Sunday’s *New York Times* headline reads: “Heat on Biden over Diversity Grows Intense.” (12/13/2020). Since the turn of the new millennium, the presence of women, and ethnic and racial minorities in political office has increased significantly, whether through appointed offices, like Biden’s cabinet picks, or elected positions. Key questions we will explore in this course through scholarship on countries across the globe include:

*What societal and policy changes undergird the increased political representation of historically marginalized groups in recent decades?*

*What are the pros and cons of institutional features that ensure diversity in representation, such as quotas for women in Argentina or majority-minority districts for African Americans and Latinos in the U.S.?*

*What difference does it make for policy agendas when representatives come from a wider range of backgrounds?*

This course is ideal for students who want to work directly in politics or electoral systems and those that want to pursue deeper study of the politics of representation and why diversity matters for democracy.