Political Science Graduate Program
Class Schedule Fall 2012

18966  60029  Religion & Politics in the U.S.  Geoff Layman  M  3:00-5:30p
Recent years have seen a flowering of empirical research on religion’s role in the American political system. This course cuts a swath through that literature by examining what political science has learned- and has yet to learn- about religion, belonging, and behaving, and how they pertain to political behavior. Readings will center on the political science literature, but insights will also be drawn from sociology, history, and economics.

19713  60036  Immigration and Ethnicity  Ricardo Ramirez  W  3:00-5:30p
The newest wave of immigration has not only transformed the demographic composition of the United States, but has also reshaped the nature of politics and policy. This course explores key questions and themes in the politics of immigration and ethnicity. Drawing on a variety of perspectives and readings in American and Comparative Politics, we will focus on immigration politics and policy, but also on the political behavior of immigrants and ethnic minorities.

18967  60202  Ethics & International Relations  Dan Philpott  T  3:30-6:00p
Ethics and International Relations explores diverse international issues through normative political philosophy and case studies. It is suitable for students of political theory and international relations alike. Topics include the justice of war, the problem of killing innocents, terrorism, nuclear weapons, intervention, human rights and pluralism, distributive justice, the status of borders, globalization and development, and women’s rights. These will be explored through competing moral frameworks, including duty based and consequentialist frameworks.

15055  60217  Theories of International Relations  Alexandra Guisinger  T/R  2:00-3:15p
This graduate seminar provides a survey of major theoretical traditions and their applications in the study of international relations. The course explores recent changes in and debates on the key theoretical approaches (realism, liberalism, and constructivism) with a particular emphasis on identifying and criticizing their central assumptions and causal logics. A second objective of the course is to clarify and assess various methodological perspectives, ranging from empiricism to constructivism, and their consequences for the design and conduct of research.
19599  60455  Political Economy of Europe: North and South  Andy Gould  W  6:00-8:30p
The world economy, European regional integration, and the fates of individual European citizens are currently dependent upon the willingness and ability of European governments to coordinate their economic and social policies across the boundaries of nation-states and political identities. This course explores the political economy of Europe through the prisms of comparisons and interactions across northern and southern countries, especially Britain, Sweden, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. The course is useful for students seeking broader comparative references for their work on non-European cases and useful for students preparing for the comparative comp on several themes (especially "Political Economy of Advanced Industrial Societies," and also "Parties and Elections" and "Identity, Ethnicity, Culture, and Religion"). The areas covered are Advanced Industrial Democracies and Western/Central Europe (European Union).

19478  60456  The Logic of Political Violence  Guillermo Trejo  M  3:30-6:00p
The purpose of this seminar course is to understand the logic and dynamics of state repression and insurgent collective action. We will explore the transformation of social movements (seeking social justice) and criminal organizations (seeking profits) into armed insurgencies. Our focus is on the state: Failed states may be a privileged terrain for the emergence of criminal organizations and for rebel and terrorist groups, but repressive states in authoritarian regimes and electoral autocracies may also contribute to the transformation of peaceful dissent into violence. Based on the work of Hobbes, Weber, Tilly, Olson, and Bates the course first introduces the role of the state and its primary responsibilities (e.g., taxation, security, and border controls) and analyzes the conditions under which state actors fail to fulfill their role or inflict violence on their own population. In the second part, we analyze why states repress their own citizens and the conditions under which state violence may lead to the escalation of peaceful protest into armed rebellion. In the third section, we focus on the opportunities that state failure may open for the privatization of violence and assess the transformation of criminal networks into insurgent groups and the rise of paramilitary groups. The course covers material from different theoretical and methodological persuasions. We will read game-theoretic research, as well as large-N statistical analyses, comparative case studies, ethnographies, and studies that combine different approaches. Geographically, the course covers cases from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. This seminar is intended for graduate students across the social sciences.

18968  60630  Hegel's Philosophy  Dana Villa  M  3:00-5:30p
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.
What is the relation between history and philosophy? What is the truth—or the truths—about politics that we can acquire from either or both forms of inquiry? We will read and compare the account Thucydides gives of the Peloponnesian War with Plato’s Gorgias in an attempt to find answers to these questions. In the Gorgias Socrates looks at some of the same people and events that Thucydides depicts, but the philosopher seems to evaluate them much differently. Readers are thus provoked to ask: what are the correct standards to use in judging political actors? Are these different from the moral standards we use to judge individuals in their private lives? Later scholars, who call themselves “realists” and often claim to be following Thucydides, argue that they are.

This upper-level political theory course will explore the philosophical origins and evolution of the idea of women’s human rights, which has become a cornerstone of human rights advocacy, women’s non-governmental organizations, and development programs around the world. Readings will be drawn from Scotus, Ockham, Suárez, Grotius, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Wollstonecraft, Grimké, Stanton, J.S. Mill, Okin, Nussbaum, and MacKinnon. Undergraduate and graduate students will write article-length research papers and make in-class, conference-style presentations on their research projects.

