010-301 Contemporary American City Hopkins, D
Mondays 2-5 pm

This course explores the economic and social challenges facing large US cities since roughly 1950 as well as the cities’ political and policy responses. Its major topics include the changing relations between racial and ethnic groups, the political impact of suburbanization, and the effects of deindustrialization, racial segregation, economic transformation, and immigration. The course readings are drawn from recent urban political history, economics, public policy, and sociology as well as political science. The course pays special attention to the changing distribution of political and economic power in US metropolitan areas, and considers regional coordination and other potential policy responses.

010-302 Rise of Authoritarianism Hou, Y
Thursdays 3-6 pm

Recent political developments in Turkey, Hungary, and even the United States have provoked debate about the rise of authoritarian leaders in western democracies. In this seminar, we will examine the politics of non-democracies to help us understand the new and growing global wave of authoritarianism. How do dictatorships work? When do democracies break down and when do autocracies collapse? How do non-competitive elections affect authoritarian rule? Do competitive elections strengthen civil liberties? Are democracies more or less susceptible to corruption, property expropriation, nationalism, or xenophobia? Do non-democracies produce higher economic growth? Throughout the course, we will also build empirical knowledge about the politics of particular authoritarian regimes.

010-303 Politics of Reproduction Teele, D
Tuesdays 1:30-4:30 pm

The idea that the "personal" is "political" finds no greater example than in the politics of reproduction. From inheritance laws, the rights of the offspring of enslaved peoples, or policies to reduce (or increase) fertility, the modern nation state has had a great deal to say about the use and produce of human bodies. In this course we will examine how formal and informal institutions have governed reproductive practices over the past 200 years. We will look at how family structures and economic development map onto fertility, and at how technological innovations in fertility control (including birth control and IVF) have influenced women's economic and political participation. We will also consider whether reproductive policies have differential impacts for LGBTQ households. Finally, we examine the "dark side" of reproductive policies -- not only sterilization campaigns but also the treatment of sex workers and sex-selective abortion -- to understand how state policies have divided households based on race, class, and occupation.
Why are African-Americans and members of other historically disadvantaged groups disproportionately incarcerated and subjected to other penal sanctions in the United States? What are the political, social, and economic consequences for individuals, communities, and the wider society of mass incarceration in the United States? What types of reforms of the criminal justice system are desirable and possible?

This freshman seminar analyzes the connection between race, crime, punishment, and politics in the United States. The primary focus is on the role of race in explaining why the country’s prison population has exploded since the early 1970s and why the United States today has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

The class will likely take field trips to a maximum-security jail in Philadelphia and to a state prison in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Understanding and interpreting large, quantitative data sets is increasingly central in political and social science. Whether one seeks to understand political communication, international trade, inter-group conflict, or a host of other issues, the availability of large quantities of digital data has revolutionized the study of politics. The ability to quickly and accurately find, collect, manage, and analyze data is now a fundamental skill for quantitative researchers. Nonetheless, most data-related courses focus on statistical estimation, rather than on the related but distinctive problems of data acquisition, management, and visualization—in a term, data science. This course seeks to address that imbalance by focusing squarely on data science. Leaving this course, students will be able to acquire, format, analyze, and visualize various types of political data using the statistical programming language R. This course is not a statistics class, but it will increase the capacity of students to thrive in future statistics classes as well as to conduct independent, quantitative research.
This course examines within a comparative-historical framework processes of political and socio-economic change in the so-called “Third World,” defined here as post-colonial developing areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The course is not as concerned with keeping up with current events as with analyzing the relationships between historical legacies, the initial challenges of post-colonial political and socioeconomic development, and how these interact with contemporary problems and trends. Although focused on “political change” within countries, it will also devote substantial attention to economic, sociocultural, and international factors. The first part of the course examines the common and distinctive features of colonial rule in different regions as well as the heightened challenges of political and economic development facing newly independent nations. We will consider how “Third World” nations have understood their roles in a changing international order, and how they have sought to build new nations, maintain political order and engineer economic growth. The second part of the course is designed to give you an appreciation of the diverse experiences of several individual countries within a broader comparative perspective (such as Brazil, India, and Nigeria), with passing references to other countries as comparative referents. The countries have been chosen on the basis of how well they represent colonial and postcolonial experiences across regions as well as their utility in highlighting general theoretical concepts and arguments. The third part of the course focuses on trends and issues that have emerged over the last two decades from the perspective of the South. These include the challenges faced by efforts to promote democracy and economic reform, as well as issues related to gender and the environment as seen from the vantage point of states and social groups in the South.

