

## **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS**

All Politics Department courses are open to all students who meet the prerequisites. For information on requirements for any Politics major or minor, please see the Patricia Rodriguez, Chair of the Politics Department, 312 Muller Faculty Center.

### **LGST 10100-01 Foundations in Law and Justice**

3 credits

**INSTRUCTOR: Amy Rothschild**

**ENROLLEMENT: 25**

**PREREQUISITES: None**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:** This course provides a critical, interdisciplinary, and comparative overview of the concepts of law and legality, broadly defined. The course seeks to illustrate how law and legal regimes are inextricably bound up with political, historical, cultural, economic, and sociological forces. The course examines the dynamic relationship between law, justice, and power, looking at ways that law can be used as a tool of power, domination or social control, as well as ways that law can be employed a site of resistance from which to produce social change. The course interrogates law and its relationship to justice and power in both the national and international or global contexts. Among the many questions the course explores include the following: What is law? What does law do? What is the relationship between law and social norms? What is justice and what is the relationship between law and justice or morality? How does law operate in different cultural contexts? Are there any societies without law? Why do people obey law? Are human rights universal? The course is aimed at all students interested in questions of power, justice, governance, and society.

### **LGST 32300-01 Interdisciplinary Legal Research**

**INSTRUCTOR: Amy Rothschild**

**ENROLLEMENT: 15**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course introduces students to quantitative and qualitative empirical methods for examining questions of law and legality, broadly defined

### **LGST 37500-01 Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Aid**

**INSTRUCTOR: Amy Rothschild**

**ENROLLEMENT: 15**

**PREREQUISITES: None**

**Course Description:** This course will provide a broad introduction to humanitarianism, international humanitarian law (the laws of armed conflict), and humanitarian aid. When and where did these concepts or movements emerge and how have they changed over time? What is the relationship between humanitarian law and human rights? How is humanitarian relief different from other kinds of help or aid, such as development aid? What have been some unintended consequences of humanitarian assistance as it has been applied on the ground during times of conflict? What are some of the main dilemmas – including ethical dilemmas – inherent in humanitarianism and humanitarian law? This course will explore these questions and more

through a range of interdisciplinary theoretical texts and case studies from across the globe. Specific topics or concepts to be examined in this course include: sovereignty, humanitarian intervention, NGOs, neutrality and objectivity, representation, and neocolonialism.

### **POLT 10100-02, 03 U.S. POLITICS**

GE:1 Self & Society, GE h: Historical Perspective, (ICC) - Humanities, Liberal Arts, (ICC) - Social Sciences, Social Sciences, Themes: Power and Justice, World of Systems, Identities, and Inquiry, Imagination and Innovation.

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Carlos Figueroa**, Muller 319, [cfigueroa@ithaca.edu](mailto:cfigueroa@ithaca.edu)

ENROLLMENT: 25 & 25

PREREQUISITES: None

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This introductory discussion-based course explores: a) the development of the U.S. political system, b) the values it is rooted in, c) how it works, d) how politics and policy intersect within it, and e) the system's impact upon individuals and groups alike. We focus on the historical and present power struggles and moral/ethical concerns over national identity, civic culture, political affiliation, the role of media, the competing national institutions and the process of policy development within the context of a representative and Neo-liberal U.S. democratic capitalist system.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion-based; group work; ZOOM sessions; guest speakers; films/documentaries

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: 3 papers; in-class exercises/debates

### **POLT 12200-01 Politics and Society LA SS TPJ TQSF**

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Patricia Rodríguez**

ENROLLMENT: 30

PREREQUISITES: none

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This comparative/global politics introductory course explores the impact of social forces and societal dynamics on the politics of diverse countries, as well as the influence of politics and the state on society. We will examine how and to what extent political institutions, individual and collective political action, and historical circumstances are capable of shaping political and social developments in different countries and regions of the world. The key questions to be examined in the course are these: Are there different versions of democracy, why? Why/when do democracies emerge but also breakdown? Who has power, and why is state power often wielded in repressive manners in different types of political systems? What role do international actors play in reconstructing governments, and with what consequences internally and globally? Are there resistances to this role of international actors, and why; what impact does citizen activism have in global and national political and economic issues, particularly conflict resolution, democratic rule, migration issues and climate change issues?

