

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS
FALL 2025 SUPPLEMENT**

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.

POLT 10100-01 & 02 U.S. POLITICS AND POLICY SS, LA; ICC: Humanities; Social Science; Themes: Power and Justice; World of Systems
4 CREDITS

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

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

OBJECTIVES: Covers institutions, processes, and cultural/ideological roots of U.S. politics, and look at the outcomes in the form of policies. 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.

STUDENTS: Open to all students.

FORMAT AND STYLE: Discussion/lecture

REQUIREMENTS: 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 10100-03/05, U.S. POLITICS & POLICY SS, LA; ICC: Humanities; Social Science; Themes: Power and Justice; World of Systems
4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Carlos Figueroa, cfigueroa@ithaca.edu

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the development of the United States governmental system, the values upon which the system is founded, the work of institutions within the system, and the intersection of politics, economics, and public policy more broadly. It examines the system's impact on individuals and groups, highlighting historical and current power struggles shaping civic culture, national identity, class status, moral and ethical decision-making, political affiliation, the role of media, and policy development within a representative and neo-liberal democratic capitalist system.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures/Discussions/Debates/Guest Speakers

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, participation/debate, Short writing assignments, and a final Policy analysis paper

POLT 10100-04 U.S. POLITICS & POLICY SS, LA; ICC: Humanities; Social Science;
Themes: Power and Justice; World of Systems

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Gorup

ENROLLMENT: 26

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This introductory course offers an overview of the basic principles, historical development, and present functioning of the American political system. We will examine how the structure of government organizes political conflict, how citizens form political opinions, how people participate in politics (e.g., via voting, political parties, protest, and interest groups), the distribution of power between local, state, and national governments, and more. Our aim is to work together to better understand the major challenges facing U.S. politics and how institutions and citizens might be able to meet them.

POLT 12800-01 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g; ICC:
Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice 2

4 Credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 26

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; 3 in-class exams

POLT 12900-01 INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL AND POLICY STUDIES SS LA; ICC:
Social Sciences; Themes: Identities; Power and Justice

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Peyi Soyinka-Airewele

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course examines global issues, including culture and identity formation, globalization, human rights, the environment, and militarism. National and international public policies are examined critically, and policy alternatives are explored, as are individual responses and responsibilities. We will utilize country case studies, international simulations, literature, and film to interrogate our world. This will include the ongoing Ukraine-Russian conflict, the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the mass migration situation in Europe,

the 2023 earthquakes in Syria and Turkey and the realities of climate change. Recently, the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, stated that "the era of global warming has ended, and the era of global boiling has arrived". Together, we will deepen our awareness of complex global realities and foster dialogue that contributes to our personal growth through the systematic questioning of old assumptions, the humanization of distant issues, and the search for policies that effectively address global problems. *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, and Collaborative work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Regular attendance, active participation| Presentations, Tests, Essays, and Projects.

POLT 14200-01 Ideas and Ideologies

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Evgenia Ilieva**

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Why do people often accept, and even embrace, social and political conditions that seem to run counter to their own interests? How is it possible that we sometimes support forms of domination with our ways of behaving and thinking without intending or even realizing it? Where do our ideas and perspectives on the world come from? How do we know that our ideas are right? Why might it be useful to entertain doubt about our ideas? What is the relationship between our individual beliefs and broader systems of thought we call political ideologies?

In this course, we will seek answers to these questions by exploring the historical development and contemporary manifestations of several influential ideological perspectives including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, and fascism. In addition to exploring the key concepts and normative assumptions of these various "isms," the primary goal of the course is to encourage us to begin thinking more deeply about our own worldviews. We will ask why and how we have come to hold these beliefs, and we will seek to understand the way that our beliefs inform our practical conduct in the world.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: participation; 3 take-home papers; bi-weekly discussion posts.

