

Political Science

The Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science at UC Berkeley welcomes students interested in pursuing graduate study and research leading to the Ph.D. in political science. Graduate students may specialize in one of six principal subfields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Models and Politics, and Methodology. In addition, the Department's faculty and graduate students work with over twenty interdisciplinary research institutes and centers around campus.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Normative Time Requirements

The Political Science department at UC Berkeley admits students for the doctoral degree only. The PhD program has two major phases: (1) coursework and examinations, and (2) dissertation research and writing. The two phases typically take approximately five or six years (three years to candidacy and two or three for dissertation research and writing).

Time to Advancement

Curriculum

Courses Required

POL SCI Electives (12 units may be upper division) per specialized study list, includes:	40 Units
Preparation in 3 of 12 subfields	

The coursework and examination phase requires 40 units (typically 10 classes) of graduate-level coursework and competence in three of eleven subfields (<http://polisci.berkeley.edu/research-and-teaching/subfields/>). Subfield competence is demonstrated through coursework and written exams offered each semester. A Preliminary Field Examination is typically taken in the student's second or third year of the program. All students must pass one exam in one of the following subfields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Methodology, Models and Politics, or Political Theory. All students must also demonstrate competency in two additional subfields, by taking a minimum of three to four courses in two of the following areas: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Methodology, Models and Politics, Area Studies, Political Behavior, Political Economy, Public Policy & Organization, Race & Ethnic Politics, and Interdisciplinary Studies in Political Thought. Other appropriate subfields may be designated by the department. Students must achieve a combined GPA of 3.5 in these courses.

The particular sequence of courses that a student takes in preparation for the comprehensive field exam is not prescribed. Rather, the faculty assist students with a selection of courses that best meet their intellectual and academic interests. There are no formal foreign language or statistics requirements although many students will find that their program of study and dissertation research will require the engagement of particular foreign language or methodology coursework.

When the coursework and preliminary examination requirements have been met, the student prepares a prospectus for dissertation research. The student convenes a committee known as the Qualifying Examination Committee, consisting of four faculty members. The Qualifying Examination Committee advises on the prospectus and examines the student on specific research plans. UC Berkeley is highly committed to interdisciplinary scholarly engagement and the student may elect to include faculty members from another department or unit at UC Berkeley on both their Qualifying Examination Committee and Dissertation Committee. Engagement with members of the faculty from other departments should begin during the coursework stage so that the advice and input of the outside member are represented in the prospectus.

When sufficient preparation for the proposed research has been demonstrated to the Qualifying Examination Committee, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy. It is expected (and for most funding packages, required) that the student advance to doctoral candidacy by the end of their third year.

Dissertation Research and Writing

Doctoral candidacy initiates the second phase of the program during which the student normally devotes full attention to the research and writing of the dissertation. The student's Dissertation Committee is typically comprised of the members from the Qualifying Examination Committee although there are sometimes changes in committee membership as the research evolves. The doctorate is awarded when the student submits a satisfactory dissertation to the dissertation

committee. There is no formal dissertation defense at Berkeley. A reasonable estimate of the research and writing phase of the program is approximately two to three years although students whose dissertations require more extensive research may take longer to earn their degree.

General Curriculum Guidelines

First Year

Students are required to complete 24 units of coursework in their first year of study. At least 12 of these units must be in political science graduate courses; the remainder may be in graduate or upper division undergraduate courses in other departments. The first year is designed to allow the student the opportunity to engage in foreign language study, area specialization, and to meet and study with faculty from other departments who may become members of the qualifying exam or dissertation committees. All students are reviewed at the end of the first year of study on their overall academic performance. This overall evaluation will include GPA and successful completion of all 24 required units. In exceptional cases, a student may decide not to continue in the PhD program or may be asked to leave after the first year; in this event, students may either be awarded an MA degree (if they complete the requirements for the degree, see next item) or will leave the program without an MA degree.

Second Year

During the second year, students must complete an advanced topical research essay, the second year paper. The student will narrow their interests, continue to explore ideas for a dissertation topic, and identify potential advisers. Coursework continues as students begin preparing for both preliminary field exams and writing their dissertation prospectus. Additionally, students in their second year usually serve as a graduate student instructor (GSI), a 20 hour per week position.

Third Year

During the third year, most students continue to teach as GSIs and complete their coursework in addition to taking their field exams. Political Science graduate students must show competency in three subfield specialties to be eligible to sit for the oral prospectus defense (known formally as the Qualifying Exam). Students must pass a written Preliminary Field Examination in one subfield and "course out" of two other subfields by taking a prescribed set of courses in each.

Students may sit for their Preliminary Field Examination as early as the beginning of their second year, and if necessary, as late as winter of their third year. Field exams are offered at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. All students are expected to have completed one field exam, "coursed out" out of two additional fields, and written & defended their dissertation prospectus (pass their qualifying exam) by the end of the third year. It is highly recommended (and essential to most funding packages) that students advance to doctoral candidacy by the end of their third year. The third year is also when students should begin to apply for extramural fellowships to support their dissertation research.

Fourth Year

Beginning in the third year and continuing into the fourth, students should be collecting much of the information and data necessary for their dissertation. Many students spend one or both semesters of their fourth year conducting research, many going abroad to do field work.

Fifth Year

Like the fourth year, the fifth year is variable according to an individual's research schedule. Often this is a good year to use the Dean's Completion Fellowship while focusing on writing the dissertation. This

is also the time, if research is complete and writing has begun, to apply for finishing fellowships and extramural dissertation awards. Ideally, if students plan to enter the job market during the fifth year, they should have most of their dissertation completed by then.

Sixth Year and Beyond

Students are normally expected to finish by their sixth year. In the sixth year, students continue to work on completing and revising the dissertation and enter the job market. This is also a time students apply for post-doctoral fellowships. To fund the final year(s), some students teach as adjunct faculty at the many colleges and universities in the area, and some find research assistantships.

Subfields

American Politics

Subfield Coordinator: David Broockman

The study of American politics at Berkeley brings together faculty and graduate students who seek to tackle the most important questions confronting the field using diverse methodological approaches.

Among other topics, the faculty's research agenda encompasses the quality and meaning of representation in contemporary American politics, the political implications of rising economic inequality, the politics of immigration and of minority group representation, the meaning of American national identity, the sources and implications of party polarization, the development of American bureaucratic government and of the American welfare state, and the balance of power among Congress, the Presidency, and the Courts. Our program strives to train students to have a diverse methodological toolkit, including quantitative, historical/developmental, game-theoretic, behavioral, and institutional approaches.

