## Political Science Undergraduate Program
### Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

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<tr>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Meeting Time(s)</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>FRESHMEN COURSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22825</td>
<td>10100 01</td>
<td>American Politics</td>
<td>Benjamin Radcliff</td>
<td>TR 12:30-1:45</td>
<td>fulfills American field requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>22826</td>
<td>10200 01</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Susan Pratt Rosato</td>
<td>MW 8:20-9:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>29502</td>
<td>10200 02</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Joseph Parent</td>
<td>MW 11:30-12:20</td>
<td>fulfills International Relations field requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>29503</td>
<td>10400 01</td>
<td>Introduction to World Politics</td>
<td>A. James McAdams</td>
<td>MW 9:25-10:15</td>
<td>fulfills Comparative Politics field requirement</td>
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<td>We will study politics within different states around the world: how countries are similar to one another and how they differ. How did anti-authoritarian protests spread across the Middle East? Why are some states prone to ethnic conflict while others are not? What happens to former dictators after they are ousted from power? Why do some countries have just two parties, which are stable, while others have tens of fragile ones? How do attitudes about gender and religion influence politics? These are some of many questions we will discuss using cases studies from the Afghanistan, India, Mexico, Poland, China, Nigeria, France, Germany, Japan, and New Zealand. This introductory course fulfills the comparative politics breadth requirement for the Political Science major.</td>
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**Co-Req/Friday discussion sections**

- POLS 22200 01 IR Discussion F 8:20-9:10
- POLS 22200 02 IR Discussion F 9:25-10:15
- POLS 22200 04 IR Discussion F 11:30-12:20
- POLS 22200 05 IR Discussion F 10:30-11:20
- POLS 12400 01 Comparative Discussion F 9:25-10:15
- POLS 12400 02 Comparative Discussion F 10:30-11:20
- POLS 12400 03 Comparative Discussion F 11:30-12:20
Political Theory
Joshua Kaplan
MWF 10:30-11:20

This course is an introduction to political theory as a tradition of discourse and as a mode of thinking about politics. It is designed to demonstrate how political theory can enhance our understanding of politics and to connect political theory to political science more generally. The course begins with modern rational choice theory as a way of posing two characteristic problems of modern politics: How can people with different preferences agree on a common course of action? How can the pursuit of self-interest by individuals lead to cooperation rather than conflict? We will then study the ways these questions have been posed and answered by selected works of traditional political theory that explore justice, morality, nature, force, fear, freedom, and rationality as foundations of the political association.

USEM: Great Power Politics
Sebastian Rosato
TR 9:30-10:45

This course examines the key questions concerning relations among the great powers.

USEM: Politics and Literature: J. R. R. Tolkien
Mary Keys
TR 12:30-1:45

This seminar introduces students to the study of political philosophy through the literary narratives of J. R. R. Tolkien's classic works. We read The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, together with the first part of The Silmarillion, paying special attention to the many political problems and themes that come to light: power and wisdom, justice and mercy, war and peace, leadership and citizenship, patriotism and humanism, individuality and friendship, freedom and sacrifice, fear and courage, despair and hope, death and life. An overarching theme of the course is the interrelation among ethics, politics, literary culture, theology, and university education. We also study some of Tolkien's poems and letters, together with selections from works of philosophers and theologians who influenced Tolkien's view of the world, including Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas. After we finish each part of The Lord of the Rings, students will view and discuss the corresponding Peter Jackson film. Students will write several short papers and a final research paper. They should be ready and willing to participate regularly and thoughtfully in seminar discussion, and to shoulder the course's consistently heavy reading load—lightened of course by the joy of Tolkien.

USEM: Democracy and Religion
Andrew Gould
TR 11:00-12:15

This seminar explores the connections between Catholicism, Islam, and democracy. What have been the effects of each religion on democracy? How have democratic regimes affected religions? What is toleration and what role has it played? We read Robert A. Dahl on democracy; Max Weber on religion; Alfred Stepan on toleration; and contemporary research for empirical evidence of the causal pathways linking Catholicism and Islam to varieties of political regimes.

USEM: The American and French Revolutions
Benjamin Radcliff
TR 3:30-4:45

The Revolutions in the United States and France are among the most studied of all events in human history. They collectively mark the emergence and ultimate dominance of democratic ideals in the modern world (though in radically different ways). We examine both revolutions from a variety of perspectives: as historical events, as milestones in the development of modern democracy, and as case studies of the wider issue of revolutions in general. We will read not only conventional historical accounts, but also study (political) literature they inspired (e.g. the Federalist Papers, the Declaration of the Rights of Man). We will also study the revolutions as they are represented in contemporary fiction (e.g. Mantel's novel A Place of Greater Safety) and cinema (e.g. the films Danton, La Révolution Française, Les Adieux à la reine). Given its greater historical significance and complexity, we devote somewhat more attention to the French case.
USEM: Faith, Freedom, and Fanaticism: Religion and Politics

Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

TR 3:30-4:45

The impact of religion on social and political change and the impact of social and political change on the influence of religion are immensely important topics. While many have claimed that religious faith communities essentially impede “human progress”, others have argued that “human progress” is impossible to explain without reference to such faith communities. In this seminar we will take a critical look at religious systems, particularly Christianity and Islam, and examine two major questions: (1) What effects, if any, do religious beliefs and institutions have on human development as well as the prospects for and the quality of democracy? (2) What effects, if any, do human development and democratization have on the relevance of religious beliefs and the influence of religious institutions?

