

**Political Science Graduate
Course Descriptions
Fall 2006**

16719 POLS 60009 Elections & Public Policy

Benjamin Radcliff

M 6:00-8:30

This course examines the relationship between the electoral choices of voters and the public policy regimes that the governments so chosen pursue. The central focus is thus on whether and how different types of electoral outcomes (which parties win elections and in what institutional contexts) actually determine the policies that governments pursue.

18045 POLS 60019 Representation

John Griffin

T 3:30-6:00

This course will investigate the translation of public preferences into public policies. Among the topics that will be discussed are public opinion and public policy, measuring public opinion, political participation and representation, political parties and representation, representation in legislatures, demographic disparities in representation, the courts as representative institutions, and the presidency and representation.

18126 POLS 60225 European Integration

Sebastian Rosato

M 12:00-2:30

This course is about the causes of European integration. It focuses on evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of three major sets of international relations theories in accounting for integration: realism, which attributes integration to power politics considerations; liberalism, which stresses the role of economic interdependence; and constructivism, which privileges the impact of federal or community ideas. Empirically, the course covers the major integration initiative since World War II including the European Coal and Steel Community, The European Economic Community, the European Defense Community, and Economic and Monetary Union. The last part of the course is devoted to thinking about the future of the European Union. Will it go from strength to strength or is it on the verge of collapse? Is Europe about to become the next superpower? If so, what does this mean for US-European relations?

16722 POLS 60420 Theoretical Approaches in Comparative Politics

Frances Hagopian

M 3:00-5:30

This course has two objectives. First and foremost, it provides an overview of major theoretical approaches to comparative politics. We will examine structural approaches, contingent action arguments, institutionalism, rational choice, political culture, and eclectic approaches. We will also spend one week discussing international influences on domestic politics. An important secondary objective is to provide some awareness of comparative methods in political science. Toward this objective, we will begin the semester with some readings on methods in comparative politics, and we will discuss methods of inquiry throughout the semester.

17790 POLS 60437 Democracy and the State: Issues and Frontiers of Research

Guillermo O'Donnell

3:00-5:30

This seminar will look at an intersection that has been largely neglected by both democratic theory and comparative politics: that between democracy and the state. Of course, we will have to take a first look at what I believe are the main conceptions of both topics. Then we will explore the intersections. This seminar will be much more a trip of discovery than a reinspection of well-trodden territories.

16718 POLS 60601 Cicero and the Romans**Walter Niegorski****T 3:30-6:00**

This course offers the opportunity to study major issues in political theory, moral philosophy, and jurisprudence as they appear in the writings of Cicero and in the teachings of the philosophical schools of ancient Rome. Lucretius is also read. Topics considered include the relation of practice and theory, the virtues and expediency, the basis of right and law, and the natures of republican and mixed constitutions. Above all the course provides an opportunity for reading and discussing some of Cicero's most significant writings. Cicero's skepticism and his metaphysical and theological views come to attention in certain of the readings. Cicero, a leading statesman of the late Roman Republic, endeavored to mediate between the work of Greek theorists and Roman practice; in time, his writings became among the most important sources on ancient moral and political thought for the Christian tradition. His acknowledged influence on key American founders was much greater than that of Plato or Aristotle.

17446 POLS 60630 Hegel's Philosophy of History**Michael Zuckert****R 6:30-9:00**

This course will examine Hegel's development of a philosophy of history according to which he maintains that the course of history has or is producing the rational political order he conceptually describes in his Philosophy of Right. The chief reading for the seminar will be Hegel's Lectures on the Philosophy of World History, but attention will also be paid to other texts of Hegel's and to the relation of the emergence of this theory in Hegel to certain themes in Kant's philosophy.

17449 POLS 60631 Ethics and Politics in the Italian Renaissance**Vittorio Hösle****R 3:30-6:00**

The Italian Renaissance is not only one of the most creative times in the history of art; it initiates also a major change in our moral concepts and in our vision of the state (the latter term being coined in that time). We will read major works by Machiavelli, who separates ethics and politics in a way unknown to antiquity and the Middle Ages, by his friend Guicciardini who is separated from Machiavelli by a far more skeptical view on the possibility of political planning, and by Baldassare Castiglione, whose dialogue "Il Cortegiano" presents the norms valid for the educated courtier in the most elegant form.

16720 POLS 60819 Intro to Qualitative Methods**Alvin Tillery****T 6:30-9:00**

This course seeks to expose students to current trends related to the use of qualitative methods in political science. It explores both the similarities and differences between idiographic research (or "Small-N" studies) and research based on statistical analyses. It also examines the myriad ways in which qualitative techniques like process-tracing, comparative case studies, content analysis, discourse analysis, and archival research can be successfully wedded to both statistical and formal approaches within one research design

17455 POLS 60821 Advanced Quantitative methods: Limited Dependent Variables**David Nickerson****R 6:30-9:00**

Quantitative methods are useful for uncovering and understanding patterns of behavior in the world. Basic statistical models assume continuous dependent variables, but many quantities of interest to social

scientists are categorical in nature. This course builds upon introductory statistics courses to explore the logic and analysis of models with limited dependent variables. We will begin by reviewing the basics of statistical inference and the linear regression model, with a thorough discussion of the assumptions underlying OLS. The bulk of the course will be devoted to the following topics: maximum-likelihood; logit/probit; ordered logit/probit; multinomial logit/probit; event count models; and, selection models such as Tobit and Heckman. Throughout, we will focus on understanding the theoretical underpinnings of the model and developing and evaluating applications of the models to substantive problems in political science.

18081 POLS 60860 Designing Research Projects: Practical Problems and Theoretical Issues

Robert Fishman

W 1:30-3:30

The course is intended to familiarize students with practical problems and options—as well as some underlying theoretical issues—encountered by social scientists in the course of qualitative or field research. Themes covered include consideration of the relationship between broad interpretive categories and specific empirical observations as well as the delineation of a research problem. Research strategies discussed include comparative historical work, historical case studies, observation, survey research, and qualitative interviewing. Students are asked to formulate a research proposal and to carry out practical exercises involving the use of several research strategies.

16721 POLS 63800 Proseminar

Andrew Gould

6:00-8:30

This is a required course for all first-year graduate students in the Department of Political Science. It is what is commonly called a "scope and methods" course; that is, a course designed to survey the great variety of themes and approaches in political science and to guide you through the fundamental debates about what political science is or should be. This course is also about democracy because the best way to teach about methods is to apply them to an interesting topic, and democracy is a topic of central interest to almost all of us these days. There is abundant literature that demonstrates the relevance of our course themes to democracy. Therefore, in the process of learning about the scope and methods of political science, this course will also familiarize you with some key ideas about what democracy is, what it could be, how it is changing, what causes it, and how we measure it.