POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Please note: All POL classes except the POL 150s satisfy the GEP Social Science requirement. While we encourage non-majors to take our courses, the Department recommends those with no experience in political science consider taking a lower division course first, although we recognize that there are times, when a higher level course is appropriate. Please e-mail the Department Chair with questions or requests for permission.

POLITICAL SCIENCE INTRODUCTORY COURSES

POL 111 Introduction to American Government and Politics 3 credits

This course is an introduction to American political processes and institutions. The goal of this course is to acquaint the student with the theory and practice of American government. Students will learn about the basic structure, function, and dynamics of American government and the political system within in the context of the major political issues of our time. Beyond studying the institutional structures and activities of government, we will also evaluate the relationships between individuals, groups, and institutions in terms of influence, process, and outputs in various domains. Depending on instructor, satisfies the Diversity overlay requirement.

POL 113 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3 credits

An introduction to the study of comparative political systems with attention to the institutions and political cultures of select countries from different world regions, cultures, and levels of economic development. Explores the varieties of democracy and the complexity of democratization in contemporary politics and introduces students to the comparative method. Satisfies the Globalization overlay requirement.

POL 115 Introduction to International Politics 3 credits

This course is an introductory survey of the major approaches (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Marxism), interpretations and problems in the field of International Politics, with a heavy emphasis on current events. Topics include security (war, peace, terrorism), international political economy (hegemony, development, globalization), and transboundary issues (environmental issues, human rights). Satisfies the Globalization overlay requirement.

POL 117 Introduction to Political Theory 3 credits

When is it justified to overthrow a tyrant? Do men and women have different virtues? Are markets just? Political theorists ask questions about justice, equality, law, property, community, and duty. This course examines questions that affect today’s political world by examining the foundations of political thought - Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Adam Smith, Madison, Rousseau, Marx – as well as contemporary theorists such as Foucault, and feminist Wendy Brown.
POL 150 Law, Student Liberties, and the Supreme Court

This course analyzes the evolving opinions and doctrines of the U.S. Supreme Court concerning the civil liberties of students. Can students wear arm bands to protest a war? Wear their hair long? Hand a sign that reads BONG HiTS 4 JESUS? Refuse to salute the flag? This class analyzes classic cases of discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation with an emphasis on the rights of students. Students learn to read and brief cases and the course ends with a moot court. Students act as the justices and attorneys as they argue two cases that are currently before the Supreme Court. The course uses class discussions, briefs, and the moot courts to practice research, writing, and argument skills as well as to deepen students’ understanding of the law.

POL 150 First-Year Seminar (3 credits): Half the Sky: Women, Girls, and World Politics

Although women and girls comprise roughly half the earth’s population, traditional analyses of world affairs have ignored their roles in politics and the effects of international and national politics on females. This course seeks to remedy this absence by focusing on pressing contemporary issues, including political empowerment and democratization, post-conflict peacebuilding, economic opportunities (and their absence), and gender-based violence.

POL 201 Sophomore Seminar: Law and Social Change 3 credits

Can courts effectively generate social change? What are the advantages and limits of using the law to effect social change? We use cases and case studies to examine the relationship between law and society. In the last forty years, groups attempting to effect social change have turned to the courts as an effective source of authority when they find themselves disadvantaged or rejected by the larger political system. To what extent has this approach been successful? To what extent is it desirable? While constitutional law emphasizes the logic of the opinion, this course will look beyond the decisions of the Supreme Court, focusing instead on the implementation process and the actions of lower courts in interpreting the Supreme Court’s decisions. We will look at problems of implementation, the actual benefits received by affected parties, and the relationship between the federal government, the states, and public opinion. Case studies include: school integration, abortion, pay equity, death penalty, and single-sex unions. This course is for POL majors only (with special exceptions for minors), and majors typically take this writing-centered course (or its sibling – POL 231) during their spring sophomore semester, after completing at least two POL introductory courses, at least one of which must be POL 111. Satisfies the Writing Intensive overlay requirement.

