

*The Wilf Family Department of Politics is pleased to offer the following new courses in Politics and International Relations in Spring 2023.
Visit our [website](#) or contact us at politics undergrads@nyu.edu for more information.*

Political Equality (POL-UA 195.01)

Prof. Melissa Schwartzberg

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 am– 12:15 pm

Prerequisite: POL-UA 100

What does “equality” mean? What attributes or characteristics do we identify as important for equal membership in a political community? What does it mean to recognize others as equals? What types of inequality might we consider to be justified? This course explores these questions both through the study of the history of political thought and through contemporary political theory, philosophy, and economics.

Comparative Constitutions* (POL-UA 994.06)

Prof. Adriana Garcia

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45 am

Prerequisite: none

This course will examine the design and implementation of national constitutions. To do so, we will use an interdisciplinary approach that includes legal, political, economic, and behavioral analyses. This course aims to understand better other countries’ constitutional systems across time, region, and regime types. In particular, we will address the following questions. First, why do we need a constitution? Second, what are the essential elements of constitutions? Third, how do these elements differ across time, region, and regime type? Finally, what are the consequences of choosing different constitutional designs? We will first review the various reasons for enacting constitutions. We will then examine selected features of institutional design in-depth and analyze the factors that make constitutions effective and enduring.

**Counts as an International Relations environment course for purposes of the IR major.*

The Politics of Climate Change* (POL-UA 994.02)**Prof. Eric Dickson***Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:45 pm**Prerequisite: None*

The Politics of Climate Change tackles one of the most important issues of our time from political, psychological, and international perspectives. The course begins with a brief summary of the state of scientific knowledge about climate change and its likely consequences. It then proceeds to explore why climate change is such a difficult problem to address, drawing ideas from economics (collective action problems and theories of public goods), psychology (the difficulty of addressing long-term challenges and reasons why people may be motivated to misperceive the extent of the problem), and the study of political institutions (lobbying and entrenched interests). Next, the course covers potential methods of overcoming these problems, including experimental research on effective science communication, research on behavioral nudges, carbon taxes and other economic interventions, and investment in carbon capture technologies. The prospects for future international negotiations are also discussed. Finally, the course covers likely political consequences of climate change, including the distributional effects of climate change (based on nationality, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity, among other factors) and the ways in which climate change will influence patterns of migration, intergroup conflict, and governance in general.

Non-Democratic Politics* (POL-UA 994.05)**Prof. Gaetan Nandong***Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:45 pm**Prerequisite: POL-UA 500 or POL-UA 700*

This course teaches students about the politics in countries with a non-democratic political system such as dictatorships, absolute monarchies and constitutional monarchies. We will learn the concept of authoritarian information control and understand how it shapes the politics (citizens' compliance with institutions, performance of political leaders, and political participation) in dictatorships. We will analyze how dictators control political adversaries and rationalize their desire to engage in power-sharing to further their interests. The course also focuses on how authoritarian institutions are prone to kleptocratic behaviors and misgovernance. The seminar will introduce students to the political science literature on monarchies. By the end of the course students should be able to understand why monarchies exist and persist, in a world where the majority of countries are republics. What are the factors that make monarchies more economically successful than dictatorships? Why are citizens more willing to comply with the leadership on an unelected monarch than the leadership of an unelected dictator? How does the leadership of the king, the queen or the emperor shape policy making and the compliance of elected leaders?

**Counts as an International Relations environment course for purposes of the IR major.*

Why do Nations Choose Autocrats?*
Authoritarian Backsliding in
Post-Communist Countries (POL-UA 994.07)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Prerequisite: None

Prof. Yevgenia Albats

More than thirty years ago, 29 nations of Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe, plus nations in Northern Caucasus and Central Asia, embarked on the road of transition from a one-party rule and state-controlled economy to a market economy and western type of democracy. Of those 29 nations, seven never made it, three or four are still trying, at least three are falling in with populists and are sliding back to authoritarian rule, and one, Russia, has started a World War III and rapidly evolving into a fascist-type of the regime. During this lecture and seminar course, we are going to explore why some nations choose a heavy hand over freedom, paternalistic politics over individual choices, and what historical, cultural, and economic variables are responsible for variations on outcomes.

Peacekeeping* (POL-UA 795.002)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Prerequisite: POL-UA 700

Prof. Vlad Lupan

The seminar will serve as an introduction to international peacekeeping. Even after 70 years since the creation of the United Nations (UN) and of the various regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, conflicts continue. The Security Council's work and some of the UN peacekeeping missions failures are rightfully criticized, while successes remain largely unknown. The seminar will cover a wider array of peace actions, ranging from conflict prevention to peacekeeping and up to peace enforcement. This will be done from a historical perspective and an analysis of lessons learned from peacekeeping, mission mandates development and mandate implementation, political factors in international organizations, and taking into account the multitude of peace actors and activities today. The seminar will cover the UN and other regional organizations' role in peace efforts, will touch upon non-governmental organizations and mention some of the private and business efforts. This will help students better understand the limitations, as well as the advantages of international peace efforts and how to promote possible peace solutions.

**Counts as an International Relations environment course for purposes of the IR major.*

Human Rights and Reconciliation* (POL-UA 994.08)

Prof. Ben McClelland

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Prerequisite: POL-UA 500 or POL-UA 700

In this class, we will examine the international human rights movement in relation to political transitions, regime change, and the legacies of violence. What role have the ideas and activists of the human rights movement played in the toppling of authoritarian regimes and the transition to democracy? How has the human rights movement dealt with the legacies of war crimes and human rights abuses, and held violators and perpetrators accountable? What role does the human rights movement play in dealing with historical violence related to slavery and colonialism, and how do human rights activists reconcile ideas of universal individual rights with the particular political context of individual countries? We will approach these questions by focusing on both the international organizations and transnational social movements that make up the human rights movement, and on the domestic politics of individual countries which have transitioned from authoritarian to democratic regimes.

**Counts as an International Relations environment course for purposes of the IR major.*