You will find all of the PLSC courses offered for Fall 2022 and the proposed Spring 2023 courses here, including descriptions of special topic courses and senior seminars. Also included are upcoming changes to the Political Science major and honors program.

**Advising** – Advising begins Monday, March 28, 2022. Begin by making an appointment with your major advisor. Your advisor will indicate on BannerWeb 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.

**Major requirements** – Effective for majors declaring after July 1, 2022, 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

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 QR codes 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.

Honors Program – Major changes are coming for the honors program, effective July 1, 2022, and applicable to the Class of 2024 and classes thereafter. Revisions to the honors program will be posted to the Department’s webpage soon. Until then, students who are interested in pursuing honors should speak with the current honors coordinator, Dr. Tracy Roof. After July 1, Dr. Dan Chen will assume the position of honors coordinator.

PLSC 400: Senior Seminars – (Seminar Descriptions begin on page 6). 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvu547WYYSzko6v1Li0w/viewform?usp=sf_link

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.

FALL 2022 COURSES

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TBA
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.)

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS Allarakia, Chen, El Kurd
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

PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Datta, Long
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

PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY Roof
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 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**
McGowen
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.)

**PLSC 311: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT**
Cherry
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.)

**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 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 349: POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**
Pribble
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 351 GLOBALIZATION**
Pribble
This course provides students with a theoretical framework with which to analyze globalization and with an overview of the primary debates surrounding the trend toward global interdependence. The first section of the course explores the concept of globalization and theories to explain the phenomenon. In the second unit, we will analyze the economic side of globalization, or the increased flow and volume of goods, services, labor, and investment around the globe. We then turn to the way in which economic globalization interacts with other kinds of flows, including cultural values, disease/viruses, and people. In closing, we will consider how increased global interaction affects domestic politics. By the end of the semester, students will have a
critical understanding of the many dimensions of globalization as well as an appreciation of its
effects on diverse regions of the world.

**PLSC 353: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**
Long
This course investigates international issues that threaten the security and prosperity of societies
and individuals in the modern world. Issues include global terrorism, human slavery and
trafficking, genocide, civil wars and insurgencies, and the proliferation of weapons of mass
destruction.

**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.)

**SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES**

**PLSC 379: SCOTUS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**
Bowie
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.

**PLSC 379: ASIANS IN AMERICA (SSIR)**
Erkulwater and Loo
This course examines the history and politics of Asian communities in the United States. It is
designed to help students think critically about the familiar tropes of “exclusion” and “model
minority” in order to understand how Asian communities have historically been situated (by
themselves and others) not only between the black-white binary but also in relation to their real
and imagined links to their natal places. The course will give students intellectual tools to
analyze and understand the politics of the present with the resurgence of anti-Asian racism and
the increasing political mobilization of Asian communities, most recently with the anti-affirmative action cases before the Supreme Court, the school board recall in San Francisco, #Asians4BLM, and #Stop AAPI Hate. (Cross-listed as HIST 299.) Permission of instructor required.

**PLSC 379: RUSSIAN POLITICS IN THE AGE OF PUTIN**  
Merritt  
How does Russia understand its place in the world three decades after the collapse of Soviet communism? What does the Russian threat for Ukraine mean in terms of global and neighborhood politics? How has Russia contributed to the demise of elections and journalism as tools of political accountability? These questions animate this course on Russian politics, rife with contradictions but rooted in historical experience. Your ability to consider critically the sources of information about Russia is intended to generate a rigorous explanation about the nature of political power in contemporary Russia, so often misunderstood in the West.

**PLSC 379: 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.

**PLSC 379: NATIVE DIPLOMACY: TREATIES & FEDERAL INDIAN LAW**  
Wilkins  
Indigenous Nations have long engaged in diplomatic affairs with one another, foreign nations, colonial/state governments, and the United States. Such political engagements affirm the inherent political sovereignty of Native Nations and provide them with distinctive rights and powers unique to these peoples. Of course, these diplomatic accords were also the means used to forge friendships, end wars, cede lands, create reservations, etc. This course will cover the following: 1) the history of Indigenous treaty-making; 2) the legal and political status of Native treaties, accords, agreements, and negotiated settlements under Native and Federal Indian law; 3) doctrines of interpretations of Native diplomatic arrangements; and 4) problem areas in Indigenous/state diplomacy and ambiguous areas in treaty litigation that serve to complicate the development of a cohesive body of law in this critical area. (Cross-listed as LDST 390.) Permission of instructor required.
FALL 2022 SENIOR SEMINARS

PLSC 400: PROTEST AND RESISTANCE IN THE ARAB WORLD  
El Kurd
This course will focus on protest movements and resistance to colonial rule, authoritarianism, and international intervention in the Arab world. We will delve into key protest waves that had an impact on the region, including the Arab Revolt under the Ottoman Empire, the Arab Revolt in Mandate Palestine, anti-colonial resistance in Algeria, the Bread Riots in Egypt, the Intifadas, the Arab Spring, and more. Students will learn what political science research tells us about why people protest, what determines the success or failure of such movements, and the transnational dimensions of uprising. The course will rely on research assignments and hearing from voices in the region using novels, films, and music. Prerequisites: PLSC 270.

