Welcome to Professor Ruxandra Paul who joins us as an Assistant Professor. She received her PhD in Comparative Politics from Harvard in 2014 and had been a postdoc in the Government Department at Harvard University. Professor Paul with be teaching two courses this Fall, POSC 170, Building Nation-States, Markets and Democracy in Europe and POSC 370, Cyberpolitics.

Course Description for POSC 170: Building Nation-States, Markets and Democracy. This course examines the making of modern politics in Western and Eastern Europe, tracing the development of nation-states, markets, and democratic institutions from the Middle Ages to the European Union. It sheds light on key questions driving contemporary political debates around the world: How are strong states built? What explains the success or collapse of democracies? When are revolutions successful? Why do some countries transition successfully to capitalism and democracy, while others do not? How can political systems overcome social, ethnic, and religious divisions, and cope with transnational pressures? How can international security be improved? The course provides an introduction to European politics and reveals how the legacies of the past often shape the politics of the present. We cover feudalism, absolutism, revolution, industrialization, democratization, and European integration. Specific topics include state and nation-building, mass democracy, economic development, capitalism and the welfare state, East-West divides, Cold War and post-Cold War political trajectories, the European Union, security, and migration. The course draws on cases from Western Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Eastern Europe.

Course Description for POSC 370: Cyberpolitics. The digital age shapes politics around the world, in democracies and dictatorships. New information and communication technologies (ICTs) influence political processes, state-society interactions, markets, and policy-making at all levels. They raise questions for research areas as diverse as sovereignty, elections and campaigns, democratization, protest, repression, war and security policy, terrorism and counterterrorism, trade, currency policy, international cooperation, immigration and diaspora politics, identity, and citizenship.

The course asks four big questions: (1) How does digital technology change democratic politics? (2) How do ICTs challenge authoritarian regimes? (3) Do ICTs boost or undermine international security? (4) Will ICTs render states obsolete by empowering subnational and supranational actors? These structure the seminar in four modules: e-Democracy (social capital, participation, elections, accountability); online revolutions and repression (resistance, mobilization, online censorship and surveillance); cyber security (cyberwar, terrorism, hacking, intelligence, privacy); and beyond the state (international cooperation, markets, transnational activism, digital currencies, subnational actors and transnational networks).

We use current issues and cases (e.g. #Occupy, #BlackLivesMatter, net neutrality, the Arab Spring, online radicalization, the Snowden revelations, Bitcoin, Anonymous ops, Internet censorship in China, etc.) to analyze how cyberspace reshapes politics and political science as a discipline. Students will gain a rigorous and sophisticated understanding of the relationship between technology and politics. The course will help students design, develop, and conduct research in political science.
Professor Dionne, Visiting Five College Professor from Smith

Is the Five College Assistant Professor of Government at Smith College, and her focus is on African Politics. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science at UCLA and was a member of the faculty at Texas A&M University from 2010-2013. From 2008-2009, she was a Fulbright Scholar in Malawi conducting dissertation research on the political economy of HIV/AIDS interventions. She has also collected data in Ghana and Tanzania. She studies a variety of topics including African politics, health (particularly HIV/AIDS), ethnicity, and research methods. She is particularly intrigued with the importance of village headmen in rural Africa. Methodologically, her interest is in the systematic analysis of qualitative data, field experiments, social network analysis, and anything that can be learned from longitudinal household-level data. Professor Dionne will be teaching POSC 327, which is cross listed with BLST327, The Politics of Intervention in Africa.

Course Description for POSC/BLST 327: The Politics of Intervention in Africa. Africa is a primary target for aid intervention as it is the region with the highest poverty and suffers from recurring humanitarian challenges. This seminar will review international interventions in Africa--both military and humanitarian--to identify patterns of aid provision and critically examine the motivations behind intervention. Through a close reading of books describing different types of intervention, we will study the success of these interventions, but more often, we will try to diagnose the patterns of failure in attempting to improve the human condition. Our collective goal is to identify potential models for successful intervention.