The department supports several workshops and colloquia that foster this diverse intellectual community, including the American Politics Research Workshop, the Positive Political Theory seminar series, the Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Colloquium, the American Political Development working group, and the Quantitative Methods Workshop. These research units also provide funding for graduate student research projects and for faculty-student collaboration. Faculty work closely with students to help each student carve out a research agenda that fits his or her interests, while addressing a substantively important problem.

Comparative Politics

Subfield Coordinator: Scott Straus

Berkeley has a longstanding tradition of distinction in comparative politics. Members of the department's comparative politics faculty are widely recognized as national and international leaders, and the department's strengths have grown in recent years.

The coverage of substantive themes, methodological approaches, and geographic expertise is extremely broad. Comparative political economy, political regimes and regime change, political parties and organizations, and social mobilization are the subject of great interest among faculty and graduate students. Some comparative faculty and graduate students rely largely upon formal theory in their work. Some are highly proficient in quantitative methods, while others use case studies and qualitative methods. Many faculty and graduate students use multi-method approaches. The faculty emphasizes rigor of method—whether applied in formal, statistical, or qualitative work. All graduate students in

comparative politics are expected to achieve proficiency in all methods prevalent in the field.

The faculty and graduate student populations are diverse; no single theoretical orientation or methodology enjoys status as orthodoxy. Generally speaking, Berkeley comparativists pursue “big” questions that have broad implications for political life and public policy as well as social science. Such questions include when and why Chinese peasants resist unjust authority; how transformations in the global economy are reshaping the welfare state in advanced industrialized countries; how economic structures and resource flows mold state and market institutions; why economic liberalization has proved difficult in Japan and how it may yet come about; why democracy is failing in Russia while working in Indonesia; why opposition forces succeed in forging electoral alliances in some African polities but not others; how party systems influence the provision of public goods across the Indian states; and how labor organizations are responding to transformations in economic policy in Latin America.

International Relations

Subfield Coordinator: Vinod Aggarwal

International Relations at Berkeley focuses on the study of contemporary and historical problems in world politics. Our faculty and graduate students work on an eclectic set of substantive issues that frequently cross over between international relations theory, security studies, and international political economy.

Current research interests pursued by our group include the causes and consequences of peace and war, the political economy of trade and finance, American foreign and national security policy, emerging issues in security, geopolitical order and change, the impact of technology and geography on world politics, the role of ideas and identities shaping international affairs, the link between business and politics, and the interaction between religion and global politics. In addition to resources in the Political Science Department, our work is reflected and supported by various centers across campus: the Institute for International Studies (IIS), the Berkeley Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Center (BASC), the Berkeley Roundtable on the International Economy (BRIE), the Religion, Politics and Globalization Program (RPGP), Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) and others. In addition, the journal *Business and Politics* is edited by one of our faculty members.

Our methodologies are equally eclectic, ranging from socio-historical analysis to quantitative empirics and formal modeling. Much of our research is interdisciplinary, drawing from fields as disparate as economics, psychology, ecology, theology, or history. We take theory seriously but not to the exclusion of interesting and important global problems. Our overarching goal is to contribute to an understanding of how international politics is organized and how it functions around substantive issues that matter to political actors and human beings.

Methodology & Formal Theory

Subfield Coordinator: Thad Dunning

The Berkeley program in empirical methodology and formal theory offers rigorous training that is carefully integrated with major substantive agendas in political science.

The program builds centrally on innovative faculty research, which encompasses new methods for causal inference and program evaluation, as well as statistical computing and survey analysis. The work on surveys has included path-breaking contributions to developing and refining

experiments embedded in surveys and computer-assisted telephone interviewing; and innovations in measuring issue orientations and in multi-level modeling of political behavior. In formal theory, faculty have contributed to opening new lines of inquiry into strategic interactions where formal institutions are weak, and to modeling information and incentives in organizations—as they affect both the dynamics of institutions within the United States and those in authoritarian and democratizing regimes. Faculty in both traditions play a prominent role in developing empirical tests of formal theory, based on both laboratory experiments and observational data. The faculty has also done influential work on qualitative methodology, comparative-historical methods, and linking qualitative methods with both quantitative tools and with formal analysis.

The methods/formal faculty make important institutional contributions on the Berkeley campus. They convene the Positive Political Theory Seminar, which draws together a national constituency of leading modelers for its biweekly meetings. They have led the campus Survey Research Center and helped to sustain its innovative research on survey methodology; and they were central to launching the Berkeley's NSF/IGERT training program in Politics, Economics, Psychology, and Public Policy (PEPPP). Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, as well as the Survey Research Center, are important venues for convening scholars and graduate students, and they provide support for graduate students pursuing methodological and formal training.

Faculty members also play leading roles in the national political science profession. Their contributions have included serving as Chair of the Board of the American National Elections Studies (ANES); providing crucial leadership in launching the NSF program on the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM); co-editing the new Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology; serving as President of the Political Methodology Society; and founding APSA's Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research. The political science department maintains close ties with the national Institute for Qualitative/Multi-Method Research, and many graduate students attend the institute. Three of the methods/formal faculty are Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Political Theory & Philosophy

Subfield Coordinator: Daniel Lee

Berkeley's department offers a full range of courses in political theory, including classical, modern, and contemporary political philosophy (both European and American).

In the history of political thought, faculty have particular strengths in ancient moral and political thought, renaissance and early modern political thought, Enlightenment social and political thought, and nineteenth and twentieth century Marxism, British and Continental theory, and critical theory. In contemporary political theory, their areas of expertise include liberal and democratic thought, sovereignty and multiculturalism, and postfoundational approaches to subjectivity and social inquiry.

The core curriculum for graduate study in the department involves those courses recommended in preparation for the qualifying exam in the history of political thought (such courses include POL SCI 212A, POL SCI 212B, POL SCI 212C, POL SCI 213, and POL SCI 214); and courses of special relevance to the qualifying exam in contemporary political theory (including POL SCI 215A, POL SCI 215B, and POL SCI 216). The history of political thought exam has two parts. Part I queries students about the nature of the history of Western political

thought as a field of knowledge, and/or about debates focused on particular periods or problems. Part II of the exam asks students to respond to questions about particular theorists or texts in each of three major time periods (ancient and medieval; early modern; modern). The contemporary political thought exam approaches twentieth and twenty-first-century political theory from three angles: subfields of theory, theorists and approaches, and topics.

The research, writing, and pedagogical interests of faculty within political theory are impressively varied. Greater details about the work and interests of each faculty member may be found on their faculty web pages.

