

Spring
2018

Course Advising Booklet

PHILOSOPHY & POLITICAL SCIENCE



SPRING 2018 COURSE OFFERINGS

Quinnipiac University College of Arts and Sciences

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Spring Semester Registration Dates According to Credits Completed

	Credits Completed	Registration Dates
Graduate		10/16-11/17
Seniors	87 plus	10/18-10/19
Juniors	57-86.9	10/23-10/24
Sophomores	27-56.9	10/25-10/26
Freshmen	0-26.9	10/30-10/31

BA in Philosophy

Philosophy—linguistically "the love of wisdom." Wondering, asking questions and wondering, asking more questions about possible answers or ways of working with the questions. This is how one pursues wisdom, how one does philosophy. The discipline has served as both foundation for and accompaniment of developments in science, the arts, and religion—to all of which it is connected and about all of which it continues to ask meaningful questions. The courses offered in the BA cover various fields of philosophy (logic, ethics, history of philosophy, etc.) and relate to personal life, to issues in the larger world, and to the professions. Students studying philosophy at Quinnipiac University develop analytical and research skills in philosophical inquiry as they explore the history of philosophy and the current status of the main problems in epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. Students complete the major with a senior seminar in which they isolate and define a specific philosophical question that they explore in a senior thesis.

QU philosophy students say:

"As a Master's student in Philosophy of Science [at Indiana University], the philosophical mode of inquiry I learned at QU has helped me to appreciate the foundations and limitations of phenomena as seemingly concrete as evolutionary biology and classical mechanics. But more importantly, it has granted me an ability to write, to think critically, and to be conversant in a wide variety of disciplines. Philosophy is the essence of a balanced education," said Travis Weisse '11.

Your career in law, medicine, or business will take off from your studies in philosophy!

Philosophy Minor

This minor offers an adventure in thinking and talking about our own ideas as well as those of great philosophers, past and present, with reference to the moral life, power and wealth, and man's relation to nature and the future of the planet. To include: PL 101 and five courses in philosophy (18 credits).

To learn more about the Philosophy Program, contact Prof. Scott McLean at (203) 582-8686 or by email at scott.mclean@qu.edu.

Courses offered in Philosophy

PL101 – Introduction to Philosophy

This course introduces students to a number of central questions in philosophy through critical exploration of ideas from selected great philosophers. It engages students in the close study of several fundamental issues that have arisen in the course of the development of the philosophical tradition—such as free will, our knowledge of the "external" world, and the meaning and value of truth and justice—giving students the basic tools for further work in philosophy.

Sections Available:

- 1) **MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**
Prof. Joo-Hwan Lee
- 2) **MWF 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.**
Prof. David Capps
- 3) **MWF 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.**
Prof. Joo-Hwan Lee
- 4) **MWF 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.**
Prof. David Capps
- 5) **M 6:30 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.**
Prof. Joo-Hwan Lee
- 6) **TTH 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**
Prof. Pamela Corcoran
- 7) **TH 6:30 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.**
Prof. Jason Smith
- 8) **TTH 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**
Prof. David R. Vance
- 9) **TTH 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**
Prof. David R. Vance

PL202 – Logical Reasoning

QU ONLINE ONLY -- regular undergraduates will not be able to register online.

Prof. Anat Biletzki

This course introduces students to the foundations of logical thinking and the systematic study of principles of good reasoning. This includes defining what an argument is and differentiating between good reasoning and bad – i.e., between valid and invalid arguments. Students will learn how to recognize the more common fallacies to be avoided and investigate formal and informal procedures for reaching logical conclusions. They will also see how logical reasoning is applied to real life controversies in law, ethics, religion, and science. The goal of the course is to improve students' natural ability to think clearly and critically by learning to apply logic to arguments in public, academic and private contexts

We will emphasize argumentation and criticism in ordinary life and present formal tools for reasoning. As you learn to work with these tools, you will be simultaneously trained in skills of argument analysis, argument construction and argument evaluation. You will learn how to reason more reflectively and more effectively. This will enhance your scientific literacy, your quantitative reasoning, and your critical thinking and reasoning, improving both your written and oral communication abilities.

PL220 – Ethics and Human Values

TTH 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Prof. Rebecca Bamford

In this course, students will learn how to produce logical and effective ethical analysis by examining classic and contemporary resources, and using these to critically engage with issues including (but not limited to) poverty, violence, conflict, forms of discrimination, work, leisure, food, entertainment, love, death, friendship, and family. Students will gain an appreciation of how ethical commitments shape our lives and our identities, as well as greater confidence in engaging in the practice of ethical analysis for themselves.



