

Political Science

Handbook

**For Majors
& Minors**

2017-2018

NAME:



Handbook for Political Science majors and minors 2017 - 2018

Natalie Taylor, Associate Professor and Chair

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Political Science department. You will quickly learn that while your fellow majors and the faculty constitute a disparate group, they all share an interest in politics. This interest manifests itself in forms as varied as a fascination with the delicate diplomacy necessary to hold together multinational organizations, with the voting rules and institutional structures devised by multi-ethnic societies to lessen the possibility of conflict, with the ways that developing countries cope with the threats and opportunities posed by globalization, with the fundamental political questions raised by classic works in political theory and philosophy, and with how partisan conflict influences policy outcomes in the American polity. The department's courses are designed to help you engage with political issues in an informed way by introducing you to analytical, conceptual, and theoretical tools that will allow you to understand better why political actors make the choices they do, why political institutions function (or malfunction) the way that they do, and why nation-states act and interact with each other in the ways that they do.

The following information is designed to acquaint you with the most important features of the department and the major. If you have questions that are not answered by the following, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

Mission Statement

The Political Science department seeks to instill in its students a lively interest in politics, in how political systems work and in how we can make them work better, in contemporary political issues, in international relations and foreign policy, in political theory, and in the law. We offer a comprehensive program that reflects the broad discipline of political science. Students take three required introductory courses followed by intermediate and advanced courses in four areas: American government, comparative government, international relations, and political theory. The major is designed to serve students who wish to concentrate in a particular area, those who aspire to go on to graduate school, and those who want merely to explore the field of politics.

Our main goal is to help students think analytically and critically about political issues. We do this by developing students' knowledge of the four subdisciplines of political science, by cultivating in them the analytical skills they need to understand political issues, and by enhancing their abilities to assess critically political situations and problems from both empirical and normative perspectives.

In terms of knowledge, we aim to provide students with the historical and contemporary information they need to understand national and international political structures, behaviors, and ideas. In terms of analytical skills, we seek to offer students the methodological and technical training they require to read texts carefully; collect, analyze, and interpret data; and communicate their conclusions effectively and elegantly. In terms of critical abilities, we teach students to examine political issues and problems from both empirical and ethical viewpoints as a first step toward developing policy recommendations that can improve political participation, processes, and outcomes.

Requirements

Political Science Major

Requirements for a major in political science are ten courses and thirty-three credit hours. These courses include:

1. 101, 102, and 103
2. At least one course in each of the following four areas:
 - a. American Government: PL211, 222, 224, 225, 231, 251C, 252, 311, 312, 314, 315, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 362, 367,
 - b. Comparative Government: PL203, 209, 213, 227, 233, 239, 241, 251A, 326, 327, 347, 348, 349, 365
 - c. International Relations: PL201, 207, 219, 226, 228, 229, 251B, 301, 309, 319, 338, 339, 340, 346, 357, 366
 - d. Political Theory: PL204, 205H, 236, 242, 251D, 308, PL-HI 322, 323, 341, 351, 354
3. Three additional political science courses totaling at least 9 credits, or PL 383 or 384.
Note: To fulfill college maturity-level requirements, at least 6 credits of 300-level political science courses must be taken in the senior year.

Political Science Minor

The political science minor consists of six courses with a minimum of 18 credit hours to be determined in consultation with the department chair or with a Political Science department faculty member, but must include two of the following: PL 101, 102, or 103. Additionally, at least two courses must be taken at the 300 level. (The two 300 level classes must each be at least 3 credits.) Students who enroll in PL 383 or PL 384 may only count 6 credits from these courses toward the minor.

The Writing Requirement in the Political Science Major

The Political Science department at Skidmore College is committed to helping its students become skilled writers. Recognizing that an important part of learning to write well in political science and government is learning to write well overall, the Political Science department places considerable emphasis on both quantity and quality of writing opportunities in our courses and has adopted a wide-reaching and thorough set of Standards and Expectations for Written Assignments in Political Science and a Uniform Code of Notation for Providing Feedback on Written Work. Students in Political Science department classes expect to be held to the expectations and standards established in these documents. Thus, by successfully completing the requirements for the Political Science major, students fulfill the Writing Requirement in Political Science.

Policy on Civility and Comportment in the Classroom

The classroom experience is the heart of liberal education, and as such is the most important aspect of your Skidmore College education. Presumably, if you did not agree you would not be attending Skidmore. The faculty of the Political Science department

takes this understanding as the basis of our educational efforts. It is in an attempt to honor the centrality of the classroom experience that we offer this department policy on civility and comportment.

As is stated in the *Student Handbook*, your presence at Skidmore College is contingent upon your acceptance of, and full adherence to, the Skidmore College Honor Code. This honor code is distinct from the oath you take when writing a paper or taking an exam – it is in fact much more all-encompassing, and much more demanding.

The Code includes the following statement: *“I hereby accept membership in the Skidmore College community and, with full realization of the responsibilities inherent in membership, do agree to adhere to honesty and integrity in all relationships, to be considerate of the rights of others, and to abide by the College regulations.”* Elsewhere, the Code also calls all Skidmore students to *“conform to high standards of fair play, integrity, and honor.”*

What does it mean to do act honestly, with integrity, and according to high standards of fair play, particularly in the classroom? In our view, it includes, minimally, the following.

No student shall lessen the learning experience of others in the classroom by arriving late to class.

No student shall lessen the learning experience of others in the classroom by leaving the classroom while class is in session, except for true medical emergencies.

Cell phones must be turned off during class.

No student shall disrupt the learning experience of others in the classroom by talking to a neighbor, writing notes to other students, reviewing one’s mail, reading the newspaper, completing homework for other classes, or playing with the laptop computer, while class is in session.

No student shall disrespect other Skidmore students, professors or the housekeeping staff by putting feet on the desks or other furniture in the classroom, or by leaving trash, food, or recyclables in the room at the end of the class session.

While we will hold all students to these minimal expectations, we also have some suggestions for those who seek to go beyond the bare minimum of civil classroom comportment to become the type of mature, responsible, active learners who are an asset to any classroom and society at large. These include the following.

Every student should take copious and meaningful notes both on assigned readings and during classroom sessions. Note taking is an important skill—if you do not already possess it, you should acquire it.

Every student should take some time to review the notes that he or she has taken on the day’s assigned reading before each class meeting. You will be amazed how much more invested and engaged in the class you will feel if you go into the classroom well-prepared.

Disruptions in class can be a significant impediment to learning, and no member of the Skidmore community—including faculty and students—should tolerate them. Thus every student should take responsibility for holding his or her peers and classmates to both high academic standards and high standards of civility. If people around you are chatting, passing notes or otherwise detracting from the overall quality of YOUR classroom experience, don't let them get away with it.

Individual faculty members in the Political Science department will determine the level of sanctions for disruptive behavior.

Academic Advising and Information Resources

The Faculty Advisor

Before declaring their major, students must obtain a faculty advisor within the department, usually but not necessarily a teacher with whom they have already taken courses. Your advisor is a valuable educational resource. He or she will provide information about academic options and opportunities at the College. Your advisor's main function is to guide you in shaping short- and long-range academic plans, particularly a program of studies with intellectual coherence. Although students are ultimately responsible for making their own decisions and meeting all the Requirements for Degree listed in the *Skidmore College Catalog*, your advisor must approve your course schedule each semester before registration and release the advising hold. It is therefore imperative that you know your advisor's office hours and consult him or her well in advance of the day you register.

