

Undergraduate Memos on the Government Department's Curriculum

We asked our two undergraduate research assistants (RAs) to each write a memorandum discussing their own experiences in the Government Department and whether the course offerings in the Department were sufficient to meet their specific academic needs. Based on their work mapping the curriculum in the Government Department, the RAs also provided lists of courses that current and future Government concentrators with a variety of different academic and pre-professional interests may want to consider.

Memorandum by Caroline Marshall

Author note: Caroline Marshall graduated with honors from the Government Department in 2017. She completed a senior thesis comparing the impact of political rhetoric on Syrian refugees in the United States and Canada. She will be attending Georgetown Law School beginning in Fall 2017.

Beginning at Harvard

Coming into Harvard with a pre-identified interest in political science has its advantages. Over the summer before matriculation to Harvard, students are matched with a generalist academic advisor that shares one of their interest areas. Even if Government is an interest, students may not be matched with someone who has knowledge of Government classes or the Government Department. This is why students in the first year of school need to actively seek out opportunities to familiarize themselves with the Government Department, its classes, and the overall field of political science. To do so, there are many interesting and broadly focused classes to take that can serve all students well, even if they don't end up concentrating in Government. For example, many students gravitate toward the foundational (10-level) lecture courses, such as Government 10, 20, 30, and 40. These courses, in political theory, comparative politics, American government, and international relations, confront students with subject matter that is highly relevant to many areas, and allow them to gain versatile skills, such as writing papers with logical arguments, conducting basic research, navigating complex readings, synthesizing academic material, and contributing to discussions of gravity. For first-year students, these are skills that are critical to success in Government courses, and should be cultivated from the beginning. In addition, these courses give students an opportunity to survey different fields of study within the Department of Government.

While at Harvard/Government Objectives

Once students have decided on Government as their path of study, they are provided with an in-house concentration advisor. It is really important for concentrators to familiarize themselves with the concentration requirements from the beginning. There are many Government courses at Harvard, and many more that count towards the requirements, including those that are cross registered at other schools such as HKS. Some courses provide skills that are beneficial to take early in one's academic career, such as classes that provide a foundational

statistics knowledge or a basic background in political theory, while others are niche seminars that should be taken later on, once a student has gained a basic understanding of political science.

Overall, the Government concentration provides a great deal of flexibility for students to pursue classes and issue areas that interest them. The curriculum is a great example of Harvard College's desire for students' simultaneous breadth and depth of knowledge; there are distribution requirements that must be met, but there is ample opportunity to design one's own curriculum and explore specific interests.

Gaining Skills

I personally found that taking Government 50, the Department's introductory course on quantitative methods, my sophomore fall was extremely helpful as it gave me the statistics background necessary for other, more advanced courses, and eventually, my senior thesis. There are other classes that offer important skill cultivation, such as the new Government 93, which offers students a chance to understand and practice writing about politics. Other classes that offer important skills, specifically for students interested in writing theses, are Government 61 and 62, focusing on qualitative and quantitative methods, respectively.

Taking Government 94 seminars is a great way for students to work on a different, yet important set of skills. Specifically, Gov 94s give students a crucial venue for in-depth discussion and a chance to write research-based or other extended papers. This is an important part of the Government curriculum; in many of these classes, students delve into scholarly work on a specific topic. The [written?] assignments in these courses usually span the majority of the semester and consist of a more thorough analysis or examination of a topic than many other classes offered. This is particularly important to students interested in writing theses, as there are often opportunities for students to focus on an issue of interest to them, or even write a thesis prospectus.

Beyond these differing course structures, Government Department classes vary heavily in content. There are four main subfields in the Government department: Political Theory, International Relations, American Government, and Comparative Government. In addition to taking the distribution requirements of one of each of these courses, some students choose to "specialize" in one specific subfield by taking multiple classes in that subfield. Although unofficial, some students find that this gives them a depth of understanding in one particular area.

Writing a Senior Thesis

As I have touched on throughout this memo, there are a variety of courses that help prepare students for writing a thesis, whether explicitly or not. Government concentrators who think they may be interested in writing a thesis should seek out classes sophomore year or early junior year that provide them with the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, such as a Government 94 class. Courses such as the Government 61 and 62 research workshops explicitly prepare students for the thesis research and writing process. Additionally, there are a number of resources—from professorial office hours to the Government 99 senior honors tutorial—that provide students with guidance throughout the thesis process, so while the research workshops are helpful, there are other opportunities to prepare oneself as well.

Specific course recommendations and relevant learning objectives:

Courses recommended for prelaw students

Gov 94of (Law and Politics in Multicultural Democracies)

This course seeks to introduce students to the political function of the legal process in the governance of cultural diversity, while providing a forum for thinking about law from a critical, sociological perspective rather than a purely legalistic approach.

Gov 94cb (The Politics of Citizenship and Naturalization)

This course seeks to establish an understanding of the varieties of citizenship that exist across the world, and equip students with the skills to be able to make normative claims for and against expanded citizenship and understand the costs and benefits of naturalization policies for countries. These are questions relevant to legal systems nationally and internationally, as well as to discussions of natural and legal rights.

