CEL 194 Great Ideas of Politics and Ethics in Comparative Perspective
MWF | 1:55-2:45 pm | Class #28891 | Professor Karen Taliaferro
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 lecture course will include separate discussion to encourage active learning, and students will write analytical papers and make a class presentation.

CEL 294. Federalists, Anti-Federalists, and the Enduring Debate over American Constitutionalism
MWF | 2:00-3:00 pm | Class #28892 | Professor Zachary German
This course examines the arguments and questions raised by the Federalists and Anti-Federalists during their debates over the 1787 Constitution, regarding fundamental issues as political power, federalism, republicanism, representation, separation of powers, protection of rights, slavery, and the character of the people and their leaders. They model how intellectually deep, and morally serious, public discourse can be. We will study their arguments, and with the help of Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, apply these debates to our current politics, while considering the rhetorical and other demands placed upon statesmen in constitutional, democratic systems. Students will write analytical papers and participate in a simulation of a modern-day constitutional convention.

CEL 394. Classical Political Philosophy and Statesmanship: The Greeks
TTh | 12:00-1:15 pm | Class #28893 | Professor Carol McNamara
This course examines the themes of justice and leadership in democracy and war through the texts of classical political thinkers, including Plato’s Republic, Aristophanes’ Clouds, Aristotle’s Politics and Ethics, and Thucydides account of The Peloponnesian War. Students will investigate questions of political leadership, ambition, and the common good. We will proceed through discussion and student led presentations of the big questions these texts raise.

CEL 394. Modern Political Thought: Origins and Debates about Modern Liberty
TTh | 9:00-10:15 am | Class #28896 | Professor Charles Drummmond
The course examines crucial debates in modern political thought, especially in the United States. A focus is defining what is distinctive about “modern thought,” with recourse to Tocqueville’s Democracy in America on the difference between ancien régime monarchies and modern liberal democratic polities. Other primary readings include works from Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke, but America (not Europe) is the ultimate focus. Students will query the core documents and ideas of the American Founding, and discern the complex interplay of classical republican and liberal intellectual traditions. Close reading of The Federalist and selected Anti-Federalist writings will prepare for a broader re-examination of the American political tradition, concluding with the ongoing dispute between progressivism, socialism, and conservatism.

CEL 394. Classics of Modern Economic Thought: Smith to Hayek and Beyond
TTh | 10:30-11:45 am | Class #28897 | Professor Peter McNamara
This course addresses how major economic thinkers since Adam Smith (and his contemporaries) have dealt with the political, moral, and economic issues that arise from modernity’s embrace of the goal of economic progress. Course readings range from the age of Smith and Rousseau up to our times of Thomas Piketty and Deirdre McCloskey. Students will write analytical papers on these important authors and debates.

CEL 394. Politics and Leadership in the Age of Revolutions, 1776-1826
TTh | 1:30-2:45 pm | Class #28898 | Professor Kent Wright
This course explores political thought and political leadership, in the era of the American, French, Haitian, and Latin American Revolutions. It begins with a look at Enlightenment political thought, focusing on natural rights, constitutionalism, and political economy. It then considers leading political ideas connected with each of the great upheavals that began with the American Revolution and ended, fifty years later, with the independence of Latin America. Along the way, we will examine the political leadership of figures such as Washington and Jefferson, Sieyès and Robespierre, Toussaint and Napoleon, Bolivar and San Martin.

CEL 494. Leadership 404: Statesmanship and American Grand Strategy
TTh | 3:00-4:15 pm | Class #28894 | Professor Paul Carrese
Discussing great ideas and figures in political leadership and statesmanship, from ancient Greece and early modern Europe to America’s founding and the present global uncertainty, especially the major arguments about war, peace, and international affairs – ideas that shape foreign policy and grand strategy debates in the 21st century, thus providing crucial foundations for future leadership roles. Major thinkers and episodes discussed in this seminar course include Thucydides, Plutarch, Montesquieu, George Washington, Lincoln, Truman and the Cold War, and Reagan, as well as contemporary debates about America’s post-Cold War strategies for its leadership role in global affairs.