

Department of Politics

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (BA)
Combined BA/MA
Master of Arts
Doctor of Philosophy

Objectives

Undergraduate Major

The undergraduate curriculum is designed to prepare students for careers in governmental and nongovernmental service, policy analysis, journalism, law, and business, as well as for postgraduate work in political science. We are a department of "politics," and encourage students to engage important issues. We require students to familiarize themselves with the ways others have engaged important issues, from the classical philosophers whose works shape the Western political traditions to the modern political theorists and practitioners who shape the politics of the issues and places covered in our courses.

Politics courses are designed to develop an understanding of the various ways societies organize themselves to manage conflict and cooperation, and to make and implement public policy. Philosophical perspectives are provided primarily in the political theory courses; the U.S. system is studied primarily in the American politics courses; the politics of foreign countries are studied primarily in the comparative politics courses; and the relations among states are studied primarily in the international politics courses.

Graduate Program in Politics

The graduate program in politics offers two degree programs leading to the Master of Arts in political science and Doctor of Philosophy in political science. The graduate program in political science is distinguished by methodological emphasis on analytical case study, including comparative case study rather than abstract mathematical modeling or statistical analysis. Substantive emphasis is on the politics of democratic and democratizing regimes. The graduate curriculum emphasizes linkages among the patterns of American political development, contemporary American politics, and the politics of other developed and developing democratic systems. The graduate curriculum also addresses the advanced industrial democracies of Western Europe, the democratizing states of Eastern Europe, and the international political, economic, and military-security

relations among these states. PhD students receive training in each of the major subfields of political science, including qualitative research methods, through graduate-level "field seminars."

The graduate program features: (a) instruction in small seminars under close faculty supervision, (b) supervised independent study within the program, (c) supervised teaching assistantships, (d) opportunities for study in the consortium of universities in the Boston area, and (e) the opportunity to incorporate work in related and relevant fields, e.g., economics, history, and sociology.

How to Become a Major

Declaration of the major normally is completed during the second semester of the second year, in consultation with the departmental undergraduate advising head. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least two or three politics courses during their first two years at Brandeis. These courses, which will count toward the nine-course major requirement, are normally selected from among the introductory courses but may include more advanced courses or seminars after consultation with the departmental undergraduate advising head.

How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

The general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, given in an earlier section of this *Bulletin*, apply to candidates for admission to this area of study. Normally, the student's undergraduate training must be in a field of social science to be considered for admission to this program. Applicants are expected to take the Graduate Record Examination. Evidence of successful graduate study is highly desirable.

Faculty

Steven Burg, Chair

Comparative politics. Ethnic politics. East European politics. Conflict resolution.

Jeffrey Abramson

Political theory. Constitutional law. Media and politics.

Robert Art

International relations. U.S. foreign policy.

Kerry Chase

International political economy.

Shai Feldman

International relations. Middle East politics.

Mari Fitzduff

Conflict resolution. Coexistence.

Jill Greenlee

American politics. Women in politics.

Donald Hindley

Comparative politics. Southeast Asian and Latin American politics.

Jytte Klausen

Comparative politics. Western Europe. Political economy of advanced industrial societies.

Daniel Kryder, Graduate Director

American political development.

Martin Levin

American politics. Politics of administration.

Mingus Mapps

Race and American politics. Race, inequality, and public policy.

George Ross

French and European politics.

Marion Smiley

Moral, social, and political philosophy.

Ralph Thaxton, Chair, East Asian Studies

Comparative politics. East Asia. China. Comparative revolutions. Comparative democratic movements.

Eva Thorne

International political economy. International institutions and Third World development. Latin American politics.

Peter Woll, Undergraduate Advising Head

American politics and government. Administrative law. Congress.

Bernard Yack, Chair, History of Ideas

Political theory. History of political thought. Nationalism. Cultural pluralism.

Requirements for the Major

A. All politics majors must complete satisfactorily at least nine semester courses from among politics and cross-listed courses. A minimum of five semester courses counted toward major credit must be taught by faculty of the Department of Politics. No course grade below C will be given credit toward meeting the requirement of nine courses for the major.

B. No course taken pass/fail may count toward requirements for the major.

C. With the approval of the departmental undergraduate advising head, students may receive politics credit for the major for up to two semester courses satisfactorily completed at the university outside of the politics department and its cross-listed courses. Such approval is subject to several limitations. First, as stated in (A), majors must complete satisfactorily at least five courses taught by politics department faculty. Second, approval will be given only where the nondepartmental courses are distinctly politics-oriented and exhibit a political science approach to the material. Third, in most circumstances, approval will not be given for any nondepartmental courses when a comparable course exists within the politics department or its cross-listed offerings.

D. With the approval of the departmental undergraduate advising head, transfer students and those taking a year's study abroad may apply up to four semester courses taught elsewhere toward fulfilling the requirements for the major. Students who study abroad for one semester may apply up to two semester courses. The five-course requirement of (A), above, remains in effect.

