84-110 A: Foundations of Political Economy
Professor Daniel Hansen/ Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:50AM / 9 units

Political Economics studies the interplay between economics and politics. Politicians, for example, may deviate from welfare-maximizing policies due to political pressures. Conversely, the economic and political consequences of policy decisions can shape the choices of future governments. The course will provide a broad, accessible introduction to the key issues in micro and macroeconomics, international economics, and financial markets, emphasizing those most valuable to understanding the interaction of politics and economics. The course will examine core economic concepts to illuminate how economies work, what constraints governments face, and what the welfare implications are of policy choices. From there, the course will expand to illustrate the political and ideological influences on monetary policy and central banking, the political factors shaping economic crises, the international factors influencing the implementation of domestic polices, and political influences on economic integration.

84-250 A: Writing for Political Science and Policy
Professor John Chin/ Monday and Wednesday 3-4:20PM / 9 units

The aim of this course is to equip students with the essential skills necessary to successfully write academic research papers and theses in political science, and professional documents such as policy memos, op-eds, political speeches, briefs, and PowerPoint slides. Students thus learn fundamentals of writing for political science and public policy. Key topics include principles of rhetoric, evidence-based argumentation, citation, concision, and framing. Students also learn how to cite properly using citation management software EndNote and construct powerful tables and figures using quantitative datasets. This is a writing-intensive course in which students practice writing, edit peers’ writing, read about how to write, and analyze examples of stellar writing. A final project entails writing a draft senior thesis proposal.

84-265 A: Political Science Research Methods
Professor Dan Silverman/ Tuesday and Thursday 9-10:20AM / 9 units

This course provides an overview of research methods in political science. Students will learn to think like social scientists and develop skills required by the discipline. The course emphasizes the nature of causality and how causal claims can be made in the social sciences. The goal for the class is for students think critically about the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches and identify the methodological tools that are most appropriate for answering different research questions. Furthermore, students will increase their ability to consume political science research from a variety of subfields while also learning to design and present their own research.

84-275 A: Comparative Politics
Professor Ignacio Arana/ Tuesday and Thursday 12-1:20PM / 9 units

This course is an introduction to the subfield of Political Science called Comparative Politics. Scholars in this subfield use comparative methods to study and compare domestic politics across countries. In this course, we aim to learn about how political systems differ, discuss why they differ and explore the consequences of such variation. The course is divided into four sections. In the first part, we will examine the main theories and methods used to conduct research in the subfield, and discuss the development and consolidation of the modern state. In the second section, we will examine political regimes, including variation among democracies and nondemocracies. In the third unit, we will study some of the countries’ central political institutions. We will compare presidentialism to parliamentaryism, and examine legislatures, electoral systems, and political parties. In the final segment, we will scrutinize political mobilization and conflict. We will discuss interest groups, nationalism, social movements, protests, populism, clientelism, revolutions, civil wars, terrorism, and globalization. Throughout the course, the discussion will focus mainly on the Americas and Europe, but not exclusively. Students will be required to apply the comparative methods discussed in the course to make in-class presentations about different countries.
84-308 A: Political Economy of Latin America
Professor Ignacio Arana/ Tuesday and Thursday 3-4:20PM/ 9 units

For most of its history, Latin America has been home to political and economic experiments. Revolutions, coups, military dictatorships, democratic and authoritarian regimes have coexisted with dramatic oscillations on economic policies regarding the size and functions of the state and the role of the market. Governments have experimented with a range of strategies to attain development, using the region as a laboratory of politico-economic theories. In this course, we will examine how the complex relationship between politics and economic policies helps us to explain the current level and range of economic development in the region. The course is divided into three main sections. The first part will focus on Latin American history from its conquest to the end of the First World War (1492-1918). The second portion will cover from the aftermath of the First World War to the end of the Cold War. The third segment will center on the macro processes that have characterized the region since 1990, with an emphasis on the existing challenges to democratic and economic consolidation. In a final paper, students will discuss how current events connect to the region's historical complex marriage between politics and economics. Students will be encouraged to submit their papers to the CIRP Journal (https://www.cmu.edu/ir/cirp-journal), Panoramas (http://www.panoramas.pitt.edu) or similar academic outlets.

