

Course Handout for Political Science



**Department of Political Science
2023-2024**

Advising

Advising begins Monday, March 27, 2023. Begin by making an appointment with your major advisor. Your advisor will indicate on Banner Web that you are eligible to register AFTER you have met with them. Without this notice, you will not be able to register for classes online. The registration rotation is available at:

<https://registrar.richmond.edu/registration/undergraduate/rotation.html>

If Political Science is not your primary advisor, but you would like advice about course selection and opportunities in Political Science, please consult with the Department Chair, Dr. Jennifer Erkulwater to be directed to a faculty member with expertise in your areas of interest.

Major Requirements

Ten units in Political Science, at least six of which must be at the 300 or 400 level. The GPA of the coursework in Political Science comprising the major must be at least 2.00 with no course grade below C-. The specific requirements are:

PLSC 240: Introduction to Comparative Politics, or
PLSC 250: Introduction to International Relations

PLSC 220: Introduction to American Government, or
PLSC 260: Introduction to Public Policy

PLSC 270: Social Science Inquiry

One unit of the following:

PLSC 311: Classical Political Thought, or
PLSC 312: Modern Political Theory, or
PLSC 315: American Political Theory

5 units of electives in PLSC

- Four elective units at the 300 level.
- The fifth elective may be taken at the 200 or 300 level.

PLSC 400: Senior Seminar, or
Honors sequence (PLSC 490, 491, and 492)

Please see the Department Chair, Dr. Jennifer Erkulwater, if there are any questions.



Political Science 388 (Individual Internship) and 390 (Independent Study)

These courses require departmental approval. The student and academic supervisor must fill out a contract form available with the links below, online at <https://polisci.richmond.edu/major/faq.html>, or contact Ms. Susan Wolski for the form before the end of Friday of the first

week of the semester so that the department can grant the approval the student needs for registration in these classes.

Link to the Individual Internship form:

<https://richmond.box.com/s/zdyrhx69k6vtpxvff6fgdofvng1g0xxc>

Link to the Independent Study form:

<https://richmond.box.com/s/p2xvabzf3y8n937m36hl70611sh7papy>

Honors Program

The minimum cumulative GPA is 3.5, and the minimum GPA for Political Science coursework is 3.7. The honors program requires students to take a 0.5-unit independent study, PLSC 490 Research Prospectus, in which they will develop a full proposal for their honors thesis under the supervision of their thesis advisor. The honors thesis will be completed in PLSC 491 and PLSC 492, taken in the fall and spring semesters, respectively, of senior year.

Ideally, honors students will take PLSC 490 in the spring of their junior year. However, if students expect they will not be in residence that semester, they should take PLSC 490 in the fall of their junior year.

If you plan to take PLSC 490 in Fall 2023, the deadline for application is **March 15**. If you plan to take PLSC 490 in Spring 2024, the deadline for application is **October 15**.

Applicants should develop a topic for their honors thesis and secure the support of a thesis advisor who can supervise the research and writing of their senior thesis. Please complete the application form and submit it to the Honors Coordinator, Dr. Dan Chen (dchen@richmond.edu). Feel free to reach out to Dr. Chen with any questions.

Link to Honor's Application:

<https://richmond.box.com/s/z5cdd210q98f7xi63ga2trji1frqbtjs>

PLSC 400: Senior Seminars



(Seminar Descriptions begin on page 10)

Senior Seminars are required for all senior Political Science majors who are not enrolled in the Honors Program.

Four sections will be available, two in the fall and two in the spring. You must reserve a spot in a senior seminar and receive departmental approval before registering.

When you go to reserve, please list your top two preferences. Every effort will be made to give students their first preference, but this is not always possible. In the event the department is unable to provide students with their first choice, students will be assigned in the order they signed up, so

reserve your seat early. Note that reserving a seat does not automatically register you for the course; it simply puts you on the list to receive an override for registration.

Please reserve your seat in senior seminar using the Google link below:

<https://forms.gle/eeDP9JQPv68bcehn6>

Prior to registration, you will receive an override, which will allow you to register for the seminar you have been assigned to. If you run into difficulties registering, contact Ms. Susan Wolski (swolski@richmond.edu).

