A Word From Our Chair

Professor Austin Sarat

Welcome back after an unusual, difficult year. We are glad to have you on campus and look forward to the start of what we hope will be a terrific semester. The Political Science Department is pleased to welcome Jared Loggins and Princess Williams, each of whom will be starting their Amherst careers as post-doctoral fellows. Check out the courses they are offering this fall.

We are also pleased that Ndifreke Ette, Lorne Falk, Bjorn Hammer, Manuela Picq, Constantine Pleshakov, Gustavo E. Salcedo Avila, and Basileus Zeno are joining us this year as visiting faculty.

Finally, we will be working with a student advisory committee this year. The members of the committee are Libertad Aguilar, Scott Brasesco, Mattea Denney, Jayson Floyd, Victoria Gallastegui, Andrenae Jones, Michael Keating, Guillermo Rodriguez, Carolyn Thomas, and Colin Weinstein. Please reach out to the committee to share your thoughts and ideas.

Let me know if I can be helpful in any way.

Austin Sarat
William Nelson Cromwell Professor Jurisprudence & Political Science
Amherst College
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Amrita Basu

Professor Amrita Basu co-chaired the Faculty Anti-Racism Leadership Committee with Professor Khary Polk this past year. The committee implemented President Biddy Martin’s anti-racism plan and proposed far reaching changes to the curriculum. Professor Basu contributed chapters to several books and co-edited Women, Gender and Religious Nationalism in India (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2021). She will be working on a new book on populist leadership while on sabbatical this fall. She was elected to the South Asian Council of the Asian Studies Association and was nominated to run for Vice President of the American Political Science Association.

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Jonathan Obert

Congratulations to Professor Jonathan Obert for being promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. It was an honor well deserved. Professor Obert will be on sabbatical this year and will be back soon. If you see him walking around campus this semester, give him your congratulations!

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Jared Loggins

Jared Loggins is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Black Studies and Political Science at Amherst College. His teaching and research is at the cross-section of political theory, religious studies, historiography, Black studies, philosophy of race and racism, and aesthetics. He is the co-author with Andrew Douglas of Prophet of Discontent: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Critique of Racial Capitalism, which explores a more sophisticated critical theory of racial capitalism in Dr. King’s work than has been appreciated by commentators on his ideas. He is also working on a manuscript adapted from his dissertation that explores the religious dimensions of anti-capitalist politics in 20th century Black thought. He has forthcoming essays in The Nation, Contemporary Political Theory, and American Political Thought.

Professor Loggins will teach a new political science course this fall semester, POSC 337 - Democracy’s Discontents. In the spring he will teach BLST 200 - Critical Debates in Black Studies.

Jared's book co-authored with Andrew Douglas, Prophet of Discontent, will be released in print via University of Georgia Press on September 15. The book explores a critical theory of racial capitalism in the work of Martin Luther King Jr.

Many of today's insurgent Black movements call for an end to racial capitalism. They take aim at policing and mass incarceration, the racial partitioning of workplaces and residential communities, the expropriation and underdevelopment of Black populations at home and abroad. Scholars and activists increasingly regard these practices as essential technologies of capital accumulation, evidence that capitalist societies past and present enshrine racial inequality as a matter of course.

In Prophet of Discontent, Andrew J. Douglas and Jared A. Loggins invoke contemporary discourse on racial capitalism in a powerful reassessment of Martin Luther King Jr.’s thinking and legacy. Like today’s organizers, King was more than a dreamer. He knew that his call for a ‘radical revolution of values’ was complicated by the production and circulation of value under capitalism. He knew that the movement to build the beloved community required sophisticated analyses of capitalist imperialism, state violence, and racial formations, as well as unflinching solidarity with the struggles of the Black working class. Shining new light on King’s largely implicit economic and political theories, and expanding appreciation of the Black radical tradition to which he belonged, Douglas and Loggins reconstruct, develop, and carry forward King’s strikingly prescient critique of capitalist society.