E. All politics majors must, as part of the overall departmental requirement of nine courses, complete satisfactorily (with a grade of C or better) one course in each of the following subfields: political theory; American politics; comparative politics; and international politics.

F. The department *strongly* recommends that majors complete *introductory courses* in at least three of the subfields *by the end of the sophomore year*. These introductory courses include POL 10a (Introduction to Political Theory), POL 11b (Comparative Government: Europe), POL 14b (Introduction to American Government), and POL 15a (Introduction to International Relations). Majors should consult with their politics advisors when selecting courses.

G. All politics majors are required to complete one departmental seminar, usually during the junior and senior years, and are strongly urged to complete at least two.

H. Admission to the departmental honors program requires completion of at least five courses in politics, including *one* departmental seminar, and a GPA *in politics* of at least 3.20 by the end of the junior year. Candidates for departmental honors are required to (1) enroll in POL 99d under the direction of their thesis advisor; (2) participate in the honors colloquium under the direction of the head of the politics honors program; and (3) complete the politics major. Students enrolled in POL 99d can receive up to two course credits for their completed work, and this will count toward the nine-course requirement.

I. With the permission of the instructor, third- and fourth-year politics majors may enroll in politics graduate courses for major credit.

Requirements for the Minor

Students considering a minor in politics are strongly encouraged to take at least two politics courses during their first two years at Brandeis. At least one of these should be an introductory course. Students should contact the departmental undergraduate advisor in order to initiate the process of declaring a minor.

A. All politics minors must complete satisfactorily at least five semester courses from among politics and cross-listed courses. A minimum of four semester courses counted toward minor credit must be taught by faculty of the Department of Politics.

B. No course grade below C will be given credit toward the minor. No course taken pass/fail may be counted toward the minor.

C. Not more than two introductory politics courses (POL 10a, 11b, 14b, or 15a).

D. At least one departmental seminar course.

E. At least one course in each of two subfields with the department (political theory, international politics, comparative politics, American politics).

F. Politics minors are not eligible for the departmental honors program, or for enrollment in politics graduate courses.

Combined BA/MA Program

This program is designed to enable exceptional undergraduates to earn two degrees simultaneously during their period of study at Brandeis University. Admission to the program requires an overall GPA of 3.33 and a GPA in politics of 3.50 (based on the completion of at least six politics courses, five of which have been taught by politics department faculty) by the end of their fifth semester (usually fall term of the junior year). Students must apply to the program through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences by March 1 of the junior year. Their applications will be considered along with those of external applicants to the MA program. The program requires the completion of thirty-eight courses, six courses beyond the thirty-two required for completion of the BA. These six courses will **not** be counted toward the completion of the nine courses required for the completion of the politics major. Students must complete the following: two graduate field seminars; two upper-level politics courses (taken for graduate credit with the permission of the instructor and the politics graduate director); POL 350a and 350b (Master's Project), under the direction of a member of the politics faculty. A completed master's thesis will be accepted for simultaneous consideration for undergraduate honors in politics.

All candidates for the combined BA/MA must complete all requirements for the program by the end of their eighth semester (for those entering as freshmen). If the requirements for the MA portion are not complete at that time, then the student is eligible only for the BA.

Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

The Department of Politics offers a Master of Arts program for part-time or full-time students. Full-time students will be expected to complete the course work in one year and may take up to another year to complete a master's project. Part-time students, with the approval of the department, may take up to four years to complete the required courses and a master's project. Students desiring to continue their studies toward the PhD must apply for admission to that program.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to complete eight courses (with a grade of B- or better) as follows: **one** of the core field graduate seminars POL 213a (Comparative Political Institutions and Public Policy), POL 214a (International Relations), POL 215a (American Political Development), or POL 216a (Liberalism and Its Critics); **five** courses from more specialized offerings, i.e., from graduate-level courses (special topics courses or field seminars, as appropriate), seminars, and upper-level undergraduate courses (seminars and advanced lecture classes) that offer additional work for graduate credit; and a **two-semester** sequence of directed study culminating in a completed master's project, which can be an original research project, a comprehensive literature review (a critique of a subfield of political science), or another type of undertaking that is appropriate for the student's course of study.

Special Notes Relating to the Graduate Program

Degree of Master of Arts

If the core seminar in the student's area of interest is not taught the year the student is in residence, the graduate advisor (in consultation with the student and his/her advisor) will designate an alternative course that will provide the student an overview of that field.

If appropriate, students may substitute other classes to fulfill the course requirements. All substitutions must be approved by the student's advisor and the politics department graduate committee.

Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Program of Study

The student must complete three years in residence and a minimum of twelve term courses. The graduate curriculum has two main parts: a core curriculum and a special area of competency. Each graduate student is required to take all five core courses: American Political Development, Liberalism and Its Critics, Comparative Political Institutions and Public Policy, The United States and World Politics, and Research Methods and Methodology. In addition, students are required to take a Special Area of Competency Independent Study in their fourth semester.