USEM: The Federalist Papers and America Today

Sotirios Barber

TR 2:00-3:15

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers in the late 1780s to persuade New Yorkers to ratify what is now the U.S. Constitution. These papers argued that the Constitution would enhance the liberty, the security, the dignity, and the happiness of Americans through the ages. This seminar will read the Federalist Papers to determine the extent to which their argument remains persuasive. This seminar is intended for students who are interested in problems like the commercialism of American life, the role of religion in politics, the nation’s growing income gap, the nation’s response to global warming, the decline of political leadership in America, government gridlock, and ideological polarization. The course is not designed either for students whose minds are closed or for students who are reluctant to “talk politics.”

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

American Politics

Benjamin Radcliff

TR 12:30-1:45

This course examines the American political system from the point of view of democratic theory. While we will cover the usual range of topics for an introductory course, particular attention will be devoted to understanding whether, or in what ways, the practice of American politics conforms to conventional understandings of democracy. The course thus stresses theoretical understanding and critical appraisal rather than description. No conventional textbook will be used: instead, students will be asked to read a series of books that are more challenging (and some shorter pieces) on individual topics. Course requirements include a substantial paper.

International Relations

Susan Pratt Rosato

MW 8:20-9:10

This course provides an introduction to the study of international relations and will cover several theoretical approaches to end empirical issues in the field of IR. Readings have been selected to highlight both traditional approaches to and more recent developments in world politics. The first half of the course focuses on contending theories of IR, while the second half of the course deals with more substantive issues. Empirical topics and subjects covered include: international security (nuclear weapons, ethnic conflict, and terrorism); international political economy (trade, international finance, and globalization); and 20th Century History (WWI, WWII, and the Cold War). In addition, we will examine several contemporary topics in international organization and law, including the environment, non-governmental organizations, and human rights. We conclude by discussing the future of international relations in the 21st Century.

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Joseph Parent  
MW  11:30-12:20  
fulfills International Relations field requirement

How does the world work? This class examines the most influential forces across borders and distances. The main themes are war, trade, and diplomacy.

Co-Req/Friday discussion sections
POLS 22200 04 IR Discussion F 11:30-12:20  
POLS 22200 05 IR Discussion F 10:30-11:20

Introduction to World Politics  
Andrew Gould  
TR  2:00-3:15  
fulfills Comparative Politics field requirement

This course teaches students how to think comparatively about politics. We study how nation-states emerged as the dominant form of political organization, explain the differences among various states, and explore diverse responses to economic, cultural, and military globalization. The empirical material is drawn from around the globe. This introductory course fulfills the comparative politics breadth requirement for the political science major.

Political Theory  
Joshua Kaplan  
MWF  10:30-11:20  
fulfills Theory field requirement

This course is an introduction to political theory as a tradition of discourse and as a mode of thinking about politics. It is designed to demonstrate how political theory can enhance our understanding of politics and to connect political theory to political science more generally. The course begins with modern rational choice theory as a way of posing two characteristic problems of modern politics: How can people with different preferences agree on a common course of action? How can the pursuit of self-interest by individuals lead to cooperation rather than conflict? We will then study the ways these questions have been posed and answered by selected works of traditional political theory that explore justice, morality, nature, force, fear, freedom, and rationality as foundations of the political association.

American Political Parties  
Christina Wolbrecht  
MW  11:00-12:15  
fulfills American field requirement

Political parties play many vital roles in American politics: They educate potential voters about political processes, policy issues, and civic duties. They mobilize citizens into political activity and involvement. They provide vital information about public debates. They control the choices—candidates and platforms that voters face at the ballot box. They influence and organize the activities of government officials. Most importantly, by providing a link between government and the governed, they are a central mechanism of representation. These roles—how well they are performed, what bias exists, how they shape outcomes, how they have changed over time—have consequences for the working of the American political system. This class explores the contribution of political parties to the functioning of American democracy.

American Public Opinion and Voting Behavior  
Geoffrey Layman  
TR  3:30-4:45  
fulfills American field requirement

A central tenet of democracy is that citizens exert some degree of control over the actions of government, a requirement that places responsibilities on both government office holders and citizens. In this course, we will focus on whether American citizens live up to their end of the democratic bargain both in the depth and breadth of their political opinions and in the quantity and quality of their participation in American elections. We will assess the degree to which citizens hold real opinions on political issues and how those opinions are formed, the extent to which they turn out to vote in elections and the factors determining voter turnout, the nature of voting behavior in various types of elections, the characteristics of the parties' electoral coalitions, and long-term changes in those coalitions.
Race, Ethnicity and American Politics
Dianne Pinderhughes
TR 12:30-1:45
This course introduces students to the dynamics of the social and historical construction of race and ethnicity in American political life. The course explores the following core questions: What are race and ethnicity? What are the best ways to think about the impact of race and ethnicity on American citizens? What is the history of racial and ethnic formation in American political life? How do race and ethnicity link up with other identities animating political actions like gender and class? What role do American political institutions the Congress, presidency, judiciary, state and local governments, etc. play in constructing and maintaining these identity categories? Can these institutions ever be used to overcome the points of division in American society?

Introduction to Public Policy
Claudia Francis
MW 11:00-12:15
This course introduces students to fundamentals of public policy by examining the policy process, reviewing tools for policy analysis, and delving into substantive policy areas. In our exploration of the policymaking process, we will examine how government structure shapes that process, as well as the role and influence of various actors, including special interests. The course will provide students with insight and relevant tools for policy analysis, including writing. Additionally, the course will delve into several substantive policy areas including healthcare, the environment, economic and social policy. This course is the gateway to the Hesburgh Minor in Public Service, but students from all majors and Colleges are welcome.