84-322 A: Nonviolent Conflict and Revolution
Professor John Chin/ Monday and Wednesday 1:30-2:50 PM/ 9 units

Conflict and revolution are usually associated with armed struggle and violence. But over the course of the last century, nonviolent conflict has become an increasingly prominent source of institutional change and political revolution around the world, from Gandhi's salt march to Filipino "people power" to the post-Soviet "color revolutions" to the Arab Spring. What are the causes, strategies, tactics, dynamics, and consequences of nonviolent conflict, and how do these differ from violent or armed conflict? When and how do unarmed "people power" campaigns topple repressive authoritarian regimes? This course addresses these questions and in the process engages contending theories of power, revolution, and insurgency. The first half of the course introduces students to key concepts, theories, and historical patterns of nonviolent conflict. In the second half of the course, the class analyzes case studies of landmark nonviolent campaigns, both successful and failed. By the end, students will be expected to write an original 10 page analysis of an historical or ongoing nonviolent conflict.

84-323 A: War and Peace in the Contemporary Middle East
Professor Dan Silverman/ Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:50 PM/ 9 units

This course examines the drivers of war and peace in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The course is structured around five major types of armed conflict that plague the region today - civil wars, insurgent and terrorist campaigns, enduring rivalries, regional disputes, and external interventions. We will delve into the theories of what fuels - and what resolves - each of these types of conflict, while exploring cases around the region such as the disputes in Libya, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Turkey, as well as broader clashes like the Arab Israeli conflict, Shi'a-Sunni conflict, and recent great power interventions in the region. The course will rely on a mixture of research articles and books as well as more diverse materials such as war reporting, films, and memoirs in order to give students a holistic understanding of these issues.

84-325 A: Contemporary American Foreign Policy
Professor Dani Nedal/ Monday and Wednesday 3-4:20PM/ 9 units

This course provides a survey of American foreign policy since World War I. We will cover topics such as America's entry into the Great War, the League of Nations and America's role in global self-determination movements, the perennial battles between isolationism and internationalism, the creation of a US-led world order after 1945, Cold War nuclear strategy and nuclear nonproliferation, the modern domestic politics of foreign policy, the international dimensions of the civil rights movement, US covert action, the challenges of managing unipolarity, and contemporary issues of climate change, humanitarian intervention, terrorism, and international economic policy. This is an interdisciplinary course that marries American, Diplomatic, and Global History with International Relations and Political Science. We will make some use of primary sources and data analysis. A good grasp of 20th century American and world history, and some familiarity with IR theory are not requirements but will prove helpful. By the end of the semester, students should have acquired a broad understanding of the most important foreign policy events of the last century and have the tools to analyze foreign policy decision-making.
Vociferous debates along the left-right divide are the defining feature of US foreign policy. They were part of the up-tempo in Washington as the nation assumed global-power status in the twentieth century. It is no surprise then that US involvement in numerous international conflicts and wars in this era is made in the cauldron of contending political beliefs. The point is not just that these debates occur, but that they constitute the contours of American political thought on international relations, and these debates shape major foreign policy outcomes. Further still, these debates influence both domestic political alignments as well as coalitions among nations. Through reading original texts by theorists, statesmen, and policy analysts, this course takes a close look at the enduring conversations that shape US foreign policy.

The person elected president of the United States immediately assumes many formal and informal roles including, but not limited to, head of the Executive Branch, diplomat-in-chief, commander-in-chief, leader of party, and legislator-in-chief. Yet the president must fulfill these roles within the confines of a three-branch government and the limitations of power placed upon the office; a literal catch-22. This course therefore seeks to understand how the presidency developed to acquire its many different roles, and how the holders of the office must maneuver the intricacies and challenges of the U.S. government to influence policy and effect change. The first part of the course will study the development of the presidency from 1789 to present, interweaving the roles and responsibilities of the office as they formed and morphed throughout the course of history. The second part will survey different areas of public policy to see how the presidency has played a role in those areas through the examination of relevant cases. The course will provide students with a deep understanding of the presidency, helping them to appreciate the inherent challenges and opportunities faced by those who dare to hold the office.