There are several special areas of competency for students to choose from (these are not exhaustive, and students may offer other special areas subject to approval of the graduate committee): American Political Development; American Foreign Policy: Defense, Economic, and Human Rights Issues; The Welfare State in Comparative Perspective; Law and Politics; Environmental and Regulatory Politics; and Democratic Citizenship and Ethnic Identity.

Within each special area chosen, students are expected to have a broad knowledge of the major theoretical and analytical approaches, a more intensive familiarity with one or more functional sub-areas, and, where appropriate, special expertise in particular geographic areas and historical periods.

The standard workload for full-time students is at least three courses in each term of their first two years of study. Fourth courses and audits are encouraged, but the load is deliberately set so that the student may supplement his or her regular course work with independent reading and scholarship. Reading courses will not be offered to first-semester students and will be discouraged generally during the first year. By the outset of the second year, students should have identified their special area of competency and should make this known to their advisor and the graduate advising head.

Teaching Requirement

The development of college-level teaching competency is an integral part of the department's professional training for the PhD. All funded students are required to serve as teaching fellows and to participate in the departmental graduate proseminar (POL 340d), a yearlong, noncredit course focused on professional development, including teaching competency.

Research Tools Requirement

Each student is required to **either** pass a language examination (normally administered within the program) designed to test for a reading knowledge of a foreign language sufficient to conduct doctoral dissertation research **or** pass with B- or better course work in statistics approved by the graduate advising head. Neither courses taken in conjunction with the language examination nor statistics courses may be counted for course credit toward the PhD.

Evaluation of the First Year

At the end of each student's first year in the graduate program, there will be a consultation between the student and two members of the program to evaluate the student's academic progress to determine whether the student should be allowed to continue in the program and to help plan the student's subsequent work.

Qualifying Examinations

Normally, at the beginning of the fifth semester, a formal oral and written examination for candidacy for the PhD is given covering the core curriculum and the student's special area of competency. Each student takes a written exam on the core curriculum (early September) and an oral exam on the core and special area of competency (mid-September).

Students who satisfactorily complete the PhD qualifying examinations must submit a dissertation prospectus by the end of the sixth term in the program. Extension of this deadline requires approval by the department's graduate committee.

Dissertation and Defense

The dissertation will be completed under the supervision of an appropriate member of the department's faculty. The dissertation proposal must be sponsored by a committee of at least two members of the faculty, appointed by the department's graduate advising head in consultation with the graduate committee. It is assumed that the writing of the dissertation will take at least one year and, barring exceptional circumstances, not more than two and one half years. The student must successfully defend the dissertation at a final oral examination conducted by his or her two departmental supervisors and another faculty member from outside the department or from another university.

Special Note About Courses

Course Subgroupings

Introductory Courses (POL 10a-15a)
 American Politics (POL 14b and POL 101a-126a)
 Comparative Politics (POL 11b and POL 127a-159a)
 International Politics (POL 15a and POL 160b-180b)
 Political Theory and Methods (POL10a and POL 181b-192b)
 Seminars for Graduate Students (POL 212a-216b)
 Supervised Study for Graduate Students (POL 302a and above)

Courses of Instruction

(1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

POL 10a Introduction to Political Theory

[ss]

Open to first-year students.

Examination of classical political texts and modern writings for insights on central problems of political discourse such as power and authority, human nature, freedom, obligation, justice, and the organization of the state. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Abramson or Mr. Yack

POL 11b Introduction to Comparative Government: Europe

[ss]

Open to first-year students.

Introduction to basic concepts in comparative politics through study of the government and politics of European democracies. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Burg or Ms. Klausen

POL 14b Introduction to American Government

[ss]

Open to first-year students.

Analysis of American political institutions: Congress, the presidency, Supreme Court, bureaucracy, political parties, pressure groups, and problems of governmental decision making in relation to specific areas of public policy. Usually offered every semester.

Ms. Greenlee or Mr. Woll

POL 15a Introduction to International Relations

[ss]

General introduction to international politics, emphasizing the essential characteristics of the international system as a basis for understanding the foreign policy of individual countries. Analysis of causes of war, conditions of peace, patterns of influence, the nature of the world's political economy, global environmental issues, human rights, and prospects for international organizations. Open to first-year students. Usually offered every semester.

Mr. Art

POL 98a Independent Study

Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 98b Independent Study

Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 99a Senior Research: Honors Thesis

Students will consult with the head of the politics honors program before being assigned to a professor for the supervision of their theses and will participate in a biweekly colloquium. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 99b Senior Research: Honors Thesis

Students will consult with the head of the politics honors program before being assigned to a professor for the supervision of their theses and will participate in a biweekly colloquium. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 99d Senior Research: Honors Thesis

Students will consult with the head of the politics honors program before being assigned to a professor for the supervision of their theses and will participate in a biweekly colloquium. Usually offered every year.

