COURSE BOOKLET - FALL 2018

Note: In some cases, the time listed are tentative; any changes will be noted on the website of the Registrar’s Office

217 Stiteler Hall & 3440 Market Street

Web page: www.sas.upenn.edu/polisci/content/programs
In 1992, Pat Buchanan famously said, “There is a religious war going on in this country. It is a cultural war, as critical to the kind of nation we shall be as was the Cold War itself, for this war is for the soul of America.” Battles that make up this so-called war have been fought over gay marriage, abortion, Hobby Lobby, and political correctness, to name just a few, and white evangelical Christians have often been on the front lines of these cultural clashes. And the era of Trump has further ignited new religious debates, not about policy, but about evangelicals themselves. Trump critics question the moral fiber of a group who enthusiastically support a president whose personal behaviors and words often seem antithetical to Christian values, while Trump supporters cheer on a leader who fights for Christian values in the political arena. This seminar will start to unpack evangelicals’ role in American politics by exploring who evangelicals are, what evangelicals believe, whether and how evangelicals apply their religious beliefs to politics, the rise (and fall) of the “Religious Right”, and how politicians use religion to their electoral advantage. In doing so, this course will also encourage students to think about whether and how religion should be incorporated into politics and how students’ own religious beliefs (or non-beliefs) influence their political outlooks.

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 other issues, the availability of large quantities of digital data has revolutionized the study of politics. 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 addresses 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. While no background in statistics or political science is required, students are expected to be generally familiar with contemporary computing environments (e.g. know how to use a computer) and have a willingness to learn a variety of data science tools. You are encouraged (but certainly not required) to register for both this course and PSCI 338 at the same time, as the courses cover distinct, but complementary material.
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science Undergraduate Courses

130-001 Introduction to American Politics Meredith, M

Mondays & Wednesdays
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

This course is an introduction to American politics suitable for both political science students and those who will choose other majors. The purpose of the course is to provide a wide-ranging factual and theoretical understanding of contemporary politics in the United States. 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.

144-401 Communism Orenstein, M

Mondays & Wednesdays
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Cross-listed with: EEUR 153 & RUSS 134

The rise and fall of Communism dominated the history of the short twentieth century from the Russian revolution of 1917 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. As a system of government, Communism is more or less dead, but its utopian ideals of liberation from exploitation and want live on. Communism remains the one political-economic system that presented, for a time, an alternative to global capitalism. In this course, students will gain an introduction to socialist and Communist political thought and explore Communist political and economic regimes - their successes and failures, critics and dissidents, efforts at reform, and causes of collapse. We will learn about the remnants of Communism in China, North Korea, and Cuba and efforts of contemporary theorists to imagine a future for Communism.

150-001 Introduction to International Relations Mansfield, E

Mondays & Wednesdays
10:00 AM -11:00 AM

This course is an introductory course, surveying major issues in international politics. The first section of the course provides an overview of the main theoretical approaches to understanding international politics.

The second section of the course addresses issues in international security, looking at the causes of both interstate and civil war; the origins of the World Wars; the nature of conflict during the Cold War; and changes in international conflict following the end of the Cold War. The third section of the course considers issues in international political economy, including international trade; economic growth and development; the role of international institutions such as the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF; and debates regarding globalization. In the fourth part of the course, focusing on emerging issues in international relations, topics will include the role of international law in international relations; human rights; environmental issues; and nuclear proliferation.
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; the role of multinational corporations in both developing and developed countries; and the drivers and consequences of migration and immigration.

This course aims to provide a broad survey of some of the most influential political thinkers and ideas from classical antiquity. Among the central figures to be examined are: Homer, Sophocles, Thucydides, Socrates, Plato, Diogenes, Aristotle, Epicurus, Cicero, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Seneca, Augustine, and Aquinas. Major themes include: ancient theories of justice (with special attention to the relation between the just state and the just person), the emergence of political philosophy as a distinct pursuit, the Athenian polis, the Roman republic and its demise, and the rise of Christianity.

