Government and Legal Studies

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Requirements for the Major in Government and Legal Studies

Courses within the department are divided into four fields:


Every major is expected to complete an area of concentration in one of these fields. The major consists of nine courses, no more than two taken at Level A, and no more than one first-year seminar, and distributed as follows:

1. A field of concentration, selected from the above list, in which at least four courses including one Level C course and no more than one Level A course are taken.

2. At least one course in each of the three fields outside the field of concentration. These courses may be at Levels A, B, or C, though only two Level A courses may count toward the major and no more than one of these may be a first-year seminar.

3. Government 207, 219, 239, 264, 395, Environmental Studies 240, while not fulfilling the requirement for any of the four fields of concentration, can be counted toward the total number of courses required for the major or minor.

4. Students seeking to graduate with honors in government and legal studies must petition the department. Interested students should contact the honors director for specific details. Students must prepare an honors paper, which is normally the product of two semesters of independent study work, and have that paper approved by the department. One semester of independent study work may be counted toward the nine-course departmental requirement and the four-course field concentration. Students who hope to graduate with honors in government and legal studies thus normally must complete at least ten courses in the department.

5. To fulfill the major/minor requirements, a grade of C- or better must be earned in a course. Courses taken on a nongraded basis (Credit/D/Fail) may not be used to fulfill major/minor requirements.

Requirements for the Minor in Government and Legal Studies

A minor in government and legal studies consists of five courses from at least three of the
departmental fields. No more than two Level A courses and no more than one first-year seminar may count toward the minor.

**LEVEL A COURSES**

**Introductory Seminars**

All introductory seminars are designed to provide an introduction to a particular aspect of government and legal studies. Students are encouraged to analyze and discuss important political concepts and issues, while developing research and writing skills.

Enrollment is limited to sixteen students in each seminar. First-year students are given first priority; sophomores are given second priority. For a description of the following introductory seminars, see First-Year Seminars, pages 149–60.


(Same as Asian Studies 19.)

20b. *Global Media and Politics*. (Same as Asian Studies 20.)


Formerly Government 108.

**Introductory Lectures**

These courses are intended for first-year students and sophomores. Others may take them only with the permission of the instructor.


Provides a broad introduction to key concepts in comparative politics. Most generally, asks why states are governed differently, both historically and in contemporary politics. Begins by examining foundational texts, including works by Marx, Smith, and Weber. Surveys subfields within comparative politics (the state, regime types, nations and nationalism, party systems, development, and civil society) to familiarize students with major debates and questions.


Provides a comprehensive overview of the American political process. Specifically, traces the foundations of American government (the Constitution, federalism, civil rights, and civil liberties), its political institutions (Congress, Presidency, courts, and bureaucracy), and its electoral processes (elections, voting, and political parties). Also examines other influences,
such as public opinion and the mass media, which fall outside the traditional institutional boundaries, but have an increasingly large effect on political outcomes.


Provides a broad introduction to the study of international relations. Designed to strike a balance between empirical and historical knowledge and the necessary theoretical understanding and schools of thought in IR. Designed as an introductory course to familiarize students with no prior background in the subject, and recommended for first- and second-year students intending to take upper-level international relations courses.

LEVEL B COURSES

Level B courses are designed to introduce students to or extend their knowledge of a particular aspect of government and legal studies. The courses range from the more introductory to the more advanced. Students should consult the individual course descriptions regarding any prerequisites.


An examination of the American criminal justice system. Although primary focus is on the constitutional requirements bearing on criminal justice, attention is paid to conflicting strategies on crime control, to police and prison reform, and to the philosophical underpinnings of the criminal law.


An examination of the presidency in the American political system, including the “road to the White House” (party nomination process and role of the electoral college), advisory systems, the institutional presidency, relations with Congress and the courts, and decision-making in the White House. Drawing upon the instructor’s own research and a growing body of literature in this area, the role of women as advisors within the White House and Executive branch, and influence of outside groups on the White House’s consideration of “women’s issues,” especially since 1960, are also topics of discussion.

203b. American Political Parties.


An examination of the United States Congress, with a focus on members, leaders, constituent relations, the congressional role in the policy-making process, congressional procedures and their impact on policy outcomes, and executive-congressional relations.

205b. Campaigns and Elections.


How is public policy in the United States shaped by the political process? How does public policy and state-building define the contours of American politics? Examines the qualitative differences between redistributive, regulatory, and “patronage” policy, and evaluates the impact of public policy on American political development. Readings explore in some detail a number of key policy areas including healthcare, immigration reform, and homeland security.