Models & Politics

Subfield Coordinator: Sean Gailmard

Formal models are used in political science as abstract representations of political institutions and choices in order to focus attention on key logic and causal mechanisms in a political process. Good modeling requires fluency in technical fields such as game theory and social choice theory, as well as the substantive knowledge to craft an appropriate and insightful model for a specific application.

The Models & Politics subfield, instituted by the faculty in 2007, connects advanced training in formal modeling techniques (also commonly referred to as formal theory, positive political theory, or political economy) with innovative substantive research in political science. It is designed for students who plan to make significant use of formal modeling in their own research in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, or Political Theory. This subfield is appropriate for students who wish to use formal models to structure and inform their empirical research, as well as those who wish to become pure modelers.

Political Behavior

Subfield Coordinator: Gabriel Lenz

Political behavior at UC Berkeley serves as a bridge between political science on the one side and political psychology and political sociology on the other. Its focus is on the social and psychological processes by which individuals (and groups) engage in political life. Although the actual studies of these matters may occur within a particular geographical or institutional context and data are most often drawn from the American experience, the purpose is to generalize to a class of political phenomena or behavior beyond specific countries or specific institutions. Attention is also paid to problems of survey design and analysis, the development of scales, indices, and other measurement devices, questionnaire construction, interviewing, sampling, and other elements of systematic research that aim to yield data susceptible to statistical analysis. Among the substantive topics covered in the field are: public opinion; political leadership; political participation and protest and personality and politics.

Political Economy

Subfield Coordinator: Steven Vogel

The political economy group in the department defines the substantive scope of the subfield broadly, including the role of the state in the economy, the politics of economic policy, the political and social institutions that underpin markets, formal models of governance, patterns of international trade and investment, international organizations, and the history of political economic thought. Scholars in this area employ a wide range of methodological tools, including ethnographic fieldwork, archival research, case studies, quantitative analysis, and formal modeling.

The department regularly offers courses in American political economy, comparative political economy, international political economy, and the political economy of development, and our partner departments add courses on the history of political economic thought and political economics, among other topics. Scholars in the department are involved in various ways in a project to re-imagine interdisciplinary inquiry in political economy. Some PhD students choose to join the Designated Emphasis in Political Economy, a Ph.D. "minor" that brings together students interested in political economy from a wide range of departments across campus. Some participate in the Network for a New Political Economy (N2PE) that connects faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates across disciplinary lines to engage in discussions of some of the most pressing issues of our day. Berkeley boasts a large number of research units touching on political economy, such as the Berkeley Center for Economics and Politics (BCEP), the Law, Economics, and Politics Center (LEAP), the Center on the Politics of Development (CPD), and the Othering & Belonging Institute (OBI).

Public Policy & Organization

Subfield Coordinator: Christopher Ansell

Public policy studies explore political responses to specific public problems, like environmental degradation, poverty, or disease. Faculty in this subfield are interested in the political dynamics of policy-making and policy implementation, including such topics as agenda-setting, regulatory decision-making, and federalism. Since public problems often ignore jurisdictions, a policy-oriented approach to political science is often concerned about the interplay between different levels of government (local, regional, national, and international). The Public Policy & Organization subfield, therefore, draws on and contributes to scholarship in urban politics, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations.

Policy outcomes are typically mediated by organizations that mobilize stakeholders, make authoritative decisions, administer programs, and enforce laws. These organizations range from complex government bureaucracies to professional associations and social movement organizations. The organizational and inter-organizational aspects of policy-making and policy implementation are a particular concern of this subfield. Important debates in this field often focus on understanding how specific institutional arrangements are created to govern policy arenas and on whether these institutions produce effective, efficient, and equitable governance.

Sophisticated explanations of policy-making and implementation call for specific analytical tools and intellectual frameworks. This subfield draws on theories of policy-making and implementation, governance, public administration, public law, institutionalism, and organization theory as a framework of analysis.

RACE & eTHNIC POLITICS

Subfield Coordinator: To be determined

This subfield is concerned with major theories and empirical approaches the study of race and ethnicity as political identities. Drawing from works across the social sciences, we will explore a range of topics with implications for politics in the United States and countries around the world. These topics include: how identity should be conceptualized and measured; why some forms of identity are activated, mobilized, and contested; how identities are represented politically; how racial and ethnic identities intersect with other salient identities; how social diversity and civil society are interrelated; what factors affect the integration of immigrants; and which varieties of democracy enable the flourishing of

plural identities. The subfield focuses on the United States and the other parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Because the study of race and ethnicity intersects with all major subfields of political science, our goal is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the current state of knowledge as well as the intellectual resources needed to undertake their own original research.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Subfield Coordinator: To be determined

This course-out field option enables students of political thought to deepen their competence in political theory through work outside of the core theory curriculum, including supplemental disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Students satisfy this requirement by taking at least three (3) graduate-level courses (for a letter grade), which may be offered by Political Science or other departments, such as Philosophy, History, Classics, Jurisprudence and Social Policy, Rhetoric, Sociology or Comparative Literature.

Political Science

POL SCI 200A Major Themes in Comparative Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Subject and texts to be studied vary with instructor. See departmental announcements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Political Science 200

POL SCI 200B Major Themes in Comparative Analysis: Research Design 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course provides an introduction to research design in comparative politics; it is the second semester of the two-semester introductory graduate sequence for the comparative sub-field. We will focus on various topics relevant to doing research, such as how to formulate research questions; develop concepts and measures; bolster the validity of descriptive and causal inferences; and use various qualitative and quantitative methods in the service of diverse substantive agenda. Developing the ability to critique research is one important objective. However, the primary goal of the course is to provide a first foundation for actually doing research.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 201A Comparative Analysis of Industrial Democracies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2011

The comparative study of politics in Western societies. The place of parties, political structures, interest groups, and economic institutions. The relation between domestic political developments and the international system. The effect of economic development on political change. The effect of labor politics on national politics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 201B Comparative Analysis of Industrial Democracies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Fall 2007, Fall 2006

The comparative study of politics in Western societies. The place of parties, political structures, interest groups, and economic institutions. The relation between domestic political developments and the international system. The effect of economic development on political change. The effect of labor politics on national politics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 201D Governance of the E-conomy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2008, Spring 2006, Spring 2002

New digital technologies, changing market structures, and innovative business organizations are transforming the economic and social landscape of the advanced industrial countries. The policy issues associated with this transformation pose fundamental philosophical and political questions of how to organize our markets, polity, and society. The means of making and implementing these choices is politics. The necessarily global scope of the E-conomy extends the political and policy challenges to the international arena. This course will explore the literature on the political economy of the Internet to determine what policy choices -- hence which political debates -- are and will be most important. We also will examine our conceptual understanding of the burgeoning digital economy and its impact on politics, law, and socio-economic relations.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 202A Theories of Development and Political Change 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Spring 2012, Fall 2011

Issues of social organization and political change. Theories of progress, development, modernization and dependence.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 203 Urban and Subnational Politics in Low- and Middle-Income Countries 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2013, Fall 2011

Metropolitan areas in the developing world face enormous challenges. This course will consider the political and institutional environment in which efforts to address metropolitan problems are developed, the financial and institutional vehicles used to provide services of different types, and the role of political parties and other political organizations in the development and allocation of services. Readings will be drawn from Political Science, Sociology, Geography, and Economics.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI C203 Subnational and Urban Politics in Low and Middle-Income Countries 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2013

This course will consider the political and institutional environment in which efforts to address metropolitan problems are developed, the financial and institutional vehicles used to provide services of different types, and the role of political parties and other forms of political organization in the development and allocation of services. Emphasis will be placed upon fertile areas for research within the social sciences.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: GMS C203

POL SCI 204 The Politics of Gender 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2004, Fall 2003

This seminar is designed for Ph.D. students as a foundation for future research on the origins and persistence of gender inequality in politics and other positions of power. We will look at variation in gender inequality indicators to systematically address how women's and men's socio-economic status and political power has varied across time (in historical perspective) and place (in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas). Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the way gender intersects with other identities, such as race, ethnicity, sexuality and class. We will draw on readings primarily from political science and economics, but also sociology, psychology, law, and anthropology.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 204B Bureaucracy in Comparative Perspective 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Adopting a comparative perspective on bureaucracy, this course examines how and why the structures, capacities, effectiveness and accountability of bureaucracies vary significantly in different places and at different times. Why do some administrative organizations become politicized and corrupt while others establish strong meritocratic administration and effective performance? Why do some bureaucracies develop their own power base and become relatively autonomous while others are subject to elaborate political oversight and micro-management? The course will examine these questions in both the global north and the global south.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 206 Comparative Party Systems 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

Why are there political parties? The origins of parties in issue cleavages, legislatures, social movements, and personal followings. Types of parties. The political machine, the ideological party, third parties, flash parties. Federalism and political parties. Intra-party competition and selection of leaders. What do parties try to maximize: votes? ideological purity? personal security of party professionals? How parties change: reform movements, issue crises, external social movements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 207 Political Violence 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2017

This graduate seminar is designed to introduce students to the comparative study of political violence. The course examines two broad themes through a variety of theoretical and empirical approaches. The first theme focuses on why individuals choose to rebel: When does violence become a strategy for resolving conflict? Why do individuals participate in violence? How is violence organized? The second theme focuses on how states choose to repress citizens: When are human rights violations committed? When does a state use violence over other strategies? What are the effects of state violence?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 209A Comparative Political Economy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This seminar provides an introduction to the major debates in comparative political economy. Although the empirical focus is on the affluent democracies, many of the debates and issues analyzed have implications for other regions. The course is divided into two main parts. The first part examines leading theoretical perspectives on political economy, such as Friedman, Marx, Weber, and Polanyi. The second part of the course is more topical. It probes a number of examples of economic development, crisis, and change, with an eye to assessing alternative theoretical perspectives.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 209B Post Fordism: New Patterns of Production, Time, and Meaning in Contemporary Capitalism 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009

With changes in technology, the internationalization of production and the massive increase in trans-border transactions of all kinds, it has been argued that we live and work in an era of substantively different capitalism. Were this true, it has deep implications for politics and for political economy. This graduate seminar explores the validity of this claim of a "new capitalism" through a variety of materials, starting with the question of whether "Fordism" ever existed, moving on to the question of whether "Post-Fordism" exists and ending with a variety of ethnographic studies that show how global production chains shape culture, gender, and hierarchy/power.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Chaundhry

POL SCI 210 Selected Topics in Comparative Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

See departmental announcements. Topic will vary with instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 211 Special Topics in Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 211A The Law of Nations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

This graduate seminar course will be dedicated to a detailed study the law of nations, focusing on (1) its historical origins in classical and medieval jurisprudence; (2) its development in major treatises, especially in those by Grotius and Pufendorf; (3) critiques in recent scholarship on the legal history and politics of modern empire-building. The course will involve a study of original print texts, including the 1646 *De Jure Belli ac Pacis* and the 1698 *De Jure Naturae et Gentium*.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 212A History of Political Thought: Ancient and Medieval 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

A weekly seminar on political thought from the ancient Greeks to the Renaissance. Ancient and medieval political theorist, typically including Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, and Aquinas.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 212B History of Political Thought: Early Modern (Renaissance to French Revolution) 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

A weekly seminar on political thought from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. Early modern political theorist, typically including Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 212C History of Political Thought: Modern (French Revolution through World War II) 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

A weekly seminar on political thought in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Modern political theorists, typically including Tocqueville, Hegel, Marx, Mill, Nietzsche, and Weber.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 213 Methodological Topics in the History of Political Thought 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2012

A weekly seminar on approaches to the history of political thought. Theoretical topics, typically including the nature of meaning and textuality, validity, and historical explanation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 214 Symposium in the History of Political Thought 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

An intensive examination of theorists, theories, or concepts in the history of political thought.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 214A Aristotles Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021

In this course, we will read the whole of Aristotle's Politics. Prior knowledge of ancient Greek is not necessary, although we will have the original on hand and will be discussing the meaning of the Greek as we go. This will be a communal scholarly journey, drawing on graduate students. Topics to include the polis (city-state), oikos (household), freedom,, slavery, Aristotle's interpretation of Plato, citizenship, democracy, oligarchy, Aristotle's ideal political system, the political implications of economic disparity, and how to think about and avoid political revolution.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 215A Approaches to Contemporary Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2020

A weekly seminar on contemporary approaches to political theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 215B Topics to Contemporary Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

A weekly seminar on leading topics in contemporary political theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 216 Symposium in Contemporary Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2016, Fall 2012

An intensive examination of a contemporary theorist, debate, or issue.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 217 African American Political Thought 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2003

An examination of interrelationships of politics, personality, and culture, normally with specific focus on American materials. Research papers will be written and discussed during the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for POL SCI 217 after completing POL SCI 217. A deficient grade in POL SCI 217 may be removed by taking POL SCI 217.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 220A Theories of International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Origin, application and utility of major concepts featured in the study of international relations. Relation of various strands of political and social theory to international relations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Previous work in international relations

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 221 International Security 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

The goal of this course is to introduce advanced political science graduate students to current debates in the field of international security and to prepare these students for conducting dissertation research in their own areas of interest within this field. This course is designed for advanced political science graduate students preparing to commence their dissertation research. Its orientation is theoretical rather than empirical and it is both reading and research.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: If course was taken prior to Fall 2016, students will receive no credit for Political Science 221 after taking Political Science 222.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Political Science 224A

POL SCI 222 Religion and International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Fall 2018

How has religion shaped the structure of the international system? How should IR scholars approach the role that religion plays in contemporary affairs? How does religion constrain or motivate international conflict? This seminar seeks to guide students through readings in the social sciences, from psychology and sociology to anthropology and political science, that explore the intersection of religion and international relations. We will examine a variety of theoretical approaches to the topic of religion and global politics, explore religious origins of the modern state system, and analyze the influence of religion on historical and contemporary conflicts, with a particular focus on ethnic conflict, terrorism, and peacemaking.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Political Science 226

POL SCI 223 Selected Topics in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2019

See departmental announcements. Topic will vary with instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 224 Sociological Traditions in International Relations 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2007

This seminar traces the development of the constructivist program in international relations in order to better understand its elements, assumptions, and methods and apply those to current issues. We start by uncovering the roots of constructivism in sociology and philosophy and examine structuration theory, the English School, world systems theory, regime theory, and sociological institutionalism. The second part of this course focuses on the constructivist agenda in international relations, its boundaries and its critics. In the last part of the course we examine current research in IR that draws on sociological methods, including work on the role of norms, epistemic communities, transnational civil society, and the origins of the state.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hassner

POL SCI 225 Constructivism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2017, Fall 2010

This seminar traces the development of the constructivist program in international relations in order to better understand its elements, assumptions, and methods and apply those to current issues. We start by uncovering the roots of constructivism in sociology and philosophy and examine structuration theory, the English School, world systems theory, regime theory, and sociological institutionalism. The second part of this course focuses on the constructivist agenda in international relations, its boundaries and its critics. In the last part of the course we examine current research in international relations that draws on sociological methods, including work on the role of norms, epistemic communities, transnational civil society, and the origins of the state.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hassner

Formerly known as: 224B

POL SCI 225A The Empirical Analysis of International Security 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Fall 2007, Spring 2006

This course offers an introduction to the empirical analysis of International Security. The primary goals are 1) to acquaint students with the empirical knowledge in the field of International Security that has been produced with quantitative approaches and 2) to help students develop and hone their skills in empirical analysis. Therefore, particular emphasis will be given on how to go beyond being "consumers" of empirical research and how to become "producers" of novel empirical knowledge.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 226A International Political Economy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The creation, maintenance, transformation, and decay of international arrangements designed to manage or regulate interstate activities relating to trade, money, resource use, technology, and physical environment.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Introductory courses (graduate or undergraduate) in international relations, foreign policy, international organizations and political economy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 227 International Cooperation 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This seminar will cover the topic of international cooperation. We will begin by reviewing the positions of central IR paradigms on the possibility of international cooperation and the role of international institutions.

We will talk about why states want to cooperate, which obstacles need to be overcome, and how international institutions can facilitate interstate cooperation. We examine questions concerning the design of international institutions, the extent of compliance they evoke, and their effect in various areas of international cooperation. We also discuss how domestic politics affect a state's willingness to cooperate and comply with international institutions.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 228 Civil Conflict and International Intervention 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2015, Spring 1998

Civil conflict, committed primarily by non-state actors, often results in international intervention in some form. This course, then, focuses on two themes: first, why does civil conflict occur? What motivates individuals and groups to resort to violence? What tactics do they use? How do they expect to succeed? Second, why do international actors intervene in civil conflict? What are their aims in intervening? Are they successful in those goals or in others?

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: Broaden your theoretical framework in international relations more generally
Engage with the existing work in the field and begin high-level research on civil conflict and international intervention
Think about the ways in which international actors intervene
Understand the causes, strategies, and outcomes of civil conflict

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 230 Essential Methodological Tools 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Fall 2011, Fall 2010

This course presents essential methodological concepts, ideas, and tools students need to know before beginning their study of the formal and quantitative methods tools used in political science research. Topics covered include functions, limits, continuity, calculus, optimization, probability and statistics, and linear algebra. Entire courses are often devoted to each of these topics (e.g., Math 1A-1B, 53, 54; Stat 101, 134, 135), and this course clearly cannot provide an equally comprehensive treatment. Rather, the class selectively focuses on specific mathematical concepts that are most commonly used in applied formal and quantitative work in political science. The goal of the class is to ensure that students have a sufficiently firm understanding of these critical ideas and facility with them that subsequent methods course can build on the foundation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to graduate students. Consent of instructor and graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2-5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5-3.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 231A Quantitative Analysis in Political Research 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Introductory course in the analysis of political data.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 132A-132B or Statistics 130A

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 231B Quantitative Analysis in Political Research 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Topics from multi-equation causal modeling and introductory econometrics, with special emphasis on procedures appropriate for political data, including survey data.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 231A or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 231C Quantitative Analysis in Political Research 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Learn about model-based statistical inference and its applications to political science research. The course will cover multiple approaches to model-based inference. First, students will learn about maximum likelihood estimation, which proceeds by assuming the data were generated by a specified probability model. Second, students will learn a collection of methods in machine learning, which employ algorithmic models to optimize fit to the data without relying on assumptions about the data mechanism. Along the way, students will learn about the strengths and limitations of these different approaches, how to interpret the outputs of different types of models, and how to assess the value of estimated models in different situations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 231A and 232B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of seminar and 2-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 231D Advanced Topics in Causal Inference 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

This course builds on introductory causal inference in quantitative social science courses (e.g. PS231B) to introduce students to the theory and application of cutting-edge methods for causal inference, including recent advances on difference-in-differences estimators, instrumental variable approaches, regression discontinuity designs, interference, external validity, doubly robust methods, and sensitivity analyses. With this course students will learn the theory behind these methods and will have the opportunity to apply the methods to cases of interest to social scientists, and to their own causal empirical research. The ultimate goal of the course is to stimulate student interest in future independent learning of new advanced techniques.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 232A Formal Models of Political Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Mathematical models of politics with applications to political learning, bargaining, and democratic theory. Topics from game theory, collective choice theory, and mathematical psychology.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Powell

