

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRADUATE COURSES

Spring 2019

COURSE OFFERINGS

POSC 803 - 010

ProSeminar in American Politics

Jones

#18835

M 0200 - 0500 PM

Graduate-level introduction to the subfield of American politics, providing an overview of the field of American Politics within Political Science. Foundational for students pursuing a concentration or minor in the field. Emphasizes both classic and current research on American politics, covering institutions (including Congress, the presidency, and the Supreme Court), mass behavior (including public opinion and political participation) and groups like parties and interest groups that link the two.

POSC 809 - 010

ProSeminar in Comparative Politics

Carrion

18836

W 0530 - 0830 PM

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 includes an overview of the contributions of major figures in comparative politics by looking at the intersections of their life trajectories and their substantive research questions. This section will also address the question of whether a science of comparative politics is possible and how recent theoretical and methodological approaches improve the comparative method. The second section of the class will provide an overview of the different theoretical approaches in the field, including modernization theory, rational choice, political economy, and comparative-historical approaches. 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 amongst presidential, semi-presidential, parliamentary systems. Then we will focus on issues of regime survival and regime change, and specifically the analysis of the process of democratization and recent trends towards democratic erosion, competitive authoritarianism, and the rise of global populism. Students will write four reaction papers and a term paper.

POSC 810 - 010**Topics in International Relations: International Law**

Weinert

#14074

T 0200 - 0500 PM

This course introduces students to international law (IL) through, primarily, case law. Despite academic debates about the utility of international law to regulate state behavior, municipal and international courts and tribunals amply demonstrate the applicability, utility, and effectiveness of legal rules and adjudicative procedures to resolve disputes and disputing claims between diverse kinds of actors in the international system. In this regard, we need to draw distinctions between legal and political reasoning, and their occasionally countervailing invocations and conceptions of the law. Though the emphasis will be on interpretation and application of the law, we will also consider broader, political science debates regarding the status and roles of international law in an increasingly complex global system. Among the topics explored will be the sources and subjects of international law; the relationship between international and municipal legal systems; international courts and tribunals; and thematic areas of the law such as IL and the use of force, human rights law, international criminal law, and the law of the sea. With respect to these latter topics, we will be especially attuned to the mutual constitution of law and politics. We will append to those more traditional IL course topics broader, International Relations/Political Science-related concerns regarding the role of international law in affecting political change; the common heritage of humankind concept to govern areas beyond national jurisdiction; the ambiguous legal status of UN General Assembly resolutions and the tendency of states, courts, and international organizations to accord legal effectiveness to even non-binding resolutions and declarations of principles; and how, moreover, international law constitutes and structures a global public space.

POSC 818- 010**Environmental Politics and Policy**

Bagozzi

15108

W 0200 - 0500 PM

Environmental politics crosscuts a number of traditional subfields within political science, including international relations, political economy, and comparative politics. As such, the present course will explore a number of recent approaches to environmental politics using international and/or comparative (political economy) perspectives. Here we will start with the domestic side of environmental politics, so as to understand the roles of domestic institutions, partisanship, public opinion, and environmental social movements in shaping environmental policy outputs and outcomes. We will then move on to study the connections (if any) between resource scarcity and political violence, before spending the remainder of the course on *international* environmental problems—including their relationships with international institutions, international cooperation, globalization, and climate change politics. Grades for this

course are based on a final paper assignment, three short discussion papers, and group discussion/participation.

POSC 824 - 010

Comparative Political Economy

Kinderman

12332

M 0600 - 0900 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 conceptualized 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 innovative academic books (including star economist Thomas Piketty’s 700-page blockbuster “Capital in the Twenty-First Century”) and dozens of scholarly articles.

POSC 836 - 010

Democratic Theory

Son

18837

R 0200 - 0500 PM

Contemporary democracies are rife with troubling signs—citizens’ institutional trust is at an all-time low, deepening economic insecurity and inequality are creating widespread fear and resentment, the sharply polarized political climate is making public deliberation exceedingly difficult, and even the basic principles of democracy seem to be openly challenged by so-called “populism.” But what, exactly, do these trends tell us about the current state and the future direction of democracy? Do they really represent a radical departure from how democracy has been practiced? Do they signal a crisis of democracy or the turbulent beginning of a new kind of democracy? In this seminar, we will try to address these questions by examining some of democracy’s foundational principles, as well as its central challenges, in light of its historical development. We will take a broadly historical approach, moving from modern democracy’s

origins in the 18th century to its current moments, with special attention to the 20th century. As we proceed, we will study key concepts that underlie our understanding and practice of democracy, including “the people,” representation, constitutionalism, and liberalism. We will end with contemporary debates over pluralism, neoliberalism, and populism.

POSC 850 - 010 Colloquium: Current Research in Society and Politics

Bauer

3580

F 0230 - 0530 PM

This course corresponds with the department’s annual spring speaker series. Over the course of the semester five to six outside speakers will address the seminar, as selected by the third year graduate students. In addition, at the end of the semester, third year graduate students will present an early draft of their dissertation proposals. This course is required of all graduate students. MA students and PhD students in their first two years will take the course for one credit, attending the speaker series and preparing response papers for the talks. Third year PhD students will take the course for three credits as a research seminar and will present their work as part of the speaker series, in addition to preparing response papers.