Professor Arkes, Emeriti Professor of Political Science, Amherst

Professor Arkes has returned to Amherst this fall to offer his course POSC 153, Political Obligations.

Course Description: POSC 153: Political Obligations. The mark of the polity, or the political order, has always been the presence of “law”--the capacity to make decisions that are binding, or obligatory, for everyone within the territory. The roots of obligation and law are the same: “ligare,” to bind. When the law imposes a decision, it restricts personal freedom and displaces “private choice” in favor of a public obligation, an obligation applied uniformly or universally. The law may commit us then on matters that run counter even to our own convictions, strongly held, about the things that are right or wrong, and even on matters of our private lives. The law may forbid people to discriminate on grounds of race even in their private businesses; the law may forbid abortions or, on the other hand, the law may compel the funding of abortions even by people who find them abhorrent. This state of affairs, this logic of the law, has always called out for justification, and in facing that question, we are led back to the original understanding of the connection between morality and law. The law can justify itself only if it can establish, as its ground, propositions about the things that are in principle right or wrong, just or unjust--which is to say, right or wrong, just or unjust, for others as well as ourselves. The questions of law and obligation then must point to the questions at the root of moral philosophy: What is the nature of the good or the just, and the grounds on which we may claim to “know” moral truths?

The course will proceed through a series of cases after it returns to the beginning of political philosophy and lays the groundwork for the argument. We will begin with Aristotle on the polis, and the debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas on “natural rights.” We will draw on Kant and Hume, on Thomas Reid and Bertrand Russell, as we seek to set the groundwork in place. The argument of the course will then be unfolded further, and tested, through a train of cases and problems: conscientious objection, the war in Vietnam, the obligation to rescue, the claims of privacy. And the culmination will come on the issues of abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide.
Professor Klare, Visiting Five College Professor from Hampshire College

Michael Klare, Five College professor of peace and world security studies, and director of the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies (PAWSS), holds a B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of the Union Institute. He has written widely on U.S. military policy, international peace and security affairs, the global arms trade, and global resource politics. Professor Klare will be teaching POSC 484, Seminar on International Politics: Global Resource Politics.

Course Description for POSC 484: Seminar on International Politics: Global Resource. An intensive investigation of new and emerging problems in international peace and security affairs. We will examine such issues as: international terrorism; global resource competition; the security implications of globalization; international migrations; transboundary environmental problems; illegal trafficking in guns, drugs, and people. Participants in the seminar will be required to choose a particular problem for in-depth investigation, entailing a study of the nature and evolution of the problem, the existing international response to it, and proposals for its solution. Students will prepare a major paper on the topic and give an oral presentation to the class on their findings.

Professor Lake, Karl Loewenstein Fellow

Dr Jessica Lake is a Lecturer in Law at Swinburne University and researches in the areas of privacy law, intellectual property, and American legal history, with a particular focus on gender.

She has an LBB (Hons), BA (Hons) and PhD from the University of Melbourne. Her PhD thesis, ‘Privacy and the Pictures: the photographed and filmed (women) who forged a right to privacy in the United States (1880-1950)’, demonstrated that women forged a ‘right to privacy’ in the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries by bringing cases protesting the unauthorized use and abuse of images of their faces and bodies. Her PhD will be published as a book, The Face that Launched a Thousand Lawsuits, by Yale University Press in 2016. Jessica has also published her work in journals and newspapers, and presented at conferences, in Australia and the United States.

She is also a qualified lawyer, and practiced for many years in the area of media and entertainment law and commercial litigation at a Melbourne law firm.

Welcome Back Students!
Professor Mattiacci, Karl Loewenstein Fellow & Visiting Assistant Professor in Political Science

Professor Eleonora Mattiacci will be teaching POSC 420, Drones, Satellites, Cyberwar: Technology and National Security.

