POLITICS, RIGHTS & CULTURE

Politics, Rights & Culture (PRC) is a major that studies how culture and politics intersect in global public affairs. PRC's innovative interdisciplinary approach in the humanities and social sciences gives students the skills and competencies they need to address complex and critical global issues across academic and professional fields. The PRC major provides students with tools to better understand diverse cultural perspectives around the world, explore how culture shapes power relations, and how political and economic dynamics impact culture. The comparative and transnational focus encourages students to learn about other cultures and political systems, to reflect back on their own societies, and to discover how they want to position themselves as globally engaged citizens.

PRC's courses are anchored in contemporary issues relevant to global public affairs. Our courses examine such issues as racial and gender politics; media, power, and politics; nationalism, ethnicity, and ethnic conflict; literature, film, performance, and politics; globalization, international development, and community mobilization; human trafficking; global public health; and diaspora, migration, and displacement. The PRC major offers a sophomore sequence of courses introducing the study of culture and politics in comparative and transnational perspective, as well as electives in relevant subject areas and a capstone seminar. The major's related area requirement gives students the opportunity to gain expertise in areas or peoples outside of the United States and allows them to develop comparative and international perspectives valued by public and private employers. Knowledge gained in PRC is critical for understanding the impact of politics and policies on people's lives, for envisioning new possibilities for global interactions, and for developing practical responses to social injustice, inequality, and conflict.

PRC graduates go on to pursue careers in the U.S. government, the private sector, social and popular media, cultural organizations, and non-profit organizations. They also pursue a wide range of graduate and professional degrees, including law, education, non-profit administration, public policy, public health, communication, cultural studies, environmental studies, media studies, anthropology, social work, and business.

Requirements for a major in Politics, Rights & Culture:

<u>All of the following core courses (13 Credits):</u>
MC 230: Cultures and Politics in Comparative Perspective (4 cr.)
MC 231: Cultures and Politics in Transnational Perspective (4 cr.)
MC 493: Senior Seminar in Comparative Cultures and Politics (5 cr.)

Four (4) of the following selected in consultation with an advisor (16 credits):
-At least one (1) course must come from each category-

Comparative Studies-
MC 320: Politics, Society and Economy in the Third World (4 cr.)
MC 325: State and Society in Comparative Perspective (4 cr.)
MC 331: Encounters with Post-Communism (4 cr.)
MC 332: Literature and Politics in a Comparative Perspective (4 cr.)
MC 333: Performance, Politics, and Nation (4 cr.)
MC 334: Rights, Advocacy, and Activism (4 cr.)
MC 335: Israeli Politics, Cultures and Society (4 cr.)
MC 338: Environmental Justice & Global Change (4 cr.)
MC 361: Political Economy and Comparative Public Policymaking (4 cr.)
MC 366: Romancing the Nation: Film, History and Nation (4 cr.)
MC 367: Global Cities and Urbanism (4 cr.)
MC 369: Global Issues in Citizenship (4 cr.)
MC 372: Comparative Black Political Thought (4 cr.)
MC 382: Social Movements (4 cr.)
MC 385: Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations (4 cr.)
MC 386: Women and Power in Comparative Perspective (4 cr.)
MC 387: Jews and Anti-Semitism (4 cr.)

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Comparative Studies (cont'd)-
MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs* (4 cr.)
MC 441: Islam and World Politics (4 cr.)
MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict (4 cr.)

Transnational Studies-
MC 319: Asian American History (4 cr.)
MC 321: The Cold War: Culture, Politics and Foreign Policy (4 cr.)
MC 331: Encounters with Post-Communism (4 cr.)
MC 334: Rights, Advocacy, and Activism (4 cr.)
MC 337: Global Public Health (4 cr.)
MC 338: Environmental Justice & Global Change (4 cr.)
MC 350: Evolution and Society (4 cr.)
MC 366: Romancing the Nation: Film, History, and Nation (4 cr.)
MC 376: Modern Political Thought in the Muslim World (4 cr.)
MC 377: Culture, Politics, and Post-Colonialism (4 cr.)
MC 390: Advanced Topics in Public Affairs* (4 cr.)
MC 430: Applied International Development (4 cr.)
MC 441: Islam and World Politics (4 cr.)
MC 482: Gender and Violent Conflict (4 cr.)
** These courses may be used as electives when their topic is relevant to the major.*

One (1) of the Following (3-4 credits):

MC 294: Qualitative Research Methods (4 cr.)
MC 295: Research Design and Quantitative Analysis in Public Policy (4 cr.)
MC 364: Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis: Intermediate Level (4 cr.)
SOC 281: Social Research Methods (4 cr.)
ANP 429: Ethnographic Field Methods (4 cr.)
HST 201: Historical Methods and Skills (3 cr.)
PLS 201: Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis (4 cr.)
WRA 360: Design of Print and Digital Documents (4 cr.)

Related Area Courses:
Complete 6 to 9 credits or 2 to 3 courses at the 300-level or above selected in consultation with an academic advisor. All credits must focus on a particular region of the world or a social group. Students may also propose their own thematically focused related area for advisor approval.

