This seminar is intended for students planning to take the comprehensive exam in comparative politics, either as a major or as a minor. In addition to exploring central methodological debates and analytic approaches, the seminar reviews the literature on state-society relations, political and economic development, social movements, nationalism, revolutions, formal and informal political institutions, and regime durability vs. transition. Graduate students only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.626. Quantitative Methods for the Study of Politics.
This course is intended as Ph.D.-level introduction to applied statistics, with a focus on the identification of causal effects in the tradition of the Neyman/Rubin potential outcomes framework. Prior coursework in applied statistics or quantitative methods will be useful but is not required. Upon completion of the course, students will be in a position to understand and critically assess scholarship that uses instrumental variables, difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, and other quasi- and natural-experimental research designs. Formal mathematical proof will be kept to a minimum. Students will be asked to adapt existing code and write some of their own code in R.

AS.190.627. Gilles Deleuze and Classical Theory.
What can Deleuze teach classical Eurocentric theories? And what can representatives of those traditions teach him? We will read Deleuze in relation to theorists he has examined, such as Plato, Lucretius, Spinoza, Kant, Kafka, Nietzsche and Hegel, as we seek to hear the history of political theory in a new key. Concepts and issues such as politics, history, time, culture/nature divisions, capitalism, the source of ethics, the shape of political ideals, and the nature of explanation will come up for review. The course will typically read a text from a classical thinker and then consult Deleuze’s engagements with them.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

A close reading of Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and Ethics by Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677), with consideration of important commentaries on these works. What conceptions of the human being, nature, reason, God, and freedom are defended and affirmed by Hobbes and Spinoza? What rhetorical strategies accompany their theories of self, ethics, social life?

AS.190.629. American Racial Politics.
Race is not a biological fact but rather a social construction. However, it is a social construction with very real consequences. Definitions of citizenship, allocation of state resources, attitudes about government and government policy, the creation of government policy, all shape and are shaped by race and racial classifications. Serving as a critical corrective to American politics treatments that ignore race, this class will examine how race functions politically in the United States. While not required, some knowledge of statistics is helpful.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.630. Interpretation and Critique of Political Ideas.
This is a graduate seminar on the interpretive and critical problems that arise when political theorists read and write about texts from long, long ago or far, far away. The first part of the course will consider approaches to the history of European political thought influenced by Marx, Foucault, Strauss, Skinner, and Arendt, amongst others. Readings will include both major methodological statements and examples of interpretive and critical scholarship undertaken by proponents of these different schools of thought. In the second part of the course, we will ask whether and how methods developed to analyze and learn from the history of political thought can be applied to the study of political thinkers who lived and wrote outside western Europe and North America. Major questions for consideration in both parts of the course include: Can old ideas help us solve problems arising in contemporary politics and political theory? What can we learn from intellectual traditions unconnected to our own? What do we have to do in order to understand the ideas contained within a given text? Do we have to understand a text for it to be useful to us? Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Examines American social policy in comparative perspective. Special attention to issues of poverty and inequality, and their relation to the political system.

AS.190.632. The Development of American Political Institutions.
This course explores institutional development in American national politics, from the Founding until the present. It traces parties, Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, and courts, and also examines how those institutions have interacted with one another across American history. Throughout the course, we will consider how ideas, interests, procedures, and sequence together shape institutions as they collide and abrade over time. Finally, although it hardly covers the entire corpus across the subfield, the course is also designed to prepare students to sit for comprehensive examinations in American politics.

AS.190.633. Black Political Thought.
This course will introduce you to a survey of Black political thought. Our examination will cover the time period between the latter years of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the present. In the first two thirds of the course we will deal with primary texts (including but not limited to Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, The Souls of Black Folk, and The Wretched of the Earth), and in the last third we will deal with modern day attempts to wrestle with the ideas in these texts (including but not limited to Intimate Justice and Critique of Black Reason).

AS.190.634. Political Corruption.
Political corruption is widely seen to be an impediment to economic and political development and stability. But what is political corruption? The common definition of corruption as abuse of power for private gain is too vague to be of serious scholarly use. Is “abuse” culturally specific or merely a synonym for “illegal” - or even worse, for undesirable according to some unspecified standard? Does “private gain” refer only to under-the-table cash payments to a corrupt official, or does it extend to intangible private benefits, and does it extend to gains for identifiable favored groups (“club goods”) and may or may not include the corrupt official him or herself?? This seminar will focus on several questions. How should political corruption be defined, and what is at stake in the choice if definition? Are there identifiable patterns to, or types of, political corruption? What conditions encourage or discourage corruption, and how might corruption be controlled or limited? What are the consequences of corruption - and are they necessarily all negative?

AS.190.635. Theories of Constitutional Governance.
This class is focused on the nature of constitutions and the way that they should and do work within a political system, with particular emphasis on the U.S. context. We will examine both normative and empirical arguments about the relationship between politics and constitutional law. More specifically, we will think about how societies and individual actors should make meaning out of constitutional texts, how they do seem to make meaning out of those texts, and the conditions that give rise to constitutional drafting and change. Graduate students only. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.636. Information/Knowledge/Power/Politics.
Explores how information and knowledge flow through political/social/ economic configurations, forming and reforming the politics of everyday engagements at different scales. Topics such as mis/disinformation, commodification of information, embodied information, surveillance, and cyber-mediated information provide the context for analyzing practices, power, agency, and ethics. Critical security studies scholarship provides an overarching template, and we will also draw theoretical insights from multiple disciplines. The format will combine elements of seminar and workshop, and the emphasis will be on collaborative participation in the research process.

AS.190.637. The Colonial Constitution of the “Human”.
This course inquires into the colonial constitution of the “human” across philosophical, legal, political, social and economic dimensions. Special attention is paid to the ways in which sexuality, gender, race, class and faith are complicit in this constitution. The course finishes by critically considering theories of the “post-human” from the perspective of both a colonial genealogy of the “human” and anti-colonial claims upon humanism. Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.638. Racial Capitalism.
This graduate seminar will explore the imbrication of the theory, history, and politics of the logic of race and the logic of capital.

