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 (approved substitutes for 281 are Psychology 214 and 215, or Sociology 271); 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. Exception: when an Integrated Studies Program course cluster includes two 100-level courses taught by government faculty, the whole Integrated Study can count as one elective course toward the major. 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 courses must be taken at Colby, including the 100-level courses, research methods (281), the introductory comparative course (252, 253, 255, 256, or 259), and the 400-level seminar.

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. As of the Class of 2021, independent study projects will not count toward the required 10 courses. Jan Plan independent study shall be limited to two credits, unless an exception has been granted by 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. The department offers two fellowships to support government majors who undertake either an internship or a significant research project.

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.  JACOBS, LEVAN, MAISEL, SHEA

[GO115]  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.

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, SEAY

[GO140A]  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.

[GO140B]  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.  S.

GO149Af  Utopia in Fiction: Happy Tomorrows or Hells on Earth?  The 20th century, famously described by Eric Hobsbawm as the “Age of Extremes,” spawned not just the most violent wars and revolutions in human history but also, in curious contrast, some of the most memorable novelistic visions of perfection. Are these visions meant to merely entertain us or teach us important lessons? Do their authors seek to inspire or warn us? What message do they convey about the possibility and desirability of progress? We will look for answers to these and related questions in novels such as Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell, We by Yevgeny Zamyatin, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, and The Joke by Milan Kundera. Satisfies the Literature (L) and First-Year Writing (W1) requirements. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Government 149B and History 149; elect IS149.  

Four credit hours.  L, W1.  BABIK

GO149Bf  Political Theory of Utopia  What does a perfect society look like? Would it be egalitarian or hierarchical? Democratic or ruled by an enlightened despot? Religious or secular? Communist or capitalist? Is it perhaps dangerous to dream of perfection for human societies? But then, can we have reform without a vision of perfection? Readings include Plato's Republic, Thomas More's Utopia, works by Karl Marx, including the Communist Manifesto, Edmund Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France, and others. Satisfies the Social Sciences (S) requirement. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Government 149A and History 149; elect IS149.  

Four credit hours.  S.  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, Hobbies, 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

GO210s  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.  JACOBS
GO214f  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.  SHEA

[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.

GO223s  America and the World  How have Americans comprehended the world beyond their borders and their role in it? Can we detect any recurring ideas and presuppositions? If so, what are their origins, recent U.S. foreign policy manifestations, and implications? This course looks for answers in a broad historical perspective spanning America’s colonial beginnings and today. It identifies several traditional “master” tropes, traces their genealogy in American societal culture, and reveals their presence in U.S. statecraft at key junctures such as the two World Wars, the Cold War, the fall of communism in Europe, and the “War on Terror.” Most importantly, it discusses their consequences and critically reflects on their suitability to guide future American foreign relations.  Four credit hours.  H.  BABIK

GO224f  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.

GO226f  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.

GO227f  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.  SHEA

[GO228f]  Media and Politics  An assessment of the role of the media in American politics. Examines the media as an institution and how it is both influenced by and reflects our system of government. What functions, for example, do contemporary news outlets afford the democratic process? Is there a connection between the way news is transmitted and the way citizens interact with government? Throughout much of American history the press has been considered a watchdog and the “fourth branch” of government. The challenge will be to explore the nexus of the theoretical role assigned to the mass media and its present character.  Four credit hours.  S.

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.

[GO236]  International Law and 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. Prerequisite: Government 131.  Four credit hours.  S.

[GO238]  Politics of War Crime Tribunals  Examines the politics of establishing tribunals to hold individuals criminally accountable for genocide and other atrocities, 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.  Four credit hours.
GO252s 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. S. DENOEUX

GO253f 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. MAYKA

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. 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. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours. S. HATCH

[GO259] 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.

[GO260] 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. Previously offered as GO298 (Spring 2018). Four credit hours. S.

GO263s Global Crisis of Democracy and Democracy Assistance Explores the manifestations and roots of the current crisis of
GO264f Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America What have been the challenges associated with the establishment and consolidation of democracy that protects human rights in Latin America? This course examines democracies and authoritarian regimes in Latin America over the past 50 years, with a particular emphasis on the quality of democracy and protection of human rights in the current period. Topics discussed include the breakdown of democracy; democratization; social movements; citizenship; state violence; and the rights of marginalized groups, including the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, women, and LGBTQI individuals. Four credit hours.

