GOVERNMENT

Chair, Professor Jennifer Yoder
Professors Anthony Corrado, Guilain Denoeux, L. Sandy Maisel, Kenneth Rodman, Daniel Shea, and Jennifer Yoder; Associate Professors Walter Hatch and Joseph Reisert; Assistant Professors Carrie LeVan, Lindsay Mayka, and Laura Seay; Visiting Assistant Professor Milan Babik

The Department of Government is a community of teachers and students dedicated to the study of politics, defined as the contest for and exercise of power.

At the conclusion of their course of study, majors in government should know (a) the major theoretical arguments about the nature and purpose of political communities, (b) the salient features and the strengths and weaknesses of various political systems and the reasons for those strengths and weaknesses, (c) the principal theoretical frameworks for understanding the causes of international cooperation and conflict, and (d) the basic research methods used by political scientists.

Our graduates will demonstrate the ability (a) to think critically and creatively, (b) to conduct political science research systematically, identifying and evaluating different sources of information and evidence, and (c) to communicate effectively the results of that research.

Requirements for the Major in Government

Fulfillment of the government major requires successful completion of 10 courses in government, including Government 111 or 115, 131, 171, and 281 (or an approved equivalent course in another discipline); at least one introductory comparative course (Government 252, 253, 255, 256, or 259); and a 400-level senior seminar. A writing project meeting the department’s guidelines is also required.

Government majors should complete all of the required 100-level courses by the end of their sophomore year. Note that the only 100-level courses that may be counted for the major are the required introductory courses. Students with a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in U.S. Government and Politics may elect to substitute a 200- or 300-level course in American politics taken at Colby for Government 111. Normally the introductory comparative course should be taken before the end of sophomore year, especially for those students contemplating study abroad. Government 281 should be completed in either the sophomore or junior year. All of the required introductory 100-level courses and the 400-level course must be taken at Colby.

Courses transferred from other institutions can count (up to a maximum of two) in the 10-course requirement. For transfer students, the department will count up to five courses from the previous institution with the permission of the department chair, excluding the seminar and writing assignment. Students taking government courses abroad must secure provisional approval for each course prior to leaving; upon return to Colby, brief descriptions of work completed must be submitted to the department for final approval.

To satisfy the departmental writing requirement, students must complete a major analytical research project. The project can be a major paper assigned as part of a course or the product of a freestanding independent study. It must be submitted to and approved by a member of the Government Department faculty.

No government major may take any government course satisfactory/unsatisfactory; only courses in which a grade of C- or better is received may be counted as part of the major. No requirement for the government major may be waived without written permission of the department chair.

The Senior Thesis and Honors in Government

For those students who intend to pursue the study of government in more depth, the department offers a senior thesis program that emphasizes substantial independent research under the close guidance of one or two members of the faculty. Students seeking admission to the senior thesis program are expected to seek approval of a sponsor and the department chair before the conclusion of their junior year. Students whose theses are judged worthy of honors by the department faculty will graduate with “Honors in Government.” Further information is available from the department chair and on the department’s website.

Introductory courses at the 100 level are normally limited to 40 students, 200- and 300-level courses to 25 students, and 400-level courses to 12 students.

Internships are encouraged so that students can experience the practical as well as the more theoretical aspects of the field.

Course Offerings

GO111fs Introduction to American Government and Politics How does the American government work? An examination of the relationships among American values, politics, government institutions, and public policy. Focus on the methodologies of political science as tools for expanding understanding of political phenomena and behavior. Credit toward the major cannot be earned for both Government 111 and 115. Four credit hours. S. LEVAN, MAISEL, SHEA
[GO113] Overview of the U.S. Legal System  A discussion-oriented study of constitutional, criminal, and civil law, through readings, legal research, outside speakers, attending court, and visiting a maximum-security prison. Some field trips last all day. A $75 fee covers the cost of transportation to off-campus events. Does not count toward the government major.  

Three credit hours.

GO115s Great Issues in Contemporary American Government  Controversial issues such as environmental policy or tax policy divide the American public and decision makers on a recurring basis. An introduction to the institutions of American government through the lens of these issues. Students will explore the linkages between citizens and government, the effectiveness of the electoral process as a means of resolving policy debates, and the checks and balances inherent in our system as each issue is examined. They will learn how to write about issues in a variety of formats, e.g., newspaper articles, speeches, and research papers, and how to make effective oral presentations. Credit toward the major cannot be earned for both Government 111 and 115.  