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, Lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, participation

**POLT 12800-01, INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g;**

**ICC DESIGNATION:** Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice

**3 Credits**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Naeem Inayatullah, Muller 325, Ext. x-3012

**ENROLLMENT:**26

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We examine and discuss the history of international relations theory from the turn of the early 1900s to the present. That history divides into three phases: a focus on what to do with the threat presented by “brown, black, and red” people in the colonies (1990s to the beginning of WWII); the so called “Cold War” (1945-1989); and, the contemporary period (1989-present) in which the threat from the former colonies re-appears as central.

The course shows how orthodox and mainstream theory/practice hides and thereby reveals its dependence on concepts of race and colonialism. It is also a course that takes seriously the role of traditional realist theory as part of the historical and theoretical record. Issues include security, the future of war, terrorism, the global economy, nationalism, ethnic and religious conflict, ideology, and the role of race, gender, and class in how we think of the international.

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** discussion.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** three take-home essays.

**POLT 12800-02, 03 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g;**

**ICC: Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice**

**3 credits**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chip Gagnon, Muller 324, Ext. 4-1103 **ENROLLMENT:** 16

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We examine and discuss issues of security ranging from security of the state to security of individuals. Issues include the future of war, terrorism, the global economy, nationalism, ethnic and religious conflict, and the role of the media in how we think about the international. We also study how different perspectives lead us to see different worlds, looking specifically at realism, liberalism, global humanism, and theories of identity. This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Lectures, discussions, films.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** Attendance and participation in class discussions; readings for each class; three take-home exam essays.

*This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.*

**POLT 14100 01 & 02: Power: Race, Sex, and Class (also counts for Women and Gender Studies)**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What is power? How is it acquired and maintained? Why individuals and groups comply with or resist against power? How is it distributed along the lines of race, gender, and class? How do we reproduce relations of power in our daily lives? This course introduces some of the major theoretical perspectives on power, reading the foundational texts of political theory with the interdisciplinary works of critical-race, feminist, and socialist scholars. Treating intersectionality as a method of analysis, we explore how racism, patriarchy, and capitalism relate to one another. We problematize their impact on the contemporary practices of citizenship, democracy, violence, and security. We also discuss to what extent these “-isms” dominate our own political imagination, and how we contribute to power relations that we problematize.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation

**POLT 14200-01,02 IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES**

(ICC) Humanities, Social Sciences, Power and Justice, World of Systems

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Kelly Dietz**, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 25 (Section 1) 25 (Section 2)

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What makes for a good society? How do you think we might achieve it, and why? Where do your ideas and beliefs about the world come from? How do you know your beliefs are correct, and why might it be useful to entertain doubt? How do your individual beliefs relate to broader systems of thought we call ideologies? This course requires self-reflection on these questions as we explore ideological perspectives on political, social and economic life. Through readings, film, art, music and your own observations, the course focuses on key political ideas and the ideological debates over their meaning and practice. We examine concepts such as liberty, equality, democracy, human nature, security, order, authority, community and nation. We consider how these and other political ideas developed historically, why certain ideas endure, and why they remain important to understanding politics today. In doing so we also pay close attention to how political ideas reflect, reinforce, and challenge relations of power, especially in terms of class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The course encourages critical reflection on where your views about the world come from, and which ideas you take for granted. Encounters with views and theories different from our own help bring to light our unconscious assumptions and also what is distinctive about our political views. Ideological perspectives the course explores include liberalism and conservatism (and their “neo” variants), socialism, anarchism, and fascism.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: mostly discussion, occasional short lecture

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** active participation, weekly writing about course materials, midterm and final essays

**POLT 14400-01, 02 Global Political Thought**

3 credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Evgenia Ilieva, 311 Muller, ext. 4-7092