Prerequisite: Take PL101 FYS101 or QU101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PL236 – Philosophy of Language

W 6:30 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

Prof. Anat Biletzki

This course will focus on the attempt to understand the nature of language and its relationship with speakers, their thoughts, and the world. Questions that we will ask during the course include: What is language? How do we understand one another? Can we think without language? What is the connection between words and the objects to which they refer? What is meaning? What determines the truth and falsehood of our statements? Do we have innate linguistic abilities or do we learn to speak by observing the behavior of other speakers? How do the signs that make up a language allow us to communicate sensibly with one another? Is it because they symbolically signify objects or other stimuli in our physical environment? Is it because they signify ideas in each of our minds? Could it be, as some have claimed, that it is neither of these?

Various philosophical theories about language are attempts to answer such questions. These will be discussed, along with their far-reaching consequences for other areas of philosophy. The course will enable students to appreciate philosophical issues related to the use of natural/ordinary and symbolic/ideal language. We will provide students with both historical and technical backgrounds necessary to appreciate these problems and begin to think critically about their solutions.

Prerequisite: Take PL101 FYS101 or QU101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PL250 – Philosophy of Art

TTH 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Prof. Rebecca Bamford

This course introduces students to key problems and arguments in the philosophy of art. We will critically engage with questions such as the following: What kinds of things count as art? Are some artworks unethical? Is some art worthless? Can we aesthetically appreciate horrible things, and if so, why? Is art best explained in terms of experience, expression, or taste? What is beauty? What is—or what should be—the purpose of art? Should artistic expression ever be censored? How have racism, sexism and consumerism impacted the art world — and in what ways has the art world contributed to society? Throughout the course, we will read a selection of classic and contemporary texts in order to pursue these and other related questions, and we will critically examine a range of examples from the visual arts, drama, film, literature, and music.



Prerequisite: Take PL101 FYS101 or QU101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PL312 – Philosophy of War and Peace / PO 312 Philosophy of War and Peace

MWF 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Prof. Thornton Lockwood

This course draws on what philosophers, legal scholars, and political scientists have written about the nature, limits and morality of warfare. Students study the general frameworks for evaluating warfare in the theories of realism, pacifism and just war, and then turn to the evaluation of historical case studies concerning when it is just to initiate war, how war is to be conducted justly once it is initiated, and the obligations of combatants following war. Topics will include the permissibility of interrogatory torture, the morality of asymmetrical conflict, for instance in the case of drone warfare, and the problems with determining the norms of cyberwar. Readings include both historical authors, such as Thucydides and Thomas Aquinas, and contemporary theorists, such as Michael Walzer and Jeff McMahan.



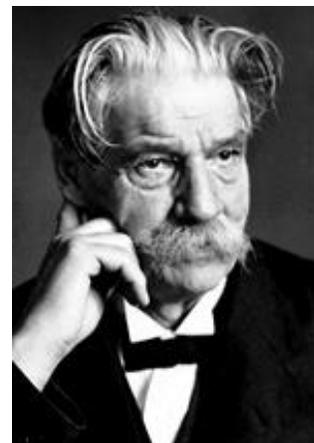
Prerequisite: Take QU101 FYS101 PL101 PO211 or PO215; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PL320/QU 301 – Thought and Work of Albert Schweitzer (Service Learning Course)

T 6:30 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

Prof. David Ives and Prof. Benjamin Page

This course is cross-listed as QU 301 and satisfies the core requirement for seniors. The course is a critical exploration, in seminar format, of the relevance for us today of the thinking and life work of one of the most significant people of the 20th century. Albert Schweitzer was a fascinating example of what might today be called a serial multi-tasker: —he accomplished much and gained considerable reputations in very different fields: designing, building, and playing church and concert organs; an ordained Lutheran pastor he published still controversial books on Jesus, Christianity and other religions. Especially important for our course, Schweitzer developed a deep critique of the science, technology, and culture of European civilization that, in retrospect, stands as a warning against the coming of World War I, with implications and questions many of us are facing today about the world we are living in. Schweitzer always believed that the remedy he proposed for the crisis he saw in Europe—a philosophy and ethic he called “reverence for life”—was his most important contribution; among other things its call to personal commitment and action on behalf of *all* of life stands as an early inspiration for today’s globally-growing ecological consciousness. Unlike so many speakers and writers today, Schweitzer chose to *live* his philosophy: he and his wife decided to forego the growing opportunities and possible fame a professional career in Europe offered and to devote themselves to helping at least a small part of the suffering and need of healing of so much of the world. This meant first studying a totally new field, medicine, and then for over 50 years designing, building and running a hospital in a village in the jungle of Equatorial Africa, with occasional returns to Europe to give organ concerts, lecture, and raise money to support their hospital. But life in rest of the world was not forgotten: Schweitzer devoted much of the last decade of his life to the global campaign to end the development and testing of nuclear weapons that emerged after World War II and the dropping of the first atomic bombs.