Space systems contribute a great deal to America's security, prosperity, and quality of life. This course examines how space-based services provide critical support to military and intelligence operations and contribute to national security more broadly. The course is designed to investigate several interrelated themes, weaving together relevant aspects of technology, strategy, and policy. The material is approached from both functional and historical perspectives, beginning with the basics of military and intelligence space operations and ending with an examination of the space- and cyber-related technical, strategic, and political challenges facing the nation today and in the foreseeable future.

This course provides a forum for students to consider the relationship between key emerging technologies and the law. In the first half of the course, each session will be dedicated to discussing the legal implications of a particular emerging technology, including autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and blockchain technology, stem cell therapy, quantum computing, and 3D printing. In the second half of the course, we will turn to overarching themes at the intersection of law and technology, including emerging technologies and the law of armed conflict, policing and surveillance, intellectual property, and privacy. Throughout the course, students will be asked to consider whether existing legal frameworks are sufficient to address issues related to emerging technologies.

This course examines underlying and emerging technologies and policies associated with cyber war and cyber threats. The technological concepts reviewed in this course include but are not limited to the internet, networks and sensors, and trends associated with "hyperconnectivity" (e.g., The Internet of Things). The course will review history, international policy, military doctrine, and lessons learned from the use of cyber operations and cyberspace in conflicts. The principle objective of this course is to introduce students to the technological and policy variables that affect the ability to manage cyber conflicts.
There are many forms of political violence but not all are created equal. Some, like terrorism, are a tactic while others, like insurgency, are a strategy. How important is it to define terrorism and insurgency? What are the differences and similarities between them? This course will go into depth to analyze both terrorism and insurgency and their various manifestations. The course will provide a historical overview of how terrorism and insurgency have evolved over time, while also focusing on groups, methods, ideologies and organizational structures. Is the terrorism conducted by Salafist groups like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State significantly different than that perpetrated by ethno-nationalist groups like the Provisional Irish Republican Army and Tamil Tigers? What are the best methods to counter-terrorism and how successful have states been—historically and more recently—at combating the threat posed by terrorism and insurgency?

This course will examine the role that social media and technology have had on conflict and governance over the past decade. Interconnectedness has expanded dramatically and continues to expand, not only within coastal cities but also between them and their hinterlands, from city to city, and between home populations and global networks, including diaspora populations. The Arab Spring uprisings were significantly influenced by the use of cell phones, social media, and text-messaging as organizing tools. But it is not only protesters that are harnessing the power of social media and emerging technologies—insurgent groups like the Islamic State have been able to use Twitter, YouTube, Telegram and other social media platforms to their advantage. Apps have been used to both recruit and fund raise for terrorist groups, while individuals living on the other side of the world are radicalized by virulent ideologies spread through the Internet. The proliferation of so-called "fake news" and the ubiquity of social media has introduced an entirely new variable into the study of conflict and relations between individuals, small groups, non-state actors, and nation-states.

This course analyzes decision-making by the United States Congress. The course examines legislative behavior by focusing on the way Congress is organized (institutional and constitutional structure) and the ways legislators, voters, and various other parties interact (strategic constraints). Students will both learn the legislative process and explore the influence of norms, rules, expectations, incentives and, perhaps most important of all, the power of the electorate in influencing legislative outcomes and policy. Elections, voting decisions, committee assignments, political party power, and intra-branch relations across the Federal government are some of the topics into which we will delve. This course does not require any prior knowledge of the U.S. Congress, and there are no prerequisites for the course.

The Policy Forum course takes a critical look at decision making in domestic politics and US foreign policy. It does so through weekly roundtable discussions with a diverse set of thought leaders. Based on intellectually significant essays that students are expected to read in advance of each class, these discussions give students an opportunity to ask probing questions about the three branches of the US government, media, embassies, advocacy groups, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations. This course seeks to help students understand the responsibilities and activities that leaders and decision makers carry out on behalf of their organizations. Students are instructed in how to confidently and respectfully ask critical questions of those shaping policy. The term "roundtabling" is used to describe submitting an issue for critical discussion among relevant stakeholders. Knowing how to direct a roundtable is a significant element in the professional development of anyone interested in taking part in the policy arena, and this course helps students hone this important skill. In requiring students to read important essays related to each class session and then step back from discussions with leaders to write analytical essays, this course teaches students how to develop strong arguments based on solid logic and credible evidence, an essential component in making democracy work.