Four credit hours.  S, W1.  MAISEL

GO131fs Introduction to International Relations  An introduction to the basic concepts and theories of international relations, focusing primarily on the core issues of war and peace as they have evolved in the international system, as well as the prospects for cooperation through international institutions to address issues such as human rights, nuclear proliferation, the world economy, and the global environment.  

Four credit hours.  S.  BABIK, HATCH, RODMAN

GO140Af Introduction to U.S. Law  What are the fundamental concepts, principles, and procedures at the heart of the U.S. legal system? Topics include: the anthropological basis of law; courts and legislatures as sources of law; the structure and functioning of different courts; the adversarial principle; the common law method of legal reasoning; and an overview of criminal and civil law. Coursework will include mock trials and debates, and attendance at court.  

Four credit hours.  S.  LEE

GO140Bf Writing and Thinking about Law  Philosophy typically examines law in the abstract, offering theories of what law is, where it comes from, and what its content should or must be. Literature is more concrete, dramatizing those moments of crisis when the law becomes real for them—when a will is read, or a divorce finalized; when someone has been wronged and seeks compensation, or after a crime has been committed; when reformers seek to establish "the rule of law" or when an abusive government uses law to crack down on its critics. In this writing-intensive course, we will study literary treatments of the law, including Antigone, Crito, The Merchant of Venice, The Trial, and others, in parallel with philosophical theories about law.  

Four credit hours.  L, W1.  REISERT

GO171fs Introduction to Political Theory  What are the nature and purpose of the modern state or of any political community? What is freedom? What is justice? How do such ideals relate to the design and functioning of political institutions? Political theory is the subfield within political science that addresses these and related normative and methodologically foundational questions. Introduction to classic works of political theory by Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and Mill. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the primary texts and their ability to formulate original arguments in political theory by means of papers and exams; class sessions are conducted as a mixture of lecture and discussion.  

Four credit hours.  S, I.  CORRADO, REISERT

GO210f Interest-Group Politics  Examines the role and behavior of organized interest groups in American politics. Provides students with opportunities to develop their substantive knowledge of group behavior and their writing skills through the completion of an independent research paper.  

Four credit hours.  CORRADO

GO211f The American Presidency  The organization, powers, and actions of the executive branch of the American government examined in historical and contemporary perspective. Students will use the tools and methodologies of political science to assess the modern presidency and its incumbents. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115, and sophomore or higher standing.  

Four credit hours.  SHEA

[GO212] U.S. Congress  An examination of the people's branch of our national government, structured around the large questions of what it would mean for the Congress to represent the people and whether it succeeds in doing so. Topics include theories of representation, the constitutional framework establishing the powers of Congress and limits on those powers, the internal operations of the legislature (e.g., committee structure, leadership), interactions between the legislature and other governmental institutions, the electoral process, and suggestions for reform. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115.  

Four credit hours.  S.

GO214s Parties and the Electoral Process  What does the 2016 election mean for American elections in the years ahead? An exploration of the electoral process in the United States, emphasizing the historical development of American parties and elections, the legal and constitutional contexts in which they exist, the practical aspects of modern campaigns, and the democratic values inherent in our electoral system and those of other nations. Has the process been changed by the 2016 experience? Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115, and sophomore or higher standing.  

Four credit hours.  MAISEL

[GO216] Political Rhetoric  An introduction to the theory and practice of political rhetoric through the study of historically significant political speeches and the composition and delivery of original addresses, including intensive practice in persuasive writing and public
speaking. Topics include the moral status of rhetoric and the identification and use of rhetorical figures and modes of persuasion. Works studied include the funeral oration of Pericles, speeches from Shakespeare such as Antony's subversive “Friends, Romans, countrymen,” Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and King's "I Have a Dream." For the culminating exercise, students will compose and deliver their own political speeches.  Three credit hours.

[GO221] Capitalism and Its Critics  Examines the interaction between politics and markets, both in theory and in practice, linking classic works in political economy with current policy debates. Emphasizes the ways in which markets are embedded in social and political institutions. Studies the formation of markets, current organization of capitalist systems, and their recent transformations in developed, transitioning, and developing economies, considering both historical and contemporary issues. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement.  Four credit hours.  S.