Gov 94cn (The Theory and Politics of Constitutions)

This course enables students to gain fluency in the concepts and findings of comparative constitutionalism, with a special focus on how democratic (and democratizing) nations establish their constitutions, implement them through law and politics, and revise them to meet changing needs.

Gov 94gl (Inhuman Wrongs: Crimes against Humanity in Theory, Law, and Politics)

Students learn to evaluate the notion of a crime against humanity from the perspectives of moral theory, history, and contemporary international law and politics.

SOC-STD98jf (Global Justice)

This course explores topics of global ethics and distributive justice, the nature and justification of human rights, and the ethics of humanitarian intervention. It provides a helpful philosophical foundation for studying global legal matters.

DPI-305 (Voting Rights and Electoral Politics)

This course provides students with an understanding of the evolution of voting rights and electoral processes, primarily in the United States but also comparatively, and examines how the complex apparatus of democracy has evolved in the United States. It is helpful for prelaw in the context of the legal structure of American democracy and voting rights.

DPI-120 (The U.S. Congress and Lawmaking)

This is another course that allows insight into the democratic legal system, in this case, the American legislative branch. Students gain an understanding of how legislatures work (and why they often do not work) from two perspectives: the "inside" as a legislator or a legislative staffer, and the "outside" as a lobbyist, reporter, or member of the executive branch.

AfrAmer 191x (African American Lives in the Law)

This course helps students understand how specific African Americans (as lawyers, judges, and litigants) made a difference in U.S. history, and how their lives and legal challenges serve as a "mirror to America." Students identify and analyze the ways personal experience informs individual perspectives on law and justice; analyze the historical context and significance of landmark race-related judicial decisions in American legal history; and discuss the role of the state in the nineteenth and twentieth century in regard to racial themes such as reparations, voter suppression, interracial marriage, and the segregation/integration of public facilities.

USW 31 (American Society and Public Policy)

In this course, students gain an understanding of US public policies and the US governmental system; it provides a good overview of current issues for those interested in domestic policy, especially the legal issues that arise as political actors enact policy in areas such as social security, health care, immigration, and climate change.

Courses recommended for pre-health students

Gov 1093 (Ethics, Biotechnology, and the Future of Human Nature)

A philosophical, moral foray into biology for students interested in biology and potentially pre-med students. Students explore the moral, political, and scientific implications of new developments in biotechnology, addressing topics such as genetic engineering, sex selection, "designer babies," eugenics, genetic discrimination, the resurrection of extinct species, human-animal hybrids, bionic soldiers and robotic warriors, and life extension and immortality.

Gov 94gk (Politics and Ethics of Medical Care)

Students gain an understanding of medical ethics and the ways in which political theory can inform our understanding of the moral and political dimensions of medical care. This course focuses on moral issues that arise in health care, providing a thought-provoking introduction for pre-medical students interested in these questions.

IGA-422 (Global Food Politics and Policy);

Useful for students interested in global health, this course examines the political landscape of both food and farming, in both rich and poor countries. Students seek to understand the policy interventions governments might take in response to both hunger and obesity, as well as the environmental sustainability of different food and farming systems.

Courses recommended for pre-business students

ER39 (Money, Markets, and Morals)

This course provides an ethical examination of questions about the role of money and markets in society and about what moral limits, if any, the law should impose on market exchanges. Students also examine a range of historical and contemporary uses of markets.

Gov 1279 (Political Economy of East and Southeast Asia)

This class offers an economic perspective on East and Southeast Asia, specifically focusing on how and to what degree the growth experiences of the high-performing economies in East Asia shed light on the prospects for long-term success of reforms currently underway in China and Southeast Asian countries.

Gov 2158 (Political Institutions and Economic Policy)

This course provides a foundation for potential business students to gain an understanding of the role of political institutions in the formation, implementation, and regulation of economic policy.

Gov 1780 (International Political Economy)

This class provides a foundation for potential business students interested in economics by introducing them to the analysis of the political economy of international trade, investment, monetary policy, and financial relations, while discussing developed and developing nations.

Gov 2176 (Varieties of Capitalism and Social Inequality)

This course provides a foundation for potential business students interested in economics by assessing the role that social coalitions and other factors play in processes of institutional change. Students gain an understanding of how to analyze the distributive implications of political and economic arrangements.

Gov 94ca (Casino Capitalism: Gambling, Finance, and the Ethics of Speculation)

For students interested in the moral and psychological aspect of decisions in the business world and in life, this course explores ethical controversies about various risk-taking activities. Students gain an understanding of the role of luck and merit in allocating social and economic rewards.

BGP-100 (The Business-Government Relationship in the United States)

Students examine how government policies affect economic growth and the ways in which governments seek to achieve a variety of non-economic objectives through regulation of the economy.

BGP-610 (The Political Economy of Trade)

This class provides a foundation for potential business students interested in economics by familiarizing them with the economics, rules, politics, and institutions of international trade and the major policy issues and challenges facing the global trading system.

Courses recommended for students pursuing careers in national security

Gov 1790 (American Foreign Policy)

In this class, students analyze the major dynamics shaping American foreign policy today, allowing them to understand what would happen if the U.S. stopped playing an active role in world politics. It provides a good foundation for students interested in national-security issues.