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
Comparative politics scholars have long identified institutions as a crucial source of cross-national variation in political life. Yet institutions are not static. We know from everyday experience that institutions change over time, sometimes quite fast. Scholars have attempted to address the problem of institutional change in various ways. Some institutionalist scholars underscore the endogenous logic of institutional evolution, whereas others resort to exogenous factors such as power. Constructivist and pragmatist scholars foreground ideas and practices as sources of institutional change. This course will explore these different strands of scholarship and attempt to reconstruct a fruitful dialogue between them."

This course covers a series of special topics in IR theory with an emphasis on how an appreciation of practices and process provides a fresh perspective on old questions and raises new ones. The course will focus on the pertinent sociological literature and how this has been applied in IR.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.644. Colonialism and Foreign Intervention in the Middle East and Africa.
How did colonial rule and post-colonial foreign intervention shape the history and politics of states in the Middle East and Africa? The first part of this course focuses on the colonial period, examining the era of conquest, considering how and whether colonial rule differed from other types of ruling arrangements, and studying how people in colonized territories reacted to conquest and foreign rule. Part Two focuses on post-colonial foreign military interventions. Part Three considers the potential long-term consequences of colonialism and foreign intervention. The course focuses on British, French, and American imperialism.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.190.645. Black Politics.
Grad Students Only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.646. CLR James: Black Marxism, Pan-Africanism and International Relations.
This course uses the life and writings of famous Trinidadian Marxist CLR James to explore a set of analytical issues of importance to understanding Pan-Africanism and international relations, including: political economy and slavery, culture and freedom, and the fraught relationship between black intellectuals and black masses.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.647. Community and Its Discontents.
This course is inspired by Hannah Arendt’s claim that the calamity of stateless people is “not that they are deprived of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” but that “they no longer belong to any community whatsoever.” Rather than attempt to verify or disprove this claim, the course will use this claim as a provocation. How do we understand, experience, and imagine “community”? What does it mean to “belong” to a community? Is it possible not to belong to any community? Why is the language of community so ubiquitous? To help us consider these questions, we will read among others, Anderson, Freud, Harney and Moten, Joseph, LeGuin, McMillan, and Rousseau. A final paper of 20-30 pages is required.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.648. Writing for Research.
This course is designed to help graduate students in political science craft an original piece of high-quality writing. This class is open to students in their first, second, or third years of the graduate program. We will work on developing the skill of academic writing step by step, focusing first on the question of how to identify and articulate a good question, second on the skill of literature review, third on the art of theoretical engagement, and fourth on the presentation of evidence. During the semester, students may choose to turn a set of interests and questions into a prospectus draft. Alternatively, they may decide to use the class to turn a seminar paper into a dissertation chapter, or a revise a dissertation chapter into an article manuscript. Special sessions will bring other faculty to the class to talk about writing a dissertation and the peer-review process.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.649. The Economic and the Political.
The neoclassical paradigm of economics utterly excludes politics, yet a large swath of the subfield of “political economy” presupposes or is predicated upon that very paradigm. Neither approach can account for the distinct force of “the economic” as it continually interacts with “the political” (and the social, the cultural, etc.) This graduate seminar will be an experimental effort in exploring a whole new terrain of the economic—not another critique of the neoclassical paradigm, but the initial (re)formulation of a new approach to the economic and the political.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.651. Policy Dynamics.
Policy dynamics is the study of changes of the political system in its entirety, from the point of view of the system's outputs—what government actually does, or fails to do. It is dynamic in that it seeks to explain changes in what matters governments feel can or must be addressed, the tools that are available to deal with problems, and the interactions of government and non-government actors that generate change. Particular emphasis will be placed on studying policy dynamics over long periods of time, including such post-enactment issues as implementation, policy feedback on political identities and group formation, and policy durability.

AS.190.652. The Politics of Money, Debt and Credit.
This course will survey recent scholarship on the politics of monetary and financial flows in the economy. We will reflect on the significance and causes of changes in underlying political economy and institutions since the mid-20th century. We will pay special attention to the rise of a new political economy often characterized as neoliberal, and we will discuss how scholars within and beyond political science make sense of these changes.
Writing Intensive

AS.190.653. Organizations.
Graduate students only. "Organizations are the fundamental building blocks of economic, social and political life. This course will examine how different disciplines (sociology, economics, political science) approach the problem of explaining how organizations operate, as well as exploring the structure and development of a very wide range of organizations (firms, interest groups, charitable foundations, universities, militaries, bureaucracies, international organizations, and professions)."
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.654. The Development of the Conservative Movement.
The last twenty years has seen a flourishing of literature on conservatism across multiple disciplines. This course will survey that literature, placing it in a developmental context. Particular focus will be placed on the relationship between elite and mass conservatism, especially in the light of the rise of populism in the US, UK and elsewhere.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.655. Decolonizing Time and Memory.
This graduate seminar is a critical encounter with the colonial imprint on the politics of memory, temporality and race. We shall investigate the recent turn to “decolonize” virtually everything and ask what such efforts might entail given that the hallmarks of colonialism include a disavowal of the past, the capacity to set the clock to zero and begin the world anew, a linear conception of time and an abiding desire for temporal sovereignty. While investigating the possibility of decolonizing futurity, we will pay particular attention to the Promethean construction of the human race (and its constitutive others) across history. We shall confront the role of segregated temporality and mnemonic politics in modern race-making projects and their impact on the contemporary political imagination. Authors may include Nietzsche, Wynter, Fanon, Foucault, Deleuze, Anzaldúa, Baldwin, & Du Bois.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.657. Re-Turn to Language.
A central claim of structuralism is that all systems of meaning are structured along the lines of language. Post-structuralism challenges this claim but does not dismiss it so much as probe the ways in which these systems fail and reveal interesting things about how communication may (not) take place. What is sometimes called “post-post-structuralism” rejects the focus on language, emphasizing instead how meaning is generated in and by culture or with the (mostly) unacknowledged collaboration of matter. This course will revisit these claims, challenges, and refusals within the context of contemporary, philosophy, literary theory, and political thought. We will read, among others, texts by Saussure, Liev-Strauss, Lacan, Barthes, Derrida, Foucault, Kristeva, Butler, and Barad. Students will be required to submit weekly response papers and write a final 20-30 page paper on a topic related to the course.