Topics in Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Matthew Hall
MW 2:00-3:15
This course explores topics in American constitutional law related to civil liberties and civil rights. The course employs a variety of instructional methods including Socratic method lectures, class debates, and moot court exercises in which students play the role of lawyers and justices arguing a Supreme Court case. Students will explore the social and political struggles that have shaped freedom and equality in the United States, including debates over protest, hate speech, pornography, religious freedom, gun control, abortion, race, gender, and homosexuality.

Sexual Morality and the Constitution
Sotirios Barber and Justin Brophy
TR 11:00-12:15
The “sexual revolution” began in the Western democracies sometime between the 1920s and the 1970s. This revolution saw great changes regarding the social acceptability of fornication, divorce, contraception, pornography, abortion, homosexual sex, and gay marriage. Free-market capitalism has been a major factor in this development due to its inventions, like electronic entertainment and the pill, destruction of the family as a self-sustaining economic unit (drawing men and women out of the family farm and the home shop and into the factories and offices of urban centers), and its tendency to enhance economic growth by promoting self-indulgence and weakening moral, religious, and aesthetic restraints on consumption and production. American courts played a significant role in this development by modifying constitutional provisions originally used to protect property rights and pursue equal protection for racial minorities. Popular resentment of religious imposition via the criminal law has also been a factor since opposition to sexual liberation has come mainly from religious communities. This course surveys the mutual influence of American constitutional law and the sexual revolution in America.

Political Polarization
Sam Glaser
TR 2:00-3:15
Political polarization in American politics has reached a new level of contentiousness in the last two to three decades. The media tells us members of the American public are balkanized into red and blue states, whose respective residents clash along partisan lines during every national election. Headlines proclaim we are a nation divided, the moderate middle is a thing of the past, and there is no remedy in sight. In this course, we will investigate the breadth and depth of political polarization in the United States among politicians, activists, and the public, as well as its social, partisan, and political origins. We will also consider the consequences of political polarization for American democracy, including its impact on electoral politics, democratic representation, and public policy.
Latinos and the Future of American Politics
Luis Fraga
MW 11:00-12:15
This course will examine the opportunities and challenges facing Latino communities today as they simultaneously transform and are transformed by their continuing growth in U.S. society. Through a careful examination of the biographies of leaders in Latino communities, we will examine what role they have each played in empowering Latino communities to advance in business, arts, education, community organizing, entertainment, medicine, religion, law, academia, politics, and other areas. The course will coincide with the Transformative Latino Leadership Speaker Series sponsored by the Arthur Foundation through the Institute for Latino Studies. Students in the class will have the opportunity to interact with invited leaders in several setting including the classroom, meals, receptions, and university-wide events. The primary course requirement is a research essay about the life and career of a chosen leader.

Contributing to the Policy Process
Eugene Gholz
MW 2:00-3:15
This course offers the opportunity to draft a policy proposal for a national- or international-level challenge facing the United States government. Students will learn about the types of organizations that offer policy proposals (e.g., interest groups, think tanks, and government agencies), how they present their proposals, and what gives certain proposals traction while others fall by the wayside. Groups of students will then apply that knowledge to propose a possible solution to a particular challenge drawn from an issue area like environmental regulation, trade competitiveness, homeland security, defense planning, and international diplomacy (specific issue choices will depend on student interest). The group projects will involve both written and oral presentation. This course satisfies the capstone requirement for the Hesburgh Program in Public Service.

Healthcare and the Poor
David Betson
TR 2:00-3:15
The relationship between health and poverty is complex and challenging. The inability of the poor to maintain adequate nutrition, shelter and have access to preventative medical care can contribute to their poor health status. But even if one isn’t poor, one illness or hospitalization can test their ability to meet both their ability to meet the financial burden of their medical care as well as their other needs. In either case, individuals have to face difficult choices between their health and other material needs. This course examines the consequences of the health risks the poor face and the difficulties that they have in obtaining medical care whether they are uninsured, seek "charitable" care, or utilize public programs such as Medicaid. The course will also examine the impact of the Affordable Care Act that will require all individuals to have at least a minimal level of health care coverage.

Entitlement Reform: Social Security and Medicare
David Betson
TR 12:30-1:45
With an aging population and concerns with the magnitude of government debt, the future obligations of Social Security and Medicare have made prompted policy makers to actively consider reforms of these government entitlement programs. This course will examine the following topics. What is the economic status of the elderly? How do government programs assist the elderly (the broad range of assistance from tax preferences and means tested programs such as food stamps and Supplemental Security Income to the universal programs such as Social Security and Medicare)? What role do these government programs play in retirement policy? Are governments too generous or should the elderly take on greater responsibility for their retirement years? What reforms are being proposed currently for reform of Social Security and Medicare?
The United States is the most powerful state in the world today. Its actions are important not just for US citizens, but they also affect whether others go to war, whether they will win their wars, whether they receive economic aid, whether they will go broke, or whether they will starve. What determines US foreign policy? What is the national interest? When do we go to war? Would you send US soldiers into war? If so, into which wars and for what reasons? How do our economic policies affect others? Does trade help or hurt the US economy and its citizens? We first study several theories about foreign policy. We then examine the US foreign policy process, including the President, Congress, the bureaucracy, the media, and public opinion. To see how this all works, we turn to the history of US foreign policy, from Washington’s farewell address through the World Wars and the Cold War to the Gulf War. We then study several major issue areas, including weapons of mass destruction, trade and economics, and the environment. Finally, we develop and debate forecasts and strategies for the future.