Gov 94nw (Politics of Nuclear Weapons)

Students gain an understanding of the physical reality of nuclear weapons and the history of their use, providing a foundation for a better understanding of potential future nuclear-weapons-related conflicts.

Gov 94ia (Sino-US Relations in an Era of "Rising" Chinese Power)

This class provides an examination of the U.S.'s relations with China, including the national-security-related issues in US-China relations. Students gain an understanding of how conflict and cooperation in US-China relations have changed across time and issue area.

IGA-232 (Controlling the World's Most Dangerous Weapons)

This course gives students an understanding of the threat posed by certain particularly lethal weapons and the global efforts to control their spread and reduce their dangers. The course covers policy tools from treaties and diplomacy to sanctions and war, allowing students interested in national-security careers to focus their reasoning and analytic skills on a thorny issues in contemporary international relations.

Memorandum by Olivia Goldberg

Author note: Olivia Goldberg graduated with honors from the Department of Government in 2017. During her time at Harvard, Olivia focused on the study of political theory, completing a senior thesis on the concept of natural law in the writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

My Experience at Harvard and in the Government Department

After spending my gap year interning for the Maryland General Assembly, I knew I wanted to concentrate in Government as soon as I arrived at Harvard. I was unsure, however, what within the Government concentration I wanted to focus on. The concentration encompasses a wide array of subfields, from the politics of data to political philosophy. Not knowing where to start, I ended up taking Gov 20 my freshman fall because I knew it had a reputation for being engaging. I really enjoyed the class, and I think that it was a great introduction to the Government Department, but I found that comparative politics was not for me. My dad is a professor of political philosophy, so I decided to take Gov 1061 second semester of freshman year, and although the class was very challenging, I immediately knew that political philosophy was what I wanted to study.

I therefore focused on taking political philosophy classes, as well as classes on the American founding, with which I had always been fascinated. I made it my goal in college to better understand the philosophic underpinnings of American democracy—that is, to better understand Locke and Rousseau and what influence they had on the design of the American political system. Unfortunately, I found that there were not many philosophy classes in the Government Department, but I was able to take many classes with visiting professors. I also sat in on political philosophy classes at MIT and even cross-registered in one of them. It was important to me to find a field I really cared about and to develop depth in a field. While it was up to me to piece together the material I learned from each class, it began to flow rather naturally. I began to see the connections among my various classes, like how our Declaration of Independence was influenced by Locke.

Breadth was honestly less important to me personally, so I did not explore many of the other fields in the Government Department too much. I don't really regret it, however, because I think that the distribution requirements gave me enough of a taste of the other areas within government. The sophomore tutorial, it seems, is also meant to give us a taste of all the different subfields within the Government Department, but I did not find it very effective. I thought the

course was very heavy on cyber-security at the expense of other areas within political science. Furthermore, the class lacked cohesion; each lecture seemed completely distinct from every other one. While I can certainly understand that it is difficult to develop a cohesive program when there is such diversity within the field of political science, I think the class could have done a better job emphasizing the connections between various weeks. For example, if we study political theory one week and international affairs another week, the professors could emphasize how Hobbes's perception of human nature can inform our understanding of the prospects for peaceful international relations. I think that if the sophomore tutorial did something like this, it would inspire students to look for connections in the various classes they take in the Department and ultimately lead to a more intellectually enriching experience.

Some other thoughts on my experience in the Government Department are as follows:

- Junior tutorials are a great opportunity to connect one-on-one with a professor and are oftentimes the only Government classes in which students will really get to know a professor (unless you take the initiative to go to office hours—which you should!). Furthermore, junior tutorials are a great opportunity to get careful and considerate feedback on your writing.
 - I think because each student is required to take one junior seminar, many students feel that it is a “one and done” sort of deal. Psychologically, I don't think students necessarily consider taking more than the bare minimum, but I really do think these tutorials are the best opportunity to study a subject in depth and get to know a professor.
- I would highly recommend taking advantage of the 92r research assistant positions. They give you an opportunity to work closely with a professor and obtain a great deal of depth in a particular topic.

Specific course recommendations and relevant learning objectives:

Topic-Based

Science and Public Policy: For those interested in studying the intersection of government and science/technology

- IGA-238: Technology, Privacy, and the Trans-National Nature of the Internet
 - *This course allows students to understand how internet-related policy is made, both within the U.S. and elsewhere. It also helps students understand the capabilities of the technologies that are being governed and examine different models of governance, some of which are very different from traditional forms (e.g., the use of code as a form of governance).*
- IGA-236: Cybersecurity Technology, Policy, and Law
 - *This course aims to give students the tools necessary to understand legal and policy issues about cyberspace.*
- IGA-245: Contemporary Issues in Intelligence Gathering
 - *This course examines how an intelligence community's activities can be meaningfully communicated to the public while respecting its sources and methods; how agencies might internally reconcile their various missions to*

protect the public and protect public values; and what a set of authorities and limitations for intelligence collection might look like if a clean slate were available on which to develop them.

