

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS  
FALL 2026 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 Evgenia Ilieva, Chair of the Politics Department [eilieva@ithaca.edu](mailto:eilieva@ithaca.edu).

**POLT 10100-01,02 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](mailto:cfigueroa@ithaca.edu)

ENROLLMENT: 30

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 political system's impact upon individuals and groups within an evolving neoliberal capitalist system. The course focuses on *democracy*, *representation*, *governance*, and *capitalism*, as well as the *values*, *beliefs*, and *principles* that support these concepts and systems across various political, economic, and historical contexts. In the classroom, we take a *social deliberative approach* to U.S. Politics and Public Policy. Taking a social deliberative approach to U.S. Politics and Policy at the undergraduate level means we emphasize inclusive, reflective, and collaborative dialogue and debate—rather than rote memorization of political or historical facts. It draws on the principles of *deliberative democracy*, which views governance as rooted in reasoned discussion among citizens and policymakers within institutional spaces, aiming for mutual understanding and more informed decisions.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, participation/engagement, (8) quizzes, policy proposal (2 pages), Policy analysis research paper (8-10 pages), and final presentation.

**POLT 10100-03, 04 U.S. POLITICS & POLICY**

4 CREDITS

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

ENROLLMENT: 28 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. 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: 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 10100-05, 06 U.S. POLITICS & POLICY**

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.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Regular attendance, participation and group activities, weekly quizzes, reader response paper, two exams.

### **POLT 14400 - 01 GLOBAL POLITICAL THOUGHT**

4 credits

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

ENROLLMENT: 25

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: the relationship between ethics and politics; race and the enduring legacies of colonialism; exile, displacement, and the fracturing of human identity; the relationship between colonizer and colonized; the meaning of freedom and historical struggles for liberation and human dignity; the material and psychological effects of colonial occupation and dispossession. 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 – our own and those stemming from other times, places, and circumstances.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

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

### **POLT 30300-01 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: Structures and Powers of Government**

4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Gorup

ENROLLEMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This intermediate-level course examines a major aspect of U.S. constitutional law: the structures and powers of American government. Americans commonly think of the Constitution as 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.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Regular attendance, participation, case briefs, midterm paper, class presentation, final exam.

### **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.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE:** Lecture, discussion

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