PLSC 400: JUDICIAL BEHAVIOR  
Bowie
How do judges make decisions? Is it based on the law, politics, ideology, or a combination of both? How does ideology play a role in the decision-making process? Why do politics play an essential role in the selection of judges? How does gender influence judicial behavior? Do judges behave strategically when making decisions? These questions, among others, will be the focus of this course. In particular, this seminar explores the theoretical and empirical issues that confront scholars of judicial politics. This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth overview of the most important scholarly literature on the behavior of judges and other judicial actors. A central theme will be to analyze judges as political actors and the courts as a political institution. We will approach this course from a social science perspective; however, some case 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 to teach you how to conduct social science research on the law and courts. You will be required to complete an original research paper. Practically this senior seminar will provide you with a solid foundation for understanding the courts and the legal system from a social science perspective. Prerequisites: PLSC 270.

SPRING 2023 PREVIEW

SENIOR SEMINARS

PLSC 400: MEDIA POLITICS RECONSIDERED  
Chen
Recent political developments have revealed how media influence in politics evades conventional understanding. With a crisis of media credibility looming in democracies and media control growing more sophisticated in autocracies, the need is imminent for a reconsidered media role in politics. For politicians, the optics of political theater feature prominently in both earning popularity and governing. The unexpected ways in which the media shape politics and governance provide opportunities to reimagine fruitful theoretical frameworks that can better grasp media politics. This seminar is designed to guide students in absorbing existing insights and reconsidering how politics relates to the media and vice versa. Students are expected to write a research paper that critically evaluates current theories, makes rigorous observations, and
draws conclusions that inform us on the evolving themes in media politics across the democratic spectrum. Prerequisites: PLSC 270.

**PLSC 400: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR**
McGowen
This senior seminar will build upon your previous substantive and methodological coursework and culminate in the execution of an original quantitative empirical data analysis project using a public opinion survey of your choice. At the end of the course, students will have completed an academic research paper, including original literature review, research design, and data analysis, complete with graphical and tabular presentation. In addition, students will learn how to use the R statistical package (coveted by many prospective employers) and conduct advanced statistical techniques common in the field. Readings will give a broad survey of the methods and canonical questions so students can produce a project that will advance our body of knowledge. Emphasis will be placed on political behavior in American Politics; however, the exact subject matter or particular quantitative survey for analysis will be open to the student. Prerequisites: PLSC 270.

**SPRING COURSES (TENTATIVE)**

**PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**
TBA

**PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**
Allarakia, Pribble

**PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
El Kurd, Long

**PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY**
Miller

**PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY**
Datta, McGowen

**PLSC 315: AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY**
Cherry
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. (Fulfils the requirement for a political theory course.)

**PLSC 312: MODERN POLITICAL THEORY**
Lopez-Guerra
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. (Fulfils the major requirement for political theory.)

**PLSC 330: THE CREATION OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC**
Cherry
Examines principles and practice of leadership within political context of the founding of the American Republic from 1776 through 1788. Primary focus will be on day-to-day work of the Constitutional Convention and the subsequent debates over ratification of the new constitution.
PLSC 333: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES  
Simon
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.

PLSC 348: POLITICS OF AFRICA  
Joireman
This course is a comparative study of state formation, nation-building, political economy, social structure/movements, selected regions and countries in Africa.

PLSC 350: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY  
Long
This course analyzes the traditions, processes, substance, and goals of American foreign policy, in addition to exploring national security and defense policy, foreign economic policy, international diplomacy, and foreign policy ethics. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 361: THE POLITICS OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
Erkulwater
This course examines the politics and effectiveness of programs in the United States that seek to promote economic equality, foster upward mobility, and alleviate poverty. Among the topics covered are the links between welfare and the carceral state, the public policy origins of racial and gender inequality, and why many White Americans oppose the social welfare programs they stand to benefit from.

PLSC 362: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY  
Miller
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.

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

PLSC 379: POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA  
Chen
China’s rise and its deep connections with the world have consequential implications for global politics. This course is designed to help students understand and analyze issues in contemporary Chinese politics and to facilitate intellectual and professional pursuits in related areas. Students will learn to approach politics of contemporary China by examining both the politics of authoritarian rule and the policies of the reform era, while paying attention to the profound implications for social relationships, national identity, popular culture, and morality. This course will introduce students to major themes, debates, and puzzles in the study of contemporary Chinese politics, such as China’s state institutions, the Communist Party, the media, urban workers, transformation of the countryside, politics of morality, and ethnic minorities. Students
will develop and apply a conceptual toolkit to understand current events and hone their analytical skills through reading, discussion, research, and writing.

**PLSC 379: POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST**  
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 379: CRITICAL RACE THEORY**  
Simpson  
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 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 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.