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, and (c) the principal theoretical frameworks for understanding the causes of international cooperation and conflict.

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 (as of the Class of 2018) 281 (or an approved equivalent course in another discipline); at least one introductory comparative course (Government 252, 253, 255, 256, or 259) and one other course in comparative politics (so designated in the course list below); 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 government 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 for Government 111. Students are expected to complete one introductory comparative course before taking other courses in comparative politics; normally the introductory comparative course should be taken before the end of sophomore year, especially for those students contemplating study abroad.

Among the courses counted toward the government major, all of the required, introductory 100-level courses and the 400-level course must be taken at Colby, and at least three 200- or 300-level courses (not including independent studies) must be taken at Colby. Students with AP credit who place out of Government 111 must take at least four 200- or 300-level courses at Colby. The paper that fulfills the writing assignment requirement must be submitted to and approved by a member of the Government Department faculty.

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 original research project of 20 pages or more or make a contribution to a group research project judged by the supervising faculty member to be equivalent to a conventional 20-page research paper. The writing project can be a major research paper assigned as part of a course or the product of a freestanding independent study.

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 considering the thesis program should enroll in Government 281 during their sophomore or junior year. 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 cannot be earned for both Government 111 and 115.  Four credit hours.  S.  MACKENZIE, 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 cannot be earned for both Government 111 and 115.  Four credit hours.  S, W1.  MAISEL

[GO116]  News Literacy  An exploration of various news media—traditional newspapers, online news organizations, blogs, network television, cable outlets, and others—seeking to understand how news is gathered and how the media differ in terms of news gathering techniques, emphasis on fairness and reliability, and interpretation.  Three credit hours.

GO118j  Information Use and Misuse: Big Data in America  Examination of “big data” (data collection and mining); how both the American government and businesses utilize our personal, geographic, and behavioral data; and the resulting impact upon our society and government. Overview of the policies and laws that govern big data use, the technologies that make it possible to collect vast amounts of data, and its applied use in the public and private spheres. Considers big data’s impact on our everyday lives and our experience of privacy in America, and what it means to be information literate in the 21st century. Discussion-based. Students develop critical thinking and writing skills, and the understanding of policies, terminologies, and concepts needed to examine the topic and related case-studies.  Does not count toward the Government major.  Three credit hours.  KUGELMEYER

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.  HATCH, RODMAN

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

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

GO211s  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.  MACKENZIE

[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  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.  Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115,
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.  REISERT

[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.

[GO226]  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. Previously offered as Government 298 (Spring 2013).  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.

GO234j  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. Previously offered as Government 297 (2014).  Three credit hours.  HIGGINS

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.  Four credit hours.  S.  RODMAN

[GO243]  Politics of Subnational Culture and Identity in Europe  Examines the varieties of regional identities, social movements, and political parties in Europe. Explores questions such as, "Where are regional identities the strongest and why?" Considers whether the rise of regional movements and the devolution of power in many countries challenge the primacy of the nation-state in Europe. To what extent is the European Union a "Europe of the regions," where subnational political actors can find new opportunities to shape the political agenda? Counts toward the comparative politics requirement.  Three credit hours.

GO245f  Memory and Politics  Listed as Global Studies 245.  Four credit hours.  S, W2.  YODER

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. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement.  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 comparative politics introductory course requirement.  

Four credit hours.  DENOEUX

GO253s  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 comparative politics introductory course requirement.  

Four credit hours.  MAYKA

[GO255]  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 comparative politics introductory course requirement.  

Four credit hours.  S, I.  HATCH

GO256f  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 comparative politics introductory course requirement.  

Four credit hours.  S.  DENOEUX

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 policy-making 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 comparative politics introductory course requirement.  

