This graduate class provides a whistle-stop introduction to the vast political science literature on American politics. Although this type of seminar inevitably sacrifices depth for breadth, we will encounter several themes running throughout the course, among them: how American democracy is supposed to work and how it does; how interests are expressed by citizens and represented in government; and how power is distributed across groups and institutions in society. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with many of the classic works in the subfield, understand the different research designs that scholars use to analyze American politics, and be conversant with some of the major debates that animate our discipline.

Beyond becoming more knowledgeable about the American politics subfield, my hope is the seminar helps you to move from being consumers of research to being communicators and producers. The course and assignments are designed to give you opportunities to develop new skills that will be central to your own teaching and research. Even if American politics is not your main focus, I hope that these skills put you in a good position to succeed throughout graduate school and beyond.

This seminar has three specific parts. The first section will introduce graduate students to the scope and methods of comparative politics as a field of political science. This section also includes an overview of the contributions of the major figures in comparative politics by looking at the intersections of their life trajectories and their substantive research questions. This first part will, in addition, address the question whether a science of comparative politics is possible and how the comparative method can be improved with recent theoretical and methodological approaches. The second section of the seminar will provide an overview of the current theoretical approaches in the field, including rational choice, political economy, and comparative-historical analysis. The last part of the seminar will examine some of the key issues associated with the study of political systems and regimes. In institutional terms, we will discuss the differences between presidential and parliamentary systems. Then we will focus on issues of regime survival and regime change, specifically the analysis of the process of democratization and recent trends towards democratic erosion, competitive authoritarianism, and the rise of global populism. Students will be expected to write five short reaction papers, and a term paper.

This is the second course in quantitative methods in the University of Delaware's Political Science & International Relations Ph.D. program. The course is primarily an overview of nonlinear regression-like statistical methods, with an emphasis on likelihood-based models. As such, most of our attention will be given to models where the traditional assumptions of ordinary least-squares regression are violated because one's dependent variable is non-continuous (e.g., binary or count measures). To this end, we will survey maximum likelihood estimated models for various kinds of limited-dependent and qualitative response variables, paying particular attention not only to each model's theoretical underpinnings, but also to the estimation, interpretation, and presentation components of these models. Topics covered in-depth will include binary logit and probit, multinomial logit and probit, ordered logit and probit, Poisson and other models for event counts, and models for survival (time-to-event) data.

Much of the material in this course is fairly technical. While I have chosen readings that present the models as clearly and with as little jargon as possible, most of the material will still require several readings to fully comprehend. An understanding
of algebra is strongly recommended for this class, and the course assumes familiarity with linear regression at the level of POSC 815. While a basic acquaintance with calculus is also helpful, we will review this topic at the start of the course.

POSC 819 Qualitative Methods for Political Science
MEDENICA T 2 PM - 5 PM

This course provides an introductory overview of some of the main methodological tools used in qualitative social science research. We will discuss both the theoretical underpinnings of qualitative research as well as applied techniques, such as interviews, archival research, and analysis in Nvivo.

POSC824-010 Comparative Political Economy
KINDERMAN T 6 PM - 9 PM

This seminar immerses us into the subfield of CPE, which deals with the relationship between business and politics at the domestic level. It is based on two key assumptions: first, the economy is political. Second, there is not necessarily one best way to organize a capitalist economy. The focus of our course will be twofold: first, what are the institutional underpinnings of different socio-economic systems or “Varieties of Capitalism” across the world? We will explore theoretical debates between proponents and critics of “Varieties of Capitalism” and examine different Varieties of Capitalism in Europe, North America, Latin America, and elsewhere. How are these models changing? Are they converging? Can the egalitarian “social market" models of northern Europe based on high taxes, expansive welfare states and powerful unions survive in an increasingly integrated and competitive world, or are they converging on a leaner and meaner market model? In the second half of the course, we will focus on the commonalities of capitalism. How can we conceptualize and understand this system? What are its key characteristics? How can we understand the rise of finance during recent decades and how important is it for contemporary capitalism? In this seminar, we will probe these issues both empirically and theoretically. In search of answers to these questions we will read at least eight cutting edge academic books (including star economist Thomas Piketty’s 700-page blockbuster “Capital in the Twenty-First Century”) and dozens of scholarly articles.

POSC828-010 Feminist International Relations
ELLERBY W 2 PM - 5 PM

Feminist International Relations has pushed the field of IR to move beyond masculinist, state-centric conceptions of “what matters” by first recognizing and then problematizing the ways in which gender permeates the study and practices of global politics. This seminar surveys feminist International Relations literature from classic works by Cinthia Enloe, J. Ann Tickner and V. Spike Peterson to contemporary research that may also intersect/engage postcolonial, poststructural and other critical approaches. The class also provides an introduction to the variety of feminist methodologies in the field. Students will be expected to write a final paper which both engage a feminist IR lens and utilizes feminist methods. Other requirements include weekly memos, short methods activities and a “comp-style” midterm. General themes include: the state and governance, security (broadly defined) and global political economies and globalization. Methodologies will engage a breadth of epistemological and ontological approaches.

POSC850 Current Research in Society and Politics (CRISP)
MILLER F 2:30 - 5:30 PM

Current Research in the Study of Politics (CRISP) is the department’s (new) annual speaker series. The primary purpose of the seminar and speaker series is to expose graduate students to contemporary political science and international relations research from a range of scholars from outside the department. The seminar is organized in collaboration with third year graduate students who select the outside speakers. In the process, all graduate students will have the opportunity to read
scholarly works in progress, watch several research presentations, and engage in discussions of those works in a professional setting.

CRISP also serves an important purpose for third year students as they will have the opportunity to develop and present preliminary dissertation proposals. As indicated in the graduate handbook, students must defend their dissertation proposal by the Monday of the second week of fall semester of the student’s fourth year. This seminar offers third year students the opportunity to write and present an early version of a dissertation proposal – in the process receiving important feedback from faculty and fellow students. First and second year students benefit from the opportunity to see dissertation proposals in progress.

All information relevant to the seminar (mostly the papers by the speakers) will be posted on a class Canvas site.

**POSC 867-010  Inequality**  
Medenica  
R  6 PM - 9 PM

This course provides an overview of social science research on inequality in the United States. We will discuss inequality across a variety of axes and their intersections including race and ethnicity, economics, and gender and sexuality. In doing so, we will consider scholarly approaches to studying issues related to inequality from a range of disciplines in the social sciences, such as political science, economics, and sociology. -END-