Staff

(100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

POL 100b Political Science Methods: Research, Design, and Modes of Analysis

[ss]

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or higher.

An introduction to nonstatistical research methods for analyzing political processes. Moves from selecting problems to composing a focused research question, examining relevant theory, conceptualizing variables, generating hypotheses, research design, research operations, and analysis. Uses examples from comparative, international, and American politics. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Kryder

POL 101a Parties, Interest Groups, and Public Opinion

[ss]

Role and organization of political parties, interest groups, and public opinion in the American political system. Emphasis on historical development and current political behavior in the United States in relation to American democratic theory. Comparison with other countries to illuminate U.S. practice. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

POL 103b Seminar: Political Leadership

[ss]

Examines political leadership through biographies, autobiographies, and biographical fiction. These are used to help us understand and compare different modes of political leadership, including the “apolitical-rationalist” (McGeorge Bundy), “political” (Lincoln, Johnson, Truman), and the ostensibly “non-political expert” (Robert Moses). Usually offered every year.

Mr. Levin

POL 105a Elections in America

[ss]

Examines modern campaigns for and elections to the United States presidency and Congress. Topics include the influence of partisanship, policy differences, and candidate images on the vote; the impact of money on campaigns; the role of the mass media; and the differences among presidential, Senate, and House elections. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

POL 108a Social Movements in American Politics

[ss]

Analysis of American mass political movements and their influences on American politics. Topics include the relationship between social movements and interest groups, the evolution of social movements into political parties, and case studies of specific political movements. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Kryder

POL 110a Media, Politics, and Society

[ss]

A broad-based inquiry into the role of the media in contemporary American society, with special emphasis on the political impact of the media, the ethics of good reporting, the rise of new technologies, and current legal issues regarding freedom of the press. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Abramson

POL 111a The American Congress

[ss]

The structure and behavior of the Congress. Emphasis on the way member incentives for reelection, power on Capitol Hill, and good public policy shape Congress. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

POL 112a National Government of the United States

[ss]

The roles played by Congress, the president, the bureaucracy, and the courts in policy making at the national level. Contrasting perspectives, incentives, and capabilities of each institution; formation of coalitions across institutional lines; and changes in institutions over time. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

POL 113b The American Presidency

[ss]

Philosophical and historical origins of the presidency, examining the constitutional role of the chief executive. Historical development of the presidency, particularly the emergence of the modern presidency during the twentieth century. Contemporary relationships between the presidency and the electorate, as well as the other branches of government. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Kryder

POL 114b The Politics of Poverty and Welfare Policy

[ss]

Examines the modern debate about the causes and remedies for persistent urban poverty, and places that debate in its historical and political context. Sources include works on poverty from sociology, economics, anthropology, history, and political science. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

POL 115a Constitutional Law

[ss]

Analysis of core principles of constitutional law as formulated by the Supreme Court. Primary focus on the First Amendment, the equal protection and due process clauses, federalism, the commerce clause, and the separation of powers. Emphasis also on the moral values and political theories that form our constitutional system. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Woll

POL 115b Seminar: Constitutional Law and Theory

[ss]

Advanced research seminar on selected issues of constitutional law. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Woll

POL 116b Civil Liberties in America

[ss]

The history and politics of civil liberties and civil rights in the United States, with emphasis on the period from World War I to the present. Emphasis on freedom of speech, religion, abortion, privacy, racial discrimination, and affirmative action. Readings from Supreme Court cases and influential works by historians and political philosophers. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Abramson

POL 117a Administrative Law

[ss]

The role of administrative agencies in lawmaking and adjudication. Emphasis on the problem of defining and protecting the public interest, as well as the rights of individuals and groups directly involved in administrative proceedings. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Woll

POL 118b Courts, Politics, and Public Policy

[ss]

Prerequisite: POL 14b.

Analyzes the political role of American courts, examining the politics of judicial appointments, the role of legal mobilization and strategy, and the capacity of courts to produce social change. Focuses on political science case studies that place the actions of courts in the larger framework of American politics. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

POL 119a Reinventing Government

[ss]

An examination of effective strategies that make government work. Particular emphasis on the problem of implementing innovation with the focus on the tools for managers to become innovators. Osborne's classic *Reinventing Government* is used as the standard to compare to its critique.

Usually offered every year.

Mr. Levin

POL 120b Seminar: The Politics of Public Policymaking

[ss]

Has a new form of public policymaking developed in American national government over the past few decades? If so, what is its nature? Why, despite conservative presidential election victories, have new and expensive programs continued to be initiated? Usually offered every year.

