This course introduces fundamental debates and ideas of politics in both the West and beyond. It surveys ancient, medieval and modern thinkers in the Greek, Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, tracing their influences on contemporary debates with focus on the great questions of human nature, social and political life, and the relationship between religion and politics. We study both the ideas and historical statesmanship of such figures as Plato, Cicero, Tertullian, Aquinas, Saadyah Gaon, Maimonides, Al-Farabi, Ibn Rushd (Averroes) and Al-Ghazali, as well as various leaders and writers from modernity in America and abroad.

This course examines the contemporary debate over the globalist-nationalist divide, which many now argue is the more salient axis along which political opinion presently tums, rather than the traditional left-right division. Students will examine contemporary arguments and discussion regarding globalization and nationalism in a broader historical context of political and philosophical thought, to consider the present debate as a species of the inescapable tension between "the universal" and "the particular" in human life.

This course centers on an exciting mock trial-type exercise in which students assume roles as participants in the famous trial of Galileo for heresy. In this trial, the new science — as brilliantly propounded by Galileo — collides with the elegant cosmology of Aristotle, Aquinas and medieval Scholasticism. The issues range from the nature of faith and the meaning of the Bible, to the scientific principles and methods as advanced by Copernicus, Kepler, Tycho Brahe, Giordano Bruno, and Galileo. Central texts include Aristotle's "On the Heavens and Posterior Analytics;" Galileo's "Starry Messenger," "Letter to Grand Duchess Christina," and "Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems;" the declarations of the Council of Trent; and the Bible.

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This course provides resources to understand and contribute to contemporary political and constitutional debates, and they model how intellectually deep, and morally serious, public discourse can be. We will study their arguments and apply them to our current politics, while considering the rhetorical and other demands placed upon statesmen in constitutional, democratic systems. We will also consider the arguments of critics of American constitutionalism in American history and in the present day as well as proposals to amend the Constitution.

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CEL 375 Politics, Leaders & Revolutions | 91277 | MW 11:50 a.m.-12:40 p.m. | Dr. Charles Drummond
This course will explore the broader historical context and conceptual background of the "Age of Revolutions" in the late 18th and early 19th centuries — including most prominently the American, French and Haitian Revolutions. Special attention will be given to the particular revolutionary leaders — such as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Thomas Paine, Henri Gregoire, and Toussaint Louverture — who acted within their unique historical contexts and on the basis of new political principles in constructing new political societies.

CEL 394 Liberty and Equality | 90890 | MW 9:40-10:30 a.m. | Dr. Charles Drummond
In this course, students will be introduced to the classic writings that gave birth to the modern political world. Important concepts such as the state of nature, the social contract, natural rights, laws of nature, liberty, equality, democracy, republicanism, political representation, popular sovereignty and others are invented or given new meaning by political thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and others. These concepts lead, in turn, to the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and eventually the remaking of the political landscape throughout the world.

CEL 394 Arizona Politics & Constitutionalism | 90887 | W 4:50-7:35 p.m. | Dr. Sean Beienburg
This course will begin with a study of the Arizona state constitution and its relation to the Constitution of the United States, including an exploration of the concept of federalism in American political thought, history and law. The second half of the course will be devoted to recent and contemporary Arizona state politics. This portion of the course will involve collaborating on legislation with current Arizona state representatives and senators who will visit the class in person.

(HU) CEL 394 Liberalism & Conservatism in America | 85945 | MW 6:00-7:15 p.m. | Dr. Duncan Moench
This course will examine two of the most prominent categories in American politics today: "liberalism" and "conservatism." Since both liberals and conservatives often have disagreements among themselves, we will study the intellectual origins and philosophies of the varieties of liberalism and conservatism in the United States, including classical liberalism, progressive liberalism, libertarianism, constitutional conservatism, traditional conservatism and more. By providing students with a deeper understanding of the diverse viewpoints that shape the beliefs of American citizens, the course will help students to grapple more deeply with their own political and social positions, and it will prepare students to be leaders amid the diversity of American social and political life. Students will read philosophic texts closely, write analytic papers and participate in class discussions.

