

Hillsdale College Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship

Course Offerings

Graduate courses carry the “POL” designation in the course listings, and are offered at the 600-800 level in order to distinguish them from undergraduate offerings. Some advanced undergraduate courses may be cross-listed for graduate credit, designated at the 500 level. All courses are for 3 credit hours, unless otherwise noted. The courses numbered 601-605, 621-625, and 810 are required, core courses the readings from which form the backbone of the required core texts for comprehensive examinations in the doctoral program; these courses will be offered at least once every three years so that all doctoral students will have the opportunity to take them during their tenure in the program. Other courses will be offered on a rotation determined by faculty availability and student interest.

I. Political Philosophy

Students in these courses will study the great works of the Western political tradition, and will, in particular, become deeply familiar with the books that the American founders read, studied, and discussed, and that they relied upon in forming a new nation and framing the Constitution.

601. Plato. *Republic, Apology*, and additional dialogue(s) selected by the instructor.

602. Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics, Politics*.

603. Medieval Political Philosophy. Augustine, Aquinas, Alfarabi, Maimonides, Dante.

604. Early Modern Political Philosophy. Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, in addition to other thinkers at the discretion of the instructor, such as Montesquieu, Grotius, Pufendorf.

605. Late Modern Political Philosophy. Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, in addition to other thinkers at the discretion of the instructor, such as Weber or Heidegger.

701. The Natural Law. Cicero, Aquinas, Grotius, Pufendorf, Hooker.

702. Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Political Thought. This course will feature the postmodern political philosophies that emerge in the twentieth century and retain their influence: existentialism, Marxist-humanism, Neo-liberalism, and the return to natural rights philosophy. Readings may include Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Herbert Marcuse, Leo Strauss, Hannah Arendt, Friedrich Hayek, John Rawls, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, Daniel Dennett.

703. Politics and Religion. Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, Luther, Spinoza, Hobbes, Rousseau, Nietzsche, and Leo Strauss.

720. Machiavelli. Works such as *The Prince*, the *Discourses on Livy*, and others selected by the instructor.

722. Xenophon. This course explores the place of Xenophon in the history of political philosophy. Through a careful reading of Xenophon’s major works, students will examine Xenophon’s presentation of the way of life of Socrates as the best way of life. They will also examine Xenophon’s presentation of the way of life of the political man as a serious alternative to the life of Socrates. *Memorabilia, Apology of Socrates to the Jury, Hiero or On Tyranny*, and excerpts from other works.

723-739. Specialized courses depending upon the interest of instructors and students. Courses may include, but are not limited to: Xenophon, Thucydides, Cicero, Locke, Montesquieu, Tocqueville.

740. Independent Study in Political Philosophy.

II. American Politics and Political Thought

Students in these courses will develop a firm knowledge of the first principles of American constitutionalism and will understand the fate of those principles in American political development and contemporary American politics.

621. The American Founding. Selected essays, speeches, and letters of leading founders, including (but not limited to) James Otis, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington. Public documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, and the Northwest Ordinance. Sermons from the founding era.

622. *The Federalist*. An in-depth study of *The Federalist*, focusing on its understanding of republicanism.

623. Nationalism and Sectionalism. A study of American political thought from the end of the Era of Good Feelings through the Civil War. Topics include Whig and Jacksonian political thought, the nature of the Union, proslavery and abolitionist thought, popular sovereignty, and Abraham Lincoln. The course explores the divisions in American political thought from disputes over the Constitution and the Union to the more fundamental problems of the nature of liberty and of equality.

624. American Progressivism. The Progressive critique of American constitutionalism and its influence on politics in the twentieth century. Begins with the debates over Reconstruction, industrialization, and imperialism, then focuses on the works of Woodrow Wilson, John Dewey, Herbert Croly, Theodore Roosevelt, Frank Goodnow, Franklin Roosevelt, James Landis.

625. The Modern American Regime. This course examines the development of American political institutions and policymaking from 1932 to the present. Emphasis is placed upon the relationship between American political thought and changes in the arrangements of institutions and offices. The course employs case studies to illustrate the impact of these forces on policymaking and policy outcomes. The ability of the modern American regime to serve the general interest of the nation is evaluated.

741. The American Congress. A study of the legislative power in the American regime. It focuses on the nature of the legislative power, and how that power was institutionalized in the Constitution. Emphasis is also placed upon the way the theory of the modern progressive administrative state has altered our conceptions of Congress and the legislative power, the implications of that change for Congress, and how that change is manifested in the delegation of legislative power to administrative agencies. The course also introduces the student to contemporary functions and procedures of Congress.

742. The American Presidency. An intensive study of the American presidency. It seeks to understand the structure and function of executive power in the American constitutional order. It will begin with the place of the President in the constitutionalism of the Founding Fathers, and then examine how that role has been altered by the modern progressive administrative state, along with the implications of that alteration for constitutional government. Consideration will also be given to the President's role in war and foreign affairs.

743. Constitutional Law I. Significant court cases and other writings from the founding to the present day regarding federalism, separation of powers, delegation of power, judicial review and the scope of judicial power. Course may be taught topically or historically.

744. Constitutional Law II. Significant court cases and other writings from the founding to the present on civil rights and liberties, especially religious liberty and freedom of speech. Course may be taught topically or historically.

745. Administrative Law. A study of the way in which regulatory agencies make national policy and the legal structure of agency policymaking. Readings will include federal court cases and will examine the constitutional legitimacy of the regulatory state.