- Gov 1430/2430: The Politics of Personal Data
 - *This course examines the legal, political, social, commercial and technical struggles for control over personal data in our globally connected data-rich world. Students gain an understanding of clashes and interplay between technology design and policy and learn to independently design and carry out research studies addressing the impact of technology on society.*
- Gov 1790: American Foreign Policy
 - *This course helps students understand contemporary challenges to American power, including cyber warfare.*
- Gov 94CZ: From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in a Digital Age
 - *This course familiarizes students with an array of research and concepts that help clarify the political landscape in a digital age.*

The Electoral Process: For those interested in the electoral process

- Gov 94NL: Election Polling and Public Opinion
 - *Students learn how surveys and polls are used in media, politics, policy, and governance, as well as the potential sources and errors of polls and surveys. At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to evaluate and critique published survey data and discuss the normative assumptions involved in the use of polls as well as the prospective implications of polling for policy and governance.*
- Gov 1328: Electoral Politics
 - *Students become familiar with the basic explanations and models of elections and voting behavior and will leverage models to forecast elections and determine why models worked or failed.*
- Gov 2474: Congress
 - *Students learn to survey and critically evaluate various models of Congressional politics, including congressional elections.*
- Gov 2473: Political Parties and Interest Groups
 - *Students explore the role of political parties and interest groups in the U.S. political system.*
- Gov 94IM: Comparative Electoral Systems
 - *Students learn the basic differences between electoral systems; use electoral results to obtain key measures of analysis, such as the effective number of parties and level of (dis)proportionality; compare and contrast the electoral systems used by different countries; and evaluate how observed differences in the politics of those countries may be related to the electoral systems. Students also learn to recognize the possibilities and limitations of electoral-system design and reform.*
- DPI-305: Voting Rights and Electoral Politics
 - *Students gain an understanding of the evolution of voting rights and electoral processes, primarily in the United States but also comparatively, and examine how the complex apparatus of democracy has evolved in the United States.*
- DPI-329: Contemporary Issues in American Elections

- *Students gain a deep understanding of the forces behind modern American elections, including their evolution over American history.*
- DPI-416: Electoral Integrity
- Gov 2312: Public Opinion
 - *Students design, implement, and analyze national random-sample surveys using a professional survey firm.*

Religion: For students interested in the connection between religion and politics/public policy

- SocWorld 54: Islam and Politics in the Modern Middle East
- *Students discover how the roots of Islamism lie in the nineteenth-century deep transformations of Middle Eastern states and societies. They learn about the diversity of these ideologies and the complexity of Islamist movements' relationships with authoritarian and democratic states in both the Middle East and the West.*
- Gov 94GO: The Politics of Religion in Liberal Democracies: American Exceptionalism, European Secularism?
 - *This course provides students with the tools necessary to think critically about religion's role in politics and the tensions that accompany religion in pluralistic societies. It also introduces students to the literature and discourses in the field and surveys political trends which involve a substantive religious dimension across the United States and the European Union.*
- Gov 1060: Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy
 - *This course introduces students to the history of Greek, Roman, and Christian political thought with comparative reference to ancient Near Eastern, Chinese, Jewish, and Islamic political thought.*
- Gov 1061: Political Thought from Machiavelli to Nietzsche
 - *This course familiarizes students with political philosophy from Machiavelli to Nietzsche, with attention to the rise and complex history of the idea of modernity.*
- DPI-342: Religion, Politics and Public Policy
 - *Students examine not only the current extent and shape of American religious beliefs (and non-beliefs), but their origins and evolutions in the nation's history. Students probe how religious ideas, values, and communities continue to arise and affect law, politics, economics, journalism, public morality, and social policy. They gain an understanding of the sometimes difficult work of "coming to judgment" about the appropriate role of religion in modern public life; examine the relationship between race, region, and religion in American history and public policy; and trace the changing and/or continuous ways in which religion is impacted by and impacts immigration, economics, public policy and discourse, and politics.*
- IGA-121: Religion and World Politics: Connections and Collisions
- Religion 1080: Modern States and Religion

Human Rights: For those interested in the subject of natural and civil rights

- Gov 94IP: Identity, Politics & Policy
 - *Students learn how and why policies related to identity and group rights vary across advanced democracies; develop their own perspectives of what we know*

and don't know yet about the causes, consequences, and proposed solutions to inclusiveness in democracy; and debate these issues with peers.

- Gov 94Q: US-Latin American Relations
 - *Students consider alternative explanations to dissect the political and economic relations between the U.S. and Latin American countries and, more broadly, the international relations of Latin America since 1960, including salient issues today such as human rights.*
- Gov 10: Foundations of Political Theory
 - *Students investigate the central problems of political theory that concern the justification of democracy.*
- Soc-Std 98JF: Global Justice
 - *Students explore the nature and justification of human rights and the ethics of humanitarian intervention.*
- PHL 273: Democracy and Human Rights
 - *Students assess the advantages and drawbacks of democracy relative to other forms of government, Students consider the roles of fair elections and free public discussion in the functioning of democratic governments, and evaluate the role of courts in a democratic society.*
- DPI-305: Voting Rights and Electoral Politics
 - *Students gain an understanding the evolution of voting rights and electoral processes, primarily in the United States but also comparatively.*
- IGA-385: Strategizing for Human Rights: Moving from Ideals to Practice
 - *Students learn how to develop effective strategy and tactics to address human-rights issues and explore the major ways through which governments, international organizations, and civil-society organizations promote human rights and prevent violations.*
- ETHRSON 11: Human Rights: A Philosophical Introduction
- SS 98OA: Human Rights in Africa
 - *Students investigate the extent to which human rights are discussed, contested, and protected in Sub-Saharan Africa; explore the use of human-rights claims in African independence and other social movements; assess the challenges facing the protection of various human rights in Sub-Saharan African countries; and evaluate to what extent and in what manner non-African governments and organizations should be involved in promoting human rights in these countries.*