The Department Newsletter

The department publishes a newsletter prior to both the spring and fall registration periods. The newsletter contains all the course offerings for the upcoming semester, as well as articles and opinion pieces written by both students and faculty about current events, internship opportunities, and off-campus study. Copies of the newsletter are available in the Political Science department bay and online at http://www.skidmore.edu/political_science/newsletter/index.php.

Academic Council Representatives

In addition to SGA responsibilities our representative attends all Political Science department faculty meetings and contributes to the writing and editing of the department newsletter. We encourage you to contact the department chair if you have any suggestions for improving the department's efforts to serve its majors.

Honors

Pi Sigma Alpha, Tau Gamma Chapter

Founded in 1920 as the national political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha receives into membership students of political science and related disciplines who attain high standards of scholarship and academic distinction. Eligibility requirements are: (1) six government courses which have been weighted in your GPA (2) a combined 3.5 GPA from all of these courses; and (3) a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average.

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha meet regularly during the year with the organization's faculty advisor, Professor Natalie Taylor, to discuss contemporary political issues, plan the initiation ceremony that takes place in the Spring of each year, and to organize events designed to raise political awareness on campus. Pi Sigma Alpha has been a chartered SGA club since 1999.

Department Honors

To be recommended for Honors in the department, a student must have received at least an A- on a senior thesis, have a 3.5 grade-point average in government courses, and a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average.

The senior honors thesis is a year-long project that requires students to follow a carefully sequenced period of reading, writing, and revision culminating in a paper of at least 40 pages (10,000 words) that utilizes both primary and secondary sources to defend a clearly stated thesis.

Students interested in writing a senior thesis must seek during the spring semester of their junior year a Political Science department faculty member to act as their thesis director. Once students have secured a thesis director, they then enroll in PL 374: Senior Thesis Prep for the fall semester of their senior year. Students complete their thesis work in the spring semester in PL 375: Senior Thesis. Students must then defend their thesis before a panel of faculty some time between April 13 and April 20.

Description of the Senior Thesis

The Senior Thesis is a year-long project that requires students to follow a carefully sequenced period of reading, writing, and revision that culminates in a paper of at least 40 pages (10,000 words) that utilizes both primary and secondary sources to defend a clearly stated thesis.

The faculty expects that students undertaking thesis work will be both well-prepared to address their chosen topic and conscientious about meeting all deadlines and fulfilling all requirements for completion of the thesis.

In order to receive honors, a student must receive an A- or above on the Senior Thesis, have a GPA above 3.5 in all of his or her Political Science courses, and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Guidelines for Completion of a Senior Thesis

Spring Semester of the Student's Junior Year

- 1) Students must by the end of spring classes secure the agreement of an appropriate Political Science Department faculty member to serve as their thesis director. Students who plan to study off-campus (e.g., in a Study Abroad Program or in the Washington Semester Program at American University) during the spring semester of their junior year must seek an appropriate thesis advisor during the fall semester of their junior year.
- 2) **Note: Political Science faculty are not obligated to direct a senior thesis.**

A faculty member will decide whether to accept or reject a student's invitation to direct a thesis on the following bases:

a) The fit between the faculty member's specialization and interests and the student's topic

b) An assessment of the student's ability, commitment, and preparation for undertaking the proposed project

c) The faculty member's workload for the next academic year (e.g. faculty are prohibited from directing more than two senior theses each year)

2) Students must complete the "Department of Political Science Senior Thesis Questionnaire" by June 15.¹ The questionnaire requires students to formulate a specific research question, compile a preliminary bibliography, and provide evidence that they have done the course and preparatory work necessary to complete their proposed thesis.

Fall Semester of the Student's Senior Year

1) Students enroll in PL 374: Senior Thesis Prep for the fall semester of their senior year.

2) Students consult with their thesis directors during the first week of classes to establish a reading list and to set a schedule of meetings. A student's grade for PL 374 and eligibility to continue thesis work in the spring semester will be based on their completion of the assigned readings, the quality of their written work, and their preparation for the meetings with their thesis director.

3) Students must participate in the Senior Thesis Workshop on the third Friday in November (see "Senior Thesis Workshop Guidelines," which can be found on the Political Science Department's web page). Note: students must, in consultation with their thesis director, choose the second reader for their thesis prior to the Senior Thesis Workshop. This second reader should be a member of the Skidmore Political Science faculty.

4) Students must meet with their thesis directors prior to the conclusion of the fall semester to establish a schedule for the completion of different stages of the research and for the submission of various drafts of the thesis during the spring semester.

5) Students must receive a final grade of at least "B" in PL 374 and the permission of their thesis directors to enroll in PL 375: Senior Thesis during the spring semester.

Spring Semester of the Student's Senior Year

1) Students enroll in PL 375: Senior Thesis for the spring semester of their senior year.

2) Thesis directors meet with their students during the first week of classes to identify a third or outside reader. Thesis directors are encouraged to choose a third reader from outside the college. Thesis directors can, however, select a reader from another department on campus if they cannot identify an appropriate third reader from outside of the college.

¹ Students planning to graduate in January or August should see the "Schedule for the Completion of a Senior Honors Thesis" at the end of this document.

Senior Honors Thesis Defense

- 1) Students will defend their theses between April 12 and April 20. The thesis panel will consist of the thesis director, the second reader, and the third reader.
- 2) Students will be expected during the thesis defense to perform successfully the following:
 - a) Provide a summary of their research question, argument, methodology, and findings
 - b) Provide cogent responses to questions posed by the members of the thesis panel
- 3) At the conclusion of the thesis defense, the members of the panel will convene to decide on the grade for the thesis. The final grade for the thesis will be determined by the panel's evaluation of the following:
 - a) The persuasiveness of the written argument
 - b) The quality of the writing
 - c) The student's performance during the thesis defense
- 4) The members of the panel will then meet with the student to convey to him or her the final grade for the thesis.
- 5) All students who complete a senior thesis must submit a clean (i.e., without either marginal or summary comments), graded, bound copy of their thesis to the Barbara McDonough, the Political Science Department's administrative assistant, by **May 1**.

Schedule for Completion of a Senior Honors Thesis ²

Fall of Junior Year

Students who plan to study off-campus during the spring seek the approval of an appropriate Political Science Department faculty member to direct their thesis.

Spring of Junior Year

- 1) Students develop their thesis topics and complete the "Department of Political Science Senior Honors Thesis Questionnaire."

² Students planning to graduate in January or August must seek the approval of an appropriate Political Science Department faculty member to direct their thesis and must also fill out the Senior Honors Thesis Questionnaire no later than two semesters (or two summer sessions, in the case of August graduation) prior to graduation. PL 374 must be completed in the penultimate semester (or summer session) before graduation and PL 375 must be completed the final semester (or summer session) before graduation. All aspects of the senior thesis, including the senior thesis defense and the submission of clean copy of the thesis to the Department, must be completed before January 31 (in the case of January graduation), or August 31 (in the case of August graduation).