Course Description for POSC 420: Drones, Satellites, Cyberwar: Technology and National Security.
How does technology change the ways in which we fight wars? Can innovations such as computerized systems, drones, or even social media make wars less deadly? Or do these technologies increase instead the probability that states will fight? To address these questions, this class will adopt a chronological structure and we will study some of the major military innovations in the past seventy years. We will use both traditional forms of lecture and discussion and simulations of political processes (such as the authorization of drone strikes) to learn about the effects of technology on war. Topics include important moments such as the aerial power revolution, nuclear weapons and the MAD strategy, the “CNN Revolution” in the 1990s, the spread of social media as a tool of public diplomacy for insurgents, the drones’ “war of precision,” and also the recent debate over cybersecurity. Throughout the class, we will parse out two types of technology advancements: those that change the most fundamental aspects of war (such as leaders’ objectives in the conflict and their cost/benefit calculations on whether to become involved or not) and those that merely alter the way the war is fought.

Professor Picq, Visiting Professor of Political Science

Professor Picq will be teaching POSC 160, Sexualities in International Relations and POSC 421, Indigenous World Politics this fall.

Course Description for POSC 160, Sexualities in International Relations. From abortion to gay rights, sexuality is deeply entangled in world politics. As LGBT rights become human rights principles, they not only enter the rights structure of the European Union and the United Nations but are also considered a barometer of political modernity. If some Latin American nations have depicted their recognition of gay rights as symbolic of their progressive character, certain North African nations have depicted their repression of homosexuality symbolic of their opposition to western imperialism. The results of sexual politics are often contradictory, with some countries enabling same-sex marriage but criminalizing abortion and others cutting aid in the name of human rights. This course explores the influence of sexual politics on international relations. We analyze how women and gay rights take shape in the international system, from the UN to security agendas, and evaluate how sexuality shapes the modus operandi of contemporary politics.

Course Description for POSC 421, Indigenous World Politics. Indigenous peoples are dynamic political actors in national and global contexts. They have secured their rights in international law, first through Convention 169 at the International Labour Organization (1989), then with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007). They have created innovative political forums and organized global social movements. Global indigenous politics are forging major changes in the international system, thereby disordering conventional understandings of sovereignty.

This course locates indigeneity at the core of international relations and examines indigenous politics from the Andes to the UN. We study international law securing rights for indigenous peoples and analyze indigenous experiences such as the Arctic Council and the election of Bolivian President Evo Morales. The course also explores the epistemological implications of indigenous rights for our understanding of politics. The consolidation of plurinational states in the Andes and indigenous parliaments in the Arctic change the locus of the political, and principles of self-determination challenge Westphalian notions of sovereignty to redefine territoriality.
Professor Pleshakov, Visiting Professor

Professor Constantine Pleshakov will be teaching POSC 323, From Petrograd to Petrostate: Power and Public in Post-communist Russia.

Course Description for POSC 323, From Petrograd to Petrostate: Power and Public in Post-communist Russia. Russia emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union a budding democracy with aggressively contested elections on the federal and local level. Twenty years later, it is an authoritarian state in which opposition is persecuted and the electorate divorced from any policy-making. This course will examine the dynamics of Russian politics from the anti-Communist revolution of 1991 to the present, attempting to answer the question why this happened. First, we will revisit the legacy of the Soviet era pertinent to “new” Russia – centralism and political repression but also social welfare systems, feminism, and communality. Second, we will look at the socio-economic factors of Russia’s metamorphosis, the products of the Russian version of a free market economy (among others: the emergence of a new dominant minority, the “oligarchs,” and the gap between the rich and the poor). Third, we will examine the concepts of democracy and human rights prevalent in Russia over the past twenty years and ask how different they are from Western concepts of democracy and human rights. Fourth, we will try determining the role of individuals in Russian politics. How did Vladimir Putin dismantle the democratic institutions of Russia so quickly? What was the voters’ reaction to that? What made his victory over the “oligarchs” possible? Was this a case of a leader going against the grain or did he fit the profile of an ideal leader the majority of Russians wanted? Is it Putin’s Russia or Russia’s very own Putin?