PL333 – Modern Philosophy

TTH 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Prof. Rebecca Bamford

Can we really know anything for certain? Is knowledge something we have from birth, something we acquire, or both? What things really exist, and how? Does God exist? Do miracles happen? How does the mind relate to the body? What exactly is a person? How do persons exist from one day to the next? How do we perceive the world? In PL 333: Modern Philosophy, students will consider these questions as part of exploring how and why modern philosophers in the period 1620-1799 began to develop a scientific method for studying nature and human understanding. Students gain an understanding of

fundamental issues in epistemology and metaphysics, and connect these issues to ongoing debate about the roles of science and religion in society.

Prerequisite: Take one course from subject PL; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PL400 – Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Education

MWF 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Prof. Thornton Lockwood



This special topics seminar challenges students from any university major to understand their own education in light of what both contemporary and historical philosophers have said about the subject. It is designed to integrate insights in philosophy with psychology and education to generate new inquiry. Such questions might include: Is it possible to teach someone something? Should job preparation be the main purpose of education? Does education succeed at promoting opportunity and equality or privilege and inequality? In exploring these questions, and many others, students will examine the works of major philosophers such as Plato, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Dewey, and Amy Goodman.

Prerequisite: PL 101; Must be completed prior to taking this course.

BA in Political Science

Explore what President John F. Kennedy called the "art of the possible" with a political science degree. At Quinnipiac, the study of political science combines a focus on philosophical investigation into the nature of justice with a more practical focus on the nature of politics, power and power relationships. Thus, a student will take classes that compare the nature of governments around the world, explore the operations of politics in local, national and international contexts, and promote the ability to influence the society in which we live. Most students complement their courses in government and politics with study across the arts and sciences, particularly in such areas as history, English, economics and philosophy. Learning by doing is an emphasis in the political science program; we provide you with opportunities to participate in the political realm at every level of national and international society. Each year a number of students qualify to spend a semester in a multidisciplinary, experiential learning program in Washington, D.C., that combines an internship with course work in political science, journalism, museum studies and the arts. Political science majors have accepted internships with the U.S. State Department, with Congress, with regional radio and TV stations, with political parties and with legislative staffs at the state capital in Hartford. We also promote and support a variety of study-abroad experiences, and offer classes that engage students directly in political action at the local, national and international levels. We believe these opportunities make not only for a better and more interesting learning experience, but also better prepare graduates for interesting and productive lives after Quinnipiac. Graduates can choose from a wide range of career options, including work in government, international affairs, and journalism. Graduates can also enter the nonprofit realm, work for a lobbying firm, or begin careers in education or business. Many pursue graduate studies in law or public policy.

Political Science Minor

A minor in political science also is available. The minor is awarded upon completion of 18 credits. At least 6 credits must be earned at the 300 level or above. No more than 3 credits from an internship in political science (PO295 or PO395) may count toward the completion of the minor.

To learn more about the Political Science Program, contact Prof. Scott McLean at (203) 582-8686 or by email at scott.mclean@qu.edu.

Courses offered in Political Science

PO101 – Issues in Politics (UC)

Students explore issues of current relevance in local, domestic and international politics. Each individually-themed seminar provides an introduction to the systematic analysis of power relations in relevant local, national or global spheres of life. Students approach the seminar's theme in a way that develops an understanding of the major political ideologies, the behavior of relevant social actors and governmental institutions, and the capacity to engage as responsible citizens.

Sections Available:

1) **Issues in Politics: Political Violence**

MWF 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Prof. Fodei Batty

Why do some societies and countries experience turmoil, strife, conflict, revolutions, bloodshed, genocide, terrorism, mass violence etc., while others do not? Why do some citizens challenge the state and others do not? Why do states employ violence against some citizens and not against others? In countries that experience acts of political violence such as terrorism, riots, and demonstrations, why do some people choose to participate in such processes and others do not? Students will explore the theories, concepts, and methodologies that scholars have employed in their research to provide answers to the questions raised above in several historical and geographical contexts.