AS.190.659. Postcolonial Political Economy.
There is currently an intermittent and under-examined relationship between postcolonial studies and critical political economy. The aim of this module is to help you to account for this relationship on your own terms. We will examine the entanglements of capitalism and colonialism by building unconventional conversations between classical political economists (as well as their 19th century successors) and thinkers and traditions invested in confronting colonialism and its legacies. We will focus primarily on regions affected by (Anglo) settler colonialism – especially the Americas and the Pacific.

What gives democratic regimes the ability to withstand challenges such as extreme polarization, racial and ethnic conflict, rising economic inequality, and institutional sclerosis and avoid the prospect of backsliding toward authoritarianism? This course will examine the problem of democratic resilience by locating the contemporary crisis of American democracy in comparative and historical perspective, bringing together literatures in comparative democratization and American politics.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.662. Reading (vols 2 & 3 of) Capital.
TBA
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.664. Decolonizing Political Science: Contexts, Concepts, and Imaginations.
This graduate course explores the colonial contexts out of which key sub-fields of political science arose. The course then examines the colonial logics that underpin the conceptual formation of each sub-field. Finally, the course considers alternative knowledge traditions, emanating from minority communities and colonized peoples, which seek to alternatively explain the phenomena engaged with by each sub-field.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.666. Political Economy Of Development.
Graduate students only.

AS.190.667. Reconstructing International Relations Theory.
In this class, we will study IR theory in a reconstructive mode. We will return to foundational texts in light of more recent theoretical developments both in IR and social thought more broadly. Our goal will be to critically assess the basic epistemological, ontological, and historical assumptions of IR theory while charting paths for its possible futures.

AS.190.668. Rethinking Western Thought.
The history of Euro-American Political Thought has been criticized for its orientations to race, gender, class, Christianity, the subject, capitalism, colonialism, sociocentrism, and humanist exceptionalism. How deeply are those themes ensconced in early Christian traditions, secular orientations to the earth, practices of capitalism, and contemporary images of “the political”? What openings are discernible? The seminar starts with Hesiod’s Theogony and a chapter from Tim Whitmarsh on atheism in ancient Greece. It then explores how Augustine consolidates sharp shifts in orientations to faith, divinity, nature, discipline, time and the earth. An agent of the first conquest of paganism. Readings in The City of God: Against the Pagans and The Confessions in relation to Foucault’s newly translated book, Confessions of The Flesh. Then we turn to what might be called the second Christian/imperial conquest of paganism, launched during the 15th century Spanish invasion of the Americas. How did that conquest re-encrypt and differ from the first? Texts by Todorov, The Conquest of America, alongside essays by C.L.R. James and perhaps de Castro. Followed by essays from Kant, Marx, Arendt, or Deleuze/Guattari, to see how each consolidates or turns earlier western theories. The seminar then engages Dipesh Chakrabarty in The climate of history in a planetary age as he criticizes Euro-centered thought (“the political”, the earth as background to politics, racism, exceptionalism, etc) and some currents in post-colonial thought. Critiques and augmentations will be explored, too.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This graduate seminar will explore works from this extraordinary period in contemporary political theory.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.672. Money.
What is money? And given its absolute centrality to economics and politics, shouldn’t political economy and political theory hold answers to this question? Instead, the history of both neoclassical economics and modern political thought is marked by eschews or refusals of it or its importance. This graduate seminar will explore the theory and politics of money, through critical readings of orthodox theories, engagements with heterodox political economy, and encounters with contemporary political theory.
This course provides an analysis of US foreign policy with a focus on the interests, institutions, and ideas underpinning its development. It offers a broad historical survey that starts with US involvement in the First World War, covers major developments of the twentieth century, and concludes with contemporary issues. Important themes include the developments underpinning the emergence of the liberal world order, strategies of containment during the Cold War, nuclear deterrence and antiproliferation efforts, the politics of international trade, alliance politics, technological and security policy, and the re-emergence of great power competition.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.676. Field Survey of International Relations.
This course provides a scaffold for the study of international relations theory, organized historically and by major approaches. The focus is on close reading and discussion of exemplars of important bodies of theory. Intended for doctoral students with IR as their major or minor field. Graduate students only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.678. Law and Politics.
As a field, Law and Politics has evolved from the study of constitutional law and judicial politics to the political behavior of judges and their associates to the study of law and society, the operation of law and courts “on the ground” in the international arena as well as in the United States, historical institutionalism, and the carceral state. In this graduate course, we will review some of the classic texts in the field, with a focus on the tension between legal institutions and democratic politics. In particular, we will examine how that tension is manifest in the foundations of the American political system and in critical reflection on contemporary practices of American democracy. Students will turn in response papers every week on the reading. In addition, there will be two 10-20 page papers due during the semester. Graduate Students Only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.679. The Political Poetics of Walt Whitman and Henry Thoreau.
A study of the works of Thoreau and Whitman, with an eye toward how they explore the process of outside influences upon subjectivity-formation. What are the powers and limits of Whitman’s and Thoreau’s experiments with language and writing (rhetoric, syntax, imagery, myth) as they seek to induce, cultivate, and transform influences? What role is played by physical encounters with the nonhuman agencies (of plants, animals, objects, divinities)?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

