

Department of Political Science

Professor Emeritus: *Schechter*

Professor: *DeSombre, Euben (Chair), Joseph, Just, Krieger, Moon, Murphy, Paarlberg, Rich^A*

Associate Professor: *Burke, Candland*

Assistant Professor: *Goddard A, Han, Scherer*

Senior Lecturer: *Wasserspring*

Lecturer: *Candrea, Arreguin-Toft*

Visiting Lecturer: *McKissick*

Political Science studies power, political actors, processes, and consequences. We explore questions regarding the values and norms related to power and politics, e.g., justice, equality; the structure and operations of law and institutions, e.g., the U.S. Supreme Court, United Nations, women's movements, non-governmental organizations; the historical, sociological and cultural factors involved in political and economic development; comparative political systems, e.g., democracy, Communism; political trends and transformations in various regions, e.g., East Asia and Latin America; and analyses of current affairs.

Introductory Courses

POL 100 Introduction to Political Science

Paarlberg, Wasserspring, Arreguin-Toft, McKissick, Candrea

Politics is a struggle for power – and questions about power are at the heart of political science: How is power gained? How is it lost? How is it organized? How is it used? How is it abused? This course introduces students to the concerns and methods of political scientists and to the major subfields of the discipline: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. The course is centered on several major books in the field, some describing important political events, such as the rise of the Nazi party in Germany and the collapse of apartheid in South Africa, and some illustrating how political scientists analyze and evaluate the world of politics.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POL 108 State and Society in Contemporary China

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course will use the case of contemporary China to introduce students to the discipline and major subfields of political science. To illustrate the subfield of comparative politics, our analysis of modern China's political development and government will be placed in the context of the experiences of other developing nations and (former) communist party-states. Political theory will be a thread throughout the course as we explore ideas from Confucianism to Communism that have shaped political life in China. For international relations, we will look at China's recent rise as one of the world's great powers. As an example of American politics in action, we will study the various influences that go into the making of US China policy.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students only.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL 199 How to Conduct Research in Political Science

Han

An introduction to the process of conducting research in political science. Students learn to produce their own insights about how politics works and why certain political outcomes emerge. The course addresses different approaches to asking and answering questions, with a particular focus on quantitative analysis. Students will design a research project, formulate and test hypotheses about politics, find ways to measure political phenomena, and assess methods of empirical analysis and interpretation. The course provides a solid foundation for conducting empirical research and is strongly recommended for students interested in independent research, a senior honors thesis, and/or graduate school.

Prerequisite: Two courses in political science. Fulfillment of the basic skills component of the Quantitative Reasoning requirement. Not open to students who have taken or are taking MATH 101, MATH 101Z, ECON 103/SOC 190, QR 180 [QR 199], or PSYC 205.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning overlay course requirement.

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.25

American Politics and Law

POL1 200 American Politics

Burke, McKissick, Han, Scherer

The institutions, processes, and values that shape American politics. The origins and evolution of the U.S. Constitution, and the institutions it created: Congress, the executive branch, the presidency, the federal court system and federalism. Analysis of "intermediary" institutions including political parties, interest groups, elections, and the media. Study of enduring debates over values in American politics, with particular attention to conflicts over civil rights and civil liberties.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

As of 6/12/2008

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POL1 210 Political Participation and Influence

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. How do citizens express their interests, concerns, and preferences in politics? Why and how do some groups achieve political influence? Why are some issues taken up and others ignored? The roles played by public opinion polls, interest groups, political parties, PACs, elections, the mass media, protests, riots, and demonstrations in articulating citizen concerns to government. Special attention to problems of money in politics, low voter participation, and inequality of race, class, and gender. Course work includes reading, discussion, and direct political participation in an interest group or election campaign.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 212 Urban Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Introduction to contemporary urban politics. Study of policy-making and political leadership in the areas of public education, city bureaucracies, housing, welfare, fiscal management, and economic redevelopment. Consideration of population shifts, racial and ethnic conflicts, and the impact of federal policy on urban planning.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science, economics, or American studies.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 215 Courts, Law, and Politics

Burke, Scherer

Fundamentals of the American legal system, including the sources of law, the nature of legal process, the role of courts and judges, and legal reasoning and advocacy. Examination of the interaction of law and politics, and the role and limits of law as an agent for social change.

Prerequisite: 200 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POL1 311 The Supreme Court in American Politics

Scherer

Analysis of major developments in constitutional interpretation, the conflict over judicial activism, and current problems facing the Supreme Court. Emphasis will be placed on judicial review, the powers of the president and of Congress, federal-state relations, and individual rights and liberties.