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Princess Williams

Research Interests

I study American politics with focuses on political psychology, geography, race and ethnic politics, and American political development. My research agenda includes projects measuring sub-national identities in the U.S and examining their role in shaping national and local politics. My current book project includes a novel cross-racial measurement of Southern identity which investigates its relationship with various political attitudes.

Teaching Interests

I enjoy teaching many facets of American politics, but I specialize in teaching courses related to political behavior, survey measurement, and race and ethnic politics. My fall 2021 course includes general surveys of the field of political psychology. Moreover, my winter 2022 course will include a seminar focusing on race and ethnic politics.

New Course Fall 2021:
POSC 331 – Political Psychology

Course description: Since Plato and Aristotle, many thinkers have asked what motivates political behavior and influences political judgment. This course explores the assumptions that underlie studies of individual and group political behavior. We will begin by examining the motivations of citizens’ political decisions (i.e., why do voters favor one candidate, public policy, or political party) and the actions of leaders (i.e., why they support or stigmatize social groups, express hostility to other nations, advocate particular policies). We will then take a close look at psychological concepts such as framing, selective exposure, motivated reasoning, priming, social identity, and self-interest and ask how they help us to better understand both historical and contemporary political outcomes. We will also explore different methods of collecting data and measuring political and psychological processes. This course will focus primarily on studies of American politics, but whenever possible we will examine comparative case studies.

Awards and Honors

- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (2020)
- Garth Taylor Fellowship, University of Michigan (2020)
- Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention (2020)
- Student Leadership Award, National Conference of Black Political Scientists (2020)
- Gerald Ford Fellowship, University of Michigan (2019 - 2021)
- Scholar Activist Award, Rackham Graduate School (2019)
- Rackham Doctoral Candidate Research Grant, University of Michigan (2018)
- Rackham Summer Research Fellowship, University of Michigan, Summer (2017)
- Hanes Walton Jr. Graduate Endowment Research Grant, Center for Political Studies (2016)
- Rackham Pre-candidate Research Grant, University of Michigan (2016)
- National Conference of Black Political Scientists Graduate Assistantship Grant (2015-2019)
- Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan (2014–2019)
- Educate for Excellence Outstanding Senior Award, Jackson State University (2014)
- Fannie Lou Hamer Humanitarian Award, Jackson State University (2013)
- Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society, Jackson State University Chapter (2013)

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Ndifreke Ette

Ndifreke Ette is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science and Consortium for Faculty Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow at Amherst College. Ette was raised in Nigeria. He attended Louisiana State University, graduating with a major in political Science. He earned his doctorate in political science from the University of University of Houston in 2019.

Ndifreke’s teaching and research interests include modern and contemporary political theory, democratic theory, Weimar constitutional thought and, politics and literature. Before joining Amherst College, he was a visiting professor at SUNY Potsdam.

His current book project is a study of Carl Schmitt’s constitutional theory during the middle period of the Weimar Republic.

Courses offered by Ndifreke Ette in 2021-2022

Fall Semester 2021

POSC 258 – Left, Right and Center

Course description: In recent years, public debates in the United States have become considerably less civil, with name-calling and tribal sentiments overwhelming amicable partisan relationships. The proliferation and amplification of voices, a result of the rise of social media and the ubiquity of the 24-hour news cycle, elevate extreme and superficial positions over those more thoroughly considered and thoughtful. Thus, all political discourse now appears suspect as biased, and all positions seem to be adopted from a particular agenda or ideology. This course begins by identifying key features of American political ideologies in the thoughts of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. It then turns to the historical development of conservatism and progressivism in the United States to understand the rational core of these disagreements. The goal of the course is to prepare students to navigate political debate in a civil and thoughtful way.

Spring Semester 2022

POSC 353 – Public Discussion and Liberal Democracy

Course Description: Democracy refers to the rule of the people. But who exactly are the people? This course examines how the people, understood as a publicly discussing, political entity, evolved with the expansion of the voting franchise. It then considers what the notion of public discussion means in the Social Media Age. The course will explore public discussion as a concept in the history of political thought, focusing on a variety of European and American thinkers. The first third of the course studies several nineteenth-century English and French theorists who grappled with the fate of liberalism in the face of mass democracy. The second part revisits the famous debate, during the Progressive Era, on the role of public opinion in establishing and sustaining democracy in the United States. The course concludes with a look at what public discussion means in an age of big data, individualized advertising, a fragmented media landscape, and social silos.