- 2) Students in residence at the college seek the approval of an appropriate Political Science Department faculty member to direct their thesis.
- 3) Students enroll in PL 374: Senior Thesis Prep.

Fall of Senior Year

- 1) Students apprise their thesis directors of their intention to proceed with thesis work.
- 2) Students establish, in consultation with their thesis directors, a reading list and set a schedule for meetings.
- 3) Students establish a research and writing schedule in consultation with their thesis directors.
- 4) Students, in consultation with their thesis directors, choose their second readers.
- 5) Students participate in the Senior Thesis Workshop on the second Friday in November.
- 6) Students enroll in PL 375: Senior Thesis for the spring semester.

Winter Break of Senior Year

Students begin drafting their theses.

Spring of Senior year

- 1) Students apprise their thesis directors of their intention to proceed with thesis work.
- 2) Thesis directors select their students' third readers by the end of the first week of classes.
- 3) Students submit their completed theses by April 11.
- 4) Students defend their theses between April 12 and April 20.
- 5) Students submit a clean (i.e., without either marginal or summary comments), graded, bound copy of the thesis to Barbara McDonough, the Political science Department's administrative assistant, by May 1.

Awards

Each year the Political Science department recognizes academic achievement by awarding four academic prizes in May.

- The Henry C. Galant Prize: Established to honor Henry C. Galant, Professor of Government, 1954-1986, and awarded to a major who has excelled in the study of comparative politics. *Elizabeth Collins '17*
- The Susan Riley Gunderson '64 Prize: Established by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Riley, and awarded to a major in political science for outstanding work in the field of American government. *Luca Mobilia '17*
- The Erwin L. Levine Prize in Government: Established to honor Erwin L. Levine, Professor of Government, 1961-1988, and awarded to a major in political science who has done outstanding work in political theory, preferably in American political thought. *Dylan Quinn '17*
- The Henry T. Moore Prize in Government: Established in honor of Henry T. Moore, President of Skidmore College, 1925-1957, and awarded to a political science major who has excelled in the study of international relations. *Zachary Stiller '17*

Internship Opportunities, Independent Studies, and Off-Campus Study

The Levine Internship Award in American Government, Politics and Law

These internship awards honor the memory of Erwin L. Levine, who was a Skidmore Government Professor of American Politics and Law from 1961 until his retirement in 1988. Through the generosity of his family and, these awards celebrate the life and legacy of a beloved, respected scholar, treasured colleague, and inspired student of the history, theory and practice of American politics and law. The Levine Internship Awards are offered on a competitive basis to support Skidmore students who wish to undertake Political Science department internships in fields related to the practice of American government, politics and/or law. Skidmore students from any major or minor may apply. Students are not required to apply for academic credit, but proposals must demonstrate the academic aspects of the internship experiences. Students may propose an internship in government, political, or legal offices and must demonstrate appropriate academic preparation. Examples of internship sites include: city, state, or federal government office, federal agencies (e.g., State Department) or international agencies addressing U.S. political and legal issues (e.g., the United Nations), a pressure group lobbying Congress, or a Presidential library with an emphasis on the president's politics.

Preference will be given to students who receive financial aid. Summer grants are awarded in the amount of up to \$3000 cash stipends (typically one or two grants are awarded in the summer). Selected students for summer grants will receive up to \$300 per week stipend for an 8 to 10 week internship (not to exceed \$3,000.00); local summer internships may include housing on campus. Applications are available online at the Office of Academic Advising and the Political Science department websites.

Internships

Political Science majors and minors interested in pursuing internships should contact the department's internship director, Professor Bob Turner. In addition to his encyclopedic knowledge of local, state, national, and international internship opportunities, Professor Turner is also the coordinator for the New York State Assembly and Senate intern programs. The deadline for applying for the New York State Assembly and Senate intern programs is October 31.

Many past political science majors have participated in interesting and enriching internships. The following is not an exhaustive list of these experiences, but it should be sufficient to give you a sense of the kinds of opportunities available to enterprising political science students:

The National Constitution Center
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Representative Constance Morella
Senator Elizabeth Warren
The Saratoga Foundation
The New York State Department of Economic Development
Environmental Advocates in Albany
The Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Public Works
The Saratoga Springs City Planner
NBC Nightly News
WAMC
The Saratogian
Lifetime Television
The Recording Industry Association of America
The City Planner of Norwich, Connecticut
The New Hampshire Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services

Students interested in pursuing an internship must complete an Internship form prior to registering for either PL 299 or PL 399. In order to complete this form, students need to solicit from their on-site supervisor a list of their responsibilities and from their supervising faculty member a description of the readings and assignments that will constitute the academic component of the internship.

Academic credit cannot be granted for internships that do not include academic work supervised and graded by a member of the Political Science department. The supervising faculty member, the student's academic advisor, and the department chair must sign the Internship form in order for the student to receive permission to pursue a credit-bearing internship.

Independent Studies

The Political Science department allows students who meet certain criteria to present an independent study proposal to a faculty member. An independent study usually consists of a course of intensive reading on a topic that is not addressed by one of the department's established course offerings. An independent study is not an "entitlement" or a "right." A faculty member might decide not to grant a student's request for an independent study for a variety of reasons, including (but not limited to) an independent study proposal that addresses a topic outside of the faculty member's sphere of competence, a series of other commitments that preclude the faculty member from taking on additional teaching responsibilities in a given semester, or a faculty member's concern that the student may be unable to complete the proposed course of study successfully.

A faculty member *will not consider* an independent study proposal unless the student has met *all three* of the following criteria:

1) The student has completed *at least one course* with the faculty member.

- 2) The student's topic is one that is not addressed by any of the department's course offerings.
- 3) The student presents to the faculty member *some time during the semester prior to the one in which the student hopes to enroll in the independent study* a brief description (two or three paragraphs) of the proposed independent study. This description should include a discussion of both the content and the goals of the independent study. The student also will be responsible for working with the faculty member to compile a list of appropriate readings for the independent study.

The Washington Semester Program

The Washington Semester Program offers students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher the opportunity to spend a semester at American University studying in one of the following programs: American politics, economic policy, foreign policy, international business and trade (DC only), justice, journalism, public law, or transforming communities. Each program has three components: a seminar (worth eight semester hours of 300-level course credit), an internship (worth four semester hours of 300-level course credit) and either a research project or an elective course selected from American University's offerings (worth four semester hours of 300-level course credit). Students can use Washington Semester courses to fulfill major and/or minor requirements with the approval of the chair or program director of the appropriate department or program. See Off-Campus Study & Exchanges for further information about specific programs and application materials.

The West Point Student Conference on United States Affairs

Each Fall the department sends two students to West Point to attend a three day conference on a contemporary topic of concern in American foreign policy. The November 1—4, 2017 conference, SCUSA 69, is "*The Politics of the Forgotten and the Aggrieved: Remaking the World Order?*" Participating student delegates take part in a series of roundtable discussions with other delegates on a particular theme or question. The United States Military Academy provides students with free lodging and meals, while the department pays the registration fee and defrays all transportation costs.

Transfer Credits

Courses completed at another college or university that students wish to apply toward the major must be approved by the Chair. Make an appointment with the Chair after the College Registrar has received your transcript, and bring along the catalogue description and/or syllabi of the courses completed elsewhere.