POL 231 Sophomore Seminar: 1989/2011 – Contentious Politics, Change & Resilience around the World 3 credits

Students will study two periods of enormous upheaval that have been associated with two remarkable years– 1989 and 2011 – and consider their aftermaths, because political transformation is a process not an event. In addition to this substantive focus, students will also learn about the logic and methods of social science inquiry and how to write a research paper for
political science courses. By writing multiple drafts, students will develop their skills and ultimately produce an article-style paper. This course is for POL or IR majors only (with special exceptions for minors), and majors typically take this writing-centered course (or its sibling – POL 201) during their spring sophomore semester, after completing at least two POL introductory courses, at least one of which must be either POL 113 or POL 115. Satisfies the Writing Intensive overlay requirement.

POLITICAL THEORY

POL 302 Machiavelli v. the World 3 credits

Machiavelli challenged political theorists to look at politics “as it is” rather than “as it ought to be.” Rulers needed virtue – literally “manliness” – rather than Christian virtue or morality. This course investigates how Machiavelli’s ideas challenged (and threatened!) those of the Reformation and the Jesuits emphasizing how his ideas affected democratic and liberal theorists as they sought to reinvent the world. The course examines the political thought of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau Wollstonecraft, Mill, Marx, and Rawls – as well as 20th and 21st century writers who continue to debate the nature of politics, gender, and political leadership. It includes a simulation of Rousseau’s General Will and Rawls’s Original position.

POL 303 American Political Thought 3 credits

Why did Ben Franklin say that the Swedes were “blackening” the colonies? Why did Lincoln change his mind about slavery? The course examines classic texts (for example, the American Revolution, the constitutional convention, Lincoln-Douglas debates) by linking them to other important intellectual and political movements in American thought (for example, white — women’s suffrage, the 20th century civil rights movements). The course examines the changing political vocabulary in American politics – and the expansion of rights to men, laborers, women, racial minorities, and LGBT people.

POL 305 Film, Politics & Ideology

How do ideologies -- bodies of thought -- affect individuals, social movements, nations, institutions, and groups? This course examines ideologies – fascism, communism, racism, capitalism, etc. -- through the study of primary texts and scholarly articles. We use films from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Russia, and the United States to place each ideology in historical, political, and/or economic context. Students are expected to master the complexities of the ideologies in historical context as well as evaluate ideologies that have shaped national and international politics in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This course fulfills the Ethics Overlay of the GEP and we focus on responsibility for the actions of a leader (are the German people responsible for Hitler’s atrocities?), torture (is it ever ethical to torture someone for information?), and capital punishment (are there conditions when it is acceptable for the state to end a life?). This is a Political Science and an International Relations course.
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

(None of these courses satisfy the International Relations major requirements.)

POL 209 Advising the President

What makes a president “great?” What is leadership? Why do some presidents succeed and others fail? This course offers an analysis of the contemporary American Presidency with emphasis on the use of power, the role of personality, the nature of decision-making, and the relationship with the media, interest groups, and public opinion. We will investigate how presidents decide their policy priorities; what factors affect presidents’ public standing; what conditions shape the president’s relationship with Congress; and so on. Having carefully studied the presidency from the above perspectives, we will bring our informed insights to bear on two important questions confronting current and future presidents: race and gender. While the topic of the course is the presidency in general, the secondary goal of the class is to introduce and critically analyze how race and gender shape the ideas we have about our nation’s highest office.

POL 308 Congress and the Legislative Process 3 credits

The U.S. Congress was designed to meet the representational and legislative needs of the republic. In this course, we will study the inherent tension between the representing and legislating by simulating the behavior of members of the House of Representatives. We will pay particular attention to the work of committees, constituent representation, and the introduction and passage of legislation.

POL 309 The Presidency 3 credits

An analysis of the contemporary American Presidency with emphasis on the use of power, the role of personality, the nature of decision-making, and the relationship with Congress, bureaucracies, and public opinion.