Mr. Levin

POL 122b Seminar: Policy Analysis and Policy Implementation

[ss]

Development of a framework for policy analysis that integrates economic tools and political science thinking. Application of this "political economy" approach to several problems and cases. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

POL 124a Race and Politics in the United States

[ss]

Focuses on how attributes of racial difference shape American political institutions and our civil and public life. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

POL 125a Women in American Politics

[ss]

Addresses three major dimensions of women's political participation: social reform and women-identified issues; women's organizations and institutions; and women politicians, electoral politics, and party identification. Covers historical context and contemporary developments in women's political activity. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Greenlee

POL 126b Seminar: Ideas and Intellectuals in Politics

[ss]

The role of ideas and intellectuals in politics from the perspectives of political theory and American and comparative politics. Emphasizes the interaction of ideas, institutions, and interests, along with normative judgments as to the desirability of intellectuals as political actors. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

POL 127a Ending Deadly Conflict

[ss wi]

Prerequisite: POL 127b or permission of the instructor.

Examines strategies for ending violent internal (primarily ethnic) conflicts, with emphasis on identifying conditions conducive to negotiated settlements. Case studies are examined in light of analytical literature. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Burg

POL 127b Seminar: Managing Ethnic Conflict

[ss wi]

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or higher.

Comparative study of the sources and character of interethnic conflict, with emphasis on the processes by which groups become politicized, and on the strategies and techniques for managing conflict in a democratic system. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Burg

POL 128a The Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World

[nw ss]

Introduction to twentieth-century revolutionary movements in the Third World, focusing on the emergence of peasant-based resistance and revolution in the world beyond the West, and on the role of state violence in provoking popular involvement in protest, rebellion, and insurgency. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Thaxton

POL 129a East European Politics

[ss]

Politics and society in the post-Communist states of Eastern Europe, drawing general lessons about the relationships among social modernization, nationalism, and democratic transition. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Burg

POL 130a Globalization and the Challenge of Democratization in Asia

[ss]

Prerequisite: Preference given to declared politics, international and global studies, and east Asian studies majors.

A study of Asia's rise in the global political community, with special attention to why and how different Asian nations have embraced democratic and authoritarian models of development, the promise and perils of each model, both for social justice and political stability, and the place of each nation in the new world order. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Thaxton

POL 131b Social Movements in Latin America

[ss]

Origins, dynamics, and social and cultural impact of movements among indigenous groups, women, peasants, and blacks in Latin America since the 1980s.

Comparative study of other social movements in Latin America and elsewhere in the world. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Thorne

POL 132b Political Economy of Latin America

[ss]

Examines the paradox that increasing economic, technological, and democratic development in Latin America has produced greater inequality and deeper economic crisis, and the popular responses to these developments. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Thorne

POL 133a Contemporary Politics in the Middle East

[ss]

Examines the Western impact on the Middle East state system, and the key challenges to the stability of these states and to the regional order. Topics include Arab nationalism; religion and minorities, the Arab-Israeli conflict; and other issues. Special one-time offering, fall 2007.

Mr. Susser

POL 136a Political Islam: Introduction to Islamist Social Movements in the Middle East

[ss nw]

Examines main concepts on political Islamist thought; contemporary political Islam and its relation to democracy; main theoretical approaches of social movement literature; and cases of Islamist mobilizations in Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, and Yemen. Special one-time offering, fall 2007.

Ms. Eligur

POL 136b Politics and Society in Modern France

[ss]

France since 1945, with emphasis on the Fourth and Fifth Republics, and the roles of France in the development of contemporary Europe. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Ross

POL 140a Politics of Africa

[nw ss]

Political transformation in Africa from the rise of nationalism to the search for effective governance and development. Case studies may include Nigeria, Tanzania, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Madagascar, and South Africa. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 144a Latin American Politics I

[nw ss]

Revolution, order, and regime transition in northern Latin America. Specific examination of the Mexican and Cuban revolutions and their outcomes. POL 144a is independent of POL 144b. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Hindley

POL 144b Latin American Politics II

[nw ss]

Emphasis on elite control, the military, the political role of populist politics, and the uncertain process of democratization. Brazil and Argentina are examined specifically. POL 144b is independent of POL 144a.

Usually offered every year.

Mr. Hindley

POL 145b The Islamic Challenge: Politics and Religion in the West

[ss]

Few issues have caused more public furor than the accommodation of Islam in Europe and the United States. It is often overlooked that Muslims are developing the institutions of their faith in societies that offer everyone the freedom of choice and expression. This seminar looks at religious discrimination as a barrier to the civic and political inclusion of Muslim immigrants, the responses of governments, courts, and the general public, and what we know about the balance among "fundamentalists," "moderate," and "progressive" Muslim viewpoints. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Klausen

POL 146b Seminar: Topics in Revolutions in the Third World

[nw ss]

May be repeated for credit with permission of the instructor.