This course is an introduction to the politics of the United States suitable for both political science students and those who will choose other majors. We begin by looking at the structural and ideological foundations of the American political system. These concepts are then used to study a broad selection of topic areas concerning political behavior and political institutions. The purpose of the course is not only to provide a wide-ranging factual and theoretical understanding of contemporary politics in the United States, but also ensure that students are able to be active consumers of modern political science research.
This course has two key goals: first, to develop a deeper understanding of “politics” (how people and their environment shape and are shaped by power relations, institutions, and ideas) through studying changes in how societies produce, distribute, market, and consume food with a focus on American politics and food systems; and second, to use its community service/civic engagement placements to provide a hands-on experience with issues related to the politics of food, while developing skills and knowledge important to effective citizenship. Students will be required to work at their placements about 3 hours a week. Choices for placement sites include: Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative (AUNI); Bartram’s Community Farm; the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger; recess at local schools with Playworks Pennsylvania; Puentes; MANNA; Penn Dining/Bon Appetit at Penn; the Farmworker-Student Alliance. Students, who are already engaged in relevant placements, will have an option to continue working at those sites. Academic course work will include weekly readings, class and Canvas participation, and several papers, including a final group or individual project. Service work will include a final group presentation, as well as reflective writing during the semester. The 3 hour class sessions are a mix of small and large group discussions related to the service sites, readings, and speakers.

This course explores the political character of contemporary urban American life. It seeks to familiarize students with the structural and ideological factors (e.g., dynamics of political economy, race, ethnicity, pluralism and gender) that constrain the policy context and define the urban environment as a terrain for commingling, competition and conflict over uses of space.

The course examines those dimensions of urban politics mainly through historically grounded case studies of two cities Charlotte, NC and Oakland, CA. The hope is that we will throw into relief the complex and sometimes subtle processes that have shaped and continue to shape urban life in the United States.

This introductory course surveys major theories, concepts, and issues in international politics. The first third of the course covers the major theories and concepts used by scholars to explain international politics. The remainder of the course applies these concepts to the history of international politics and to important topics, including the causes of war, the effects and proliferation of nuclear weapons, trade and economic development, the environment, the European Union, international law, and the rise of China.
This course explores the theories, history, and issues in international political economy. International political economy has been described as “the reciprocal and dynamic interaction in international relations of the pursuit of power and the pursuit of wealth.” The purpose of this course is to examine those interactions — between power and wealth, the state and the market — from a number of competing perspectives and different levels of analysis. We will focus on the causes and consequences of international trade and monetary relations; the growth of regional integration; the role of hegemony in maintaining the stability of international economic systems; strategies of economic development and transition; and the role of multinational corporations in both developing and developed countries.

This course serves as an introduction to a number of figures and themes in modern Western political thought spanning from the Renaissance to the 20th century. It aims to give students a sense of the scope of the Western tradition along with many of the debates within it. Thinkers treated will include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Marx, and Nietzsche, among others, with a particular emphasis on questions about the relationship between nature and convention as well as the relationship between the individual and society. Other fundamental questions covered include the nature of freedom, equality, justice, property and revolution.