This course will provide a survey of political theory of the twentieth century, focusing primarily on the post-World War II period through today. Texts are organized around three central concepts in western political theory, namely freedom, power, and equality. These concepts take a particular significance in the 20th and 21st centuries due to the proliferation of war, industrialization, technology, as well as the growth of democracy and the accompanying shifts in social relations these have all brought about. We will consider the philosophical meaning of these three concepts but also what that means when we enact those meanings in social and political life to understand the ways in which these three concepts intersect and intertwine to alter their meanings. For instance, does poverty reduce freedom and wealth enhance it, or is that beside the point? Can power be exercised in relations of equality? And how do we know when power is a hindrance to freedom, or an enhancement of it?
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science Undergraduate Courses

183-001 American Political Thought Goldman, L
Mondays & Wednesdays
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

This course offers a wide-ranging introduction to American Political Thought, placing it both in the context of its sources as well as unique aspects of the American experience. Particular attention will be paid to three theoretical traditions whose interaction has historically shaped American political discourse: Christianity, Liberalism, and Republicanism.

211-001 Politics in Contemporary Middle East Vitalis, R
Mondays & Wednesdays
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

I have designed this course primarily to deepen students' skills in critical analysis. While we will concentrate on two analytical skills—reading complicated texts and writing persuasively—developing them does not depend on studying any particular area, whether North America or South Asia, politics or history. Rather, the turn to unfamiliar subjects and genres, arguably, complicates the objective of doing increasingly more sophisticated and rigorous analysis. So, why focus on the Middle East? The answer is that it is a tradeoff. There are two additional, important educational objectives that underpin the course. One is to develop a sense of how places and people differ and, at the same time, share common needs. A knowledge base is an inescapable part of such an undertaking. Critical comparison and judgment depend on more than factual knowledge, however. The other main objective is to encourage your imagination to think what it might be like to be in the shoes of a person different from oneself, to be an intelligent reader of that person's story. Studying the continuing unfolding of what has come to be known as the Arab Spring is a way to develop these expansive and creative facets of critical thinking.

215-001 The European Union: Argument & Evidence O’Leary, B
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

This lecture course, after introductory sessions which outline the history of the EU and the functioning of its core institutions, focuses on debates over the European Union’s origins, outcomes, significance, and likely trajectories. Whether the European Union is an inter-governmental organization, a confederation, a federation, an empire, or a novel political formation is thoroughly examined. Whether Germany is the EU’s emergent hegemon (reluctant or otherwise) will be addressed. We review five major current crises which display numerous co-ordination failures: 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. Significant attention will be given to the unfolding significance of UKEXIT (aka BREXIT) and its implications for British-Irish-Northern Irish relations. US-EU relations will be discussed. This course has no prerequisites.
This course introduces students to the politics of the People’s Republic of China. It provides an overview of China’s recent history, its political system and its economic reform. We will begin with a survey of China’s political development since the Chinese Communist Party established its regime in 1949. We will analyze the ways in which the Communist Party set out to reorganize the country after the revolution, the consequences of these efforts, and the debates provoked within the elite and among the general population. In the remainder of the course we will examine the institutional features of the Chinese political system and the pressing challenges facing the current leadership. No previous knowledge of China’s history, culture, or language is required.

This course examines the relationship between politics and the health of populations in the world’s rich democracies, including the United States. The key questions the course addresses are how and why countries differ in their health care policies, public health policies, and policies that affect the social determinants of health. There are no prerequisites, but prior coursework in comparative politics at the 100 or 200 level will be helpful.

Gender has been a primary way of organizing power relations throughout history. This class asks how transformations in the global economy, technological change, new patterns of household formation, and social movements, have influenced women’s access to economic and political positions over the past two centuries. We will examine how women’s mobilization contributed to the abolition of slavery, reform of property and franchise laws, and to the formation of the welfare state. Next, we turn to thinking about how women’s increasing labor force participation was hindered by institutions like marriage bars and union policy. Third, we look at cross-national patterns of women’s political participation and descriptive representation including whether and how the adoption of electoral quotas influences gender equality more generally. Finally we study how institutional norms and gender stereotypes affect political representation.

This class will draw on examples from around the world, and will look at experiences of women from all economic, social, and ascriptive backgrounds.
232-401 Introduction to Political Communication Jamieson, K
*Tuesdays & Thursdays*
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
cross-listed with COMM 226

This course is an introduction to the field of political communication, conceptual approaches to analyzing communication in various forms, including advertising, speech making, campaign debates, and candidates’ and office-holders’ uses of news. The focus of this course is on the interplay in the U.S. between television and politics. The course includes a history of televised campaign practices from the 1952 presidential contest onward.