Prerequisite: 215 or one other unit in American legal studies, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

As of 6/12/2008

POL1 313 American Presidential Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Analysis of the central role of the president in American politics and the development and operation of the institutions of the modern presidency. The course will focus on sources of presidential power and limitations on the chief executive, with particular emphasis on relations with the other branches of government and the making of domestic and foreign policy.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 314 Understanding How Congress Works

Han

This course examines the institution of the United States Congress, including the people who comprise it and the way it operates. Students examine the way this institution constrains and shapes the behavior of individuals and groups involved in the policymaking process. Topics include congressional elections, the structures and dynamics of legislator-constituent relations, and the influence of the public, parties, and interest groups in policymaking. The course considers whether Congress is representative and if and how it achieves democratic goals. Includes in-class simulations that offer students experience of the legislative policymaking process and the pressures of public office.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL1 315 Public Policy and Analysis

McKissick

The first part of the course will examine how domestic public policy is formulated, decided, implemented, and evaluated, at both the federal and local levels. Both moral and political standards for making policy will be examined. Factors that promote or impede the development and realization of rational, effective, and responsive public policy will be reviewed. The second part of the course will be devoted to student research and presentations on selected policy topics, including public schools, public transportation, homelessness, the environment, and drug enforcement.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL1 316 Mass Media in American Democracy

Just

Focus on the mass media in the American democratic process, including the effect of the news media on the information, opinions, and beliefs of the public, the electoral strategy of candidates, and the decisions of public officials. Discussion of news values, journalists' norms and behaviors, and the production of print and broadcast news. Evaluation of news sources, priorities, bias, and accessibility. Attention to coverage of national and international affairs, as well as issues of race and gender. Questions of press freedom and journalistic ethics are explored.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL1 317 Health Politics and Policy

Burke

The American system of health care is distinctive. Financing is provided through voluntary employer contributions, tax subsidies, individual payments and an array of public programs, principally Medicare and Medicaid – but despite the variety of funding sources, Americans, unlike citizens of other affluent democracies, are not guaranteed health care coverage. How did the American approach to health care develop? How is it different from that of other affluent nations? What explains the differences? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the American health care system? Issues of cost containment, technological innovation, quality of care, and disparities in health outcomes are explored.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL1 318 Religion and Politics in Contemporary America

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course examines the relationship between religion and politics. From the founding of the United States to President Bush's faith-based initiative, the role of religion in American political behavior has been the subject of great debate. Special attention will be paid to how religion serves as a form of political socialization, often informing political participation, voting behavior and political attitudes. Relevant policy and legal decisions will be reviewed. First Amendment topics such as the separation between church and state, religious freedom and the Establishment Clause will also be addressed.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 319S Seminar. Campaigns and Elections

Just

Exploration of the issues in campaigns and elections: Who runs and why? Do elections matter? The impact of party decline and the rise of campaign consultants, polls, advertising, and the press. Candidate strategies and what they tell us about the political process. How voters decide. The “meaning” of elections. Attention to the rules of the game (the primaries, debates, the Electoral College), recent campaign innovations (talk shows, town meetings, infomercials), third party candidacies, and prospects for political reform. Course work includes campaign participation.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 or by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL1 324S Seminar. Gender and Law

Scherer

Analysis of how law in the United States is used to confer rights, create obligations and define the identities of women. The course explores the historical and modern approaches used by the Supreme Court to address gender disparity in society, including labor law, reproductive rights, family law, sexual discrimination in the workplace, and gay rights. The course also analyzes the relationship between the feminist movement, social policy-making, and the Supreme Court. The last part of the class will examine whether the gender of legal actors (litigants, lawyers, and judges) makes a difference in their reasoning or decision-making.

Prerequisite: 215 and by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL1 330S Seminar. African Americans and the U.S. Political System

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course examines the nature of political ideology, public opinion, and political participation within the African American community. In addition to these topics, current developments in electoral politics, public policy, political representation, government responsiveness, and coalition-building will also be examined. Various theoretical approaches to the study of participation and identity – such as rational choice and political psychology – will be applied. Exploration of these behavioral and policy-related topics will provide a broader perspective on the current and future political strategies of African Americans in contemporary politics, and more broadly, the future of democracy and pluralism and the United States.

Prerequisite: 200 or 210 and by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 331S Seminar. Political Organizing: People, Power and Change

Han

Fulfilling the democratic promise of equity, inclusion and accountability requires an “organized” citizenry with the power to articulate and assert its interests effectively. Organizing is about identifying, recruiting, and developing leadership; building community around leadership; and building power from community. Students will engage with social, economic, and political problems as participants in political organizing by mapping power and interests, developing leadership, building relationships, motivating participation, devising strategy, and mobilizing resources to create organizations and promote political change. Community, electoral, union, and social movement organizing will be explored.

Prerequisite: 200 or equivalent; or by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL1 333S Seminar. Ethics and Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An exploration of ethical issues in politics, public policy, and the press. Critical questions include deception (is it permissible to lie?), “bedfellows” (does it matter who your friends are?), and means and ends (do some purposes justify deception, violence, or torture?) Consideration of moral justifications of policies, such as cost-benefit analysis, risk ratios, and social justice, as well as the proper role of journalists in holding public officials to an ethical standard.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in American politics. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 334 Disability in American Society: Politics, Policy, and Law

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. The preamble of the Americans with Disabilities Act declares that 43 million Americans are disabled, but some believe the number is a ridiculous overestimate while others consider it a vast understatement. What exactly is “disability”? How is this concept used in American public policy and law? What is life like for Americans with disabilities? This course examines the politics of disability in the United States, paying particular attention to the perspectives of people with disabilities and to the history of the disability rights movement.

Prerequisite: One course at the 200-level in American studies, economics, education, history, philosophy, political science, psychology or sociology.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

POL1 335S Seminar. The First Amendment

Burke

A study of some of the classic legal cases and continuing controversies that have arisen out of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Examination of contemporary First Amendment issues such as flag-burning, hate speech, pornography, libel, invasion of privacy, school prayer, creationism, and government aid to religious institutions. Comparisons with the legal doctrines of other nations regarding freedom of speech and religion.