Examines efforts by communities and regions to build strong local economies, safeguard important environmental values, protect public health, and address issues of economic and social justice. In many communities, metropolitan areas, and rural regions, state and local government officials work with other leaders to set ambitious goals for economic and
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environmental sustainability and to develop specific plans for sustainable development. These efforts cross political, institutional, and sectoral barriers, thus challenging and sometimes re-shaping state and local politics as well as American federalism. Examines how local leaders can work in complex settings to set goals and mobilize federal, private, and non-profit resources to achieve specific, cross-cutting objectives. (Same as Environmental Studies 207.)

Prerequisite: One course in environmental studies or government.

[208b. Mass Media and American Politics.]


Examines the political behavior of ordinary citizens. Begins with a broad focus on the importance of citizen participation in a democracy, and the debate over how much or how little participation is best. Examines the reasons for citizen (non)participation, and focuses on the effects of campaigns and social capital on different forms of participation.


Examines the development of American constitutionalism, the power of judicial review, federalism, and separation of powers.


Examines questions arising under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

Prerequisite: Government 210.

[215b. Urban Politics.]

[216b. Maine Politics.]


A study of the impact of the American legal system on the functioning of schools in the United States through an examination of Supreme Court decisions and federal legislation. Analyzes the public policy considerations that underlie court decisions in the field of education and considers how those judicial interests may differ from the concerns of school boards, administrators, and teachers. Issues to be discussed include constitutional and statutory developments affecting schools in such areas as free speech, sex discrimination, religious objections to compulsory education, race relations, teachers’ rights, school financing, and education of the handicapped. (Same as Education 250.)


Examines the meaning of development from economic and political perspectives. Considers various theories and practices of development that have been applied to newly independent states in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Investigates why trajectories of economic growth and political stability have been so uneven in different regions of the world. Incorporates views from both external and internal actors on issues such as foreign aid, multilateral institutions, good governance, and democratic participation.


Familiarizes students with the contemporary politics and political history of the two jurisdictions on the Island of Ireland. Provides an understanding of the political institutions in Ireland north and south; studies constitutional and public policy issues such as church and state, while offering the means to critically assess the relevance of social science theories of nationalism, religion, and conflict resolution to the Ireland case.
222b. Politics and Societies in Africa. Fall 2009. ERICKA A. ALBAUGH.

Surveys societies and politics in sub-Saharan Africa, seeking to understand the sources of current conditions and the prospects for political stability and economic growth. Looks briefly at pre-colonial society and colonial influence on state-construction in Africa, and concentrates on three broad phases in Africa’s contemporary political development: (1) independence and consolidation of authoritarian rule; (2) economic decline and challenges to authoritarianism; (3) democratization and civil conflict. Presumes no prior knowledge of the region. (Same as Africana Studies 222.)

223b. The Political Economy of Welfare States in Western Europe.

224b. West European Politics. Fall 2009. LAURA A. HENRY.

Analyzes the dynamics of West European political systems, including the varieties of parliamentary and electoral systems and the formation of governments and lawmaking. Addresses contemporary political challenges in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and other states, considering topics such as institutional reform, welfare state policies, economic growth and unemployment, relations with the United States, and other foreign policy concerns. The European Union is not examined, as it is a separate course. Government 225: The Politics of the European Union.


Explores the historical foundations, scope, and consequences of European political and economic integration since 1951. Examines how the European Union’s supranational political institutions, law, and policies developed and how they affect the domestic politics of member states. Considers challenges faced by the European Union: enlargement to include Eastern European members, the loss of national sovereignty and the “democratic deficit,” the creation of a European identity, and the development of a constitution and a coordinated foreign policy.

226b. Middle East Politics. Fall 2009. SHELLEY M. DEANE.

An introduction to the politics of the Middle East region. Begins with a history of the region, focusing on the period since the end of World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Proceeds to examine a number of topics of importance in the contemporary politics of the region. Some of the major topics addressed are colonialism and its legacy; nationalism; religion and politics; authoritarianism, democratization, and civil society; ethnicity and sectarianism; regional security and the role of outside powers. Presumes no previous knowledge of the region.

[228b - IP. Chinese Foreign Policy. (Same as Asian Studies 228.)]

[230b. Post-Communist Russian Politics and Society.]


