Wesleyan’s Department of Government is dedicated to exploring “who gets what, when, and how,” as Harold Lasswell defined political science in 1935. The department might well be called a department of political science or a department of politics; it is called the Department of Government for historical reasons. Department faculty today uphold a tradition, more than a century old, of distinction in scholarship and teaching. Each tenured or tenure-track Department of Government faculty member is affiliated with a concentration representing one of the four major subfields of political science: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, or political theory. We offer introductory courses in each of these four concentrations (American is GOVT151; international, GOVT155; comparative, GOVT157; and theory, GOVT159), a range of upper-level courses (201-368), and specialized research seminars (369-399). In addition, we offer courses in research methodology, individual and group tutorials, and tutoring of senior honors theses. Courses numbered 201-368 are ordered according to field of study, not level of difficulty.

### FACULTY

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### AFFILIATED FACULTY

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DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERT

Don Moon
- Undergraduate Government Major (https://catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/govt/ugrd-govt/)

GOVT102F Politics: Fundamental Concepts (FYS)
This First Year Seminar introduces students to the concepts that remain central to political life: capitalism, class, race, gender, state, citizenship, power, civil society, democracy, anarchy, populism, and fascism, to name a few.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVU
Prereq: None

GOVT108F It’s (Not) a Laughing Matter: Humor as Resistance and a Force for Social Change
Using a global perspective, this course will focus on developing critical thinking and writing skills as well as developing intellectual empathy. The students will learn to define issues within a broad cultural context and gain experience in evaluating and interpreting content in a variety of mediums. Students will interact with their classmates and actively participate in classroom activities to improve their ability to work in groups, think outside of the box, improve their writing, and develop their oral presentation skills.

The subject matter crosses disciplinary boundaries, linking the neuroscience of laughter with social science analyses about the power of humor. Students will be able to explain how humor can be a crucial tool to cope with painful and even repressive circumstances. They also will investigate how comedians and political activists use humor and other art forms to push for political and social change.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVU
Prereq: None

GOVT116F Good Books on Bad Wars (FYS)
This course explores war through some of the best books of theory, fiction, and nonfiction. The purpose of war is to achieve a policy that leads to a better peace after the war’s end than the peace that existed before the war began. But the nature of war is to serve itself if policy does not guide and constrain war. This course begins with discussion of the best foundational works of theory to build an understanding of the epistemology of war. The students will subsequently read, analyze, and discuss some of the best works of nonfiction and fiction on bad wars when judged by quality of strategy, magnitude of losses, or duration of fighting. The book subjects range from the American Civil War to the post-9/11 wars. The readings and seminar discussions vary from the reasons why the wars began to the conduct and outcomes of the wars. This course lies at the intersection of international relations, history, and conflict studies. It will increase the students’ understanding of how policy, strategy, and war interact. A central aim of this seminar is to improve critical thinking and writing.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: CSPL116F
Prereq: None

GOVT151 American Government and Politics
This course introduces the “building blocks” of American politics and government at the national level. It has four main parts: (1) foundations of our governmental system, (2) political institutions and the way they generate policy, (3) politics at the level of the individual citizen and the mechanisms that link the masses to elites, and (4) how all the factors come together in the making of public policy. We will scrutinize insider accounts of politics, scholarly work on governmental processes, and popular debates on issues and institutions. In addition, we will discuss why Americans are often so unhappy with their politics and politicians and the challenges faced by elected officials attempting to meet a wide scope of public demands. This course is designed specifically for first-year students.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVU
Prereq: None
GOVT151F American Government and Politics (FYS)
An introduction to American national institutions and the policy process, the focus of this course is on the institutions and actors who make, interpret, and enforce our laws: Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy. The course will critically assess the perennial conflict over executive, legislative, and judicial power and the implications of the rise of the administrative state for a democratic order. This course is designed specifically for first-year students.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT155 International Relations
This introduction to international politics applies various theories of state behavior to selected historical cases. Topics include the balance of power, change in international systems, the causes of war and peace, and the role of international law, institutions, and morality in the relations among nations.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT155F International Politics (FYS)
This introduction to international politics applies various theories of state behavior to selected historical cases. Topics include the balance of power, change in international systems, the causes of war and peace, and the role of international law, institutions, and morality in the relations among nations.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT155Z International Relations
This course represents an introduction to the central concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the study of international politics. The principal actors, structures, and processes of international relations will be analyzed in a theoretical and historical context. Major topics include nationalism and the national interest, power, diplomacy, game theory and bargaining, the causes of foreign policy, nuclear weapons and international security, imperialism, underdevelopment, international organizations, international resource management, the environment, and transnational actors.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT157 Democracy and Dictatorship: Politics in the Contemporary World
In this introduction to politics in industrialized capitalist, state socialist, and developing countries, we explore the meaning of central concepts such as democracy and socialism, the strengths and weaknesses of different kinds of political institutions (e.g., presidentialism vs. parliamentarianism in liberal democratic countries), the causes and consequences of shifts between types of political systems (e.g., transitions from authoritarian rule), and the relations among social, economic, and political changes (e.g., among social justice, economic growth, and political democracy in developing countries).
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT157F Democracy and Dictatorship: Politics in the Contemporary World (FYS)
In this introduction to politics in industrialized capitalist, state socialist, and developing countries, we explore the meaning of central concepts such as democracy and socialism, the strengths and weaknesses of different kinds of political institutions (e.g., presidentialism vs. parliamentarianism in liberal democratic countries), the causes and consequences of shifts between types of political systems (e.g., transitions from authoritarian rule), and the relations among social, economic, and political changes (e.g., among social justice, economic growth, and political democracy in developing countries).
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT158 Writing the World
How do U.S. newspapers and magazines frame world politics? How adequate is their coverage of ongoing crises and breaking stories around the world? The course will involve reading some classic texts of political journalism and some political novels (such as Orwell's HOMAGE TO CATALONIA and Vargas Llosa's THE FEAST OF THE GOAT). We will also read current articles on contemporary politics from a variety of sources. Students will be assigned to write alternative sources, both reporting and opinion, on current events of their choice. The topics covered will include military conflicts, elections and political crises, and economic stories. We will of course assess the impact of the Web (e.g., blogs, YouTube) on news coverage.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT159 The Moral Basis of Politics
An introduction to upper-level courses in political theory, this course offers an introductory survey of political theory from ancient Athens to 20th-century North America, Asia, and Europe. We will read, discuss, and write about works authored by a number of seminal political thinkers. In doing so, we will encounter and evaluate diverse answers to some of the central questions in the analysis of politics: What is politics and where does it take place? What does it mean to exercise political rule? What is justice? How are political societies legitimately founded? What is the place of revolution in politics? What is power and how does it operate in political life? How is democracy intertwined with struggles against social oppression?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
American Constitutional Law

This course examines the historical development and constitutional principles of American government including inquiries into federalism, national and state powers, separation of powers, checks and balances, and due process. The primary focus will be on case law of the Supreme Court from the Marshall Court to the present.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None
GOVT205 Judicial Process and Politics

How do courts in the United States work? What is the function of law and courts in both the American political system and the daily lives of people with legal problems? Are courts, which are governed by different processes and rules, producing varied outcomes? These questions will drive our examination of legal systems in America, which will include both federal and state systems. We will consider the factors that influence the decisions of judges—including law, politics, and ideology. We will also interrogate the scope of judicial power. In this class, students will develop a deeper knowledge of law and legal systems in the United States, engage with concepts relevant to the study of judicial politics, and develop independent research ideas relevant to this field.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None
GOVT206 Public Policy

"Public policy" describes the patterns of actions employed by the government to achieve a variety of social goals. Some of these actions may be of great consequence (e.g., incarcerating prisoners, providing income maintenance to the poor, preventing deaths from pollution or workplace hazards). This course provides a survey of several key public policies in the United States. It will begin with an exploration of the policy-making process, policy design, and policy evaluation. The remainder of the course will be devoted to the examination of several key public policy areas including criminal justice, education, social welfare, economic management, health care, and environmental protection regulation. By integrating theoretical debates and the historical evolution of core public policies, the course aims to develop analytical skills as well as an appreciation for the technical and political complexities of policy-making.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None
GOVT210 Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing: Law, Courts, and Policymaking in the US

In this course we will explore some of the most salient policy questions in contemporary American politics through a lens that puts law and courts at the center of inquiry. Among the topics we will cover are the place of judiciary in American democracy, hate speech and the First Amendment, criminal justice, immigration, surveillance, and privacy. In exploring these various topics, we will see how law is socially constructed by a myriad political, economic, and cultural forces, and how social phenomena are legally constructed as courts deliberate and decide on particular cases.