In this course, we study the processes of economic development, democratization, and state building in South America and Mexico from the early 20th century until the present. The course is organized along the following topics (and periods): the incorporation of Latin America to the international economy and the consolidation of oligarchic regimes and states (circa 1880s to 1930s); economic and political incorporation of the middle and working classes and the role of populism and corporatism in the political systems of the region (1940s and 1950s); the radicalization of politics, democratic breakdowns and military rule (1960s and 1970s); the third-wave of transitions to democracy (1980s); the implementation of market reforms (1990s); the decentralization of the state and subnational politics (late 1970s to 2000s); and the most recent turn to the left (2000s to present). By the end of the semester, students should be able to critically assess current political events in Latin America and identify some of their historical, institutional, political, and economic causes. No prior knowledge of Latin American politics or history is required.
This lecture course, after introductory sessions which outline the history of the EU and the functioning of its core institutions, is built on a critical exposition of the works of major social scientists, philosophers and historians who have reflected on the European Union’s origins, outcomes and significance. It reviews their arguments, especially their relevance to five major current crises: the failure of the European Constitution; the crisis of democratic legitimacy; the crisis of credibility facing the Euro; the crisis of expansion and contraction; and the refugee & migration crises which display numerous co-ordination failures. Whether the European Union is an inter-governmental organization, a confederation, a federation, an empire, or a novel political formation is examined. Whether its recent major widening signals an end to its institutional deepening will be discussed. The nature of the Union’s “democratic deficit” is examined, as is the claim that in its external relations it represents a novel form of soft power. Significant attention will be given to the unfolding significance of UKEXIT.

This lecture course introduces students to the politics of the People’s Republic of China. Complementing offerings in other departments, the course emphasizes events in the period since the Chinese Communist Party established its regime in 1949. No previous knowledge of China’s history, culture, or language is required.

The semester begins with a brief review of China’s political history before 1949 in order to establish the necessary foundation for understanding the significance of subsequent events. After this survey, we analyze the ways in which the Communist Party set out to reorganize China after the revolution, the consequences of these efforts (spectacular achievements as well as breathtaking failures), and the debates provoked within the elite and among the general population. We also assess the prospects of the communist regime in China. On the one hand, the regime is identified with the benefits of bold and successful economic reforms implemented since 1978. On the other hand, it is also identified with the sometimes disastrous costs of policies it put in place in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as serious political and social problems that have accompanied the benefits of reform and provoked occasional popular resistance, most notably the upheaval and tragedy of 1989. We conclude the course with a closer examination of several of the pressing challenges facing China in the opening decades of the twenty-first century.

Although the principal focus is on the domestic politics of the PRC, the course also examines China’s international relations. It includes: (1) analysis of the century-long period of domestic turmoil and revolution before 1949 when the country was largely at the mercy of foreign powers; (2) brief lectures about China’s approach to coping with the dangers it faced during the Cold War era dominated by two sometimes hostile superpowers; and, (3) more extended consideration of China’s role in the current era during which many argue that China is emerging as one of the world’s great powers whose foreign policy will be a major influence on international peace and security in the 21st century.
The course surveys some of the principal themes in the political economy of development of lower income countries. 85 percent of the world’s population lives in these countries. Nine of every ten people added to the world’s population over the next couple of decades will also make their home in lower income countries. Although living standards in developing countries have improved considerably in the last three decades, more than one billion people in the developing world still live in destitution and many more at very low income levels. At the same time developing countries, led by the so-called BRICS, are set to double their share of global output over the next quarter-century taking their importance in the world economy to levels last seen in the early 19th century. The course will examine how living standards, inequality and structural transformation of lower income economies is being shaped by the changing dynamics and interplay between the local, the national and the global. How do the forces shaping globalization — migration, capital flows, trade and multilateral institutions — interact with historical legacies, domestic politics, business and civil society, to produce widely divergent development outcomes from South Korea's successes to Somalia's failures?

What does it mean to educate for a democracy, and for what type of democracy should we educate for? This course will examine these central questions and others pertaining to citizenship, democracy and education as it relates to Latin America and Latino/as in the U.S. The course will first examine theories of education for democracy comparing and contrasting the works of persons including U.S. progressive-era writer John Dewey, Brazilian scholar Paolo Freire and Penn president and political scientist Amy Gutmann. The course will delve into civic and political education curriculum and pedagogies that have been carried out in Latin America over the last century, examining the intersection of education, democratic institutions, inequality, and culture in the region. The latter part of the course will examine civic education practices of Latino/as here in the U.S. from primary schools to higher education. This course offers a service-learning component where students will be encouraged to volunteer with educational organizations in the Philadelphia community.