GO223f U.S. Foreign Policy: The Cold War  An analysis of the major events facing the United States during the Cold War and the controversies surrounding them. Academic and policy debates over national security doctrines, the proper place of ideology in foreign policy, the role of economic factors, and domestic political institutions. Topics include the origin of the Cold War, nuclear weapons strategy, the Vietnam War, containment and detente, and the end of the Cold War. Prerequisite: Government 111.  Four credit hours.  S, U.  LEVAN

[GO224] Legal Writing and Legal Argument: Through and after Law School  Provides students with the writing and oral presentation tools needed in law school. Taught by a Colby alumnus who is a practicing attorney. Introduces students to the skills needed for a law degree and the wide variety of post-law-school career options. Includes a variety of assignments and guest lecturers with experience in an array of legal fields. Designed to give those considering law school an introduction to legal writing and analysis, oral presentation, and advocacy in a variety of contexts facing law students and practicing attorneys.  Three credit hours.

GO226s Introduction to Race, Ethnicity, and Politics  Examines broadly the ways in which racial and ethnic minorities influence and are influenced by American politics and public policy. The course is organized in three parts. Part I will explore the theoretical and historical contexts of race in American politics. Part II will focus on race and political behavior, paying close attention to public opinion, participation, and representation. Part III will examine particular policy-related case studies: minority education, housing, employment, and criminal justice. Prerequisite: Government 111.  Four credit hours.  S, U.  LEVAN

[GO231] U.S. Foreign Policy: The Cold War  An analysis of the major events facing the United States during the Cold War and the controversies surrounding them. Academic and policy debates over national security doctrines, the proper place of ideology in foreign policy, the role of economic factors, and domestic political institutions. Topics include the origin of the Cold War, nuclear weapons strategy, the Vietnam War, containment and detente, and the end of the Cold War. Prerequisite: Government 131.  Four credit hours.

[GO234] Legal Writing and Legal Argument: Through and after Law School  Provides students with the writing and oral presentation tools needed in law school. Taught by a Colby alumnus who is a practicing attorney. Introduces students to the skills needed for a law degree and the wide variety of post-law-school career options. Includes a variety of assignments and guest lecturers with experience in an array of legal fields. Designed to give those considering law school an introduction to legal writing and analysis, oral presentation, and advocacy in a variety of contexts facing law students and practicing attorneys.  Three credit hours.

GO236j International Law and the Politics of Human Rights  An introduction to the international laws and institutions established after the Second World War to promote, protect, and enforce human rights, and the political forces which either empower or constrain their influence. Areas of application include civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; the right to asylum; accountability for war crimes and genocide; humanitarian intervention; corporate social responsibility; and the tensions between counter-terrorism and human rights.  Three credit hours.  S.  RODMAN

GO238f Politics of War Crime Tribunals  Examines the politics of establishing tribunals to hold individuals criminally accountable for genocide and other atrocity crimes, from the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II through the International Criminal Court. Central questions involve the nature of post-conflict justice, the degree to which international legal bodies are insulated from or influenced by politics, and the impact of prosecution on transitions from war and dictatorship to peace and democracy. Academic and legal analysis combined with simulated court proceedings. Areas of application include South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Milosevic trial, the Pinochet extradition hearing, and issues surrounding Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib. Prerequisite: Government 131 and sophomore or higher standing.  Four credit hours.  S.  RODMAN


GO251s Israelis and Palestinians: Conflict and Accommodation  Examines the origins, evolution, and current state of the conflict
between Israelis and Palestinians. Explores the forces that have sustained the dispute, the main reasons behind failed attempts at peacemaking, and the factors that account for the current stalemate. Focuses on key historical junctures, including the British mandate over Palestine, the creation of Israel and dispossession of the Palestinians, the "Oslo Process" and its collapse, the failed 2000 Camp David Summit and second intifada, as well as the new situation created by the events of the past decade. Attention also is paid to media coverage of, and U.S. policy toward, the conflict. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours. S. DENOEUX