Prerequisite: 215, 311, or another unit in American legal studies and permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

POL1 337S Seminar. The Politics of Minority Groups in the United States

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An examination of office-holding, voting patterns, coalition formation, and political activities among various racial, ethnic, and religious minority groups in the United States, including Black Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, Jews, Arabs, Asians, Central and South Americans.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

POL1 339S/EDUC 339 Seminar. The Politics of Urban Public Schools

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This seminar examines recurrent issues in public school management and governance. Critical questions include the changing demographics of inner city schools, the evolving role of school boards, big city mayors, urban superintendents, teachers unions, and school finance. We will discuss alternatives to public schools (parochial, private, and charter schools), high-stakes testing, and district-state relations. The seminar will analyze the increasing intervention of state and federal governments in local school administration and the role of the courts in curriculum controversies, student life, and security. *Students may register for either POL1 339S or EDUC 339 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: One 200-level Education course or one 200-level American politics course.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

POL1 356 Seminar. The Politics of American Citizenship

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Citizenship is an organizing concept in politics. Citizenship is about boundaries, and, as anthropologist Mary Douglas noted, “all borders are dangerous.” This course considers what is so dangerous about citizenship by examining citizenship controversies in the United States. We will look at such issues as birthright citizenship, dual nationality, and the public policy of naturalization. We will examine how race, sex, and age affect access to citizenship. We will think about the rights and obligations of citizens and noncitizens. Readings include contemporary legal and historical sources. The course also will explore how citizenship in the United States, a classic immigrant country, is the same but different from citizenship in other ethnic and civic based states. Students will attend a naturalization ceremony and meet with civil servants involved with naturalization. The class involves formal and informal debate and writing in different styles in political science.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL1 381/ES 381 United States Environmental Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course examines the politics of environmental issues in the United States. The course has two primary goals: First, to introduce students to the institutions, stakeholders, and political processes important to debates over environmental policy at the federal level. Second, to develop and practice skills of analyzing and making decisions relevant to environmental politics and policy. Drawing on the literature of environmental politics and policy, this course will consider how environmental issues are framed in political discourse, various approaches to environmental advocacy and reform, and the contested role of science in environmental politics. The course will be organized around environmental case studies, including endangered species conservation, public lands management, air and water pollution, and toxics regulation. *Students may register for either POL1 381 or ES 381 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisites: ES 101 or ES 102, POL1 200, or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

Comparative Politics

POL2 202 Comparative Politics

Krieger, Wasserspring

A comparative study of contemporary politics and political systems and the exploration of various approaches to comparative political analysis. Emphasis on the interactive effects of global forces and domestic politics. Issues to be discussed include authoritarianism, revolutions, nationalism, social movements, and political culture. Country studies will be used to illuminate themes such as the role of the state in governing the economy, the challenges of democracy, and the politics of collective identities (attachments such as religion, ethnicity, race, gender, and nationality). Guest lectures and active participation by the entire comparative politics faculty. This course is strongly recommended for political science majors for all further work in comparative politics.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Science

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POL2 203/AFR 236 African Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An investigation of politics across Sub-Saharan Africa since the defeat of Portuguese colonialism in the mid-1970s. The economic stagnation of the 1980s, the impact of structural adjustment programs, the end of the Cold War, the genocide in Rwanda and the resulting wars will be discussed along with the liberation of Southern Africa and the recent wave of democratization. Emphasis on developing the method of empathetic understanding to become knowledgeable about the opportunities and constraints faced by African citizens and governments. *Students may register for either POL2 203 or AFR 236 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: One unit in political science, economics, history, or Africana Studies. Open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 204 Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment

Joseph

Overview of development studies with attention to major schools of political economy, their intellectual origins and centrality to contemporary debates about economic development. Topics include colonialism, nationalism, and independence; post-colonial economic development models, policies, and strategies; perspectives on gender and development; changing conceptions and measures of poverty, development, and underdevelopment; contemporary debates in development studies.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science. Open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite. By permission of instructor to other qualified students.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL2 205 The Politics of Europe and the European Union

Krieger

A comparative study of contemporary West European states and societies. Primary emphasis on politics in Germany, Britain, and France, and the political challenges posed by the European Union and pressure for regional integration. The course will focus on topics such as the rise and decline of the welfare state and class-based politics; the implications of the end of the Cold War and German reunification; tension between national sovereignty and supranational policy goals; immigration and the resurgence of xenophobic movements and the extreme right.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science or European history; open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL2 206 Politics and Foreign Policy of Russia

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An introduction to the political history, political system, and international politics of the Russian Federation. The course will introduce the creation, development, and dissolution of the Soviet Union, but will focus most closely on post-Soviet Russia. Particular attention will be paid to the legacies of the communist regime in shaping the inter-and intra-state politics of the Russian Federation; as well as processes of political, economic, and military reform.