This class examines the strategy and politics of warfare, focusing on military innovation, civil-military relations, and the way actors plan military campaigns, and the factors that are likely to lead to victory and defeat. The course readings center in particular on the issues that drive changes in the conduct of warfare. The course covers a wide range of topics from theories of war-fighting to historical military campaigns to insurgency warfare, terrorism, drones, and the future of war. Lecture class.
271-401  Classic American Constitutional  Smith, R  
Mondays & Wednesdays  Law I  3-4 pm  
*Cross-listed* w/AFRC 269

This course explores the creation and transformations of the American constitutional system’s structures and goals from the nation’s founding through the period of Progressive reforms, the rise of the Jim Crow system, and the Spanish American War. Issues include the division of powers between state and national governments, and the branches of the federal government; economic powers of private actors and governmental regulators; the authority of governments to enforce or transform racial and gender hierarchies; and the extent of religious and expressive freedoms and rights of persons accused of crimes. We will pay special attention to the changing role of the Supreme Court and its decisions in interpreting and shaping American constitutionalism, and we will also read legislative and executive constitutional arguments, party platforms, and other influential statements of American constitutional thought.

Mondays  6-9 pm  
*Cross-listed* w/URBS 320/GAFL 509

What does it take to get elected to office? What are the key elements of a successful political campaign? What are the crucial issues guiding campaigns and elections in the U.S. at the beginning of the 21st century? This class will address the process and results of electoral politics at the local, state, and federal levels. Course participants will study the stages and strategies of running for public office and will discuss the various influences on getting elected, including: Campaign finance and fundraising, demographics, polling, the media, staffing, economics, and party organization. Each week we will be joined by guest speakers who are nationally recognized professionals, with expertise in different areas of the campaign and election process. Students will also analyze campaign case studies and the career of the instructor himself. Edward G. Rendell is the former Mayor of Philadelphia, former Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and former Governor of Pennsylvania.

332-401  Survey, Research, and Design  Dutwin, D  
Wednesdays  3:30-6:30 pm  
*Cross-listed* w/COMM 332

Survey research is a small but rich academic discipline, drawing on theory and practice from many diverse fields including political science and communication. This course canvasses the science and practice of survey methods, sampling theory, instrument development and operationalization, and the analysis and reporting of survey data. Major areas of focus include measurement and research of survey errors, application to election polling, new frontiers in data collection, overall development of data management, and introductory analytics.
This course examines conceptual, explanatory and normative debates over power-sharing systems. We explore the circumstances in which federal, consociational and other power-sharing institutions and practices are proposed and implemented to regulate deep national, ethnic, religious or linguistic divisions. We evaluate these systems, seeking to explain why they are formed or attempted, and why they may endure or fail, paying special attention to bi- and multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual environments. Teaching methods include team-debates, and team-organized reading.

The decade from 2010-2020 will mark centennial anniversaries of the extension of the vote in many countries around the globe. Whether it was men of the working classes, women of the upper classes, or universal reform, the early twentieth century brought a sea change in the right to participate in politics. This course will investigate the theoretical and empirical determinants of enfranchisement, looking at works that argue that enfranchisement resulted from revolutionary mobilization of the working classes, from collusion between religious or ethnic elites, or because the triumph of capitalism meant that votes were no longer valued. In terms of the effects of enfranchisement, theory suggests that male enfranchisement should have brought major changes in the welfare state and distributive policies, and that women’s enfranchisement may merely have doubled the votes for each party. The second half of the course will consider these issues, asking what, if any, were the effects of these major changes in political rules.

It is the goal of this course to provide students with the tools necessary to critically interrogate the political implications of the Internet. The class will begin with a review of the Cold War origins of the Internet. From there, it will proceed thematically to explore the digital public sphere, “the wisdom of the many,” the so-called “Twitter Revolution,” electronic civil disobedience, cyberwar, information freedom, spectacle, surveillance, troll culture, and our digital future. Each theme will be grounded in a classic work in political theory, which will serve as the lens through which we will approach the topic. Theoretical texts will be paired with recent academic and journalistic publications.
Comparative Racial Politics

Hanchard, M
Tuesdays & Thursdays
3-4:20 pm
Cross-listed w/AFRC 417, HIST 467, LALS 417, SOCI 417

This Seminar focuses on comparative political systems. Themes include political participants, leadership, institutions, instability, and system transformation in developed & less developed countries.

