DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

Spring 2022

All Politics Department courses are open to all students who meet the prerequisites. For information on requirements for any Politics major or minor, please email Patricia Rodriguez, Chair of the Politics Department, [prodriguez@ithaca.edu](mailto:prodriguez@ithaca.edu).

**POLT 10100-01, 02 U.S. POLITICS SS LA 1b h**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan Arroyo**, Muller 316, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

OBJECTIVES: Institutions, processes, and cultural/ideological roots of U.S. politics. We begin by studying a framework of ideologies that will help us to understand the political-

economic institutions that have evolved to reflect the conditions of U.S. society. Then move to understanding the economic structures of the US that have shaped, and been shaped by the political system. These provide the foundation for understanding the major institutions of US politics: Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, judiciary, parties, interest groups, media, and the electoral process. Throughout, we will constantly ask: how democratic is this place? What are your criteria for measuring democracy? Students will be invited to consider how money shapes effective citizenship. Analysis of specific policies may include social security, abortion, health care, taxes, civil liberties, foreign policy, etc.

STUDENTS: Open to all students.

FORMAT AND STYLE: Discussion/lecture

REQUIREMENTS: Readings, active participation in class discussions, 2-3 short papers (3-5 pages), 1 medium paper (5-7 pages), 1 final paper (7-10 pages)

**POLT 10100-03, 04 U.S. POLITICS GE:1 Self & Society, GE h: Historical Perspective, (ICC) - Social Sciences**

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Carlos Figueroa,** [https://faculty.ithaca.edu/cfigueroa](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffaculty.ithaca.edu%2Fcfigueroa&data=04%7C01%7Ckchatman%40ithaca.edu%7C08e568afd5b948e69cb608d988f058e5%7Cfa1ac8f65e5448579f0b4aa422c09689%7C0%7C0%7C637691388137877498%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tzCHX%2BzeSksuyM2ZxqoHrXmjTj73vQVLILxHANFQsko%3D&reserved=0)

ENROLLMENT:  25 each section

PREREQUISITES:  None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This introductory discussion-based course explores a) the development of the U.S. political system, b) the values it is rooted in, c) how it works, d) how politics and policy intersect within it, and e) the system's impact upon individuals and groups alike. We focus on the historical and present power struggles concerning national identity, morality, ethics, civic culture, political affiliation, the role of media, the competing national institutions, race, class, and other ascriptive identities, surveillance capitalism, and policy development within the context of a representative and neoliberal U.S. democratic capitalist system.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion-based (with short framing lectures); group work; guest speakers (ZOOM); films/documentaries

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Bi-Weekly reflective journal entries; in-class exercises/debates; two short research papers

**POLT 12200-01 Politics and Society** LA SS TPJ TQSF

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Patricia Rodríguez**

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This comparative/global politics introductory course explores the impact of social forces and societal dynamics on the politics of diverse countries, as well as the influence of politics and the state on society. We will examine how and to what extent political institutions, individual and collective political action, and historical circumstances are capable of shaping political and social developments in different countries and regions of the world. The key questions to be examined in the course are these: Are there different versions of democracy, why? Why/when do democracies emerge but also breakdown? Who has power, and why is state power often wielded in repressive manners in different types of political systems? What role do international actors play in reconstructing governments, and with what consequences internally and globally? Are there resistances to this role of international actors, and why; what impact does citizen activism have in global and national political and economic issues, particularly conflict resolution, democratic rule, migration issues and climate change issues?

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, Lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, participation

**POLT 12800-01, 02 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g;**

**ICC: Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice**

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Chip Gagnon**, Muller 324, Ext. 4-1103

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We examine and discuss issues of security ranging from security of the state to security of individuals. Issues include the future of war, terrorism, the global economy, nationalism, ethnic and religious conflict, and the role of the media in how we think about the international. We also study how different perspectives lead us to see different worlds, looking specifically at realism, liberalism, global humanism, and theories of identity. *This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, films.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Attendance and participation in class discussions; readings for each class; three take-home exam essays.

