POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDIES
SPRING 2011 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CRN 28269  POLS 60009 Elections & Public Policy
6:00-8:30 pm Wednesday
Benjamin Radcliff
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.

CRN 28272  POLS 60035 Parties & Voting
3:30-6:00 pm Tuesday
Geoffrey Layman
The primary focus of this course will be on the considerable literature on voting behavior in American elections. We will delve into and assess the major theoretical and empirical traditions in voting behavior research. In so doing, we will focus particular attention on the central institution in American elections, and indeed in American democracy—the major political parties. We will consider the role that parties play in structuring election campaigns, electoral choice, and electoral change, and the nature of citizen identification with the parties and the role that such identification plays in shaping American political behavior. The goal of the course will be not only to digest and assess the literature on parties and voting behavior in the United States, but also to produce original research on American parties and voting behavior. Each student will produce a seminar paper involving analysis of either qualitative or quantitative data (or both) on parties and voting behavior.

CRN 25802  POLS 60226 International Security
3:30-6:00 pm Tuesday
Dan Lindley
This seminar offers an introduction to the field of international security studies. We will survey the dominant and emerging theories of international conflict, and analyze various efforts to use these theories to understand important substantive areas of international politics.

CRN 28273  POLS 60405 Comparative Parties and Party Systems
6:30-9:00 pm Tuesday
Sean McGraw
This course will focus on comparative parties and party systems. The major purpose is to acquaint students with some of the most important theoretical and comparative literature on one of the major themes in political science. The course will draw on readings from Europe, Latin America, and the United States, but the issues covered are relevant to other regions of the world as well. The focus is more on raising comparative and theoretical issues than on specifics concerning particular parties or party systems. The course begins with a discussion of the relationship between parties and party systems and democracy and then moves on to examining the three leading theoretical approaches to the analysis of how party systems form and change. In particular, we will discuss authors who emphasize social cleavages, political conflicts and processes, and electoral systems as factors shaping party systems. The course also analyzes spatial models of party competition. Next, there will be an analysis of parties rather than party systems. A fundamental question is the way parties function internally. To what extent can parties be seen as rational actors as opposed to organizations with logics that may not follow the normal dictates of rationality? More broadly, what shapes how parties compete and function? Finally, the course will look at the distinctive nature of contemporary parties and party systems and the changing nature of political parties and the failures of representation in many contemporary party systems.
CRN 28275  POLS 60450 Comparative Political Economy of Developing Nations
6:30-9:00 pm Thursday
Sebastian Karcher
This course consists of two parts, each covering one large question. 1. Why do countries develop? The first part of the course will look at a set of answers to answer why some countries become rich and others do not. It will consider structural factors such as long-term historical determinants, geography, or resources, as well as more short term, institutional factors. We will also look at some of the frequently suggested remedies for underdevelopment and touch on current methodological debates on how development should be studied. 2. How does the political economy of developing countries work? The second part of the course looks at the interaction between economics and politics in developing countries focusing on central issues (taxation, corruption, social policy) and important actors (business, labor, bureaucracies). While the first part of the course is strongly interdisciplinary and covers a broad set of countries, the second part focuses mostly on recent literature in political science and on mid-income, rather than least developed countries. To accommodate students’ particular interests, the topics of the last two sessions will be determined together with seminar participants in the first week.

CRN ______  POLS 60651 Modernity and Reform in Islam
6:00-8:30 pm Thursday
Emad Shahin
This course examines the encounter between Islam and modernity. It explores the Islamic and modernity paradigms, their fundamental worldviews, and main components. It analyzes the different Muslim intellectual responses to the issues and challenges modernity has posed. Among the topics the course focuses on are colonialism and its impacts, modern movements in Islam and their response to modernity, Public Ethics, Democracy and Pluralism, Social Justice and Global Economy, and the status of women.