This is a writing-intensive course. Students will try their hand at public writing, working on op-eds, book reviews, and blog posts. They will read and edit each other’s work.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None
GOVT214 Media and Politics
Mass media play a crucial role in American politics, as citizens do not get most of their information about the workings of government from direct experience but rather from mediated stories. This course examines the evolving relationship between political elites, mass media, and the American public.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT215 Congressional Policy Making
This course is an introduction to the politics of congressional policy making and how the way we elect our members of Congress affects the way they perform in Congress. We will focus our attention on changes in the legislative process over the past several decades and how these changes have influenced the relations between members and their constituents, between the two parties, between the House and Senate, and between Congress and the president.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT217 The American Presidency
This course surveys the institutional and political development of the Presidency of the United States. We examine the constitutional framework establishing the executive branch, including the unique manner of presidential election, and analyze the politics of presidential leadership. Topics to be discussed include the presidential nominating and election process, the use and growth of presidential power, the rise of the presidential branch, and the relationship of presidents to other political elites and the party system.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT220 US Political Economy: State, Markets, and the Dynamics of Change
The past century has witnessed dramatic changes in the US political economy. Many of these changes stemmed from the policies and institutions introduced during the New Deal, which created a foundation for a period of great prosperity in the immediate postwar period—a quarter century of steady growth, low inflation and unemployment, and declining inequality. Yet, by the mid-1970s, the nation was mired in stagflation and subsequent decades brought a significant departure from the earlier policy mix. The US entered a period of stagnant wages, growing inequality, and heightened vulnerability to a host of risks, all of which contributed to the severity of the financial crisis of 2007-08, the Great Recession, and the slow recovery thereafter. In this course, we will explore the critical role of policy and institutions in shaping economic performance, the factors that contributed to their erosion, and the factors that shape and limit the options available to contemporary policymakers.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT221 Environmental Policy
Arguably, environmental protection is the most complex and fascinating regulatory policy area. This course explores U.S. environmental regulation. We will examine the key features of policy and administration in each major area of environmental policy. Moreover, we will place regulation in a larger context and examine the factors that shape the environmental decisions of various economic actors. Although the course focuses primarily on domestic policy, at various points in the course we will draw both on comparative examples and the challenges associated with coordinating national policies and practices on an international level.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: ENVS221
Prereq: None

GOVT222 Averting Catastrophe: Public Policy and Risk Management
COVID-19 revealed the weaknesses of the federal government’s capacity to manage the risk of pandemics and the tragic ramifications. The U.S. faces several significant risks that, if poorly managed, could have significant implications for the economy, the environment, and public health. This course focuses on the government’s role as risk manager. We will explore how public policies can be used to manage risk, mitigate the extent of damages to the environment, the economy, and public health, and avert catastrophic outcomes. After examining the concept of risk, decision-making under conditions of uncertainty, and competing policy instruments, we will turn to a number of case studies, including offshore oil spills, nuclear accidents, financial crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change. In each case, we will seek to better understand the factors that shaped performance and consider the implications for strengthening the government’s role as risk manager.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT226 Legislative Elections
This course introduces students to the institutional and political development of the United States Congress and the operation of the American electoral system. We will explore the electoral system, including how Congress is elected and the types of candidates who run for office. We will also examine the role of campaign finance and the impact of money on the electoral process.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT228 American Political Parties
This course explores the origins, purposes, roles, and consequences of political parties in the American political system. After a brief consideration of the broader theories behind political party systems, we will turn our focus to the party system in the United States. V. O. Key (1964) presented a tripartite definition of political parties that we will use to structure our exploration of parties for the rest of the course: party as organization, party in government, and party in the electorate. In these sections, we will address political party polarization, party identification, parties' fundraising, and many other related topics. From this rich examination of political parties in the U.S. context, we will discuss why parties exist and enable democracy, but also discuss their potential flaws and failures.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None
GOVT239 Racial and Ethnic Politics
This course will provide historical context on the development of race and racial attitudes, and demonstrate the crucial role that they play in contemporary politics with a particular focus on immigration, criminal justice, welfare, and housing policy. The assigned readings will examine how the mere presence of underrepresented racial groups in the United States has shaped policies in these arenas, and the way these policies have, in turn, shaped the material circumstances and the burgeoning identities of these groups. The course will also uncover the complex relationship between race, political participation, and public opinion.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT250 Civil Rights and Liberties
This course introduces students to the development of civil liberties and civil rights law in the United States. We will focus primarily on the decisions of the Supreme Court that concern the First Amendment (including religious freedom, freedom of speech and expression, and freedom of the press), privacy and personal liberty, equal protection, voting, and representation. In this course, students will learn about the evolution of major legal doctrines governing civil liberties and civil rights. Students will also develop an understanding of the process of Supreme Court decision-making.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT253 The American National Security State
In this course we will focus on the rise of the national security apparatus in the U.S. through the second half of the 20th century. This topic deals with political issues that are often characterized as "intermestic" because they occur at the point of intersection between domestic and international politics. Accordingly, we will examine the ways in which external forces influence internal state-building. We will also consider the choices and implications of policies designed to provide for what President Roosevelt famously called "freedom from fear."
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT261 Politics of Inequality
This course focuses on inequality along various identity-based dimensions in American politics. Students will leave with a deep understanding of when inequality is a normative concern, and how politics has created and has the power to alleviate inequality along class, racial, and gender divides. Specifically, the course will focus broadly on the level of inequality in these three areas, and the degree to which this has changed over time. We will explore both the political and social phenomena that have driven this inequality, and the ways they intersect and exacerbate the impact for those who share multiple stigmatized identities. Finally, students will, in their final papers, explore potential political policies that can help to reduce or even eliminate inequality.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT270 Comparative Politics of the Middle East
This course provides an overview of the political landscape of the contemporary Middle East and North Africa, focusing on domestic social and political issues. Exploring both the region as a whole and particular case studies, the course examines what accounts for the democratic deficit in the region, how we can understand the Arab Spring, and what challenges and opportunities lie ahead.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT271 Political Economy of Developing Countries
Students will study issues related to economic development and its sustainability, primarily focusing on lesser-developed, developing and middle-income countries. Students will examine how political norms, government institutions, and state capacity create incentives that shape political behavior, government policies, and ultimately policy outcomes.

Over the course of the semester, students will analyze the factors that influence the persistence of poverty and economic inequality in some countries. Additionally, students will evaluate specific factors that inhibit countries' economic growth and development, such as dependence on commodities, foreign aid or natural resource rents; systemic discrimination against women or religious and ethnic minorities; systemic corruption or criminal violence; the negative externalities of informal economies; and indebtedness to international financial institutions. Students will also review case studies to evaluate specific policy innovations to determine which succeeded or failed and why. By the end of the semester, students should be able to make a case for particular approaches to governance and public policy that will promote political and economic development in poorer countries and help all citizens to achieve their full capabilities and improve their happiness and overall well-being.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: LAST271, CEAS271
Prereq: None

GOVT273 Environmental Politics in East Asia
This is an upper-division course on the environmental politics of East Asia. It will focus on the major environmental issues of our time (pollution, conservation, energy, waste, environmental justice, etc.), and how East Asian countries are coping with them from both policy and politics perspectives. It will cover both transnational and international efforts, as well as national and local initiatives. The course will require that students "do" environmental politics as well as study environmental politics through a civic engagement component.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: CEAS273, ENVS273
Prereq: None

GOVT274 Russian Politics
The course begins with a brief review of the dynamics of the Soviet system and the reasons for its collapse in 1991. The traumatic transition of the 1990s raised profound questions about what conditions are necessary for the evolution of effective political and economic institutions. The chaos of the Yeltsin years was followed by a return to authoritarian rule under President Putin, although the long-run stability of the Putin system is also open to question. While the focus of the course is Russia, students will also study the transition process in the other
14 states that came out of the Soviet Union. Topics include political institutions, social movements, economic reforms, and foreign policy strategies.