Explores revolutionary situations, revolutionary movements (successful and unsuccessful), and revolutionary regimes in the Third World since World War II. Specific topics may vary from year to year. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Hindley

POL 147a The Government and Politics of China

[nw ss]

Introduction to major themes of Chinese politics, emphasizing the rise of the Chinese Communists and the post-1949 trends in domestic politics while also surveying historical, sociological, and cultural influences in Chinese politics. Attention to the nature of the traditional state, impact of colonialism, national revolution, and the course of contemporary state development. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Thaxton

POL 148a Seminar: Contemporary Chinese Politics

[nw ss]

A broad and in-depth understanding of key issues in contemporary Chinese politics—China after 1949. Emphasis on the role of the state in promoting economic development, social betterment, political stability, and justice. Special attention to the Tiananmen Protest Movement of 1989. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Thaxton

POL 149a Germany and European Unification

[ss]

Course to be taught at Brandeis summer program in Berlin.

Examines the political structure, formation, and development of the European Union, as well as Germany's role in the process of European unification. With special emphasis on the analysis of the political challenges that lie ahead, examines the integration of Eastern European countries and its consequences. Usually offered every summer.

Mr. Maleck

POL 150a Politics of Southeast Asia

[nw ss]

Introduction to the politics of modern Southeast Asia, with the focus on the indigenous peoples and their cultures, societies, and histories. The greatly changed and changing political systems of Indonesia and Thailand are examined individually in some depth. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Hindley

POL 151a Seminar: Cultural Pluralism and Democratic Governance

[ss wi]

Prerequisites: Sophomore or junior class standing and at least two prior politics courses.

How liberal democracies respond to the social and political challenges of linguistic, cultural, religious, racial, and gender differences. Examines legal, political, and normative issues arising out of these differences, and the implications of various responses for the stability of a liberal democratic state. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Burg

POL 152a Seminar: The Political Economy of Advanced Industrial Democracies

[ss]

Introduction to the history and theory of political economy, paying particular attention to the relationship between capitalism and democracy. Analysis of the scope and role of government in the economies of the advanced industrial democracies (Western Europe and North America since 1945). Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Klausen

POL 153a The New Europe: European Economic and Political Integration

[ss]

The institutions and policymaking processes of the European Union (EU). Western European political and economic integration since 1945 and the resurgence of European integration since the mid-1980s. Social policy issues, policy harmonization and economic integration, European citizenship, and the reorientation of national politics in response to community expansion. The future of European unity and national cultures. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Ross

POL 154a Seminar: Citizenship

[ss]

Liberal theory presumes the progress of history to be, in the words of John Stuart Mill, a gradual "doing away with privilege." Examines the frontiers of social and political justice through readings drawn from literature, political science, and history. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Klausen

POL 155b German Political Development after 1945

[ss]

Examines the creation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the development of liberal political culture in Germany, and the extremist challenges. Reunification and Germany's relationship with Europe and international organizations are also discussed. Textbook material will mix German novels and films with political science texts. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Klausen

POL 156b West European Political Systems

[ss]

The comparative politics of Western Europe. Focuses on the development of political parties and social movements in Britain, France, and Germany—particularly since 1945—to determine how they affect policies and the citizenry's participation in modern democracies. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Klausen or Mr. Ross

POL 157b Building a New Europe: Politics, Economics, Societies, and Culture

[ss]

Survey of the most important contemporary issues in the creation of a new integrated Europe, including boundaries, economics, governance, defense, culture, and the future of European-U.S. relations. Discussions with leading European academics and policy practitioners. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Ross

POL 158b Comparative Perspectives on the Law and Politics of Group Rights

[ss]

Prerequisite: POL 11b or POL 14b.

The creation of new group rights for disadvantaged populations in democratic states through constitutional reform and affirmative action, and the legal and political dilemmas raised by efforts to implement these rights. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Klausen

POL 159a Seminar: The Politics of the Modern Welfare State: Women, Workers, and Social Citizenship

[ss]

Capstone course for Social Justice and Social Policy Program.

How voting and political mobilization have helped women's organizations and trade unions obtain social rights by means of welfare state expansion. Historical perspective on collective action and political reform movements and their role in creating the modern welfare-state in twentieth-century Europe and the United States. Strategies of political mobilization, interest groups, and the politics of the advanced welfare state. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Klausen

POL 160b World Politics since 1945

[ss]

The dominant issues, alignments, and antagonisms in world politics since the conclusion of World War II. The extent to which these configurations of world politics have been determined by systemic and structural forces and have been the product of deliberate human choice. Alternative future configurations of the world's political system. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 161b Causes and Prevention of War

[ss]

Insights from world history, the social sciences, and political philosophy about the causes, prevention, and control of war. Students learn about current war/peace diplomacy through participation in a simulation. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 162b Seminar: Use of Force, Ethical Issues

[ss]

Examines when it is legitimate to resort to force (*jus ad bellum*) and what rules should govern how wars are fought (*jus in bello*). Explores the Just War tradition of thinking about the *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* issues, including efforts of military establishments and international lawyers to adapt the tradition to new political circumstances and military capabilities. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 163a Seminar: Human Rights and International Relations

[ss]

Prerequisite: POL 15a or equivalent.