(HU) CEL 394 Transatlantic Perspectives on Democracy | 85946 | MW 11:50 a.m.-12:40 p.m. | Dr. Kent Wright
Toqueville’s "Democracy in America" has been described as "the best book ever written on democracy and the best book ever written on America." What this description suggests is that Toqueville’s writings contain deep insight into the nature of democratic societies and the character of the United States beyond his particular historical context. Toqueville prompts us to consider the relationship between democracy and politics, law, philosophy, religion, economics, the arts, education and more. We will read "Democracy in America" closely, and we will evaluate the extent to which "Toquevillian" analyses shed light on contemporary democratic challenges in the U.S. and beyond. Students will lead class discussions and write analytic papers.

(L) CEL 394 Natural Law & the Common Good | 90893 | TTh 3:00-4:15 p.m. | Dr. Karen Taliaferro
In this course, students will be introduced to classic writings of the medieval era that explore the relationship between faith and reason, and that view the political community in relation to transcendent realities and purposes rather than the rights or desires of the isolated individual. Students will follow these medieval philosophers and theologians in their attempts to build on ancient philosophical insights while adhering to divine revelation. Connections between themes and concepts of importance to medieval authors — such as natural law and the common good — and modern criticisms of Western liberal democracy will be explored and discussed.

CEL 394 Philosophy, Politics & Economics | 90896 | TTh 9:00-10:15 a.m. | Dr. Ross Emmett
This course will explore the crucial intersections between these three disciplines. Although philosophy, politics and economics are usually studied as separate fields, it is ultimately impossible to achieve a well-rounded understanding of any of them without simultaneously taking all three into account. Many of the most influential writers in these fields — from Plato and Aristotle to John Locke and Adam Smith — blended philosophy, politics and economics seamlessly in their writings. Students will reach a more complete understanding of each of these fields of study by persistently viewing them in their connections with each other throughout the course.

CEL 394 Shakespeare’s Leadership Lessons: Performance & Politics in the Pines | 90901 | Drs. S. Carrese & C. McNamara
The Leadership Seminar is a dynamically-dated, week-long residential course focused on approaching leadership learning through literary exemplars. For five days, students will retreat to Prescott, AZ to examine Shakespeare’s characters and their leadership dilemmas in “Macbeth” and “The Tempest.” Intellectual community will be forged through performance, Socratic seminars, group reading, meals and hikes together. The final two days will take place in Phoenix where Ambassador Ken Adelman and Professor Carol Adelman of Movers and Shakers will come from Washington, DC to offer leadership workshops based on Henry V.

*Course takes place Aug. 8 – 14 | Requires $150 study abroad program fee that includes housing, meals, transportation and on-site activities.

(HU) CEL 494 Political Thought: Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism | 86034 | TTh 1:30-2:45 p.m. | Dr. Paul Carrese
This course compares selected texts in political thought, across civilizations or traditions, that address the ultimate foundation(s) for basic political principles such as justice and order. A special focus is the relationship between reason, religious faith and custom or tradition as sources of authority for political thinking and action. We will focus on traditions and texts from Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism. Western texts on religion, philosophy and political authority are interspersed with readings from classic Eastern texts, 20th century political works by Eastern and Western thinkers and recent scholarship.

CEL 494 Great American Leaders | 90899 | MW 12:55 -1:45 p.m. | Dr. Jakub Voboril
We will focus on the lives, times and leadership qualities of prominent American leaders throughout our history. Leadership has taken many forms in American history, both political — as in the cases of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan or Barack Obama — and non-political — as in the cases of Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Addams or Martin Luther King, Jr.

CEL 598 Politics and Justice | T 4:50 -7:35 p.m. | Dr. Adam Seagrave
This course will provide an overview of the four major periods of political thought — ancient, medieval, modern, and post-modern — and engage in close readings of classic texts from each of these periods. The concept of justice will serve as an organizing theme, complemented by analyses of other political concepts such as virtue, the common good, natural law, rights, liberty and equality. Texts include Plato’s "Republic," St. Thomas Aquinas’ "Summa Theologica," Machiavelli’s "Prince," John Locke’s "Second Treatise of Government," and John Rawls’ "A Theory of Justice," among others.