**POLT 12900-01  EXPLORATIONS IN GLOBAL & COMPARATIVE STUDIES** SS LA 1b, g; ICC Social Sciences; Theme: Identities; Theme: Power & Justice  
3 Credits  
INSTRUCTOR: **Peyi Soyinka-Airewele**, 314 Muller, ext. 4-3508  
ENROLLMENT: 20  
PREREQUISITES: None  
COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course examines critical global issues, including the nature and impact of globalization; the role of international institutions such as the United Nations and World Trade Organization; dynamics of representation, culture and identity formation; human rights and the protection of human security in a competitive marketplace; and the dilemmas of sovereignty, militarism and the struggle for a just peace. Students will assess some national and international policies and explore policy alternatives, collective responses, and responsibilities. The course utilizes country case studies, international simulations, literature, and film and emphasizes global awareness and critical thinking. It will provide fundamental analytical frames through which students can address current debates on the global future.  
COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, and collaborative work.COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, active participation, presentations, tests, essays, and projects.

**POLT 14100-01, 02 Power: Race, Sex, and Class (also counts for Women and Gender Studies)**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is power? How is it acquired and maintained? Why do individuals and groups comply with or resist power? How is it distributed along the lines of race, gender, and class? How do we reproduce relations of power in our daily lives? This course introduces some of the major theoretical perspectives on power, reading some of the foundational texts of political theory with the interdisciplinary works of critical-race, feminist, and socialist scholars. Treating intersectionality as a method of analysis, we explore how racism, patriarchy, and capitalism relate to one another. We problematize their impact on the contemporary practices of citizenship, democracy, violence, and security. We also discuss to what extent these “-isms” dominate our own political imagination, and how we contribute to power relations that we problematize.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussions, occasional lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation

**POLT 14200-01, 02 IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES** SS LA 1a, 1b

(ICC) Humanities, Social Sciences, Power and Justice, World of Systems

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Dietz, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is your idea of the “good life” or a “perfect world”? How do you think we might achieve it, and why? Where do your ideas about the world and your own life come from? How do your individual beliefs relate to broader systems of thought we call ideologies? This course requires self-reflection on these questions as we explore ideological perspectives on political, social and economic life. Through readings, film, art, music and your own observations, the course focuses on key political ideas and the ideological debates over their meaning and practice. We examine concepts such as freedom, equality, democracy, human nature, security, order, authority, community and nation. We consider how these and other political ideas developed historically, why certain ideas endure, and why they remain important to understanding politics today. In doing so we also pay close attention to how political ideas reflect, reinforce, and challenge relations of power, especially in terms of class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. Instead of thinking of ideologies in abstract term, we pay special attention to how ideologies shape and reflect our views of everyday life.

The course encourages critical reflection on where your views about the world come from, and which ideas you take for granted. Encounters with views and theories different from our own help bring to light our unconscious assumptions and also what is distinctive about our political views. Ideological perspectives the course explores include liberalism and conservatism (and their “neo” variants), socialism, anarchism, and fascism.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: mostly discussion, occasional lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:  thorough class preparation, active participation, weekly informal writing about course materials, midterm and final essays

**POLT 14300-01 UNDERSTANDING CAPITALISM LA SS**

3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR**: ***Naeem Inayatullah***

**ENROLLMENT**: 25

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: Exploration of the role of class conflict in the making of contemporary political and social life. Application of theoretical and historical materials to assess capitalism's complex relationship to such ideals as progress, freedom, equality, individuality, and justice. Understanding the personal, regional, national, and global scope of capitalism.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE**: willingness to accept alternative teaching methods.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**: Plenty of reading, writing, and discussion

**POLT 14400-01, 02 Global Political Thought**

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR**: Evgenia Ilieva**, 311 Muller, ext. 4-7092