Professor Robinson, Visiting Professor of Political Science


In the mid-1980s he was an adviser and panelist on Fred Friendly’s PBS series The Constitution: That Delicate Balance. He was a consultant to The Ford Foundation on comparative constitutionalism and lectured on the U. S. Constitution in Israel, Japan, China, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Since 2004 he has written a monthly column on politics and culture for the Daily Hampshire Gazette in Northampton.

He first taught this seminar at Amherst on “Parties and Elections” in 2012. It is a great pleasure to be offering a reprise this year.
**Faculty News**

Professor Javier Corrales was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to do research in Colombia during the fall. He will be back on campus in the spring.

Professor Constantine Pleshakov’s new book, *The Crimean Nexus: Putin’s War and the Clash of Civilizations* will be released by Yale University Press in December 2016.

New Faculty Professor Ruxandra Paul has been elected to the Executive Council of the American Political Science Association Migration and Citizenship Section. She looks forward to serving the profession and representing Amherst College as a member of the Executive Council.

Professor Kerry Ratigan and several colleagues were awarded a grant from the Hong Kong SAR Government General Research Fund to conduct a survey on public attitudes towards social policy in urban China. The survey will be conducted in 2017.

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**Amherst College Department of Political Science New and IR Courses Offered for Fall 2016**

**Amherst College Department of Political Science New Courses offered for Fall 2016**

- **POSC 136** – Regulating Citizenship, Kristin Bumillerp
- **POSC 153** – Political Obligations, Hadley Arkes
- **POSC 160** – Sexualities in International Relations, Manuela Picq
- **POSC 170** – Building Nation-States, Markets and Democracy in Europe, Ruxandra Paul
- **POSC 304** – Seminar on Parties and Elections, Don Robinson
- **POSC 327** – The Politics of Intervention in Africa, Kim Dionne
- **POSC 355** – Animals: Law, Ethics, Biopolitics, Tom Dumm/Adam Sitze
- **POSC 370** – Cyberpolitics, Ruxandra Paul
- **POSC 420** – Drones, Satellites, Cyberwar: Technology and National Security, Eleonora Mattiacci
- **POSC 421** – Indigenous World Politics, Manuela Picq

**International Relations Certificate Courses in Political Science Offered for Fall 2016**

- **POSC 160** – Sexualities in International Relations, Manuela Picq
- **POSC 170** – Building Nation-States, Markets and Democracy in Europe, Ruxandra Paul
- **POSC 214** – Geopolitics and American Foreign Policy, Pavel Machala
- **POSC 313** – Reading Politics, Pavel Machala
- **POSC 323** – From Petrograd to Petrostate: Power and Public in Post-communist Russia, Constantine Pleshakov
- **POSC 327** – The Politics of Intervention in Africa, Kim Dionne
- **POSC 370** – Cyberpolitics, Ruxandra Paul
- **POSC 420** – Drones, Satellites, Cyberwar: Technology and National Security, Eleonora Mattiacci
- **POSC 421** – Indigenous World Politics, Manuela Picq
Latham Scholarship: Political Science

Application Live: Feb 20  
https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/careers/tools-online-services/jobs/internships/funding/Latham

Application Deadline: 11:59 pm April 1

Scholarships are awarded each year to Amherst students who are seeking to spend the summer working as interns in Washington, D.C., in offices of the federal government, or in other positions in public service. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Julia Alexander: jalexander@amherst.edu

Eligibility:

- You are a first year, sophomore or junior
- Must be in Washington, D.C., in offices of government or public service
- Internship can be full-time or part-time
- Preference will be given to students who are returning to Amherst

Extra consideration will be given to students whose summer internship is connected to work on a senior thesis

Application Materials:

- Current Resume
- Essay Questions (you will find these attached GO! application)
- Unofficial Transcript (copy from ACData into a Word doc)

How to Apply:

Steps for completing the application:

- Click the Amherst College GO! logo at the bottom of the page.
- Select “Register Now” in the Student Login section.
- Complete the Registration
  - General Information
  - Major Information
  - Create Password
- Navigate back to the Home Screen to log into the system, your account has been created. Search the programs offered and select the apply to the appropriate program
- Complete the application and click submit when you’re finished.
### Academic Deadlines (Fall Semester)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Sept. 6</td>
<td>Fall Classes Begin, First Day of Add/Drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Sept. 15</td>
<td>End of Add/Drop and Interchange Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., Oct. 7</td>
<td>Deadline for departments to submit class times to Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Oct. 8</td>
<td>Mid-Semester Break until Oct. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Oct. 12</td>
<td>Fall Classes Resume, Monday Class Schedule will be followed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Oct. 19</td>
<td>Mid-Semester Grades due to the Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Oct. 21</td>
<td>Last day for First-year/First-semester-Transfer drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Oct. 31</td>
<td>Advising Week until Nov. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Nov. 7</td>
<td>Pre-Registration until Nov. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Nov. 19</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Vacation until Nov. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Nov. 28</td>
<td>Second Round Registration for Spring 2017 until Dec. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Nov. 28</td>
<td>Fall Classes Resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., Dec. 13</td>
<td>17E Sr. Theses due to Registrar/Honors Recommendations due to Registrar/Summa Honors Recommendations due to Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 14</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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### Useful Links/Information

- Political Science Department on the Web: [https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13471](https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13471)
- Faculty Office Hours: [https://www.amherst.edu/mm/34891](https://www.amherst.edu/mm/34891)
- Connect with Political Science Alumni: [https://www.amherst.edu/mm/125813](https://www.amherst.edu/mm/125813)
- Five College International Relationships Certificate Program: [https://www.amherst.edu/mm/18839](https://www.amherst.edu/mm/18839)
- Honors/Thesis Requirements: [https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13818](https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13818)
- Latham Internships: [https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13819](https://www.amherst.edu/mm/13819)

**Latham Scholarship: Political Science** Scholarships are awarded each year to Amherst students who are seeking to spend the summer working as interns in Washington, D.C., in offices of the federal government, or in other positions in public service.

**Eligibility:** Classes of 2020, 2019, 2018, Must be in Washington, D.C., in offices of government or public service, Internship can be full-time or part-time, Preference will be given to students who are returning to Amherst, Extra consideration will be given to students whose summer internship is connected to work on a senior thesis
Political Science Thesis Deadlines

March 1st of your Junior Year: An application and proposal must be submitted electronically at https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/Political-Science-Major/honors-thesis-requirements/honorsapplication. Your application and proposal must be submitted NO LATER THAN March 1st. Your application and proposal should lay out your problem and/or the questions you will address, explain the methods you will use, and provide a short bibliography of background literature for your thesis. You should also indicate your preferred advisor. Acceptance into the program will depend on student academic qualifications and availability of faculty in the department. Register for a maximum of two senior thesis courses.

Mid September: First meeting with advisor; negotiate frequency of meetings (usually weekly) and work plan for the entire semester. Begin thesis work: Some advisors will suggest that you should be reading 600-700 pp. a week. Others will encourage you to begin writing early. Remember, you are taking two advanced seminars. Arrange meeting with reference librarian (x2319 or e-mail Michael Kasper, reference librarian who usually works with the Political Science Department.

Mid October: The thesis topic by this point should be more well-defined. For example, you may submit outline of thesis (with estimated page lengths of different sections) or perhaps a bibliography (already read and to read)

November: Before TG: Substantial progress in writing is expected. For example, submit one chapter draft, preferably the chapter outlining argument or literature review.

December: Before finals: More progress in writing and reading is expected (in order to get feedback from your advisor before the end of the semester). For example, submit second chapter draft and maybe a revised draft of November chapter.

Winter Break: What break? You should be writing, writing, writing.