Evidence Based Policies

Grossman, G
Mondays
2-5 pm
Cross-listed w/GAFL 530

This class provides a “hands-on” introduction to the promises and limitations of using Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) to inform policy makers, practitioners and academics of the effects policies are likely to have on economic and political outcomes, in the context of international development. This course has three parts. The first part is devoted to understanding the “nuts and bolts” of running field experiments / RCTs in developing countries. In addition we will discuss core behavioral concepts from both behavioral economics and social psychology. The second part of the course is devoted to demonstrating how scholars have used RCTs to inform core policy debates (e.g., what are some effective ways to reduce corruption? How can we improve the performance of frontline service providers? How can politicians be made more responsive to their constituents?). In the third part of the course, students will be presenting their own research proposals, explicitly designed to address a core policy question in the developing world or --- for those interested --- in an OECD country.

Leadership: Theory & Practice

Dilulio, J    Hamilton, M
Margolis, M    Wolf, A
Wednesdays
2-5 pm

Open to Penn undergraduates in any school, this no-prerequisites but permit-required seminar explores social and behavioral science theories of "leadership" and biographical analyses of diverse leaders in relation to three live organizational case studies: Women's Campaign International, CHILD, and the Brem Foundation. Co-taught by a team of instructors that includes the chief executives of each of the three organizations, and sponsored in part by the Fox Leadership Program, students in this seminar will work as both individuals and as part of a subgroup "task force" that conducts independent research, interviews special guests, makes oral presentations, and drafts a final "lessons in leadership" paper that constitutes an actual strategic plan for one of the organizations. Maximum enrollment: 15. Students interested in applying for a permit should contact Fox Associate Director Chuck Brutsche: brutsche@sas.upenn.edu
Though registered for one semester, recipients of DCC Undergraduate Grants meet regularly throughout the academic year to discuss their research in progress; research and writing strategies and challenges; and examples of good and bad published research. All members will present their research at the DCC Undergraduate research Conference at the end of the spring semester.

This is a mandatory seminar for all students planning to submit an honors thesis for the purpose of possibly earning distinction in Political Science upon graduation. The course is aimed at helping students identify a useful and feasible research question, become familiar with the relevant literatures and debates pertaining to that question develop a basic understanding of what might constitute "good" and "original" research in different subfields, and set up a preliminary plan for conducting and presenting the research. The course is also aimed at building a community of like-minded student researchers, which can complement and enrich the honors student's individual experience of working one-on-one with a dedicated faculty thesis advisor.

This course provides a broad, humanistic survey to some of the most important ideas, debates, and problems connected to the study of democracy. The course is divided into three segments: the democratic citizen (in which we explore ethical issues pertaining to the experience of democracy as a way of life); the democratic People (in which we investigate some of the best and most recent attempts to come to grips with the difficult, yet fundamental, notion of the People); and the democratic world (in which we examine issues pertaining to democratization and development, including the tension between democracy and individual liberty and the relationship between democracy and global capitalism).
This course examines the causes, dynamics, and resolution of civil wars. The first section of the course will examine competing theoretical arguments regarding the causes of civil war, looking at how economic and political grievances may motivate groups to rebel against the government; why political leaders may sometimes encourage violence; and what role ethnicity, national identity, and a sense of insecurity play in the initiation of internal conflict. The second section of the course will look at how civil wars are fought, with discussions of guerilla warfare, counterinsurgency strategies, terrorism and the role of humanitarian aid in conflict settings. In the third part of the course, focusing on the resolution of internal conflicts, topics will include international intervention and peacekeeping; negotiated political settlements such as power-sharing and partition; and post-conflict justice strategies such as domestic and international trials and truth commissions. Throughout the course, we will consider specific cases of civil war? For example, wars in Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Mozambique, Russia, Sudan, Uganda, and the former Yugoslavia.

This course is designed to give students exposure to the literature on political behavior in American politics (the course is part of the department’s 3-course sequence in American politics for PhD students). The course will cover both classic and contemporary approaches to the subject. Topics include (but are not limited to) the early voting studies, the role of partisanship, the nature and origins of ideology, mass-elite interactions, heuristics and low information rationality, campaign and media effects, framing effects, the role of inequality in public opinion, and public opinion about race, ethnicity, and immigration.