POLT 14200-02: Ideas and Ideologies

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides students with a rigorous understanding of some of the major ideologies that shape political life, influence political behavior, and motivate political movements: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and fascism. We will also touch upon other important "-isms" such as anti-racism, feminism, anarchism, and neoliberalism. Our reading list will include some of the canonical thinkers of "Western" political thought and their

critics. We will have a “pop culture” approach and further investigate these thinkers' ideas through contemporary movies, TV shows, comics, and so forth. Finally, we will explore the concept of “ideology” itself, learn various meanings attributed to it, and discuss how it can help us understand our political milieu.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lectures, in-class presentations

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

ATTRIBUTES: ICC (Humanities, Social Sciences), Liberal Arts, Legal Minor SPEC, Legal Studies Major Elect., SS, Theme (Power and Justice, World of Systems)

POLT 30300-01 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: Structures and Powers of Government H,
LMEL, LSCO, NAPP, NASE, SS

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Michael Gorup**

ENROLLEMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This intermediate-level course examines one of the two major aspects of U.S. constitutional law: the structures and powers of American government.

Americans commonly think of the Constitution as creating an enduring framework in which ordinary politics takes place. This course, by contrast, takes a developmental approach to the study of constitutional law to interrogate how constitutional powers have expanded, retracted, and changed in response to political conflict and struggle over the course of American history. We will investigate the division of power between the federal and state governments and between the federal branches over time, considering topics such as the independence of the judiciary, the war and security powers of the executive, the regulatory authority of Congress and the states, and methods of constitutional reform. As we will see, the meaning and scope of these constitutional powers has changed considerably even as the formal text of the Constitution has changed very little. The goal of this course is to track how these powers have interacted in their development throughout American history.

Counts as a US Politics course for politics majors and minors.

POLT 33200-01 AFRICA THROUGH FILM: REPRESENTATION AND REALITY SS LA

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Peyi Soyinka-Airewele**

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course challenges popular Western representations of the African continent and Diaspora through a study of cinematic images and sociopolitical realities. It interrogates the foundations of the dominant constructs of Africa and emphasizes the need for media literacy and exposure to counter-narratives in studying and understanding the histories, cultures, societies and politics of African societies. Students will explore African and African Diaspora histories, politics and contemporary issues through **extensive readings** and rigorous exploration of the narratives and contexts for diverse films including popular African cinema, the

nationalist and radical African film industry, and Western cinema. Screenings and readings will cover a range of genres including comedy, drama, documentary, and historical fiction etc. Students must be prepared to apply critical sociopolitical analysis to the subject matter, uncovering for instance, apartheid ideology behind the portrayal of Africans in the film "*The Gods Must Be Crazy*."

This course counts as a Comparative & International Studies course for politics majors and international politics minors, and as a "place" course for the concentration in international studies and for international politics minors.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture (and Seminar Style Discussion).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, Active participation, Presentations, Tests, Essays.

POLT 34004-01 "If You Can Keep It: If You Can Keep It: Transitions To and Away From Democracy"

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan M. Arroyo**

ENROLLMENT: 22

PREREQUISITES: Two social science classes

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Spirits were high in the 1990s, as a "Third Wave" of countries pursued democratization. What are some of the patterns in the process of democratization after a period of authoritarian rule? What makes it successful; what makes it stick? This course will start with theoretical approaches to democratization, looking for elements and formulas that explain the process in general, but also account for variations by time, region and country. Using the conceptual base, we will look at many different experiences of democratization, such as some combination of Spain, Chile, South Korea, Poland, etc. We will also hypothesize about the potential for transitions to democracy in existing authoritarian systems, such as Cuba or Egypt. According to tradition, someone asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government had come out of the Constitutional Convention. Franklin answered: "a republic, if you can keep it." This highlights the optimism of the possibilities, but also the effort that is necessary to maintain democratic systems, which is not guaranteed. In recent years we have been reading more and more about democratic "backsliding" in places like Hungary, Turkey and even the US. Do the theoretical concepts help explain "de-democratization"?

