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.

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Richard P. Adelstein
BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; JD, University of Pennsylvania; MAA, Wesleyan University; MAT, Harvard University; PHD, University of Pennsylvania
Woodhouse/Synco Professor of Economics; Professor of Economics; Tutor, College of Social Studies

John P. Bonin
BA, Boston College; MA, University of Rochester; PHD, University of Rochester
Chester D. Hubbard Professor of Economics and Social Science; Professor of Economics; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Professor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Sonali Chakravarti
BA, Swarthmore College; MA, Yale University; MPHIL, Yale University; PHD, Yale University
Associate Professor of Government; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Douglas C. Foyle
AB, Stanford University; MA, Duke University; PHD, Duke University
Associate Professor of Government; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Giulio Gallarotti
BA, Hunter College; PHD, Columbia University
Professor of Government; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Professor, Environmental Studies

Erik Grimmer-Solem
BA, Brigham Young University; DPHIL, Oxford University; MPHIL, Cambridge University; MSC, London School of Economics and Political Science
Professor of History; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Professor, German Studies

Kerwin Kaye
BA, University of Colorado Boulder; MA, University San Francisco; PHD, New York University
Associate Professor of Sociology; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Ioana Emy Matesan
MA, Arizona State University; PHD, Syracuse University
Assistant Professor of Government; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Cecilia Miller
BA, LeTourneau College; DPHIL, Oxford University; MPHIL, University of St Andrews
Professor of History; Chair, College of Social Studies; Professor, Medieval Studies; Tutor, College of Social Studies

J. Donald Moon
BA, University Minnesota Mpls; MA, University of California, Berkeley; PHD, University Minnesota Mpls
Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Professor in the College of Social Studies; Professor of Government; Chair, Government; Professor, Environmental Studies; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Wendy Rayack
BA, Oberlin College; MA, University of Wisconsin at Madison; PHD, University of Wisconsin at Madison
Associate Professor of Economics; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Peter Rutland
BA, Oxford University; DPHIL, York University
Colin and Nancy Campbell Professor in Global Issues and Democratic Thought; Professor of Government; Director, Albrighton Center for the Study of Public Life; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Professor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Damien Francis Sheehan-Connor
BA, Amherst College; MD, Tufts University; PHD, University Calif Santa Bar
Associate Professor of Economics; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Gilbert L. Skimman
BA, University Kentucky Lexngt; MA, University of Michigan; PHD, University of Michigan
Professor of Economics; Tutor, College of Social Studies

Victoria Smolkin
BA, Sarah Lawrence College; PHD, University of California, Berkeley
Associate Professor of History; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Associate Professor, Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies

Sarah E. Wiliarty
BA, Harvard University; MA, University of California, Berkeley; PHD, University of California, Berkeley
Associate Professor of Government; Tutor, College of Social Studies; Associate Professor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Associate Professor, German Studies

VISITING FACULTY

Carla Abdo-Katsipis
Visiting Scholar in the College of Social 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 uses a topical approach to explore the history of economic thought. We begin with a brief introduction to writers who predated Adam Smith: the scholastics, mercantilists, and physiocrats. Over the subsequent weeks, we compare competing schools of economic thought: classical, marxian, utilitarian, Austrian, neoclassical, and keynesian. We include selections of radical critiques from the political right and left including monetarist, supply-side, behavioral, Austrian, evolutionist, and institutional approaches. The theoretical debates both reflect and shed light on the economic and social problems of their time. As you
master the material, you should keep several goals in mind. First, learn to link the debates to the economic problems faced by nations over the past 300 years. Second, become skilled at explaining how economic theory has altered its shape and content from the 1700s to the present. Third, sharpen your awareness of the interaction between the scientific and the social aspects of human knowledge. Finally, develop and learn to defend your assessment of mainstream economics; decide which aspects reflect theoretical advancement and which are simply reflections of political agendas or outdated perspectives. Throughout the course we will use contemporary articles to illustrate modern-day versions of the historical disputes. The course material is designed to provide a fuller context for what you learn in politics, history, and social theory while deepening your understanding of contemporary economic debates.

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

CSS230 Sophomore Government Tutorial: State and Society in the Modern Age
This tutorial examines the rise and evolution of the modern state. While many of the readings focus on Western Europe and the United States, the course draws on cross-regional comparisons to tease out theoretical propositions, compare historical processes across different parts of the world, and consider different understandings of the body politic. We start by exploring what factors account for the rise and consolidation of the nation state in the Western context, after which we consider how the process of state-building occurred in the Middle East and North Africa, and explore some of the challenges the sovereign state model faces outside the European context. We then move on to discuss the emergence of different systems of governance and some of the challenges to the state. We will consider whether there are certain paths that lead to democracy, and whether there is something unique about American democracy. We will take into account the challenges posed by modernization and evaluate what factors best explain the rise of communism and fascism. We will then consider how the communist and fascist past impacted the rise of the social democratic model in Europe, and compare the European and Japanese approaches to welfare provisions. We conclude by considering yet another model for organizing the political community—the religious state. We will examine when, how, and why the notion of the Islamic state emerged, reflect on the extent to which the concept of an Islamic state challenges Western notions of the nation-state, and investigate how the discourse on Islam and the state has changed over time in Indonesia, the largest Muslim majority country.

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

CSS330 Junior Government Tutorial: Global Trends, National Responses
This tutorial will take a look at a number of "great books" of recent vintage that have advanced broad claims about the character of global trends in politics and economics since 1990. What are the forces promoting the homogenization of political values and institutions, and of economic practices? Do countries have any choice but to follow the policies advocated by the institutions of global capitalism? How successful are different local strategies in response to these trends? Is globalization a threat or an opportunity?

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

CSS340 Junior History Tutorial: The Atomic Bombings of Japan
The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 was a pivotal moment in the 20th century. This course examines how the histories
of Japan and the United States and the history of science and technology came to
intersect in this event. There is no question that the atomic bombings were
horrible—but how can we best understand them? What do we really know
about them? These questions are the starting point for this class. The answers
are drawn in part from the trajectory of Japanese and American history, in
particular the rise of Japanese imperialism. Another important part of the answer
is based on the history of warfare, nuclear science, and the development of
the bombs. We also examine some of the political and cultural dimensions of
these bombings, especially the question as to what degree the bombs led to
Japan’s surrender and the impact the bombs had on both the Japanese and
American peoples. Underlying the entire course is the historiographical theme of
understanding a single event through multiple narrative dimensions.

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

CSS371 Junior Colloquium: Liberalism and Its Discontents

This course presents an overview of social and political theories developed in
the post-World War II period. It focuses particular attention upon developments
within Liberal political theory during this time, examining this scholarship both
for the insights it offers and for the ways in which these ideas have been used
to obscure oppressive social relations. Considering the general contours of the
Liberal tradition—particularly its relationship to forms of social domination such
as colonialism, racism, class inequality, and gender and sexual oppression—the
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 an 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
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

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