The course will include a role-playing simulation of Kremlin decision making that will run over several weeks.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: REES280
Prereq: None

GOVT277 Islamic Movements and Parties
This course examines the diversity of movements and political parties that take Islam as a reference point, and situates these discussions within broader debates around religion and politics. Through a variety of cases spanning from the Middle East and North Africa to Southeast Asia, we will explore the rise and evolution of different types of Islamic movements, and discuss different modes of mobilization, organization and interaction with the state and with other social and political actors. We will examine why some groups form political parties, and how they navigate the tensions between the needs of the party and the mission of the movement. We will consider how Islamic parties impact local and national politics, and in turn how they respond to shifting political terrains and challenges from within. The course will conclude with a reflection on "post-Islamism" and Western attitudes towards Islamic movements.

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

GOVT278 Nationalism
Nationalism is the desire of an ethnic group, a nation, to have a state of its own. Nationalism emerged as a powerful organizing principle for states and social movements in the 19th century and was integral to the wars and revolutions of the 20th century. This course examines rival theories about the character of nationalism and tries to explain its staying power as a political principle into the 21st century. It looks at the role of nationalism in countries such as the U.S., France, India, China, Japan, and nationalist conflicts in Northern Ireland, Quebec, Yugoslavia, the former U.S.S.R., and Rwanda. The course is reading- and writing-intensive.

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

GOVT278Z Nationalism
We start off with relatively familiar cases from the developed world--the US, Brexit, Northern Ireland, and Quebec, and the classic cases of France and Germany. We then look at decolonization in Africa and the genesis of genocide in Rwanda. The socialist world is represented by the multiethnic federations of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. We then look at nationalism in Japan and China, followed by the Arab world. Finally, we look at the role of the internet in the propagation of nationalism. Students will be expected to read all four assigned books before the start of the class, and will have to write a three- to four-page response paper on one of the books.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT278Z State and Society
Every aspect of our lives is shaped by the state. What exactly is it, the modern state? How has it come to be? From where does it derive its legitimacy? How has its involvement in social and economic life evolved over time, and varied cross-nationally? In what ways is American statecraft is considered "exceptional"?

In this class we will seek answers to these questions, and on the way, we will learn about welfare states, penal states, racial states, straight states, submerged states, authoritarian states, strong and weak states.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT279Z State and Society
Every aspect of our lives is shaped by the state. What exactly is the modern state? How has it come to be? From where does it derive its legitimacy? How has its involvement in social and economic life evolved over time, and varied cross-nationally? In what ways is American statecraft is considered "exceptional"?

In this class we will seek answers to these questions, and on the way we will learn about welfare states, penal states, racial states, straight states, submerged states, authoritarian states, and strong and weak states.

SPECIAL SCHEDULE: Class dates: January 12-14, 16-18, 20-21. Class times: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. ONLINE COURSE. Please note: Students should expect some readings and assignments to be due during winter break, prior to the beginning of Winter Session class meetings.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT281 Democracy and Social Movements in East Asia
Despite East Asia’s reputation for acquiescent populations and weak civil society, the region has been replete with social movements. This course assesses the state of civil society in East Asia by surveying contemporary social movements in the region. We will examine the rise of civil society and its role in political and social changes in both authoritarian and democratic societies in East Asia.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS205
Prereq: None

GOVT282 Activism in Exile
This course examines how social movements and political opposition groups adapt and adjust their activism when they are in exile. Through a variety of cases spanning from the Middle East to South Africa, we will explore what shapes
diasporic activism and why some movements are more resilient than others. We will situate these discussions within broader debates around social movements and migration. After we consider what exile is, how different migration regimes emerge, and how conditions in the host states may vary, we will look at both cases of violent and nonviolent mobilization in order to understand what shapes diasporic activism. The course concludes with a reflection on what happens after exile, when movements and leaders return to their home country.

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

GOVT283 Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges
This course will examine various pressing challenges to human rights in the US and around the world, based around a series of talks by visitors who are practitioners in the field. Topics covered range from refugees and war crimes to housing and educational access.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: CSPL323
Prereq: None

GOVT284 Comparative Politics of Western Europe
The leading nations of Western Europe--Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy--have developed vibrant economies and stable democracies that differ in important ways from those of the U.S. and from each other. This course explores the ability of European economies to withstand pressures of globalization and the capacity of European democracies to integrate political newcomers such as women and immigrants. We address questions such as, Does New Labour provide a model for parties of the Left across the West, or is its success predicated on the foundations laid by Thatcherism? With the limited ability of the French people to influence politics, should we still consider that country a democracy? Has Germany definitively overcome its Nazi past, or does the strength of German democracy rely on a strong German economy? How can we make sense of the Italian "second republic"?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: RL&L284
Prereq: None

GOVT285 Losers of World War II
This course explores the experiences of Germany and Japan in the postwar era. These countries faced the dual challenge of making political transitions to democratic government and recovering from the economic ruin of World War II. Japan and Germany both were occupied and rebuilt by the United States, and both were blamed for the devastation of the war. How did Japan and Germany respond to being cast as worldwide villains? How strong were the democracies that developed? This course explores these questions by comparing the culture, history, and institutions of these two countries.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: CEAS5280, GRST267
Prereq: None

GOVT286 Ukraine at War
This course will survey Ukraine's contentious history with its Russian neighbors and then track the origins and course of the current war. Each week we will have one meeting devoted to discussion of assigned readings and one meeting led by a Ukrainian lecturer speaking on Zoom. Topics to be covered include history and politics but also economics, social impacts, the plight of refugees, and cultural life.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: REES286, CSPL286
Prereq: None

GOVT295 Korean Politics Through Film
This course explores the contemporary politics of Korea. Through course readings, films, and documentaries, we will examine how the tumultuous history of modern Korea has contributed to present political conditions in South and North Korea. Topics covered include Japanese colonialism, the Korean War, modernization, dictatorships, democratization, globalization, and inter-Korean relations.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS206
Prereq: None

GOVT296 Japanese Politics
This introductory course in Japanese politics begins with an overview of the Japanese political system: its historical origins, institutional structures, and main actors. The course then moves on to explore specific policy areas such as industrial and financial policy, labor and social policy, and foreign policy. The course culminates in student research projects presented in an academic conference format of themed panels.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: CEAS296
Prereq: None

GOVT297 Chinese Politics
This introductory course in Chinese politics begins with an overview of the Chinese political system: its historical origins, institutional structures, and main actors. The course then moves on to explore specific policy areas such as industrial and financial policy, labor and social policy, and foreign policy. The course culminates in student research projects presented in an academic conference format of themed panels.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: CEAS297
Prereq: None

GOVT298 Terrorism and Film
This course provides an overview of the major concerns and debates in the study of terrorism and political violence, and it uses the prism of cinema to further grapple with the complexity of political violence. We will explore the root causes of violence and the varied reasons why individuals and organizations turn to violent tactics. We will also discuss what policies are most effective and desirable, problematizing our understanding of security, and examining the implications of counterterrorism for civil liberties, human rights, and international law. The films assigned contextualize the theoretical issues and address the question of political violence from alternative perspectives: those of the perpetrators of violence, victims, soldiers, government officials, and
and the concept of citizenship. The course also examines the crucial role played
acceleration of social change, as well as the relationship between military service
War is obscene, yet all modern societies have engaged in warfare. This course
While most societies condemn physical violence between individuals, they
Prereq:

GOVT298Z Terrorism and Film
This course provides an overview of major concerns and debates in the study of
terrorism and political violence, and it uses the prism of cinema to further
grapple with the complexity of political violence. We will explore the root
causes of violence and the varied reasons why individuals and organizations
turn to violent tactics. We will also discuss what policies are most effective
and desirable, problematizing our understanding of security and examining
the implications of counterterrorism for civil liberties, human rights, and
international law. The films assigned contextualize the theoretical issues and
address the question of political violence from alternative perspectives: those
of the perpetrators of violence, victims, soldiers, government officials, and
police officers. In this immersive winter session, students are expected to
watch the films outside of class, between the morning and the afternoon class
session. Through the readings, films, discussions, and assignments, the goal
of the course is to help you understand the major controversies and debates
surrounding terrorism; to equip you with the tools to critically engage with the
media, academic, and policy discourses on political violence; and to enhance your
speaking, writing and analytical skills.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT302 Latin American Politics
This course explores democracy, development, and revolution in Latin America,
with special attention to Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Questions to be
addressed include: why has Argentina lurched periodically from free-wheeling
democracy to murderous military rule? Why is authoritarianism usually less
harsh, but democracy often more shallow, in Brazil than in Argentina? How
democratic are Latin America's contemporary democracies? What accounts for
the success or failure of attempted social revolutions in Latin America? Why
did postrevolutionary Cuba wind up with a more centrally planned economy
and a more authoritarian political system than postrevolutionary Nicaragua?
How much progress has each of these countries made toward creating a more
affluent, educated, healthy, and equitable society?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: LAST302
Prereq: None

