GOVERNMENT

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

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, as well as the 200-level comparative politics courses, are normally limited to 40 students, other 200- and 300-level courses to 25 students, and 400-level courses to 16 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, SHEA

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, 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.  L, W1.

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 novelist's 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.  BABI

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, I.  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

[GO211]  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.

[GO214]  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. Has the electoral process in the United States been so warped that it no longer reflects the will of the people? Has it ever reflected the common good?  Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115, and sophomore or higher standing.  Four credit hours.

GO223fs  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

GO226f  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 in this course is to explore the nexus of the theoretical role assigned to the mass media and its present character.  

Four credit hours.  

S. SHEA

GO227s  Social Movements  From the U.S. civil rights movement to the Tea Party to indigenous movements in Bolivia, social movements can bring lasting political change to countries that upend the status quo. In this course, we will address questions central to social movement activists and researchers: How does a social movement start? Why do some campaigns become social movements while others do not? What strategies, tactics, and messages can social movements deploy? What sustains a social movement? Why do some social movements reach their goals while others do not? This course will explore these questions by analyzing contemporary and historical social movements from the United States and Latin America.  

Four credit hours.  

U. MAYKA

[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.  

S, U. LEVAN

GO236s  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. RODMAN

GO238s  Politics of War Crime Tribunals  Examines the politics of establishing tribunals to hold individuals criminally accountable for genocide and other atrocities 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 Milošević trial, the Pinochet extradition hearing, and issues surrounding Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib. Prerequisite: Government 131.  

Four credit hours.  

S. RODMAN

GO241f  Politics of Public Policy in the United States  Introduction to the process and institutions of public making in the United States. Students consider the political process by which policies are made, and consider the institutions that are responsible for designing, implementing, and evaluating policy at the federal, state, and local levels; these include the bureaucracy, Congress, think tanks, and private corporations. Students will consider the role of cost-benefit evaluation, nudging, quasi-market competition, and privatization in recent debates. Topics include, government finance, education policy, income maintenance programs, and health policy. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115.  

Four credit hours.  

S. JACOBS

[GO245]  Memory and Politics  Listed as Global Studies 245.  

Three credit hours.  

S, W2.

[GO245J]  Memory and Politics  Listed as Global Studies 245J.  

Three credit hours.  

S, W2.

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. S. DENOEUX

GO253fs 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. S. DENOEUX

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. MAYKA

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, I. SEAY

GO259f Introduction to Politics of the Middle East 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. YODER

GO260s 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. Four credit hours. S. BABIK

[GO263] 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.

[GO264] 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.
[GO266] 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.

GO271s 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.  REISERT

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

GO274s United States and the Middle East  Explores US policy toward the Middle East from the founding of republic to the present. We will think through the way the US has defined strategic interest both globally and in a Middle Eastern context, and trace the overlap of security policy and broader diplomatic, economic and cultural dimensions of the US involvement in the region. We will examine regional perceptions of the US and the attitudes of US policy makers toward the peoples of the region. This course will enable students to think critically about US policy and acquire the background for advanced coursework in International relations and/or Middle Eastern studies.  Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115.  Four credit hours.  SIMON

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 in the government major.  Four credit hours.  Q.  JACOBS, MAYKA

[GO312] 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.

GO313s 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

[GO314] 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

GO315f 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

GO318s 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.  CORRADO
[GO328] 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.

[GO330] Law and Lawlessness in the United States About the law and its limits in contemporary American politics. Topics include imprisonment of public officials, the delegation of governing authority, the legal violation of citizen rights, and government policies that delegitimize political opposition. Students will gain practical experience in casework and legal theory by applying their understanding of lawlessness to timely and relevant cases. By the end of this course, students will have a deeper appreciation of the laws social foundations, including the conditions under which the law improves or intensifies pre-existing social, political, and economic inequities. Previously offered as GO397 (Jan Plan 2020). Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115. Three credit hours. S, U. 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.

[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.

[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.

[GO354f] 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 or 259. 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.

[GO356f] 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. HATCH

[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? Global lab. 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. Prerequisite: Government 252 Four credit hours. DENOEUX
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.

GO420f Seminar: Controversies in Contemporary Electoral Politics For nearly 200 years, Americans have pinned the democratic character of their system on elections. In many ways, we have become an election-crazed nation, ever-hoping that the next grand contest or the next great candidate will save the day. But tectonic shifts abound - changes that are transforming the very nature of the process. From the rise of fear-centered partisanship, new limits on voter access to the polls, the omnipotence of social media, declining standards of objectivity, foreign interference, the reemergence of the partisan press, the growing weight of elites and more, elections - are transforming before our eyes. This seminar will explore these and a host of critically important topics. Prerequisite: Government 111 or 115 and senior standing as a government major. Four credit hours.

GO421 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.

GO423 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.

**GO432f 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

**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. 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

**GO483Jj Honors Workshop** Noncredit. REISERT, SEAY, SHEA

**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