Clubs

Many of our majors participate in the Model United Nations Club, the International Affairs Club, Skidmore College Republicans, Skidmore Democrats, and the Model European Union Club. Members of The Model UN and Model EU clubs participate in simulations of those two multinational organizations.

Course Descriptions

- PL 101. INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT 3
An analysis of United States national government with emphasis on constitutionalism, the presidency, Congress, and the judiciary. Reference will also be made to the impact of political parties and pressure groups on the contemporary political system. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.) C. Mann, K. Zuber, R. Seyb, B. Turner,
- PL 102. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY 3
Study of seminal works in political philosophy. Students will examine texts by thinkers such as Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Bacon, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Marx, Tocqueville, Madison, Jefferson, and Nietzsche in an effort to uncover both classical and modern answers to enduring human questions. We seek to find, through these texts, comprehensive and consistent answers to the question of human happiness and its relation to political life, justice, friendship, obligation, regimes, political and moral virtue or excellence, science, and religious faith. Students will learn how to read texts carefully, to think critically, and to write well. *Please note that this course does not fulfill any requirements of Skidmore's Department of Philosophy.* F. Taylor, N. Taylor
- PL 103. INTRO TO COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS 3
A survey of the key concepts and principles of comparative politics and international relations. Issues covered include state building and state failure; the functioning of democratic and non-democratic regimes and the ideologies that support them; the changing nature of the international system; the causes of war and search for peace; and the problems of national and transnational security, such as terrorism, globalization, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and environmental challenges. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.) Y. Biberman-Ocakli, K. Graney, F. Ocakli, A. Vacs
- PL 201. PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS 4
A survey of the tumultuous international political events of the 19th to mid-20th century and the big concepts of the period—balance of power, extreme nationalism, diplomacy, and international organization. Students explore the causes and effects of the Napoleonic Wars, the 99 Years' Peace, German and Italian unification, the arms race, and the first and second world wars with special focus on the League of Nations and the United Nations. Students study the Cold War and its thawing following the Cuban Missile Crisis when the Soviets and Americans avoided World War III. Reading materials include Henry Kissinger's *Diplomacy* and Paul Kennedy's *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, PL 201 is an essential foundation for advanced study in international relations. *Prerequisite:* PL 103, IA 101, or permission of instructor.
- PL 203. COMPARATIVE EUROPEAN POLITICS 3
A survey of the governmental and political features of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and other European states. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or [103](#) or permission of instructor.
- PL 204. CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT 3
Political thought of Plato and Aristotle. This course will treat the character of the political thought that Socrates initiated. Consideration will be given to the reasons for the original tension between wisdom and politics and to the manner in which theory can inform practice. Selected Greek comedies and tragedies, as well as Roman and medieval political thought may also be considered. *Prerequisite:* PL102. F. Taylor, N. Taylor

PL 205H. MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

3

Political thought of the Early Modern period to that of the mid nineteenth century. Selected thinkers include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Tocqueville and Marx. Particular emphasis will be placed on the aspirations of classic liberalism and the successive criticism these aspirations inspired. Provides foundation for upper division work in political theory. *Prerequisite:* PL102. F. Taylor, N. Taylor

PL 207. THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS: GLOBAL RISE OF BRICS

4

An examination of a new breed of global giants, THE BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The BRICS are the main source of economic growth in the world, and are projected to dominate international affairs. They also exhibit remarkable political, social, and economic diversity. Students will tackle major questions facing international relations: Is the rise of BRICS fundamentally transforming the world we live in? What would a world no longer dominated by the “West,” and in particular the United States be like? Y.Biberman-Ocakli

PL 209. THE LATIN AMERICAN PUZZLE

4

A comprehensive analysis of Latin American political, social, and economic processes and institutions from a multidisciplinary perspective. The course examines Latin America's political development, ethnic problems, gender roles, and economic strategies as well as the changing role of institutions such as the state, socioeconomic organizations, the church, and the military. It considers how Latin American societies changed after independence while noting those political, social, and economic aspects that remain unchanged. The objective of the course is to provide a critical examination of the evolution and transformation of Latin America while offering the analytical elements necessary to interpret similar processes in other geographical areas and historical periods. A.Vacs

PL 211. COURTS, POLITICS, AND JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THE U. S.

3

A survey of the role of courts in contemporary American politics and society. Students will explore the organization and functions of state and federal courts and their relation to other political institutions and to society generally. Topics will include the decision-making processes of judges, attorneys and litigants in various judicial settings, the role and impact of courts as policy-makers, the selection and recruitment of judicial personnel, access to judicial power, courts and the media, and contemporary trends in litigation. *Prerequisites:* PL 101 or permission of instructor. (Fulfills social sciences requirement)

PL 213. COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS

4

An examination of several different constitutional systems from around the world, using cases such as the United States, Israel, Canada, Poland and South Africa. All constitutional systems are unique, but when studied comparatively, they help illuminate some of the fundamental principles of modern politics: constitutionalism, democracy, justice, citizenship, liberty, and community. As part of the course, students will consider how constitutional structures influence ethnic, religious and personal identities. (Fulfills social sciences requirement)

- PL 219. POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION 3
 An introductory survey of how economics, history, law, and politics together help explain the growth and development of the European Union over time. The course focuses on common institutions and decision-making, internal and external policies, issues of national and European identities, and place of Europe in the wider world. (Fulfills social sciences requirement)
- PL 222. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 4
 The study of state and local government, politics, and policies within the United States federal system. Emphasis on connections between government structure, politics, and the economy, with special attention to questions of public policy. (Fulfills social sciences requirement) B. Turner
- PL 224. CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS 4
 An overview of campaigns and elections in the United States for students with an interest in understanding elections, campaigns, and voting in the United States. Students will study the institutions governing voting, political communication, public opinion, political participation, and political behavior. (Fulfills social sciences requirement)
Prerequisite: [PL101](#), or permission of instructor. C. Mann
- PL 225. POLITICS AND NEWS MEDIA 3
 An introduction to the role and influence of the news media in politics. Students will study political communication theories about news media, identify important news media institutions that shape political communication, and explore how the news media influences political attitudes and behavior. The class will provide an introduction to how scholars study politics and media, and how politicians, public officials, interest groups, and campaign operatives interact with the media. (Fulfills social sciences requirement)
Prerequisite: [PL101](#), or permission of instructor. C. Mann
- PL 226. STATES, REBELS AND WARLORDS 4
 An examination of violent conflict in modern societies. Students will explore the role of the state as well as non-state actors in causing, escalating, and mitigating violence. Students will also address major questions underlying national and international security, such as: When does conflict turn violent? Under what conditions do victims become perpetrators, and perpetrators become victims? What are the causes of terrorism, and what is the state's role in terrorist activity? Is violence the only way to bring about major political change, or can nonviolent methods work? Are private military contractors changing the way we fight? Students will evaluate theoretical approaches to and empirical assessments of the role of violence in global politics. Y Biberman-Ocakli
- PL 227. GENGHIS KHAN TO GORBACHEV: POWER AND POLITICS IN RUSSIAN HISTORY 4
 A comparison of traditional Russian society with Soviet society after 1917. The course will focus first on the political, economic, and social characteristics of the authoritarian tsarist empire. Then we will turn to the revolutionary changes initiated by Lenin, the terror of Stalin, the reforms of Khrushchev, and the stagnation under Brezhnev. The course will focus in particular on changes in political structures and participation, economic organization and equality, and cultural life, including gender roles. Readings will include novels, memoirs, and press translations. (Fulfills social sciences requirement)
 K. Graney

