COLLEGE OF SOCIAL STUDIES

The College of Social Studies (CSS) offers a distinctive blend of teaching methods, subject matter, and educational structure. Its collegial organization combines tutorials and courses in social theory within the college with individually selected courses from other departments and programs in the University to achieve an integrated education in the social sciences. Founded in 1959, the CSS has provided an unusual educational opportunity for many Wesleyan students whose careers upon graduation have ranged from medicine to law, forestry to college teaching, international business to screenwriting.

FACULTY

Richard P. Adelstein
BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; JD, University of Pennsylvania; MAA, Wesleyan University; MAT, Harvard University; PHD, University of Pennsylvania
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Associate Professor of Government; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor, German Studies

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Giulio Gallarotti; Cecilia Miller

• Undergraduate College of Social Studies Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/css/ugrd-css)

CSS220 Sophomore Economics Tutorial: Topics in the History of Economic Thought

This tutorial will consider alternative visions of capitalism as they have unfolded in the economic literature since Adam Smith published The Wealth of Nations in 1776. By “capitalism” is meant, loosely, an economic system based on market exchange and the private ownership of productive assets; that is, the system which arose in Western Europe roughly five hundred years ago and which now increasingly pervades human society. Necessarily this survey is somewhat selective. In particular, rudimentary knowledge of the neoclassical paradigm (the basis of modern mainstream economics) is taken for granted, and fans of such stalwarts as Thorstein Veblen and Joan Robinson are likely to be disappointed. Our strategy for dealing with severe strictures of time will be to focus our studies primarily on the work of three thinkers who have defined much of the ground for subsequent analysis and debate in political economy, i.e. Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes. We will also study some of the contributions of Jean-Baptiste Say, Thomas Malthus, and David Ricardo to the classical school of thought, as well as the contributions of American economist John Bates.
CSS230 Sophomore Government Tutorial: State and Society in the Modern Age
This Tutorial analyzes the emergence and functioning of the modern nation state, primarily in the West. We are interested in how the nation state came into being and what forms of government have evolved over the past 200 years or so. We will also examine a variety of challenges to the nation state, including modernization, the deepening of democracy and the development of the European Union. Throughout the class, our focus will be on the question of what is required for the emergence and maintenance of a democratic political system.

When political scientists approach these issues, we are looking for generalities and systemic explanations. We seek to draw out common theoretical principles from a variety of diverse empirical cases. Political scientists may ask questions such as: What forces in a society tend to produce democratic outcomes? Under what conditions is a revolution more or less likely? Where does sovereignty rest? There isn’t general agreement among political scientists about how to attempt to answer these questions. In this course, we read both classic texts and newer works on these topics and consider which approaches are most enlightening.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

CSS240 Sophomore History Tutorial: The Emergence of Modern Europe
This tutorial sequence analyzes the formation of modern European society from the late 18th to the last quarter of the 20th century. Most attention will be placed on Britain, France, Germany and Russia as these countries were shaped by, and responded to, demographic, economic, social, political, and intellectual forces that led to revolutions, political and social reforms, new modes of production, changes in social hierarchies, and new forms of warfare. Much attention will be placed on the social and political consequences of the French Revolution and industrialization, but empire, the origins and consequences of the two world wars (including the Russian revolution and the rise and defeat of Nazism) will also come under extensive discussion, as will the creation of a more stable and prosperous postwar European order. Europe’s links to Africa, Asia and the Americas will be discussed in the context of imperialism and the two world wars. In addition to developing knowledge of the most important processes that have shaped the modern world, this tutorial seeks to foster a critical awareness of the varieties of historical narrative, the skills needed to interpret historical primary sources, and the possibilities and limits of history as a tool of social investigation.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

CSS271 Sophomore Colloquium: Modern Social Theory
This colloquium examines a number of competing conceptual frameworks in the social sciences derived from major political philosophers and social theorists, such as Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Freud.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
course moves through an examination of canonical thinkers who have both challenged and contributed to Liberal social thought. Taking the ruminations of Nazi jurist Carl Schmidt as a problematic yet demanding provocation, the course asks in part how successfully Liberal theorists have resolved the dilemmas Schmidt identifies within Liberalism (or if, indeed, fascist tendencies pervade Liberal social thought, as Schmidt contends). Theorists within the Liberal tradition such as Friedrich Hayek, Hannah Arendt, and Jürgen Habermas are joined by critics such as Franz Fanon, Carole Pateman, and Michel Foucault in this critical overview of contemporary Liberal social theory. Through this examination of recent interventions in Liberal thinking regarding the social, this class is meant to provide students with an opportunity to think through ways in which various contemporary approaches to social issues both invoke and reformulate political debates of long standing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Prereq: None

CSS391 Senior Colloquium: Crime and Punishment
This course considers the American criminal law, the procedures through which it is enforced and the nature of criminal punishment from a variety of perspectives. It begins with the criminal law itself, its moral foundations and assumptions, the essential elements of criminal liability and several of the law’s more important doctrines and rules. It then turns to the institutions of enforcement and punishment, the police, the public prosecutor, the criminal courts and the system of punishment, to see how they work “on the ground” and compare this to the ideals of the law. Finally, it puts the American system in international perspective by comparing it to European institutions of criminal justice.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ECON
Prereq: None

CSS401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

CSS402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

CSS407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CSS408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

CSS409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

CSS410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

CSS411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CSS412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CSS419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

CSS420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

CSS465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CSS467 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CSS469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CSS491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

CSS492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT