

Political Science Department / J-Term 2024 Courses

PLSC 101 / American Politics / Professor Twyla Blackmond Larnell



Let's talk U.S. politics!!! We will examine various aspects of American national government, politics, and policy-making, including public opinion and political participation, elections, news media, as well as the various elected/appointed offices. Students will review lectures asynchronously and complete exams online but meet periodically (via Zoom) to discuss how the course materials relate to current political and policy events. Office hours will be conducted daily. This course is a Tier 2 option in the Societal & Cultural Knowledge Area of the Core Curriculum.

PLSC 102 / International Relations / Professor Alexandru Grigorescu



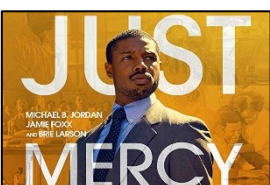
This course introduces students to the major concepts and approaches in international relations. In the first part we cover the basic theories in the field. In the second part, we focus on issues of interest to the study of international relations such as military conflict, the global economy, the environment, international law, terrorism, and human rights. The course is an option in the Tier I "Societal and Cultural Knowledge" area of the core curriculum, a requirement for Political Science and for Global Studies majors. It involves ten postings in response to readings, a midterm and a final. It is taught entirely online, asynchronously, to allow for a flexible summer schedule.

PLSC 103 / Comparative Politics / Professor Olga Avdeyeva



The course will study the similarities and differences among political systems by breaking broad topics such as political regimes, structures of governments, political economy, and welfare regimes, down into the factors we find in individual countries. Using the comparative method, we will identify the factors and/or categories of analysis to compare and contrast different political phenomena

PLSC 357 / Hollywood and Law / Professor Amanda Savage



Politics and the law have played major thematic roles in American movies. This course analyzes eight films that focus on justice, the law, and the legal system, to see what they tell us about our political and legal culture. We will read about, watch, talk about, and write about movies. The course will focus on questions about the relationship between law and justice, the disparate impact of the legal system on marginalized groups, and the role of courts and trials in a political system. The course will be primarily asynchronous, with three hour-long synchronous discussion sections.

PLSC 388 / The Morality and Legality of War / Professor Sarah Maxey



Can war be humane? Can it be legislated? This course will confront the moral and legal challenges of combining humanitarianism with military force. We begin by examining the origins of humanitarianism and the laws of war. Tracing changes in the nature of warfare over time, we then discuss contemporary challenges such as humanitarian interventions, refugee crises, and autonomous weapons. The course is fully asynchronous to maximize student flexibility

PLSC 300C / Dictators on Film / Professor Tofigh Maboudi



This course focuses on how authoritarian rules have been depicted in movies. Studying major theories of authoritarianism, we will watch, analyze, and write about movies that explore different portrayals of dictators, how they come to power, how they stay in power, and how they lose power. This course will be primarily asynchronous with two synchronous discussion sessions.