PL 228. UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD 4

This course examines the development and current features of American foreign policy focusing on the international challenges and opportunities faced by the United States after the end of the Cold War. It analyzes some of the major patterns of United States foreign policy, reviews some important interpretations and methodological approaches to the study of United States foreign policy, discusses the ideological components of these policies, examines the foreign policy actors and the decision making process in which they participate, and evaluates the changing objectives and circumstances shaping recent American international initiatives. Special attention will be devoted to the impact of the end of the Cold War and the rise of interdependence and globalization on recent United States economic, strategic, and environmental foreign policies as well as in the formulation of specific approaches to different regions of the world. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor. (Fulfills social sciences requirement) A. Vacs

PL 229. INTERNATIONAL LAW 3

An introduction to and survey of the history, principles, instruments, theory, and practice of international law. Students explore the reach of and limits to international law with regard to the use of force, arms control and disarmament, human rights, and criminal justice in light of transnational crime and terrorism. (Fulfills social sciences requirement) *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or [IA101](#).

PL 231. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY 4

An exploration of how political, economic, and social interests contend for influence and exert power in the realm of environmental policy. We look at the ways in which local, regional, national, and international governmental institutions, nongovernmental organizations and interests groups, and the public interact in defining environmental problems, and formulating and implementing solutions. The course uses case studies on timely environmental issues ranging from cleaning up toxic waste pollution to protecting endangered species to understanding the clashes between science and politics at local, state, federal, and international levels. (Fulfills social sciences requirement) *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#), [ES100](#), or permission of instructor. B. Turner

PL 233. POLITICAL ISLAM 4

Examines the rise and development of Political Islam. The course explores the roots of radical and reformist Islamist movements by analyzing major ideological, economic, social, and political transformations in Muslim-majority states. Students debate the causes and consequences of radical Islam, whether and how Islamist movements may participate in governance, and, more broadly, the role of religion in political life. The cases examined in the course are drawn from around the world, including the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America. (Designated a non-Western culture course; fulfills social sciences requirement) F. Ocakli

PL 236. AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

An examination of the writings of selected thinkers in the American political tradition. The course will place particular emphasis on the thought of the framers and on the response of succeeding political leaders and thinkers to the framers' principles. *Prerequisites:* [PL101](#) or [102](#), or permission of instructor. N. Taylor

PL 239. MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS

4

Survey of politics in the broader Middle East region. This course examines the evolution of the Middle Eastern state system, emergence of different political regimes, causes of uneven economic development, and consequences of social and military conflicts. Special attention is paid to the role of contending nationalisms, ethnic conflict, revolutionary movements, oil economies, Islamist groups, and civic activism in the region. Note(s): (Designated a non-Western culture course.) F. Ocakli

PL 241. ETHNIC CONFLICT AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

4

An exploration of the major approaches to the study and understanding of ethnic conflict and nationalism. Students examine sociobiological and psychological "primordialist" theories, realist and instrumentalist approaches, and normative/ideational explanations. These theoretical approaches will be illustrated through case studies, which may include: "troubles" in Northern Ireland; sovereignty movements in Quebec and Chechnya; ethnic violence in Indonesia, Nigeria, and the former Soviet bloc; indigenous people's movements in Mexico; separatism, racism, and anti-immigrant violence in Europe; or others. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.) K. Graney

PL 242. LIBERTY, COMMERCE AND THE MORAL LIFE

3

An examination of the distinctive understandings of liberty in the midst of the emergence of a new world of commerce in the 18th century. Students will focus on the writings of David Hume and Adam Smith comparing their ideas against the backdrop of other thinkers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries such as Locke, Hobbes, Mandeville, and Rousseau. Students will also judge the debates and disagreements among key figures in modern political philosophy. What are the origins of political liberty? Is vice or virtue the animating force of what Smith called the "system of natural liberty?" *Prerequisite:* PL102 or permission of instructor. F. Taylor

PL 251. TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

3

Topically organized courses focused on selected problems, areas, and issues of special interest in political science at the intermediate level. Topics vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* for A, and B, [PL103](#) or permission of instructor; for C, [PL101](#); for D, PL102.

- A. Comparative Politics
- B. International Relations
- C. American Politics
- D. Political Theory

PL252. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF POLITICS

3

An examination of how citizens' and public officials' attitudes, values, beliefs, experiences, and cognitive capacities shape political behavior and influence the actions of American political institutions. Topics include political socialization, political personality, attitude formation and change, and political decision-making. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Seyb

- PL 299. PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 3
 Internship in government, political, or legal offices for students with appropriate academic preparation. The intern is required to produce a substantial research paper related to the area of the internship, on a topic approved by the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or [103](#) (depending on the area of the internship) and one other government course in the area of the internship: American, comparative, or international.
- PL 301. CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND LAW 4
 An analysis of changes in international politics and law from the Cold War to the present. Topics include regional conflict; multilateral peacekeeping; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; international law; human rights; and the structure, function, and role of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations. Students actively engage in global problem-solving exercises utilizing theoretical concepts, case studies, policy briefs, and policy debates. This course may be taken in conjunction with participation in Model United Nations, Model European Union, or other intercollegiate simulations. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor.
- PL 308. CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT 4
 Political thought of the twentieth century. Primary attention will be given to the influence of Nietzsche as reflected in existentialism, post-modernism, and post-modern feminism. Additional topics might include the influence of Freudianism on political thought, the debate between Rawls and Nozick on social justice, and the claims of communitarianism. *Prerequisite:* PL 102. *Recommended preparation:* PL 204 or 205H
 F. Taylor, N. Taylor
- PL309. LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES 3
 An examination of the relations between Latin America and the United States, including their political, strategic, and economic aspects. The course reviews some of the major theoretical interpretations of these relations and analyzes some crucial historical events and developments before focusing on crucial contemporary topics including collective security, revolutionary change, imperialism and nationalism, economic issues, human rights and democracy, drug traffic, and migration. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor. A.Vacs
- PL 311. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 4
 A survey of the American constitutional system emphasizing sources and uses of governmental power, the political role of the Supreme Court, the Court's jurisdiction, and the allocation of powers between the federal government and the states. (Fulfills social sciences requirement) *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. K. Zuber
- PL 312. CONTEMPORARY CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS 3
 An examination of selected constitutional issues, including the proper role of the Supreme Court in our political system. The course covers theories of judicial review, as well as many of the complexities of modern civil rights and civil liberties. *Prerequisites:* permission of instructor.
- PL 314. CIVIL LIBERTIES 4
 An analysis of recent Supreme Court decisions interpreting our civil liberties, civil rights, guarantee of due process of law, and equal protection of the laws. *Prerequisites:* PL 101 or permission of instructor. K.Zuber

PL 315. IMMIGRATION POLITICS AND POLICY

4

An examination of immigration and the issues arising from it-the reshaping of cities, suburbs and rural areas, and the altering of racial dynamics, labor markets, politics and culture in the U.S. Students will address varied topics such as the historical evolution of American immigration policy, theories of immigration, the economic costs and benefits of immigration, the assimilation of recent immigrants, and the future direction of U.S. immigration policy. (Fulfills social sciences requirement) *Prerequisite:* PL 101. B. Turner

PL 319.WHAT THE UNITED STATES DOES WRONG IN THE WORLD: VIEWS FROM INDIA AND ANSWERS FROM WASHINGTON 4

Outside the United States, and outside Western Europe, the role of the United States in the world is often called "dominant," "hegemonic," "discriminatory," and even "trigger-happy." One source for this critique is India, a democracy now seeking great power status in the world. Many informed Indian strategic thinkers believe that the United States will block the rise of new great powers by such means as preventing the international movement of high technology. Is there substance to these changes? Can the United States government make a persuasive reply? These are the central issues of the course. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor. (Designated a Cultural Diversity course.)