**ENROLLMENT:** 16

**PREREQUISITES:** none

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores a range of themes and issues that are integral to the study of political thought: identity and difference, freedom, democracy, community, modernity, authority, domination, liberation, political violence, power and knowledge, etc. Our goal is: (1) to analyze how these ideas have been theorized and how they have traveled, been translated, and challenged across various national and geographical boundaries; (2) to use these texts as tools to help us ask a wide range of questions about ourselves and the world we share with others; (3) to unsettle the assumption that we can only interpret and understand texts and experiences reducible to our own culture, nationality, and way of life. More broadly, our aim is to begin to appreciate political thought as a human activity that arises universally rather than as something over which only the “west” has exclusive purview. Therefore, instead of comparing “western” and “non-western” systems of thought as discrete traditions of theorizing, we will examine the transmission and translation of ideas in relation to global systems of race and empire.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Discussion

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** Participation, reading, short papers.

**POLT 19501-01, 02 FOOD AND WATER: CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY**

3 CREDITS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Juan M. Arroyo, Muller 308, Ext. 4-3969

**ENROLLMENT:** 25 per section

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

At some level, we may think we know what it means to eat and drink sustainably. This course will challenge prevailing conceptions by examining different, and often conflicting, definitions of sustainability. Even if we do decide to eat and drink differently, we face challenges in changing individual behavior and social patterns in more sustainable directions: Political systems privilege certain ideas and also specific interests. Economic structures and patterns limit our choices. Anthropological, cultural, and sociological backgrounds shape our options. Biological and psychological predispositions affect our ability to eat and drink sustainably. Students will consider the “simple” acts of eating and drinking from all of these perspectives. Students will be challenged to understand the potential for changing patterns of food consumption and production, examining their own choices, their communities, and the socio-political system in which we are embedded. ICC THEME: Quest for Sustainability; Social Science Perspective

**PREREQUISITES:** Open to all students.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Discussion/lecture; expert presentations

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** Readings, active participation in class discussions, readings reactions, research and reaction papers; A-F

**POLT 32700, Politics of Development LA SS ABSS, ENSS, ESPE, ESSS, INBG, LAGC**

3 credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Patricia Rodríguez

**ENROLLMENT:** 20

**PREREQUISITES:** Sophomore standing.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores the political, social, cultural, and economic challenges of ‘development’ in developing nations. It examines a range of past and current development approaches aimed at reducing poverty and inequality adopted in different developing countries, with emphasis on the ways in which governments, non-governmental organizations, international aid agencies, and social movements and communities envision and implement development programs. We look closely at alternative ‘civil-society centered’ development approaches that use resistance to neoliberalism, and propose participatory projects throughout Latin America, Asia, Africa and other areas, and examine their impacts. The course includes in-depth case studies with a focus on rural and urban development and anti-extractivism.

*This course counts as a Comparative/International course for the purposes of the Politics major and minor, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.*

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** discussion of readings, films, speakers, group and individual project.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** shorter essays, research paper, project

**POLT 33500-01 CROSSING BORDERS/GLOBAL MIGRATION SS LA**

3 CREDITS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chip Gagnon, Muller 324, Ext. 4-1103

**ENROLLMENT:** 27

**PREREQUISITES:** Three courses in the social sciences or equivalent.

**STUDENTS:** Open to all interested students who fulfill the prerequisites.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Why do people move across borders? Why is immigration such a volatile political issue around the world? What are the effects on national and cultural identity and boundaries? Immigration and population movements have in fact become the focus of politics throughout the globe, often linked to xenophobia and other forms of violence. We’ll explore the phenomenon of global migration, including labor migration and refugees; consider how immigration/emigration differs from other kinds of movement; how population mobility highlights the construction and reconstruction of nation-states; the ways in which the resulting cultural diversity plays into local and nation-state politics; and how cultural diasporas influence politics in their home and host countries. We’ll also consider these questions as they affect local communities (including upstate NY) and explore the gendered nature of migration. *This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.*