POL SCI 232B Formal Models of Political Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course emphasizes the application of the formal analytic tools to current or significant research in political science.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 232A or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Powell

POL SCI 232H Public Policy and Business 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 2009

The course will study public policy in its connection with business. Policy is seen as an endogenous outcome of a game where diverse political forces try to shape public decisions to their advantage. The focus is broad, covering both theory and evidence. The aim is to analyze how a wide range of political institutions and processes affect public policy and economic performance. The ultimate goal of the course is to acquaint students with the topics at hand, and to consolidate their control of formal theory and quantitative techniques by discussing their application to the subject.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 234A Qualitative and Multi-Method Research 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023

This course introduces diverse methodological tools, following the premise that all methods are strengthened if linked to qualitative analysis. Explores alternative approaches to concept formation, measurement, and causal inference, based on large- and small-N analysis and case studies. Analytic tensions that motivate the course derive from, among other sources, the pressure on case-study and small-N researchers to strive for analytic rigor and generality; and the skepticism of some statisticians about quantitative inference - both descriptive and casual - in social science.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 235 Introduction to Research Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2018, Fall 2015

Overview of methods of political research. Theories, concepts, variables, hypotheses. Research design, quantitative and qualitative methodology. Basic data collection techniques. Approaches to data analysis. Provides an overview of different statistical techniques, but does not teach statistics .

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 236A The Statistics of Causal Inference in the Social Sciences 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014

Approaches to causal inference using the potential outcomes framework. Covers observational studies with and without ignorable treatment assignment, randomized experiments with and without noncompliance, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, sensitivity analysis, and random inference. Applications are drawn from a variety of fields including political science, economics, sociology, public health, and medicine.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One multivariate regression course

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 2-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Sekhon

POL SCI 236B Quantitative Methodology in the Social Sciences Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

A seminar on successful research designs and a forum for students to discuss the research methods needed in their own work, supplemented by lectures on relevant statistical and computational topics such as matching methods, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, and Bayesian, maximum likelihood and robust estimation. Applications are drawn from political science, economics, sociology, and public health. Experience with R is assumed.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Political Science 236A or STAT 215A or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series.

POL SCI C236A The Statistics of Causal Inference in the Social Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

Approaches to causal inference using the potential outcomes framework. Covers observational studies with and without ignorable treatment assignment, randomized experiments with and without noncompliance, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, sensitivity analysis and randomization inference. Applications are drawn from a variety of fields including political science, economics, sociology, public health and medicine.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: STAT C239A

POL SCI C236B Quantitative Methodology in the Social Sciences Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017

A seminar on successful research designs and a forum for students to discuss the research methods needed in their own work, supplemented by lectures on relevant statistical and computational topics such as matching methods, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, and Bayesian, maximum likelihood and robust estimation. Applications are drawn from political science, economics, sociology, and public health. Experience with R is assumed.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: STAT C239B

POL SCI C237A Political Economics 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2010, Fall 2009

Tools of political economics: preferences and institutions, electoral competition, agency, partisan politics. Redistributive politics: general interest politics, special interest politics. Comparative politics: electoral rules, separation of powers, political regimes. Dynamic politics: fiscal policy, growth.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: ECON C215A

POL SCI C237B Political Economics 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Tools of political economics: preferences and institutions, electoral competition, agency, partisan politics. Redistributive politics: general interest politics, special interest politics. Comparative politics: electoral rules, separation of powers, political regimes. Dynamic politics: fiscal policy, growth.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: ECON C215A is a prerequisite to ECON C215B, and POL SCI C237A is a prerequisite to POL SCI C237B

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: ECON C215B

POL SCI 239 Selected Topics in Methodology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

See departmental announcements. Topic will vary with instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 239T An Introduction to Computational Tools and Techniques for Social Science Research 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2019

This course will provide graduate students the critical technical skills necessary to conduct research in computational social science and digital humanities, introducing them to the basic computer literacy, programming skills, and application knowledge that students need to be successful in further methods work. This course is not an introduction to statistics, computer science, or specialized social science / digital humanities methods. Rather, it is meant as a springboard for students to further their training once the course is finished, whether through campus workshops (e.g. D-Lab workshops), online courses, traditional classrooms, or independent learning.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 243B Political Authority and Economic Exchange in East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Fall 2009, Fall 2007

This course will compare how authority and exchange relations are combined to regulate political and economic activities in China, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and Japan. The course will examine theoretical literature on state-society relations, market, world system, late development, as well as empirical case studies dealing with each nation covered.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 243C Japanese Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Fall 2010, Spring 2006

Japanese domestic politics--issues in historical development; political bureaucratic and legal structures; studies in economic policymaking.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 244A Analysis of Contemporary China 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2011

This is the first in a two-semester sequence designed to provide the incoming graduate student with a basic grounding in the politics of contemporary China. The focus will be on wide reading and comprehension of the available analytical literature; its sequel will be devoted to integrating that reading with primary source research materials. There are no prerequisites, though undergraduate course work in Chinese politics and/or some acquaintance with the Chinese language would be useful.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 244C Approaches to Chinese Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2015

This course has three main objectives: to expose students to debates in the study of post-1949 Chinese politics; to consider how research on contemporary China both draws from and informs political science; and to explore characterizations of the Chinese state and state-society relations. Emphasis on questions such as: What can we learn by examining Chinese culture and institutions? Do concepts such as fragmented authoritarianism, neotraditionalism, state "reach," civil society, and corporatism produce insights into the structure and dynamics of Chinese politics?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 244D Collective Action in China 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2017, Spring 2012

This course will explore contentious politics in the People's Republic of China. Special attention to the current era and dissent by peasants, migrants, workers, religious groups, women, students, artists, and dissidents. How do concepts drawn from social movement theory help us understand popular activism? What are the consequences of protest for regime stability and the development of a more complete citizenship?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 245A South Asian Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2011, Spring 2010

Major themes of politics and international relations in India, Pakistan, Burma and the mountain kingdoms.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 245B International Relations in East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2017, Spring 2015

This seminar will focus on postwar relations among the countries in East Asia. Asia was long divided by colonialism, the Cold War, and America's "hub and spoke" alliance system. Nationalist sentiments and suspicions remain strong; one scholar characterized the region as "the cockpit of great power rivalries." Northeast Asia has seen no shooting wars between states since the Korean armistice in 1953; Southeast Asia has been at peace since the pullback of Vietnam from Cambodia in 1979.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 246B Ethnic Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2010