PL-HI 322.. THE HISTORY AND POLITICAL THOUGHT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 3

The creation of a new nation, 1763-1789. This course will give special attention to the political ideas which gave direction to the American Revolution and the Constitution. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. N. Taylor and T. Nechtman

PL 323. DISSIDENT POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

This course will examine the writings of several dissidents of the twentieth century (including Milosz, Solzhenitsyn, and Havel) and their unique contributions to the enduring themes of political theory. *Prerequisite:* PL102. F. Taylor

PL 326: COASTS OF BOHEMIA: THE POLITICS AND HISTORY OF THE CZECH LANDS AND PEOPLE 4

Examines the political fortunes of the Czech people from the Austro-Hungarian Empire through the founding of the First Republic after World War I, the periods of Nazi and Communist rule, and the return to democracy in 1989. Students study key figures such as Jan Hus (15th century religious reformer), Tomas Masaryk (founder of the First Republic), and playwright turned communist dissident, who became president of a reborn Czech state – Vaclav Havel. Students read the narrative history of the period and explore relevant political analyses; they also watch films by famed Czech directors such as Milos Forman and Jiri Menzel. *Prerequisite:* one of the following courses: PL 103, IA 101, HI 104, HI 105 or HI 106.

PL 327. POLITICS IN RUSSIA AND THE SOVIET SUCCESSOR STATES 4

An analysis of politics in Russia and in the post-communist republics of the former Soviet Union. After analyzing the disintegration of the U.S.S.R. under Gorbachev, the course will focus on the attempts since 1991 to create democratic political systems. Special attention will be paid to elections, constitutions, political party formation, parliaments, leadership strategies, and nationalism. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor.. K. Graney

- PL 331. STATE AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY 4
 An introduction to the concepts, ideas, and strategies employed in the pursuit of state and local economic development. We will survey and critically review the range of strategies commonly used to improve the economic prospects of neighborhoods, cities, and regions, including luring corporations with tax breaks, emulating Silicon Valley, promoting high technology, building sports stadiums and prisons, and community development. This course will rely heavily on interviews of policymakers and analysis of state policies and problems to help students appreciate the importance and complexity of economic development policy. A background in economics is not required. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. B. Turner
- PL 332. THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM 4
 An examination of the influence of our political parties at critical moments of the formation of the American democracy. The course explores how political parties emerged almost immediately after the ratification of the Constitution and engaged in public debate on the meaning of republican government as well as the meaning of citizen participation and representation. Students will learn to appreciate the distinction between American political development and the historical study of politics. They will also become familiar with party realignment and be able to recognize the unique character of the elections of 1800, 1828, 1860, 1896, and 1932. Students also learn to appreciate the challenge of finding the appropriate role for political parties in our democracy. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. N. Taylor
- PL 333. AMERICAN POLITICAL RESEARCH 4
 A senior seminar in which each student will conduct individualized research into a topic or question in contemporary American politics. Each student will prepare a research design, class progress reports, and a final paper. Special attention will be given to primary sources, such as government documents, and to computer-based research techniques and resources, such as Internet and data bases. *Prerequisite:* Senior government major status, or permission of the instructor. B. Turner
- PL 334. THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY 4
 An analysis of the Presidential role in United States politics. The course will examine the expansion of the constitutional and political powers of the President in the light of contemporary politics. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Seyb
- PL 335. ELECTION RESEARCH 4
 Research into the operation of polling places and the administration of elections by local election officials. The course will define the quality of polling places by several categories of characteristics developed in the scholarly literature. Students will develop a research design to investigate the operation of polling places on election day, execute the research design, and then analyze the data collected. (Fulfills social sciences requirement and QR2 requirement). *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. C. Mann
- PL 336. VOTING IN THE US: ACCESS, FAIRNESS & REFORM 4
 An exploration of how elections are run in the United States. Students will examine the state and federal laws and regulations governing the conduct of elections, the way local election officials administer elections, and proposals for reforming voter registration and how voters cast ballots in local, state, and national elections. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. C. Mann

PL 338. INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS

4

An exploration of the techniques and practice of diplomatic negotiations as a peaceful way of resolving international disputes. The course addresses a variety of international negotiating problems (political, strategic, environmental, and economic) that involve different kinds of actors (great, intermediate, and small powers; intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations; and private groups) from various parts of the world in diverse settings (global, regional, and local). Theoretical materials and case studies are used to gain insight into the issues and questions involved in diplomatic negotiations.

Prerequisite: [PL103](#) or [201](#) or permission of instructor. A. Vacs

PL 339. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & THE ENVIRONMENT 4

Explores changes in international politics that lend more weight to economic and environmental issues and analyzes the responses to those changes of developed and developing countries and regional, international, and nongovernmental organizations. Students examine different theoretical perspectives on international political economy issues, engage in problem-solving exercises, and conduct a major research paper or prepare for participation in Model United Nations, Model European Union, or other simulation exercises. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of instructor. A. Vacs

PL 340. THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REGIME: PROMISE AND PERIL 4

An examination of the philosophical, religious and legal bases of the modern international human rights regime. Students will explore such questions as: How did the concept of human rights evolve? How do states, international and non-governmental organizations, and individuals try to provide for and protect human rights around the world? When do they succeed and why do they fail? What is one's individual responsibility regarding the international human rights regime? Students will work with the primary texts that form the international human rights regime and will engage in research projects that examine the practice of human rights provision and violation around the world. *Prerequisites:* PL 103 or IA 101. K. Graney

PL 341. FRENCH LIBERAL TRADITION 3

An examination of the unique strain in French political philosophy which confronts the origins and impact of liberal democratic theory. Students will engage thoughtfully and critically with an underappreciated tradition in French political philosophy and will gain an awareness of both the positive and negative potentialities of modern democratic life. Students will encounter the well-known triad of Montesquieu, Constant, and Tocqueville as well as contemporary French thinkers such as Bertrand de Jouvenel and Pierre Manent. *Prerequisites:* PL102 or permission of instructor. F. Taylor

PL 346: POLITICS OF MODERN WARFARE 4

An examination of organized violence from around the world. From World War II to the War on Terror, most people alive today have experienced armed conflict in one way or another. Students will examine why and how we fight as well as investigate the timeless and the distinctive features of modern warfare. Students will consider how, over the past century, we have transformed warfare, and how warfare has transformed us.