POL 310 Constitutional Politics 3 credits

An examination of how the supposedly weakest of the three branches of the federal government has come to exercise political power. The course will study how the Court has employed its functions of judicial review and statutory interpretation to enhance its role within the political system. Cases examined will span the period from Marbury v. Madison (1803) to Bush v. Gore (2000). The course will also review how the appointment and amendment processes have been used to influence the judiciary.
POL 311 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties 3 credits

A study of contemporary issues of civil rights and liberties in the United States, based on an examination of the development of these protections. Issues addressed include the return of substantive due process, freedom of speech, press, and association, racial and gender discrimination and the issue of fundamental rights, including the right of privacy.

POL 313 Public Policy 3 credits

This course will investigate the public policymaking within the United States with an emphasis on the social construction of public policy. Students will assess the significance of social, economic, and political factors that influence policymaking and implementation; how problems become a part of the political agenda; and the major political ideological perspectives in the U.S. that impact policy process and content. The course is a study of policy in practice, as students will evaluate current social problems along with empirical social science research to determine the strengths and weaknesses as well as the intended and unintended effects of a particular social policy at the state and/or national level.

POL 314 Public Administration 3 credits

Essentially a survey of the principles and problems of modern governmental administration, this course concentrates on the theory of administration; the making and execution of public policy; relationships among the executive, legislature, bureaucracy, and public; structure and functions of sound administrative organization; personnel, budgeting, and other special problems; controversial issues of administration in a democratic society; current trend in the theory and practice of American public Administration.

POL 316 State and Local Government 3 credits

This course focuses on gaining an understanding of the state and local tiers in our nation's three-tiered federal system. The organization of the course will explore the key elements of the federal system along with important characteristics of the institutional components that make up state and local government, e.g. the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The course will also examine the political forces that energize state and local governments such as voters, parties, and interest groups. The very important matter of budgeting will be addressed as well. Finally, public policy issues of particular concern to state and local governments will be assessed. To assist in understanding state and local government issues, several guest speakers will address the class and add their insights. We will conduct several focus groups during the semester to discuss relevant issues. We will also devote some attention to polling in the current political atmosphere.
POL 318 Pennsylvania Government and Politics 3 credits

This course is a study of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its recent history, its politics, and the way its government is conducted. The course will have distinct, but overlapping emphases: The Political Environment: What are the political forces driving the agenda in this state? The issues: What are the issues that actually matter in this state? The Structure: How do the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, other statewide offices, and other departments of state government actually work? To assist in learning about these matters, several experienced and knowledgeable guest speakers will address the class. In addition, at various points in the semester, the class will be formed into a focus group to discuss various issues confronting the state.

POL 321 Religion and American Politics 3 credits

After a brief survey of the role religion has played in the formation of the American polity, an examination of the role religion plays in current American politics including its influence on political parties, the development of legislation, presidential elections and the role of the Supreme Court in establishing a proper boundary between religion and the state. Satisfies the Faith-Reason requirement (may not double count as Faith-Reason and major requirement).

POL 322 Campaigns and Elections 3 credits

The Campaigns and Elections course is an examination of modern American political campaigns, with a focus on the dramatic changes that have occurred in electoral politics in recent years. The course will have three distinct, but overlapping emphases: 1. The Strategic Campaign: How are campaigns carried on and managed? How should they be? What are the new technologies that have drastically changed the nature of political campaigns? 2. Voting Behavior: what are the deep and fundamental changes that have occurred in voting behaviors and attitudes in recent years? What are the implications of these changes for the electoral process? 3. The Media and Campaigns: How do the media influence campaigns and electoral outcomes? What are the implications of the pervasive relationship between politics and the mass media? To assist in learning about the real world of politics, several guest speakers with considerable experience in political campaigns will address the class. In addition, at various points during the semester, the class will be formed into a focus group to discuss various campaign-related issues. Typically offered in an even fall semester to correspond with the US election cycle.