The class is designed for PhD students who will take the comprehensive exam in American Politics (or simply wish to know more about the American political behavior). Typically, the course is not appropriate for undergraduates, barring previous training in Political Science. Undergraduates wishing to take the class should contact the instructor for more information.
This course brings together the vantage points of urban political economy and urban anthropology. Readings and discussions will engage with both literatures, folding in considerations of race, ethnicity and gender in American city life, with a focus on the relation between culture and political economy.

We will reconstruct the history of the different tracks of urban studies in the U.S., beginning with its roots in sociology and anthropology in the Chicago School and in political science in reform-oriented studies of public administration. We will revisit the community power debate of the 1950s-1970s, which shook out largely along disciplinary lines, and will examine the development of the urban political economy perspective in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as developments within U.S. urban anthropology since the 1960s. We will employ some local case study materials, and at every point we will try to understand the intellectual trajectories of the urbanist discourses in relation to dynamics contemporaneously shaping urban politics and policy.

Course requirements are seminar preparation which includes each student’s leading discussion around specified reading assignments -- and a research paper, the topic of which must be approved by week 5. There may also be an optional mid-term assignment, e.g., a book critique.

How is education a form of political action? In this course we look at the governance of schools, the trust in them and their relations to socio-economic conditions in society, among other topics, using research in education, political science, and political theory.
550-401  Borders & Boundaries in International Relations  Simmons, B  Mondays  6-9 pm  
_Cross-listed_ w/LAW 989

This research seminar is designed for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. It explores the meaning and consequences of borders and boundaries in international relations. How do borders, border regions, and border activities speak to national encounters with neighbors and the rest of the world? How do international borders influence war and peace between states? How do they affect international trade and development? When and how are international borders “securitized,” and how does this affect the flow of goods, people, and illicit activities around and across the border? How do states cooperate across international borders? While this course is designed primarily as a seminar in international relations, we will examine the meaning and function of boundary-making between states from multiple perspectives. Borders, border regions and border crossings have multiple significance as designations of state authority, security buffers, expressions of social meaning and opportunities for economic integration. As a seminar designed primarily to stimulate research ideas, this course will be concerned with historical and current problems relating to international borders around the world. We will concentrate on formulating interesting research questions, bringing data to bear on specific hypotheses, becoming familiar with data sources, and designing our own research. All assignments are related to developing research skills; there are no in-class exams.

588-401  Revolutions & Dictators  Kennedy, E  Wednesdays  2-5 pm  
_Cross-listed_ w/GRMN 582

American political discourse after the 2016 election revived an ideology thought to have been defeated at the end of World War 2: fascism. On social media, in op-ed columns, on television, its specter is everywhere. But what is, or what was it? Before Mussolini, Italy was a liberal entity, an object of political maneuvers such as Machiavelli describes in The Prince. Italy was but the first European constitution to fail and fall into dictatorship. Now we are talking about such failures again, and openly discussion whether our constitution can survive. This seminar concentrates on the history and consequences of those constitutions. This seminar considers what history tells us about the origins and effects of authoritarian regimes, and the decline of civic good as an ideal. The three major dictatorships – Stalin’s Russia, Hitler's Germany and Mussolini’s Italy – are the focus of our work. While the current debate on fascism gave impetus to the course, we will work through debates about those three regimes as they are present in the work of historians and political scientists.
This course is designed to introduce students to comparative political analysis. How can the political behavior, circumstances, institutions, and dynamic patterns of change that people experience in very different societies be analyzed using the same set of concepts and theories? The course will draw on case studies covering a variety of political systems and include attention to the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and the United States. Topics will include nationalism, empire, democratization, authoritarianism, race and ethnic conflict, and political economy.

This course introduces students to the main themes and controversies of American political thought. The course poses a few questions. What are the historical and philosophical foundations of the American republic? How do modern political institutions compare to these principles? Can America’s eighteenth-century Constitution address modern debates over gun control, same sex marriage, abortion, affirmative action, and economic regulation?

Should America’s Constitution be revised, and if so, how? Who counts as an American, and how is this decided? What does it mean to be an American liberal or conservative? And more broadly, what is politics and why study it? If you are interested in these questions, are considering a political science major or law school, hope to fill you Sector IV: Humanities and Social Science requirement, or want to get better acquainted with American politics, this course will fit your interests.