Prerequisites: PL [103](#) Y. Biberian-Ocakli

- PL 347. MAKING STATES, BUILDING DEMOCRACIES 4
 Critical analysis of the relations between state-making, national integration, and democracy. The course focuses on the emergence and diffusion of the modern states system, technologies of governance, modes of resistance to state authority, policies geared toward building national majorities, and the causes and consequences of democratization. Students will analyze and discuss classic works in comparative politics as well as cutting-edge research in the field. (Designated a Cultural Diversity course; Fulfills Social Science Requirement) *Prerequisites:* PL 103. F. Ocakli
- PL 348: POLITICS OF MODERN SOUTH ASIA 4
 An examination of the politics and society of South Asian states, with a special focus on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Students will develop substantial regional knowledge and learn to apply social scientific reasoning to tackle the major puzzles and policy issues facing South Asia. Students will gain knowledge of the region and investigate the big and enduring questions of political inquiry: What is the relationship between development and democracy? What is the role of history in shaping political outcomes? Is nonviolent resistance more effective than violence? In addressing these questions, students will engage closely with classic and contemporary social scientific texts on South Asia. *Prerequisites:* PL [103](#) Y. Biberman-Ocakli
- PL 349. STATES, MARKETS AND POLITICS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES 4
 An examination of economic and social development in the Global South. Students will analyze the market-building policies of states through a comparative perspective with a special focus on developing countries. Students evaluate concepts, theoretical perspectives, and key issues that constitute the field of political economy of development. The first part of the course explores the shifting role of the states and markets in development policy since before the Great Depression. The second part brings together multiple viewpoints to examine the key actors in the Global South, the current phase of globalization, the growing competitiveness of some developing countries such as Brazil, India, China, Russia and Turkey and the causes of stagnation in part of Sub-Saharan Africa. (Designated a Cultural Diversity course; Fulfills Social Science Requirement) *Prerequisites:* PL 103. F. Ocakli
- PL 351A. TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT 3
 PL 351B. TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT 4
 A seminar devoted to a particular issue or a particular thinker. Topics will vary from year to year. Recent topics have included "Rousseau's Political Philosophy," "The 'Public' and 'Private' in Modern Political Thought," "Machiavelli's Political Thought," and "Shakespeare's Rome." *Prerequisite:* PL102. *Recommended preparation:* PL204 or 205H. The course may be repeated with the approval of the department.
- PL 354. FEMINIST POLITICAL THOUGHT 3
 A critical exploration of contemporary feminist political thought. The course will focus on the different conceptions of subjectivity found within feminist thought and the implications of those conceptions for political society. Readings will come from a wide range of approaches including postmodernism, psychoanalytic theory, and standpoint theory. *Prerequisite:* PL102. N. Taylor

PL 357. SEXING GLOBAL POLITICS: GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

4

An exploration of how the theory and practice of international relations is gendered. Students examine how the fundamental international relations concepts of security and defense are defined in gendered ways, and how the practice of diplomacy, war-making, and international economic development are gendered. Special focus on the environmental impacts of international relations' gendered past and present, and how women's and environmental organizations work together to challenge traditional patterns of global governance. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of the instructor. K. Graney

PL 362. POLITICS OF THE CONGRESS

4

An exploration of both how such phenomena as partisan polarization, disjointed pluralism, and institutional and procedural thickening have caused Congress so often to fail to meet the public's expectations for effective policymaking and responsible governance and how members have adapted both the institution and their behavior to allow Congress, on occasion, to make good public policy and act responsibly. Congress, in short, may be "a failed institution" but it does not always fail, as its enactment of significant pieces of legislation such as The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (aka, Dodd-Frank), The Affordable Care Act, and The Every Student Succeeds Act indicate. What allows an institution that is apparently engineered to win its members reelection, calcify partisan divisions, and entrap policy ideas in a lattice of thick institutional and procedural vines to address more often than one might expect the critical problems facing this country in a sensible, if not always successful, way? *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Seyb

PL 364. SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

1-4

An upper-level course devoted to the intensive study of a particular topic in political science, especially with a visiting scholar.

PL 365. TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

4

Selected issues, regions, and research in comparative politics. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics: post-authoritarian transitions in Eastern Europe; party politics in Israel. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of the instructor.

PL 366. TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

4

Selected issues, regions, and research in international relations. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics: Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), conflict and compromise; United States and Japan, allies in collision. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* [PL103](#) or permission of the instructor.

PL 367. TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS

4

Selected issues, periods, and research in American politics. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon the specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics include: urban government, politics of AIDS, political role of the labor movement, etc. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) or permission of the instructor.

PL 371. INDEPENDENT STUDY

3

An opportunity for qualified majors to do special studies in the field of political science beyond or outside of the regular departmental offerings. The student's study program is supervised by a member of the department. Written work and regular periodic discussion meetings are required.

PL 374. SENIOR THESIS PREP

3

Independent research under the direction of a member of the department, undertaken in the fall of the senior year by students writing a senior thesis. Students should consult departmental guidelines regarding the senior thesis, which specify the expectations for this course.

PL 375. SENIOR THESIS

4

Optional for political science majors. Particularly recommended for majors wishing to develop a problem or theme in depth and for those working toward professional careers or in preparing for graduate work. The student's work is supervised by a member of the department. Individual and, if appropriate, group conferences will be held during the term. Written work and regular periodic discussion meetings are required. Proposals for the senior thesis must be prepared in consultation with a political science faculty thesis-sponsor, approved by the sponsor and the student's advisor, and submitted to the chair for approval during the semester preceding the one in which the student wishes to work on the thesis. Application deadlines precede registration periods; see the department calendar for specific dates.

PL 383. NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

15

A semester-long intensive field experience. Students spend a minimum of 30 hours a week working in Albany for an Assembly Member and their research staff, conducting research, responding to constituent mail, bill tracking, bill memo preparation and attending committee and public hearings, among other tasks. The program also has an academic seminar component, Policy in the NY State Legislative Process, and includes other weekly meetings (Issue Forums), as well as mandatory participation in a Mock Legislative Session at the end of the semester. S/U only. *Prerequisites:* PL 101 and junior or senior standing. PL 222 recommended. B. Turner

PL 384. NEW YORK STATE SENATE PROGRAM

15

A semester-long intensive field experience. Students spend a minimum of 30 hours a week working in Albany for a Senate member and their research staff, conducting research, responding to constituent mail, bill tracking, bill memo preparation and attending committee and public hearings, among other tasks. The program also has an academic seminar component, and includes other weekly meetings (Issue Forums), as well as mandatory participation in a Mock Legislative Session at the end of the semester. S/U only. *Prerequisites:* PL 101 and junior or senior standing. PL 222 recommended. B. Turner

PL 399. INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

3, 6, or 9

Internship experience at an advanced level in government, political, or legal offices for students with substantial academic preparation. The intern must produce a major research paper related to the area of the internship, on a topic approved by the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor. *Prerequisite:* [PL101](#) (if internship is in the area of national politics or a legal office), or PL103 (if internship is in the area of comparative or international politics), and at least two advanced courses in the appropriate field for the internship.