GOVT303 War and Society
While most societies condemn physical violence between individuals, they
condone and encourage collectively organized violence in the form of warfare.
War is obscene, yet all modern societies have engaged in warfare. This course
will examine war as a social, political, and historical phenomenon. We will look
at the way in which wars have led to the consolidation of political power and the
acceleration of social change, as well as the relationship between military service
and the concept of citizenship. The course also examines the crucial role played
by technology in the interaction between war and society. Films and novels will
be examined to test to what extent these literary works accurately reflect, or
obscure, the political, social, and technological logic driving the evolution of
war. Our examples will include warfare in premodern society, the gunpowder
revolution in early modern Europe and Japan, the American Civil War, colonial
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT305 Challenges to Democracy in East Asia
This upper-level seminar course examines the contemporary challenges to
democracy in East Asia. The main questions we will address through the course
readings and class discussions are: Is there a crisis of East Asian democracy? What
are the challenges to democracy in East Asia? Are these challenges unique
to East Asian democracies?
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS325
Prereq: None

GOVT308 Comparative Urban Policy
Cities are home to more than half of the world's population, generate more
than 80% of world GDP, and are responsible for 75% of global CO2 emissions.
Once viewed as minor political players with parochial concerns, they are now--
individually and collectively--major players on the global stage. This course will
examine how cities are coping with the major policy issues governing our lives--
from waste management and public safety to energy and housing policy. We
will be examining how policies differ between big cities and small cities, what
cities in the global north are learning from the cities in the global south, and how
cities are bypassing toxic partisan politics in their nations' capitals to form global
networks promoting positive change. The class will involve local field trips and
participant observation to see how some of these urban issues are playing out in
the city of Middletown.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: CEAS308, ENV308, IDEA308
Prereq: None

GOVT309 Contemporary Challenges in Latin American Politics
Latin America's contemporary challenges include corruption, crime, economic
woes, social policy shortcomings, populism, declining political trust, the erosion
of fragile democracies, and the political underrepresentation of women and
minority groups. This course examines the historical legacies, international
influences, and social-structural factors that shape and constrain how Latin
American citizens and governments are responding to these challenges. Weekly
readings and discussions, along with a succession of analytic exercises, will
prepare students to write a research paper on a Latin American politics topic of
their choice.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: LAST307
Prereq: None
GOVT311 United States Foreign Policy
This course provides a survey of the content and formulation of American foreign policy with an emphasis on the period after World War II. It evaluates the sources of American foreign policy including the international system, societal factors, government processes, and individual decision makers. The course begins with a consideration of major trends in U.S. foreign policy after World War II. With a historical base established, the focus turns to the major institutions and actors in American foreign policy. The course concludes with an examination of the challenges and opportunities that face current U.S. decision makers. A significant component of the course is the intensive discussion of specific foreign policy decisions.

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

GOVT311Z United States Foreign Policy
This course provides a survey of the content and formulation of American foreign policy, with an emphasis on the period after World War II. It evaluates the sources of American foreign policy, including the international system, societal factors, government processes, and individual decision makers. The course begins with a consideration of major trends in U.S. foreign policy after World War II. With a historical base established, the focus turns to the major institutions and actors in American foreign policy. The course concludes with an examination of the challenges and opportunities that face current U.S. decision makers. A significant component of the course is the intensive discussion of specific foreign policy decisions.

No prior knowledge of U.S. foreign policy or international politics is assumed other than what might be gathered from keeping up with current events. PLEASE NOTE: Students will be expected to complete the readings before the start of the class on January 7.

Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVTO  
Prereq: None

GOVT312 Strategic Dilemmas in Politics
Politics is full of strategic interactions: politicians and voters, enemies and allies, office-holders and bureaucrats. But while the details might be different from issue to issue, the challenges are often the same. How can a large group cooperate on a common goal? How can you make a promise or threat credible? How can you learn someone’s true intentions? This course uses in-class games and simulations to explore some of the key lessons that game theory can teach us about politics. There will be a bit of introductory game theory, but the focus will be on the intuition, not the method. The goal is to identify and analyze common strategic challenges in politics.

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

GOVT313 Civil Wars and Armed Groups
Since 1945, five times as many people have died in conflicts within countries (between governments and rebels/militias) than in conflicts between countries. This course digs into the big questions about civil wars: Why do they begin? Who participates? How do they end, and why do some never end? How do combatants treat civilians, and why? Class will be primarily discussion-based, evaluating common answers to these questions, and the evidence behind them, from conflicts all over the world. Along the way, students will design their own research question and a strategy to answer it. The course is especially appropriate for sophomores and juniors who are potentially interested in writing a thesis, but relevant to any student interested in war and peace.

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

GOVT314 Public Opinion and Foreign Policy
The relationship between leaders and the public remains a core concern of democratic theorists and political observers. This course examines the nature of public views on foreign policy, the ability of the public to formulate reasoned and interconnected perspectives on the issues of the day, and the public’s influence on foreign policy decisions with a focus on the U.S. We will consider the role of the media and international events in shaping public perspectives and public attitudes toward important issues such as internationalism and isolationism, the use of force, and economic issues. This course provides an intensive examination of a very specific area of research. As such, strong interest in learning about public opinion and foreign policy is recommended.

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

GOVT315 Policy and War through Film
This course explores how America’s policies and wars interact with culture and identity. It combines films and readings to gain a deeper understanding of film as an artifact of culture, war, and identity. The course begins with a discussion of key foundational works to frame a common understanding about strategy, war, and American strategic culture. It then combines film viewings and critical scholarship to discover how the interpretations of America’s wars through film shape American citizens’ perceptions of war and their military. The films, readings, and seminar discussions will help students develop a better understanding of the differences between the realities and the perceptions of policy and war. This course lies at the intersection of international relations, history, and conflict studies. Participation in this course will increase the students’ understanding of how U.S. policy, war, culture, and identity interact. It will also sharpen critical thinking and writing.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB  
Identical With: CSPL315  
Prereq: None

GOVT316 Wars of Resistance in Scholarship and Film
This course explores the theory, practice, and interpretation of wars that see ostensibly stronger powers wage wars against relatively weaker resistance movements. It combines scholarly readings and interpretive films to gain a deeper understanding of how and why resistance and insurgency can prevail when confronting adversaries who are numerically superior. Students will analyze the inescapable paradoxes that can make wars of asymmetry difficult for stronger states. The seminar discussions will develop a keener grasp of the logic that permeates wars where the weak resist invasion and occupation. This course intersects international security studies, history, and conflict studies. This course will improve knowledge about asymmetric wars and for critical analysis. Though there are no prerequisites, it is desirable that students have previously taken a course in conflict studies or war.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00
transnational migration. These include armed conflict, smuggling, trafficking, and
societies to them. Using both historical and contemporary case studies, this
flows; and ii) the political and social responses of receiving governments and
overview of the political, economic, social, and security determinants of refugee
GOVT323 Refugees in World Politics
This course is an introduction to environmental politics for students of
international relations. This course aims to enhance students' understanding of
how international politics may affect environmental outcomes. The course has
four modules: a) Introduction, b) IR theories and the environment, c) Application
to select environmental issues, d) Policy implications. The introductory module
presents several concepts that are important to understanding environmental
cooperation. The IR theory module introduces canonical IR theoretical
frameworks. Primarily, this module investigates how states' power dynamics,
international institutions, domestic political systems, and NGO networks may
explain the likelihood of international cooperation on environmental issues. The
third module applies the theoretical concepts to real-world policy issues such as
climate change, water air pollution, and endangered species. The final module
focuses on the future of environmental cooperation among states. Assignments
include an in-class quiz on key concepts, a role-based negotiation simulation,
a podcast episode analyzing an environmental agreement of student choice,
and a final exam. By the end of the semester, students think critically about
environmental agreements by applying theories to policy examples.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT322 Global Environmental Politics
This course is an introduction to environmental politics for students of
international relations. This course aims to enhance students’ understanding of
how international politics may affect environmental outcomes. The course has
four modules: a) Introduction, b) IR theories and the environment, c) Application
to select environmental issues, d) Policy implications. The introductory module
presents several concepts that are important to understanding environmental
cooperation. The IR theory module introduces canonical IR theoretical
frameworks. Primarily, this module investigates how states' power dynamics,
international institutions, domestic political systems, and NGO networks may
explain the likelihood of international cooperation on environmental issues. The
third module applies the theoretical concepts to real-world policy issues such as
climate change, water air pollution, and endangered species. The final module
focuses on the future of environmental cooperation among states. Assignments
include an in-class quiz on key concepts, a role-based negotiation simulation,
a podcast episode analyzing an environmental agreement of student choice,
and a final exam. By the end of the semester, students think critically about
environmental agreements by applying theories to policy examples.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT323 Refugees in World Politics
The primary objective of this course is to provide students with i) an introductory
overview of the political, economic, social, and security determinants of refugee
flows; and ii) the political and social responses of receiving governments and
societies to them. Using both historical and contemporary case studies, this
course will highlight security concerns engendered by internal displacement and
transnational migration. These include armed conflict, smuggling, trafficking, and
terrorism. This course will also highlight the concepts of citizenship in receiving
states, and the roles played by the international institutions in influencing state
policies towards refugees.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: CSPL263
Prereq: None

