

# Political Science Graduate Course Descriptions Fall 2008

## **17994 POLS 60009 Elections & Public Policy**

**Benjamin Radcliff**

**Tue 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.

## **17985 POLS 60019 Representation**

**John Griffin**

**Mon 11:45-1:00**

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, and demographic disparities in representation, the courts as representative institutions, and the presidency and representation.

## **18491 POLS 60030 Race and Representation in American Politics**

**Diane Pinderhughes**

**Tue 3:00-5:30**

This course is an introduction to the issues which have arisen around race and representation in American politics and introduces students to the contexts from which these questions evolved. The course focuses on African Americans, but also examines the distinctive sets of factors shaping political participation associated with Mexican Americans, Native Americans and Asian Americans and which therefore affect their relation to the American polity. The course introduces historical patterns predating the founding of the republic which have shaped American political institutions throughout their history, and compares statutory discrimination against and the evolution of citizenship rights for Blacks and for other racial and ethnic groups. More contemporary developments of legal protection for voting rights, debates over electoral redistricting, the impact of the intersection of race and gender on political representation will be examined. The development of political philosophy as well as party and electoral dynamics, and racial attitudes are also considered. Since the 2008 Presidential campaign will be underway, we will also explore the implications of developments in the primary and general elections. Approaches to these questions will be considered from the contrasting intellectual traditions incorporated within the political and social sciences, reflecting distinctive methodologies and perspectives.

## **17989 POLS 60200 Great Books in Foreign Policy & Security Studies**

**Dan Lindley**

**Thur 3:00-5:30**

This course examines in detail theories about international relations and American foreign policy ranging from structural, state-level, policy process, to decision-making theories. We will also review the history of American foreign policy, and assess several prominent policy problems currently facing decision-makers. We will work extensively on formulating, critiquing, and testing theories, with a focus on case-study methodology. A major research paper is required. Students will also lead class and present their research papers. Qualified undergraduates may take the course with permission. Highly motivated juniors anticipating writing a senior honors thesis may find this course useful.

## **16011 POLS 60217 Theories of International Relations**

**Sebastian Rosato**

**Mon 6:00-8:30 pm**

This course provides an overview of some of the major international relations theories. The first half

of the course is devoted to exploring the three major approaches of the study of international politics (realism, liberalism, and constructivism) with a particular emphasis on identifying and criticizing their central assumptions and casual logics. The focus in the second half of the course is on using these theories to understand the contemporary international system.

### **15679 POLS 60226 International Security**

**Michael Desch**

**Tue 3:00-5:30**

The objective of this course is to introduce graduate students to the basic conceptual issues in security studies. By "security studies" I mean the systematic examination of the role of the threat and use of military force in relations within and among states. Concretely, this means that the main focus will be on war in international relations theory and practice and the role of the professional military in society. The seminar's perspective will be the intersection of social science theory and policy studies. My basic philosophy is that good social science research is relevant to important real-world issues and can be accessible to policy professionals. Conversely, good national security policy is grounded upon sound social science theory. The requirements of this seminar are simple: Participants must do all the readings, agree to take the lead in the discussion of one or two (depending upon final course size) seminars, submit two 5-page memoranda [20% each] in response to questions I pose, and complete a 15-20 page analytical paper for the final [40%]. Class participation is essential [20%]. I will provide a list of questions for the memorandums and students must submit a one page final paper proposal and then see me in my office before mid-term to discuss it. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have secured my consent in advance.

### **18487 POLS 60406 Comparative Research on Democratization**

**Michael Coppedge**

**Mon 3:00-5:30**

One of the central tasks in the study of politics has long been to explain the birth, survival, and breakdown of democracy. Over the years, scholars have offered dozens of hypotheses, focusing on culture, institutions, leadership, religion, ethnic cleavages, diffusion, dependency, social equality, economic development, or various combinations of several of the above. Clearly the problem has not been the difficulty of dreaming up explanations, but the difficulty of demonstrating which one or ones are correct. In their efforts to support some of the possible explanations, political scientists and sociologists have employed nearly every research method imaginable, and in recent years an escalation of methodological sophistication has taken some research on democratization to the cutting edge of comparative politics. A roughly chronological selection of this literature can therefore serve as a springboard for discussions about both practical questions of research design and methods, and the fascinating and timely theoretical question of what causes democracy--which are the twin topics of this course. Note: This course does not cover the consequences of democracy.

### **17991 POLS 60601 Cicero and the Romans**

**Walter Nicgorski**

**Wed 2:30-5:00**

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.

### **17992 POLS 60617 Nature, Grace & History**

**John Roos**

**Thur 3:30-6:00**

This seminar will explore several interrelated themes concerning the relationship between religious belief and politics. It will critically compare several authors on a variety of questions including the status of politics, its natural versus conventional status, whether religion is understood as natural theology or divine particular providence, whether reason and revelation can conflict, toleration of other religions, and what claims are made about the role of revealed religion in establishing political obligation. Readings will include parts of Plato "Laws," Augustine's "City of God," Aquina's "Summa Theologica," Maimonides "Guide of the Perplexed," Alfarabi's "Plato's Laws," John Calvin's "Institutes of the Christian Religion," and selections from Martin Luther. Requirements will include two five-page seminar papers, four one-page commentaries, and a 20page term paper due at the end of the semester.

**18094 POLS 60640 Vico's New Science****Vittorio Hösle****Tue 3:00-5:30**

Vico's "New Science", which we will read in the third edition of 1744, is doubtless the most important work of Italian philosophy. But the work is not simply of historical interest; it remains still today one of the most valid attempts to develop a theory of human culture and to grasp the peculiar methods of the humanities - "the new science" to be added to natural science and psychology, as they had been conceived by Descartes. We will try to reconstruct the wealth of insights of this book in the fields of philosophy of language, aesthetics, philosophy of law, political philosophy and philosophy of history and discuss later developments in the humanities and social sciences that have partly confirmed, partly confuted Vico's conception of the humanities.

**17995 POLS 60641 Theory Field Seminar****Dana Villa****Mon 3:30-6:00**

An examination of the primary methodological and interpretative approaches in political theory today. Readings from broadly "hermeneutic" theorists (Gadamer, Wolin, Strauss, Arendt), the Cambridge historical school (Skinner, Pocock), the Frankfurt School (Horkheimer, Habermas, Honneth), and contemporary analytic political theory (Rawls, Larmore). Depending on time and student interest, some consideration of post-modernism and/or deconstruction will also be included.

**13822 POLS 63800 Proseminar****Andy Gould****Wed 5:30-8:00**

This course introduces the methods that political scientists employ in dissertations and other original research. You will study a wide range of methods, from interpretive understanding to formal statistics. The course is a first-semester requirement so that you can have in mind the methods of original research as you work through the intermediate tasks of graduate education (such as course work, exams, papers, grant proposals, and so on). Graduate students who learn the lessons of this course should be better able to plan and develop their own contributions to scholarship. The course also aims to familiarize you with the key terms, concepts, and theories that are used when evaluating research by political scientists. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to: 1) Orient their intellectual development towards producing original scholarly contributions. 2) Anticipate in practical ways the key steps of a successful career in political science. 3) Engage in debates about how research should be conducted and evaluated in political science. During the course you will be required to prepare and submit some work for external review. Examples include: an application for external funding from the National Science Foundation or other funding organization; a paper proposal to a professional conference; an article for a peer-viewed publication; a proposal for collaborative research with a professor. If no appropriate outside assignment exists for you during the semester, then you may substitute an essay that reviews your plans for undertaking one or more of these activities in the near future. You need to discuss your work for external review with me and meet any external deadline.