The course begins with a general discussion of what law is, how it develops, and where it comes from. Later sections of the course center on sources, features, and defining characteristics of each domestic legal tradition. Finally, we will analyze international law.

This is a new course associated with NDISC’s new undergraduate certificate program. It is designed to serve as a gateway for subsequent coursework in international security. This course has two objectives: At a minimum, that students will gain from it the analytical tools, historical knowledge, and current-events background to become more informed citizens, particularly with respect to important national debates about when and how our country should use military force. At a maximum, the course may lead some students to become interested enough in the topic to pursue a career in either the practice or the study of U.S. national security policy.

What will it cover? It will begin with a discussion of the institutions and processes of national security policymaking. It will then consider various theories of the policy process including rationalism, bureaucratic politics and organizational process, pluralist and interest group, and leadership and psychological approaches.

Substantively, the field of national security affairs is often described as a pie-chart, divided into three pieces. The first piece, and the primary focus of Cold War national security policy, deals with nuclear issues. Beginning with a discussion of whether the advent of nuclear weapons has revolutionized warfare, this section then looks at particular problems that nuclear revolution has raised. Including the consequences of mutual vulnerability, proliferation, stability, and concludes with an assessment of the claim that US nuclear primacy and current technology have finally made it possible for the United States to consider fighting and winning a nuclear war.

The second piece of the strategic studies pie covers conventional forces and grand strategy. Again, we begin at the beginning of the Cold War, with a discussion of the evolution of the conventional balance between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. After exploring the process of “net assessment” -- in which a military tries to answer the question of how much military force is enough -- we consider a series of major post-Cold War conventional scenarios, including Korea, the Middle East, and a possible conflict with China. We also drill down into a series of relatively new post-Cold War military missions including humanitarian intervention, nation-building, counter-insurgency, cyber warfare, and counter-terrorism.

The final piece of the pie looks at military and society topics including the role of war (or its absence) in state-building, an explanation of why soldiers fight (and do other things in wartime), and an analysis of civilian control of the military and military effectiveness.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main legal systems around the world. We will focus on the major legal traditions (present and past) such as the indigenous law, civil law, common law, Islamic law, Hindu law, and Asian law. We will concentrate on the history of each legal system, sources of law, and their main characteristics. In addition to the domestic legal systems, we will also examine the main features of international law, its history and sources. The course begins with a general discussion of what law is, how it develops, and where it comes from. Later sections of the course center on sources, features, and defining characteristics of each domestic legal tradition. Finally, we will analyze international law.

Entrepreneurship...
International Political Economy
Amitava Dutt
MW 2:00-3:15
Examination of the interactions between economics and politics at the international level. Discussion of debates concerning the economic implications of trade and international factor movements and the political economy of changes in national policies regarding international interactions using alternative analytical approaches. Topics include global and regional trade liberalization; coordination and cooperation in monetary policy; causes and implications of financial crises; the role of transnational corporations; international migration; the international protection of property rights; and the linkages among economic globalization, environmental regulation, and human rights.

Political Economy of Inequality
Amitava Dutt
MW 3:30-4:45
In the last several decades, in many countries around the world - including countries such as the United States, UK and India - inequality has been found to have increased. Although this is not true for every country, it has attracted a great deal of attention among scholars and the media. This course systematically examines the economics and politics of inequality. It will first examine different concepts of inequality among people and countries, and discuss ways of measuring inequality. It will then examine trends in inequality over time. It will examine whether an increase in inequality is a Bad Thing and, if so, why? Most of the course will be devoted to examining the determinants of inequality in order to explain changes in it, and the implications of inequality for the economy, politics and for society.

International Politics of Climate Change
Patrick Regan
MW 8:00-9:15
The problems associated with climate change are collective problems that will require collective solutions. These generally require some form of political solution. The accumulation of evidence, even anecdotal evidence, seems to point toward potentially irreversible changes in our climate and an almost mind-boggling resistance to doing much about it. This resistance to act is important to understand. If the problems are indeed as dramatic as many say they are (and I think they have evidence on their side), then the solutions will have to be crafted in the political and social arenas. We will develop ways to think about political solutions to these collective problems, focusing on international organizations and agreements, local politics and individual behaviors. We will explore questions of mitigation as well as adaptation to climate pressures.

Political Economy of Globalization
Susan Pratt Rosato
MW 11:00-12:15
This course examines the intersection of politics and economics in an increasingly global world. Economic interdependence has increased dramatically over the past fifty years. While this has raised living standards in many countries, it has also given rise to new social, economic, and political tensions. This course offers an analytical framework for evaluating the consequences of globalization and provides an overview of several theoretical approaches to and empirical issues in today's global economy. The course is divided into three main sections. The first part of the course focuses on understanding what is meant by 'globalization' as well as an introduction to several contending theories of globalization. The second part of the course will focus on managing globalization, and will evaluate different options available to states, institutions, and other actors. The final section of the class will be devoted to empirical issues associated with globalization. Topics discussed include: the environment, corruption, human rights, non-governmental organizations, democratization, and regional trading blocs.