**COURSE FORMAT AND STYLE:** Discussion, lecture, films, fiction and nonfiction readings.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** Three papers and a take-home exam. Standard grading

**POLT 34300-01 Feminist Political Theory (also counts for Women and Gender Studies)**  
3 credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Sumru Atuk

**PREREQUISITE:** One course in the humanities or social sciences.

Feminist political theory has been met with skepticism for being “too abstract” or “too inaccessible.” This course equips students with the skills necessary to use the knowledge of feminist political theory to interpret contemporary political and social phenomena. Some of our thematic focal points include the “women question,” public and private divide, intersectionality, performativity, solidarity, and current feminist debates (e.g., #MeToo, #BLM). Approaching feminism as a method of understanding the world and an analytical tool that provides insights to transform it, we will (re)explore the core concepts of politics, such as power, rights, liberty, equality, justice, subjecthood/subjection, sovereignty, and representation. In juxtaposing the texts of feminist political theory with contemporary politics, we will pose several critical questions: What is political about gender relations? What is the relationship between feminist theory and political praxis? How can theory be useful in interpreting contemporary events, such as the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements?

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Discussions, occasional lecture

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** papers, blog posts, participation

**POLT 35004 Selected Topics in Political Theory: Continental Political Thought**

3 credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Evgenia Ilieva, 311 Muller, ext. 4-7092

**ENROLLMENT:**

**PREREQUISITE:** One course in the humanities or social sciences.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to some prominent theories of dialogue emerging from the continental tradition of political thought. Dialogue is a recurring theme in contemporary political and philosophical debates. It is central to an understanding of human communication as well as social, political, and cross-cultural interaction. Starting from the assumption that human being are dialogical and self-interpreting animals, in this course we will ask and attempt to answer a series of interrelated questions: Does dialogue always lead to mutual understanding and conflict

resolution? What is the role of empathy in human understanding? Do differences in power, language, and culture inhibit the possibility of genuine communication? What does “genuine communication” look like? If dialogue is possible only under conditions of equality, how should we proceed in a world where such equality is absent? We will draw on the work of the following thinkers: Buber, Bakhtin, J.J. Clarke, Feuerbach, Gadamer, Habermas, Heidegger, Lem, Levinas, Panikkar, Todorov, Kitaro, and Taylor.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Discussion

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** Willingness to engage in close reading of some very interesting books; participation; three take-home essays.

**POLT 35008-01 ST: Indigenous and European Cosmologies**

3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Naeem Inayatullah

**ENROLLMENT:** 25

**PREREQUISITES:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We will aim to learn: (1) how to contrast and compare Indigenous and European cosmologies. By “cosmology” I mean the origin and general structure of the universe, with its parts, elements, and laws, and especially with characteristics such as space, time, causality, and the role of humans in the universe; (2) what happened when these cosmologies encountered each other in history; and, (3) what elements, if any, we can retrieve and potentially synthesize.

Materials may include: Robert A. Williams, *American Indians and Western Legal Thought* (1992), Alan Greer, *Property and Dispossession* (2018), Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America*, and Foster and Holleman, “Marx and the Indigenous.”

*This course counts as a Political Theory course for the purposes of the Politics major and minor, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.*

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Discussion

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:** Three take-home essays.

**POLT 37000.01, ST U.S. Politics: Race, Class and the Geographies of Housing**

3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Carlos Figueroa, Muller 319, [cfigueroa@ithaca.edu](mailto:cfigueroa@ithaca.edu)

**ENROLLMENT:** 15

**PREREQUISITES:** Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar will explore both the human tragedy of homelessness and the politics surrounding the relationship between race, gender, and class and housing policy in the U.S. We will look into these issues from the local, state, and national perspectives but with an eye towards understanding the global and transnational factors impacting the geographies of housing in the United States. We will consider how scholars, activists, researchers, and policy-makers have all



shaped the political debate over homelessness and housing policies, framed the problem in various ways, assessed its reach across several social, political and economic contexts and boundaries, and have attempted to resolve it over time with both successes and failures. The seminar stresses the generational and cyclical nature of the homelessness “crisis” that has plagued the social, political and economic fabric of many locations— urban, rural, and others — in mostly, if not exclusively, the United States. We conclude by considering the future of homelessness as a human rights issue, and any projects or competing public policies surrounding housing in the 21st century U.S. context.<sup>4</sup>