Post-graduate Opportunities

The Chair of the Department, Dr. Jennifer Erkulwater; your academic advisor; and your faculty mentors in your areas of interest are available to advise on graduate programs in political science and related fields. In addition, the department lobby has several brochures for graduate programs in political science, public administration, public policy, international studies, court management, and urban affairs. For information on other professional opportunities, see also the Career Services liaison for Political Science, Ms. Beth Chancy, and the Political Science Department Bulletin Boards.

Meet Dr. Ana Petrova



Beginning in fall 2023, Dr. Petrova will be joining the University of Richmond's Department of Political Science for a three-year appointment as a visiting assistant professor. She is currently a research associate with the European Governance and Politics Programme, in Florence, Italy, and was formerly a fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Dr. Petrova received her Ph.D. in 2022 from the University of Notre Dame. She is an expert in the politics of Latin America, the politics of Eastern Europe, political economy, political parties, and quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Fun fact: Dr. Petrova has an identical twin sister and they have so far managed to share not only the same birthday, but also the same college majors, level of education, research interests, and profession.

FALL 2023 COURSES

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

This course introduces students to the structure and functions of American national government. It emphasizes the institutional roles of the presidency, the Congress, and the Supreme Court as well as the more informal political roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and elections. (PLSC 220 is a prerequisite for some 300-level courses in American politics and public policy.)

**Palazzolo,
TBA**

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the analytical tools needed to study domestic politics cross-nationally, as well as acquaint them with the political arrangements of various regions of the world. In particular, this course will introduce you to three topics: 1) the major themes of comparative politics (e.g. the origins of the modern state, social movements, and democratization); 2) the major concepts used in comparative politics, and 3) the methodologies political scientists use to evaluate rival theories. By comparing how political systems develop and function in different countries, we will theorize about the historical development and future trajectories of domestic politics in the various parts of the world. (PLSC 240 is a prerequisite for some 300-level courses in comparative politics.) FSSA

Chen, Petrova

PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This course assists the beginning student in developing a coherent framework for the analysis of international relations. Particular emphasis is given to the nature of the international political system and to the implications of this system for a world of increasing complexity, interdependence, and rapid change. The goals pursued and the methods used by nation-states and other actors are also examined, as are critical issue areas that pose problems for world order. (PLSC 250 is a prerequisite for some 300-level international relations courses.) FSSA

El Kurd

PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

This course introduces students to some of America's most pressing domestic problems (such as the federal deficit, crime, poverty, and health care), government policies and proposals aimed toward solving those problems, and the methods used to analyze public policy. The student plays the role of policy analyst operating within the broader

TBA

context of the American policy making process. The course combines lectures and class discussion. Students will be evaluated on the basis of exams, papers, and classroom participation. (PLSC 260 is a prerequisite for some 300-level courses in public policy and American government.)
FSSA

PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY

This course introduces students to the process of inquiry and research in the social sciences. Students will learn how to form research questions and hypotheses, prepare literature reviews, design research studies, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data. (PLSC 270 is required of all Political Science majors and before registering for PLSC 400.)

McGowen

PLSC 311: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

This course examines enduring basic issues in political theory studied through the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and other thinkers from ancient Greece through the Renaissance. (Fulfills the major requirement for political theory.)

Cherry

PLSC 336: SCOTUS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

This course will tackle the role of the Supreme Court in the development of the rights of the criminally accused. Topics include: 1) The Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, 2) The Fifth Amendment's privilege against self-incrimination, double jeopardy issues, and grand jury requirement, 3) The Sixth Amendment's right to an attorney, impartial trial, and speedy trial, and 4) The Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. We will focus on understanding the limitations the Constitution puts on the government when it comes to police practices, grand jury practices, evidence, investigations, interrogations, juries, trials, and punishment, to name a few. We will question the policy implications of how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor.