2) **Issues in Politics: Islamic Law and Thought**

MW 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Prof. John Miller

This course on Islamic law and political thought examines how Muslims, past and present, from across the political spectrum, debate ideas of law and justice, government and society, and freedom and human rights. We will study classical sources — from the Qur'an to the earliest biographies of Muhammad — as well as how modern Muslims are critically engaging with competing ideas about morality, law, and political authority within the Islamic tradition.

PO131 - Introduction to American Government (UC)

General description: This course covers the development of the constitution, the nature of Federalism, the state and the national government. Students explore the duties and powers of the President, Congress, the Supreme Court and administrative agencies. This course also includes units on campaigns, the media, interest groups, race & politics, and public policy. We will conclude with student presentations that showcase students' knowledge on a class-related topic. The goal of this course is to create an understanding of American politics that goes beyond basic civics, and to cultivate an ability to

think critically beyond the culture of punditry. Political parties, the nominating process, elections and electoral behavior as well as political interest groups and public opinion are considered.

Sections Available:

- 1) **MWF 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.**
Prof. Knox H. Brown
- 2) **MWF 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.**
Prof. Knox H. Brown
- 3) **TTH 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**
Prof. Jennifer Sacco

PO211 – Introduction to International Relations (UC)

MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Prof. Fodei Batty

Students are introduced to the study of politics on the global level. The course focuses on the nature of the international system of nation-states, including the importance of state sovereignty, the political interactions between states, and the causes of war and peace. Additional topics include understanding the domestic bases for foreign policy decisions, the different tools available for state action in the international realm (diplomacy, espionage, and military intervention), the increasing importance of international economic relations, and the function and evolution of international law and organizations.



Prerequisite: Take PO 101, PO 131 or QU 101/FYS 101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO215 – Political Theory (UC)

TTH 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Prof. Daniele Botti

Must we always obey the law? What is the limit of State or government authority? What is the nature of our social world? What is a good government? What is justice? In this course, students survey political philosophy — from Plato and Aristotle to the modern social-contract theorists; from 19th-century liberal and socialist thought to the revitalization of the social contract tradition in the 20th century. Students use these thinkers as a way to explore issues such as the nature of society, the nature of

government, and the nature of freedom, justice and the law. By following the historical development of Western social and political philosophy, this course introduces students to enduring debates in political theory and pressing social and political issues of our times.

Prerequisite: Take PO131, QU101 or FYS101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO216 – American Political Thought

TTH 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Prof. Scott McLean

Students are introduced to major ideas of social justice and political power in America from colonial New England to the modern American state. Special emphasis is on major debates on social issues in American history, including slavery and race, church and state, industrialism and technology, civil rights and citizenship, and democracy and reform. Major authors and readings include Winthrop, Jefferson, Paine, the Federalist Papers, Lincoln, Dewey, Roosevelt and M.L. King.

The United States differs from other democracies in the way national identity is defined by a political creed—or as Lincoln said, “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” Yet there have been serious contradictions against that democratic creed: The injustices of slavery, the inequality of women, exclusion of Native American tribes, the persecution of unorthodox religious believers and unconventional sexual identities. We will pay special attention, in seminar-style discussion and essay assignments, to the emergence of political theories that have guided the American political project through troubled times. These ideas have always involved a struggle between the nation’s democratic ideals and the realities of injustice, from the founding period to “the culture wars” and rise of populism in our own era. We will explore the successes as well as the failures of American political thinkers of past and present, as they confront these challenges. During the semester we will discuss political persuasion as well as classic American literature, including writings by Tom Paine, Thomas Jefferson, the constitutional framers, Tocqueville, Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Mark Twain, Charlotte Gilman, Ta-Nehisi Coates.



Prerequisite: Take PO131 or QU101 or FYS101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO225 – American Political Movements

TTH 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.



Prof. Khalilah Brown-Dean

In this class, students explore key movements in American political society over the past 150 years, and analyze how social groups have organized to demand political change in the U.S. Students study political movements organized around race, gender, social class and sexual identity/preference.

Prerequisite: Take PO101 PO131 QU101 or FYS101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO245 – International Political Economy

T 6:30 P.M. – 9:10 P.M.