POL 323 Women and American Politics 3 credits

This course is designed to provide students with a critical examination of women as political actors in the United States. We will analyze various forms of women's political participation, both in the traditional spheres of what is considered politics -- women as voters and politicians -- and also in more "non-traditional" spheres of political activism. We will examine how women
are mobilized to participate in politics, focusing keenly on the differences among women in their political activism in an effort to understand how the intersection of gender, race, class, sexuality, age, and ability influence women's political activism. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions, and debates in the women and politics scholarship, mainly from a U.S. perspective. Students will become acquainted with many of the critical questions and concepts scholars have developed as tools for thinking about the gendered political experience. In this course you will learn to "read" and analyze gender politically, exploring how it impacts our understanding of the political world. Satisfies the Diversity overlay requirement.

POL 324 Race and Ethnic Politics 3 credits

From its first days, the United States has faced the dilemma of how to incorporate populations different from the majority population into the polity. This dilemma continues today and appears in discussions of such issues as affirmative action, immigration and naturalization, language policy, and social welfare policy. In this course, we will examine the major theories that attempt to explain the roles of race and ethnicity in U.S. politics and the ways in which individuals use race and ethnicity as resources for political organization. We will examine the phenomenon of ethnicity and race in the political development of the United States. Finally, we will look at the political attitudes and behaviors of ethnic and racial populations in order to measure their contemporary political influence. Among the topics to be covered include the meaning of race and ethnicity, the history of racial and immigration politics, prejudice, group participation and mobilization, political representation, and public opinion. Satisfies the Diversity overlay requirement.

POL 327 Environmental Politics in America 3 credits

In order to understand today’s controversies over fracking and global warming, this course examines the rise of environmentalism in America, moving from the progressive conservationism of Teddy Roosevelt through the environmentalism of Earth Day and the 1970’s to the present era. The course uses recent works in political science to establish the actors in environmental decision-making and implementation as we consider federalism and state environmental policy, public opinion, interest groups, political parties, markets and free trade, the Presidency, Congress, the Bureaucracy, and the Courts. The focus of all student work is current – unresolved – policy problems at the local, state, and national levels. One of the course highlights is a policy simulation.
COMPARATIVE POLITICS
(All the of these courses also satisfy International Relations Upper Division Requirements)

POL 331 Latin American Politics 3 credits
This course addresses the political, economic and social development of modern Latin America. It examines the transformation of traditional authority structures, efforts to promote economic development, and more recent concerns for the consolidation of democracy, adjustment to globalization, and U.S.-Latin American relations. Satisfies the Non-Western overlay requirement, and it is also a Latin American Studies course.

POL 332 Politics of Japan 3 credits
This course is designed to discuss and examine political dynamics of modern Japan. Along with the historical analysis of Japanese political development since the mid-19th century, the course will have four thematic sections: (1) Post-War democratic development and conservative politics, (2) Post-War economic development and the recession in the 1990s, (3) Article 9 of the Peace Constitution and Japan, and (4) Collective memories of militaristic past and its legacies. Through the examination of these themes, Japan’s politico-economic, cultural, and historical contexts will be visited and discussed under the broader framework of international relations in East Asia. Satisfies the Non-Western overlay requirement.

POL 333 Asian Political Systems 3 credits
This course will examine and discuss the political dynamics and policy behaviors of the most intriguing systems of East Asia (China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan). To this end, we will explore the intricacies of the cultural, historical, and psychological contexts in which behavioral and policy motivations may be explained. Along with the comparative analysis of each country (political system, political economy, state-society relations, and foreign relations), major contemporary issues and policies will be also examined. Satisfies the Non-Western overlay requirement.

