DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

# POLS*4900 (COMPARATIVE) CONSTITUTIONALISM AND JUDICIAL POLITICS

**Credit Weighting:** 0.5

**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 14.00 credits, including 1.00 credits in Political Science at the 3000 level

**Restrictions:**

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Name:** Jordi Diez

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**Office Location:** Face to Face

## GENERAL DETAILS

The course introduces students to the main scholarly debates in the study of constitutional and judicial politics. It opens with an overview of some essential concepts and phenomena, such as the rule of law, judicial review and the judicialization of politics. It subsequently delves into the debates in the emerging field of comparative constitutional studies. In a final section, the course engages debates over judicial interpretation and behaviour.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

-Obtain a solid grasp of the main debates in constitutional and judicial politics
-Be able to establish connections between these debates and the consequence for politics and policymaking
-Critically assess how conceptions of rights, justice, citizenship, and identity both shape and are shaped by political forces and events
-Mobilize knowledge resources in these areas in order to solve complex problems, conduct research independently and as part of a team
-Effectively communicate an argument using strong and supportive evidence
-Critically analyze arguments and evidentiary claims made by others
-Develop a research question; demonstrate a solid grasp of the debates in the literature from which they derive their research question; and critically evaluate different methodological approaches to answer the research question
-Gather data, such as by analyzing or coding government or legal documents, conducting interviews, distributing surveys, or reviewing secondary literature, to analyze a research question; organize and interpret data

## METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Participation: 20%

Presentation: 30%

Research Paper: 50%

## REQUIRED READING

Course reserves. No textbook required.