S, W2, I. MAYKA

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.

GO273f 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.

CORRADO

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 or Philosophy 211. Four credit hours.

GO277f US Security Policy in the Middle East Explores US security policy in the Middle East over the last century and in the present. Introduces students to the way the US has defined strategic interest. Investigates the overlap of security policy and broader diplomatic, economic and cultural dimensions of the US relationship with the countries of the region. Taught by a Professor of the Practice of International Relations who served as the United States National Security Council senior director for the Middle East and North Africa.

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

SIMON

GO281f 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. JACOBS, LEVAN, MAYKA, SHEA

GO297 Writers against the State: Reading the Political Novel in Prague Reveals the role of literature as a form of political protest in a city with a rich tradition of writers against the state: Prague, Czech Republic. Students will read, discuss, and write about major Czech literary artists such as Milan Kundera and Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright who led the 1989 Velvet Revolution against communism. Classes will be combined with excursions to local sites relevant to the course material, such as the Vaclav Havel Library, Café Slavia, and Pankrác Prison.

Global Innovation course. Three credit hours.

L, U. BABIKA

GO297A Data for the People?: Government Data in the Age of Open There are many different reactions to the 2010s trend of open government data: Some view it as a key driver of innovation, others as a check on government, and still others as a potential threat for overreach or control. In this class, students will learn about the history and current state of the open government data movement, and the different social, political, and technical questions involved in its adoption. Students will also practice basic skills for open government data,
GO312s Suburban Politics
An examination of the political, social, economic, and cultural evolution of American suburbs. Pays close attention to the post-World War II era, looking at historical patterns of suburban development, exclusionary housing policies, racial/ethnic, class, and gender conflicts, demographic shifts, and contemporary theories of suburban politics and governance. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours.  U. LEVAN

GO313 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.

GO314s 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. U. REISERT

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 or 115. Four credit hours. S, U. LEVAN

GO318 Money and Politics
The role of money in the political process and the policy debates on various campaign finance reform alternatives. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours.

GO328s Constitutional Choice and its Consequences: American Political Development
Course about change and continuity in American politics. Topics include the development of various political institutions in the United States (presidency, Congress, state and local government), but also the creation of the welfare state, the administrative state, the carceral state, and other mediating institutions such as the press and public schools. Key themes include the role of the State in shaping citizens, the success and failure of various reform movements, and the role of cultural prejudices in Americas exceptional development. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours. S. JACOBS

GO332 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 and sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours.

GO336 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

GO338 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. Cost is $3,750. Three credit hours. SEAY

GO344 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 for stability in the region. Prerequisite: At least one government course. Four credit hours.
The American Constitution was written in 1787 and has changed little since then. This seminar will examine the strengths and weaknesses of that document in the contemporary context. What no longer fits the needs of the United States in the 21st century? What is worth preserving? Participants will review the creation of the current Constitution, participate in a detailed analysis of the contemporary operation of the institutions and processes it created, identify areas in

Seminar: Reinventing America: A Constitution for the 21st Century

The American Constitution was written in 1787 and has changed little since then. This seminar will examine the strengths and weaknesses of that document in the contemporary context. What no longer fits the needs of the United States in the 21st century? What is worth preserving? Participants will review the creation of the current Constitution, participate in a detailed analysis of the contemporary operation of the institutions and processes it created, identify areas in
need of reform, and offer and justify specific reform proposals. **Prerequisite:** Government 111 or 115.  **Four credit hours.**

**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

**GO423s** Seminar: National Security Decisionmaking  Affords students the opportunity to experience the process of national security policy-making through role-play and intensive interaction mediated by faculty and visitors with extensive White House experience and direct involvement in significant strategic decisions. The course will consist of two parts: The first introduces participants to the national security decision-making process; the second part will consist of two-week modules that focus on events or challenges that necessitate National Security Council meetings in the "real world." These issues will range from acute crises to chronic problems that might develop into a crisis in some plausible future. **Prerequisite:** Senior standing as a government major.  **Four credit hours.**  SIMON

[**GO432**] 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:** Senior standing as a government major.  **Four credit hours.**

**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:** Government 131 and senior standing.  **Four credit hours.**  DENOEUX

[**GO454**] 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.**  I.

**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.**  I.

**GO457s** 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, I.

**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

**GO483Jj** Honors Workshop  **Noncredit.**  MAISEL, REISERT, YODER

**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