

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS
POLT and LGST courses
Fall 2022 Course Descriptions

All Politics Department courses are open to all students who meet the prerequisites. For information on requirements for any Politics major or minor, please email Chip Gagnon, Chair of the Politics Department, vgagnon@ithaca.edu.

LGST 10100-01 & 2 Foundations in Law and Justice

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Amy Rothschild

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: NA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a critical, interdisciplinary, and comparative overview of the concepts of law and legality, broadly defined. It seeks to illustrate how law and legal regimes are inextricably bound up with political, historical, economic, and sociocultural forces. It focuses on the dynamic relationship between law, justice, and power: it looks at the ways that law can be used as a tool of power, domination, social control, or coercion, as well as ways that law can be employed a site of resistance from which to produce social change or further justice. Law – and the links between law and justice – are examined in the national (American) and international or global contexts.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: na

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: na

LGST 32300-01 Legal Research (“Investigating Law and Justice on the Ground”)

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Amy Rothschild

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITES: NA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course teaches students the fundamentals of qualitative social science research, with the aim of examining questions of law and legality, broadly defined. After providing a broad overview of qualitative research as conceived of through the lens of social science – and a brief examination of the particular qualitative methods of [participant] observation and interviewing – the course turns to an examination of a series of original, interdisciplinary empirical qualitative research studies on topics related to law and justice. These studies focus on a range of topics, from the lived experiences of undocumented immigrants in the United States to the desires and needs of East Timorese genocide survivors.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: na

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: na

POLT 10100-01 & 02 U.S. POLITICS SS LA 1b h

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Institutions, processes, and cultural/ideological roots of U.S. politics. We begin by studying a framework of ideologies that will help us to understand the political-economic institutions that have evolved to reflect the conditions of U.S. society. Then move to understanding the economic structures of the US that have shaped and been shaped by the political system. These provide the foundation for understanding the major institutions of US politics: Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, judiciary, parties, interest groups, media, and the electoral process. We will often pause to discuss opposing positions on US political institutions. Throughout, we will constantly ask: how democratic is this place? What are your criteria for measuring democracy? Students will be invited to consider how money shapes effective citizenship.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion/lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Readings, active participation in class discussions, 2 short papers (2-3 pages), 2 medium papers (5-7 pages), 1 final paper (7-10 pages)

POLT 12200-01 & 02 Politics and Society LA SS TPJ TQSF

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Patricia Rodríguez**

ENROLLMENT: 29

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

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 25

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; quizzes; readings for each class; three take-home exam essays.

POLT 14400-01, 02 Global Political Thought

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 30

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the global context within which contemporary sociopolitical relations unfold. It brings together a wide array of texts and thinkers who, in different ways, have all engaged in careful and thoughtful analyses of a range of issues that are integral to the study of political thought: race and the enduring legacies of colonialism; exile, displacement, and the fracturing of identity; the relationship between colonizer and colonized; the meaning of freedom and historical struggles for liberation and human dignity; the role of global violence as a catalyst for political and cultural change, as well as its effects on the lives of ordinary individuals. In exploring these themes we will pursue three main objectives: (1) to understand the constitutive role that colonialism, racism, and dispossession have played in shaping core ideas about order, government, justice, power, authority, historiography, civilizational difference, individuality, and freedom in western social and political thought; (2) to analyze how these ideas have been discussed, challenged, and reimagined across various national and geographical boundaries; (3) to learn how to critically compare, contrast, and put into productive dialogue different worldviews and perspectives.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, reading, three take-home essays.

POLT 14600-01 & 02: Gender and Political Theory (also counts for Women and Gender Studies)

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 30 per section

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course critically explores the foundational texts of “Western” political thought, which inform our political vocabulary. Reading canonical thinkers, together with their feminist critics, we will discuss how gender, race, class, slavery, and colonialism inform core political science concepts. In doing so, we juxtapose the knowledge of the past and our daily lives. As such, this course provides students with a “practical” understanding of political theory, which they can use to interpret the contemporary phenomena around them. We

will use the method of immanent critique in assessing historical texts, which requires understanding them on their own terms in the first place. We ask: How do the discourses of gender and sexuality affect our conception of political power? To what extent have political theory and practice been shaped by assumptions about manhood and its relation to politics?
COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lecture
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation

POLT 19501-01 FOOD AND WATER: CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 15 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, reading reactions, research papers; A-F.