The China Challenge: Guns, Trade, and Confucius
Victoria Hui
MW 3:30-4:45
China has gone from international isolation to global superpower in record-breaking time. How has Beijing orchestrated its meteoric rise? How have US policies facilitated and hindered China’s efforts to close the power gap? Does China’s rise present a challenge to American hegemony and an attack on the U.S. constructed post-WWII order? Are the world’s two most powerful states locked in a 'Thucydides Trap' destined for war? This course analyzes China’s ascendance through international relations theories and practices.
**Intro to International Development Studies**  
Susan Ostermann  
TR 3:30-4:45  
fulfills International Relations field requirement

An introduction to the field of international development, with particular focus on the various disciplines that have contributed to and shaped the development discourse. Readings, lectures, and discussions will draw from various disciplines, including economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, environmental and technological sciences, public health, law, and gender studies, among others. We will examine debates on the meaning and measurement of development; alternative approaches to, and methods in, the study of development; and attempts to address some of the main development challenges facing the world today. There will be a central focus on understanding "what works" in development. Working together in teams, students will conceptualize and design an international development project using "real world" constraints.

**Latin American Politics**  
Rev. Timothy Scully, C.S.C.  
T 6:30-9:00  
fulfills World Politics field requirement

Politics of Latin America is intended to be a multi-disciplinary introduction to critical issues within contemporary Latin American culture, society, politics, and economy. An assumption behind the organization of this course is that many of the traditional boundaries between different disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities are drawn somewhat arbitrarily, and that a more comprehensive understanding of Latin America can, and even should, be approached from a number of different analytic and disciplinary lenses. Thus, we will trespass traditional disciplinary boundaries from time to time over the course of the semester. The course is divided into two major parts. The first part is organized around a number of key analytic lenses, which we will employ sequentially with an aim to gaining a deeper appreciation of important aspects of contemporary Latin America. We will begin with a discussion of the utility of "culture" as a tool for understanding Latin America. Is there such a thing as "Latin America" understood as a discrete category of countries, and if so, what do they share in common? We will follow this discussion with an exploration of what is certainly a chief cultural expression among any people, an exploration of levels of religiosity and their relationship to social and political behavior. Other key features of culture will be woven into the analyses of the case studies we will undertake for the remainder of the course. We will explore the wide variation in the quality of democratic governance in different Latin American countries. And we will look to some of the sources of that variation, including democratic institution building, economic and social policy making, and the persistence of populist politics, and forces in the international arena, such as U.S Foreign Policy, among other factors. In the remainder of the course, we will look specifically at country-cases in comparative perspective, in particular Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia and Venezuela. In selecting these cases, I have made a conscious decision to sacrifice breadth for greater depth. An effort will be made throughout the discussion of the cases to make broader comparisons with a wider range of Latin American cases.

**Elections and Social Protest in Latin America**  
Guillermo Trejo  
MW 2:00-3:15  
fulfills World Politics field requirement

Elections and social protest are the two most important means of political participation in Latin America today. Every year, millions of Latin Americans go to the ballot box to elect their representatives, but millions also march to their country’s capitals to oust elected politicians or simply to demand public goods or policy changes. Are Latin American citizens taking to the streets to contest market-oriented reforms, as it is often portrayed? Or do they take to the streets because elections don’t work in Latin America’s dysfunctional democracies? Are Latin American voters electing leftist politicians to move the economies away from neoliberal policies? Do the rich vote for the Right and the poor for the Left? In this course, we want to understand who votes, who protests, and why they do it. We also want to understand the relationship between elections and protest. The course first provides a general overview of democratization, economic reforms, electoral behavior and social protest in Latin America. We then analyze electoral and social dynamics in six countries: Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, and Guatemala. The in-depth analysis of these countries will provide you with a solid understanding of markets, democracies, voters and protesters in Latin America and will give you skills on how to assess public opinion surveys.
The Middle East is simultaneously one of the most strategically important regions in the world and one of the least understood. This course provides an introduction to the politics of the region from a thematic perspective. It addresses a variety of topics, including democracy, development, sectarianism, oil, and conflict. Students will be assigned readings from both historical scholarship and contemporary analysis of regional issues. When applicable, cases from across the region will be used to illustrate the themes of the course.

This course offers a general introduction to the politics of contemporary China. After background on the imperial and Republican periods and the development of the Communist revolution, we will focus on major political events in the People's Republic: land reform, Hundred Flowers Campaign, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Democracy Wall, Opening and Reform, Tiananmen Uprisings, Beijing Olympics, etc. Then we proceed to a thematic discussion of popular participation and protest, state control, the emergence of civil society groups, and major challenges facing contemporary China. The basic objectives of this course are to provide a working knowledge of Chinese politics and to encourage a critical evaluation of the positive and negative aspects of China's socialist experiment.

This course seeks to understand the influences of Islam on politics in the modern age. It examines the origins of modern Islamist politics, including institutional and structural causes that are widely discussed, but not well understood both by adherents and the outsiders, as well as different interpretations of the relation of the religion and politics, such as moderate/participant Islamist movements, Shiite political Islam, political Salafism, and extremist expressions. The course will focus on various movements not just only in Muslim majority countries (Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia) but also in Europe and the U.S. where Muslims are a minority. Along with secondary sources, students will read some translated original sources that have influenced modern applications of Islam in politics.