This graduate seminar is designed to introduce students to the comparative study of ethnic politics. It provides an overview of theoretical frameworks and methodological innovations across topics such as group mobilization, cleavage activation, identity representation, redistributive politics, and political violence. The readings are drawn from various political science subfields as well as other disciplines, reflecting a range of regional and country contexts. The purpose of the course is to provide graduate students with the background necessary for undertaking original research on questions relating to various forms of identity politics.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 247A Western European Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Fall 2011, Fall 2009

Major themes of politics and international relations of Western Europe.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 247G The Comparative Politics of the Welfare State 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

This course analyzes the politics of social protection in Western Europe and the United States. After describing different national welfare regimes, we turn to contemporary challenges, notably globalization, persistent poverty, and changes in family forms and gender roles. We also look at the politics of welfare retrenchment and adjustment, paying particular attention to the prospects for progressive social policy. Must reform inevitably scale back protections for the weak and vulnerable, or can equity be safeguarded while promoting efficiency?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Levy

POL SCI 248A Latin American Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

Explores different analytical approaches to Latin American politics, focusing both on major concepts (clientelism, corporatism, the state, legitimacy, nationalism) and different explanatory approaches (focusing on factors such as dependency and imperialism, internal social order and economic change, political structure and institutions and political culture).

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Either part of the 248A-248B sequence may be taken separately for credit.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 249A Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2011, Spring 2009

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 249B Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2008, Spring 2006

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 249C Special Topics in Area Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Spring 2012, Fall 2011

See department web site for specific course offerings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 250 Courts and the State 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013

The course is a political science graduate seminar that will focus on courts' relationship to other political institutions, particularly but not exclusively in the American separation of powers context, with an emphasis on readings from institutionalist (both historical and rational choice) perspectives.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 252 Legal Theory and Institutions 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

The organization and behavior of legal institutions, with particular reference to American courts and administrative agencies. Institutional responses to problems of legality, authority, policy choice, and the organization of enforcement and decision-making processes. Readings include empirical studies, judicial opinions, jurisprudential writings and organization theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 257 Constitutional Law 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2009, Spring 2008, Fall 2001

Fundamental principles of constitutional law, leading cases, judicial decisions affecting the liabilities, rights, duties and procedures of governmental officers and agencies, causes and consequences of legal decision, judicial behavior.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 259 Selected Topics in Public law 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Spring 2008, Fall 2007

See departmental announcements. Topic will vary with instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 261 Political Behavior 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

A comprehensive review of the major topics in political behavior through intensive examination of the theories, findings, and proceedings of the most significant studies in the field.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 262 Voting Behavior and Public Opinion 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2018

Examination of the basic literature on American voting behavior, public opinion and student research on individually selected topics in this field.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 263 Mass Politics in Advanced Industrial Democracies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010

Theories and evidence concerning political conflict in advanced industrial societies. The empirical focus is on mass politics: the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of ordinary citizens rather than of activists or elites. The principal theoretical focus is on how changes in social structure, culture, and political institutions influence patterns of political cleavages. The analysis is largely comparative, with attention to the issue of American exceptionalism versus cultural and policy convergence.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 269 Selected Topics in Political Behavior 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

See departmental announcements. Topic will vary with instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 271 American Government and Political Field Seminar 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023

This seminar is designed to acquaint students with current research approaches in various subfields of American Politics. Particular attention will be given to debates over theory, methodology, and substance.

The seminar is not designed to provide a complete survey of the field. Students planning to be examined in American Politics are expected to master recommended readings on their own and should review additional readings included in versions of this seminar offered in the past years.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 272 Local Politics and Public Policy in the United States 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

This course examines politics and policy in local governments in the United States. The course covers topics ranging from local government development, machines and reformers, economic development and growth, the role of business, race and representation, housing and segregation, local elections and accountability, local institutions and turnout, partisanship and ideology, public-sector unions, gender and representation, policing, education and school boards, and the relationship between local governments and states.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 273 Urban Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Fall 2002, Spring 1998

Politics and policy-making in American cities. Historical, economic and social context of cities. Major urban political institutions, other levels of government in urban affairs.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 274 American Political Development 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2016

This course will consider several broad themes in American political development. The objective is to extract the central conditions, processes, and controversies that scholars have found running through American political development and try to come to terms with possible relations among them.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 279 Selected Topics in American Government 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

See departmental announcements. Topic will vary with instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 280A Public Organization Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2011

A survey of the literature of organization and management theory, emphasizing the major writers and distinctive contributions of various disciplines.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 284 Strategies of Contemporary Governance 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010

This course explores the implications of new strategies for coping with social problems and managing public programs. In response to growing criticism of government bureaucracy, public skepticism of expert authority, and an explosion of advocacy groups, a variety of new governance strategies have been developed. These new strategies are characterized by five broad themes: the use of markets or market mechanisms to increase efficiency; an emphasis on holding public agencies accountable and making them more transparent; the development of coordinating networks to link public agencies with each other and with stakeholders; the extensive involvement of non-state organizations in all aspects of governing; and renewed attention to the civic role of individuals and communities. The course investigates the extent to which these new strategies succeed in making the governance process more efficient, accountable, effective, representative, and civic.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ansell

POL SCI 289 Research Topics in Public Organization 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

See departmental announcements.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 290 Dissertation Research 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Seminar to aid students in initiating, carrying out, and completing dissertation research. Problems of planning dissertation research, the preparation of research designs and proposals for outside funding, field work, and writing and presenting the results of completed research. Presentations by graduate students working on their dissertations.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 290A Research and Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

The goal of this yearlong course is to provide a forum in which students propose, develop, and complete a research project that produces a journal-length paper of publishable quality. It is primarily oriented towards second-year Ph.D. students in any subfield (students in other years may participate with the professors' consent). The course meets regularly during parts of the fall semester and irregularly during the spring semester. In the first few weeks of the course, we discuss the process of moving from research topic to research question; and we survey published articles by recent Ph.D. students/assistant professors, focusing on the structure and nature of the writing and presentation as well the quality of the argument and evidence.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Course is primarily oriented towards second-year Political Science Ph.D. students in any subfield (students in other years may participate with the professors' consent)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade. This is part one of a year long series course. A provisional grade of IP (in progress) will be applied and later replaced with the final grade after completing part two of the series.

POL SCI 290B Research and Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The goal of this yearlong course is to provide a forum in which students propose, develop, and complete a research project that produces a journal-length paper of publishable quality. It is primarily oriented towards second-year Ph.D. students in any subfield (students in other years may participate with the professors' consent). During the spring semester, students meet individually with the course instructors and their advisors, develop and revise drafts of their papers, and present their work at a department "APSA-style" conference.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must take POL SCI 290A. In order to complete the course and receive credit, students must complete the requirements for both semesters

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series.