Politics 30300-01 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Donald W Beachler

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: 3 courses in social sciences

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class examines certain issues in American Constitutional law pertaining to the First Amendment guarantees of speech, press, assembly, the exercise of religion and the prohibition on the establishment of religion. We will consider issues related to privacy rights, reproductive rights, and sexual and marriage equality. Equal protection claims, especially as they apply to racial discrimination in public education will be explored as will the effort to expand equal protection claims to gender and class inequalities. We will also study the Supreme Court’s very complex path of permitting but narrowing the use of death penalty in the United States.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: lecture/discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: letter grade. 3 Papers.

POLT 32700 The Politics of Development LA, ABSS, AN3, ENSS, ESPE, ESSS, INBG, LAEL, LAGC

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Patricia Rodríguez

ENROLLMENT: 23

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the political, social, cultural, and economic challenges of ‘development’ in rich and poorer nations. It covers a wide range of development approaches aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, 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, including sustainable and participatory development projects in Latin America, Africa, Asia and other areas, and examine their impacts. The course includes in-depth case studies in areas of resource extractivism, of agrarian issues, and of urban poverty-related development issues. The course is designed with the objective of engaging students in a critical look at current development and policy issues (particularly concerning poverty relief, grassroots-centered development and environmental sustainability efforts around the globe). One goal is to enhance students’ research and analytic skills for courses and future work in international and national political, economic, and environmental issues. The course will be strongly discussion based, as we tackle the diverse topics and perspectives that surround these issues.

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: Group Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Participation, small individual or group projects, papers.

POLT 33000-01 EUROPEAN POLITICS LA SS

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We start with the question of European identity: do we only mean the EU or something more general? Who is included or excluded, and how is this decided? This will lead to a discussion of “European” values. We will address tensions affecting the creation of a new geo-political entity called Europe out of many separate European countries. We briefly consider the structures and selected policies of the European Union. The course will then introduce some of the key European ideological/political groups that are less familiar in the U.S. (Social Democracy, Christian Democracy, the Greens, post-Communism and the far right). Similarly, the course will look at the ideas and practices behind welfare state policies, such as education, welfare, immigration, employment policy, and the environment. Students will examine the political systems of selected European countries, with their distinct sets of actors and policy priorities. The emphasis will be on institutional and policy variations in how each country responds to the same needs or issues, such as economics, civil rights, regional identity, and nationalism.

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: Lecture, discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Readings, active participation in class, 2 medium papers, 1 final paper.

POLT 34016-01 Selected Topics in Int'l/Comparative Politics: Sex/Gender Systems in the World

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Naeem Inayatullah

ENROLLMENT: 20

Preequisites: : Sophomore standing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We examine cross-cultural variations in how humans think and practice gender, sexuality, and femininity/masculinity. We explore these themes by contrasting Western with non-Western cultures across the globe. This international approach also stresses the dynamic changes in sexual and gender practices that result from encounters between European and non-European cultures. I provide descriptions and juxtapositions rather than judgments and prescriptions.

This is a new course. I have been collecting materials for it during the last two years. It is designed so that professor and students can puzzle out these issues together. My posture is, therefore, orientational rather than based in jargon, expertise, or a political position. There is a biological element in the course. However, much of our energy will be devoted to how cultures transform biological imperatives into specific cultural practices.