Political, Social, and Racial Inequality: For those interested in the study of various forms of inequality

- Gov 2335: Power in American Society
 - *Students examine how and when power is exercised, by whom, and to what effect, in American society. Students develop arguments about desirable and feasible changes in the creation, distribution, and use of power, and consider how those changes might be studied and implemented.*
- Gov 2340: Proseminar on Inequality and Social Policy
 - *Students become familiar with key policy choices that have affected or could affect various dimensions of inequality in rich democracies.*
- Gov 2576: The Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration

- *Students develop an understanding of the history and structure of the classic Black-White binary and address ways in which it must be rethought to include other groups such as Asians and Latinos.*
- USW 15: Is the American Racial Order Being Transformed?
 - *Students examine four potentially transformative forces: recent high levels of immigration, rising multiracialism, new links between genomic science and “race,” and the changing behaviors and beliefs of young American adults. They then consider blockages to transformation—including the incarceration of non-Anglo men, wealth disparities, and the poor treatment of Muslims and undocumented immigrants—and imagine various ideal futures for race and ethnicity in the U.S.*
- Gov 2176: Varieties of Capitalism and Social Inequality
 - *Students learn to analyze the distributive implications of political and economic arrangements.*
- Soc-Std 98JF: Global Justice
 - *Students examine how principles of justice bear upon the practice of global politics and explore topics related to global ethics and distributive justice, the nature and justification of human rights, and the ethics of humanitarian intervention.*
- SW50: Political Corruption
 - *Students assess how power and repression, social and political instability, foreign aid, natural-resource-based economic arrangements, and organized crime affect corruption in many countries in today’s globalized world.*
- Gov 94CZ: From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in a Digital Age
 - *Students learn about principles to guide effective, equitable, and self-protective civic agency.*
- Gov 1033: Educational Justice
 - *Students identify, analyze, and evaluate ethical dilemmas in K-12 and higher-education policy and practice.*
- Gov 1092: Progressive Alternatives: Institutional Reconstruction Today
 - *Students explore the past and future agenda of progressives, developing new ways of thinking about politics as well as proposals for change.*
- Gov 1115: Social Movements, Protest and Politics in a Comparative Perspective
 - *This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the literature on social movements, protest and contention; surveys conceptual and methodological tools for studying contention; and offers analytical frameworks to interpret movements and protests in various socio-political contexts.*

Economics: For those interested in economic policy and the relationship between politics and economics

- Gov 1279: Political Economy of East and Southeast Asia
 - *Students learn how the past successes of East and Southeast Asia can be reconciled with the difficulties experienced in many of these countries more recently. They consider how and to what degrees the growth experiences of the high-performing economies in East Asia shed light on the prospects for long-term success of reforms currently underway in China and in Southeast Asian countries,*

and they learn to adjudicate between competing explanations for the economic growth and subsequent economic challenges faced by East and Southeast Asian countries since World War II.

- Ec 1340: World Economic History
- Ec 1430: Economic Growth, Rare Macro Disasters, and Fiscal Policy
- Ec 2020A: Microeconomic Theory I
 - *Students obtain a systematic grounding in microeconomics, including consumption theory, production theory, general equilibrium, information economics, and game theory. They learn to apply economic models in their own research.*
- Ec 2020B: Microeconomic Theory II
 - *Students obtain a systematic grounding in microeconomic theory, including game theory, information economics, and social choice theory, and learn to use economic models in own research.*
- EHTRSON 39: Money, Markets, and Morals
 - *Students analyze the role of money and markets in society, consider whether the law should impose moral limits on market exchanges, and examine a range of historical and contemporary uses of markets.*
- Gov 94AU: Political Economy
 - *Students acquire a broad knowledge of the field of political economy of advanced democracies and the key questions, theories, and findings that define it.*
- Gov 2158: Political Institutions and Economic Policy
 - *Students explore the role of political institutions in the formation, implementation, and regulation of economic policy. They examine research traditions in the positive theory of political institutions and in comparative and international political economy, and apply them to several substantive issue areas.*
- Gov 1780: International Political Economy
 - *Students analyze the interaction of politics and economics in the international arena; become familiar with the analysis of the political economy of international trade, investment, monetary, and financial relations; and discuss the political economy of both developed and developing nations.*
- Gov 2005: Formal Political Theory I
 - *Students develop a basic understanding of the fundamental concepts of game theory and how these concepts have been applied to the study of political phenomenon.*
- Gov 2006: Formal Political Theory II
 - *Students apply game theory to questions in political science and political economy. They develop familiarity with models that have historically been important across political science sub-disciplines and with problem-solving skills and techniques necessary to understand and build formal models of political institutions and conflicts, building intuition for how to apply formal models empirically.*
- Gov 2160: Politics and Economics
 - *This course exposes students to foundational approaches and recent research in political economy, covering a variety of methodological perspectives, with a topical emphasis on democracy, inequality, redistribution, and growth. It enables*

students to do their own original research with the aim of contributing to the field.