240-301 Religion & US Public Policy Hamilton, M
*Thursdays*
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

This seminar introduces students to the nation’s trillion-dollar tax-exempt sector with a focus on religious nonprofit organizations including congregations and other so-called faith-based institutions. Among the topics it explores are new and old questions surrounding church-state relations, the role of religion in American politics, empirical *faith factor* research, and attempts to estimate the social costs and benefits associated with diverse religious nonprofit organizations.

252-001 War, Strategy & Politics Horowitz, M
*Tuesdays & Thursdays*
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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.
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science Undergraduate Courses

261-401  Emerging Technologies and the Future of the World  Kumar, V
Mondays  Horowitz, M
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM  Yoo, C
Cross-listed with INTG 261

Technological change is always occurring, but the rate of change seems to be accelerating. Advances in robotics, artificial intelligence, cyber, biotechnology, and other arenas generate promise as well as peril for humanity. Will these emerging technologies unleash the innovative capacity of the world, generating new opportunities that help people live meaningful lives? Alternatively, are automation and other technologies chipping away at the labor market in a way that could create severe generational dislocation at best, and national and international turmoil at worst? These questions are important, and have consequences for how we live our lives, how nations interact, and the future of the world writ large. Emerging technologies could shape public policy at the local, national, and international level, and raise questions of fairness, ethics, and transparency. This course takes a unique approach, combining insights from engineering, political science, and law in an interdisciplinary way that will expose students both to the key technologies that could shape the future and ways to think about their potential implications for economics, politics, and society.

271-401  Classic American Constitutional Law  TBA
Mondays & Wednesdays
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Cross-listed with AFRC 269

280-401  Feminist Political Thought  Hirschmann, N
Tuesdays & Thursdays
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Cross-listed with GSWS 280

This course is designed to provide an overview of the variety of ideas, approaches, and subfields within feminist political thought. It should provide a solid grounding for more advanced work in gender, sexuality, and women’s studies, as well as a general introduction for those simply curious about what “feminism” is about. We will address a wide range of readings, from historical political theory to contemporary feminism of color and transgender theory, and we will explore the intersection of theory with practical political issues. There are two take-home essay exams, one at mid-term and one at the end of the semester.

This course fulfills the “Society Sector” distribution requirement, and can be counted toward the political science major, the PPE major, and GSWS major or minor.
University of Pennsylvania  
Political Science Undergraduate Courses

320-401  
Who Gets Elected and Why?  
Rendell, E  

**Mondays**  
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Cross-listed with 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.

328-401  
Democracy in Trouble: OAS  
Bartch, C  

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM  
Cross-listed with LALS 328

Democracy in the Americas is in trouble. Entrenched political, economic, and social inequality, combined with environmental degradation, weak institutions, pervasive heath epidemics, weapon proliferation, and other pressing issues pose formidable challenges for strengthening democratic ideals and institutions. The Organization of the American States (OAS), the world’s oldest regional organization, is uniquely poised to confront these challenges and purposively focused to “strengthen the peace and security” and “promote and consolidate representative democracy” (among a host of other goals set forth in its Charter) across the continent. However, to what extent does the OAS ameliorate destructive conditions such as low levels of participation, extreme poverty, illegal arms trade, human rights abuses, among other problems related to democracy, development, security, and human rights, the organization’s main pillars? In this course, students will delve into the role, history, and workings of the OAS and its political, economic, and societal impact in the region while working directly with area public high school students in preparation for the OAS’ annual high school model OAS simulation in Washington, DC. Students will research and write policy resolutions, develop lesson plans, engage in public speaking, enhance critical thinking, and have the opportunity to turn theory into practice by taking one small action on a global problem. The course is an exploration of how the OAS, a large international organization, and Penn undergraduate and Philadelphia public high school students, working collaboratively can design and propose real solutions to world problems.
Political polls are a central feature of elections and are ubiquitously employed to understand and explain voter intentions and public opinion. This course will examine political polling by focusing on four main areas of consideration. First, what is the role of political polls in a functioning democracy? This area will explore the theoretical justifications for polling as a representation of public opinion. Second, the course will explore the business and use of political polling, including media coverage of polls, use by politicians for political strategy and messaging, and the impact polls have on elections specifically and politics more broadly. The third area will focus on the nuts and bolts of election and political polls, specifically with regard to exploring traditional questions and scales used for political measurement; the construction and considerations of likely voter models; measurement of the horserace; and samples and modes used for election polls. The course will additionally cover a fourth area of special topics, which will include exit polling, prediction markets, polling aggregation, and other topics. It is not necessary for students to have any specialized mathematical or statistical background for this course.