Comprehensive overview of modern Japanese politics in historical, social, and cultural context. Analyzes the electoral dominance of the Liberal Democratic Party, the nature of democratic politics, and the rise and fall of the economy. Other topics include the status of women and ethnic minorities, education, war guilt, nationalism, and the role of the media. (Same as Asian Studies 282.)


An examination of the forces and processes by which governments and societies approach and wage or avoid wars. The theories and practices of warfare of various political systems will be analyzed and particular attention will be paid to the interface where politics, society,
and the military come together under governmental auspices in various comparative contexts. Specific examples from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America are examined.


[238b. The Politics of East Central Europe.]

[239b. Comparative Constitutional Law.]

A survey of classical political philosophy focusing on Plato’s Apology and Republic, Aristotle’s Politics and Nicomachean Ethics, and St. Augustine’s City of God. Examines ancient Greek and early Christian reflections on human nature, justice, the best regime, the relationship of the individual to the political community, the relationship of philosophy to politics, democracy, education, and religion.

A survey of modern political philosophy from Machiavelli to Mill. Examines the overthrow of the classical horizon, the movement of human will and freedom to the center of political thought, the idea of the social contract, the origin and meaning of rights, the relationship between freedom and equality, the role of democracy, and the replacement of nature by history as the source of human meaning. Authors may include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, and Mill.

244b. Liberalism and Its Critics. Fall 2009. Paul N. Franco.
An examination of liberal democratic doctrine and of religious, cultural, and radical criticisms of it in the nineteenth century. Authors include Burke, Tocqueville, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche.

A survey of political philosophy in Europe and the United States since 1945. Examines a broad array of topics, including the revival of political philosophy, relativism, rationalism, contemporary liberal theory, communitarianism, conservatism, multiculturalism, feminism, and postmodernism. Authors may include Strauss, Arendt, Oakeshott, Berlin, Hayek, Rawls, Sandel, Taylor, Walzer, Okin, Habermas, and Foucault.
Prerequisite: One course in political philosophy or permission of the instructor.

[248b. Statesmanship, Ancient and Modern.]

[249b. Eros and Politics.]

Examines the political thought of American statesmen and writers from the founding to the twentieth century, with special emphasis on three pivotal moments: the Founding, the Crisis of the House Divided, and the growth of the modern welfare state. Readings include the Federalist Papers, the Anti-federalists, Jefferson and Hamilton, Calhoun, Lincoln, William Graham Sumner, the Progressives, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and contemporary thinkers on both the right and the left.

Examines the use of quantitative methods to study political phenomena. Discusses the nature of empirical thinking and how principles used for years by natural scientists, such as causation and control, have been adopted by social scientists. Introduces what these methods are and how they might be useful in political research, and applies these methods, with particular emphasis on the use of survey data. Using quantitative methods, employs statistical computing
software as a research tool, with a focus on effective presentation of data and results. This course might be useful to those who are considering a senior honors project.


The modern state system, the role of law in its operation, the principles and practices that have developed, and the problems involved in their application.

261b. International Security.]

263b. International Environmental Policy. (Same as Environmental Studies 263.)


Examines how the federal government in the United States, as well as states, communities, businesses, and nonprofits, can address climate change and energy issues. Compares American policies and politics with efforts in other countries and examines the links between American policies and efforts in other nations. (Same as Environmental Studies 264.)

Prerequisite: One course in environmental studies or government, or permission of the instructor.


Examines the politics underlying international economic relationships. Asks why and how it is that countries are sometimes able and sometimes unable to realize the benefits of trade. Looks at the political consequences of international trade and global finance at both the national and international level. Examines conflicts and cooperation in international economic relations and the effects of globalization on social structures, on inequality, and on national sovereignty. No previous experience in economics needed.

268b. Bridging Divisions: Ethnonational Conflict Regulation.


Examines the development and conduct of United States foreign policy. Analyzes the impact of intragovernmental rivalries, the media, public opinion, and interest groups on the policy-making process, and provides case studies of contemporary foreign policy issues.

274b. Arctic Politics.


LEVEL C COURSES

Level C courses provide seniors and juniors with appropriate background the opportunity to do advanced work within a specific subfield. Enrollment is limited to fifteen students in each seminar. Priority is given to senior majors, then junior majors, particularly those with a concentration in the subfield. Sophomores may enroll with permission of the instructor. These courses are not open to first-year students.


While focusing primarily on American material, students have the option of choosing speech controversies in other polities as the subject of their seminar papers.