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 impacts for citizenship. In this graduate 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.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.681. Regulatory Politics.
This graduate seminar considers regulatory politics in both the developing and developed world. Topics will explore the role of independent agencies, soft paternalism, co-regulation, regulatory failure, and other topics, across a host of sectors.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.682. Research Seminar/Political Parties.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.190.684. How to Be(Come) an Intellectual.
The university both provides a platform for critical intellectual life and, particularly during its neoliberalization, sets severe barriers to it. The latter involve increasing administrative entanglement with corporate and state forces of authoritarian control, disciplinary drives to narrow professionalism and reductive epistemologies, attacks on tenure and university governance, and cutbacks in university budgets. How can those with intellectual aspirations negotiate such departmental, professional, trustee and state pressures? What preparations and role models are conducive to help carve out such space in the academy? What critical role can intellectuals play today in and beyond the academy? What intellectual personae from the recent past are helpful here? The seminar will be divided into two parts. Part I will explore a group of academics who created intellectual space in the United States during a period resistant to it in the 1960s. Texts by Charles Taylor, Sheldon Wolin, Donna Haraway, Herbert Marcuse, Cornel West, Althusser, and me may be consulted. Part II moves into the contemporary era. Texts by Foucault, Theweileit, Latour, Haraway (again), and Moten may be reviewed, along with new explorations of relations between adjunct faculty and intellectual life. Readings for Part II thus remain in flux. But intersections between new fascist drives, climate change, racism, professional retreatism, and pandemics may be explored. Seminar assignments include a class presentation, two short papers, and regular participation in discussion.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.685. Critical theory, method, and application in International Relations.
Critical theories are often taught by focusing on their various philosophical and ethical claims. But how do you "apply" critical theories in the study of International Relations? Is "method" only a "mainstream" concern? This course seeks to relate philosophy and ethics to method with a (future) eye to dissertation writing. We will consider e.g. Marxist, feminist, postcolonial, and poststructural lines of inquiry, as well as, at the same time, a range of conceptual areas of inquiry – e.g., the affective, the normative, the poetic, the phenomenological, and the material.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.686. The Right to the City.
Over the past decade, political, economic, and cultural struggles in and over the city have become more important than ever before. Protests against the growing carceral state, against increasing wealth inequality, as well as revanchist attempts to rollback multicultural societal shifts all have the city as its core. While some Marxist theorists think these struggles represent larger struggles over use-versus-exchange-value, Black Radical thinkers connect these struggles to anti-black racism. In the wake of one world challenging movement – Black Lives Matter – and one world altering crisis – the Covid-19 pandemic - this course will reflect critically on these two traditions of thinking about the city and to rethink the Marxist tradition through the Black Radical tradition. We will anchor these conversations in an exploratory dialogue between two exemplars of each tradition - the French geographer Henri Lefebvre, and Detroit movement intellectuals James and Grace Lee Boggs. This class will be a vital component of the 2022-23 Sawyer Seminar.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.687. Philosophy and the Anthropocene.
How do philosophers such as Heidegger, Whitehead, Deleuze and Braidotti help us to think about the dynamics of the Anthropocene? What do anthropologists and geoscientists such as Anna Tsing, Bruno Latour, Jason Moore, Michael Benton, Jan Zalasiewics and Wally Broecker teach those philosophies and us about the contemporary condition? Class presentations on assigned readings, seminar paper, and class discussions.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.688. Political Violence.
This undergraduate seminar is designed to introduce students to the comparative study of political violence and intra-state conflict. We will examine social science theories and empirical studies on a wide range of forms of political violence, including civil war, coups, state repression, communal violence, riots, terrorism, genocide, and criminal-political violence. We will study these phenomena at the micro, meso and macro levels, and focus on understanding their causes, dynamics, outcomes, and aftermath. The class will also equip students with an ability to analyze political violence by using social scientific tools.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.690. Statelessness.
This course will examine Hannah Arendt’s claim that the most “symptomatic group” of contemporary politics is “the existence of an ever-growing new people comprised of stateless persons.” We will consider what, if anything, this group may be a symptom of and its consequences for theories of law and politics. Among other authors we will read Arendt, Agamben, Brown, Foucault, Moten, Said, and Somers. A final paper of 20-30 pages is required.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.190.691. The Hopkins Seminar on Racial Politics.
This class surveys the ways in which racial politics has become an increasingly salient topic for Political Science. We examine how racial politics has been engaged with in various sub-fields, and how the study of racial politics might be pursued through cross-sub-field and interdisciplinary interventions. The class also situates these investigations in the historical importance of Hopkins as a key site in the emergence of a racist discipline and, alternatively, as a site from which important interventions have been launched towards formulating an anti-racist Political Science.

AS.190.800. Independent Study.

AS.190.801. Summer Research.

AS.190.849. Graduate Research.

