Fall 2020 POL Seminars that require an application

**POL1 333 Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing: Perspectives on American Politics - Burke**
This course will teach students to effectively communicate to the public political science research on American politics. This will require students to step back from the details of their coursework to examine how political science has shaped their understandings of political phenomena. How are the perspectives of political scientists different from those of practitioners and the public? How can these perspectives contribute to public debates on politics? Through a series of writing assignments--for example Op/eds, book reviews and interviews--students will learn how to translate expert knowledge and perspectives into everyday language, but perhaps even more importantly, how to draw on that knowledge to address the concerns of citizens about the political world.

**Prerequisites:** POL1 200 or the equivalent and by permission of the instructor.

**POL1 337 Seminar: Race in American Politics - Chudy**
This seminar examines race and ethnicity in American politics, with special attention to the modern civil rights era of the 1960s and beyond. We will consider the definition and political meaning of racial and ethnic identities, the role of racial identity and attitudes in structuring Americans' political opinions and behaviors, how redistricting shapes the representation of non-white groups, the political implications of intersections among race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality, and the role of race in recent national elections.

**Prerequisites:** POL1 200 and by permission of the instructor.

**POL2 306 Seminar: Revolution – Joseph**
A comparative analysis of the theory and practice of revolution from the seventeenth century to the present, with an emphasis on revolutions in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Questions to be considered include: the meaning and causes of revolution, why people join revolutionary movements, the international dimensions of internal war, strategies of insurgency and counterinsurgency, and the changing nature of revolution over the last 350 years. Case studies will include the French, Russian, Chinese, Cuban, and Iranian revolutions, as well as more contemporary events in East Central Europe and the Middle East and North Africa.

**Prerequisites:** One unit in comparative politics or international relations and by permission of the instructor.

**POL3 354 Seminar: The Rise and Fall of Great Powers - Goddard**
Power transitions are among the most dangerous moments in international politics. Scholars argue that when new great powers rise, they threaten the interests of other states, provoking balancing coalitions, arms races, and even major power war. When a great power declines, it can topple existing international institutions, and undermine the existing world order. In this seminar, we will undertake a theoretical, historical, and contemporary examination of rising and declining great powers, looking at historical case studies (such as the rise of Germany, Japan, and the United States), as well as contemporary cases (the decline of Russia, American hegemony, and the posited rise of China, India, and the European Union).

**Prerequisites:** POL3 221 and by permission of the instructor.
POL4 311 Seminar: Grassroots Organizing - Grattan
An introduction to the theory and practice of grassroots organizing for social change. Learning will take two concurrent paths. In class, we will examine what organizing is and how it has historically played a role in social change. We will ask how organizers: use storytelling to motivate action; analyze power, devise theories of change, and craft creative strategies; develop capacities, resources, relationships, and institutions to build collective power; and facilitate diverse groups in contexts marked by entrenched histories of oppression. Outside class, students will engage in a hands-on organizing project of their own choosing in which they must organize a group of people on or off campus to achieve a common goal.
Prerequisites: One course in political theory or significant coursework related to grassroots politics, social movements, or social change and by permission of the instructor.

POL4 349 Seminar: Sex in Politics - Martorelli
The Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v Hodges legalized same-sex marriage in the U.S. It also suggested that anyone who isn’t married cannot realize the full potential of being human. Obergefell’s dramatic swings between empowering and deriding LGBTQ people illuminate larger tensions in the relationship between sexuality and politics. Notably, marriage grants privileges to some, but not others, based on the state’s approval of their sexual preferences. The state, moreover, has historically regulated sex acts in ways that criminalize whole classes of people. These tensions raise key questions we will explore in this course: What role should the state play in supporting and restricting sexual practices? Should we look to the state to secure sexual freedom, or is sexual freedom achieved when we kick the state out of our bedrooms? More broadly, how are the boundaries of sexuality created in and through “politics”? To examine these questions, we will read queer theorists alongside contemporary political theorists.
Prerequisites: One course in political theory or philosophy and by permission of the instructor.