The goal of this class is to expose students to the process by which quantitative political science research is conducted. The class will take us down three separate, but related tracks. Track one will teach some basic tools necessary to conduct quantitative political science research. Topics covered will include descriptive statistics, sampling, probability and statistical theory, and regression analysis. However, conducting empirical research requires that we actually be able to apply these tools. Thus, track two will teach us how to implement some of these basic tools using the computer program R. However, if we want to implement these tools, we also need to be able to develop hypotheses that we want to test. Thus, track three will teach some basics in research design. Topics will include independent and dependent variables, generating testable hypotheses, and issues in causality. You are encouraged to register for both this course and PSCI 107 at the same time, as the courses cover distinct, but complementary, material. But there are no prerequisites, nor is registering for PSCI 107 necessary, in order to take this course. The class satisfies the College of Arts and Science Quantitative Data Analysis (QDA) requirement.
395-301 Power-Sharing in Deeply Divided Places O’Leary, B
*Wednesdays*
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This seminar examines conceptual, explanatory and normative debates over power-sharing systems. We explore the circumstances in which federal, consociation 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 course is suited to seniors and juniors.

398-303 International Diplomacy Weisiger, A
*Thursdays*
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Much of international politics takes place in the shadow of war: leaders seek simultaneously to achieve the best possible outcome in negotiations while limiting the danger of a mutually disastrous war. We will examine how leaders can and do weigh these competing goals in a variety of political settings. Topics covered include crisis diplomacy, the sources and importance of reputation, alliance politics and the balance of power, mediation and peacemaking, the diffusion of ideas, and constitutional orders in international politics. Students will be evaluated on the basis of course participation, three short reading response papers, and a substantial research paper.
At a time when political conservatism is both massively successful and in ongoing crisis, what intellectual resources do conservatives of various stripes have going forward? This course explores a variety of thinkers and traditions within conservative political thought. This is not a course about Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, or Donald Trump, nor about the Republican Party—though students will come away from this course with a better understanding of the conservative ideas that they do (or do not) espouse. Rather, we will study such schools of conservative thought as agrarianism, traditionalism, neo-conservatism, libertarianism, and anarcho-capitalism. What conflicts and questions animate these traditions? In what ways are they in agreement and how are they in conflict? We will read standard texts in conservative thought by Burke, Oakeshott, Kirk, Bloom, Hayek, Nozick, Friedman, and others, while also considering unconventional voices like Wendell Berry and Matt Zwolinski. These texts will help students wrestle with questions of the good life, human nature, technology, agency, rationality, and progress that lie at the heart of conservative political thought.

This seminar will examine how the origins and dynamics of the Arab-Israeli conflict have been and are shaped by the changing structure of international politics. We will study differences, and similarities, in the impact of international factors on the struggles that resulted from the Zionist project in the Land of Israel/Palestine, and Arab and Muslim reactions to it across three periods: Imperialism and the World Wars (1860s-1940s); Cold War (late 1940s-1990); Messy Multi-Polarity (1990s-present). In addition to weekly discussions of assigned readings from both secondary and primary sources, each student in the seminar will write a research paper related to the theme of the seminar whose topic and focus will be developed in close consultation with the instructor. A significant amount of seminar time will be devoted to the development of paper topics and to learning the skills associated with designing and writing a full-scale research paper. Students will be expected to have some background in either Middle East politics or European or international politics or history.
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science Undergraduate Courses

398-306 Immigration and Inter-group Relations in Jones-Correa, M
Tuesdays Philadelphia and Atlanta
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

What happens as neighborhoods and cities change as a result of immigration? How do different ethnic and racial groups respond and interact? Is the result backlash, accommodation or welcoming? This course explores these questions through in-depth readings on immigrants and cities, and the opportunity to engage in both original research — through fieldwork and interviews— and survey analysis. Course discussions will include, among other topics, policing and sanctuary city policies, gentrification and interactions in public space, and the political incorporation of immigrants. Students will have a chance to carry out fieldwork in Philadelphia, and to learn and apply statistical software to survey data to explore their own original research projects. No prior exposure to statistics is required.

497-301 Political Science Honors Doherty-Sil, E
Mondays
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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.