This course examines civic engagement in comparative perspective, with an emphasis on youth participation. While voting is seen as the quintessential element of democracy, recent trends indicate a growing trend toward low turnout, lack of trust in political institutions, and withdrawal from formal politics, especially among young people. At the same time, the umbrella movement in Hong Kong to demand for democracy was headed by the 17-year old Joshua Wong; the youngest Nobel Laureate Malala plays a major role in advocating education for women globally; and high school and university students in Brazil organized nation-wide protests in opposition to the budget cuts for education funding. Throughout the course, we will look at various ways young people interact with politics: from voting to bottom-up mechanisms such as grassroots movements and protests, top-down democratic innovation designs such as participatory budgeting and direct democracy, and online participation. We will discuss (1) the context of how these repertoires emerge, transform and diffuse overtime, (2) their objectives, challenges and impact, (3) and the relationship between participatory and representative democracy. The goal is to understand the implications of these new ways of engagement for democracy.
In this course we study the tensions between inequality and democracy by studying the experience of developing nations in Latin America, Africa and South Asia, and by assessing how democracy interacts with human and economic development. A well-functioning democracy presumes that citizens have an equal right to influence policies. But this formal political equality clashes with the reality of social inequality in the developing world. When citizens have widely disparate access to wealth and education, political decisions can be biased in favor of those who have the most. In this seminar we examine the origins, functioning, consequences, and policy implications of unequal democracies. We begin by covering normative theories of how democracy should work from philosophy, political science, and economics. Drawing on the experience of developing and advanced economies, we next analyze how inequality might threaten these normative ideals, by studying a wide-range of phenomena including segmented political participation, lobbying, campaign donations, corruption, vote buying, and electoral fraud. The last part of the course turns to the possible solutions to these problems, such as transparency initiatives, judicial accountability, campaign finance reform, social policy, and redistribution. Students will engage these topics by reading the specialized literature, case studies, coverage of current events, and through hands-on data analysis of socio-economic indicators, and public opinion polls.

Economic reform, such as changes in welfare provision and labor market regulation, brings out new distributional conflicts and often exacerbate existing conflicts. How countries deal with these conflicts reveal both significant commonalities and differences. This course is designed to help students make sense of these patterns. The first part of the course provides the basic tools with which to begin the investigation: stylized facts about some common economic challenges and theoretical concepts widely employed to analyze institutional change. In the second part, we will explore the causes and the consequences of varied approaches to economic reform. In doing so, we will focus on two major economic institutions—namely, the labor market and the welfare state.

This course will explore the intellectual foundations of the constellation of ideas that have become the dominant political worldviews in modern American society. The course will focus on European sources of each tradition, as well as developments of each in America. Concepts that will be explored include progress, historicism, pragmatism, liberty, equality, diversity, cosmopolitanism, localism, tradition, prescription, authority, secularism and religion, particularly Catholicism.

An introduction to the nature and influence of Roman law, one of the most celebrated and distinctive elements of ancient Roman culture. The course surveys the development of Roman civil and criminal law from the very early and enigmatic Twelve Tables to the very late and amazingly great Digest of Justinian. Topics covered include legal procedures, the creation of law, and Roman jurisprudence, all of which are studied in the broad context of Roman government and administration. The lasting effects of Roman law on modern legal systems are also considered.
Americans from a variety of different political persuasions now fear that their republic is in crisis although they disagree on the causes and character of that crisis. Some people see “the establishment” as the problem while others are disturbed by a lack of respect for established norms and institutions. This course offers perspective on the issue by seeking guidance from political history and political theory, to see how the ways we understand the current crisis compare to how such crises were understood in the past. We’ll start with ancient Athens and Rome, with readings on the crises of their times by Plato, Aristotle, and Plutarch. From there we will turn to how early modern political thinkers such as Machiavelli, Montesquieu, and Rousseau thought about Athens and Rome to address the crises of their own times. The first half of the course will conclude by considering how and why the American Founders referred to Athens and Rome, particularly in the Federalist Papers. In the second half of the course, we will focus on the subsequent political history of the United States, in an attempt to apply the various accounts of republican crisis we have examined in the first half of the course. We will discuss Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War; Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Great Depression, and the Second World War; and Richard Nixon and Watergate, as well as the present day.

This class will examine the American Civil War as a study in political failure. Beginning with the American republic’s earliest political documents, we will explore the dynamics of the Constitutional convention and its ratification among the various states, as well as the compromises within the Constitution itself surrounding slavery as an institution and as a business. With these original fracture lines in mind, we will then look at the political crises leading up to the Civil War, tracing the rapid polarization of North and South in popular culture, as well as the dramatic shifts in language concerning slavery over the first half of the 19th century. Students will come to a greater appreciation of the difficulties with which compromises were forged in this hostile climate, but will also recognize the ways in which these compromises continually failed to deal with the central existential problems for this troubled union. Other themes of the course will include state sovereignty and the American identity, whether the Civil War was an inevitable tragedy, the idea of slavery in popular imagination and in reality, the effect of technological development on politics, and continued political failure after the Civil War.

Through four major units beginning with the new Jim Crow and then working chronologically through abolition, the civil rights movement, and black feminist thought, students will encounter complex topics such as racial and intersectional identity, social justice, power relations, and methods of political protest. Ta-Nehisi Coates’ and Michelle Alexander’s recent works, Between the World and Me and The New Jim Crow, serve as our starting point and our constant foil for the evolution of African American political thought from 1830-2017. The course culminates in an original research project comparing contemporary work to historical political thought, enabling students to consider the movement for black lives (Black Lives Matter), the mass incarceration of African Americans, and the Obama presidency as part of a much longer story.