746. Parties and Elections. An examination of the party and electoral systems in America from both an historical and contemporary perspective. Begins with an overview of the role of elections in a constitutional republic, and then traces of the development of American political parties from the founding period to the present day. Examines the role played by political parties in shaping our constitutional order, and addresses the manner in which recent elections and the contemporary operation of parties affects the character of American politics.

751. Statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln. This course focuses on the political thought and actions of Abraham Lincoln and his contemporaries, including Stephen Douglas, John C. Calhoun and Roger Taney, and the political controversies of the antebellum and Civil War periods.

752. Liberalism and the New Progressivism: American Politics after the Progressive Era. This course will focus on the rise of liberalism after 1920, and the self-styled radicals' philosophic and political break with liberalism in the 1960s. Readings will connect philosophic ideas to changes in American institutions and culture; they may include: John Dewey, Sigmund Freud, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Erich Fromm, Herbert Marcuse, C. Wright Mills, Paul Goodman, Norman O. Brown, Betty Friedan, Tom Hayden, John Rawls.

753. American Foreign Policy. Beginning with the Declaration of Independence, U. S. statesmen have publicly explained and defended the principles and practices of their foreign policies. Through the study of original-source documents, students will trace the course of these policies as America moved from relative weakness to great strength in the world.

754. American Geopolitics. By 1890 the United States had established itself as a major power; at the same time, technological advances enabled modern regimes to project military and political power more extensively and more rapidly than ever before. This course addresses the thought of American strategists who considered this new set of conditions: Mahan, Mackinder, and Spykman in the first half of the twentieth century; Fukuyama, Huntington and others in subsequent decades.

760-779. Specialized courses depending upon the interest of instructors and students.

780. Independent Study in American Politics.

Other Coursework

801. Doctoral Humanities Seminar I: Antiquity. 2 credit hours, year-long. Focuses on the major works from antiquity in the formation of the West, and is taught from the perspective of a variety of liberal arts disciplines.

802. Doctoral Humanities Seminar II: Middle Ages. 2 credit hours, year-long. Focuses on the major works from the middle ages in the formation of the West, and is taught from the perspective of a variety of liberal arts disciplines.

803. Doctoral Humanities Seminar III: Modernity. 2 credit hours, year-long. Focuses on the major works from modernity in the formation of the West, and is taught from the perspective of a variety of liberal arts disciplines.

804. Independent Study.

805. Intensive Greek for Graduate Students. 3-9 credit hours (hours do not count toward the credit requirements for graduate degrees). Offered during occasional summers to prepare graduate students for reading competence in Greek.

806. Intensive Latin for Graduate Students. 3-9 credit hours (hours do not count toward the credit requirements for graduate degrees). Offered during occasional summers to prepare graduate students for reading competence in Latin.

810. Studies in Statesmanship. This course takes as its subject the work of a particular statesman or of a group of statesmen in a particular period. Topics will vary considerably, and the reading will vary accordingly. Subjects that might be addressed include but are not in principle limited to the following: the Persian Wars; the Peloponnesian War; Cicero's struggle to save the Roman Republic; Augustus' establishment of the Roman Principate; the Glorious Revolution, its defense during the War of the League of Augsburg and the War of the Spanish Succession, and the Hanoverian Succession; the American Constitutional Convention; the career of George Washington; Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson as rival statesmen; the statesmanship of James Madison; Napoleon as statesman and tyrant; Metternich and the Congress of Vienna; the statesmanship of Otto von Bismarck; the origins of the First World War; World War I, the Congress of Versailles, and the Aftermath; Adolf Hitler as statesman and tyrant; Josef Stalin as statesman and tyrant; the origins of World War II; World War II and the postwar settlement; the statesmanship of Charles de Gaulle; the statesmanship of Winston Churchill; and the Cold War.

821. Churchill. An examination of the principles and practice of statesmanship, focused on the writings and actions of Sir Winston Churchill. The course aims to discover what a statesman is, what sort of statesman Churchill was, and what is the place of and need for a statesman in a popularly governed nation.

850. Master's Thesis. 6 credit hours.

860. Doctoral Readings. 0 credit hours. For the doctoral student needing additional time to prepare for language-competence examinations or comprehensive examinations, or to complete the dissertation. Registration for this course indicates that the student is involved in full-time studies and is working toward the satisfaction of one of the non-coursework requirements. Registration for this course requires the approval of the Graduate Dean, and at the end of it the student must give evidence that progress has been made toward the completion of a program requirement. Students may register for this course a maximum of four times.

870. Dissertation Research I. 3 credits hours. For the doctoral student who has completed coursework requirements, foreign language requirements, and has passed the comprehensive examination.

880. Dissertation Research II. 3 credit hours. For the doctoral student who has completed an approved dissertation proposal.

In those cases where the Graduate Dean authorizes an advanced undergraduate course to be cross-listed for graduate credit, it shall be listed at the 500 level. In such courses, the professor is to require additional work from the graduate students, and is to expect a higher level of understanding and performance. Minimally, a major term paper is to be required of graduate students in such courses, and professors may also set additional requirements at their discretion. The Graduate Dean shall also determine whether such courses apply to the Political Philosophy track or the American Politics and Political Thought track.

Courses offered at the 600-800 level are reserved exclusively for graduate students. Unless a waiver is granted by the Graduate Dean for an exceptional case, undergraduate students may not be invited to sit in on these courses, even if they are registered for an undergraduate independent study on the course topic. Any course which is offered for both undergraduate and graduate students must be offered at the 500 level.