The graduate program in political philosophy at Indiana University offers a broad range of courses on the nature and role of political philosophy. Our department has great strengths in modern and contemporary political philosophy, especially in the areas of democratic theory, liberalism, Continental and American political thought. We emphasize how political philosophy can contribute to the study of important contemporary issues such as modernization, globalization, democratic consolidation, civic engagement, globalization, terrorism and the rule of law. There are six full-time faculty in the Department of Political Science currently teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in political philosophy. Moreover, our graduate students can also take courses with affiliated faculty from other departments (Philosophy, Germanic Studies, French and Italian, Religious Studies, Communication and Culture, History, and the Law School. Our program also hosts a Political Theory Luncheon which provides excellent opportunities for graduate students to meet with guest speakers.

FACULTY IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Aurelian Craiutu
Professor
(Ph.D. Princeton, 1999)


Judy Failer
Associate Professor
(Ph.D. Princeton 1995)

Judy is an Associate Professor of Political Science and also an Adjunct Associate Professor of Philosophy. Her research and teaching interests lay at the intersection of theory (philosophy, jurisprudence, and political and constitutional) and practice (constitutional law, ethics and public policy). Professor Failer examines how rights work (or do not work) to protect vulnerable citizens. She is the author of Who Qualifies for Rights? Homelessness, Mental Illness, and Civil
Commitment (2002) and is currently at work on a new book, When Rights Conflict: Meeting the Moral Remainder (under contract with Cornell).

Russell L. Hanson
Professor
(Ph.D. University of Minnesota, 1982)

Russell Hanson is Professor of Political Science and a former Chair of the Department. He is primarily interested in the intersection of political philosophy and American politics, with special emphasis on the historical development of liberalism, democracy, federalism, and social welfare policy in the United States. His current projects include a study of U.S. social reformers after the Civil War, and their intellectual and political ties to liberal counterparts in Victorian London. Professor Hanson teaches courses on American political ideas, as well as modern political thought. He is the author of The Democratic Imagination in America (1985), and the co-editor of Political Innovation and Conceptual Change (1989), Reconsidering the Democratic Public (1993), and Politics in the American States (2003).

Jeffrey C. Isaac
Professor
Editor, Perspectives on Politics
(Ph.D. Yale, 1983)

Jeff is James H. Rudy Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is also the Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, and Editor of Perspectives on Politics. His books include The Poverty of Progressivism: The Future of American Democracy in a Time of Liberal Decline (2003), Democracy in Dark Times (1998), Arendt, Camus and Modern Rebellion (1992), and Power and Marxist Theory (1987). He teaches courses on modern and contemporary political theory and is currently editing the new Yale University Press edition of Marx’s Communist Manifesto.

Jean Robinson
Professor
Associate Executive Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
(Ph.D. Cornell, 1980)

Jean is a Professor in Political Science and Associate Executive Dean of the College, with additional appointment in Russian East-European Institute, Gender Studies, East Asian Languages & Cultures and the Kinsey Institute for Sex and Gender Research. She works in both comparative politics and political thought and teaches courses on the politics of gender and sexuality as well as feminist political thought focusing on a variety of topics such as equality and difference, liberalism and its critics, citizenship and identity, reproduction and rights; gender and post-communism. Professor Robinson’s most recent publications include a new book Living Gender after Communism (edited with Janet E. Johnson, 2007).
All of our graduate students serve as associate instructors and have the opportunity to teach their own courses. Most recently, our graduates in political philosophy have obtained academic positions at various academic institutions such as Kalamazoo College, St. Olaf College, Antioch College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Western Washington University, and U.S. Military Academy.

Located on an extraordinarily beautiful campus in a delightful and affordable town, Indiana University Bloomington offers its students, faculty, and staff a rich array of academic programs, cultural events, sports and recreational activities, and libraries on campus. It combines the high-powered scientific, intellectual, and artistic resources of a world-renowned research university with the friendliness, personal attention, and supportive environment of a classic liberal arts college. The holdings of the Main (Wells) Library are exceptional (over five million books) with unique strengths in fields such as Eastern European and Russian Studies, History, and Philosophy. IU’s Jacobs School of Music is another unique asset, offering an amazing variety of concerts and events.