TOTAL CREDITS TO GRADUATE: 120

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Examples of Politics, Rights & Culture Senior Seminars (MC 493)

Ethnic Conflict - Our focus will be one of the world's most urgent and dangerous problems -- ethnic conflict. Why is it that some multiethnic and multicultural societies and states manage to be free of violent conflict, while others have fallen victim to protracted conflict or intense, violent conflict? What are the political and cultural dynamics that produce conflict? When and how does ethnicity interplay with other identities and interests to cause conflict? How might ethnic conflicts be managed or resolved? We will examine theoretical and conceptual literature on ethnic conflict, and we will ground this theoretical study with exploration of empirical case studies. Possible cases include Bosnia, Kashmir, the Kurds, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, and/or Sri Lanka. Student research is an important part of this class, as your work will be integrated into the course through readings and presentations.

Health and Human Rights - The course is an overview of the intersection of health and human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. We will look specifically at the precarious health conditions of the poor, women, minorities, prisoners, and displaced populations. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to several central human rights documents that deal with questions of health and well-being as well as a variety of scholarly work that illuminates controversies associated with the concept of "universal" rights. In addition to theoretical debates, students will be introduced to case studies that illuminate ethical issues associated with people's rights to health both domestically and internationally. Students will be asked to analyze a variety of emerging health-related real world issues and how they relate to questions of human rights, including: bioethics and human subjects research; structural violence leading to inequitable health outcomes that are gendered and racialized; the morality of detainment and enhanced interrogation; human trafficking of organs associated with technological advancement that allows for more organ transplantation; and the role of human rights to health in humanitarian crises. This course requires critical analysis of readings drawn from medical anthropology, medicine, public health, political science, history, sociology, journalism and media studies that collectively bring about an increased awareness of the depth and breadth of the intersection of health and human rights.

Television, Televisuality and Global Events - Television is inextricable from such global events as the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, the fall of communism, the Gulf War, the wars in Bosnia, the Kosovo crisis, the war in Afghanistan, the Iraq war, the Arab Spring, to name but a few. We will grapple with key and competing perspectives on the complex role of television and televisuality in such global events (i.e. movements of protest and wars). Along the way, we will familiarize ourselves with critical work on the politics of televisual representation, on geographies of visibility in American television news, on television and memory, and on how we are implicated as viewers in global events. Key questions that will animate our inquiry are: how has television participated in producing and representing historical change and crisis? What is the relationship between television and war? How have changes in televisual formats and broadcasting technology affected the coverage of world events, and what are some of the consequences of these changes on movements of protest and on wars? What is the relationship between television and other forms of media? How has television, televisuality and mediatization more generally impacted our ways of seeing the world, our lived experience, and our memory (both social and personal memory)?

POLITICS, RIGHTS & CULTURE CHECKLIST

This is a checklist for students in the Politics, Rights & Culture major who began in PRC Fall 2026 or after. Transfer students who are still taking courses at other institutions should choose classes that may be applied toward MSU's Integrative Studies requirements, such as MSU's math requirement, if necessary, or Madison's second language and economics requirements.

Integrative Studies:

MC 111 _____ MC 201 _____ MC 202 _____ ISP _____ ISB _____ Lab _____ IAH (201-210) _____ IAH (211 or higher) _____ +MATH _____

MC 100 _____ Second Language: _____ _____ _____ _____ Economics: EC 201 _____ or EC 251H _____ EC 202 _____ or EC 252H _____

One of the following is required. Meet with the field experience coordinator to see best option.

Field Experience: Internship (MC 400/MC 401) _____ Study Abroad _____ Senior Honors Thesis _____

Politics, Rights & Culture Core Program:

All of the following:
MC 230 _____
MC 231 _____
MC 493 _____

Methods: One of the following courses:
MC 294 _____ ANP 429 _____
MC 295 _____ HST 201 _____
MC 364 ____ PLS 201 _____
SOC 281 ____ WRA 360 ____

Electives: Take four courses, at least one from each category:

Comparative Studies

MC 320 _____	MC 367 _____
MC 325 _____	MC 369 _____
MC 331 _____	MC 372 _____
MC 332 _____	MC 382 _____
MC 333 _____	MC 385 _____
MC 334 _____	MC 386 _____
MC 335 _____	MC 387 _____
MC 338 _____	MC 390* _____
MC 361 _____	MC 441 _____
MC 366 _____	MC 482 _____

Transnational Studies

MC 319 _____	MC 390* _____
MC 321 _____	MC 430 _____
MC 331 _____	MC 441 _____
MC 334 _____	MC 482 _____
MC 337 _____	
MC 338 _____	
MC 350 _____	
MC 366 _____	
MC 376 _____	
MC 377 _____	

**MC 390 must have PRC content*

Related Area:

Complete 6 to 9 credits or 2 or 3 courses at the 300-level or above selected in consultation with an academic advisor. All credits must focus on a particular region of the world or a social group. Students may also propose their own thematically focused related area for advisor approval.

Related Area Title: _____

Courses: _____ _____

120 TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: ☐ meets requirement

Minimum number of MC credits required: 47. For transfer students: 41.

+A minimum score of 19 on MSU proctored Placement exam or selected MTH or STT course(s).

POLITICS, RIGHTS & CULTURE CLASS SCHEDULE

Semester: Fall Semester 1

MC 100	1 cr
MC 111	4 cr
MC 201	4 cr

Semester: Spring Semester 1

MC 202	4 cr

Semester: _____

Semester: _____

Semester: _____

Semester: _____

Semester: _____

Semester: _____

Semester: _____