Bowie

PLSC 338: CRITICAL RACE THEORY

We have been discussing "Critical Race Theory" in the public domain for some time. The problem is that very few people understand what the theory is - it is not taught in secondary education, and rarely taught to undergraduates. Over thirty years ago, CRT became an intellectual movement began that had roots in the field of critical legal studies. Critical Race Theory (CRT) evolved into an expansive field of study that includes analysis from a number of scholars that represent other minority groups. Other disciplines are engaged in the methodological innovations of CRT. CRT advances two central intellectual and political commitments: One is that the liberal legal tradition fails to consider how

Simpson

laws, for example civil rights legislation, reconstitute systemic and institutional racism. The second is that while law is a powerful tool, it has not been able to address structural and institutional racism. Our learning goals are as follows: Develop a sophisticated understanding and knowledge of CRT, and learn how to engage with the concepts and methods to produce independent and original research.

PLSC 339: JURISPRUDENCE/CONTEMP POLITICS

Simon

This course explores basic questions about the nature and function of law as an instrument of state power that are deeply interconnected with a wide range of political and legal problems.

PLSC 342: POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

El Kurd

This course will help students understand the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region from a comparative politics and international relations perspective. We will cover the region's history, including colonialism and state development, as well as variations in political systems. We will also address such issues as democratic movements including the Arab Spring, international intervention, political Islam, and civil war and conflicts. Students at the end of this course will have a working knowledge of the MENA region, be able to consume the news with the appropriate historical context in mind, and relate current events to political science concepts and theories. As such, the course will rely on working with data, written assignments, and hearing from voices in the region using novels, films, and music.

PLSC 343: POLITICS OF ASIA

Chen

This course is designed to help students obtain a firm grasp of the major topics in Asian politics and facilitate intellectual and professional pursuits in related areas. Students will learn to approach the politics of Asia from cultural, postcolonial, and institutional perspectives. Specifically, this course will survey the following topics in comparative politics and international relations: state and society, colonial history, nationalism, democracy, autocracy, ethnic violence, foreign policy, and security. Students will develop and apply a conceptual toolkit to understand current events in Asia and hone their research and analytical skills through discussion, public speaking, and writing.

PLSC 344: EUROPE TODAY

Sznajder Lee

An examination of political, social, and economic developments in Europe (both western and east-central) since World War II. Topics include European integration and the development of the European Union institutions, post-communist transitions and their consequences, and the domestic politics of selected European states.

PLSC 349: POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN Petrova

This course examines the influence of historical, social, and cultural forces on the contemporary politics of Latin America and the Caribbean. A focus of the course is the effects of social structure and underdevelopment on processes of democratization, institution building, national integration, and economic development. Case studies of selected countries illustrate major themes and issues explored.

PLSC 356: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY Joireman

This course examines the politics of the international economic system. Theoretical approaches and the history of the current international economic system provide a platform for deeper analysis of international institutions, financial crises, monetary policy and cryptocurrencies, trade, and economic development.

PLSC 362: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY Miller

This course examines legal aspects, both regulations and case law, of environmental policy. Central issues are whether legal responses: 1) effectively address the needs of the parties most affected; 2) properly weigh such facts as economic efficiency, protection of nonhuman species, and the possibility of unintended consequences; and 3) are diluted by the political process. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor. (Cross-listed as Environmental Studies 362.)

PLSC 365: U.S. HEALTHCARE POLICY AND POLITICS Roof

This course is an examination of the political and economic evolution of the American healthcare system: doctors, hospitals, managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, health insurance, public health, epidemiology, mental health, pediatric health, tort reform, and psychopharmacology, among other topics. It includes comparative analysis of other countries' healthcare systems.