GO252f Introduction to Politics of the Middle East Provides the analytical and historical background for making sense of politics in the Arab world today. Highlights the main drivers of politics in the region, with particular emphasis paid to the intersection of political and economic forces, domestic and regional or international factors, and Islam and politics. Explores the roots of authoritarianism in the region, the dynamics that sustain it, and key impediments to substantive (as opposed to cosmetic) democratization. Examines the combination of forces that produced both the Arab Spring of 2011 and the turmoil that followed it. Open to first-years. Fulfills the introductory comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours. DENOEUX

[GO253] Introduction to Latin American Politics An overview of important political and economic phenomena in Latin America over the past century. How can Latin America escape its persistent problems with underdevelopment, poverty, and inequality, and what is the role of a democratic government in tackling these problems? Topics covered include state-directed development models, populism, democratic breakdown and democratization, free market economic models, and contemporary leftist alternatives. Open to first-years. Fulfills the introductory comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours.

GO255f Introduction to African Politics An overview of political processes and institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. The development of institutions and norms of political behavior across the continent will be traced from precolonial times to the present, with particular focus on the development of modern states, challenges to the legitimacy of governing authorities, and factors affecting state stability. Students will learn to identify, define, and apply theoretical concepts to the empirical study of African politics. Open to first-years. Fulfills the introductory comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours. S, I. SEAY

GO256s Introduction to East Asian Politics Both a primer on the domestic politics and foreign policies of states/territories in East Asia (China, Taiwan, Japan, the two Koreas), and an exploration of specific cases of interstate conflict in the region, including competing memories of World War II and confrontation over North Korea's nuclear weapons. Surveys comparative politics in the region; then applies that knowledge to international relations in East Asia. Students acquire basic knowledge about nations in this region, and about the volatile mix of fears and aspirations there. They also learn how to think more deeply about politics, communicate more effectively, and collaborate more successfully. Fulfills the introductory comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours.

GO259s Introduction to European Politics Examines the post-1945 development of European political cultures and systems with special attention to varieties of parliamentarism, electoral systems, party systems, interest group representation, and welfare states. Explores how European societies view the role of the state in the economy, why many of them ceded some policymaking to the European Union, and how Europeans strike the balance between the exclusion and inclusion of different groups, between representative and participatory democracy, and between national and European interests. Open to first-years. Fulfills the introductory comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours. S. HATCH

GO263f Global Crisis of Democracy and Democracy Assistance Explores the manifestations and roots of the current crisis of democratic politics and their implications for democracy assistance. Examines ongoing populist, illiberal, anti-democratic, and nativist challenges to democracy worldwide, and considers competing arguments regarding the value and feasibility of democracy aid in this new context. Reflects on the needed rethinking of democracy assistance to fit both a different global landscape and what development professionals have learned from three decades of experience with supporting democracy abroad. Taught from a practitioner's perspective. Four credit hours. S. DENOEUX

[GO264] Challenges to Democracy in Latin America What have been the challenges associated with the establishment and consolidation of democracy in Latin America? Examines political regimes and regime changes in Latin America since the early 20th century, with a particular emphasis on the quality of democracy present in the current period. Topics include the breakdown of democracy, democratization, human rights, state capacity, interest representation and citizenship, and the concentration of power in the executive. Previously listed as Government 364 (Spring 2015). Four credit hours. S, I.

GO266f German Politics Exploration of contemporary German politics through a variety of texts and media, with attention to the impact of the past on Germany's political culture, political institutions, and its domestic and foreign policies. Students will analyze the 2017 Bundestag election campaign, voting results, and government formation process. Four credit hours. S. YODER

[GO271] Classical Political Theory An introduction to the political thought of classical antiquity, including the works of Thucydides, Xenophon, Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero. Topics include the nature of justice, the merits of direct democracy and other institutional forms, and the attributes of the ideal leader. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the primary texts and their ability to formulate original
arguments in political theory by means of papers and exams. Class sessions are conducted as a mixture of lecture and discussion. 

Prerequisite: Government 171 or Philosophy 211. Four credit hours.

[GO272] Modern Political Theory An introduction to the political thought of modernity, from the Renaissance to the present, including the works of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, and Rawls. Topics include the idea of the social contract, the relationship between power and morality, competing conceptions of freedom and equality, the philosophy of history, and the intellectual foundations of modern liberalism. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the primary texts and their ability to formulate original arguments in political theory by means of papers and exams; class sessions are conducted as a mixture of lecture and discussion. 

