

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRADUATE COURSES

Fall 2019

COURSE OFFERINGS

POSC 801 - 010

Scope & Methods in Political Science

Carrion

18662

F 1200 - 0100 PM

This class is an introduction to the wide range of research that makes up our field. You will meet most, if not all, of our departmental faculty as we hear about their research. We will get a sense of the wide range of epistemologies and methods represented in our department, and get a feel for the work people are doing as you embark on your own academic career.

POSC 811 - 010

Populism and the Erosion of Democracy

Kinderman

9218

W 0600 - 0900 PM

With the financial crisis, political economy has forcefully and rudely returned to the forefront of public concern. This graduate seminar examines some of the central dynamics of contemporary capitalism. It provides an overview of analytical tools and debates in International Political Economy, a subfield concerned with the interactions between politics and economics in the international realm. The course has two principal foci. On one hand, we will focus on the construction of IPE as a field of inquiry, and contrast sociological and rationalist modes of analysis (also known as the 'American' and 'British' schools of IPE). On the other hand, we will cover a range of substantive topics including globalization, currencies, sovereign debt, international financial institutions such as the IMF, and the financial crisis. In terms of its geographical focus, the course will cover the set of countries variously called the "OECD democracies" or "advanced capitalist democracies."

POSC 812- 010**Proseminar: Political Theory**

Rasmussen

19066

R 0200 - 0500 PM

Political theory is the oldest branch of Political Science, spanning thousands of years and even more pages of text. This proseminar does not seek to give us an encyclopedic knowledge of all this accumulated wisdom, but instead makes a case for the importance of political theory to the discipline by helping us to define terms, providing historical and analytical perspective, and honing our critical thinking skills. Rather than a comprehensive survey, this course provides a sampling of some of the most important political thinkers and concepts that have shaped the discipline while also exploring different ways of reading, interpreting, and engaging with texts. The course is intended to provide a foundation in the field of political theory with familiarity with some of its foundational works, to teach students practices of reading and interpreting texts, and to provide a background on key terms and concepts utilized across the discipline and in contemporary politics. The course is designed for students with plans to go on in the study of political theory, for those who may be interested in teaching undergraduate courses in the area, for those who are seeking greater breadth in the field, and for those with an interdisciplinary interest in social and political theory. The authors we read will be classics like Sophocles, Aristotle, Rousseau, Locke, Marx, Arendt, Habermas and Foucault as well as a sampling of contemporary authors and texts organized around a set of themes that include classic discussions of issues like the nature of power, the legitimacy of political authority, and human nature as well as discussions of contemporary debates about the concept of democracy as self-governance, political subjectivity, inequality and social order, the nature and role of violence in political life, and other topical issues.

POSC 815 - 010 Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science

Bagozzi

4440

T 0200 - 0500 PM

This course is designed to acquaint students with the basics of statistical analysis, and to introduce students to the quantitative study of political science. The class is the first of two required research methods courses, and it is designed to lay the foundation for Advanced Social Research for Political Science. As such, we will begin with elementary statistics and probability and move through hypothesis testing and (multivariate and bivariate) regression analysis. No particular background in math or statistics beyond the high school level is assumed. The format of the course is varied and will include lectures, discussions, and work in the computer lab. Grading will be based on lab-oriented homework assignments, class participation, and a final paper/project.

POSC 816 - 010**Philosophy of Science and Research Design**

Carrion

#9222

R 0600 - 0900 PM

This seminar is designed to offer graduate students in political science an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to write a research design and conduct advanced social research. The seminar begins with a discussion of issues related to the philosophy of the social sciences and then moves to the study of conceptual issues associated with research design and the use of qualitative methods. A major objective of the seminar is to help students write a research design that could be a first draft of the dissertation proposal. More specifically, the following topics will be addressed: research design and inference in the social sciences using qualitative data; concept formation, case selection, and concept measurement; methodological issues in case studies and small-N analysis; mixed-methods research; as well as mechanisms and models of explanation in the social sciences. This course is strongly recommended for students interested in pursuing qualitative or mixed-method research agendas. Students will be responsible for producing a research design, several analytical briefs, as well as an oral presentation.

POSC 817 - 010**Statistical Analysis for Political Science II**

Bagozzi

20433

M 0200 - 0500 PM

Advanced course in statistical methods in Political Science. Provides greater depth in quantitative methods, giving the opportunity to learn how to read and analyze quantitative work and to prepare for conducting independent research.

POSC 822 - 010**Topics in Political Theory: The Politics of Capitalism**

Son

3512

F 0200 - 0500 PM

Capitalism is not simply an economic system; it is, as its early observers noted, a civilization. It organizes social relations in a distinct way and shapes all aspects of our life. Taking this broad conception of capitalism, we will examine some of its most fundamental principles and requirements, as well as its political, social, and cultural implications. What are the distinguishing features and tendencies of capitalism? How does the capitalist description of property and labor shape the idea of the individual—the basic unit of modern citizenship? What actors are empowered, and what policies promoted, in capitalism? How well can we address some of our challenges by relying on capitalism? We will combine a close reading of foundational theoretical

texts with a study of capitalism's historical construction and evolution. In the latter half of the course, we will pay particular attention to the expansion of capitalist principles into previously non-economic areas (often dubbed "neoliberalization"), investigating its impact on work, democracy, and globalization.

POSC 825 - 010 Proseminar: International Relations

Green

19080

T 0600 - 0900 PM

This course provides an overview of the historical and current state of International Relations as a subfield. It does so by tracing the evolution of the field, and of world politics, through examination of important and pivotal debates that have shaped some of the field's more defining research agendas. In its introduction to the approaches and parameters of the field, students can also expect discussion and analysis of substantive and theoretical issues and politics associated with the structures and processes that contribute to competition and cooperation; economic interdependence and integration; transnational activism and governance; and the pursuit of both more just and more global world orders. Also considered will be the politics of change within the discipline, the theory-practice gap, and the prospects for a more truly "global IR".

POSC 867 - 010 Race, Ethnicity, and Minority Politics in the U.S.

Oskooii

20445

W 0200 - 0500 PM

Some of the most enduring divisions and tensions in American social and political life center on race and ethnicity. This course aims to examine and better understand the relationship between perceptions of racial/ethnic identity, attributions of racial/ethnic difference, and politics, broadly defined. We begin by first posing the question of whether racial and ethnic hierarchies are built into the foundation of American history, politics, and policy, or simply eradicable flaws in an otherwise just and democratic society. We then assess what role, if any, racial or ethnic attachments play in shaping decision making and behavior across a range of political arenas. As we grapple with the central theoretical and thematic debates that have characterized the study of race and ethnic politics, we will also consider the significance of other group identities such as gender, sexuality, and religion. We conclude the course by considering emerging topics or questions that may dominate the field of race and ethnic politics in the U.S.