Political Philosophy/Theory: For those interested in political philosophy and its history

- Gov 1080: American Political Thought
 - *Students examine prominent theoretical traditions in America to better grasp the meaning and fate of constitutional democracy.*
- USW 20: The Theory and Practice of Republican Government
 - *Students examine philosophical treatments of republican government and historical studies of monarchical republics, democratic republics, and non-republican democratic institutions.*
- Gov 10: Foundations of Political Theory
 - *Students investigate the central problems of political theory that concern the justification of democracy.*
- Gov 1060: Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy
 - *This course introduces students to the history of Greek, Roman, and Christian political thought with comparative reference to ancient Near Eastern, Chinese, Jewish, and Islamic political thought.*
- Gov 1061: The History of Modern Political Philosophy
 - *This course familiarizes students with political philosophy from Machiavelli to Nietzsche, with attention to the rise and complex history of the idea of modernity.*
- Hist 1323: German Social Thought, Nietzsche to Habermas
- Hist 1324: French Social Thought, Durkheim to Foucault
- SS 40: Philosophy and Methods of the Social Sciences
 - *Students learn to recognize and critically evaluate the philosophical commitments of different methods for studying social life.*
- Gov 1052: History and Freedom in German Idealism
 - *Students study the thought of the high period of German Idealism using the central notions of history and freedom, and examine how Marx's critique of capitalism and his vision of communism emerged from the reworking of the ideas of history and freedom that he inherited from the Idealist tradition.*
- Gov 1074: Political Thought of the American Founding
 - *Students examine the political debates leading to American independence, and, later, to the ratification of the Federal Constitution.*
- Gov 2056: Political Thought of the English Revolution
 - *Students examine the range of political responses to the English constitutional crisis of 1640-1660, from theories of divine right to the arguments of the Levellers.*
- Gov 2061: The Political Philosophy of Kant
 - *Students gain an understanding of the development of Kant's political thought against the background of both his moral thinking and his critical philosophy.*
- Gov 2094: Liberalism and Theodicy
 - *Students examine the theological origins of what we have come to call "liberal" political philosophy; explore the degree to which central liberal commitments—to the freedom of the will, religious toleration, and political liberty—emerged as*

responses to the problem of “theodicy”; and grapple with the fraught relationship between contemporary egalitarianism and the early modern liberal tradition.

Career-Based

Pre-Law: For those considering a possible legal career

- Gov 10: Foundations of Political Theory
 - *Students investigate the central problems of political theory that concern the justification of democracy.*
- Gov 94GL: Inhuman Wrongs: Crimes against Humanity
 - *Students evaluate the notion of a crime against humanity from the perspectives of moral theory, history, and contemporary international law and politics.*
- Gov 94OF: Law and Politics in Multicultural Democracy
 - *This course introduces students to the political function of the legal process in the governance of cultural diversity. It provides a forum for thinking about law from a critical, sociological perspective rather than a purely legalistic approach, and it examines major questions at the intersection of law, politics, and culture.*
- Gov 94CN: Theory and Politics of Constitutions
 - *Students gain fluency in the concepts and findings of comparative constitutionalism, with a special focus on how democratic (and democratizing) nations establish their constitutions, implement them through law and politics, and revise them to meet changing needs.*
- Gov 1430/2430: The Politics of Personal Data
 - *Students examine the legal, political, social, commercial, and technical struggles for control over personal data in our globally connected data-rich world.*
- Gov 1060: Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy
 - *This course introduces students to the history of Greek, Roman, and Christian political thought with comparative reference to ancient Near Eastern, Chinese, Jewish, and Islamic political thought.*
- Gov 1061: The History of Modern Political Philosophy
 - *This course familiarizes students with political philosophy from Machiavelli to Nietzsche, with attention to the rise and complex history of the idea of modernity.*
- AfrAmer 191X: African American Lives in the Law
 - *Students learn about specific African Americans who, as lawyers, judges, and litigants, made a difference in American history, their lives and legal challenges serving as a "mirror to America." Students also analyze the historical context and significance of landmark race-related judicial decisions in American legal history.*

Foreign Policy: For those considering a career in foreign policy or national security

- Gov 94Q: US-Latin American Relations
 - *Students consider alternative explanations to dissect the political and economic relations between the U.S. and Latin American countries and, more broadly, the international relations of Latin America since 1960, including salient issues today (trade, migration, drug trafficking, human rights, etc.).*
- Gov 1790: American Foreign Policy

Students analyze the major dynamics shaping American foreign policy today, highlighted by the question of what might happen if the US stopped trying to play such an active role in world politics. Students become familiar with the major theoretical perspectives in international relations and learn about contemporary challenges to American power, such as terrorism and cyber warfare. Additional topics studied include the following: whether China is on the rise and what China's rise would mean for the US; the effect of the media on how Americans think about the world; whether nuclear weapons make us safer; whether there was an "Obama Doctrine" and, if so, what it entailed.