GOVT325 Solving the World’s Problems: Decision Making and Diplomacy
This course represents a hands-on approach to decision making and diplomacy. It is
designed to allow students to take part in diplomatic and decision-making
exercises in the context of international political issues and problems. Important
historical decisions will be evaluated and reenacted. In addition, more current
international problems that face nations today will be analyzed and decisions
will be made on prospective solutions. Finally, various modern-day diplomatic
initiatives will be scrutinized and renegotiated.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT326 Political Consulting for International Business
This course is an applied course in political consulting skills for international
business. It is designed for students who are directed toward a career in
international business. Entry to the course requires a strong track record in
prior involvement and or interest in international business. Emphasis will be
placed on developing the most important political skills related to working in an
international corporation. Learning will take place by applying what has been
learned in real-life international business scenarios. The learning goals of this
class are based on developing professional skill sets: problem solving abilities,
consulting, team work, oral presentations, preparing functional memos, and
working in professional environments. The course asks the class to function as a
working committee of top executives trying to confront important international
business challenges.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT327 Experiments in International Development
Do policies designed to promote development around the world actually work?
Do they sometimes produce effects we didn't expect? This seminar teaches the
experimental method of social science research and applies it to these questions.
Students will read examples of how social scientists have used experiments
to study international development—broadly defined— including foreign aid,
conflict and violence, illicit finance, elections, climate cooperation, trafficking
in persons, and migration. Over the course of the seminar, students will design
and analyze their own experimental research project and will write either an
academic research article or an impact evaluation policy report. The seminar
is especially appropriate for any student considering a career in policy or social
science.
Throughout this course, students will learn about experimental methods. They
will also learn how to form a research question, conceptualize and measure
variables, develop testable hypotheses, select an appropriate case/unit of
analysis, write a literature review. These skills may be especially helpful for
students who pursue an honors thesis or other original research project.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT328 Explanations for The Long Peace Since 1945
This course examines great power relations since 1945 through political,
economic, legal, institutional and normative lenses.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
GOVT329 International Political Economy
How do domestic and international politics influence the economic relations between states, and vice versa? This course considers the role that governments and institutions play in the movement of goods, wealth, money, and people across borders. Sometimes political actors can intervene to improve the efficiency or equity of international markets, but sometimes self-interest can give rise to worse outcomes. This course explores topics such as globalization, trade, monetary relations, international institutions, debt, foreign direct investment, development, international migration, and the environment. Emphasis will be on understanding current events, including the recent trade war and sanctions.

Throughout this course, students will learn about survey research, statistical analysis, and interviews. They will also learn how to form a research question, conceptualize and measure variables, develop testable hypotheses, and select an appropriate case/unit of analysis. These skills may be especially helpful for students who pursue an honors thesis or other original research project.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Credits: 1.00

GOVT330 Policy and Strategy in War and Peace
This course explores how the relations, relationships, and discourse between senior national civilian and military leaders influence the development and execution of policy and strategy in war and peace. In theory, the purpose of war is to achieve a political end that sees a better peace. In practice, the nature of war is to serve itself if it is not influenced and constrained by continuous discourse and analysis associated with good civil-military relations between senior leaders. This course begins with discussion of the key foundational works to build a common understanding. It then explores how civil-military interaction influenced strategy in war and peace for each decade from the Vietnam War to the present. The readings and seminar discussions also examine how the outcomes of wars influenced civil-military relations and the subsequent peace or wars. This course lies at the intersection of international relations, history, and conflict studies. Students will gain greater understanding of how U.S. policy makers, strategy, and war interact, while honing their critical thinking and writing skills.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CSPL
Credits: 1.00
Identical With: CSPL330
Prereq: None

GOVT332 Psychology and International Politics
Trust, personality, reputation, honor, emotions. These concepts are at the heart of international decision making. This course will address research in psychology and political science related to these topics that helps us understand how leaders behave toward other nations and why, for instance, they engage in conflict or acquire nuclear weapons.

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

GOVT333 International Organization
Why do international organizations (IOs) exist? Do they shape outcomes in international politics? Who runs international organizations? This course considers the role that institutions have played in addressing global problems since World War II. Some argue their role is trivial, since there is no international police force that can constrain states' behaviors. Others argue their role is profound, as institutions help states to overcome important barriers to cooperation. And just as in domestic institutions, the rules of IOs represent some interests more than others, creating opportunities for controversy and contestation. We will apply these theories to understand several institutions governing economic stability, environmental sustainability, human rights, security affairs, and global development. At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to explain why these IOs exist, how well they work, and what challenges they face in the future.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Credits: 1.00

GOVT334 International Security in a Changing World
We now face myriad of changing threats that appear to belie easy solutions. This course considers alternative ways to conceive of international security and how differences in these perspectives can affect our response to international threats. The course focuses on the relationship between force and international security; the prospects for peace and conflict in specific regions of the world such as Asia, Latin America, and Africa; and some vexing issues such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, nationalism and ethnic conflict, economics, environmental issues, and disease.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Credits: 1.00

GOVT335 Political Economy of Foreign Aid
Who gives and gets foreign aid, and does it work? This course will study how international and domestic interests interact and affect the causes and consequences of foreign aid. Foreign aid, which we can think of as funds or goods transferred internationally by actors in one state to another for the benefit of the recipient country (or its people), is a key and complex part of international relations and development. We have widely diverging theories about why states and organizations give aid (Is it a bribe for foreign policy favors? A humanitarian action? A bureaucratic tool?) and how aid affects those who receive it. (Does it promote economic growth and welfare? Cause corruption and violence? Undermine democracy? Change social norms?) Given the range of different questions we can ask about foreign aid, we can explore how causal inference (the study of how actions independently cause effects) can be applied to many different social science contexts and topics.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Credits: 1.00

GOVT336 New Topics in International Political Economy
This course helps students understand how states cooperate in three new areas: global health, climate, and identity politics. The course introduces new IPE research on health, climate, and identity, focusing on these issues' relationships with interstate economic interactions. The course has four modules: a) IPE theory review, b) Global health and trade/intellectual property, c) Environmental protection and trade/foreign direct investment, d) Identity politics and globalization. After a brief review of IPE theories in the first module, the course will touch on specific topics of importance. For example, the health
unit explores the relationship between intellectual property rights and global health outcomes, how trade policies affect states' responses to health crises, and how the global trade regime (i.e., the WTO) mediates those policy responses. The environment module investigates how economically developed countries use trade agreements to protect the environment and why some companies support climate actions more strongly than others. The identity module examines how gender, race, and ethnicity may shape individual preferences on globalization. In the process, students will apply IPE theories to understand new challenges the world faces. This course is designed for students who are already familiar with core concepts in IPE, including those who have previously taken GOVT 329. However, GOVT 329 is not a prerequisite.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT337 Virtue and Glory: Classical Political Theory

How shall we think about public life, our "life of common involvements"? This course is a survey of premodern political theories, with attention to their major theoretical innovations, historical contexts, and contemporary relevance. Major themes will include the nature of political community and its relation to the cultivation of virtue, the relation of politics to economics, the origin of the ideas of law and justice, and the relation between knowledge and power and between politics and salvation. Readings will include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, and others.