No other Catholic thinker has influenced so deeply the Church’s thinking on moral and social issues as Aquinas (1225-1274). The course will discuss questions 47-170 in the Second Part of the Second Part of the Summa theologiae by Aquinas, dedicated to the four cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. The longest treatment is that of justice, and thus the focus of the course will be on Aquinas’ theory of justice. We will evaluate Aquinas’ doctrine in both its similarities with and differences from Aristotle as well as in its impact on ideas of justice within the later Christian tradition.

Americans have always debated Supreme Court opinions on specific constitutional questions involving the powers of government and the rights of individuals and minorities. The leading objective of this course is to acquaint students with the basic issues of constitutional interpretation and to show how they influence questions involving constitutional rights and powers and the scope of judicial review.

This seminar examines what the Supreme Court has described as the oldest question of constitutional law in United States: the relationship between national and state governmental authority. It considers the historical development, political theory, and constitutional doctrine of federalism in the United States, addressing relationships between and among political and judicial institutions in the U.S. federal system. Although the focus of the seminar is on U.S. federalism, the matters examined implicate questions involving international law and comparative analysis. Readings include historical materials, scholarly analyses, and judicial cases.
Qualitative Research Methods

This course surveys some of the key issues in qualitative methods and research design. Major sections of the course deal with causal complexity, necessary and sufficient conditions, concepts, case study methodology, case selection, within-case causal inference, and philosophy of causation. Students will do 8-10 page projects on (1) causal complexity, (2) concepts, (3) case selection or case studies. These papers require the student to examine the issue in some particular area of application, and put together the three papers can form most of a research design or dissertation prospectus.

Math for Political Scientists

In order to understand quantitative and game theoretic work in political science, it is necessary to have a basic understanding of a few mathematical concepts. Topics covered in this course include probability, set theory, logic, matrix algebra, logarithms, exponents, calculus, and frequently used distributions. Learning math is like learning a language, so this course emphasizes short problem sets for each class as well as larger projects designed to pull together disparate skill sets.

Proseminar

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.
The following undergraduate courses can be taken for graduate course by registering for a graduate-level directed reading with the professor. Students will attend the undergraduate course, as well as fulfill other requirements at the direction of the instructor, in order to receive graduate-level credit.

16315 30661 Constitutionalism, Law and Politics Vincent Muñoz T/R 2:00-3:15p
In the Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln famously spoke of "government of the people, by the people, for the people." Why should government be of the people, by the people, and for the people? And if it should be so constituted, how is such a political order to be founded, designed, and maintained? In "Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics" we shall address these fundamental questions of political science by examining the idea of constitutionalism and the role constitutions play in political life.
By reading classic texts in ancient and modern political philosophy, studying fundamental texts of the American political tradition, and examining contemporary legal and political issues, we shall study questions such as: How do different constitutional orders or regimes nurture different forms of political life and different types of citizens? How do different regimes rise and fall? What is the proper relationship between political authority and individual liberty? What, if any, are the limits on a just constitutional order?
Readings may include selections from Aristotle, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Locke, Montesquieu, Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and great cases of American and foreign constitutional law.

18961 30615 American Political Thought Vincent Muñoz T/R 9:30-10:45a
In "American Political Thought" we shall attempt to understand the nature of the American regime and its most important principles. Since we lack the time for a comprehensive survey of American political thinkers, we shall focus on select statesmen and critical historical periods - specifically, the Founding era, Lincoln and the slavery crisis, and the Progressives. We shall also reflect upon how the American regime relates to the larger tradition of Western political thought.

12626 53001 Sr. Seminar: Four Great Justices Michael Zuckert T/R 3:30-4:45p
What makes a great Justice? Is there a reasonable consensus on who are the great Justices? Are the great Justices the ones whose doctrines and approaches to the Constitution had the greatest influence? Are they the ones we agree with the most? The ones who are truest to the Constitution? This seminar will raise these and many other questions related to the issue of what makes a great Justice. We will look at four who raise claims to greatness in the minds of many (though not all) court followers: John Marshall, Stephen J. Field, Hugo Black, and William Brennan. We will examine their pre-court careers to see if there is a path to the Court that makes for greatness, their biographies while on the Court, and a selection of their major decisions. Students will be invited in their final papers to select a Justice of their choice and make a case for greatness or not.
This course examines the role of the presidency in the American regime and its change over time. Particular attention will be given to expectations about presidential leadership through the course of American political history. Beginning with questions about the original design and role of the presidency, the course turns to consideration of the role of leadership styles for change and continuity in American politics. Finally, cases of presidential leadership are studied to comprehend the way leadership and political context interact.