Prerequisite: Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 207 Politics of Latin America

Wasserspring

The course will explore Latin American political systems, focusing on the challenge and limits of change in Latin America today. An examination of the broad historical, economic, and cultural forces that have molded Latin American nations. Evaluation of the complex post-revolutionary political experiences of Mexico and Cuba: analysis of the contemporary forces molding politics in Argentina and Venezuela. Contrasting case studies from Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science; permission of instructor to other qualified students.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL2 208 Politics of China

Joseph

An introduction to the modern political history and contemporary political system of China. Topics include the origins and victory of the Chinese Communist revolution, the rule and legacy of Chairman Mao Zedong, economic reform and political repression in the era of Deng Xiaoping, and recent developments in Chinese politics. Politics in Tibet, Hong Kong, and Taiwan will also be considered.

As of 6/12/2008

Prerequisite: One unit in political science, economics, history, or Asian Studies recommended, but not required.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL2 209 Politics of Japan and Korea

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. The first half of the course will focus on Japan and consider the core political institutions of the postwar era and the politics of rapid industrialization. Issues to be discussed include: the shift from one-party dominance to coalition government, the new electoral system, and the effects of economic stagnation. The second half of the course looks at Korean politics (South and North) and inter-Korean relations and considers the effects of Japanese colonialism and the Korean War. For South Korea, we will look at authoritarianism, democratization, economic development, nationalism, regionalism, and minority rights; for North Korea, the leadership and its ideology, economic conditions, and nuclear diplomacy.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science, economics, history, or Asian studies. Open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 211 Politics of South Asia

Candland

An introduction to the politics of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives) from historical and contemporary comparative perspectives. Examines the relationship of political institutions to patterns of development. Comparative themes include colonial experiences and nationalist ideologies; politicization of religions and rise of religious conflict; government and political processes; recent economic reforms; initiative for conflict transformation; women's empowerment; obstacles to and prospects for human development.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science; open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL2 214/ES 214 Social Causes and Consequences of Environmental Problems

DeSombre

This course focuses on the social science explanations for why environmental problems are created, the impacts they have, the difficulties of addressing them, and the regulatory and other actions that succeed in mitigating them. Topics include: externalities and the politics of unpriced costs and benefits, collective action problems and interest group theory, time horizons in decisionmaking, the politics of science, risk and uncertainty, comparative political structures, and cooperation theory. Also addressed are different strategies for changing environmental behavior, including command and control measures, taxes, fees, and other market instruments, and voluntary approaches. These will all be examined across multiple countries and levels of governance. *Students may register for either POL2 214 or ES 214 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: ES 101 or 102, or one course in political science, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL2 302 Globalization and the Nation-State

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An assessment of globalization and the challenges it poses for the exercise of state power before and after September 11, 2001. Topics to be considered include: economic competitiveness, alternative geopolitical strategies, and international terrorism. The course will consider alternative interpretations of globalization and weigh the explanatory value of a set of theses that are intended to explain the interactive effects of globalization and state power in an era of unrivaled American hegemony. Case studies will look in depth at the United States, European Union Europe, and East Asia.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in comparative politics or international relations or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 304 State and Society in East Asia

Moon

An examination of the relationships between governments and social forces in Northeast and Southeast Asia. Countries to be considered include Japan, Korea, and the Philippines, with references to other East Asian societies. The course takes a thematic approach to analyzing the political development and changing international roles of these countries in the second half of the twentieth century. Among the issues to be considered are: authoritarianism, military rule, democratization, social movements, gender politics, nationalism, and relations with the West.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in comparative politics or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL2 305S Seminar. The Military in Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Focus on relations between the military and politics. Emphasis on the varieties of military involvement in politics, the causes of direct military intervention in political systems, and the consequences of military influence over political decisions. Themes include the evolution of the professional soldier, military influence in contemporary industrial society, and the prevalence of military regimes in Third World nations. Case studies include the United States, Brazil, Peru, Nigeria, Ghana, and Egypt.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 307S Seminar. Women and Development

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. A comparative analysis of the impact of change on gender in the Third World. The status of women in traditional societies, the impact of “development” upon peasant women, female urban migration experiences, and the impact of the urban environment on women’s lives in the Third World are themes to be considered. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of the state in altering or reinforcing gender stereotypes. Comparing cultural conceptions of gender and the factors which enhance or hinder the transformation of these views will also be emphasized. Examples will be drawn from all regions of the Third World.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors or seniors who have taken at least one 200 level course in comparative politics; or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 308S Seminar. Advanced Topics in Chinese Politics

Joseph

This seminar will explore in depth a topic of central importance in the analysis of politics in contemporary China. The focus of the seminar for each year will be announced prior to pre-registration. Among the topics that may be considered are: the political and social impact of economic change in China; revolution and reform in the Chinese countryside; ideology and political development in modern China; democracy and human rights in China; the political economy of “Greater China.”

Prerequisite: 208, HIST 278, or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL2 309S Seminar. Ethnicity, Nationalism, Religion, and Violence

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Investigates the causes of modern conflicts over religious, national, and ethnic identity. Introduces methods for studying nationalism, ethnic groups in conflict, and religious violence. Considers the construction of ethnicity and nation, the political uses of ethnicity, nationalism, and religion; the relationship between gender, class, ethnicity, and nationalism; various sources of inter-ethnic, international, and inter-religious conflict; and the psychology of group violence and warfare. *This course may count as either a comparative politics or an international relations unit for the political science major, depending upon the student's choice of research paper topic.*

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL2 310S Seminar. Politics of Community Development

Candland

Focuses on strategies for poverty alleviation, employment generation, promotion of social opportunity, and empowerment. Emphasis is on development in Asia (especially South and Southeast Asia), Africa, and Latin America. Considers women's leadership in social change, local control of resources, faith-based activism, and collaboration between activists and researchers. Examines activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their relations with funders, governments, and other NGOs. Specific NGOs and development programs will be closely examined.