*This course counts as a US Politics course for the purposes of the Politics major and minor, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion-based; ZOOM sessions; guest speakers; films/documentaries

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Weekly Journal Entries; Literature Review essay; Final Interpretive Policy paper

## **POLT 40104-01 POLITICS OF FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Kelly Dietz**, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 12

PREREQUISITES: Junior/Senior status and at least one politics course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political maps of the world today are remarkable for their neatness. Bold lines mark the division of continents into countries, with no overlap. Bold labels identify the spaces created by the lines, giving a name to both the place and the people. Military power is also folded into this way of thinking about the world’s people and spaces: Countries have national militaries, and relations among countries are based on the idea that governments control the use of force (military and police) within their respective borders. From this perspective, one country using its military power in the territory of another is an exception to the rule—an extraordinary rupture to international order among sovereign states. This uniform and mutually exclusive “ordering” of people, territory, state rule and military power is taken for granted by most of us today, but to what extent is this a *natural* state of affairs? What forces—political, economic, social—gave rise to this seemingly straightforward arrangement? How did it come to be taken for granted? What and who might this neatness obscure? How has it been challenged, historically and today? With these questions in mind, the course focuses on the projection of military force into the territory of others as a lens on the formation of the international system and contemporary international relations. Deploying troops for war is perhaps the most obvious example of extending military power beyond borders, especially to those living in countries that tend to wage war elsewhere. However, the course pays special attention to forms of military power related to but distinct from warfare (e.g. humanitarian intervention, military aid, foreign military basing, military occupation aimed at social control). A related concern of the course is how power relations shape ideas about and experiences of military power, including your own. In addition to academic and political debates, we will look at how popular culture and popular resistance reveal competing narratives about foreign military presence, with an eye toward understanding why certain narratives prevail and others are marginalized.

COURSE FORMAT AND STYLE: Discussion

REQUIREMENTS: demonstration of thorough class preparation, active participation, weekly reflections, midterm and final essays.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: based on above requirements

**POLT 40111 Theories of Exploitation LA SS**

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Naeem Inayatullah**, Muller 325, Ext. 4-3028

ENROLLEMENT: 15-20

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Understanding the meaning of “exploitation” in social relations.

Locating and specifying the relationship between race, class, gender, and capitalism. Exploring the relationship between exploitation and Marx’s Labor Theory of Value. Understanding the limits of “intersectionality” and moving beyond them.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion, Collective collaboration in exploring ideas, alternative and radical pedagogy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Three essays.

**POLT 401xx-01 CATHOLICS AND POLITICS LA SS**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan M. Arroyo**, Muller 316, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITES: 3 courses in social sciences

COURSE DESCRIPTION: These are just a few indicators of the Catholic Church’s presence in the political world: The Church is one of the oldest continuous institutions in world history; 30% of US voters are Catholic, as are 5 out of 9 Supreme Court Justices; both 2012 vice-presidential nominees were Catholics; Christian Democratic parties (inspired by papal doctrines on labor and economics) are major players in the political systems of many countries. This course will guide students as they analyze the politics of the Catholic Church and the politics within the institution. The course has three major themes. The first is a review of the history of Church and state, in Europe, the US and in the rest of the world, including key events and controversies. This part examines the changing balance between church and state in different cultures and times. The second theme looks at the Church’s understanding of prominent policies, such as economic justice, abortion, marriage, and the environment. Finally, we will also consider the internal politics of the church, and how different interests might be affected by changes in the societies of the world.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture/discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Readings, active participation in class; one in-class presentation. 1 mid-term paper; 2-3 shorter writing exercises; final paper; A-F.