POL 334 Russian Politics 3 credits
In 1917, the USSR was born out of the ashes of the Russian empire, and in 1991, it died. Since the Soviet Union disintegrated, Russia has struggled to develop a new national identity, a healthy economy and society, a well-functioning polity, an efficacious state, and a new orientation in world affairs. This course investigates the significance of the Soviet legacy for the contemporary political situation in Russia and evaluates the impact of new forces unleashed since the end of the communist era. While we will spend a significant amount of time on historical and contemporary empirical content, the class also investigates some of comparative politics’ “big concepts:” revolution, the state, the nation, federalism, totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and democracy.
POL 337 Contemporary Cuban Politics and Society -- Class and Study Tour 3 credits

The Cuban revolution is one of the seminal events of Latin American twentieth century history. This course provides the tools to understand the forces that gave rise to the revolution, how ‘the Revolution’ has evolved over the more than five and a half decades since the Castro government has been in power, and how Cuban society has transformed – politically, economically, socially and culturally. Particular focus is placed on Cuba since the demise of the Soviet Union, the so called “Special Period,” in which Cuba transitioned from a 2nd World client state into an isolated underdeveloped country. Political reforms since then have contributed to an aperture toward the outside world, as well as to steps towards greater economic freedom for Cubans. Many other topics, including race, gender, the arts, Cuba's foreign relations with the U.S. and the rest of the world, citizenship, religion, health care and Cuba's future, will be discussed as well. *This course satisfies the Non-Western overlay requirement, and it is also a Latin American Studies and Africana Studies course.*

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

*(All the of these courses also satisfy International Relations Upper Division Requirements)*

POL 351 International Law and Organization 3 credits

This course is an exploration of the relationship between the political and legal realms. It explores the normative framework within which international relations is conducted and the role of international organizations (IOs) and international law in the contemporary international system. Focusing on a comparative analysis of international governmental organizations (IGO) and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) and how they work with and against international law, we will explore whether such organizations and laws contribute to global governance and cooperation or whether they are merely a “false promise”. The course emphasizes two issue areas: the control of force (war and peace) and the protection of human rights.

POL 352 Global Political Economy (3 credits)

Global economic relations are international, political and complex; they involve cross border flows of goods, money, services, and people and they reflect and create power. This course focuses on the nature and impact of the movement of goods (trade), capital (money, foreign direct investment, bailouts), services (call centers), people (migration), and even "bads" (pollution and disease) to understand the challenges of and opportunities for development, globalization, and international cooperation in today’s world. It emphasizes the analysis of historic booms and busts in various national economies as well as current global events and trends. It also fulfills the Globalization overlay requirement. *(Prerequisite: POL 115)* *Satisfies the Globalization overlay requirement, and is also a Latin American Studies course.*
POL 353 Global Security 3 credits

Examines the weapons-centric approach to security that was dominant during the Cold War and investigates how conceptions of security have changed since that era. While arms and militarization continue to be security concerns, economic strength and development, resource scarcity, environmental degradation, and human rights are all on the post-Cold War security agenda. Contrasts a “national security” perspective with a “global” or “human security” one. Satisfies the Globalization overlay requirement and is also a Faith-Justice Program course.

POL 355 Arms, Arms Control, & Proliferation 3 credits

Anarchy in the international system has long challenged states and other actors to search for ways to provide for security. One of the most common approaches has been to procure armaments, but that method has never been without its critics. Even the advocates of more and better arms became worried in the second half of the twentieth century as the power and levels of stockpiles grew and the certainty and speed with which these destructive devices could reach their targets improved. Thus the idea of arms “control,” a policy of managing the development of arsenals, emerged and guided superpower policy for two decades. This approach came under attack in the 1980s, from both the left and the right. As a result, new pressures for disarmament and build-up followed and coexisted uncomfortably for about two decades. The dawn of the new century has provided new challenges to the policies of armament, arms control, and non-proliferation as an examination of some special topics will demonstrate.