Prerequisite: 204 and permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL2 312S Seminar. Environmental Policy

DeSombre

Focuses both on how to make and how to study environmental policy. Examines issues essential in understanding how environmental policy works and explores these topics in depth through case studies of current environmental policy issues. Students will also undertake an original research project and work in groups on influencing or creating local environmental policy.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political science and permission of instructor.

Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL2 353S Seminar. The Politics of Contemporary Cuba

Wasserspring

An analysis and assessment of the politics of the Cuban Revolution. Examination of the pre-Revolutionary Cuban society, significant transformatory phases of Cuban policy, the impact of United States and Soviet foreign policy objectives on Cuba, and the contemporary dilemma of maintaining socialist institutions in the post-cold war era. Special emphasis on political culture and its transformation, the role of political leadership, and the international constraints upon domestic policy formulation. Topics include the government's impact on education, health care and women's lives, the effects of the reintroduction of tourism as a developmental strategy, and the influence of Cuban-American politics in Miami. In addition to social science sources, we will use Cuban film, art, and literature as vehicles of understanding this complex political experience.

Prerequisite: Any 200 level unit in comparative politics or permission of instructor.

Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL2 383 Politics of Migration

Moon

A comparative study of the politics of mass population movements across state borders, including forced relocation under colonialism, refugees of war, food migration, labor migration, and different forms of legal and illegal immigration, including the international trafficking of persons. Analyzes migration and immigration policies in sending and receiving countries, U.N. conventions on the movement of persons, and social movements against and on behalf of migrant peoples. Country cases to be examined include Algeria and France, Brazil and Japan, Canada and Hong Kong, China and North Korea, Germany and Turkey, and the Philippines and the United States.

Prerequisite: One 200 level course in comparative politics or international relations or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken [POL2 383.] Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

International Relations

POL3 221 World Politics

Moon, Murphy, Arreguin-Toft

An introduction to the international system with emphasis on contemporary theory and practice. Analysis of the bases of power and influence, the sources of tension and conflict, and the modes of accommodation and conflict resolution. This course serves as an introduction to the international relations subfield in the political science department, and also as a means of fulfilling the political science core requirement of the international relations major.

As of 6/12/2008

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 223 International Relations of South Asia

Candland

Investigates the international influences on the economic, diplomatic, and military policies and relations of South Asian states. Examines Indian and Pakistani claims and conflicts over Kashmir; the Indian and United States roles in the creation of Bangladesh; international dimensions of the conflict in Nepal; international dimensions of the conflict in Sri Lanka; river water use disputes and settlements between India and Pakistan and between India and Bangladesh; nuclear proliferation in South Asia and its international dimensions; India's and Pakistan's relations with the China and the United States; and contemporary Indian and Pakistani peace initiatives.

Prerequisite: 211 or 221 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 224 International Security

Arreguin-Toft

An examination of warfare as a central problem of international politics. The shifting causes and escalating consequences of warfare since the Industrial Revolution. The post cold war danger of a clash of civilizations versus prospects for a "democratic peace." The multiple causes and consequences of modern internal warfare, and prospects for international peacekeeping. The spread of nuclear weapons, the negotiation of arms control agreements, the revolution in military affairs (RMA), and the threat of terrorism and asymmetric war.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL3 226 International Relations in East Asia

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course examines political and economic relations in East Asia, with the aim of understanding the determinants of conflict and cooperation in the region and providing a framework for analyzing the foreign policies of East Asian states. Among the questions considered: Is the East Asian economic miracle indeed a miracle? Is the rise of China dangerous to its neighbors? Can Japan be a leader in the region? What is South Korea's choice between security and reunification? Whether North Korea survives or implodes, what would be the consequences for East Asia? How do states respond to growing economic interdependence and to security multilateralism in the region?

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations or comparative politics or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

As of 6/12/2008

POL3 227 The Vietnam War

Joseph

An examination of the origins, development, and consequences of the Vietnam War. Topics to be considered include: the impact of French colonialism on traditional Vietnamese society; the role of World War II in shaping nationalism and communism in Vietnam; the motives, stages, and strategies of American intervention in Vietnam; leadership, organization, and tactics of the Vietnamese revolutionary movement; the expansion of the conflict to Cambodia and Laos; the antiwar movement in the United States; lessons and legacies of the Vietnam War; and political and economic development in Vietnam since the end of the war in 1975.

Prerequisite: One unit in social sciences or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken [POL3 306].

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL3 228 The Arab-Israeli Conflict

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course examines the political dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict and analyzes the interests and objectives of all the major parties, including Israeli society, Palestinian communities, and other regional and superpower actors. The course also covers the emergence of the Zionist movement, the development of Palestinian nationalism, the determinants of U.S. foreign policy towards this conflict, and efforts at conflict resolution. *This course may count as either a comparative politics or an international relations unit for the political science major, depending upon the student's choice of paper topics.*

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL3 321 The United States in World Politics

Paarlberg

An examination of American foreign policy, understood as the current and recent behavior of the United States Government abroad. The pre-eminence of American military power in the post cold war era makes understanding United States policy essential to the larger study of international relations. Emphasis will be placed on different theoretical approaches to explaining United States behavior, including approaches based on structures of the international system versus explanations that are particular to American geography, history, culture, or institutions.