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Professor Basileus Zeno is Karl Loewenstein Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in Political Science at Amherst College. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2021. His areas of specialization are comparative politics and contemporary political theory with a regional focus on the Middle East. Basileus is also an archaeologist by training and holds a B.A. (2006) in Archaeology and Museum Studies and an M.A. (2011) in Classical and Islamic Archaeology from Damascus University, Syria. Until summer 2012, Basileus was doing his Ph.D. in classical archaeology at Damascus University, but he could not complete his research because of the outbreak of the Syrian war.

After moving to the United States, he restarted in 2013 his graduate studies pursuing his lifelong passion of researching questions of politics, power, violence, and identity by obtaining an M.A. in Political Science from Ohio University (2015).

Basileus’s scholarly interests primarily focus on refugees, asylum and forced migration, violence, colonialism and colonial legacies, interpretive methodology, nationalism and sectarianism, and social movements in the Middle East. He has conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork with Syrian asylum seekers and refugees in the United States, and he has published in the Middle East Law and Governance journal and Jadaliyya.

Currently, he is working on a book manuscript that analyzes the effects of physical and legal violence on the meaning-making processes among Syrians and how the Trump administration weaponized time and expanded the structure of Kafkaesque bureaucracy to include racialized others through exclusion.

Basileus also has multiple research projects, one article process-traces strategies of boundary-making in the context of the Syrian uprising and the sectarianization of the conflict between 2011–2013. Another project examines how the discourses of R2P and humanitarian intervention were perceived on the ground by Syrian activists and how they affected actors’ semiotic practices and the ways in which they produced, received, and interacted with meanings in the revolutionary context of 2011–2012.

In addition to academic interests, Basileus is strongly committed to public engagement and applied research. To this end, he served as a consultant and a researcher at several international organizations such as the Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), and the LSE Policy research project "Legitimacy and Citizenship in the Arab World". He is also a co-editor of the Syria Page at Jadaliyya (an independent, critical ezine produced by the Arab Studies Institute), and Salon Syria (a project that provides an electronic platform for wide-ranging views by Syrian journalists). He is also a co-founding member of Security in Context, (a project challenging dominant paradigms and practices that seeks to produce and disseminate new thinking about (in)security, geopolitics and global political economy.)

Contact Information

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Manuela Picq

Manuela Lavinas Picq is a Karl Loewenstein Fellow and Visiting Associate Professor in Political Science at Amherst College. She is a professor of International Relations at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), Ecuador. Her research tackles Indigenous politics and sexuality in world politics and Latin America. She is the author of *Sexuality and Translation in World Politics* (E-International Relations Publishing 2019), *Vernacular Sovereignties: Indigenous Women Challenging World Politics* (University of Arizona Press, 2018), *Sexualities in World Politics* (with Markus Thiel, Routledge 2015) and *Queering Narratives of Modernity* (with Maria Amelia Viteri, Peter Lang 2016). She has held research positions at Freie Universität (2015), the Institute for Advanced Study (2013), and the Woodrow Wilson Center (2005). Her publications appear in scholarly journals like Latin American Politics and Society, Cahiers du Genre and International Political Science Review. She contributes to international media outlets.

In 2018, Professor Manuela L. Picq guest edited a special issue of the journal New Diversities on Indigenous Politics of Resistance: From Erasure to Recognition for the Max Planck Institute. She also launched a new book, Vernacular Sovereignties: Indigenous Women Challenging World Politics (University of Arizona Press, 2018). The book argues that Indigenous women have long been dynamic political actors shaping state sovereignty. Her research on Ecuador shows that although Kichwa women face overlapping oppressions, they are achieving rights unparalleled in the world and successfully shaped the first constitution in Latin America to explicitly guarantee the rights of Indigenous women, and the first worldwide to require gender parity in the administration of justice. This book weaves feminist perspectives with Indigenous studies as it expands conceptual debates on state sovereignty.