PLSC 367: BLACK POLITICS AND POLICY Simpson

Racial and ethnic conflict is a factor of contemporary life in our nation and in the world. If we are to understand ethnic conflict anywhere, it may help to begin to understand ethnic and racial conflict here in the United States. This course will focus on the tension and conflict surrounding the political, social, and economic inequality of African Americans/Blacks. The reason for this focus is that African Americans/Blacks are the largest minority group in this country and the only group that arrived in this country as slaves. Some of the questions we will be asking are: What is the politics of race? How does it differ from ethnic politics? Why is racial conflict so intractable? What is the role of culture and class in constructing race? Who is responsible for resolving racial conflict? The goals of this course are: to introduce you, the student, to the concepts and language of scholarship on race, to

expose you to the most recent historical scholarship on race, to encourage you to think critically about race politics in the United States, and to help you to hone your ability to express complex ideas on paper.

FALL SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES



PLSC 379: COMPARATIVE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS

Allarakia

What is the nature of democratic government? What ideals and institutions distinguish it from other forms of rule? How do democracies vary once we distinguish them from autocracy? How does this variation influence social, political and economic outcomes in democracies?

In this course we define democracy, by clearly distinguishing it from autocracy. We then briefly discuss the value of democracy from different perspectives. The remainder of the course is devoted to explaining how democracies vary in terms of executive-legislative relations, rules that govern elections, and how parliaments operate internally (law-making and oversight). We then try to understand how the differences along these dimensions influence how efficient, politically stable and prosperous democratic countries are. This course does not solely focus on the experience of European democracies but also attempts to integrate and compare the European experience with that of newer emerging democracies. We end by exploring the future of democratic systems considering the more recent crises they are facing.

PLSC 379: UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL OF POLITICS (0.5 units)

El Kurd

This course is for students selected as editors and staff of the Department's undergraduate journal of politics. Selected students earn 0.5 units in the fall and 0.5 units in the spring. Students must have instructor permission to register for the course. Students interested in

working on the journal should contact Dr. Dana El Kurd or Dr. Dan Chen.

PLSC 379: LAW, NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY, & TREATY RIGHTS

Wilkins

This course introduces you to, and more importantly, then requires you to analyze U.S. domestic policy and federal law as it pertains to Native nations as the original sovereign peoples in the U.S. and to their individual citizens/members. In Part 1 we engage in a critical analysis of the principal actors--Native nations (including the status of individual Indians), federal, and state governments--involved in this distinctive government-to-government and intergovernmental relationship. We also discuss the role that activism, the media, and organizations--both governmental and non-governmental (i.e., interest groups, the public, etc.) --play in the development or hindering of Native peoples and federal Indian policy, law, and governance. In Part 2 of the course, we generally examine the historical development of the major federal Indian policy eras and the initiatives generated during those periods from before the beginning of the Republic to the present. Finally, in Part 3 we engage in a focused examination of several specific indigenous policy issues and other topics: religious freedom, economic development, federal recognition, the contentious status of treaty rights, and international developments--topics that are particularly important now. We conclude the course by suggesting some possible policy avenues the different sovereigns might consider to improve intergovernmental relations. (Cross-listed as LDST 390.) Permission of instructor required.

FALL 2023 SENIOR SEMINARS

Directions to register for your senior seminar. Please reserve your seat in senior seminar using the Google link below:

<https://forms.gle/eeDP9JQPv68bcehn6>

Prior to registration, you will receive an override, which will allow you to register for the seminar you have been assigned to. If you run into difficulties registering, contact Ms. Susan Wolski (swolski@richmond.edu).

PLSC 400: GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND THE COURT

Bowie

“I ask no favor for my sex; all I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks.” ~ Sarah Grimké. This course will analyze gender discrimination and the courts through the lens of judicial politics research. For example, how do judges make decisions in gender discrimination cases; is it based on the law, politics, ideology, gender, external influences (reversal, congressional, executive, and public opinion constraints), or a combination of all? How does

gender influence the nomination and confirmation process – do senators treat female nominees differently than males, and if so, how and why? Does gender play a role in litigant and attorney success at the courts? These questions, among others, will be the focus of this course. We will predominantly approach this course from a social science perspective; however, some constitutional law will be incorporated into the course. Specifically, we will focus on theory development, research design, and interpretation of the empirical findings. One of the significant components of the seminar will be learning how to conduct social science research on law and courts, and students will be required to complete a thesis – an original research paper- on the course topic. The pre-requisite for the course is PLSC 270, and while it's not required, it's encouraged that students have previously taken either PLSC 331, 333, 337, or some other law-related course in political science. Prerequisites: PLSC 270.