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

GOVT338 Global Modern Political Thought

Modern political thought is defined by questions of the consolidation of state power, democratic governance, the rise of capitalism, and the legitimate uses of violence. Yet, these questions are intertwined with questions of colonialism, racism, and inequality. How does capitalism give rise to new ways of life across different times and places? What new forms of subjectivity arise with the consolidation of the nation-state, the emergence of new forms of communication, and the rise of the so-called autonomous individual? What is the relationship between democracy, empire, and colonialism? This course will consider the writings of thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jacques Rousseau, and Karl Marx in dialogue with Franz Fanon, Mao Zedong, B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Kwame Nkrumah, Enrique Dussel, and others. This course is required for political theory concentrators in the government major.

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

GOVT339 Contemporary Political Theory

How shall we get along? This course examines some important 20th and 21st century theories of politics. Major issues include the role of reason and emotion in grounding the basic principles of our political lives, the conceptual foundations of liberal and civic republican democracy, and critiques of liberalism from communitarian, critical theory, and postmodern perspectives. We will explore what political theory can be today. This course, together with GOVT337 and GOVT338, provides a survey of major Western political theories; at least two of these courses are recommended for students concentrating in political theory.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

Prereq: None

GOVT342 Questioning Authority: On the Politics of the Teacher-Student Relationship

What is the authority of the teacher in an era where the legitimacy of institutions and curriculum are under fire? Can hierarchical relationships between teachers and students beneficial for learning and for political life? What are alternative conceptions of the teacher-student relationship? This course will explore different models of teaching within the history of political thought and beyond. From Socrates to the present, the context and manner of teaching has been just as important to political theorists as the content itself. The course will consider how questions of power, sexuality, risk, wisdom, and friendship inform different pedagogical styles and their implications for preparing citizens for democratic life. Readings include John Locke, Immanuel Kant, Alexis deToqueville, John Dewey, Hannah Arendt, Mr. Rogers, Jacques Ranciere, Bernard Stiegler, Laura Kipnis, and others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: EDST342
Prereq: None

GOVT347 Political Freedom

Is political freedom about doing what you want as long as you don't hurt anyone else? Is it about collectivizing power or actively participating in governance? Is freedom an inherently individual practice or a necessarily collaborative one? A private or public matter? Does it depend upon rights or the transformation of social conditions? Does it emerge from political representation or direct democracy? Is capitalism the scene of human domination, human freedom...or both? Is freedom a concept, a principle, or a practice? What is the relationship of political freedom to power, equality, and community? What is the relationship of social identity to freedom—i.e., is emancipatory or imprisoning? Is freedom something we even desire, or do we experience it as a burden? What happens when Dr. King meets Karl Marx, when John Stuart Mill meets Kate Bornstein, when Cathy Cohen meets Milton Friedman? In this course, we will pursue these kinds of questions through consideration of classics in Western political theory, contemporary writings, and some films. We will neither settle the question of what freedom is nor the question of how to produce it. However, we will deepen our appreciation of its importance and complexity.

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

GOVT348 Justice and Equality

To what extent and in what ways does justice require that people have (roughly) equal life prospects? That issue has become increasingly urgent as inequality has increased rapidly during the last 40 years or so. Although inequality in the US has grown faster than in most other (already developed) countries, the increase in inequality is widespread. At the same time, at the global level there has been a reduction of inequality as economic growth has delivered hundreds of millions of people from deep poverty. This class will examine the relationship between equality and justice. Our principal concern will be to assess how, in what ways, reduction of inequality as economic growth has delivered hundreds of millions of people from deep poverty. This class will examine the relationship between equality and justice. Our principal concern will be to assess how, in what ways, To what extent and in what ways does justice require that people have (roughly) equal life prospects? 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GOVT 350 Law, Justice, and Democracy
In this course, we will explore law from a political-sociological perspective, in relation to the historical, political, and cultural contexts within which it exists. In the first part of the course, we will address the question “what is law?” by exploring a variety of theoretical approaches (Marxian, Weberian, and Durkheimian perspectives, legal formalism, legal realism, and critical legal studies). We will then move on to discussing the relationship between law and justice. In the third part of the course, we will talk about the politics of crime and punishment, exploring a number of key issues, including the birth of modern prison, rising incarceration rates in the U.S., the emergence of drug courts, and the politics of death penalty. In the fourth section, we will discuss the role courts play in constructing political and social reality. What constitutes a religion? What is gender? What is commerce? What is free speech? These questions find myriad answers in different bodies of thought, are understood and acted upon in a variety of ways by different social groups, and gain different levels of political salience in different societies and at different times. As matters concerning the organization of public life, they are also, and inevitably, framed as “legal problems” and make their way to courts. We will examine how courts construct social phenomena through the lens of several historical cases. In the final section of the course, we will discuss law’s place in the American system of government by exploring the evolving relationship between courts, the presidency, and Congress.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT 350Z Law, Justice, and Democracy
In this course, we will explore law from a political-sociological perspective, in relation to the historical, political, and cultural contexts within which it exists. In the first part of the course, we will address the question “what is law?” by exploring a variety of theoretical approaches (Marxian, Weberian, and Durkheimian perspectives, legal formalism, legal realism, and critical legal studies). We will then move on to discussing the relationship between law and justice. In the third part of the course, we will talk about the politics of crime and punishment, exploring a number of key issues, including the birth of modern prison, rising incarceration rates in the US, the emergence of drug courts, and the politics of death penalty. In the fourth section, we will discuss the role courts play in constructing political and social reality. What constitutes a religion? What is gender? What is commerce? What is free speech? These questions find myriad answers in different bodies of thought, are understood and acted upon in a variety of ways by different social groups, and gain different levels of political salience in different societies and at different times. As matters concerning the organization of public life, they are also, and inevitably, framed as “legal problems” and make their way to courts. We will examine how courts construct social phenomena through the lens of several historical cases. In the final section of the course, we will discuss law’s place in the American system of government by exploring the evolving relationship between courts, the presidency, and Congress.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT 355 Political Theory and Transitional Justice
Transitional justice refers to the variety of legal, political, and social processes that occur as a society rebuilds after war; it includes war crimes trials, truth commissions, and the creation of memorials. Although the term “transitional justice” is a recent one, the philosophical issues contained within it are at the core of political philosophy. What kind of society is best? What is the relationship between political institutions and human nature? What does justice mean? The purpose of this course is to understand the issues of transitional justice from both practical and philosophical perspectives and will include case studies of World War II, South African apartheid, and the genocide in Rwanda.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT 356 Theorizing Subjection Beyond Contract and Consent
What modes of subjection does political life elicit from us, and how do they underpin and challenge our ideas of consent? Can we give genuine consent when we have already been subjected to parental authority? When we have unconscious desires we cannot avow? When we lack meaningful control over the norms that constitute our political, social, psychic lives? This class examines the centrality of the notion of consent to the liberal democratic order, and how it requires a prior mode of subjection that the liberal subject cannot knowingly consent to. In Unit 1, we read classic formulations of the liberal individual who consents to political rule (Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau). We look for the ways these theorists presuppose and disavow practices of subject formation that are beyond consent—parental authority, the informal authority of mores and norms, deception, precariousness, and ideology. We then read critiques of the social contract tradition that highlight the constitutive exclusions of liberalism, and ask how consent bears upon subjects that are constituted by the state as included others (Pateman, Mackinnon, West, Mills, Simplican). In Unit 2, we read critiques of the liberal subject that interrogate the possibility of genuine consent, examining issues of false consciousness (Marx, Marcuse), self-opacity and the unconscious (Freud, Benjamin), discursive constitution (Foucault), and performativity (Butler). We use these thinkers to interrogate the distinctions underpinning liberal notions of consent, such as autonomous and heteronomous, authentic and inauthentic, public and private. In Unit 3, we examine how the notion of consent is changing in our current political moment, in which the liberal democratic state is waning, but the notion of consent persists, such as under neoliberalism (Brown, Fehér, Berlant), sexual assault (Kessel, Halley, Murray), and right-wing movements (Grattan, Anker). We close by considering what might be alternatives to and reconfigurations of this model of consent (late Foucault, Maxwell).
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Prereq: None
GOVT357 Saving the Republic: Lessons from Plato for our Time
More than two thousand years ago, Plato addressed the pressing issues of the day: the rise of the oligarchy, dwindling of public deliberation, increasing political factionalism, and erosion of credible information. Some argue that the lessons of his Socratic exchanges, captured in The Republic, are valuable to this day. In this course, students will immerse themselves in 403 B.C.E., a crucial moment in Athenian democracy. Following a close reading of The Republic, the classroom will become the Athenian state. Each member of the class will assume a particular place in Athenian society and in the factions of the day using highly-developed roles from the Reacting to the Past curriculum. As members of the gathered assembly, students will debate divisive issues such as citizenship, elections, re-militarization, and the political process. Then, students will develop, rehearse, and publicly perform a one-act play at the Russell Library in Middletown. The play will be set in ancient Athens and will demonstrate factionalism, information asymmetry, political brokering, and other political issues of that era. Following the performance, the students will engage the audience in a Q&A about the relevance of the play’s themes for today. Students will be assessed in five ways: 1. Content quizzes on The Republic, 2. Written preparation for debates/assembly, 3. Oral presentations in debates/assemblies, 4. Contribution to the class public performance, and 5. A short paper analyzing The Republic’s relevance for contemporary United States.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-WRCT
Identical With: WRCT357, CSPL357
Prereq: None