Examines presidential-congressional relations through a number of perspectives, including use of historical, quantitative, and institutional analyses. Readings consider the relationship between the executive branch and Congress in both the domestic arena (including regulatory and budgetary policy) and in the area of foreign and defense policy.
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Considers the historical and contemporary relationship between money and government. In what ways have moneyed interests always had distinctive influences on American politics? Does this threaten the vibrancy of our representative democracy? Are recent controversies over campaign finance reform and lobbying reform signs that American government is in trouble? Reading, writing, and discussion intensive, considers the large academic literature on this subject, as well as the reflections of journalists and political practitioners, with the overall goal of understanding the money/politics relationship in ways that facilitate the evaluation of American democracy.

309b. **American Political Development.**

321b. **Social Protest and Political Change.**

322b. **Contentious Politics.**

324b. **Post-Communist Pathways.** Fall 2009. Laura A. Henry.

Explores growing political, economic, and cultural diversity within the post-communist region after the enforced homogeneity of the communist era. Considers the essential features of communist regimes and asks why these systems collapsed, before examining more recent developments. What are the factors promoting growing variation in the region? Why have some post-communist states joined the European Union, while others appear mired in authoritarianism? Do the institutional and cultural legacies of communism influence contemporary politics? Twenty years after the collapse of communist regimes in East Central Europe and the Soviet Union, is “post-communism” still a useful concept for social scientists? Examines contemporary scholarship on the sources of change and continuity in the region and offers students the opportunity to undertake individual research projects.

325b. **State-Building in Comparative Perspective.** Spring 2010. Ericka A. Albaugh.

States form the foundation of modern politics. Comparative government explores their variation; international relations examine their interaction. States can be instruments of oppression or engines of progress, and recent scholarship has focused on their strength, weakness, and failure. This capstone course explores the processes that produced the early modern state in Europe, then looks at more recent attempts to replicate state development in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The role of war in state formation and the subject of citizenship receives particular attention.


Considers the means and mechanisms adopted to end civil wars. Examines the nature of post-conflict transformation and negotiated settlements. As wars end, peace settlements are varied and complex, often negotiated and agreed, sometimes imposed. Considers associated issues of insecurity, the nature of the settlement reached, the problems of implementation, and third party intervention, along with the dilemmas associated with peacekeeping and enforcement. The transition from war to settlement implementation is considered theoretically and empirically. Historical and contemporary civil wars selected from every continent illuminate the theoretical imperatives associated with implementing peace agreements.


Analyzes the political, social, and cultural underpinnings of modern politics, and asks how democracy works in Japan compared with other countries. Explores how Japan has achieved stunning material prosperity while maintaining, among the best healthcare and education systems in the world, high levels of income equality, and low levels of crime. Students are
also instructed in conducting independent research on topics of their own choosing. (Same as Asian Studies 332.)

Prerequisite: Government 232 (same as Asian Studies 282).

[337b. Advanced Seminar in Democracy and Development in Asia. (Same as Asian Studies 337.)]


More than 150 years after its publication, Democracy in America remains the most powerful sympathetic critique of modern liberal democracy ever written. Careful reading of the text and selected secondary sources leads to examination of Tocqueville’s analysis of the defects to which the democratic passion for equality gives rise and consideration of possible solutions that, in contrast to the Marxist and Nietzschean critiques, aim at preserving the liberal democratic way of life.

[346b. Nietzsche.]


An upper-level interdisciplinary seminar on the nature of both international and national conflict. A variety of contexts and influence vectors are examined and students are encouraged to look at the ways conflicts can be solved short of actual warfare, as well as by it.


Examines the complex relationship between law and policy in international relations by focusing on two important and rapidly developing areas of international concern: environmental protection and humanitarian rights. Fulfills the environmental studies senior seminar requirement. (Same as Environmental Studies 363.)

Prerequisite: Government 260, 261, or 263, or permission of the instructor.


Examines a complex current environmental issue in depth. Explores the underlying social, economic, scientific, and cultural dimensions of the issue; reviews how this and related issues have been addressed so far by state and local governments as well as by the federal government; analyzes current policy-making efforts; and suggests lessons from this policy area about the capacity of public institutions to deal effectively with complex issues. Equal attention given to the substance of public policy, the political process, and implementation of past and proposed policies. Focuses primarily on the United States but will consider experiences in other nations as points of comparison and also any relevant international dimensions of the issue. (Same as Environmental Studies 395.)

Prerequisite: One course in environmental studies or government, or permission of the instructor.

401b–404b. Advanced Independent Study and Honors in Government. The Department.