Picq was nominated among a new generation of twenty public intellectuals across the Western Hemisphere by the New York based organization Global Americans. Her public engagement, which led her to be detained then expelled from Ecuador in 2015, was taken to the big screen with full feature documentary film by Director Clara Linhart: “La Manuela” is touring a variety of film festivals worldwide. In 2018, the government of Ecuador finally reversed the ban against Picq; she now alternates semesters at Amherst College and Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador. Recently she did fieldwork collaborating with the Legal Office for Indigenous Rights in Guatemala and taught a course on political ecology in the Galapagos islands.

**Contact Information**
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Constantine Pleshakov

Constantine Pleshakov is a former foreign policy analyst at the Institute of U.S. and Canada Studies in Moscow. He has taught courses in Critical Social Thought, History, International Relations, Political Science, and Russian and Eurasian Studies. In 2012, The Princeton Review included him in The Best 300 Professors anthology. He emigrated to America in 1998. Pleshakov’s books include The Tsar’s Last Armada: The Epic Voyage to the Battle of Tsushima, Stalin’s Folly: The Tragic First Ten Days of World War II on the Eastern Front, and There Is No Freedom Without Bread! 1989 and the Civil War That Brought Down Communism. His most recent book is The Crimean Nexus: Putin’s War and the Clash of Civilizations. He lives in Amherst, Massachusetts and is currently a Visiting Professor at Amherst College. This summer, Constantine is teaching two graduate courses at Middlebury College (“Survey of Russian History” and “Russia’s Foreign Policy in the 21st Century”).

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Gustavo E. Salcedo Avila

Professor Gustavo Salcedo will be rejoining Amherst College as a Karl Loewenstein fellow and visiting professor for 2021-2022. He received his Ph.D. in History of International Relations (State University of Milan, 2009), Master Degree in International Strategic Military Studies (State University of Milan, 2004) and Master Degree in International Relations (University of Bologna, 2002). He graduated as a Lawyer from the Central University in Venezuela (1999), and since 2010 has been Assistant Professor at the Simon Bolivar University.

His fields of research are U.S. - Venezuelan relations, History of I.R., History and Geopolitics of the Oil Industry, Venezuelan Political System, and Non Violence.

In 2017 he won the second prize of the national young historian's award, awarded by the Venezuelan National Academy of History for his work “Venezuela, Cold War Battleground. The United States and the era of Romulo Betancourt (1958–1964)”.

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Professor Lorne Falk will be a visiting professor at Amherst College this coming year. Lorne Falk is a professor of contemporary art, theory and criticism. He has worked in the arts and education for 40 years and taught courses in the Five Colleges since 2009. His experience is international, interdisciplinary and transcultural. His interests include cultural theory and criticism and contemporary culture. Among the issues that burn brightly for him now are the challenges of interdisciplinary research and creation, ethical imagining, our relationship to the environment, the generation of strong local communities in global culture, the creative application of compassion and generosity, the question of life, and the instrumental role of the liberal arts in all of these domains.

Lorne has written and published more than 60 essays and produced 19 catalogues and books. He has curated more than 150 exhibitions, including 8 major projects. He was Dean of Faculty at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) in Boston from 2001 to 2008. From 1997 to 2000, he was Associate Professor (design theory and criticism) at the School of Design, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. From 1980 to 1994, he was a Program Director at the Banff Centre for the Arts, where he created and directed an international multidisciplinary residency program for artists and scholars with themes such as Rhetoric Utopia and Technology, Nomad, and Living at the End of Nation States. From 1978 to 1985, he was Director and Chief Curator of the Walter Phillips Gallery at The Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. He was Director-Curator of The Photographers Gallery in Saskatoon, Canada from 1973 to 1977.

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Björn Hammar will be a STINT Fellow at the Department of Political Science of Amherst College the spring semester 2022.