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations. Not open to students who have taken [POL3 321S].

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL3 322 Seminar. Gender in World Politics

Arreguin-Toft

The course will examine gender constructions in world politics, with a focus on the biological and social determinants of aggression, violence, and war. Some topics include gender biases in international relations theories, women in combat; male and female roles in the conduct of war, gender and attitudes toward war; women's relationship to the state; gays in the military; rape and the military; feminist analysis of war and peace.

Prerequisite: 221 and permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 323 International Economic Policy

Paarlberg

A review of the politics of international economic relations, including trade, money, and multinational investment within the industrial world and also among rich and poor countries. Political explanations for the differing economic performance of states in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Consideration of the respective roles of intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and multinational corporations. Discussion of global governance issues including food, population, migration, energy, and environment.

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations or comparative politics.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 325 International Environmental Law

DeSombre

Examines the basic legal instruments and their historical development in addressing international environmental issues. Under what conditions have states been able to cooperate to improve the global environment? Negotiation of, compliance with, and effectiveness of international environmental law, and specific environmental issue areas in which international environmental law operates will be addressed.

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations or legal studies, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 326S Seminar. Small Wars in Theory and Practice

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course introduces advanced students to an important and understudied category of conflict: small wars. This survey of important small wars from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries traces their impact on both grand-strategic planning and international relations theory; and is grounded in major themes ranging from the Hobson-Lenin thesis of imperialism to Kenneth Waltz's neorealism. The interplay of theory and cases will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary approaches to this old yet ever-present category of conflict. Case studies include the South African War (1899-1902), Italy's invasion of Ethiopia (1935-36), U.S. military intervention in Vietnam (1965-1973), Operation Allied Force in Kosovo (1999), the Russian Federation's twin campaigns in Chechnya (1994 and 1999), and the Second Gulf War in Iraq (2003-present).

Prerequisite: 221. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL3 327 International Organization

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. The politics of global governance. Emphasis on the U.N., plus examination of specialized agencies, multilateral conferences, and regional or functional economic and security organizations. The theory and practice of integration beyond the nation-state, as well as the creation and destruction of international regimes.

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations or comparative politics.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL3 328S Seminar. Selected Topics in World Politics: Anti-Americanism as Politics and Performance

Moon

Seminar exploring the causes, characteristics, and political implications of the recent resurgence of "anti-Americanism" in international politics. Political actors engaged in anti-American activities and activism include civic organizations, intellectual and cultural elites, politicians, media, terrorists, peace activists, and others in democratic and authoritarian countries alike. Differing political motivations and public expressions, as well as national and regional variations of anti-Americanism will be examined. The seminar will engage a range of sources, such as survey data, religious rhetoric, nationalist platforms, protest literature, official policy statements, court cases, and pop music. Country cases include but are not limited to France, Germany, Iraq, Iran, Mexico, South Korea, Philippines, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Prerequisite: One 200 level course or higher in both international relations and comparative politics. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

As of 6/12/2008

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL3 329 International Law

Hotchkiss (at Babson)

An exploration of the meaning of the “rule of law” in a global context. The course focuses on three themes. First, the classic form of international law, including the concepts of statehood and sovereignty, the relationship of nations to each other, and the growth of international organizations. Second, the role and responsibility of individuals in international law, especially in the area of human rights. Third, the developing international law of the earth’s common areas, specifically the oceans, space, and the environment.

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations or legal studies, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL3 332S Seminar. People, Agriculture, and the Environment

Paarlberg

An examination of linkages between agricultural production, population growth, and environmental degradation, especially in the countries of the developing world. Political explanations will be sought for deforestation, desertification, habitat destruction, species loss, water pollution, flooding, salinization, chemical poisoning, and soil erosion—all of which are products of agriculture. These political explanations will include past and present interactions with rich countries, as well as factors currently internal to poor countries. Attention will be paid to the local, national, and international options currently available to remedy the destruction of rural environments in the developing world. *This course may qualify as either a comparative politics or an international relations unit for the political science major, depending upon the student’s choice of research paper topic.*

Prerequisite: 204 or 323. Not open to students who have taken [POL3 332S]. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 348S Seminar. Problems in North-South Relations

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An exploration of historical and contemporary relations between advanced industrial countries and less developed countries, with emphasis on imperialism, decolonization, interdependence, and superpower competition as key variables. Consideration of systemic, regional, and domestic political perspectives. Stress on the uses of trade, aid, investment, and military intervention as foreign policy instruments. *This course may qualify as either a comparative politics or an international relations unit for the political science major, depending upon the student’s choice of research paper topic.*

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL3 351S Global Governance

Murphy

Explores the challenge of global institutions in the new century within a larger historical context. Considers the function and role of the League of Nations, the International Labor Organization, the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, the GATT and the World Trade Organization. Special emphasis on comparing and contrasting international organizations in the three main periods of institution building: post-World War I, post-World War II, and post-cold war. Discusses radical, liberal internationalist and realist approaches.