AS.191.131. An Introduction to Global Migration. 3 Credits.
We live in a world in motion. There are over 272 million migrants in the world today and these numbers are expected to increase in the next decades. Simultaneously, migration is one of the most contested contemporary issues and dominates politics and the media. This course provides students with a thorough understanding of key themes, policies, dilemmas and debates in migration. The first part will focus on theories of migration where students can learn about the history of migration, how and why migrants move today and what categories of migrants exist. The second part will focus on debates around migration and discursive strategies used to ‘other’ migrants. Part three will focus on core issues in migration studies such as racism, integration, border controls and the link between migration and the economy.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
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.191.304. Writing Politics in an Age of Crisis. 3 Credits.
We live in an age of crisis. Social, political, and environmental disruptions both in the United States and around the world are the new normal. How do we – as individuals, citizens, and scholars – come to understand these issues? And how should we write about them? This course is designed to help students improve as writers, readers, and editors for a world where powerful young voices are more necessary than ever. The substantive focus of the course will be on the dynamics of interlinked contemporary political crises and on the responses available to individuals to address them. We will read a variety of scholarly, journalistic, and literary sources to inform our discussion and inspire our writing. However, this course is designed not as a standard seminar, but as a writing workshop. Students will write and critique a variety of pieces of different lengths and styles – including a political memoir, an op-ed, a long-form critical essay, and a piece of speculative fiction - spending the majority of in-class time on peer review, presentations, and writing exercises, which they will compile into a writing portfolio. Reading will include works by Alexander Chee, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Mary Annaise Heglar, Hunter S. Thompson, James Baldwin, Dave Zirin, Elizabeth Rush, Charlotte Shane, and Teju Cole, among many others.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.191.310. Sex(uality) and Race as the Politics of the Beat Generation. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the literature of the Beat Generation writers (Ginsberg, Kerouac, Burroughs, Snyder, Kaufman) of the late 1940s through the 1950s and 1960s. The Beats were a group of nomadic writers traveling the North American continent between San Francisco and New York with memorable stops in Denver and St. Louis, Missouri. Beat literature revolted against the constraining normalizing values of post war USA and celebrated freedom of expression, wanderlust, and the search for euphoria of body and mind in stream-of-consciousness narration. The course examines the relationship between society's dominant mores and beliefs (both contemporary and those of the 50’s and 60's) and the counterculture, non-conformist philosophy as espoused by The Beats. The course focuses on Beat depictions of sexuality, gender and race in order to understand if these identity markers are but symptoms of social structures of oppression (racism, patriarchy, heterosexism) or if, alternatively, they can also signal, express and enact a new and different understanding of politics. Can the Beats help us envision new forms of (non-toxic) masculinity? Can they help us think of race in non-racist ways?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.191.325. Environmental Social Sciences meet Environmental Fiction. 3 Credits.
The course pairs readings of critical texts addressing environmental crises with literary fiction broadly dealing with the relationship between the human and the environment. We discuss the ways narratives affect our understanding of complex global phenomena, and how the tools of literary analysis can help us unpack the rhetorics and values of both fictional and nonfictional texts.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
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.191.340. Cities, Space & Power. 3 Credits.
Gentrify! 80% of people live in urban areas. These locations are key for solving political dilemmas, including climate change, class, segregation, gender & immigration. This class explores all of these through the lens of gentrification. What does 20th century urban planning have to do with it? How can I talk to my friends about gentrification in Baltimore? Find out this and more!
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
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 Czariat(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.191.352. Race, Class, and America. 3 Credits.
Through an intensive and in-depth reading of theorists, thinkers, historians, and political scientists, this course will take students through the deeply interconnected story of American race relations and labor politics. We will examine primary source material, such as the essays of Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, the speeches of A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, and Martin Luther King, Jr., the memoirs of Charles Denby and Angelo Herndon, and the pamphlets of Claudia Jones; we will read historical accounts which situate these figures in their context; and we will engage critically with the fundamental topic: in the United States, what is the relationship between race and class; racism and exploitation; civil rights and labor activism? Toward the end of the course, we will examine recent scholarship that has returned to these themes to show how deeply imbricated America—its people, its institutions, its political economy—remains to this history.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
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 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 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. One class might be held in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Senate, so would require additional time for travel.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.358. Use of Force and the American State. 3 Credits.
This course examines the growth and development of the American state's coercive institutions, namely, the military and police. We will explore the ways in which the American state makes war, fights crime, and polices the boundaries of citizenship. While we tend to approach these topics from the perspective of international relations, law, or political philosophy, this course focuses on American politics and institutions. How did the United States secure control over a transcontinental territory in the absence of a large standing army? Why did the federal government try to criminalize vices, and how were these statutes enforced? How did violence influence the development of the American state, and to what extent do these historical processes explain warfare and law enforcement today?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.191.372. Making Social Change. 1.5 Credits.
Aitchison Students Only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.191.375. Thinking Organizationaly about Politics. 3 Credits.
Aitchison Students Only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
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

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.196.301. Social Entrepreneurship, Policy, and Systems Change: The Future of Democracy. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the dynamics and interplay between social entrepreneurship, social change, and policy. Students will explore frameworks for social transformation and systems change, and explore whether stable governance and effective policies are necessary for sustainable change. The course will examine the intersection between social change and policy change, examining how the two concepts intersect while focusing on the end goal of systems change. Students will examine different case studies of social transformation (or proposed social transformation) from across the United States and world. Guest speakers will include diverse practitioners of social entrepreneurship who think about long-term pathways to transformative social change, and dynamic policymakers. While the course will include case studies on broader domestic and international challenges and models of social transformation, a larger focus will be on specific local social problems and solutions. This will manifest through class discussions and a final project based on the surrounding community.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

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

AS.196.600. Data-analysis for Social Science & Public Policy I.
We will gain experience with data-analysis geared towards understanding the social world. Our scope ranges from simple descriptions and predictions under strong assumptions to intervention analyses that provide a more trustworthy foundation for quantifying causal effects. The course will be offered in a hybrid modality and will have a heavy focus on computation. We will alternate between discussion sessions devoted to fundamental concepts, and lab sessions devoted to a combination of web- and instructor-led data-analyses. Whenever possible, examples using both R and Stata and using a range of national and cross-national data-sources relevant to the study of democracy will be provided.
Area: Humanities
AS.196.601. Data-analysis for Social Science & Public Policy II.
We will gain experience with data-analysis geared towards understanding the social world. Our scope ranges from simple descriptions and predictions under strong assumptions to intervention analyses that provide a more trustworthy foundation for quantifying causal effects. The course will be offered in a hybrid modality and will have a heavy focus on computation. We will alternate between discussion sessions devoted to fundamental concepts, and lab sessions devoted to a combination of web- and instructor-led data-analyses. Whenever possible, examples using both R and Stata and using a range of national and cross-national data-sources relevant to the study of democracy will be provided.

Anthropology
AS.070.607. Schelling and Anthropology.
The 18th century German philosopher Schelling has been hugely influential on 20th century thought (Freud, Heidegger, Nancy, Zizek, Pierce) but remains unknown outside of philosophical circles. This neglect is unfortunate given that he has so much to offer anthropological inquiries into the relations between mind and matter, nature and culture, theology and mythology among other topics. This course places Schelling’s writings and commentaries on his work alongside anthropological texts and figures to explore lines of productive conversation. The theme of a romanticism appropriate to our present will be consistently explored throughout the course.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

Comparative Thought and Literature
AS.300.402. What is a Person? Humans, Corporations, Robots, Trees. 3 Credits.
Knowing who or what counts as a person seems straightforward, until we consider the many kinds of creatures, objects, and artificial beings that have been granted—or demanded or denied—that status. This course explores recent debates on being a person in culture, law, and philosophy. Questions examined will include: Should trees have standing? Can corporations have religious beliefs? Could a robot sign a contract? Materials examined will be wide-ranging, including essays, philosophy, novels, science fiction, television, film. No special background is required.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