Björn Hammar is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Örebro University, Sweden. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Granada (Spain) in 1998 and is a graduate from Stockholm University. His research and teaching have been carried out within and in collaboration with academic institutions in Sweden, Spain (and to some extent in Latin America), where he has held tenured and visiting positions. He has taught for more than 20 years at all levels of Political Science (from undergraduate to doctoral) in Swedish, English and Spanish. Hammar’s expertise lies within political theory, history of political thought, democratic theory, international relations, international thought and Spanish politics. Currently, he is the main supervisor of one PhD candidate.

The core of his most recent research is dealing with the relations between sovereignty, cartography, state and empire in modern political thought and government. In order to examine notions of sovereignty in early modern polities that encompassed both a centralizing state and an expanding empire, this project focuses on how cartography and territory was used to represent order, control and authority. The aim not to delve into these early modern states/empires in an antiquarian sense, as history strictly confined to the past.

The purpose is rather to shed light on how certain cartographic notions continue to influence the way political order and sovereign government is conceived. Several articles and conference papers on this theme have been published. Hammar has previously published on issues such as the early modern state, Thomas Hobbes, political theory as rhetoric and tropology, political representation, political language and the meaning of Europe in Spanish politics during the transition to democracy.

Hammar is since 2001 a fellow of the research group Retórica y Teoría Política at Universidad Complutense de Madrid and a member of the editorial board of the international journal Foro Interno: Anuario de Teoría Política. His research has been funded by programs and bodies such as the Plan Nacional de I+D+i, Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia de España and the RTD Framework Programs of the European Union. Hammar has in numerous occasions served as a member of international review panels of research programs and agencies, for example The Spanish National Agency for Scientific Evaluation.

Course Offered by Professor Hammer Spring 2022

POSC 329 - Sovereignty State Empire

This course delves into the theoretical and historical coexistence of states and empires, focusing on how sovereignty and related concepts have been conceived in different contexts. Ideas about the sovereign state have been highly influential when depicting and analyzing modern political order and authority. Other modern polities have however coexisted with the sovereign state. The most prominent of these polities is empire. Sovereign states and empires have frequently been portrayed as entities guided by contending principles of rule and authority. Nonetheless, the early modern era, which in the history of political thought traditionally has been depicted as the emergence of state sovereignty, coincides with the establishment of transoceanic empires with extensions never before seen. This European imperial endeavor is a striking example of how states were faced with a reality that did not always match the ideas that eventually would be associated with sovereignty. The focus of this course is not primarily on the relation between state and empire as a question strictly confined to the past. The course rather emphasizes how notions about contemporary state sovereignty and the rule of modern empires continue to share fundamental dilemmas concerning political order.
NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES BEING OFFERED IN 2021-2022

Fall Semester

- **FYSE 114 - Inequality in the "New World"** - Professor Thomas Dummi
  This course explores the consequences of the European encounter of 1492, and after, with indigenous peoples of what came to be called the Americas, including systemic genocide committed against indigenous peoples, the emergence of chattel slavery, the functions of ideologies that have contributed to white supremacism, and the roles that doctrines of racial difference have played in producing social and economic inequalities.

- **FYSE 116 - The Anatomy of Pictures** - Professor Lorne Falk
  This course is about the centrality of images produced by mechanical means in the rituals, practices, and representations of everyday life—what we now understand as visual culture. With a focus on the last 50 years, we will explore why it is important to understand the image as utterly diverse in its functions. We will dissect examples from contemporary photography, new media, screen culture, and cultural theory that critically challenge visual culture. Our conversations will cover topics from new models of spectatorship and how to become visually literate to controversies surrounding trigger warnings and the risk of “remaining forever trapped inside the image” (cf. Jacques Rancière’s “The Intolerable Image”). Readings will include the voices of artists, critics, historians, cultural theorists, and philosophers such as Roland Barthes, Jean Baudrillard, Richard Dyer, Jessica Evans, Michel Foucault, Anne Friedberg, Stuart Hall, bell hooks, Kobena Mercer, Adrian Piper, Claudia Rankine, and Hito Steyerl.