Prerequisite: Government 171. Four credit hours.

[GO273] American Political Thought A survey of fundamental principles of American political thought as presented in the writings of such authors as Hamilton, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. General themes include the notion of republican government, concepts of liberty and equality, and the role of property in democratic society. Designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop critical-thinking and writing skills. Four credit hours.

[GO274] Intellectual Roots of Modern Conservatism Diverse intellectual sources of the contemporary conservative movement in America, Edmund Burke to present. What does it mean to be a conservative? How (if at all) do conservative conceptions of man and society differ from liberal or "radical" visions? What (if any) is the relationship between conservative ideas and religion? How do multiple strands of conservative thought relate to one another? Readings from Burke, Thomas Carlyle, Benjamin Disraeli, Herbert Spencer, Michael Oakeshott, Friedrich Hayek, Russell Kirk, others. Assignments include short analyses of readings, in-class presentations, two longer analytical papers, and an exam (or a long research paper). Prerequisite: Government 171. Four credit hours.

GO281fs Concepts and Methods of Political Science Research An introduction to a variety of approaches to the study of political phenomena, intended to prepare students to craft and complete more sophisticated research projects in political science. After discussion of the nature and aims of scientific inquiry and the general features of effective research design, focus is on two broad methodological perspectives: explanation and interpretation. Topics include hypothesis testing and statistical analysis, the problem of historical truth, symbolic representation, and discourse analysis. Students will complete a number of different types of assignments and will apply course ideas to develop their own original research design. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours. Q. BAKI, LEVAN, SEAY, SHEA

GO298s 9/11: Origins, Event, Aftermath Actions undertaken by al-Qaeda against targets on U.S. soil on Sept. 12, 2001, shocked the American public and the world at large. Why did 9/11 happen in the first place? What prompted al-Qaeda to target the United States? How was the event portrayed, explained, and interpreted? Is it possible to come up with alternative representations, explanations, and interpretations? If yes, what are they, and why were they obscured at the time? Our purpose is to reflect on these questions and controversies in order to cultivate a critical perspective on the origins, nature, and consequences of 9/11. Three credit hours. S. BAKI

[GO301] National Powers in American Constitutional Law An examination of constitutional debates that have defined the structure and powers of the modern national government. Topics include constitutional interpretation; the operation and desirability (or not) of judicial review; the scope of the states' police powers in relation to congressional power; the conflict between economic rights and the modern regulatory state; and powers of the president, especially in times of terrorism, emergency, and war. Readings include U.S. Supreme Court decisions and related documents as well as secondary works in political science and law. Assignments include case briefs, class participation, papers, simulations (e.g., moot courts), and exams. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours.

GO314f Civil Liberties in American Constitutional Law An examination of legal, moral, and philosophical controversies involving rights and liberties arising under the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. Topics include the nature of rights and theories of constitutional interpretation; the right to the free exercise of religion and the establishment clause; freedom of expression; the "right of privacy" and protections for contraception, abortion, and homosexuality; and affirmative action and the status of women and minorities under the law. Readings include U.S. Supreme Court cases and related works of moral and political philosophy. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours.

GO315s Minority Representation Inequalities persist throughout everyday life and remain apparent within American political institutions. We will examine how these inequalities manifest in American political institutions and why they matter. Part I will explore the multifaceted nature of representation. Part II will explore the conditions that affect minority representation, specifically: population size, public opinion/support, interest group support, and group access to resources. Part III will focus on the future of representation, paying close attention to changing demographics. Prerequisite: Government 111. Four credit hours. S, U. LEVAN

[GO316] Presidential Electoral Politics The procedural and electoral environment of presidential elections and the strategies employed in presidential campaigns by candidates, party organizations, and political committees. Topics include campaign communication strategies,
media coverage of elections, and recent controversies associated with the voting process, with a focus on the current or most recent election. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours.

[GO320] The Rights Revolution and Its Discontents The past century has yielded a steady expansion in the definition and public protection of individual rights for women, racial minorities, and LGBTQ persons. In addition, new public policies have deeply altered the rights to free expression and protected religious practice. Some applaud these changes in the definition of rights, others lament them. This course explores the ways in which rights are defined and expanded, the criticisms such changes encounter, and the role of public policy in sorting out these conflicts. Four credit hours.