January: Second Monday in January submit the first draft of your entire thesis. This is a very strict deadline because your faculty readers need time to review drafts before the semester begins in late January. Please submit TWO DOUBLE-SIDED hard copies of your thesis to the Department office in Clark House, room 103 by 3 PM. One copy is for your advisor and one copy is for your second reader. Please list your advisor’s and second reader’s names on your title page. Please submit an electronic copy to the department at talaizer@amherst.edu. Before the submission deadline, you will also be assigned a second reader by the Department.

Add/drop period: Meet with your Second Reader and main advisor. Please contact your second reader the first day of the semester to schedule an appointment to receive comments on your draft. Your thesis advisor will inform you of the decision about whether you will be able to continue with the thesis project (in which case, you will register for one senior thesis course), otherwise you will need to submit your work for a “special topics course” to be graded by your thesis advisor.

February: Devise a plan for revisions in consultation with your advisor. During the spring semester, you may find yourself doing multiple tasks (e.g., reading new materials, re-reading old materials, revising chapters, and writing new sections).

April: First Monday in April submit final thesis. Thesis defense with First and Third Reader will be scheduled for late April (typically

Political Science Thesis Meetings

The Political Science Department will be holding informational sessions for Junior’s who are interested in writing a Senior Thesis. The meetings will be held in Clark House, room 100 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday December 6, February 21 and April 11.

During the fall semester, Political Science, along with the Writing Center and Frost Library, conducted a number of workshops to assist our senior majors in writing their theses. These workshops were held in the Center for Humanistic Inquiry on the 2nd floor of Frost Library. Workshops for the fall semester are in the planning stages and will be announced when completed.

Students who wish to be considered for graduation with Departmental Honors in Political Science must have an A- cumulative average or higher after six semesters. Prospective applicants should consult with members of the Department during their junior year to define a suitable Honors project and to determine whether a member of the Department competent to act as an advisor will be available to do so.
Major Requirements

Majors in Political Science must complete 10 courses for rite or 12 for honors in courses offered or approved by the Department, including at least one introductory course numbered in the 100’s and at least one advanced seminar. In addition they must fulfill a distribution requirement and complete a core concentration within Political Science.

**Introductory courses:** Courses numbered 100s are introductory courses. Because these courses are designed to introduce students to the study of politics, the department recommends that they be taken in the first and second year. Students may count a maximum of two introductory courses toward their major. FYSE courses taught by members of our department count toward the introductory course requirement.

**Advanced Seminars:** These courses are generally numbered in the 400s. They have prerequisites, limited enrollment, and a substantial writing requirement.

**Distribution Requirement:** To fulfill the distribution requirement, majors must take one course in each of the following areas: Institutions and Law: States, institutions, parties, political economy, the law and public policy [IL]; Society and Culture: Civil society, social movements, rights and identities, cultural politics [SC]; Global: War, peace, diplomacy, foreign policy and globalization studies [G]; Political Theory: Power, norms, and justice [PT].

**Core Concentration:** Political Science majors shall also designate a core concentration within the major. The core concentration will consist of a minimum of four courses organized around a theme chosen by the student in consultation with the advisor. Students may count up to two courses from outside the Political Science Department to fulfill the core requirement. These courses will count for the completion of the major. Ordinarily students shall designate a core concentration by the end of the sophomore year or at the time they declare the major. Advisors will certify that graduating students have completed their core concentration requirement.

**Credits for study abroad and transfer students:** Two courses for those going abroad for 1 semester; 3 courses for students going abroad for 1 year.

Courses must 1) be taught by someone with a degree in political science or have substantial political content; and 2) must not be redundant with other courses already taken in the Five Colleges. The chair of the department will decide whether courses will be given credit toward the major.

For students transferring to Amherst, the Department will accept three courses for the major. We may waive the introductory course requirement if the transfer student has had an equivalent course.

For students coming to the College with a BA in hand (e.g. from Japanese universities), we will accept 4 courses and waive the introductory course requirement.

**Decisions regarding credit or requests to vary the requirements for completion of the major:** Decisions regarding credit or requests to vary the requirements for completion of the major shall be made by the Department Chair.