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations. Not open to students who have taken [POL3 351]. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL3 379 Weapons, Strategy, and War

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. This course examines the interrelationships among military technology, strategy, politics, and war. How have these forces shaped warfare from the introduction of gunpowder to the present? How, in turn, have developments in warfare influenced societies and politics? The course emphasizes select cases from World Wars I and II and the development of nuclear weapons strategy. How, for example, did the development of chemical weapons affect the battlefield? What ethical choices, if any, guided the strategic bombing of civilians in World War II? How did nuclear weapons change ideas about fighting war? The class concludes with an examination of the “war on terror” and its implications for strategy and politics.

Prerequisite: 221; recommended: 224

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL3 384S Seminar. Power, Conflict, and Diplomacy

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. International politics is mostly talk. Diplomats cooperate, coerce, and deter, all under the shadow of power and war. This course examines the role of diplomacy and negotiations in international politics. We explore whether actors behave rationally in crisis situations, such as in the Cuban Missile and Berlin Crises. The course analyzes the role of rhetoric and identity in negotiations. How is it that actors might use rhetoric to persuade or coerce at the bargaining table? In examining cases, the course will use primary materials, such as transcripts of the Cuban Missile Crisis, in addition to interpretive texts, to examine negotiations over issues of alliance politics, conflict resolution, and crises on the brink of war.

As of 6/12/2008

Prerequisite: One unit in international relations. Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

Political Theory

POL4 201 Issues in Political Theory

Candrea

An introduction to the study of political theory, and specifically to the problems of political action. Exploration of questions about civil disobedience, legitimate authority, ethics and politics, and the challenge of creating a just order in a world characterized by multiple beliefs and identities. Discussion of the social contract, democracy, liberalism, decolonization, violence and revolution, universalism and cultural relativism, and differences of race, class, and gender. Authors include Plato, Machiavelli, Rousseau, Locke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Fanon, and Gandhi.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POL4 240 Classical and Medieval Political Theory

Euben

Study of selected Classical, Medieval, and early modern writers. Authors may include Sophocles, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Epictetus, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Luther, and Calvin. Emphasis on the logic of each theorist's argument, questions regarding the nature of human sociability, possible--and best--forms of government, extent and limits of human agency, the purpose of politics, the nature of political wisdom, and why government should be obeyed, as well as limits to that obedience. Exploration of diverse understandings of the concepts of justice, freedom, and equality. Attention is paid to the historical context within which a political theory is written.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL4 241 Modern Political Theory

Candrea

Study of the development of Western political theory from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. Among the theorists read are Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Rousseau, Burke, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Hegel, and Marx. Emphasis on the logic of each theorist's argument, including such questions as the nature of human sociability, possible – and best – forms of government, and the question why we should obey government and the limits to that obedience. Exploration of diverse understandings of the concepts of justice, freedom, and equality. Attention is paid to the historical context within which a political theory is written.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL4 242 Contemporary Political Theory

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Study of several twentieth-century traditions that raise fundamental questions about the human condition, processes of historical and personal transformation, and our capacity to understand them. Exploration of contemporary political and social theories, including existentialism, contemporary variants of Marxism, postmodern theory, alternative theories of power, and the ethics of war.

Prerequisite: One unit in political theory, social theory, or political philosophy, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL4 248 Power and Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An examination of the nature and functioning of power in politics, with an emphasis on the following questions: What is the nature of power and how has it been exercised in political life, both past and present? Who has power and who should have it? Is power primarily wielded by political leaders and bureaucrats, or has the development of new technologies decentralized power? Do the powerless understand and exercise power differently from those who traditionally hold it? Are power and violence inextricably intertwined or are they opposites? Authors include Thucydides, bell hooks, Hannah Arendt, Marx, Nietzsche, Foucault, Dahl, Michnik, and Vaclav Havel.

Prerequisite: One unit in political science, philosophy, or history, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL4 340 American Political Thought

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. Examination of American political writing, with emphasis given to the Constitutional period, progressive era, and contemporary sources. Questions raised include: origins of American institutions, including the rationale for federalism and separation of powers, the roles of president and Congress, judicial review; American interpretations of democracy, equality, freedom and justice; legitimate powers of central and local governments. Attention paid to historical context and to importance for modern political analysis.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political theory, American politics, or American history, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Historical Studies

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL4 342S Seminar. Marxist Political Theory

Krieger

Study of the fundamental concepts of Marxist theory, including alienation, the materialist conception of history, class formation, and class struggle. Particular attention will be paid to Marx's theory of politics. The applicability of Marxist theory to contemporary political developments will be assessed. Study of contemporary Marxist theory will emphasize issues of class, race, and gender.

Prerequisite: Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

POL4 343S Seminar. Democracy and Difference

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An examination of liberal democracy and contemporary theoretical challenges introduced by diversity and difference. Does liberal democracy, with its emphasis on individual rights, separation of powers, representative assemblies, and the principle of a limited state, remain a durable model? How does the consideration of cultural diversity and difference, understood by reference to gender, race, ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, and sexual orientation, affect our understanding of citizenship, equality, representation, recognition, and community? Study of communitarian thought, multiculturalism, and feminist critiques of democracy.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political theory, or permission of instructor.