GO332s International Organization The structure, politics, and current operation of international organizations within the nation-state system. Topics include conflict resolution, nonproliferation, human rights, and international economic cooperation. Prerequisite: Government 131. Four credit hours. RODMAN

GO336f Politics of Development in Africa Explores the politics and practice of economic development and humanitarian aid in sub-Saharan Africa. Using readings, lectures, class discussions, and an independent student research project, examines the major theories of development in comparative politics; compares international, top-down models to localized, bottom-up approaches toward development in Africa; raises possibilities of partnership-based models; and critiques the history of colonial and postcolonial development and humanitarian aid in Africa. Prerequisite: Government 131. Four credit hours. I. SEAY

GO338j Field Study in African Development Students will spend approximately three weeks of this global innovation course in Uganda comparing international, local, and diaspora-driven approaches to economic and social development. Through discussions with local, international, and development practitioners, observation of development projects, a rural home stay, and meetings with local and international policymakers, students will learn to identify, compare, and contrast varying theoretical and practical approaches to development in Africa, assess the effectiveness of international, diaspora-driven, and local approaches to development and its promotion in Uganda. Previously offered as Government 397 (Jan Plan 2015). Cost is $3,250. Three credit hours. SEAY

GO344f Post-Communist Transformations Examines the rise and fall of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe, then explores patterns of post-communist political reforms and outcomes. Focuses on the Putin presidency, its impacts on Russian politics and society, and the consequences of stability in the region. Prerequisite: At least one government course. Four credit hours. YODER

[GO354] The European Union How should we understand the European Union? Is it a regional trade bloc, an international organization, or even a state—and, if so, what kind? Is it, as some have suggested, a superpower on par with the United States? If it is as significant as many attest, what are the implications for the primacy of nation-states and national sovereignty? A detailed and critical understanding of what the EU is and how it works. Through a variety of assignments, students analyze the design, construction, and operation of the new institutions of governance in Europe. Prerequisite: Government 131. Four credit hours. YODER

[GO355] Winners and Losers in Chinese Politics An exploration of contemporary Chinese politics, especially the political and social fallout from post-Mao economic reforms. Students will learn how to write an analytical paper using social science methods. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours. S, W2, I.

[GO356] Winners and Losers in Japanese Politics An exploration of Japanese politics, with a focus on the evolving struggle between traditional insiders (such as government bureaucrats and corporate executives) and traditional outsiders (such as labor unions and housewives). Four credit hours. I.

GO357s Political Economy of Regionalism Comparative analysis of economic and political integration in three regions: Europe (the EU), North America (NAFTA), and Asia. Why do states agree to give up some sovereignty by cooperating on regional projects? Why do these projects vary so much from region to region? Global lab. Four credit hours. HATCH

GO358s Comparative Arab Politics Builds on knowledge acquired in Government 252 to provide an in-depth understanding of the political dynamics of selected Arab countries. Highlights both similarities and differences in political processes across countries, evaluates the political changes taking place in each of them, and delves into the nature of the specific challenges they confront. Prerequisite: Government 252 Four credit hours. DENOEUX

[GO359] Political Ideologies and Revolutionary Movements in Europe An exploration of major ideological currents and movements in modern Europe. Focuses on various forms of radicalism on the right and left of the political spectrum against the background of important political developments in Europe in the last century, such as the Bolshevik Revolution, the rise of fascism and Nazism, the emergence of domestic terrorism, the explosion of nationalisms and fundamentalisms, and the collapse of Soviet-style communism. Prerequisite:
GO361s  Advanced International Relations Theory  Presents the achievements of Realism as the traditional perspective on international relations while simultaneously cultivating a critical awareness of its limits and biases. Pursues this dual objective by first surveying the thought of key 20th-century Realist scholars and subsequently turning to a number of alternative approaches that have come to challenge the Realist paradigm since the early 1980s under the rubric of critical international theory. Examples include the Frankfurt School, feminism, and postmodern deconstruction.  Prerequisite: Government 131.  Four credit hours.  S, W2, I.  BABIK