PLSC 400: MACHIAVELLI'S POLITICAL THOUGHT

Cherry

For some he is a teacher of evil. For others he is the guide to effective democratic political life. As far back as Shakespeare's reference to the "murderous Machiavel," his name conjures up images of political leaders corrupted by their desire for power, choosing to be feared rather than loved. In this course, we will consider the two major political works of Niccolo Machiavelli and the various ways scholars have interpreted them. Students are expected to write a senior thesis on some aspect of Machiavelli's political thought, either on its own or in connection with another political theorist (or, perhaps, work of literature or film). Although no prior knowledge of Machiavelli is required, it is helpful to have completed at least one of the department's 300-level political theory survey courses. Prerequisite: PLSC 270.

SPRING SENIOR SEMINARS

PLSC 400: MEDIA POLITICS RECONSIDERED

Chen

Are the media always the Fourth Estate in democracies and a propaganda tool in autocracies? Recent political developments have revealed how media influence in politics evades conventional understanding. With a crisis of media credibility looming in democracies and the sophistication of media control growing in autocracies, the need is imminent for a reconsidered role of media in politics. The optics of political theater features prominently in not only earning popularity but also governing. Around the globe, the unexpected ways in which the media shape politics and governance provide opportunities to reimagine fruitful theoretical frameworks that better capture media politics. This seminar is designed to guide students in absorbing existing theoretical insights and employing them to reconsider how politics relates to the media and vice versa. We will discuss examples from countries across the democratic spectrum. Theories from the fields of political

communication, comparative authoritarianism, campaigns and elections, public opinion, and journalism will be discussed and critically applied to analyze current events. Prerequisite: PLSC 270.

PLSC 400: RIGHTS, EQUALITY, AND THE QUEST FOR MEANING

Simon

Each of us has beliefs, social attachments, and hopes that we consider vital to our self-identities and life plans. Since pursuing one's plans requires the space to make personal decisions, we cherish freedom from interference by others, including the instruments of government power. At the same time, we live in political communities that make collective decisions with which we will not always agree. This course will explore tensions between the freedom to live in accordance with one's deepest commitments and the state's regulation of behavior in the public interest. We will examine theoretical, political, and constitutional perspectives on how to accommodate the diversity of worldviews while remaining faithful to equality before the law. From a constitutional standpoint, the course will encompass debates over the proper way to interpret the First Amendment's guarantees of religious freedom. However, our overall frame of inquiry will be broader, because while all people are invested in the significance of their own lives, not everyone necessarily conceives of this significance in religious terms. Prerequisite: PLSC 270.

SPRING COURSES (TENATIVE)



PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

TBA

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

**Allaragia,
Sznajder Lee,
Petrova**

PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Long
PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY	Roof, TBA
PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY	Allarackia, McGowen
PLSC 312: MODERN POLITICAL THEORY Explores the ideas of major political philosophers of the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Edmund Burke, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Marx, and J. S. Mill. (Fulfills the major requirement for political theory.)	Lopez-Guerra
PLSC 315: AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY The course examines political thought in America from colonial times to present with an emphasis on issues relating to liberty, equality, federalism, community, and national purpose. (Fulfills the requirement for a political theory course.)	Cherry
PLSC 323: MONEY, POLITICS, AND PRISONS The connections between the economy, politics, and the prison system in the United States are important for understanding concepts of justice in a democracy. Explores the links between privatization of prisons, political incentives, and theories of justice. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or permission of the instructor	Simpson
PLSC 325: RACIAL POLITICS Comparative examination of the history, problems and political role of minority groups in the U.S. with a concentration on the African-American political experience. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or permission of the instructor	Simpson
PLSC 326: U.S. CONGRESS Organization and functions of the American Congress. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or permission of the instructor	Palazzolo
PLSC 329: CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS Analysis of institutions and process of American electoral system and behavior of American electorate. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or permission of the instructor	McGowen
PLSC 331: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW Role of United States Supreme Court in American politics studied through examination of landmark constitutional decisions pertaining to	Bowie

distribution of governmental powers. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or PLSC 260 or permission of the instructor

PLSC 333: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The purpose of this course is to analyze the contemporary legal status and interpretation of constitutional rights and liberties. Emphasis on landmark Supreme Court decisions involving various provisions of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor.