How human rights issues are affecting and being handled by the nation-state system. Traditional vs. reformist views. Universalism vs. cultural relativism. Contemporary case studies. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 163b Gender in International Relations

[ss]

An introduction to the "gendered lenses" used to observe and study international politics. Addresses the (separate but related) questions of women's experiences in international politics and the influence of gender on international political relations.

Staff

POL 164a Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East

[ss]

Evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict—and the efforts to resolve it. Focuses on key documents and developments with particular emphasis on the Palestinian-Israeli dimension, and the different narratives adopted by the parties on the conflict. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Feldman

POL 165a Seminar: Globalization and Governance in the Trading System

[ss]

Examines three tiers of governance in the trading system: the rules and authority of international agencies such as the World Trade Organization; the policymaking functions of national political institutions; and the role and influence of corporations, labor unions, citizen groups, and other private actors. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Chase

POL 166b Seminar: Issues in International Political Economy

[ss]

Contemporary theoretical and empirical issues in international political economy. Topics include international policy coordination, business-government relations, and the politics of international trade, investment, and finance. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 167a United States and China in World Politics

[ss]

Issues in U.S.-China relations, including Taiwan and Tibet, the formation of a Greater China, military security and use of nuclear weapons, human rights, Chinese and American versions of nationalism and internationalism, and others. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Thaxton

POL 168b American Foreign Policy

[ss]

Overview of America's foreign policy since 1945. Topics include the cold war era, the economic competitiveness of the United States, the role of the United States in selected world regions, the role of human rights in U.S. foreign policy, the U.S. participation in the United Nations, post-cold war foreign policy, and the making and implementing of foreign policy. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Art

POL 169b U.S. Policy in the Middle East

[ss]

Provides students with an understanding of the evolution of U.S. policy in the Middle East and the manner in which the local parties have perceived it. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Feldman

POL 170a Arms Control in the Middle East

[ss]

Explores and analyzes the theories behind, dynamics within, and problems encountered with arms control as part of regional security in the Middle East. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Feldman

POL 172b Introduction to International Political Economy

[ss]

Prerequisite: POL 15a.

The politics and modern evolution of international economic relations, comprising trade, money, multinational productions, and development. Also the role of states and transnational actors in international markets and the global differentiation of power, and distribution of wealth. Usually offered every year.
Staff

POL 174b Seminar: Problems of National Security

[ss]

Analysis of the role and utility of military power in international politics. Selected case studies from the last fifty years. Selected topics on post-cold war military issues, including the spread of weapons of mass destruction, collective approaches to coercion, and the role of U.S. military power in world stability. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Art

POL 175b Global Civil Society

[ss]

The role of international organizations in the contemporary global political and economic system, the ways in which they influence or contribute to major international policy issues, and the interactions between international organizations and global civil society. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Thorne

POL 176a Seminar: International Intervention

[ss]

The evolution of international law and practice in use of force for the resolution of conflicts. Case study of major post-cold war cases of international intervention, including humanitarian intervention. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Burg

POL 178a The Rise of East Asia and the Pacific in the Global Political Economy

[ss]

An introduction to East Asia and the Pacific in the global political economy. The focus is on the major players in East Asia—China, Japan, the two Koreas, and Vietnam—and their relations with India, Oceania, and the United States. Topics include U.S. expansion into the Pacific world prior to WWII, the rise of Japan as a political and economic force before and after WWII; the emergence of socialist China, focusing on China's exclusion from the global economic community during the cold war and its inclusion in the post-cold war period; the fate of "neutralist" states in Southeast and South Asia; and the challenges posed to key global economic actors, including the United States, Japan, Australia, and India, by the rise of authoritarian China—specifically, by China's leap into privatization and globalization and by its neocolonialist reach into the Third World, including Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Thaxton

POL 180b Sustaining Development

[nw ss]

Prerequisite: Some familiarity with development issues.

Explores different institutionalized approaches to development. Examines how institutions affect development in selected geographic areas, at levels ranging from local to national and international. Considers why similar policies when implemented in different ways may lead to quite distinct outcomes. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Thorne

POL 186b Classical Political Thought

[ss]

Major ancient political philosophers and the meaning and implications of their work for contemporary political issues. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Yack

POL 187b Conservative Political Thought

[ss]

Focuses on American and European thinkers, with an emphasis on critics of equality and unlimited commercial and civil liberty. Readings include political philosophy and literature. Authors may include Burke, Oakeshott, Calhoun, Conrad, Tocqueville, Augustine, Nisbett, Strauss, and C. S. Lewis. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Yack

POL 189a Marx, Nietzsche, and Twentieth-Century Radicalism

[ss]

Comparison of two powerful and influential critiques of modern politics and society. Explanation of Marx's work, both for its own insights and as a model for radical theorists; and of Nietzsche's work as an alternative conception of radical social criticism. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Yack

POL 190b Democratic Theory

[ss]

Explores in depth the nature, virtues, and limitations of democracy as a way of organizing political affairs. Brings together classic texts, e.g., Rousseau's *Social Contract*, with more recent topical readings on topics like democracy and nationalism. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Yack