- **POSC 247 - Power, Politics, and the Middle East** - Professor Basileus Zeno
  The Middle East is often represented as a region plagued with endless wars, ethnic and religious violence, superstition and ignorance, subjugation, and authoritarianism, but what is the Middle East? What explains the prevalence and persistence of these views among politicians, journalists and even academics? How has Eurocentrism and Orientalism influenced our understanding of the historical development of Arab cultures, politics, and societies? How were states formed during and after colonization? What explains “sectarianism,” and the resiliency of authoritarian regimes in the region? Why did the “Arab Spring” happen, and what hope is there for people’s movements in the region? How and why do ordinary people revolt against authoritarianism in the Middle East? How has American foreign policy facilitated the rise of Islamist movements, such as ISIS and al-Qaeda? This course aims to provide students with a critical perspective of regional politics by examining these key questions and debates surrounding the study of Middle Eastern politics, power, and knowledge production. We will integrate case studies of the region and engage with theoretical and conceptual debates. Throughout the course, we will use as sources the vast expanse of literature produced and explore representations of the Middle East and North Africa in popular culture, including films, documentaries, media, and political discourse. This course assumes no prior background knowledge of the region and is thus suitable for students with varying levels of familiarity of Middle East politics.

- **POSC 331 - Political Psychology** - Professor Princess Williams
  Since Plato and Aristotle, many thinkers have asked what motivates political behavior and influences political judgment. This course explores the assumptions that underlie studies of individual and group political behavior. We will begin by examining the motivations of citizens’ political decisions (i.e., why do voters favor one candidate, public policy, or political party) and the actions of leaders (i.e., why they support or stigmatize social groups, express hostility to other nations, advocate particular policies). We will then take a close look at psychological concepts such as framing, selective exposure, motivated reasoning, priming, social identity, and self-interest and ask how they help us to better understand both historical and contemporary political outcomes. We will also explore different methods of collecting data and measuring political and psychological processes. This course will focus primarily on studies of American politics, but whenever possible we will examine comparative case studies.
In this course we explore historical and contemporary discontents of liberal democracy through the lens of racial and economic injustice in the United States. The constitutional principle of equality on which liberal democracy is based seeks both to protect the rights of minorities and to enable its citizens to realize their full potential. However, persisting racial and economic injustices expose the project’s fragility and raise questions about whether its procedural and structural foundations are sufficient to accomplish these goals. Our exploration is informed by several questions: What is liberal democracy? Is liberal democracy the form in the best position to secure human flourishing? If not, what form or forms are? What do the racial and economic injustices within our democracy tell us about the meaning of “the people” and dissent, core features of liberal democratic thought? To what normative (i.e. ideal or desirable) standards of democracy should we aspire? Through close reading of a diverse group of thinkers including Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Claudia Jones, Sheldon Wolin, Saidiya Hartman, Iris Marion Young, Nancy Fraser, Will Clare Roberts, Lawrie Balfour, Toni Morrison, Jason Frank, Cedric Robinson, among others, we will explore liberal democracy’s limitations as well as how it can be reconstructed to more effectively embody its ideals.

This class proposes Amazonia as a site to think about world politics. The Amazon, imagined as a place of nature rather than modernity, is invisible in the study of International Relations (IR). Yet, its experiences are deeply interconnected with international dynamics. The modern world has long been influencing Amazonia, and Amazonia has in turn contributed much to forging what we now refer to as the global North. This class identifies international dynamics at play in Amazonia through different historical moments, from shaping western sovereignty in the sixteenth century to the rubber boom of the twentieth century and drug trafficking today. We show how Amazonian peripheries have contributed to forging the political economy of what we refer to as the core of world politics. This class engages with empirical approaches to Amazonia as well as theoretical debates about IR, disrupting the global division of labor in knowledge production and opening fertile grounds to think critically about IR.