POL 356 U.S. Foreign Policy 3 credits

This course explores US foreign policy since the end of World War II. After a conceptual introduction (Part I) which explores the utility of interests, institutions, and ideas for accounting for American policy, the course examines the US-Soviet competition and the ways that that “cold” conflict affected U.S. behavior not only toward the USSR, but also toward other regions (Part II). Part III investigates the early post-Cold War period and the attempts and failures in constructing some kind of “New World Order,” and Part IV explores how the US has been responding to the twin challenges of terrorism and globalization.

POL 359 Contemporary International Migration (3 credits)

Migration has profound and transformative impacts on many aspects of politics, by its effects on labor markets, culture, gender, racial and ethnic relations, religion, and families and kinship ties. This course draws on social science literature to examine the causes and consequences of migration and the effects on both sending and destination countries in various regions of the world. It explores how various types of migrants - refugees, immigrants, guest workers, trafficked persons, and undocumented workers - have shaped and continue to reshape politics and society through their interactions and relationships with regimes of power and authority, established communities, and each other. This course also addresses the incorporation of
migrants into political and economic life in their destination countries and how this reverberates in their home countries, the role of international organizations in global migration, and analysis of current migratory trends and polemics.

POL 361 Theories of International Relations 3 credits

How do we explain major developments in world politics? This is the task of theory in international relations. In the last twenty-five years, the field has been hotly contested, with three “great debates” organizing the discussion. These debates are the focus of this course, and students will master the arguments waged on all sides and use some of them to organize a research paper on a topic of their choice.

POL 364 International Relations of East Asia 3 credits

The course will examine and discuss the most intriguing dynamics of international relations in East Asia. Along with the historical analysis of international relation in the region since the mid-19th century, the course will engage in the discussion of pressing issues that characterize contemporary international politics in the region, including (1) regional economic development and interactions, (2) Sino-Taiwanese tension and the U.S. involvement, (3) North Korean nuclear crisis, (4) Japan and its post-Cold War security profile, and (5) regional tension over Japan’s militaristic past. Satisfies the Non-Western overlay requirement and is a writing intensive course.

POL 367 Ethics in International Affairs 3 credits

What is morality in international politics? Is ethical reasoning and action possible in international affairs? If possible, when and how? Proponents of IR Realist often claim that there is virtually no room for morality in international affairs, and states and state actors are rational thinkers in the state of international anarchy. For them, ethics are simply luxury and irrelevant. On the other hand, thinkers under the tradition of IR liberalism/idealism emphasize the ethical dimension of state decision making and state behaviors. On what moral ground or ethical reasoning, are the moral behaviors taken place and observed/unobserved? The primary objective of the course is to help students enhance their analytical ability for the study of international ethics. To this end, the course will explore the main traditions and theories of international ethics with a focus on such topical areas as just war and use of force, universal human rights and humanitarian intervention, and national collective memory and post-conflict reconciliation.

POL 368 Global Gender Issues 3 credits

This course examines the concept of gender around the world. Topics include the struggles for full citizenship, why women become political leaders in some settings and not in others, the multiplicities of feminisms, and the ways in which the international political economy depends
on and reinforces conceptions of gender. Satisfies the Globalization overlay requirement, and this is also a Gender Studies course.

SENIOR SEMINARS

Senior seminars are capstone courses in Political Science, and therefore are designed for majors and are advanced in terms of expectations for student performance. This includes high level performance on student assignments, class participation and research papers. Seminars will generally be offered in the Spring of senior year, although students may petition to take them as juniors, as long as they have already taken their sophomore seminar.

POL 402 Seminar: Contentious Politics

Contentious politics consists of many “non-traditional” forms of political action, including social movements, protests, political violence, and revolution. This course focuses on and compares particular cases of contentious politics, the origins of which are rooted in the perceived systematic, institutionalized inequality and violence perpetrated by the state and state actors. Importantly, the movements frame their struggle as one of social justice. However, the leaders within these movements disagreed about how best to fight for justice, ranging from nonviolent resistance to violent resistance to what some have called terrorism. What is “just” about each movement and who decides? Were the tactics employed by each group “just” and for whom? Can violent activity ever be justified? When do a state’s actions become oppressive enough to warrant violent offenses? Through the lens of social justice theory, we will investigate claims of inequality, oppression, and domination articulated by actors within each of the movements and assess whether or not actions by these groups to resist injustice were morally and ethically justified.