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the global context within which contemporary sociopolitical relations unfold. It brings together a wide array of texts and thinkers who, in different ways, have all engaged in careful and thoughtful analyses of a range of issues that are integral to the study of political thought: race and the enduring legacies of colonialism; exile, displacement, and the fracturing of identity; the relationship between colonizer and colonized; the meaning of freedom and historical struggles for liberation and human dignity; the role of global violence as a catalyst for political and cultural change, as well as its effects on the lives of ordinary individuals. In exploring these themes we will pursue three main objectives: (1) to understand the constitutive role that colonialism, racism, and dispossession have played in shaping core ideas about order, government, justice, power, authority, historiography, civilizational difference, individuality, and freedom in western social and political thought; (2) to analyze how these ideas have been discussed, challenged, and reimagined across various national and geographical boundaries; (3) to learn how to critically compare, contrast, and put into productive dialogue different worldviews and perspectives.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, reading, four short papers.

**POLT 19501-01 FOOD AND WATER: CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABILITY**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan M. Arroyo**, Muller 308, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 25 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

At some level, we may think we know what it means to eat and drink sustainably. This course will challenge prevailing conceptions by examining different, and often conflicting, definitions of sustainability. Even if we do decide to eat and drink differently, we face challenges in changing individual behavior and social patterns in more sustainable directions: Political systems privilege certain ideas and also specific interests. Economic structures and patterns limit our choices. Anthropological, cultural, and sociological backgrounds shape our options. Biological and psychological predispositions affect our ability to eat and drink sustainably. Students will consider the “simple” acts of eating and drinking from all of these perspectives. Students will be challenged to understand the potential for changing patterns of food consumption and production, examining their own choices, their communities, and the socio-political system in which we are embedded. ICC THEME: Quest for Sustainability; Social Science Perspective

PREREQUISITES: Open to all students.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion/lecture; expert presentations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Readings, active participation in class discussions, readings reactions, research and reaction papers; A-F.

**POLT 30600-01 U.S. Foreign Policy**

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Don Beachler**

ENROLLMENT: 24

PREREQUISITES: 3 courses in Social Sciences

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will investigate several topics in U.S. Foreign Policy. We will explore a variety of conceptions of the role of the United States in the world and examine these theories as applied in selected historical circumstances over the past century. Much of the course will be devoted to a study of a few issues and topics. The subjects to be examined in depth include the sources of the events of September 11, 2001, the Bush Doctrine and the Iraq war, the foreign policies of Barack Obama and Donald Trump, the debate over the implications of the rise of China for US foreign policy, and the response or non-response of American policy makers to instances of genocide. We will also discuss current events as they relate to foreign policy.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture/Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: 3 papers.

**POLT 32000-01, ST: US Politics:  *Politics of U.S. Citizenship***SS LA

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR:  **Carlos Figueroa**, [https://faculty.ithaca.edu/cfigueroa](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffaculty.ithaca.edu%2Fcfigueroa&data=04%7C01%7Ckchatman%40ithaca.edu%7C08e568afd5b948e69cb608d988f058e5%7Cfa1ac8f65e5448579f0b4aa422c09689%7C0%7C0%7C637691388137877498%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tzCHX%2BzeSksuyM2ZxqoHrXmjTj73vQVLILxHANFQsko%3D&reserved=0)

ENROLLMENT:  15

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore Standing (or instructor permission).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  This course explores the following question:  "What does it mean to be an American?" from many perspectives (historical, theoretical, critical, and global) by examining how citizenship is conceptualized, lived, and experienced in the United States by different people under various circumstances.

We pay close attention to the articulation of citizenship at the confluence of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and religion as so-called "categories of difference" that often inform, if not structure, who can become an "American" and when certain political, social, and civic rights ought to be recognized and protected. We consider how these "categories of difference" generally relate to the politics over immigration, migration, international travel, and the U.S. border.

 Throughout the semester, we explore how national (and international) institutions – Congress, presidency, Supreme Court, the Census Bureau, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and even local governments – shape debates over civic status, political community, and national identity.

