New Minor in the School of Humanities and School of Social Sciences.

- Why democracy?
- What is power?
- Where do rights come from?
- What is freedom?
- What is citizenship?
- Are states necessary?
- What is the function of government?

Beginning in Fall 2015, the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences will offer a new program in political theory.

**POLITICS, LAW, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT** provides Rice undergraduates with a unique opportunity to study the big questions in political theory and law—the questions that stand behind policy decisions and that shape contemporary society in a global setting.

**POLITICS, LAW, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT** combines political theory with a long-term historical perspective—political theory in context, from Athenian democracy to the protest movements of the twenty-first century, from Renaissance city government to law in the age of globalization.

**FALL 2015 COURSES**

**Core Course**

PLST 302 Contemporary Political Theory

**Elective Courses**

CLAS 316 Democracy and Political Theory in Ancient Greece
PHIL 201 History of Philosophy I
PHIL 202 History of Philosophy II
PHIL 316 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 327 History of Social and Political Philosophy
POLI 209 Introduction to Constitutionalism
POLI 210 American Government and Politics
POLI 211 Introduction to International Relations
POLI 333 Comparative Legislatures
POLI 357 Democracy and Democratization

**Directors:** Peter C. Caldwell (History) and Christian J. Emden (Classical and European Studies)

**Core Faculty:** Dominic Boyer (Anthropology), Gwen Bradford (Philosophy), Steven G. Crowell (Philosophy), Luis Duno-Gottberg (Latin American Studies), James D. Faubion (Anthropology), Julie Fette (Classical and European Studies), David Leebro (Political Science), Melissa Marschall (Political Science), Don Morrison (Philosophy), George Sher (Philosophy), Harvey Yunis (Classical and European Studies)

For any questions, please contact the directors at politics@rice.edu.
POLITICS, LAW, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT (PLST) is a transdisciplinary minor. Its task is the study of political ideas in their philosophical and historical contexts as well as with regard to their effects on constitutional law and social and political practices. The central focus of the minor is political theory, taken in a wide sense to mean the theory and philosophy of how polities form, function, and fail. **POLITICS, LAW, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT** is a program of study that enables Rice students to successfully engage with the “big” political questions relevant to contemporary society in a global setting.

Upon completion of the minor in **POLITICS, LAW, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT**, students have:

- an understanding of the main lines of political, legal, and social thought in their historical context through original sources;
- skills in analyzing and evaluating complex texts in political, legal and social thought through a close reading and critical interpretation of arguments, metaphors, images, and the emotions that drive political arguments;
- developed the ability to compare different authors and texts and formulate complex arguments across different traditions in the history of political thought;
- are able to develop and communicate their own arguments about politics, law and society in research papers, class presentations, and discussions.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Students must complete at least six courses (18 credit hours) from the list of courses posted in the General Announcements.
- Students must complete one core course and five elective courses. Additional core courses count toward the elective course requirements.
- At least four courses (12 credit hours) must be at the 300-level or higher.
- With the exception of core courses, no more than two courses (6 credit hours) from the same department may be used to fulfill the requirements of the minor.
- At least four of the courses (12 credit hours) applied towards the minor should be taken at Rice University. Students may apply up to 6 transfer credit hours from coursework taken outside Rice, if those transfer credits come from U.S. or international universities of similar standing. Requests for the application of transfer credit towards PLST minor requirements will be considered by the PLST director on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Transfer credit coursework received via the articulation of AP, IB or A-level credit will not be considered. Additionally, transfer credit from online-only courses cannot be used to count toward the minor.