COURSE OFFERINGS

POSC 802 - 010  Developing and Transitional Systems

Carrion  #10232  T 0200 - 0500 PM

This seminar will start with a historical overview of comparative politics as a field. We will then discuss methodological issues associated with the comparative analysis of societies and will then move to the ongoing debates/approaches in the field (modernization, rational choice, new institutionalism, comparative-historical analysis). The class will also pay attention to the important trends associated with the process of democratization and the recent wave of democratic erosion, competitive authoritarianism, and populism.

Students will be required to write four or five short literature reviews and write a substantial term paper. Active class participation is expected and will be part of the final grade.

POSC 806 - 010  Normative Issues in Global Governance

Rasmussen  # 6822  M 0230 - 0530 PM

Normative questions ask us to consider distinctions between right and wrong in order to consider what ought to be done. In the context of global governance this requires thinking about moral and political obligations from the scale of the individual up to the scale of the state and global systems. Today’s global context requires a normative approach to issues concerning the distribution of resources and power globally and the proper exercise of power as well as questions about the nature of human beings and our responsibilities, both politically and personal, to others. This course will consider a range of normative issues, touching on classics in political theory to more recent texts considering specific questions. We will begin with a broad examination of debates over the nature and purpose of governance and power before turning to questions of human rights, citizenship, political violence, terrorism, imperialism, gender and race. Our goal will be to familiarize ourselves with some of the most important normative
debates that have informed the development of the field as well as to provide ourselves with tools for evaluating contemporary normative questions.

Students will be expected to do extensive weekly readings and will be asked to complete weekly response papers as well as one longer paper (7-10 pages) and a presentation on an author which they will select. Students will be asked to complete a final essay of 18-25 pages addressing a normative issue of their choice.

POSC 811 – 010     Politics and Gender
Bauer         #10270    R 0200 - 0500 PM

This course offers a survey of gender and politics around the world. The class covers topics such as women in social movements, women’s political leadership, feminism and the state, gender and international politics.

POSC 812- 010     Topics in International Relations: Comparative Regionalisms
Ba         # 14492    R 0200 - 0500 PM

This course considers regionalism as a basis for organization/integration since the ending of World War II. Developments in the 1980s, 1990s, and now 2000s have brought new and different attention to regionalism as a phenomenon of world politics. Especially noteworthy have been regional developments in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, which now increasingly challenge us to revisit and rethink a literature on regional integration has been so much informed by European experiences and especially the institutional trajectory of the European Union. At a minimum, developments challenge theorists, scholars, and practitioners to think more comparatively about regional processes, regional institutional forms, and regional political/economic outcomes.

This course introduces students to some of the key theories of regionalism and regional integration (both economic and political-security). Students will discuss both the “old” and the “new” regionalisms literatures, but driving questions will be comparative. These include: Why do regional integration efforts and institutions vary across regions? Are there different ways to conceptualize regional space? How do regional developments differently relate to global processes and global mechanisms? What forms do regionalism and regional integration take in different parts of the world and if they do, why do they? Are there significant variations in the driving actors, logics, and imperatives of regionalism across regions? How do regional developments in one part of the world inform others?
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.

IR scholars seek new ways to explain and understand continuities and dynamics in world politics. In the 1990s, academics and practitioners coined the term “global governance” (GG) to capture a complex of events, processes, and institutional developments: the transnational proliferation of forms of power, the exponential growth in numbers and importance of non-state actors, and the expanding range of issues that have engendered (or demand) forms of transnational or global coordination, regulation, and management. Yet because scholars have used the term in such diverse and divergent ways, they tend to speak past one another. This course examines various meanings and applications of GG, with special attention paid to theory; mechanisms (power, law, institutions, and authority); and modes (GG as liberal imperialism, GG as multilevel governance, and GG as governmentality).
This seminar will consider human rights as an area of study from a global governance perspective. We begin with a brief review of normative IR theory as it relates to human rights. Seminar topics will also include: women’s rights, group rights, indigenous rights, cultural relativism, corporate social responsibility, labor rights and development, and just war theory.

Course requirements include two papers and a take-home exam.

This course corresponds with the department’s annual speaker series. The theme of the colloquium varies from year to year, addressing important aspects of global governance. We will be welcoming 5-6 speakers over the course of the semester, in addition to presentations by graduate students. 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.