East Asian Studies
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.310.305. China, Southeast Asia, and U.S. National Security. 3 Credits.
The global political and security landscape of the 21st century will be shaped by the rivalry between two superpowers – China and the U.S. For the foreseeable future, the geographic focus of that contest will be Southeast Asia and the surrounding maritime space, particularly the South China Sea. Southeast Asia is a complex, highly differentiated region of ten-plus nations, each with its own unique history and relationship with China. This course will introduce Southeast Asia as a key region – geographically, economically, and strategically – often overlooked by policymakers and scholars. It will also focus on the craft of national security strategy as the best tool for understanding the multi-sided competition, already well underway involving China, the U.S., and the Southeast Asian states.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.310.318. Eurasia’s Transformation and the Global Implications. 3 Credits.
Eurasia, stretching from the Western Europe across Russia, Central Asia, and China to the Pacific, is by far the largest continent on earth, with a massive share of global population, economic output, and key natural resources. It has been traditionally Balkanized. Yet since the late 1970s, due to China’s modernizations, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and a series of global geo-economic shocks, the nations of this Super Continent have become increasingly interactive, creating fluid new trans-regional political-economic patterns that remain remarkably unexplored. This course explores the critical junctures that made Eurasia the dynamic, growing colossus that it is becoming today, as well as the global implications, from a unique problem-oriented perspective. It looks first at the developmental and political challenges confronting China, Russia, and key European states as the Cold War waned, how the key nations coped, and how they might have evolved differently. It then considers the new challenges of the post-Cold War world, and how national and local leaders are responding today. Particular attention is given, in this problem-centric approach, to the challenges that growing Eurasian continental connectivity epitomized in China’s Belt and Road Initiative, are creating for US foreign policy and for the grand strategy of American allies in NATO, Japan, and Korea. Note: Some familiarity with Eurasian history and/or politics is recommended.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.310.326. 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.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

First Year Seminars

AS.001.106. FYS: Legal Fictions - Law and Humanities. 3 Credits.
A legal fiction is a fact assumed or created by courts to help reach a decision. In this First-Year Seminar, we study how legal fictions and fictions about law work in order to examine the possibilities and limits of fiction's (legal) power. Drawing from legal and literary thought, as well as plays, short stories, cases, and legal commentary, we critically explore the capacity of words to reveal (or conjure) some fundamental features of our shared worlds and discuss their impact in contemporary debates about justice. The course is designed with first-year students in mind and requires no prior knowledge of law.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.001.114. FYS: The Politics of Reproduction. 3 Credits.
The idea that the “personal” is “political” finds no greater example than in the politics of reproduction. From inheritance laws, the rights of the offspring of enslaved peoples, or policies to reduce (or increase) fertility, the modern nation state has had a great deal to say about the use and produce of human bodies. In this First-Year Seminar, we will examine how formal and informal institutions have governed reproductive practices over the past 200 years. We will look at how family structures and economic development map onto fertility, and at how technological innovations in fertility control (including birth control and IVF) have influenced women's economic and political participation. We will also consider whether reproductive policies have differential impacts for LGBTQ households. Finally, we examine the “dark side” of reproductive policies - not only sterilization campaigns but also the treatment of sex workers and sex-selective abortion - to understand how state policies have divided households based on race, class, and occupation.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.001.135. FYS: Free Speech and Its Limits. 3 Credits.
Freedom of speech is a core value for democracies – and for universities, in which the freedom to challenge accepted beliefs is essential to advancing knowledge. The 1st Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and of the press, as do the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the European Convention on Human Rights. But like other rights, my right to freedom of speech may conflict with yours, or with other important rights or societal objectives. As a result, freedom of speech cannot be (and in practice never is) unlimited. In this First-Year Seminar, we will be asking why freedom of speech has been accorded such importance, and how and why it might legitimately be limited, in politics, in business, in everyday life, and in universities, looking both at the United States and at other liberal democracies. Topics will include asking what should count as speech beyond the mere utterance of words; appropriate protections or limitations for hate speech and other offensive speech and for falsehoods; where the boundary between legitimate protest and unlawful infringement on the rights of others should be drawn; whether free speech includes an affirmative right to be informed, or an affirmative right to be let alone; appropriate regulations for social media; and campus speech codes.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.001.137. FYS: The Power of Speech: Law, Politics, and the Humanities. 3 Credits.
What don't we do with words? Even silence makes manifest the power of speech. This First-Year Seminar will introduce you to some of the ways that power has been described and thought about. In addition to studying arguments that connect the power of speech to what it means to be human, we will explore various attempts both to protect and limit speech, taking into consideration not only how we do things with words but how words affect us. Topics that will be covered include freedom of speech, censorship, hate speech, silence, and storytelling. We will read texts in philosophy, politics, law, and literature, and we will watch at least one film.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.001.150. FYS: Master of the Senate. 3 Credits.
This First-Year Seminar offers an opportunity to think through the nature of political power, political institutions, and political ambition. We make our way through a single book: Robert Caro, Master of the Senate, an account of Lyndon Baines Johnson's dozen years in the US Senate, from 1949 to 1961. Through lively discussion centered around this completely riveting text, the class will explore central questions in politics (democratic and non-democratic) that reverberate far beyond the bygone world of the midcentury Senate.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.001.151. FYS: Citizenship and Society in the United States. 3 Credits.

Popular sovereignty — the idea that the people rule themselves — has been heralded as one of the preeminent innovations of the modern world. And over the course of the last two hundred or so years, a rising tide of nations committed themselves to the principles of popular sovereignty. Yet in recent years, the inevitability, soundness, and very viability of "rule by the people" has come into question. On the one hand, popular uprisings around the globe have rejected the decisions and practices of governing elites on the grounds that they are out of touch with the people’s needs. On the other hand, these uprisings have resurrected and strengthened authoritarian practices and have facilitated the erosion of liberal rights long considered instrumental to preserving democracy. The result — turmoil, unrest, and uncertainty about what the future holds — is evident from Venezuela to England, Turkey to the United States. Can popular sovereignty survive? In what form will the people rule, and at what cost? This First-Year Seminar is an investigation into the idea and practice of popular sovereignty in the contemporary United States. We will explore this topic by actively consulting theory and empirical research in the social sciences. We will supplement this with our own research on the 2022 election, media coverage of issues, popular attitudes about democracy, and popular representation in government and by interest/advocacy groups. Additionally, this class is organized as a collaboration between two first-year seminars: one at Johns Hopkins, the other at Williams College. Over the course of the semester, the two seminars will meet frequently via videoconference to share research and discuss readings and ideas. This is intended to broaden the perspectives brought to bear on our investigation generally and, specifically, to allow each group to share real-time research on the politics of the region in which their respective institutions are located.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.001.168. FYS: The Psychology of Mass Politics in the U.S.. 3 Credits.