POL 192b Seminar: Topics in Law and Political Theory

[ss]

Interplay among law, morality, and political theory. Specific topics vary from year to year. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Abramson or Mr. Yack

POL 194a Politics and the Novel

[ss]

Selected works of fiction as sources of political ideas and pictures of political and social life. How modern fiction helps us understand social change, societies in transition and decay, revolution, law, bureaucracy, and ethnicity. Authors such as Kafka, Conrad, Borges, Dostoevsky, Ford Madox Ford, Babel, Greene, Malraux, and Carpenter. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Levin

(200 and above) Primarily for Graduate Students**POL 212a Graduate Seminar: Research Methods and Methodology**

Familiarizes students with the major research techniques of a qualitative nature for political science and addresses central issues in the logic of inquiry in social science. Issues and techniques include the case study method, the comparative method, counterfactual, and research design. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Kryder

POL 213a Graduate Seminar: Comparative Political Institutions and Public Policy

Studies the ideas and institutions of representative democracy from a comparative perspective. Topics include parties and party systems, variations in constitutional government from presidentialism to parliamentarianism, the process and prerequisites of democratization, and the comparative politics of the welfare state. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Burg, Ms. Klausen, or Mr. Ross

POL 213b Graduate Seminar: Selected Topics in Comparative Politics

Provides graduate students an opportunity to engage in research and discussion of selected issues in comparative politics. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Burg, Ms. Klausen, or Mr. Ross

POL 214a Graduate Seminar: International Relations

Examines the international relations of national political systems. Topics include the impact of evolving international institutions and norms on the course of world politics; the effects of security, economic, and environmental factors; and the interaction between domestic politics and foreign policy. Special attention is given to American foreign policy and the changing place of the United States in world politics. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Art

POL 214b Graduate Seminar: Selected Topics in World Politics

Provides graduate students an opportunity to engage in research and discussion of selected issues in the international dimensions of world politics. Each term it deals with a different topic in greater depth than is possible in the context of the program's field seminar in this area. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Art

POL 215a Graduate Seminar: American Political Development

Examines the creation and evolution of national institutions in the United States. Themes include the influence of ideas on institutional development; the influence of institutional arrangements on conflicts and policies; and the changing nature of ideas and institutions, especially in such pivotal periods as the founding, the Civil War, the progressive era, the New Deal, and the 1960s and 1970s. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Kryder

POL 215b Graduate Seminar: Advanced Topics in American Politics

Provides graduate students an opportunity to engage in research and discussion of selected issues in American politics. Each term the seminar deals with a different topic in greater depth than is possible in the context of the program's field seminar in this area. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Greenlee or Mr. Kryder

POL 216a Liberalism and Its Critics

An intensive philosophical inquiry into the ideas that have shaped politics and government in the United States and Europe. Focuses on the liberal tradition and the way it has shaped the concepts of democracy, individual rights, and citizenship. Places liberalism in the context of comparative ideology to shed light on American "exceptionalism" and the degree to which European political systems offer a fundamentally distinct understanding of representative government. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Abramson or Mr. Yack

POL 216b Seminar: Advanced Topics in Political Theory

Provides graduate students an opportunity to engage in research and discussion of selected issues in political theory. Each term it deals with a different topic in greater depth than is possible in the context of the program's field seminar in this area. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Abramson or Mr. Yack

POL 302a Readings in Politics

Specific sections for individual faculty members as requested.

Offered every year.

Staff

POL 302b Readings in Politics

Staff

POL 340d Proseminar

Required of all PhD and MA students. Not for credit.

Yearlong course that meets biweekly. Focuses on professional development, including teaching competency. Offered every year.

Staff

POL 350a Master's Project

Master's project research and preparation. Usually offered every year.

Staff

POL 350b Master's Project

Staff

POL 400d Dissertation Research

Independent research for the PhD degree. Specific sections for individual faculty members as requested.

Staff

Cross-Listed Courses**American Politics****AAAS 82a**

Urban Politics

AAAS 114b

Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics in the United States

HS 104b

American Health Care

HS 110a

Wealth and Poverty

Comparative Politics**AAAS 175a**

Comparative Politics of North Africa

NEJS 185b

The Making of the Modern Middle East

SOC 123b

Crisis of the Welfare State

SOC 155b

Protest, Politics, and Change: Social Movements

SOC 161a

Society, State, and Power: The Problem of Democracy

International Politics**AAAS 163b**

Africa in World Politics

LGLS 125b

International Law and Organizations

NEJS 189a

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Political Theory and Methods**HIST 181b**

Red Flags/Black Flags: Marxism vs. Anarchism, 1845-1968

HIST 183b

Community and Alienation: Social Theory from Hegel to Freud

HIST 192b

Romantic and Existentialist Political Thought

HIST 195b

American Political Thought: From the Gilded Age through the New Deal

PHIL 111a

What Is Justice?

PHIL 116a

Topics in Political Philosophy