Prof. Sean Duffy

This introduction to the analysis and understanding of the international economy from a political perspective centers on the increasing internationalization, or globalization, of the capitalist market economy. This is analyzed from three perspectives, each of which raises different political issues and strategies: neoliberalism, economic nationalism (neomercantilism), and Marxism. Current issues dealing with international trade and finance, the environment, third world development and marginalization, and gender/race issues in the international economy are discussed.



Prerequisite: PO211 or EC111; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO270 – State and Local Government

T 6:30 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.



Prof. Martin M. Looney

The role of states in the federal system is analyzed. Structure and problems of state and local governments are examined.

Prerequisite: Take PO131; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO280 – Congress and the Presidency

MWF 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.



Prof. Knox H. Brown

This course surveys the historical development of the executive and legislative branches of the US government. The course surveys the Constitutional foundations, evolutionary growth, and contemporary research on the US Presidency and Congress. The goal of the course is to highlight how many of the current conflicts between the President and Congress have deep historical roots.

Prerequisite: Take PO131; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO311/QU301 –Worldviews and Peacebuilding

M 6:30 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.

Prof. Wayne Lavender

**Course meets in the Albert Schweitzer Institute*

This seminar will actively explore ways to create and spread a worldview favoring peace with justice. An inter-disciplinary approach will bring us to the nexus of theory and practice—where scholarly models, concepts and systems meet actual practices, actions and programs in the “real world.”



Social, economic and political instability around the world are creating tensions and the threat of war (indeed, there are “hot” wars today). Pressure from economic inequality, environmental degradation and a world awash in weapons provides humanity with the ingredients for a “perfect storm:” war, waged by governments and quasi governments, sanctioned by religious leaders, supported by local populations and fought with weapons of mass destruction. We are testing Einstein’s prophetic hypothesis: “I do not know how the Third World War will be fought, but I can tell you what they will use in the Fourth – rocks!”

But humanity has the capacity to forge new paths. Incredible advances in technology, communications and the advent of social media have provided the conditions for a global community where conflict is solved via dialogue, diplomacy, discussion and conflict resolution. The United States, as the world’s only superpower (at least until China and India emerge), will play a key role in determining whether humanity’s future will bring us peace and prosperity or a dystopian disaster.

This seminar will be led by the Rev. Wayne Lavender, Ph.D. Wayne is a United Methodist pastor, teacher, author and director of the Foundation 4 Orphans, a 501 c 3 non-profit whose mission is to lift communities by serving orphans.

Prerequisite: Take PO211 or QU201; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO312 – Philosophy of War and Peace / PL312 Philosophy of War and Peace

MWF 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Prof. Thornton Lockwood

This course draws on what philosophers, legal scholars, and political scientists have written about the nature, limits and morality of warfare. Students study the general frameworks for evaluating warfare in the theories of realism, pacifism and just war, and then turn to the evaluation of historical case studies concerning when it is just to initiate war, how war is to be conducted justly once it is initiated, and the obligations of combatants following war. Topics will include the permissibility of interrogatory torture, the morality of asymmetrical conflict, for instance in the case of drone warfare, and the problems with determining the norms of cyberwar. Readings include both historical authors, such as Thucydides and Thomas Aquinas, and contemporary theorists, such as Michael Walzer and Jeff McMahan.



Prerequisite: Take QU101 FYS101 PL101 PO211 or PO215; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO333 – Middle Eastern History and Politics / QU 301 Global Community

MWF 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Prof. John Miller

**Students may register for this course for credits either in PO333 or QU301*

This course explores both historical and contemporary political and socioeconomic developments in the Middle Eastern region. We begin with a brief treatment of relevant moments in late antiquity and the Middle Ages, followed by a historical review of the Ottoman empire and its demise, the anti-colonialist revolt, secular nationalism, Islamism, and Islamic Modernism. The focus then shifts to analyzing such issues as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and peace process, the Persian Gulf wars, terrorism, the Arab Spring, ISIS, the Syrian civil war, and the impact of globalization in the region.

Prerequisite: Take PO211 or QU201; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.



PO342 – Comparative Constitutional Law/ LE342 Comparative Constitutional Law

TTH 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Prof. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox

Students compare the legal structures and fundamental principles typically found in constitutions by studying the constitutions of several different countries. The course explores the structure of government; the distinction between legislative, executive and judicial authority; the incorporation of fundamental human rights; the relationship between church and state, free speech and the press, and social welfare rights. Participants analyze the distinction between constitutional law and domestic law and assess the role of various constitutional frameworks in a global society.

