POSC 801 - 010  Scope & Methods in Political Science

Redlawsk  #19000  M 1220 - 0120 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 808 - 010  American Political Institutions

Mycoff  # 15154  M 0200 - 0500 PM

This is a survey course of American political institutions including the Congress, presidency, Supreme Court, political parties and interest groups. We will explore both classic and current research on American institutions in an effort to understand how these institutions work with and against each other to represent the disparate interests of constituents. In this course we will discuss many important ideas focusing on the interplay between institutions, how effectively these institutions represent constituents and whether American institutions meet the tenets of democratic theory.

This class is designed as a seminar. Each student will be required to help lead class discussion throughout the semester. For each session, class leaders will write a paper integrating the assigned readings and their own ideas for distribution to the class to assist in understanding the value of the reading assignment.
POSC 811 - 010  Failing States and Good Governance
Khan #9346 T 0600 - 0900 PM

This graduate seminar will examine the expanding phenomenon of failing states and decline of democracies. It is in this context that the course will examine the significance of understanding the literature and best practices on Good Governance, Smart Cities, Sustainable Development, expansion of democracy and inclusive governance, and innovation in public policy and governance.

POSC 812- 010  Proseminar: Political Theory
Rasmussen # 19211 W 0200 - 0500 PM

The subfield of political theory is perhaps the oldest in the discipline, spanning thousands of years and even more pages of text. This seminar does not attempt to provide a thorough history of the subfield but is instead a general course to introduce students to some of the most historically significant texts, current debates in the discipline, application of theoretical ideas in contemporary politics, and approaches to reading and interpreting texts. Students will get a grounding in the field that will provide a foundational understanding of the subfield for the purposes of teaching as well as serving as a base of knowledge for more advanced courses in political theory and political science. The course fulfills both the proseminar requirement and may be used towards the skills requirement.

POSC 815 - 010  Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science
Bagozzi # 4488 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.
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.

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”.

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 new seminar surveys feminist International Relations literature from classic works by Cynthia Enloe, J. Ann Tickner and V. Spike Peterson to contemporary research that may also intersect/engage postcolonial, poststructural and other critical approaches. This 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 engages a feminist IR lens and utilizes feminist methods. Other requirements include weekly memos, and short methods activities. 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.