POL SCI 290CP Emerging Research on the Comparative Politics of Development 2 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course provides a forum in which faculty and graduate students work together to incubate research on the comparative politics of development. Research focuses on the Global South, though work involving the Global North that sheds light on key issues in development is welcome. Graduate students or faculty circulate work in progress, and students arrive prepared with comments. An important goal is to promote a constructive scholarly community across Ph.D. cohorts. The emphasis is on learning by doing and on the transfer of not only faculty-to-student but also student-to-student knowledge. Students typically participate in the course across multiple semesters and years. Participation is by approval of the instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 290IC Emerging Research in International Relations and Comparative Politics 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

The main aims of this workshop are met through a forum in which faculty

and graduate students at various career stages work closely together. It is an applied workshop with an emphasis on learning by doing and on learning how to be a more constructive colleague. Rather than segregate PhD students by cohort, the workshop is designed to bring cohorts together in order to facilitate the student-to-student transfer of skills and knowledge.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 290IP Identity and Politics Workshop 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2025

This group brings together students and faculty working at the intersection of politics and identity. Our goal is to foster community among anyone studying the role of social identities in politics and society, regardless of subfield, methods involved, and identities of interest. Anyone is welcome. Participants can present research, give and receive feedback, share research best practices, and work through challenges with fellow scholars in a collegial and welcoming environment. Discussion can center around research at any stage, from fully-drafted working papers, to proposed research designs (e.g., an experiment before it is run), to early-stage ideas and brainstorming.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 290PB Emerging Research in American Political Behavior Research Workshop 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The main aims of this workshop are met through a forum in which faculty and graduate students at various career stages work closely together. It is an applied workshop with an emphasis on learning by doing and on learning how to be a more constructive colleague. Rather than segregate PhD students by cohort, the workshop is designed to bring cohorts together in order to facilitate student-to-student, in addition to student-to-faculty, transfer of knowledge.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 290PI Emerging Research in American Political Institutions and Public Policy Workshop 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The main aims of this workshop are met through a forum in which faculty and graduate students at various career stages work closely together to incubate research in American political institutions and public policy. It is an applied workshop with an emphasis on learning by doing and on learning how to be a more constructive colleague. Rather than segregate PhD students by cohort, the workshop is designed to bring cohorts together in order to facilitate student-to-student, in addition to student-to-faculty, transfer of knowledge.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 290SA Africa Research Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017

This seminar is intended for graduate students who are conducting original research in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Primarily intended for graduate students in the social sciences and related humanistic fields, the seminar will provide students with a framework for engaging recent scholarship, developing their own theoretically informed questions, and proposing rigorous research designs. Students will also discuss the structure and quality of scholarly writing. Students will ultimately produce a research paper that serves as the basis for a prospectus, dissertation chapter, or publishable article.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Instructor consent required to enroll

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 291 Research Workshop in American Politics 1 or 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

A forum for the presentation and discussion of research in progress by graduate students. To receive two units of credit, a student must make at least one presentation of work in progress and serve as a discussant for another student's presentation. To receive one unit of credit a student must regularly attend class and participate in discussion, but will not be required to make a presentation. Appropriate works in progress include (but are not limited to) a paper in preparation for submission to a journal, a dissertation prospectus (including early drafts), a dissertation chapter, or a job market paper. Anyone working on American politics, political behavior, public law, or public administration is welcome.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing (second year or above)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Instructor: Schickler

POL SCI 291AS Research Workshop in Area Studies 0 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

A forum for the presentation and discussion of research in progress by graduate students (second year and above). To receive credit for the course, the student will make at least one presentation of work in progress per semester and to serve as a discussant for another student's work. Appropriate works-in progress include (but not limited to) a paper in preparation for submission to a journal a dissertation prospectus (including early drafts), dissertation chapter, or a job market paper. Anyone working on Area Studies is welcome.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student (second year or above)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 291F Research Workshop in Quantitative Modeling 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

A forum for the presentation and discussion of research in quantitative modeling. Anyone working on quantitative modeling or empirical testing of quantitative models is welcome to attend. To receive credit for the course, a student must attend regularly, participate actively, and make at least two presentations per semester. Presentations can be of the student's own work-in-progress or of work by other scholars (including both influential/classic works or interesting current working papers).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 291IR Research Workshop in International Relations 0 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

A forum for the presentation and discussion of research in progress by graduate students (second year and above). To receive credit for the course, the students will make at least one presentation of work-in-progress per semester and to serve as a discussant for another student's work. Appropriate works-in-progress include (but not limited to) a paper in preparation for submission to a journal a dissertation prospectus (including early drafts), dissertation chapter, or a job market paper. Anyone working on International Relations is welcome.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student (second year or above)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 291T Research Workshop in Theory 0 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

A forum for the presentation and discussion of research in progress by graduate students (second year and above). To receive credit for the course, the student will make at least one presentation of work in progress per semester and to serve as a discussant for another student's work. Appropriate works-in-progress include (but are not limited to) a paper in preparation for submission to a journal, a dissertation prospectus (including early drafts), a dissertation chapter, or a job market paper. Anyone working on theory is welcome.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student (second year or above)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 292 Directed Advanced Study 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special study and research under direction of a member of the staff.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

POL SCI 296 Directed Dissertation Research 4 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

Open to qualified students advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 4-12 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 4-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 299 Special Study in Political Science 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

Special individual study for qualified graduate students.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 4-8 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 4-8 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 375 Graduate Student Instructor Training Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is intended for all new graduate student instructors (GSI) in the Department of Political Science, and is meant to be taken simultaneously with the first semester of teaching as a GSI. The course functions as a participatory workshop. Although the course is intended for first-time GSIs, it is not a course in "how to be a GSI," but rather, how to be an effective political science teacher, now and at later steps in professional careers. Workshop time will be divided among presentations by the instructor, discussion of required readings, and discussion of weekly assignments in relation to challenges encountered by GSIs in the course of their teaching.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 5 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 3.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: Political Science 301

POL SCI 398 Professional Preparation for Graduate Student Instructors. 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Special study under the direction of a staff member with emphasis on the teaching of undergraduate courses in political science.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 404 Research Skills 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual research work under supervision of faculty members. Open to students engaged in supervised research projects in Political Science.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Other professional

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

POL SCI 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 4 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser, intended to provide opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. May not be used for unit or residence requirements for the doctoral degree.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 4-12 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 4-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Political Science/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.