Four credit hours.  S.  HATCH

GO263f  Democracy Assistance  An introduction to the field of democracy assistance, taught from a practitioner's perspective. Students are exposed to key concepts, analytical frameworks, and approaches used by donors. Attention is paid to the challenges and pitfalls and to what may be learned from the successes and failures encountered by development professionals. Debates over the legitimacy, effectiveness, and evolving role of U.S. foreign policy are examined. Also explores the dynamics of democratic transitions, sources of authoritarian resilience, and the complex relationships (and tradeoffs) between democracy and development, peace-building and democracy-building, and democracy assistance and counter-extremism policies. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement.  

Four credit hours.  S.  DENOEUX

[GO266]  German Politics  Examination of the political system of the Federal Republic of Germany. Explores the German political parties, elections, leaders, and policy debates. Students participate in a simulation of the negotiations to form a coalition government. Allows students to compare the German and American electorates, election campaign processes, and electoral and party systems. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement.  

Four credit hours.  S.  HATCH

[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.
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). Previously offered as Government 298.  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.  Four credit hours.  Q.  MAISEL, MAYKA, REISERT

GO298s  Elections Through Music, Art, and Film  The novelist and historian H.G. Wells wrote that, "democracy's ceremonial, its feast, its great function, is the election." We will investigate the complex interplay between elections and music, art, and film. How might campaign subjects be revealed and reflected in jingles, hymns, and lyrics? Can art reflect powerful election themes? Can the cinema contribute to our relationship to elections—both their virtues and limitations? We will wrestle with these and a host of other exciting, complex questions in this novel class.  Four credit hours.  S.  SHEA

GO313f  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.  REISERT

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.  REISERT

GO316fs  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.  CORRADO

[GO317]  The Policymaking Process  The policymaking process, including agenda setting, program formulation, consensus building, implementation, and the use and misuse of policy analysis. Special attention to methods and techniques of policy evaluation. Primary focus on policymaking at the national level in the U.S. government.  Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115.  Four credit hours.

[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.

GO320f  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.  MACKENZIE

GO332f  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

[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. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Prerequisite: Government 131. Four credit hours. I.

[GO344] Post-Communist Transformations Examines the rise and fall of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe. Offers analysis of the post-communist political, economic, and social transformation processes. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Prerequisite: At least one government course. Four credit hours.

GO354s 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. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Prerequisite: Government 131. Four credit hours. YODER

GO355s 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. HATCH

[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). Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours. I.

[GO357] 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? Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Four credit hours.

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. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Prerequisite: Government 252 Four credit hours. DENOEUX

GO359f 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. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Prerequisite: Government 131 or 171. Four credit hours. YODER

[GO364] 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 264. Counts toward the comparative politics requirement. Prerequisite: Government 131 or 253 or Latin American Studies 173 or 174, and sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours. S, I.

[GO413] Seminar: Policy Advocacy Intensive study of selected public-policy issues and the techniques of policy advocacy; emphasis on oral presentations of policy positions. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Four credit hours.

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:
GO417f 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. MAISEL

GO421 Seminar: Prospects for Political Reform What are the major political and policy challenges facing the United States in the decades ahead? This seminar examines some of the social, economic, technological, and political changes that will shape American politics in the years ahead to better understand the opportunities and challenges that face the nation. Policy and political issues will be examined through both individual and collaborative research designed to identify areas in need of reform and a future policy agenda. Prerequisite: Senior standing. Four credit hours.

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

GO454s 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. HATCH

GO455 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. HATCH

GO456s 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. MAYKA

GO474 Seminar: Democracy and Education in Republic and Emile A detailed examination of two masterpieces of political philosophy, Plato’s Republic and Rousseau’s Emile, with specific attention to issues of democratic theory and the philosophy of education. Students will be expected to develop their own philosophical arguments based on careful readings of the primary texts in conjunction with readings drawn from relevant secondary literatures. Written work includes weekly response papers, two short papers, and a major original research paper that satisfies the Government Department’s paper requirement. One of the short papers and the final project will be presented formally. Four credit hours.

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. MACKENZIE, MAYKA, SEAY

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