Taught during the election season of 2022, this First-Year Seminar looks at the deeper psychological motivations of the American electorate. We begin by discussing the meaning of democracy and establishing a common understanding of American democracy specifically, placing the current moment into historical and international context. We then gradually dismantle the "folk theory" of democracy that assumes all voters are rational and economically-minded. Instead, we apply theories from social psychology to understand some essential questions about voter behavior. Why do people vote? How do they understand politics? How are their feelings and judgments affected by their own identities, biases, information sources, and by the messages they hear from leaders? Why have Americans grown so polarized? What role do racial and gender-based prejudice play? Is American politics headed toward a more violent future? We use evidence-based research from political science, sociology, and psychology to answer these questions.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.001.177. FYS: The Right to the City - Race, Class, and Struggle in Baltimore. 3 Credits.

Over the past decade, cities have become more important than ever before. Protests against policing, against increasing inequality, as well as attempts to rollback societal shifts all have the city as its core. While some suggest these struggles represent larger struggles over the relationship between labor and capital, Black Radical thinkers connect these struggles to anti-black racism. In the wake of one world challenging movement — Black Lives Matter — and one world altering crisis — the Covid-19 pandemic - this First-Year Seminar will reflect critically on these two traditions of thinking about the city by using Baltimore as a case study. This class will be taught alongside similar courses at other universities, offering students a deep dive into Baltimore.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

History

AS.100.295. American Intellectual History since the Civil War. 3 Credits.

Readings in American social thought since 1865, ranging across developments in philosophy, literature, law, economics, and political theory.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

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.100.442. 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.100.445. Revolution, Anti-Slavery, and Empire 1773-1792: British and American Political Thought from Paine, Smith, and the Declaration of Independence to Cugoano, Wollstonecraft, and the Bill of Rights. 3 Credits.

This seminar-style course will focus on discussing British and American political thought from the “Age of Revolutions”, a period also of many critiques of Empire and of many works of Antislavery. Readings include Paine’s Common Sense and Rights of Man, the Declaration of Rights, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers; works by Smith, Burke, and Wollstonecraft; and antislavery works by Cugoano, Equiano, Ruskin, Wesley, and Wilberforce.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive
History of Art
AS.010.327. Asia America: Art and Architecture. 3 Credits.
This course examines a set of case studies spanning the last century that
will enable us to explore the shifting landscape of Asian transnational
art and architecture. Each week will focus on a different artist, group,
exhibition, architect, urban space, or site to unpack artists’ and architects’
engagements with the changing landscape of immigration policies, movements to build solidarity with other artists of color, and campaigns
for gender and sexual equality. The course will situate these artists within
American art, and build an expansive idea of Asia America to include
the discussion of artists whose work directly addresses the fluidity of
location and the transnational studio practice.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.010.382. The Politics of Display in South Asia. 3 Credits.
Through an examination of colonial exhibitions, the rise of national,
regional, and archaeological museums, and current practices of display
and representation in institutions, we will explore how the image of South
Asia has been constructed in the colonial, modern, and contemporary
eras. We will engage with the politics of representation, spectacle,
and the economies of desire as related to colonialism and the rise
of modernity. Readings from postcolonial theory, museum studies,
anthropology, history, and art history.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.010.634. Rethinking the Renaissance: Alternatives to "Early
Modernity".
"The Renaissance" as a periodization under attack, and its persistance;
the hermeneutics of the Pre-Modern Image since Panofsky; the critique
of Eurocentrism; challenges to and recuperations of iconology, assessing
the contributions of semiotics, psycholanalyis and queer theory.
Area: Humanities

History of Science, Medicine, and Technology
AS.140.364. The City Course: Disciplinary Perspectives on Urban Life
and Form. 3 Credits.
This course aims, first, at enlarging our understanding of cities by looking
at them from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and, secondly, at
examining the distinctive ways of thinking associated with disciplines
from engineering, the sciences and medicine to anthropology, sociology,
economics, archaeology, history and literature. Baltimore and cities from
around the world will provide resource material. Lectures, discussions,
term projects.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Interdepartmental
AS.360.247. Introduction to Social Policy and Inequality: Baltimore and
Beyond. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to basic concepts in economics,
political science and sociology relevant to the study of social problems
and the programs designed to remedy them. It will address the many
inequalities in access to education and health care, unequal treatment
in the criminal justice system, disparities in income and wealth, and
differential access to political power. The focus will be on designing
effective policies at the national and local level to address these pressing
issues. This course is open to all students, but will be required for the
new Social Policy Minor. The course is also recommended for students
who are interested in law school, medical school, programs in public
health, and graduate school in related social science fields. This course
does not count as one of the required courses for the Economics major
or minor, but it is required for the Social Policy Minor. Cross list with
Sociology, Economics and Political Science. Freshman, Sophomore and
Juniors only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.360.331. Methods for Policy Research. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to quantitative methods for studying
social policy problems. Topics to be covered include descriptive statistics
and sampling, correlation and causation, simple and multiple regression,
experimental methods, and an introduction to cost-benefit analysis. The
emphasis will be on the selection, interpretation and practical application
of these methodologies in specific policy settings, rather than with formal
proofs. Skills will be reinforced by hands-on exercises using statistical
software. Over the course of the semester, students will critically analyze
policy reports and empirical research in a range of policy areas and learn
how to present this research to a non-specialist audience. Finally, we will
discuss the pros and cons of quantitative vs. qualitative methodologies.
The course will conclude with group presentations that draw on all these
skills. Enrollment restricted to Social Policy minors only.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral
Sciences

AS.360.366. Public Policy Writing Workshop. 3 Credits.
This workshop is designed to hone the analytical and communications
skills necessary for effective formulation and advocacy of public policy.
Topics include how to develop op-ed pieces and other forms of advocacy
journalism, memoranda, position papers, and grant proposals. The
workshop puts special stress on how to make a clear and persuasive
exposition of complex or counter-intuitive policy arguments in the market
place of ideas, including the challenges of writing for popular journals
and communicating to specific audiences both in and out of government.
Students receive intensive individual instruction, including close editing
of their work and advice on how to publish or promote it in the public
sphere. Enrollment restricted to Social Policy minors only.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.360.401. Social Policy Seminar. 3 Credits.
This course is designed for students who have completed either the
Baltimore intensive semester of the Social Policy Minor. The students
will make presentations and pursue joint projects based on what they
have learned during the intensive semesters concerning key social policy
issues.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
International Studies