- Gov 94NW: Politics of Nuclear Weapons
 - *Students learn about the physical reality of nuclear weapons and the history of their use, as a means towards a better understanding of future nuclear-weapons-related behavior.*

Skill-Based

Research:

- Gov 94GL: Inhuman Wrongs: Crimes against Humanity
 - *This course coaches students through the process of writing a long research paper, from developing a question to finding sources and revising a first draft.*
- Gov 2240: Comparative Political Institutions
 - *Students generate original ideas for using institutional variables in their own theories and empirical research.*
- SS 40: Philosophy and Methods of the Social Sciences
 - *Students learn to recognize and critically evaluate the philosophical commitments of different forms of social-scientific research. They learn “to think methodologically,” i.e., to link a research question to appropriate methods of inquiry, and begin to develop a methodological tool kit for their own social-scientific projects.*
- Gov 50: Introduction to Political Science Research Methods
 - *This course introduces students to techniques used for research in the study of politics and helps students think sensibly and systematically about research design. Students come away with a ‘toolbox’ of methods, including statistical software, for political science research.*
- Gov 62: Research Practice in Qualitative Methods
 - *This course introduces students to the basic principles and tools of qualitative research in the social sciences and prepares students to undertake original research for their senior thesis projects.*

Region-Based

American Studies:

- Gov 30: American Government—A New Perspective
 - *Students learn about the history and function of America’s democratic government and analyze how well-established institutions have been altered by modern politics.*
- Gov 94QA: Community in America

- *Students analyze how the social fabric of America's communities and the civic engagement of its citizens has changed over the last generation and evaluate possible policy responses to these changes.*
- Gov 1790: American Foreign Policy
 - *Students analyze the major dynamics shaping American foreign policy today.*
- Gov 2335: Power in American Society
 - *Students examine how and when power is exercised, by whom, and to what effect, in contemporary American society.*
- USW 15: Is the American Racial Order Being Transformed?
 - *Students examine four potentially transformative forces: recent high levels of immigration, rising multiracialism, new links between genomic science and "race," and the changing behaviors and beliefs of young American adults. They then consider blockages to transformation—including the incarceration of non-Anglo men, wealth disparities, and the poor treatment of Muslims and undocumented immigrants—and imagine various ideal futures for race and ethnicity in the U.S.*
- Gov 1080: American Political Thought
 - *Students examine prominent theoretical traditions in America to better grasp the meaning and fate of constitutional democracy.*
- USW 20: The Theory and Practice of Republican Government
 - *Students examine the philosophical treatments of republican government and historical studies of monarchical republics, democratic republics, and non-republican democratic institutions.*
- USW 31: American Society and Public Policy
 - *Students examine major societal trends and patterns of inequality in the United States and gain an understanding of U.S. policies about social security, health care, immigration, and climate change, placing them in cross-national perspective and linking past successes and failures to current controversies.*

Africa

- Gov 94af: Contemporary Africa
 - *This course provides students with an in-depth introduction to contemporary Africa from before the imperial occupation through the present.*
- Gov 2221: Political Science and the Middle East
 - *This course familiarizes students with key debates in social science research on the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region.*
- SS 98OA: Human Rights in Africa
 - *Students investigate the extent to which human rights are discussed, contested, and protected in Sub-Saharan Africa.*

Middle East

- Gov 2221: Political Science and the Middle East
 - *This course familiarizes students with key debates in social science research on the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region.*
- Gov 1207: Comparative Politics of the Middle East
 - *Students gain a critical understanding of politics in the region.*
- DPI-440: Middle Eastern Politics and Policy

- *Students gain a deeper understanding of the Middle East and a grounding in some of the principal analytic approaches in the comparative study of societies and political systems.*
- SocWorld 54: Islam and Politics in the Modern Middle East
 - *Students discover how the roots of Islamism lie in the nineteenth-century deep transformations of Middle Eastern states and societies. They learn about the diversity of these ideologies and the complexity of Islamist movements' relationships with authoritarian and democratic states in both the Middle East and the West.*