Other than war, punishment is the most dramatic manifestation of state power. Whom a society punishes and how it punishes are key political questions as well as indicators of its character. The character of punishment in the United States has been shaped, throughout American history, by race and racism. This course considers the connections between punishment, race, and politics in this country. We will ask how far we have come in the journey from lynch mobs to the killing state. We also will consider whether we punish too much and too severely, or too little and too leniently and the ways race has shaped the ways we punish? We will examine the politicization and racialization of punishment and examine particular modalities through which the state dispenses its penal power. Among the questions to be discussed are: Does punishment express our noblest aspirations for justice or our basest racialized fears and desires for vengeance? Can it ever be an adequate expression of, or response to, the pain of the victims of crime? When is it appropriate to forgive rather than punish? How do race and racial antagonism shape the answer to that question? Throughout we will try to understand the meaning of punishment in the United States by its intimate connections to this country’s racial history.
Spring Semester

- **POSC 122 – Power and Relevance of International Organizations: The Case of the UN and Other IOs** – Professor Gustavo Salcedo
  
  This course provides an introduction to the role and impact that international organizations (IOs) have on modern world politics. Since their proliferation in the twentieth century, IOs have become an essential part of the global economic and security commons. Much has been discussed about their relevance in bringing peace and stability, and whether they challenge the supremacy of the nation-state in international relations. Through carefully selected readings and numerous audio and video documentaries, we will study the key concepts and theories that make up the main academic literature on IOs today. Special focus will be given to the United Nations System: its history, structural organization, and impact on a wide variety of areas, including decolonization, economic development, conflict management, human rights, and the environment. Other IOs examined more briefly will be the Organization of American States, and the European and African Unions. Finally, some thoughts will be given to the rise of international non-governmental organizations.

- **POSC 147 – Displacement and Migration From/in the Middle East** – Professor Basileus Zeno
  
  Migration has a long and important history in shaping the cultures, economies, and politics of the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa). This course will address specific topics related to displacement in and from the region and the framing of humanitarian and aid responses to displacement, including both refugees and internally displaced populations (IDPs). Drawing on a comparative perspective, we will trace politics and history of migration and displacement from the nineteenth century to the contemporary “refugee crisis” and how they shaped the region. Together, we will examine the following questions: What was the significance of “Little Syria” in Boston and New York and what explains the rise and fall of the Syrian Ottoman communities? How have host countries in the MENA region responded to refugees and migrants, and what explains the variations of politics of hospitality or hostility after the War on Iraq and the ongoing conflicts in Syria, Libya, and Yemen? What is “climate refugee” and what are the links between environmental factors and human mobility in the MENA? One of the main meta-questions we will be asking throughout this class is about representation. How can we better prepare ourselves with knowledge of issues and of representational formats to engage in meaningful work around displaced people? How did problematic forms of Orientalized representations of people from the MENA influence politics and public opinion in Western countries (including the US under the Trump era)? In this course, students will gain an in-depth knowledge about the role of migration in the MENA region and will develop an array of analytical tools for understanding the multiple drivers of migration as well as the impact migration has on societies, domestic politics, international relations, and local and regional economies.

- **POSC 329 – Sovereignty State Empire** – Professor Bjorn Hammer
  
  This course delves into the theoretical and historical coexistence of states and empires, focusing on how sovereignty and related concepts have been conceived in different contexts. Ideas about the sovereign state have been highly influential when depicting and analyzing modern political order and authority. Other modern polities have however coexisted with the sovereign state. The most prominent of these polities is empire. Sovereign states and empires have frequently been portrayed as entities guided by contending principles of rule and authority. Nonetheless, the early modern era, which in the history of political thought traditionally has been depicted as the emergence of state sovereignty, coincides with the establishment of transoceanic empires with extensions never before seen. This European imperial endeavor is a striking example of how states were faced with a reality that did not always match the ideas that eventually would be associated with sovereignty. The focus of this course is not primarily on the relation between state and empire as a question strictly confined to the past. The course rather emphasizes how notions about contemporary state sovereignty and the rule of modern empires continue to share fundamental dilemmas concerning political order.
- **POSC 353 - Public Discussion and Liberal Democracy** – Professor Freke Ette
  Democracy refers to the rule of the people. But who exactly are the people? This course examines how the people, understood as a publicly discussing, political entity, evolved with the expansion of the voting franchise. It then considers what the notion of public discussion means in the Social Media Age. The course will explore public discussion as a concept in the history of political thought, focusing on a variety of European and American thinkers. The first third of the course studies several nineteenth-century English and French theorists who grappled with the fate of liberalism in the face of mass democracy. The second part revisits the famous debate, during the Progressive Era, on the role of public opinion in establishing and sustaining democracy in the United States. The course concludes with a look at what public discussion means in an age of big data, individualized advertising, a fragmented media landscape, and social silos.