Last, we look at the impact that developing technologies, transnationalism, multiculturalism, globalization, and capitalism have on the meanings of U.S. citizenship while illuminating the shifting civic dimensions of political membership today and into the future.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE**:** Discussion-based (with short framing lectures); group work; guest speakers (ZOOM); films/documentaries  
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**:** Bi-Weekly reflective journal entries; in-class exercises; mid-term essay and final research paper

**POLT 33100-01 Latin American Politics** INBG, LSCI, LXME, SS

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Patricia Rodríguez**

ENROLLMENT: 18

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to issues in contemporary Latin American Politics. It examines the historical events, internal political and socio-economic structures and power relations, and behaviors of national and international actors influencing Latin American countries’ politics and societies. The course will pay particular attention to discerning similar and different patterns, opportunities and constraints (i.e., coup d'etats, political violence, racism, class conflict, revolutions) on political and economic development in the region, through in-depth focus and comparisons of specific countries (Bolivia, Mexico, El Salvador) and also regionally (Central America, Caribbean). What role have race, ethnicity, culture, class, imperialism, gender, and ideology played in forming, perpetuating, or changing power dynamics in the region, and specifically within the different countries being studied? How are indigenous and/or other social movements and states drawing on diverse set of tactics, identity formation and policy approaches to confront the political dominance of elites or state actors in these countries, and to what effect and with what lessons in each case?

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture/Discussion projects/papers/participation

**POLT 34003-01 ST: MILITARIZATION OF EVERYDAY LIFE**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Kelly Dietz**, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITE:  Sophomore standing

OBJECTIVES: From fashion trends, movies and video games to drones, the DREAM Act, privatized militaries and military basing, this course examines the ways in which things, people and social relations become objects of militarization. We pay special attention to how and why this is embraced by some and resisted by others. The course takes a broad view of militarization as an everyday process in order to better understand our relationships to state power as individuals, citizens, and as members of local and global communities. Doing so also allows us to gain a richer understanding of the range of actors, relations and processes that constitute “international relations.” The course begins by looking at some of the central ways American culture and institutions are militarized. We then broaden our scope to explore how these typically taken-for-granted processes intersect with the militarization of relations globally. Throughout the course, we explore how and why militarization plays out differently for different people, particularly in terms of gender, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality and nationality. We critically examine the processes that give rise to and sustain militarization—and the ways in which we are all involved in the militarization of everyday life.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:  thorough class preparation, active participation, weekly informal responses about course materials, midterm and final essays

**POLT 34005-01 ST: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan Arroyo**, Muller 308, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Three courses in social science or the equivalent

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  This course studies international organizations that have emerged over time to pursue solutions to cross-national problems, and help to provide rules and structures to manage inter-state and other kinds of global interactions. This will encompass institutions that bring together states, but also international non-governmental organizations. The first part of the semester will be dedicated to the key concepts (sovereignty, cooperation, norms, order) and theoretical approaches to and criticisms of international organizations. These paradigms differ on several dimensions, including the purpose and value of the institutions, when and how they are formed, how autonomous and effective they are, and how they are organized. We will then use these frameworks to understand a number of specific international organizations. Students will learn not just how these institutions are organized and make decisions, but also how to explain and evaluate the outcomes of their work. Students will learn about the histories of these organizations, and about controversies and challenges surrounding their roles. Throughout the semester we will address different types of issues, including problems of war and peace, the definitions and management of economic development, and questions of environmental protection. A wide variety of organizations may come up in the class, including the United Nations, treaty organizations (like NATO), regional organizations (such as the EU or the African Union), economic organizations (e.g., ILO, IMF) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), such as the International Red Cross and Amnesty International.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion/lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Readings, active participation in class discussions and in a simulated negotiation, 2 medium papers (5-7 pages), 1 final paper (10-12 pages)

**POLT 34008-01 Working Beyond Borders: Identity, Justice and Ethics LA SS**

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Peyi Soyinka-Airewele**, 314 Muller, ext. 4-3508

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: While we celebrate the notion of a globalized world, the continuing hierarchies of power tend to deepen fractures erected along racial, ethnic, cultural, national, religious and socioeconomic borders. Travel across national borders may have increased exponentially, but the movement of citizens has not transformed the world in the positive ways many activists anticipated.

