

POLITICAL SCIENCE

SPRING 2007

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CRN 27494 POLS 60004 American Subnational Politics

Rodney Hero

3:30-6:00 PM Tuesday

The purpose of this seminar is to provide a careful and extensive overview of the scholarly issues and literature concerning American "subnational," especially state, politics. The assumption and approach taken is that state and local governments in the United States are important in and of themselves, but they are also critical in how they shape national politics and governance through their own political and policy patterns and in the implementation of "national" domestic policies. Three bodies of literature will be the focus of analysis: U.S. federalism and intergovernmental relations; state governance, politics and public policy; and urban/local politics (with the most extensive attention given to the second of the three).

In general, the approach will be comparative while at the same time giving close attention to historical and contemporary theoretical and analytical debates in the field. Moreover, there will be considerable attention to the significance of subnational politics for understanding the U.S. political system in general, as well as the approaches to studying that system.

CRN 27495 POLS 60027 Participation and Representation

Louis Ayala

6:00-8:30 PM Wednesday

Utilizing empirical, historical, and theoretical resources, this course will explore the development of the relationship between citizens and their elected legislative representatives, and the impact this had on citizens' engagement with the governing process. Drawing on diverse literature, including selections from political behavior, political psychology, American political development, etc., the goal is not only to explore the causes and consequences of citizens' differentiated rates of political participation, but also to address the normative implications this may have for the representational relationship.

There are three general components to the course. First, we will review those factors (institutional, socio-economic, etc.) that influence individual citizens' rates of political participation and their acquisition and use of political information. The class will also review how opportunities for and attitudes about the necessity of citizen involvement in the political process have historically evolved in our federal democratic republic. Finally, we will discuss several normative questions about participation, including whether low levels of citizen participation are really a problem, the wisdom of institutional reform of the participation process, and the extent to which representatives and citizens should be "accountable" to one another.

CRN 27496 POLS 60217 Theories of International Relations

Alexandra Guisinger

6:00-8:30 PM Monday

This seminar provides an overview of some of the major theories of international relations. The bulk of the course explores three major paradigms -- realism, liberalism, and idealism. Additional sessions will consider influential perspectives drawn from normative, organizational, and domestic political theories; recent attempts to rethink the nature of contemporary world politics; and rational choice approaches to the study of international relations. Our goal will be to identify and criticize the central assumptions and logics advanced by different schools of thought in order to improve our ability to think critically about the basic forces that drive international politics.

CRN 27497 POLS 60406 Comparative Research on Democratization

Michael Coppedge

3:00-5:30 PM Wednesday

This course is both a survey of major works seeking to explain the birth and survival of democracy and a research seminar that allows students to explore these topics on their own and as members of a research team. Discussions will examine how leading political scientists have studied democratization from a great variety of approaches, including case studies and comparative history, rational choice, political culture, institutionalism, modernization, and large-sample comparisons. The substantive readings provide fodder for discussing major issues of research design. Lectures will provide user-friendly

introductions to a variety of analytic techniques. Research assignments will encourage hands-on experience with data collection and statistical analysis. There is virtually no overlap between this course and GOVT 579, Comparing Democracies, which examines the nature and consequences of democracy.

CRN 27498 POLS 60438 Theories of Political Protest

Debra Javeline

3:00-5:30 PM Monday

This course looks at various theories of collective action and social movements. It will examine theoretical debates about why individuals and groups occasionally redress their grievances through protest and more often endure hardships passively. It will evaluate the relative merit of these theories in explaining cases of protest and passivity worldwide.

CRN 27499 POLS 60439 Theories of Civil Wars

Naunihal Singh

6:00-8:30 PM Wednesday

This course reviews the current boom of research in political science on civil wars and civil conflict. Topics will include the causes of civil wars, the organization of rebel forces, the conduct of civil wars, the duration of civil wars, the termination of civil wars and the consequences of civil wars. We may also briefly review some recent work on ethnic riots and genocides as well.

CRN 27500 POLS 60623 Socrates

Catherine Zuckert

3:00-4:15 PM Monday and Wednesday

Who was Socrates, and what effect did he have on later history and thought? According to Cicero, Socrates was the first political philosopher; according to Nietzsche, he was a logical monster, a pessimist disguised as an optimist; according to Kierkegaard, he was a moral teacher, second only to Jesus. We will examine several of the Platonic dialogues leading up to Socrates' trial and death in an attempt to discover which of these or other later interpretations is correct.

CRN 27501 POLS 60633 Landmarks in Contemporary Political Theory

Ruth Abbey

5:30-8:00 PM Tuesday

This course is designed for students who seek an overview of contemporary political theory, for it provides a survey of some of the major figures in political theory. We will look at the work of John Rawls, Jurgen Habermas, Charles Taylor, Richard Rorty, Michel Foucault and Judith Butler. With the exception of Butler, whose contributions are more recent than those of the other writers, we will look at texts from their earlier and then from their later writings. We will look at developments over time in each thinker's work as well as comparing them with one another, and asking what each thinker contributes to the major debates within political theory. Within these parameters, the amount of time dedicated to each thinker and the particular texts studied can be decided in consultation with the participants in this class.

27502 POLS 60634 The Political Thought of Hannah Arendt

Dana Villa

3:30-6:00 PM Thursday

The course will examine Arendt's political theory through a close reading of her primary works, including *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, *The Human Condition*, *On Revolution*, *Between Past and Future* and the *Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy*. Her theories of political action and political judgment will be a central focus, as will her intellectual debt to the Greeks, civic republicanism, and existential philosophy (especially Nietzsche and Heidegger).

27503 POLS 60810 Quantitative Methodology

David Nickerson

6:30-9:00 PM Thursday

The course will examine Arendt's political theory through a close reading of her primary works, including *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, *The Human Condition*, *On Revolution*, *Between Past and Future* and the *Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy*. Her theories of political action and political judgment will be a central focus, as will her intellectual debt to the Greeks, civic republicanism, and existential philosophy (especially Nietzsche and Heidegger).