AS.192.150. States, Regimes & Contentious Politics. 3 Credits.
This course, which satisfies the gateway requirement for the major in International Studies, 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 sources 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. This course also counts as a 100-level course in comparative politics required for political science majors.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

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. It is divided into three parts to allow students to develop expertise in one or more countries and/or policy arenas, while cultivating a broad grasp of the challenges of “East Asia’s fast-paced economic growth.” Part I considers the origins of East Asian economic development, analyses the common economic variables behind the region’s success, looks at the 1997-1998 East Asian financial crisis, its lessons and the economic renaissance that followed. Part II focuses 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 East Asia, including trends toward greater regional economic cooperation, trade integration, and issues related to poverty, migration, and inclusiveness.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

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 instructor 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 by the end of the day on Sunday, October 24, 2021. This course is an initiative of the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS. It will expose exceptional undergraduate students to the study of grand strategy and the history of U.S. foreign policy. 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 also consider key issues in U.S. grand strategy today, from climate change to the challenge of an assertive China. Students will also have the opportunity to meet with current and former policymakers who have worked on these issues in real time. The course will meet 9 times at Homewood and 4 times at the SAIS campus in Washington, D.C.; transportation between Homewood campus and SAIS will be provided.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Modern Languages and Literatures

AS.211.300. Niccolò Machiavelli’s "The Prince": Understanding the Meaning and Legacy of a Masterpiece. 3 Credits.
Who was Niccolò Machiavelli? We often hear the term “Machiavellian” in reference to actors in business or politics, but what does it really mean? What does Machiavelli teach us about the nature and the dynamics of political power? Can Machiavelli’s thought offer insights into today’s politics and fast-changing world? The course aims to answer these questions by addressing three topics. First, we will study Machiavelli’s life and times, particularly the events connected to his production and the context in which he wrote his main writings. We will see how the fifteenth-century Florentine humanism and the massive political changes affecting early modern Europe shaped Machiavelli’s mindset. Second, we will familiarize ourselves with Machiavelli’s thought by reading The Prince and excerpts from Discourses on Livy. Third, we will get acquainted with some of the main trends in the reception of Machiavelli in the 20th and 21st centuries. Special attention will be paid to interpretations of Machiavelli by Antonio Gramsci, Leo Strauss, Isaiah Berlin, John Greville Agard Pocock, Quentin Skinner, and John P. McCormick. We will also pay attention to modern television programs and films that show the width and depth of Machiavelli’s legacy.
Area: Humanities
AS.211.394. Brazilian Culture & Civilization. 3 Credits.
Did you know that Brazil is very similar to the United States? This course is designed as an introduction to the culture and civilization of Brazil. It is intended to provide students with basic information about Brazilian history, politics, economy, art, literature, popular culture, theater, cinema, and music. The course will focus on how Indigenous, Asian, African, and European cultural influences have interacted to create the new and unique civilization that is Brazil today. 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. The sections will be taught simultaneously. Section 01: 3 credits Section 02: 4 credits (instructor's permission required). No Prereq. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive
Philosophy

AS.150.312. Applied Public Health Ethics and Decision-Making. 3 Credits.
In this course, students receive an introduction to core theoretical foundations and case studies in public and global health ethics. This course adopts an applied framework for understanding how public health ethical values are navigated in different decision-making processes. This course is geared toward juniors and seniors.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.150.313. Technology, Democracy, and Social Justice. 3 Credits.
This course will consider healthcare technologies through the lens of political values: democracy and social justice. At a broad level, we will ask of these technologies: Who should decide on their design and use when the experts don’t resemble the public and the public lacks expertise? How can we provide broad access to the benefits of these new technologies without exposing vulnerable people to further risk and unfairness? More narrowly, the course will focus on four technologies that affect healthcare: anti-malarial “gene drive” mosquitoes, medical AI, genomic data collection, and social media. Gene drives hold the promise of modifying mosquitoes to prevent the spread of infectious disease, but they also expose people in lower-income countries to unanticipated risks. Artificial intelligence and genomic data can deliver scarce medical resources to those who need it most and tailor it to minorities based on their precise characteristics. But they can also exacerbate existing unfairness while exposing minorities to further discrimination and surveillance. Social media has a similar potential to deliver crucial health data, especially in a pandemic. But it also promotes the spread of misinformation among the populations most in need of help. This course will consider how we can balance the benefits and risks of these novel technologies and who gets to decide that balance.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

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

Sociology

AS.230.318. The Political Economy of 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.230.357. Baltimore and Beyond. 3 Credits.
This course uses the city of Baltimore as a lens through which to explore issues of urban inequality. We will focus on Baltimore's history of racial segregation and concentrated poverty, and its effect on the social and economic well-being of the city and its residents, with attention to education, employment, health and crime. Students will learn how to employ Census data, GIS approaches, and sociological research to inform questions about population change, inequality and the distribution of resources across the city and metropolitan region. Students will also work on one or more policy relevant studies based in Baltimore, including: a project on abandoned and vacant housing, a desegregation intervention, and a longitudinal study of inner city youth. Finally, students will become familiar with Baltimore City's programs and policy approaches to addressing the city's most pressing problems, and will design innovative and effective and innovative solutions as part of their course assignments. Enrollment restricted to Social Policy minors only.
Prerequisite(s): Students that took AS.360.357 may not take AS.230.357
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality

AS.363.416. WGS Internship/Practicum: Feminist Animals: Sex, Nature, and Nonhumans. 3 Credits.
Introducing feminist approaches to ecology and nonhumans, this course considers the interconnections between heteropatriarchal domination and the domination of nonhuman animals and ecologies. What different sensibilities and ways of seeing sex and gender open up when attention shifts to nonhumans? What tensions within and between feminism, animal liberation, and ecological concern come to the fore when each approach is alongside the others? How does the study of nonhumans extend the promise of feminism, and vice versa? In responding to these questions, we will see the real breadth of issues that the theory and practice of feminism can address.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

For current faculty and contact information go to http://politicalsection.jhu.edu/people/