Where do we fit in the quest for sociopolitical change? What are the limits of our ethical global action? Who is qualified to speak for whom and why? Why do we want to work across borders and how do we undertake meaningful collaborative work? This course is designed for students who wish to ‘empower’ themselves with the theoretical, practical and philosophical skills and knowledge to engage issues and cultures outside their usual space of ‘belonging’ without exploiting, misrepresenting or appropriating the voices and struggles of other peoples. Through our readings, discussions and other activities, we will search for liberating frameworks supportive of solidarity and mutuality; collectively recognize, embrace and address challenges; and practice the best methods for navigating our cross-bordered spaces.

Our gaze will be both global and local as we grapple with these border crossing themes: (1) Identity, identification and representation; (2) Development policy and practice; (3) Activism, human rights and justice; (4) Cross border research and; (5) Ethics, collaboration and personal agency. The course is particularly valuable for students contemplating a study abroad program or careers involving international issues and work outside their familiar communities.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, independent and collaborative work, fieldwork.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, full participation in class and web-conferences, presentations, assignments and projects. Open only to those who are interested in the subject matter.

**POLT 35005-01 ST: Writing and Criticism LA SS**3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR***:****Naeem Inayatullah***, Muller 325, Ext. 4-3028  
**ENROLLMENT**: 28  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: Grasping the technical, political, theoretical, and psychodynamic motivations for writing. Understanding the meaning, purpose, and practice of criticism. Students will evaluate their written work via collaborative and individual assessments of others’ work. Together, we will seek to write and criticize well as a means to living meaningfully.  
**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE**: willingness to accept alternative teaching methods.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**: Plenty of reading, writing, and discussion

**POLT 36500-01 ST: Politics of Health**

3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR**: ***Don Beachler***

**ENROLLMENT**: 24

**PREREQUISITES**: 3 courses in Social Sciences

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: The course will explore the evolution of health care policy in the United States. The sources of the extremely high cost of health care in the U.S. will be a major concern of this section of the course. Special focus will be placed on the most recent attempts to expand health insurance coverage in the Clinton and Obama administrations. We will also investigate the intense adversarial reaction that these efforts have encountered from various political and economic interests in the United States. The American health system will be compared on measures of cost, quality, and access with health care systems other wealthy nations.

**COURSE FORMAT/STYLE**: Lecture/Discussion

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**: 3 papers.

**POLT 40102-01 SEMINAR: Nationalism & Ethnic Conflict CP/IR SS LA**

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Chip Gagnon**, Muller 324, Ext. 4-1103

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITE: Junior or Senior standing; and 3 courses in social sciences or equivalent, one of which must be Politics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To what extent is violence motivated by cultural or national identity? This seminar will be focused on violent ethnic / nationalist conflict and right wing populist nationalism. We’ll look at the political, military, and cultural origins of the nation-state and the role of culturally-defined violence in constituting state, national, and group boundaries. Cases will include Yugoslavia/Bosnia, Rwanda, Australia, Europe, the United States and others.

We'll also look at the roots of territorial nationalism, debates on the meaning of borders and belonging in national terms, and the cultural, political, and economic roots of the wave of populist nationalism that has swept the developed world.  *This course counts toward the 400-level course requirement for the Politics major, the Politics major with the International Studies concentration, the Politics minor, and the International Politics minor.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Attendance and active participation in Seminar; reaction papers for each reading; presentation on research topic; final research paper.

**POLT 40103 Seminar: Politics and the Holocaust**

**3 Credits**

INSTRUCTOR: **Don Beachler**

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The major topic of this seminar is why human beings participate in and support horrific acts including mass murder on a genocidal scale. We also discuss why some humans are motivated to do good even when they face dire consequences. Another topic explored in the course is the intense and enduring interest in the Holocaust in the United States.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: write 3-4 short papers. Letter grade.