CRN 28294  POLS 60641 Theory Field Seminar
3:00-5:30 pm Wednesday
Dana Villa
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.

CRN 28297  POLS 60652 The Political Philosophy of David Hume and the American Founding
7:00-9:30 pm Monday
Michael Zuckert
The seminar will investigate Hume's revolution in moral philosophy and his efforts to apply his new insights to political philosophy through a reading and discussion of his chief writings on morality and justice and then a consideration of the new political science he promoted in his Essays and History of England. Early in the seminar we will consider the intellectual context of his innovations, the egoism of Mandeville and the moral sense philosophy of Hutcheson. At the end of the seminar we will look at some selected writings of American founders, especially Madison, to investigate Hume's alleged role in shaping the political science of the founders.

CRN 28298  POLS 60653 Aquinas on the Virtues, Law and Politics *(Crosslisted with Medieval Institute)*
3:30-6:00 pm Thursday
Mary Keys
This graduate seminar will study many of the politically relevant writings of Thomas Aquinas. Special attention will be given to the interplay between faith and reason and between ethics, law, and politics in Aquinas’s thought. Our aim will not be solely to gain a historical grasp of one of the great thinkers of the past, but also and especially to examine what relevance the problems he tackles and the approaches he proposes might have for us today. We will read selections from Aquinas’s commentaries on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics and Politics; De Regno; and Summa Theologiae on political authority and government, virtues such as charity, mercy, justice, prudence, and law in its various forms. Students will also gain some familiarity with contemporary literature and debates which engage aspects of Aquinas’s ethical, legal, and political thought. The course is open to well-prepared juniors and seniors with the instructor’s permission.

CRN 20348  POLS 60810 Quantitative Methods
3:00-5:30 pm Monday
Geoffrey Layman
This course is an introduction to the use of statistical methodology in the social sciences; it is not a course on statistics. The class emphasizes the role of statistics as a tool, rather than an end in itself. While we learn a variety of statistical techniques, the focus is upon the logic of these techniques rather than their mathematical intricacies. There will be a series of exercises.
and exams, coupled with a major project in which students will be required to gather and analyze data on an empirical problem of their choice.

**CRN 28299   POLS 60830 Qualitative Methods**
6:00-8:30 pm  Monday  
Michael Desch  
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.

**CRN 28304   POLS 60834 Experimental Methods**
11:45 am-1:00 pm Monday and Wednesday  
David Nickerson  
Experimental Methods: Social processes are sufficiently complex that it is difficult to model accurately the data generation process. In order to avoid problems with endogeneity and selection, researchers conduct randomized experiments to measure the causal effect of a particular treatment. This course will introduce students to the logic of designing, conducting, and analyzing experiments conducted in the laboratory and the field. Particular attention will be paid to the problems of external validity, heterogeneous response to treatment, subject attrition, spill-over, and combining observed and randomized variables. The course will also cover quasi-experimental methods such as regression discontinuity for instances where full randomization is not feasible.

**CRN 28305   POLS 60882 Advanced Topics in Game Theory**
3:00-5:30 pm Wednesday  
Monika Nalepa  
The title, “Advanced Topics in Applied Game Theory” suggests that we will be studying more sophisticated applications than the ones covered in the intro class. The specific substance of the course will depend on the fields of students who enroll, but the applications would be some balance of comparative/American and IR and perhaps also theory if we continue to have a strong PPE contingent. For the textbook, we would use select chapters from the manuscript prepared by Scott Gehlbach (University of Wisconsin) available at: http://users.polisci.wisc.edu/gehlbach/836fall2009.html as well as articles from Political Science books and journals. There will be four problem sets, but no midterm or final exam. Instead, there will be a final research paper, which could well turn into a dissertation chapter.

**CRN 24539   POLS 98701 The Academic Career**
3:00-5:30 pm Monday  
Catherine Zuckert  
This class is designed to prepare Ph.D. students for success in finding a tenure-track position in academia.