Simon

PLSC 336: SCOTUS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Bowie

PLSC 345: POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Study of China's political system and policies in the reform era. Topics include party and state institutions, policies of reform, and politics on China's periphery. Implications for social relationships, national identity, popular culture, and morality will be explored.

Chen

PLSC 348: POLITICS OF AFRICA

This course is a comparative study of state formation, nation-building, political economy, social structure/movements, selected regions and countries in Africa.

Joireman

PLSC 351: GLOBALIZATION

Analysis of the political, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of globalization. Considers how globalization has affected the nation state, interstate relations, and the democratization and development of countries around the world. Students will evaluate different definitions of globalization; analyze to what extent globalization limits the autonomy of national governments; and consider whether the effects of globalization vary across different regions of the world. Prerequisite: PLSC 240, PLSC 250, GS 290, or permission of the instructor.

Petrova

PLSC 362: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Miller

PLSC 395: LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP

Combines weekly seminar on the state legislative process with work as assistant to a state legislator, government agency, interest group, or press during session of the Virginia General Assembly. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 and permission of the instructor.

Palazzolo

SPRING SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

PLSC 379: UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL OF POLITICS (0.5 units) Chen

PLSC 379: POLITICS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Sznajder Lee

Russia's war in Ukraine has put the politics of Central and Eastern Europe in a spotlight unseen since the fall of the communist system over thirty years ago. The purpose of this course is to unpack the complex politics of the region and to understand the intersection between domestic politics and geopolitical concerns. Throughout the course, we will address the following broad questions: why did countries follow such different political pathways following the fall of communism, with some becoming consolidated democracies and others remaining authoritarian? What role has the promise and reality of European Union membership played in the region's politics? What accounts for the rise of populism and democratic backsliding among some of erstwhile democratic leaders? How do NATO membership and renewed Russian aggression shape security concerns in the region? The course will also focus on questions of nationalism and politics of ethnicity, civil society and political parties, political economy of reform and international economic integration, migration, and gender. The course will also feature a module that will help students understand the ongoing war in Ukraine. In addition, we will discuss other case studies, including Poland, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, and the successor states to the former Yugoslavia (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, and Montenegro).

PLSC 379: CONTEMPORARY DEMOCRATIC THEORY

Lopez-Guerra

What is the nature of democratic government? What ideals and institutions distinguish it from other forms of rule? How should we delimit the boundaries of the group of people who should have political rights in a democracy? Should felons, for instance, be allowed to vote? Is voting a human right? Is voting a moral duty? How should the preferences of citizens be combined into a collective decision? How should votes be converted into legislative seats? What exactly is wrong with gerrymandering? How should political districts be drawn? How should campaigns be financed? What is wrong with the electoral college? What is the main value and justification of democracy? Which democratic innovations are worth exploring? If democracy is in crisis, how should it be reformed, if at all? These are some of the questions to be explored in this seminar. Its goal is to introduce students to the main contemporary debates in the theory and practice of democracy. It is a course in political philosophy, not empirical analysis. But many of the

questions cannot be answered without the insights from empirical studies in political science.

PLSC 379: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Miller

This course examines the UNFCCC's climate negotiating framework in terms of both international equity and practical policy considerations. These annual negotiations take place in a context profoundly interconnected with the domestic politics of multiple countries, with the NGO community, and with critical interests of populations that lack a voice in international forums. Conventional accounts in Western media too often leave audiences with an oversimplified perspective focused on states as unitary actors; we will endeavor to look "under the hood" of those accounts to examine the range of interests at stake. Prerequisite: PLSC 260 or PLSC/ENVR 362.