POSC 813-010  American Foreign Policy

Kaufman  # 17623  F 0230-0530 PM

This course examines the scholarly literature on three themes: the causes, conduct and effects of American foreign policy. We begin with studies of the history and historiography of American foreign policy in the twentieth century, with emphasis on the post-1940 period. Next we will examine models and theories of foreign policy formation, including bureaucratic, public-opinion, interest-group and other influences on the making of foreign policy in a comparative context. Finally, we will examine various interpretations of the nature and effects of U.S. foreign policy, including debates about the efficacy of different policies. The focus will be on international security and international economic issues, but issues of the environment, human rights and other issues will also be discussed.

POSC 815-011  Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science

Mycoff  # 17624  T 0200-0500 PM

This course is designed to acquaint students with the basics of statistical analysis, and to introduce quantitative approaches to politics and society. 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 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.

POSC 816-010  Philosophy of Science and Research Design

Carrion  # 12257  R 0330-0630 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 830-010  Seminar: International Relations

Green  # 6787  R 0430-0730 PM

This course is designed to be a foundational course in international relations theory. Its primary purpose is to introduce graduate students to the major traditions, key concepts, and defining debates in international relations theory so that they will have the tools and background necessary to critique and take part in international relations’ contemporary debates. The course proceeds chronologically and thematically so that students can see the historical context from which some theories emerged and also how theories have evolved in response to the scholarship of the previous generation. In this way, students will learn about contemporary debates’ origins, evolution, and their current status. Among the theories to be debated and discussed are realism, liberal IR theory, constructivism, post-colonial IR, feminist IR, and the English school.

Students will be expected to turn in periodic writing assignments and take part regularly in discussion.

POSC 836-010  Democratic Theory

Son  # 16331  M 0230-0530 PM

Today democracy is often celebrated as a universal value. It is far from clear, however, what democracy means or how it is best practiced in contemporary contexts. Taken literally, the term democracy means “rule by the people.” But who are “the people”—a group of living individuals, a legally designated entity, or a social imaginary? How is popular sovereignty exercised—by voting, direct participation, or something else? Does the working of democracy depend on any socioeconomic or cultural conditions? In this seminar, we will examine some of the most influential theories of democracy that provide different answers to these questions. We will begin with the foundational texts of Rousseau, Tocqueville, and Marx, examine the development of democratic theory in the 20th century, and end with contemporary debates over difference and globalization.
This course is a survey of International Organizations, including what is even meant by the concept of International Organization. The design of this class is to focus on IOs as sites of politics, specifically the politics of: cooperation, collective action and contention and how they function into our understanding of world order. What this means is that IOs are both physical entities which meet certain criteria of membership and regulation, but they are also situated at the intersection of states, transnational and domestic actors all attempting to meet certain objectives. Because we offer other courses that focus more centrally on global governance and IO as a process, this one focuses more narrowly on IOs as the object of study and how IOs are law and norm-makers as well as bureaucratic institutions.

NOTE: Graduate students may also seek permission from faculty members to attend their 400-level specialized courses and arrange graduate credit under POSC 866. See the Graduate Handbook for rules, and Lynn Corbett or Barbara Ford for a permission form.