GOVT357Z Saving the Republic: Lessons from Plato for our Time
More than two thousand years ago, Plato addressed the pressing issues of the day: the rise of the oligarchy, dwindling of public deliberation, increasing political factionalism, and erosion of credible information. Some argue that the lessons of his Socratic exchanges, captured in The Republic, are valuable to this day. In this course, students will immerse themselves in 403 B.C.E., a crucial moment in Athenian democracy. Following a close reading of The Republic, the classroom will become the Athenian state. Each member of the class will assume a particular place in Athenian society and in the factions of the day using highly-developed roles from the Reacting to the Past curriculum. As members of the gathered assembly, students will debate divisive issues such as citizenship, elections, re-militarization, and the political process. Then, students will develop, rehearse, and publicly perform a one-act play at the Russell Library in Middletown. The play will be set in ancient Athens and will demonstrate factionalism, information asymmetry, political brokering, and other political issues of that era. Following the performance, the students will engage the audience in a Q&A about the relevance of the play’s themes for today. Students will be assessed in five ways: 1. Content quizzes on The Republic, 2. Written preparation for debates/assembly, 3. Oral presentations in debates/assemblies, 4. Contribution to the class public performance, and 5. A short paper analyzing The Republic’s relevance for contemporary United States.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: WRCT357Z, CSPL357Z
Prereq: None

GOVT366 Empirical Methods for Political Science
This course is an introduction to the concepts, tools, and methods used in the study of political phenomena, with an emphasis on both the practical and theoretical concerns involved in scientific research. Designed to get students to think like social scientists, the course covers topics in research design, hypotheses generation, concept/indicator development, data collection, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and interpretation. Students will become better critical consumers of arguments made in mass media, scholarly journals, and political debates. The course is especially appropriate for juniors who are considering writing a thesis in government.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: GOVT151 OR GOVT155 OR GOVT157 OR GOVT159

GOVT367 Political Science by the Numbers
This course covers the basics of probability theory and statistics. The main purpose of this course is to promote the understanding of statistical concepts and how these concepts can be used to make inferences about the political world. Topics include probability distributions, correlation analysis, linear regression, generalized linear models, maximum likelihood, logistic regression, causal inference, experiments, and non-parametric modeling. Lectures will mainly cover theory, while readings will connect the concepts described during lecture to problems in political science. Whenever possible, the instructor will draw upon research in political science to illustrate the why and how of a given concept or technique. Demonstrations will allow students to “play around” with abstract statistical concepts. Most lectures will have an interactive component involving class participation. Problem sets will cover some of the more technical aspects of what we discuss in class along with applications using real data.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identiical With: QAC302
Prereq: None

GOVT369 Political Psychology
This course explores the political psychology of individual judgment and choice. We will examine the role of cognition and emotions, values, predispositions, and social identities on judgment and choice. From this approach, we will address the larger debate regarding the quality of democratic citizenship.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT371 Judicial Decision-Making
This course examines the roles judges play in American politics, with a particular emphasis on judicial decision-making. Topics include, but are not limited to: theories of judicial decision-making, the selection of judges, judicial empathy, and constitutional interpretation. Throughout the course, we will engage in a multidisciplinary discussion about the craft of judging, with a focus on political science theory and empirics.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT372 Political Communication in Polarized Environments
Polarization in American politics heightens the communication challenges for those seeking to persuade, whether they be public officials, scientists, or citizens. This seminar will provide an in depth look at the barriers to persuasive communication and information dissemination in the age of polarization and what (if anything) is effective in cutting through partisan predispositions.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
GOVT373 Congressional Reform
The modern Congress is often criticized for being too partisan, inefficient, and beholden to special interests. This seminar will examine the development of the modern Congress by focusing on the history of congressional reform. We will also evaluate proposals for reforming the modern Congress to remedy potential shortcomings in the lawmaking and ethics process.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT374 Seminar in American Political Economy and Public Policy
In 2023, the standoff over the debt ceiling threatened to have catastrophic consequences for the U.S. and the world economy. Why were the politics so complicated? Why were the stakes so high? This seminar explores the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States grounded in a broader discussion of the postwar political economy. Although the nation exited World War II with a record level of debt, within three decades, the debt-to-GDP ratio had fallen by almost 80 percent. However, significant tax cuts in the 1980s and again in the 2000s, the growth of entitlement spending, and a series of shocks (e.g., two wars, the financial crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic) brought about a great reversal. Within the next few decades, the national debt is projected to exceed 200 percent of GDP. By that time, interest payments will be the largest component of federal spending. Moreover, absent policy change, the trust funds supporting Social Security and Medicare will become insolvent, placing greater pressure on public finances. This seminar will explore the structure of federal finances, the politics of taxation, the growth of entitlements as a share of federal spending, the ways in which polarization has undermined the budgetary process, and the normative and practical implications of the debt. We will conclude with a discussion of competing reform proposals.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT375 American Political Development
This is a course about the big questions in American politics. What is it all about? What does it mean to be living under a text written more than two centuries ago? Is the very concept of development an oxymoron for constitutional government? This course introduces students to a scholarship and a method of analysis that melds the historical with the institutional, applied to understanding the evolving state/society relationship in American political life. We will examine the ways in which developing state institutions constrain and enable policy makers; the ways in which ideas and policy-relevant expertise have impacted the development of new policies; the ways in which societal interests have been organized and integrated into the policy process; and the forces that have shaped the evolution of institutions and policies over time. This seminar will provide an opportunity to survey the literature drawn from several theoretical perspectives in the field and to consider competing arguments and hypotheses concerning the development of the American state and its changing role in the economy and society.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT376 Political Polarization in America
In the 1950s, political scientists feared that weak parties in the U.S. threatened democratic accountability. Today, many political scientists argue strong, ideologically extreme parties distort representation. Undoubtedly, things have changed, but why? Several possible culprits exist, including partisan gerrymandering, primary elections, the ideological realignment of the electorate, and changing congressional procedures. We will cover the possible explanations and try to decipher what explanation, or combination of explanations, is most convincing. While we evaluate the arguments for why polarization has increased we will also debate the merits and drawbacks of strong parties at the elite level. Finally, we will examine to what extent polarization among elected officials and activists reflects polarization in the public. Students will also engage in collaborative research projects aimed at understanding polarization in the context of the 2020 election. The goal is to share information from these research projects publicly in order to provide voters with information about elections in real time.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT377 American Political Thought
This course will provide students with a thorough discussion of the main currents of American political thought. We will explore a selection of key texts and speeches that have helped to shape American political culture. Beginning with the Founders and ending with the contemporary era, we will cover moments of critical change between then and now. We focus on the intellectual battles of the past because, apart from being rewarding in themselves, they help us to think critically about contemporary politics. Accordingly, this course will emphasize how ideas give rise to individual identities, how they motivate political actors, and how they explain political outcomes.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: None

GOVT378 Advanced Topics in Media Analysis
Government, corporations, campaigns, nonprofits, other organized interests, and sometimes individuals have a vested interest in knowing and reacting to media messages that affect them. To do so, they need information on what is being said, in what venue, by whom, and with what effect. This seminar will provide hands-on, in-depth experience with academic research involving media, including the type of advertising analysis conducted by the Wesleyan Media Project team. Students will be involved in various aspects of research, including data collection, data coding, literature reviews, data analysis and visualization, and writing/editing.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Prereq: GOVT151 OR GOVT155 OR GOVT157

GOVT379 Access to Civil Justice
In this course, students will explore contemporary issues related to the public’s ability to access civil legal advice, legal representation, and fair outcomes within our civil justice system. Students will be exposed to scholarship that highlights the difficulties the public faces when they have justice problems, including 1) exclusion from legal processes; 2) lack of resources; 3) lack of awareness of rights; 4) difficulty recognizing the nature of their problem; and 5) lack of confidence in the justice system. The course will culminate with student-designed research projects investigating and proposing solutions to an access to justice question relevant to a collaborating local, state, or national civil justice organization’s work.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
In this course we will study a variety of topics related to the theme of women and politics: women's political participation, the gender gap, women in political parties, female leadership, and women's issues. Because women's political engagement is affected by their position in society and in the economy, we will also study topics such as inequality, power, discrimination, and labor force participation. Although we will consider these issues in the U.S., our approach will be strongly cross-national.