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: Regular interaction

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: One paper on theories and concepts; one paper with a specific comparison of case studies; one class presentation.

POLT 35006: Abolition or Reform? Abolitionist Movements in the U.S.

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 22

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a critical exploration of abolitionist movements and their challenges to institutions such as the police, prisons, the family, and the state. This course

examines the meaning of abolition, the demands and arguments of abolitionist activists, and the possibilities for replacing these institutions if they were abolished. We will question whether reform is ever sufficient or if abolition necessarily requires rejecting reform altogether. Through discussions on non-reformist reforms, we will analyze strategies that aim to dismantle oppressive systems rather than merely modify them. By engaging with historical and contemporary abolitionist thought, students will critically assess the tension between reform and abolition in the pursuit of justice and liberation.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lecture

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

ATTRIBUTES: Liberal Arts, WGSS Electives

POLT 39700-01 Crossroads: Brussels at the Center

2 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan M. Arroyo**

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITES: Two social science classes

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course offers an opportunity to examine historical, global, national and local phenomena and how they interact with each other and are expressed in one specific place today: Belgium. History: the Kingdom of Belgium started in the Napoleonic era and is linked to religious tensions at the time, which have shaped the university system until today. In the mid-1800s it acquired huge parts of the African continent and must still deal with the legacy of its colonialism. Global: Brussels is currently the home of significant international organizations, such as NATO, the SWIFT financial system, and the many elements of the European Union. What are they and how do they work? National: Belgium is constantly addressing tensions between linguistic groups in the country, those who speak Flemish, French or German. This affects politics, economics, education and more at every level. Local: the city of Brussels is home to a large number of people not born in Belgium, and has to navigate their integration into Belgian society. Students will learn about these topics and tensions more broadly, but also see illustrations of their effects in Belgium.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Regular interaction

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Three medium papers; one class presentation.

POLT 40108-01 SEM: GLOCAL CHALLENGES AND COLLECTIVE IMPACT

INITIATIVES LA SS 1h

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Peyi Soyinka-Airewele**

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITES: Junior/Senior Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar will select, engage, and address pressing "Glocal" challenges that are both local and global in scope and manifestations, using a collective impact approach. Participants will explore the concept of a pedagogy of hope to collaboratively conduct research and develop skills and solutions tailored to address unique local needs and contexts and

their interconnectedness to global systems. The course emphasizes a slow reading approach, intentional and reflective discussions, ethical pathways to understanding the experiences of others, engaged research, the development of partnerships, shared agendas, and localized solutions. Participants will strengthen their capacity for critical problem-solving based on the collective impact approach to complex glocal problems. Note: may involve site trips.

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: Seminar

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Commitment to Regular attendance, Active Participation, Professionalism, and Collaborative Work: Problem-Based Projects, Presentations, Papers.

POLT 40204: Seminar: W.E.B. Du Bois and C.L.R. James

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Evgenia Ilieva**

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this seminar we will study the political thought of W.E.B. Du Bois and C.L.R. James. We will read selections from five of Du Bois's books: *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), *Darkwater* (1920), *Black Reconstruction in America* (1935), *Dusk of Dawn* (1940), and *The Ordeal of Mansart* (1957), as well as James's *The Black Jacobins* (1938) and *Mariners, Renegades, and Castaways: The Story of Herman Melville and the World We Live In* (1953). Through close readings of these texts, we will explore several interrelated topics including the relationship between freedom and dignity, slavery and its afterlives, racism and capitalism, democracy and abolition, empire and decolonization, politics and aesthetics. We will endeavor to read Du Bois and James critically by considering recent scholarship on their often-fraught relationship to questions of gender, class, and transnational identity. Our broader goal is to develop a deeper appreciation of the scope and power of Du Bois and James's thinking and the richness of their intellectual legacy.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: in-class participation; plenty of reading; bi-weekly responses to "think questions"; 3 take-home papers.