- **POSC ??? - TBD** – Professor Princess Williams

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**POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CERTIFICATE COURSES OFFERED THIS YEAR**

**Fall Semester**
- **FYSE 114 - Racial Inequality in the "New World"** – Professor Thomas Dumm
- **POSC 108/ASLC 108 - China: Continuity and Change** – Professor Kerry Ratigan
- **POSC 145 - Work** – Professor Kristin Bumiller
- **POSC 160/SWAG 160 - Sexualities in International Relations** – Professor Manuela Picq
- **POSC 214/HIST 215 - Geopolitics and American Foreign Policy** – Professor Pavel Machala and Gordon Levin
- **POSC 235 - Globalization Through the Lens of Border Culture** – Professor Lorne Falk
- **POSC 247 - Power, Politics, and the Middle East** – Professor Basileus Zeno
- **POSC 352 - History of International Relations** – Professor Gustavo Salcedo
- **POSC 370 - Cyberpolitics** – Professor Ruxandra Paul
- **POSC 380 - Kremlin Rising: Russia's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century** – Professor Constantine Pleshakov
- **POSC 432/LLAS 332 - Amazonia in International Relations** – Professor Manuela Picq

**Interterm**
- **POSC 431/ASLC 431 - Health Policy in China** – Professor Kerry Ratigan

**Spring Semester**
- **POSC 122 - Power and Revolucen of International Organizations. The Case of the UN and Other IOs** – Prof. Salcedo
- **POSC 147 - Displacement and Migration from the Middle East** – Professor Basileus Zeno
- **POSC 200 - Topics in International Relations** – Professor Pavel Machala
- **POSC 208/ASLC 208 - Power and Politics in Contemporary China** – Professor Kerry Ratigan
- **POSC 270 - European Union Politics: Integration and Disintegration** – Professor Ruxandra Paul
- **POSC 301 - Terrorism and Revolution: A Case Study of Russia** – Professor Constantine Pleshakov
- **POSC 320 - Rethinking Post-Colonial Nationalism** – Professor Amrita Basu
- **POSC 329 - Sovereignty State Empire** – Professor Bjorn Hammer
- **POSC 407/SWAG 400 - Contemporary Debates: Gender and Right-Wing Nationalism** – Professor Amrita Basu
- **POSC 470 - International Migrations and Politics in the Era of Globalization** – Professor Ruxandra Paul
1. Senior Thesis Workshops for 2021-22 will be held on the following dates:
   - Monday, September 13, 2021, 5:30-7:00 pm - Location TBD
   - Monday, October 4, 2021, 5:30-7:00 pm - Location TBD
   - Monday, February 21, 2022, 5:30-7:00 pm - Location TBD

2. Junior Political Science Thesis Writers Informational Meetings will be held on the following dates:
   - Thursday, December 2, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm
   - Thursday, February 10, 2022, 5:00-6:00 pm
   - last meeting with Senior Thesis Writers TBD

3. The Political Science Majors Reception
   This years Political Science Majors reception will be held on TBD in the tent on the lawn of Clark House. All Political Science majors are invited to attend. Please stop by for some food and refreshments and meet with some of our faculty members. RSVP is required.

4. Faculty Office Hours
   To see this semesters faculty office hours, go to the Political Science web page and click on the "Faculty & Staff" tab, 'Faculty Office Hours', or go to: https://www.amherst.edu/mm/34891

5. Political Science Department information
   To find out more information about the Political Science Department, the major, our courses, or any new or updated news and events, please visit our web page at: https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13471 or contact our Chair: Austin Sarat at adsarat@amherst.edu or the Academic Department Coordinator, Theresa Laizer at talaizer@amherst.edu