This course explores the development of Catholic social teaching within its historical and political context. The course proceeds chronologically, employing as its core readings the papal encyclicals written over time as responses to various moral, social, economic, and political challenges of the modern era: from Pope Leo XIII’s Rerum Novarum (1891) and labor disputes, through the 20th century struggles with totalitarianism, to Pope Francis’ Laudato Si (2015) and stewardship of creation. The goal is that through these documents and supplementary texts, students will arrive at a critical understanding of key recurring themes, including subsidiarity, solidarity, marriage and the family, preferential option for the poor, human dignity, the common good, and the dynamic relationship between religion and politics more generally.
Markets and their Critics  Mark Hoipkemier  MW  12:30-1:45  fulfills Theory field requirement

Let the market decide? Western societies today use markets to organize ever more domains of human affairs, from education to health care, on the premise that markets are best at delivering wealth, freedom, and ultimately human happiness. The goal of this course in political thought is to ask whether and why (and when) this premise might be true, by studying the great debates of the 19th and 20th centuries between markets and economic planning, as well as third-way critiques in the Aristotelian tradition. Using historical and contemporary political writers, we will explore what markets are and how they work, what have been the most influential moral and political arguments for and against market arrangements (and the alternatives), and what limits markets should have in a healthy political economy. Readings will include Adam Smith, Friedrich Hayek, Karl Marx, Karl Polanyi, and Benedict XVI.

Moot Court: Equal Protection  Matthew Hall  MW  5:05-6:20

This course will explore the development of modern equal protection law through a series of moot court exercises. Students will play the role of lawyers and justices and retry famous Supreme Court cases from American history on five topics: school desegregation, sex discrimination, disparate impact, affirmative action, and sexual orientation discrimination.

The course is intended to (1) provide students with a firm understanding of the complicated legal issues involved in modern equal protection controversies, (2) help students develop effective and persuasive communication skills, (3) familiarize students with the challenges of building a fair and respectful society, (4) encourage students to promote social justice in their own communities, and (5) challenge students to think carefully about their own views on civil rights. "Interested students should contact the instructor."

Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia  Debra Javeline  TR  11:00-12:15  fulfills World Politics field requirement

This course will cover the politics of the former Soviet Union, from Russia to Azerbaijan to Tajikistan. We will discuss the nature of the Soviet empire in Eurasia, and then the causes of its collapse. Then the course will focus on the politics, economics, and international relations of the new countries to emerge in this region over the past twelve years. We will address the political transition to electoral democracy in Russia, the failed democratization and nationalist conflict in the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia), and the rise of new authoritarian regimes (as in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan). We will also examine the role of Islamic revivalism and Islamic fundamentalism in the region, the causes of civil wars that broke apart several regimes in the early-mid 1990s, and the politics of national identity formation, and the politics of oil. Finally, we will discuss the complexities of relations between the post-Soviet states and China, Russia, and the US. The course will have two exams and require one 12-15 page paper.

Sustainability: Principles and Practices  Debra Javeline  TR  12:30-1:45  fulfills World Politics field requirement

This interdisciplinary course explores the challenges of environmental sustainability through social, economic, scientific, and theological lenses. Taught jointly by professors from the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, the course aims to instill broad, integrative and critical thinking about contemporary global environmental problems whose solutions will depend on multidisciplinary approaches. This gateway course to the Minor in Sustainability is open to all students interested in a deep exploration of these critical issues. Students considering the Minor in Sustainability are encouraged to take this course during their sophomore year. Requirements include a field trip and two hours of community volunteer work.
Visualizing Politics
Michael Coppedge
TR 9:30-10:45
fulfills Methodology Requirement for Departmental Honors

This course is an introduction to political, economic, and social issues through the medium of visual displays. This kind of course has become feasible because data are now abundant and easy to access and software for displaying and analyzing data are available and easy to use. The ability to examine and display data is an increasingly valuable skill in many fields. However, this skill must be complemented by the ability to interpret visual displays orally, and by a commitment to use data responsibly: to reveal, rather than slant or distort the truth. We will discuss examples concerning drugs, marriage, climate change, development, economic performance, social policy, democracy, voting, public opinion, and conflict, but the main emphasis is on helping you explore many facets of an issue of particular interest to you. You will learn to manage data and produce your own graphics to describe and explain political, social, economic (or other!) relationships. The graphics will include line and bar graphs, 2D and 3D scatterplots, motion charts, maps, and others.

INTERNSHIPS/CAREERS/RESEARCH

Internship
Carolina Arroyo
TBA TBA
The goal of the internship program is to provide opportunities to integrate academic learning with the world beyond the classroom. Internships are available throughout the Notre Dame area with a variety of government offices, non-profit agencies and NGO's. Interns work with professionals in their area of interest, explore career options and gain real work experience. Students will need a resume and a cover letter to apply for an internship. Interns are required to work at least 6-8 hours per week. All internships are unpaid. Internship credits do not fulfill the Political Science major requirements.

JUNIOR SEMINARS

Junior Seminar: Transitional Justice in Latin America
Guillermo Trejo
MW 11:00-12:15
At the end of a long period of authoritarian rule or a protracted civil war, societies and governments are confronted with the question of whether to ignore past human rights violations and move on or to expose and punish perpetrators of violence by seeking truth and justice. This course is an introduction to three of the most widely used transitional justice mechanisms: Truth commissions, trials and amnesties. We assess the adoption of these mechanisms through the historical experience of six Latin American countries: Guatemala, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico. Our goal is to understand what these mechanisms are, how they work, and the long-term impact they can have on building peaceful societies – with low human rights’ violations and low criminal violence – and on developing a democratic rule of law. In this course we adopt a social-scientific approach, combining history, political science, sociology and law. Besides covering academic works (both quantitative and qualitative), we will discuss Truth Commission reports and reports by international institutions and NGOs.