498-301 How Divided is America Levendusky, M
Wednesdays
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

You can’t pick up the newspaper today without reading about the deep, and perhaps irrevocable, divisions between Americans. But how divided are Americans actually? Are political elites more divided than ordinary voters? And if Americans have become more deeply divided, what explains this phenomenon? In this class, we’ll review the literature on political polarization. We’ll begin by considering how political elites have become more deeply divided over time, and explore a set of explanations for why that has occurred. Then we’ll turn to ordinary voters, and we’ll see that the evidence is decidedly more mixed. We’ll explore the difference between ideological and affective polarization, and we’ll discuss how the rise of issues like abortion, women’s rights, and LGBT rights helped to fuel polarization. We’ll finally conclude by discussing what, if anything, can be done to reverse this trend.

Course assignments include active seminar participation, several short response papers, and a final research paper.
Across the globe, tens of thousands of international organizations -- such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and NAFTA -- attempt to promote international cooperation between countries. This course will examine the theories and practice of IOs, with a particular focus on IOs that promote economic cooperation. Of all the IOs across the world, what makes some effective and others less so? Why do some IOs die off, while others thrive? How does the design and structure of IOs matter for IO performance? This course will involve weekly presentations and structured debates among students, as well as frequent reference to current events.

This seminar is aimed at graduate students in political science and other social science disciplines where scholarly debates capture shifting battle lines between theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. Advanced undergraduates with an interest in possibly engaging in graduate work in the future are welcome to take this class with the permission of the instructor. The course provides a critical survey of the evolving field of comparative politics, with an eye to tracing the intellectual history of the field and considering relevance of the sociology of knowledge. The course will examine the evolution of conceptual frameworks and battles between contending research traditions and alternative methodological approaches. The first half of the course will survey broadly how processes of political, economic, and social change have been theorized in the social sciences from 19th century classical social theory through the end of the 20th century. In this process, particular attention will be paid to the bifurcation between theories that emphasize the “universal” (e.g. the homogenizing effects of specific processes or variables) and the “particular” (e.g. the persistence of distinctive historical patterns or divergent trajectories). This bifurcation intersects with distinct styles and methods of research, each founded on distinct epistemological perspectives. The purpose is not to evaluate which approach is better but to lay out the trade-offs between different approaches for relating empirical observations to general theoretical propositions. In the second half of the course, these broad met theoretical and methodological issues are reformulated within the context of a range of substantive problems that are addressed by scholars in the field of comparative politics and sociology. These include: the complex relations among (ethnic or national) identity and political order; paths to state formation and state-society relations; the origins and consolidation of democratic institutions; theories concerning social movements, revolutions and other forms of contentious politics; the political economy of development and the emergence of varieties of capitalism; and the relationship between international/global economy and domestic politics and policies. On all these topics, the course is designed to shed light on the assumptions behind, and differences between, particular approaches while determining whether current debates are spurring progress, fragmentation, or stagnation in the field of comparative politics as a whole.
598-302  Authoritarian Politics  Hou, Y

**Wednesdays**
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*(Graduate seminar but will accept undergraduates with permission)*

This seminar offers a thematic approach to the study of authoritarian politics. We will discuss major areas of comparative politics research on authoritarian politics and governance. We will closely examine the origins of authoritarian regimes and the underpinning of their persistence: formal and informal institutions, accountability and responsiveness, apparatus of repression, control and manipulation, bureaucracy and party politics, and the rule of law. We will also build empirical knowledge about the politics of particular authoritarian regimes. We will pay special attention to recently published work and working papers to get a sense of the state of the field. Most weeks we will have a short discussion of some professional aspect of the political science discipline, including developing research ideas, doing fieldwork, presenting, publishing, networking, and working with advisors.

Students will be expected to produce a research proposal or pre-analysis plan related to the topic of authoritarian politics. Students will also lead class discussion once and serve as discussants for the research proposals of their fellow classmates.

598-303  American Pragmatism  Goldman, L

**Wednesdays**
3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

This course explores American pragmatism and its political/philosophical consequences. While Pragmatism exerts considerable influence on a great deal of contemporary political theory, its political inheritance – and whether one can even speak of a “pragmatist” political philosophy at all – remains contested. We focus on the writings of pragmatism’s most influential voices: Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, John Dewey, George Herbert Mead, and Richard Rorty, along with a smattering of contemporary pragmatists.
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? Key themes include nationalism, political culture, democratization, authoritarianism, and the nature of protracted conflict.

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 student’s critical thinking through their insertion into debates that reflect alternative perspectives.
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.

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.

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.