

Fall 2019 Seminar course offerings. Please visit the Course Browser for more information.

### **POL1 324 Gender & 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 policymaking, 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.

**Prerequisites:** POL1 200 and by permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application via the political science department.

### **POL2 306 Revolution - Joseph**

A comparative analysis of the theory and practice of revolution from the seventeenth century to the present, with an emphasis on revolutions in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Questions to be considered include: the meaning and causes of revolution, why people join revolutionary movements, the international dimensions of internal war, strategies of insurgency and counterinsurgency, and the changing nature of revolution over the last 350 years. Case studies will include the French, Russian, Chinese, Cuban, and Iranian revolutions, as well as more contemporary events in East Central Europe and the Middle East and North Africa.

**Prerequisites:** One unit in comparative politics or international relations and permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application via the political science department.

### **POL3 354 The Rise & Fall of Great Powers - Goddard**

Power transitions are among the most dangerous moments in international politics. Scholars argue that when new great powers rise, they threaten the interests of other states, provoking balancing coalitions, arms races, and even major power war. When a great power declines, it can topple existing international institutions, and undermine the existing world order. In this seminar, we will undertake a theoretical, historical, and contemporary examination of rising and declining great powers, looking at historical case studies (such as the rise of Germany, Japan, and the United States), as well as contemporary cases (the decline of Russia, American hegemony, and the posited rise of China, India, and the European Union).

**Prerequisites:** POL3 221 and permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application via the political science department.

### **POL4 341 Prison Nation: The Carceral State in U.S. - Grattan**

How and why did democracy in the United States develop in tandem with carceral discourses and institutions from the post-Revolutionary era to today? What role, if any, should punishment play in democracy? This course begins by evaluating the role of discipline and punishment in American political thought, ranging from the slippage between slavery and punishment in the 18th and 19th centuries to the rise of hyper-punishment in the era of mass incarceration and detention. We then focus in on the expansion of the carceral state since the late-1960s, paying particular attention to the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and capitalism. We conclude by evaluating debates between actors across the ideological spectrum who seek to reform, resist, or abolish the carceral state.

**Prerequisites:** One course in POL4 or American Studies, (specific courses in Africana Studies, History, Sociology, or Women's and Gender Studies may apply) and permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out an application via the political department.

## **POL4 349 Sex in Politics – Martorelli**

The Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v Hodges* legalized same-sex marriage in the U.S. It also suggested that anyone who isn't married cannot realize the full potential of being human. *Obergefell's* dramatic swings between empowering and deriding LGBTQ people illuminate larger tensions in the relationship between sexuality and politics. Notably, marriage grants privileges to some, but not others, based on the state's approval of their sexual preferences. The state, moreover, has historically regulated sex acts in ways that criminalize whole classes of people. These tensions raise key questions we will explore in this course: What role should the state play in supporting and restricting sexual practices? Should we look to the state to secure sexual freedom, or is sexual freedom achieved when we kick the state out of our bedrooms? More broadly, how are the boundaries of sexuality created in and through "politics"? To examine these questions, we will read queer theorists alongside contemporary political theorists.

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisites: One course in political theory or philosophy, and by permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited; interested students must fill out a seminar application via the political science department.