

Political Science Department / J-Term 2027 Courses

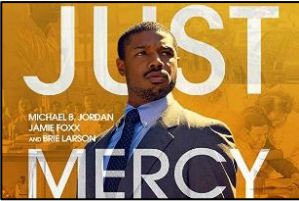
Political science J-Term classes are a great way to explore a topic of interest and fulfill course requirements. All J-Term courses are taught online.

PLSC 213 / International Human Rights / Professor Alexandru Grigorescu



The course begins with a brief survey of the historical and theoretical foundations of international human rights. It then focuses entirely on recent cases of human rights abuses in various parts of the world. It encourages students to select specific types of human rights and specific countries to conduct individual research on current human rights situations. Much of the course material consists of documents from websites of international organizations. Students have a choice between completing several short papers or one longer one. *This course fulfills the "International Law" course requirement for the Law and Politics minor and is an elective in the Political Science and Global Studies majors and minors.*

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. *This course fulfills an "American Politics" subfield course towards the Political*

Science major, an upper-level elective for the Political Science major/minor, and an "American Law" requirement for the Law and Politics Minor.

PLSC 366 / Dictatorship / Professor Tofigh Maboudi



How do dictators rise to power—and why are they so difficult to remove? From Stalin to Qaddafi to more contemporary authoritarian leaders, this course takes students inside the world of dictatorship. We explore how autocrats seize and maintain power, control information, eliminate rivals, manipulate elections, and survive popular opposition. Through compelling cases, films, and debates, we examine not only why dictatorships endure, but also why they sometimes fall—and what authoritarian politics can teach us about power and democracy. *This course fulfills an "Comparative Politics" subfield course towards the Political Science major*

and an upper-level elective for the Political Science major/minor.

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 crises and new challenges such as autonomous weapons. The course is fully asynchronous to maximize student flexibility and fulfills an "International Law" requirement for the Law and Politics Minor. *This course fulfills an "International Relations" subfield course towards the Political Science major, an upper-level elective for the Political*

Science major/minor, and an "International Law" requirement for the Law and Politics Minor.