Junior Seminar: Islamic Law
Emilia Powell
TR 12:30-1:45
How does the world of Islam understand the concept of law? What is Islamic law? How did it evolve? In order to answer these questions, this seminar will compare Islamic law with Western concepts of law and justice. Students will consider the meanings of Islamic law, its historical evolution, substance and procedure. We will examine the intricate relationship between Islamic faith and Islamic law, and how a faith-based concept of law relates to modern governance and constitutionalism. The aim of this seminar is to acquire a better understanding of Islamic law (Sharia) as an expression of the divine will, and as a system of laws and justice, through focusing on classic texts, documentary films, photography, art and sculpture. It is also to gain experience in collaborative group projects, speaking, leading discussion, as well as presenting.
Junior Seminar: Strategy
Joseph Parent
MW 12:30-1:45
What makes good strategy? This class draws on lawyers, economists, ethicists, generals, business people, philosophers, historians, sociologists, and political scientists to study the foundations and limitations of strategic thinking. The main themes are power, persuasion, and unintended effects.

Junior Seminar: Global Religious Freedom
Daniel Philpott
TR 9:30-10:45
The seminar will examine the issue of religious freedom around the world. First, we will explore the basis and development of religious freedom as a human right. Then, we will look at the widespread global violation of religious freedom. While the persecution of Christians is not an exclusive focus, it will receive close attention. We will also look closely at the state of religious freedom in Islam and will take a brief look at religious freedom in the West for comparative purposes. Finally, we will look at strategies for increasing religious freedom around the world.

Junior Seminar: Political Psychology of Racism
Darren Davis
TR 11:00-12:15
This course examines the political psychology of racism in American Politics. Over the past fifty years, political science and psychology have directed a great deal of theoretical and empirical energy toward understanding the causes and consequences of intergroup conflict and prejudice. Drawing upon both disciplines, this seminar explores how the subtle (and not so subtle) aspects of race is played out in politics. Specifically, this course focuses on racial considerations in voting decisions and political participation, the support for racial policies, implicit (and explicit) racial considerations in the selection of political candidates, the formation of social identity and racial attitudes, political cognition and race in the media and political campaigns, and intergroup conflict.

SENIOR SEMINARS

Senior Seminar: Politics and the Problem of Good and Evil
Mary Keys
MW 3:30-4:45
In this writing seminar, we investigate fundamental questions concerning the nature of good and evil, focusing on their manifestations in and impacts on political life. Readings integrate historical, philosophical, theological, and literary approaches to this problem. Our main texts will be Augustine’s City of God and Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings. Students will give at least one oral presentation and will write a research paper on a course-related topic of their own choosing.

Senior Seminar: Civil Liberties
Vincent Phillip Munoz
TR 9:30-10:45
Our seminar on civil liberties will examine the American Constitution and some of the rights protected by it. We will begin by addressing the political philosophy that animated the Founders’ constitutional design, the role of the judiciary within our constitutional republic, and methods of constitutional interpretation. We will then proceed to discuss how the Constitution and the Supreme Court have adjudicated cases and controversies regarding fundamental issues of American politics, law, and history, including: the right to bear arms, property rights, abortion and privacy rights, gay rights and gay marriage, freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of the press, race, and equal protection before the law. Our primary method of study will be to read, discuss, and debate landmark Supreme Court opinions.
Senior Seminar: NGO's in International Relations
Susan Pratt Rosato
MW 12:30-1:45
This course examines the politics of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in international relations. It provides an overview of several theoretical approaches to and empirical studies of non-state actors in world politics. Readings have been selected to highlight both traditional approaches to and more recent developments in the field. The first half of the course focuses on contending perspectives of the role that NGOs play in IR, while the second half of the course deals with contemporary issues and case studies. General topics addressed include: defining an NGO; the influence of NGOs on state behavior; the impact of global civil society on democracy; NGO strategies and tactics for affecting state change; and whether the NGO movement has eroded state sovereignty. Empirical issues discussed include: NGOs and the UN system; environmental activism; women’s rights and human rights; development and aid-based organizations; as well as the influence of NGOs on security issues, multinational corporations, and international organizations.

Senior Seminar: What are the Institutions that Regulate Global Markets?
Susanne Wengle
TR 2:00-3:15
What are global markets are and how they are governed? The aim of this senior seminar is to introduce students to empirical trends and academic debates on the institutional and political underpinnings of the global economy. Throughout the course, we will consider whether increasing economic globalization and democratic governance are compatible or at odds with each other. We will examine a range of actors involved in the politics of global markets – governments, international organizations as well as a range of private actors: What role does each of these actors play? How has their influence evolved over the post-War period? What challenges have they been dealing with over time and how successful are they in meeting them? The first part of the class introduces students to recent debates on what global markets are (readings address trends such as liberalization, globalization and vertical disintegration) and to broad theoretical approaches that theorize global governance. We will then read about and discuss the history, politics and current challenges of different types of global governance institutions: multilateral institutions and transnational governance arrangements. We will also read about emergence of private governance regimes and how they interact with public standards and regulations. There are no formal prerequisites, but an interest in economic issues and previous classes in either political economy or economics are helpful.

Senior Seminar: Identity Politics
Michael Hoffman
MW 3:30-4:45
Identity politics has recently regained attention as a major force in political behavior. In this course, we will examine the features of identity politics that bear on individuals’ political preferences and decisions. Using both historical and contemporary examples, we will analyze the role of identity considerations in electoral behavior, protest, and partisanship, among other areas. Some of the identity categories studied will be race, gender, and religious affiliation. The course includes cases within both the American context and international comparisons.