Asia

- Gov 1286: Central Asia and the Caucasus: Empire and Sovereignty
 - *Students examine how identity concepts are mobilized in Central Asian politics, studying issues such as the formation of current national, regional and religious identities; national ideologies as part of state-building and regime loyalty; and the role of identity in opposition mobilization, conflicts, and international relations.*
- Gov 1279: Political Economy of East and Southeast Asia
 - *Students learn how the past successes of East and Southeast Asia can be reconciled with the difficulties experienced in many of these countries more recently. They consider how and to what degrees the growth experiences of the high-performing economies in East Asia shed light on the prospects for long-term success of reforms currently underway in China and in Southeast Asian countries, and they learn to adjudicate between competing explanations for the economic growth and subsequent economic challenges faced by East and Southeast Asian countries since World War II.*
- Gov 1760: The International Relations of East Asia
 - *Students learn about basic changes over time in the levels of conflict and cooperation in East Asian international relations.*
- Gov 1982: The Foreign Policy of the People's Republic of China
 - *Students learn about the basic trends, continuities, and discontinuities in China's foreign policy since 1949.*
- Gov 94IA: Sino-US Relations in an Era of "Rising" Chinese Power
 - *Students learn about basic changes over time in the levels of conflict and cooperation in East Asian international relations.*
- Gov 1280: Government & Politics of China
 - *This course introduces students to the main issues of contemporary Chinese politics and social change. Students learn about the previous century of change and upheaval, including the decline of the last imperial dynasty, the rise of communism, and China under the rule of Mao Zedong as well as during the reform period.*
- Gov 2285: Political Science and China
 - *Students explore the strengths and weaknesses of alternative perspectives of major theoretical and methodological approaches in the field of domestic Chinese politics. They assess what insights garnered from the study of other regions of the world might productively be applied to China, as well as what insights from the study of Chinese politics might productively be applied to other contexts.*

- Gov 94CI: China and India
 - *Students examine both classic comparative analyses as well as contemporary cutting-edge research in political science and economics to compare the cases of India and China. These two countries are used to examine the concept of regime type and the role and impact of political regimes on a wide range of outcomes.*
- Gov 94SK: Democracy and Constitution-Making: Postwar Japan and South Korea
 - *Students compare and contrast the theories and histories behind Japan's "Peace Constitution" (1946) and South Korea's "Founding Constitution" (1948).*
- Gov 1270: Government and Politics of Modern Japan
 - *Students identify important actors in domestic Japanese politics; examine the positions that different actors take with respect to various policies, as well as the sources of these policy preferences and changes over time; and evaluate the role of political institutions and history in structuring contemporary political behavior.*
- DPI-454: The Asia-Pacific in Transition
 - *Students conduct a comparative analysis of the politics, political economy, and policy challenges of East Asia. They gain an understanding of the dynamics of democracy and the policy challenges associated with democratic transition in South Korea and Taiwan, and consider the corresponding transitions in Thailand and the Philippines.*
- IGA-685: Negotiating US Interests in an Evolving Asia Pacific
 - *Students learn about key on-the-ground developments in the Asia Pacific region.*
- EAS 121: Global Cities in East Asia
 - *Students examine urbanization and globalization in East Asia, learning about the impact of globalization on urban form and the causes and potential solutions to slums and spatial inequalities.*
- EAS195: Fighting Poverty in China: Welfare and Disaster Relief in Comparative Perspective

Europe

- Gov 2056: Political Thought of the English Revolution
 - *Students examine the range of political responses to the English constitutional crisis of 1640-1660, from theories of divine right to the arguments of the Levellers.*
- Gov 1244: Russian Politics and Statecraft
 - *Students examine enduring questions about Russia, its economy, and its role in international politics and assess Russia's patterns of cooperation and confrontation with other great powers, a seemingly stubborn inability to diversify away from natural resource dependence, and recurring political challenges between formal political institutions and informal politics.*
- Gov 1152: The Future of Europe: Key Challenges and the Restructuring of the European Project
 - *Students gain a detailed understanding of the current debates concerning Europe and the European Union, including an awareness of inside actors and different stakeholders.*
- Hist 1323: German Social Thought, Nietzsche to Habermas

- Hist 1324: French Social Thought, Durkheim to Foucault

Latin America & South America

- SocWorld 15: The Cuban Revolution, 1956-1971: A Self-Debate
 - *Students learn to assess how the United States responded to this revolution; consider how revolutionaries and their opponents thought about the nature of civic virtue and how they handled its breakdown and reconstruction during the 1950s and 1960s; explore the building of a revolutionary nationalist identity; and ponder the ethical dimensions of the experiences of those who supported and those who opposed the revolution.*
- Gov 1292: Politics in Brazil
 - *Students learn how Brazil is shaped by its history, social structure, and political institutions; make sense of recent developments in Brazilian politics; and assess current and future policy challenges in Brazil.*
- Gov 94Q: US-Latin American Relations
 - *Students consider alternative explanations to dissect the political and economic relations between the U.S. and Latin American countries and, more broadly, the international relations of Latin America since 1960, including salient issues today (trade, migration, drug trafficking, human rights, etc.).*
- Gov 2131: Comparative Politics of Latin America
 - *Students discuss critically the scholarly field regarding Latin American politics, especially with regard to the larger South American countries and Mexico.*
- Gov 94HG: The Politics and Political Economy of Inequality in Latin America
 - *This course familiarizes students with the prevalence of inequality in Latin American countries and theories explaining its persistence.*
- DPI-460: Latin American Politics and Policymaking
 - *Students explore the comparative academic literature in an effort to understand how political dynamics (e.g., democratization), institutions (e.g., federalism), and different actors (e.g., social movements, international organizations) affect the making of public policy, especially economic and social policies. Students gain empirical knowledge on the region's politics and policies as well as analytical and practical understanding of political aspects involved in policy design, adoption, and implementation.*