GO414f  Seminar: Ethics in Politics  A discussion of critical ethical issues faced by American and other national leaders. Case studies of 20th-century decisions, including those involved with violence (e.g., Truman's decision to drop the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki), deception in government (e.g., Oliver North's decision to lie to Congress about Iran-Contra), disobedience of those in authority (e.g., Daniel Ellsberg's release of the Pentagon Papers), policies regarding life and death (e.g., abortion and euthanasia laws), and others.  Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115 and senior standing as a government major.  Four credit hours.  MAISEL

GO421f  Seminar: Prospects for Political Reform  Examines proposals for improving the electoral process and democratic accountability in the United States. Topics to be explored include recent controversies associated with developments in election law, voting rights and methods of voting, and campaign finance. Participants will examine recent proposals for democratic political reform, as well as innovations adopted in the states and other countries, to address the central question of how best to improve the quality of American democracy.  Prerequisite: Senior standing.  Four credit hours.  CORRADO

GO432s  Seminar: U.S. Foreign Policy  Examines debates surrounding U.S. foreign policy and multilateral institutions with a principal focus on national security issues in the post-Cold War world. Central questions focus on when the United States should define its security in terms of acting within or strengthening international laws and institutions or whether it should maintain its freedom to engage in unilateral actions in a dangerous world. Areas of application include the use of force, counterterrorism, nuclear nonproliferation, and arms control.  Prerequisite: Government 131 and senior standing.  Four credit hours.  RODMAN

GO451f  Seminar: Political Violence  Explores a variety of theoretical perspectives on, and case studies of, political violence, with particular emphasis on terrorism (both secular and religious) and ethnic conflict. Examines drivers of radicalization and violent extremism, the factors that lead to the rise, decline, and/or demise of terrorist organizations, and the nexus between transnational organized crime and international terrorism. Introduces key concepts and analytical frameworks and provides students with an opportunity to apply them to a case study of their choice. Students present the preliminary results of their research projects to the class.  Prerequisite: Senior standing as a government major.  Four credit hours.  DENOEUX

GO454f  Seminar: Politics of Development: State, Society, and Markets  An inquiry into why some developing nations have managed to achieve industrialization and rising standards of living while others have not, with special attention to the relationship between state and society as one of the key factors in the development process. Cases include South Korea, Nigeria, Brazil, and India.  Prerequisite: Senior standing as a government or global studies major.  Four credit hours.  S, W2, I.  HATCH

GO455s  Seminar: Conflict and Crisis in Africa  Focuses on political violence in Africa from the precolonial period to the present day. Students will be able to identify, compare, and contrast major theories of conflict and conflict resolution as they apply in sub-Saharan Africa. Students will also be able to describe the history of political violence in Africa, including precolonial conflicts, conflict related to colonization, wars of liberation, and post-colonization civil and intrastate wars.  Prerequisite: Government 251, 252, 253, 255, 256, or 259.  Four credit hours.  I.  SEAY

[GO456]  Seminar: Civil Society and Social Change in Latin America  What are civil society organizations and what is their place in politics? This research seminar examines the evolution of civil society in contemporary Latin American democracies and their roles in effecting social and political change. Over the past 30 years, civil society organizations in Latin America have become vehicles for poor and otherwise marginalized communities to access the political system. Topics include the collective action problem, the role of civil society organizations in interest representation and service provision, relationships with political parties and international donors, and participatory governance.  Prerequisite: 200-level government course or a Latin American studies course.  Four credit hours.  S, I.

[GO457]  Seminar: Germany and Europe  Investigates to what extent Germany has become the ‘indispensable power’ in Europe, focusing on key events in the postwar period, most recently the Eurozone crisis, the Ukraine crisis, and the migration crisis. Though focused on German foreign and security policy, necessarily examines the European integration process and the politics of the Transatlantic Alliance.  Prerequisite: Government 131, 259, 266, 354, or 359.  Four credit hours.  S.

GO483f  Honors Workshop  Individual and group meetings of seniors and faculty members participating in the government honors program.  Prerequisite: Admission to the honors program.  Four credit hours.  FACULTY

GO491f, 492s  Independent Study  A study of government through individual projects. Prerequisite: Government major and permission of the instructor.  One to four credit hours.  FACULTY