**POLT 40203-01, Seminar: The Persistence of the Dialectic**

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Evgenia Ilieva**, 311 Muller, ext. 4-7092

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the legacy of Hegel in 20th century political theory, social theory, and philosophy. Among other things, we will discuss Hegel’s views on politics, history, war, love, colonialism, freedom, and domination, paying particular attention to the role of negativity and dialectics in his work. We will focus on the social and political dynamics of recognition – the process through which we come to an understanding of who we are – by examining the foundations of recognition in Hegel’s lord and bondsman (master-slave) dialectic. We will then consider how several prominent contemporary thinkers have inherited, responded to, reinvented, and challenged the Hegelian account of intersubjectivity and the emergence of relations of domination. Alongside readings by Hegel’s critics, we will also study the work of scholars who have turned to Hegel as a source of inspiration for various antiracist and anticolonial projects. Possible readings may include:

C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*

Jessica Benjamin, *The Bonds of Love: Psychoanalysis, Feminism, and the Problem of Domination*

J. Glenn Gray, *The Warriors: Reflections on Men in Battle*

Nietzsche, *On* *the Genealogy of Morals*

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, reading, three take-home papers.

**POLT 40207 - Sem: Applied Political Theory: The Matter of Lives and Deaths**

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Sumru Atuk**

ENROLLMENT: 10

PREREQUISITES: Junior or Senior Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What role does power play in deciding which lives and deaths matter? When does power “make live,” “let die,” and “make die”? What is the role of biopower in contemporary controversies over race, gender, vaccines, healthcare, disability, immigration, settler colonialism, and so forth? This course aims to understand contemporary politics of life and death from the perspective of the theories of biopolitics. We will use texts by Foucault, Agamben, Mbembe, Esposito, and their critiques posed by feminist, critical race, and queer theorists to interpret phenomena such as: (state) racism, (state) terrorism the Black Lives Matter movement, the Death with Dignity movement, femicide, racist and xenophobic violence, environmentalism/climate denialism, HIV, vaccines, immigration policies, and so forth. We will approach political theory as a method of understanding the world and an analytical tool that provides insights to transform the status quo. At the same time, it is vital to acknowledge that we cannot neatly “apply” theories to political phenomena. Contextual knowledges inform, challenge, and improve our theoretical approaches. We will use this productive tension between the field and theory to develop a better understanding of the pressing social and political issues of our time.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Seminar, Discussions

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: papers, in-class presentations, participation, blog posts

**POLT 40300-01**, **TUTORIAL: RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICS, POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**, LA SS 1h

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR**:** **Peyi Soyinka-Airewele**

ENROLLMENT**:** 5

PREREQUISITES**:** Junior/Senior Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION**:** This course is for students who wish to work in a small group to learn some of the valuable basic methods used by scholars, policymakers and practitioners as they examine or respond to issues such as natural disasters, refugee crises, or public health dilemmas; allocate limited resources; determine trends in religious radicalization; or navigate tensions in popular culture. It is particularly useful for those who wish to learn how to improve their research, writing and "employability" skills as they prepare for graduate studies or law school, or consider jobs with nonprofits, consulting firms, in journalism, business, public relations, or the policy sector.

Some of our goals will include learning how to assess the state of scholarly literature, identify important questions, design strategies for answering them, consider critical ethical issues, acquire the tools with which to conduct the research, collect and analyze the data, and write up the results so they communicate powerfully to the appropriate audience. We will do this through fascinating cases drawn from national and international contexts and practical hands-on activities involving problem-based simulations, empirical sociopolitical inquiry, survey research, intensive interviews, case studies, and participant observation.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE**:** Tutorial Discussions, Presentations, Practice Activities, Collaborative and Independent Research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**:** Active participation, problem-based and experimental application activities, research and writing assignments.