Enrollment limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL4 344S Seminar. Feminist Political Theory

Euben

An examination of feminist theory, beginning with early liberal and socialist feminisms and continuing on to radical, post-structuralist and postcolonialist feminist theories. Particular attention to the complexity of theorizing about “what women are and need” in the context of a multicultural society and a postcolonial world. Consideration of feminist perspectives on law and rights, body image/eating disorders, pornography, racial and sexual differences, non-Western cultural practices such as veiling, and methodology. Authors include J.S. Mill, Alexandra Kollontai, Audre Lorde, Chandra Mohanty, bell hooks, Catharine MacKinnon, Susan Okin, Wendy Brown, Joan Scott and Judith Butler.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political theory, philosophy, or women’s studies; interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

POL4 346 Comparative Political Thought: Modern Western and Islamic Theories of Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. An examination of Western and Islamic theories about the nature and dilemmas of modern politics with a special emphasis on the following questions: does modern politics require secularization or a return to the “fundamentals” of tradition, religion, and community? Which fundamentals and by whose authority? What is the relationship, if any, among democracy, Islam and the West? How are and should these terms be defined? Is there such a thing as a distinctive Western or Islamic perspective in a world stamped by colonialism, imperialism, and globalization? Authors include Machiavelli, Ibn Khaldun, Al-Afghani, Kant, Condorcet, Riffat Hassan, and Sayyid Qutb.

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political theory or philosophy or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

POL4 347S Seminar. Politics, Literature, and the Concept of Empire

NOT OFFERED IN 2008-09. What does it mean to be an “empire”? In this seminar, we will explore this question through specific historical examples (including Greece, Rome, Britain and France), using a variety of literary and philosophical texts (Herodotus, Virgil, Machiavelli, Conrad, Kipling, Fanon, Said). Particular attention will be given to questions about freedom, power, rights and obligations. In conclusion, we will examine contemporary sources to assess whether or not the term “empire” may be applied to the United States today.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Interested students must fill out a seminar application available in the political science department office or on the department Web site.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy

As of 6/12/2008

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

Research or Individual Study

Individual or group research of an exploratory or specialized nature. Students interested in independent research should request the assistance of a faculty sponsor and plan the project, readings, conferences, and method of examination with the faculty sponsor. These courses are offered at the 250 (intermediate) and 350 (advanced) levels and for one or 0.5 unit of credit.

POLS 250 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to all students by permission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POLS 250H Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to all students by permission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 0.5

POLS 350 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POLS 350H Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors by permission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 0.5

Senior Thesis

POLS 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: By permission of department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

POLS 370 Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: 360

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

Related Courses

As of 6/12/2008

For Credit Towards the Major

AFR 318 Seminar. African Women, Social Transformation, and Empowerment

Directions for Election

POL 100 is recommended for all further work in political science.

A major in political science consists of at least nine units. Courses at the 100-level may be counted toward the major, but not toward a subfield distribution requirement (see below).

The Department of Political Science divides its courses beyond the introductory level into four subfields: American politics and law (POL1), comparative politics (POL2), international relations (POL3), and political theory (POL4). In order to ensure that political science majors familiarize themselves with the substantive concerns and methodologies employed throughout the discipline, all majors must take one 200-level or 300-level unit in each of the four subfields offered by the department. Recommended first courses in the four subfields are: in American politics and law: POL1 200; in comparative politics: POL2 202; in international relations: POL3 221; in political theory: POL4 201, 240, 241.

In addition to the subfield distribution requirement, all majors must do advanced work (300 level) in at least two of the four subfields; a minimum of one of these units must be a seminar, which normally requires a major research paper. (Courses fulfilling the seminar requirement are denoted by an "S" after the course number.) Admission to department seminars is by permission of the instructor only. Interested students must fill out a seminar application, which is available in the political science office and on the department web site prior to preregistration for each term. Majors should begin applying for seminars during their junior year in order to be certain of fulfilling this requirement. Majors are encouraged to take more than the minimum number of required 300-level courses.

Transfer Credits: Ordinarily, a minimum of five units for the major must be taken at Wellesley, as must the courses that are used to fulfill at least two of the four subfield distributions and the seminar requirement. The department does not grant transfer credit at the 300 level for either the major or for College distribution or degree requirements.

Although Wellesley College does not grant academic credit for participation in internship programs, students who take part in the Washington Summer Internship Program may arrange with a faculty member to undertake a unit of 350, Research or Individual Study, related to the internship experience.

AP Credit: Students may receive units of College credit if they achieve a grade of 5 on the American Government and Politics or the Comparative Politics Advanced Placement Examinations. Such AP credits do not count toward the minimum number of units required for the political science major nor for the American or comparative subfield distribution requirements for the major. If a student does receive a unit of College credit for the American politics exam, she may not take POL1 200 (American Politics). Students who are uncertain whether to receive a College AP credit in American politics or to take POL1 200 should consult with a member of the department who specializes in American politics/law or comparative politics.

Honors: The only route to honors in the major is writing a thesis and passing an oral examination. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100-level; the department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. See Academic Distinctions. Majors who are interested in writing a senior honors thesis are urged to discuss their ideas and plans with either their advisor or the department chair as early as possible in their junior year.

Graduate Work: Students considering going to graduate school for a Ph.D. in political science should talk with their advisors about appropriate preparation in quantitative methods and foreign languages.