Based in concepts and principles of Constitutional law, this course explores the interpretation and impact of seminal court cases in U.S. history as applied to Latino/as in the United States and abroad. With a particular focus on the 20th century, students will examine how court decisions have affected civil rights, immigration policies, welfare, political incorporation and identity and other important issues affecting Latino/as. Students will also explore additional themes including the status and treatment of Latinos in the criminal justice system, representation of Latino/as in the judiciary and how Supreme Court decisions have also affected U.S. foreign policy with Latin America. Students will be introduced to a number of guest speakers who are academic experts and practitioners in the field.
Why has and does foreign policy between the U.S. and Latin America matter? Why is there a historical legacy of tension, violence and limits to friendship between the US and its neighbors to the south? How do historical perspectives help us understand contemporary inter-American relations? How do theories of neocolonialism, neorealism, and neoliberal institutionalism inform discussion, debate and understanding between the north and the south? To what extent and in what way do global trends influence inter-American affairs? The course explores answers to all of these questions through the analysis of historical and current events of the US-Latin America relationship, and develops students’ critical thinking through their insertion into debates that reflect alternative perspectives.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the left has seemed increasingly irrelevant and its political role poorly understood. Starting with the unexpected appeal of Bernie Sanders (what ever happened to no socialism in the US?), the course will examine the political role of left politics, organizations, and ideology in different nations and internationally. We will look at the role of left organizations in nationalist movements in the Middle East and Asia, tension and cooperation between Communist states, and the emergence of large socialist parties in Europe after World War I, and the reemergence of left politics in Latin America in the late 1990s. We will also examine works on theory and practice from major thinkers on the left or about the left, including Marx and Engels, Rosa Luxembourg, Che Guevera, and Mao. As a three hundred level course, students should have taken at least two courses in political science, or history and social science generally.
WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM
***Only For Students in the Penn-in Washington Program***

330-301 PIW Semester Core Seminar: Conducting Public Policy Research in Washington
(two credits)  
Martinez, D

This is the first course of the Penn in Washington semester program and serves as an introduction to Washington, with a particular focus on policymaking institutions and the intricate web of organizations and individuals that contribute to the policymaking process. A combination of lectures, tours, and meetings with senior policymakers will prepare students for their internships and also provide sufficient background to create a comprehensive map of the policymaking world. In the second part of this two credit course, students will choose one policy arena to explore deeply. A proposal, final paper, and group presentation will be prepared which draw on the content from the first part of the course to develop a sophisticated understanding of policymaking in a particular policy arena. Course is part of the Penn in Washington semester program. The program deadline is March 15 of the prior year for both fall and spring semesters. For more information visit the PIW website at https://piw.sas.upenn.edu/

398-302 The U.S. Presidency: Limits on Chief Executive Power  
Rodriguez, M

What are the limits on presidential power? How much can a President accomplish when faced with an uncooperative Congress, and how has this changed over time? What are the limits on the exercise of presidential power in the foreign policy space, and what exactly can Congress do to curtail the powers of the Commander in Chief? Guest speakers will include representatives from the State Department's Legal Advisor's Office, the NSS, DOD, and the CIA. Course is part of the Penn in Washington semester program. The program deadline is March 15 of the prior year for both fall and spring semesters. For more information visit the PIW website at https://piw.sas.upenn.edu/

398-303 Today’s Diplomacy: How Does it Really Work?  
Denburg, A

This seminar will look at diplomacy as the central instrument of foreign policy. It will examine the role of diplomacy and the responsibilities of the State Department and other actors, explore the resources and techniques available to them, and review the way diplomats have used these tools in recent history. We will take a practical approach, talking about international relations and how foreign policy is actually formed today. The course will be broken up into three units: the players in diplomacy, the tools used in foreign policy, and recent case studies. The intent of this class is to enable you to able to begin working in politics or international affairs with the necessary foundational information on how foreign policy is created and implemented. The program deadline is March 15 of the prior year for both fall and spring semesters. For more information visit the PIW website at https://piw.sas.upenn.edu/