POL 403 Seminar: Nation and Nationalism in Global Society 3 credits

The primary objective of this seminar is to help students enhance their analytical abilities for the study of contemporary national problematique. In the rapidly changing contemporary global world, why are people still attracted, swayed, and annoyed by what is national? What is so important about being a part of nation? What drives people to develop specific allegiance toward a nation? And, how? More fundamentally, what is nation?

POL 404 Seminar on Contemporary Peacebuilding 3 credits

The end of the Cold War brought widespread hope for world peace. Long simmering civil strife and interstate confrontations abated in Latin America, the Korean peninsula, Southern Africa and the Middle East. War and destruction, however, were far from over, as places where conflict appeared mostly resolved in the 1990s—the Middle East and Chechnya—reignited at the turn of the century. What is peace and under what conditions is it made? How can a settlement be
transformed and peace be built in a previously war-torn society? This seminar investigates theoretical frameworks of peacemaking and peacebuilding and asks students to apply these perspectives to contemporary cases. *Satisfies the Writing-Intensive overlay requirement.*

**POL 407 Seminar: Theories of Justice in the 21st Century** 3 credits

What is justice? Should people “own” their talents and use them – even if that ends in vast inequality? Must equality trump liberty? Must there be justice in public – or in the family as well? This intimate and contentious seminar examines the major theories of justice beginning with John Rawls’ *A Theory of Justice*. In order to consider alternative theories of justice and criticisms of Rawls, we will read classic critical commentaries in the form of articles and book chapters from Michael Walzer, Michael Sandel, Ronald Dworkin, Susan Okin, Robert Nozick, Martha Nussbaum, and Amartya Sen. This course provides the opportunity to develop a more sophisticated understanding of political justice through the weekly writing of critical, interpretive, and comparative essays. Students obtain a sophisticated vocabulary of political ideology (liberalism, communitarianism, conservatism, feminism, legalism, utilitarianism, and post-modernism) as well as an understanding of different types of justice (e.g., distributive v. restorative). Students write original research papers and formally present their research to the class. Prerequisite: POL 117 or permission of instructor. *Satisfies the Writing-Intensive overlay requirement.*

**EXPERIENTIAL**

**POL 411-412 Washington Internship I-II** 6 credits

See information under Special Academic Programs and Services. *Please note: in Washington, only two of the four courses that you take count for Upper Division POL credit.*

**POL 490 Independent Study -- Washington** 3 credits

Taken in conjunction with POL 411-412.

**POL 491 Philadelphia-Area Internships** 3 credits

Work for the District Attorney of Philadelphia? CBS? A judge? Supervised internships in the Philadelphia area in the offices of elected or appointed government officials, public interest organizations, party organizations, and many other groups involved with politics and policy. This course teaches you how to write a resume, cover letter, and perform a job search. Available both Fall and Spring. *The course is open to ALL majors and satisfies the GEP Writing Intensive Overlay.*
POL 493, 494 Directed Readings in Political Science 3 credits

Students who would like to earn Departmental Honors in Political Science apply to the Honors Program in the spring of their junior year for the right to perform a year-long research project under the supervision of a Political Science Department member. To succeed in the application, the student should be in conversation with that faculty member early on in the junior year. Then, the student works closely with her/his mentor over the course of the senior year to prepare and present a thesis that passes the scrutiny of the mentor, an outside faculty reader with complementary expertise, and a member of the Honors Committee. Prior approval from the Honors Program and Department is necessary. Restricted to students with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in Political Science courses. Students who complete Departmental Honors are not required to take a POL Senior Seminar.