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

GOVT385 Women and Politics

Globalization is considered by many to be the most powerful transformative force in the modern world system. Modernization and technology, which are greater today than at any time in history, have effectively made the world a smaller place with respect to the interdependence and interpenetration among nations. But while most agree on the transformative power of globalization, many disagree on its nature and its effects on modern society. Liberals hail globalization as the ultimate means to world peace and prosperity. Marxists see it as a means of reinforcing the inequality and unbalanced division of labor created by modern capitalism. Still others, such as mercantilists and nationalists, see it as a source of political instability and cultural conflict. This course analyzes globalization principally through this tripartite theoretical lens. It traces its origins and its evolution across the 19th and 20th centuries. It also tries to determine
the impact of globalization on the most important issues of international relations today: on domestic and international political systems and on social, cultural, and international economic relations. Through analytical, critical, and theoretical approaches, the course attempts to ascertain the nature and impact of globalization and ultimately shed light on the fundamental question: To what extent is globalization a force for good and evil in the modern world system?

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

GOVT390 Presidential Foreign Policy Decision-Making
In the realm of foreign policy, good choices can avoid or win wars, while poor choices can lead to disaster. Although analysts consistently evaluate the quality of US presidential foreign policy decision-making, the fundamental aspects of good and poor judgment remain controversial. This course starts with a consideration of the effects of both individual character and decision-making processes in determining the quality of foreign policy choices. The majority of the course focuses on these issues through the intensive simulations of foreign policy decision-making, with students taking on the roles of the major players.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT391 Legacies of Authoritarian Politics
This course explores the challenges and legacies faced by new democracies due to their authoritarian pasts. To examine legacies of authoritarian politics, we will first study the key features of authoritarian vs. democratic states. The second part will look at "life after dictatorship" including authoritarian successor parties, political participation, civic engagement, and policing in the post-authoritarian era.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS385
Prereq: None

GOVT392 Theorizing the City
Recent years have brought a shift to imagining the city, rather than the nation-state, as the primary allegiance for citizens, with its own unique set of challenges and responsibilities. What are our political and ethical obligations to the strangers we live near? Should cities be governed more democratically? This course will examine topics such as income inequality, environmental justice, immigration, localism vs. cosmopolitanism, and public art.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT393 The Politics of Authenticity
Is there such a thing as an authentic self? If so, can politics help us realize it? Fifty years ago, authenticity was a thriving political ideal, invoked by radical feminists, black liberation movements, gay and lesbian activists, Marxists and conservatives alike. Over the past four decades, however, political appeals to authenticity have come under heavy scrutiny. Some claim that appeals to authenticity inadvertently marginalized individuals who are not “true women,” “real blacks,” or “actual natives.” Others argue that the idea of an authentic culture can be deployed to constrain individual members of cultural minorities. Where does authenticity reside--in gender, sexuality, experience, or culture--and how do we know which one is “real”? Is it worth faulting politicians for hypocrisy if there is no such thing as a “true self”? What becomes of certain emancipatory or justice claims--such as those coming from trans-politics or multiculturalism debates--without a notion of authenticity? In this course, we will discuss what authenticity is or might be, how it has been conceptualized in political theory and contemporary social movements, and why it has become an object of widespread suspicion and continuing appeal.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: FGSS393
Prereq: None

GOVT394 Law, Justice, and Democracy
This advanced research seminar will study law though a political sociological lens. Students will write a major term paper exploring a theoretical or empirical question.

We will ask: What is law? What does it mean to think of law as a social construct? We will explore how these questions have been answered by social theorists like Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Foucault, and by legal scholars writing in the tradition of legal positivism, legal realism, and critical legal studies.

We will talk about the relationship between law and justice. What does it mean for laws to be unjust? What are the normative arguments that have been made about how to respond to unjust laws?

We will discuss how social phenomena get legally constructed. Who is a person? What constitutes speech? What constitutes religion? What is a crime? What is gender? Who is a criminal? These questions find myriad answers in different bodies of thought, are understood and acted upon in a variety of ways by different social groups, and gain different levels of political salience in different societies and at different times. As matters concerning the organization of public life, they are also, and inevitably, framed as “legal problems” and make their way to courts. We will examine how courts construe social phenomena through the lens of several historical cases.

We will spend some time on questions of crime and punishment. We will talk about the history of modern prison, and why the carceral state has expanded in the U.S. We will also talk about death penalty, and how and when the modern state kills.

Finally, we will talk about the place of courts in the American system of government, and policymaking.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT

GOVT395 Caste, Race, and Democracy
Drawing on the resources of social and intellectual history, political theory, literature, and social science, this seminar will explore the intimacies and differences between two forms of social differentiation: caste in South Asia and race in the United States. We will focus, in particular, on the relationships between caste formation, racial formation, and imperial power; the diagnoses
of and forms of democratic resistance to caste and race subjugation that were articulated in the 19th and 20th centuries; and the place of contemporary social science in documenting both the persistence of oppression along caste and racial lines and the success of efforts to combat such oppression.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOV
Identical With: GSA3596
Prereq: None

GOVT396 Human Rights Advocacy: Critical Assessment and Practical Engagement in Global Social Justice
The core animating principles and practices of human rights are under threat. Will the global human rights movement be able to respond effectively? How could or should the movement advance the cause of global social justice most effectively? This seminar seeks to answer these questions by assessing global rights defense and social justice practice and by engaging in structured, self-critical human rights advocacy.

Among the issues considered in this seminar will be the following: What are the origins of the human rights movement? Has the movement been dominated by ideas from the West and elite organizations from the Global North? What does it mean to be a human rights activist? What is the role of documentation, legal advocacy, and social media in human rights advocacy? What are the main challenges and dilemmas facing those engaged in rights promotion and defense?

Students will be required to write several short reflection papers. The final project will be an exercise in developing a human rights advocacy project or supervised engagement in actual human rights advocacy in conjunction with the University Network for Human Rights (humanrightsnetwork.org). This class is limited to students already admitted to the Human Rights Advocacy Minor.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: CSP316
Prereq: None

GOVT397 Acting and Citizenship
From Plato's fears about the corrupting effects of tragedy on the civic devotion of citizens, to Rousseau's concerns about the theater as the cause of moral decay, to Richard Sennett's contemporary arguments for an understanding of citizenship as a performance in the "theatrum mundi," the performance and spectacle of theater, through both watching and in acting, has been closely linked to expectations of democratic citizenship. This course will examine the history of acting as a way to consider what we are called to do to sustain democratic life. How is being a citizen or a juror the equivalent of playing a role? Can the practice of acting help develop skills of empathy and deliberation that are needed to navigate difficult political questions? On the other hand, can the "inauthenticity" of acting be a corrosive parallel that treats all civic interactions as strategic ones grounded in self-interest? Drawing on texts from the history of political thought, theater studies, and the psychology of acting, the course will culminate in a performance art piece at Wesleyan, developed by the class, to highlight the demands of citizenship. A willingness to act is expected, but no experience is required.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOV
GOVT412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

GOVT419 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

GOVT420 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

GOVT465 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

GOVT466 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

GOVT468 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

GOVT469 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: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

GOVT470 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
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

GOVT492 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

GOVT495 Research Apprentice, Undergraduate
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

GOVT496 Research Apprentice, Undergraduate
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

GOVT491 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