Prerequisite: Take PO101 or PO131; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

****OPTIONAL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM FOR COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.** The course (crosslisted also as Legal Studies 342) has an optional component in EUROPE. If you are interested in traveling to **France and Germany** Apply on the link below right away! Spaces and time are limited. You'll learn more about comparative courts systems and legal rules. **Open to any student who has completed two courses in Political Science or Legal Studies. Cost: \$3900 to \$4600.** Please register for the abroad component using the following link **ASAP!** <https://qu.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/140453>



PO354 – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

TH 6:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Prof. John Miller

This course considers the Bill of Rights and its ratification, the Fourteenth Amendment, and competing theories for interpreting and applying these texts. Topics to be discussed as a class will include: freedom of expression, freedom of speech, the press, religion, and assembly; the establishment clause and the separation of church and state; fundamental rights, substantive due process and the right to privacy; the Fifth, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments; the equal protection clause and three standards of Supreme Court review; the incorporation doctrine; suspect classifications, race discrimination, and discrimination against women, sexual minorities, and the poor; the power to protect individuals and affirmative action. *Prerequisite:* Take PO131 or QU201; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO365 – Inside Washington D.C. Media Advocacy in the Trump Era

January Term: Meets in Washington D.C. January 2nd – January 14th apply at www.tcw.edu
DEADLINE Nov. 8th or until the course is full. Spaces are limited. -- students accepted into program will be charged \$350 fee for housing

Prof. Scott McLean

Did the Trump administration drain the swamp, or is it still business as usual in Washington D.C.? Has the president’s use of Twitter fundamentally changed the nature of media coverage in the U.S.? What’s in store for the 2018 midterm elections, and how are rallies and protests shaping our political and social landscape? You’ll explore a variety of current issues while gaining direct access to the perspectives of media experts, political players and national influencers.



PO387 – Women and Public Policy

TTH 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Prof. Jennifer Sacco

Students examine the major public policy issues affecting gender relations in the United States today, including: reproductive rights and abortion, labor policy, welfare policy, sexual and domestic violence. Students discover the process by which issues of importance to gender equality have historically emerged on the public agenda, the ways in which policy debate is shaped once an issue becomes a public problem and the competing policy paradigms surrounding these controversial policy issues

In this class we will look at highly controversial issues confronting all Americans, but especially women, including abortion and reproductive autonomy, poverty, workplace issues and inequalities, harassment, and various types of assault. It sounds like a downer, but (historically speaking) it's actually a great joy to be a part of this class! Participants in this class frequently develop a bond because of the intimate aspects of the policies considered. It's only offered every other spring, so if you are a junior or senior, now is the time to take it if you want to at some point. The focus of this class is on the status of women, but students of all genders are welcomed!



Prerequisite: Take PO131 or WS101; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

PO408 – Senior Seminar

This is a capstone course for senior political science majors. Students prepare and present original research to their peers in the form of a senior thesis, related to a common seminar theme announced each year. The seminar allows students to apply the knowledge and methodology they have learned in previous courses to a particular project.



Prerequisite: Take PO201 or PO401; - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

Sections Available:

- 1) ***Investigating the Politics of Identity in America***
TTH 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Prof. Khalilah Brown-Dean

This senior seminar is for students interested in pursuing Senior Theses projects in the U.S. public policy and politics field. Students will explore conceptual and methodological issues in researching the ways group identity has defined as well as challenged U.S. political society. The section will raise questions for student research about *how* identity matters, and how identity shapes, and is in turn shaped by, American politics and policy. Students will not only explore how identities we are born with (such as sexual orientation, citizenship status, and age) help structure the political landscape, but will also examine how groups we choose to join (e.g. interest groups, religious groups, parties) define identities and politics. Students will use these foundational questions to craft a research-based senior thesis on a related topic of their choosing.

- 2) ***Analyzing the Challenges of World Politics***
MWF 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Prof. Fodei Batty

The theme and contents of this senior seminar are organized around international issues which students are interested in researching for their Senior Thesis projects. We shall approach the material primarily from inquiry and methodological problems that come up in the subfields of Comparative Politics and International Relations. Students will be introduced to the major conceptual, theoretical and methodological debates that have shaped inquiry in to such issues as conflict processes, state-building and democratization. They will be also trained to employ some of those skills in their work and analyses as they craft their senior theses.

About Our Faculty

In the Department of Philosophy and Political Science, our faculty members educate students to be informed citizens. By learning from scholars in diverse fields—from American government and constitutional law to European politics and international relations—you'll receive a well-rounded civic education.



FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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