My teaching method is geared to induce productive discussions that lead to forming learning communities inside and outside the course setting. The reading list will likely include the following:

- Serena Nanda, *Gender Diversity: Cross Cultural Variations*, 2014.
- Evelyn Blackwood and Saskia E. Wieringa (eds) *Female Desires: Same-Sex Relations and Transgender Practices Across Cultures*, 1999.
- Mark Gevisser, *The Pink Line: Journeys Across the World's Queer frontiers*, 2021.
- Ashis Nandy, *The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self Under Colonialism*, 2009.

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 34200-01 Liberalism and Marxism

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is divided into two parts. In the first part we survey the historical development of liberal thought from John Locke to John Dewey. We focus on (1) the global context within which the core liberal values of individualism, freedom, and equality of opportunity emerged; (2)

we explore how liberalism entwines with capitalism and modernity. In the second part of the course, we turn our attention to the work of Karl Marx. Our aim is to understand Marx's critique of liberalism and capitalism with an emphasis on its underlying philosophical assumptions. Over the course of the semester, we will seek to understand how different strands of Marx's work weave together: how his philosophical anthropology relates to his theory of history, how his theory of value is connected to his theory of exploitation, and how his conception of alienation is related to his theory of human freedom. While the main emphasis will be on seeing what Marx's theory was and how he arrived at it, the course will also explore how contemporary scholars have borrowed and adapted key Marxian concepts to better comprehend the workings and contradictions of capitalism in our 21st century world.

We will select from the work of Locke, Dewey, Rousseau, Smith, Hegel, Marx, and Jaeggi.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, plenty of reading, three papers.

POLT 37000-01 Selected Topics: Politics of Wealth & Poverty

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Donald Beachler**

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class examines issues related to the distribution of wealth and income. We focus on the United States, but we will also delve into these issues from a comparative and global perspective. We will begin with a brief survey of the relationship between business and the state in a democratic market political economy. We will discuss inequality of wealth and income and consider various perspectives on its causes and possible measures to ameliorate growing inequality. The financial crisis and the housing bubble that plunged the U.S. into a prolonged recession are investigated at some length. The first section of the course will be followed by a consideration of the role of labor unions and the current state of workers in the American political economy. The consequences of the decline and possible resurgence of labor unions will be explored. The politics of health care and issues of cost and access are examined from a comparative perspective. We will also consider policies and politics of retirement security. A portion of the course will consist of an intensive study of the problem of poverty in the United States.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture/discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: one exam and two papers

POLT 40102-01 SEMINAR: Nationalism, Populism, and Conflict CP/IR SS LA

3 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITE: Junior or Senior standing; and 3 courses in social sciences or equivalent, one of which must be Politics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar will be focused on the rise of nationalism and populism, and their relationship to conflict, both violent and nonviolent. We'll look at the political, military, and cultural origins of the nation-state and the role of culturally defined

violence in constituting state, national, and group boundaries. We'll also look at the relationship between populism and nationalism. Cases will include Yugoslavia/Bosnia, Rwanda, Australia, Europe, the United States and others. *This course counts toward the 400-level course requirement for the Politics major, the Politics major with the International Studies concentration, the Politics minor, and the International Politics minor.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Attendance and active participation in Seminar; reaction papers for each reading; presentation on research topic; final research paper.

POLT 40111 Seminar: Theories of Exploitation CP/IR 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.

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.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Three essays.

POLT 40206-01 Sem: Gender-Based Violence and the State (also counts for Women and Gender Studies)

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 12

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is political about gender-based violence? How is it related to public policy? What roles do states play in curbing or encouraging violence against women and LGBTQ+ individuals? What are the links between institutional practices and violence perpetrated by individuals? Gender-based violence has long been considered an interpersonal or “private” form of violence. This course aims to explore its “political” nature in both the feminist (i.e., broader gendered power relations) and conventional (i.e., state power and institutions) meanings of the term. In examining the complex relationship between the state and gender-based violence, we will take a public policy approach. We will specifically focus on family, welfare, gun control, and violence-related policies, legislations, and their implementation to understand states’ responsibility and accountability in addressing or allowing (hetero)sexist violence.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Seminar, Discussions

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation, blog posts