Department of Political Science Senior Thesis Questionnaire

Students who wish to write a senior thesis must complete this form and submit it to their prospective thesis director by **June 15** prior to their senior year.¹ Students can place their responses to the questions and prompts either in the spaces provided or on an attached sheet. Students must signify that they agree to comply with the “Department of Political Science Senior Thesis Guidelines” by signing and dating this form in the spaces provided below.

1) What research question would you like to explore? Why would a political scientist be interested in this question?

NB: Your question should not have an obvious or an intuitive answer. If you, for example, already know “what you will find,” then you do not have a valid research question.

2) What prompted you to address this question? Was it a particular reading or a set of readings? A topic covered in a particular course?

3) Which Political Science courses have prepared you to address this question?

4) Attach a bibliography consisting of 4-7 books and/or articles that you have read as you have developed your research question.

Statement of Consent

I agree to comply with the “Department of Political Science Senior Thesis Guidelines.” I understand that I am required to participate in The Senior Thesis Workshop on the third Friday in November. I also understand that if I fail to submit my completed senior honors thesis by **April 11**, the Political Science Department will not recommend me to receive Honors in Political Science at graduation.²

Print Name _____ Signature _____
Date _____

¹Students planning to graduate in January or August must plan to take PL 374 in the penultimate semester (or summer session), before graduation and to take PL 375 in the final semester (or session) before graduation. This questionnaire must be filled out before enrolling in PL 374. January graduates must complete ALL senior thesis requirements (including the thesis defense) by January 31. August graduates must complete all senior thesis requirements by August 31.

²Students planning to graduate in January or August must also sign here, which commits them to completing ALL aspects of the senior honors thesis, including the thesis defense, by January 31 (for January graduates) or August 31 (for August graduates).

The Faculty

Yelena Biberman-Ocakli, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., Brown University; M.A., Harvard University; B.A., Wellesley College

Subdiscipline: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Courses Taught: PL 103: Intro to Comp/Intl Politics, PL 226: States, Rebels, and Warlords, PL 207: They Might Be Giants: The Global Rise of BRICS, PL 348: Politics of Modern South Asia, PL 346: Politics of Modern Warfare

Beau Breslin, Dean of the Faculty/ Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., University of Pennsylvania; B.A., Hobart College

Honors: Skidmore College Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2008

Subdiscipline: American Government (Constitutional Law)

Courses Taught: PL 101: Introduction to American Government, PL 211: Courts, Politics, and Judicial Process in the United States, PL 213: Comparative Constitutional Systems, PL 311: Constitutional Law, PL 312: Contemporary Constitutional Problems, PL 314: Civil Liberties

Katherine Graney, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Gender Studies Program. Joseph C. Palamountain Chair in Government

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., University of Wisconsin, Madison; B.A., College of the Holy Cross

Subdiscipline: Comparative Politics/International Relations (Former Soviet Union)

Courses Taught: PL 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, PL 227: Russia: A Century of Change, PL 241: Ethnic Conflict and the Global System, PL 326: Coasts of Bohemia: The Politics and History of the Czech Lands, PL 327: Politics in Russia and the Soviet Successor States, PL 328: Nationalism, Communism, and Democracy: Politics in East Europe, PL 340: The International Human Rights Regime: Promise and Peril, PL 357: Sexing Global Politics: Gender and International Relations, GW 101, 375 and 376

Chris Mann, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Degrees: Ph.D., Yale University; B.A., Pomona College

Subdiscipline: American Politics: Campaigns & Elections, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Election Science

Courses Taught: PL 101: Intro to American Government; PL 251C: Voting Reforms and Democracy; Campaigns & Elections; Media and Politics, PL 367: Presidential Nominations; Voting Reform; Experimental Research; Election Research

Feryaz Ocakli, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Associate Chair

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., Brown University; B.S., Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Subdiscipline: Comparative Politics/International Relations (Middle East with a special focus on Turkey)

Courses Taught: PL 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, PL 239: Middle Eastern Politics, PL 349: States, Markets and Politics in Developing Markets, PL 233: Political Islam, PL 347: Making States, Building Democracies

Ronald P. Seyb, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Student Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Political Science

Degrees: Ph.D., M. Phil & M.A., Yale University; B.A., University of California, Irvine

Honors: Skidmore College Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2005

Subdiscipline: American Politics (Presidency & Congress)

Courses Taught: PL 101: Introduction to American Government, PL 251C: Campaigns and Elections in the United States, PL252:The Psychology of Politics, PL 334: The United States Presidency, PL 362: Politics of the Congress

Mara Suttman-Lea, Visiting Assistant Professor

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., Northwestern University; B.A., DePaul University

Subdiscipline: American Politics

Courses Taught: PL 101: Introduction to American Politics, The American Presidency, Congress and the Legislative Process, Campaigns and Elections, The Urban /Rural Divide in American Politics

Flagg Taylor, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director, Periclean Honors Forum

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., Fordham University; B.A., Kenyon College

Subdiscipline: Political Theory

Courses Taught: PL102: Introduction to Political Philosophy PL 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, PL242: Liberty, Commerce and the Moral Life, PL 251D: Abraham Lincoln as Statesman, PL 251D: The Scottish Enlightenment, PL 311: Constitutional Law, PL 323: Dissident Political Thought, PL 341: French Liberal Tradition, PL 351: Rousseau's Political Philosophy

Natalie Fuehrer Taylor, Associate Professor and Chair, Political Science Department

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., Fordham University; B.A., Kenyon College

Subdiscipline: Political Theory

Courses Taught: PL101: Introduction to American Government, PL223: Current Issues in Public Policy, PL236: American Political Thought, PL313: Politics of Contemporary Social Movements PL332: American Political Development, PL354: Feminist Political Thought

Megan Turnbull, Visiting Assistant Professor

Degrees: Ph.D. Brown University; M.A. Leiden University; B.A. University at Albany, SUNY

Subdiscipline: Comparative Politics

Courses Taught: PL 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, PL States, Markets and Politics in Developing Countries, PL Africa's Rise in a Changing World

Bob Turner, Associate Professor of Political Science, and Director of the Environmental Studies Program

Degrees: Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison; B.A., Middlebury College

Subdiscipline: American Politics (State and Local Government, Public Administration)

Courses Taught: PL 101: Introduction to American Government, PL 222: State and Local Government, PL 231: Environmental Politics and Policy, PL 305: Interest Groups and Public Policy, PL 315: Immigration Politics and Policy, PL 316: Public Administration, PL 331: State and Local Economic Development Policy, PL333: American Political Research

Aldo C. Vacs, Professor and Chair, Political Science Department

Degrees: Ph.D. & M.A., University of Pittsburgh; B.A., Universidade de Sao Paulo

Subdiscipline: Comparative Politics/International Relations (Latin America & International Political Economy)

Courses Taught: PL 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics,

PL 209: The Latin American Puzzle, PL 228: United States Foreign Policy in a Changing World, PL 309: Latin America and the United States, PL 338: International Diplomatic Negotiations, PL 339: International Political Economy and the Environment, PL 366: Understanding Globalization

Katie Zuber, Visiting Assistant Professor

Degrees: Ph.D., M.A., & B.A., University at Albany

Subdiscipline: American Politics (Judicial Politics)

Courses Taught: PL 101: Introduction to American Government, PL 211: U.S. Judicial Process, PL 251C: Law and Gender in the United States, PL 311: Constitutional Law, PL 314: Civil Liberties

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