

Political Science Graduate Program  
Class Schedule - Spring 2018

as of 01.05.2018

American Politics

**CRN26925**      **POLS60040 American Political Institutions**      **Matthew E.K. Hall**      **M**      **6:30-9:15**

*(also counts toward Constitutional Studies, cross-list with LAW 73841)* This course explores the role of national institutions in the American political system, with an emphasis on Congress, the presidency, and the Supreme Court. Students will consider three functions commonly ascribed to political institutions in relation to elite behavior: channeling individual preferences, constraining strategic choices, and structuring political opportunities. The goal of the course is for students to gain a basic understanding of American political institutions, synthesize the main themes in the literature, and grapple with current debates in the field.

**CRN30159**      **POLS60043 American Political Behavior**      **Darren Davis**      **W**      **3:30-6:15**

This is the core course on American political behavior—a central focus of empirical political science for nearly 70 years. We will begin by considering normative questions about the role that ordinary citizens should play and realistically can be expected to play in a democratic polity. We then will turn to American public opinion, examining the sophistication of citizen opinion, the factors structuring opinion change, the social-group bases of U.S. public opinion, and the influence of public opinion on public policy. We will devote the second half of the course to American voting behavior. We will discuss the major theoretical models of vote choice; the factors shaping voter turnout; the role of parties, groups, and candidates in shaping voting behavior; long-term change in the parties' electoral coalitions, and the impact of political campaigns on electoral choice. We will conclude the course by discussing the growth of party polarization in the American electorate and the causes and consequences of that growth. The goal for the course is not only to immerse students in the vast literature on American political behavior, but also to provide the foundation for original research. To that end, we will spend a fair amount of time discussing research methods and approaches. Students also will be expected to offer critiques of the ideas and methodologies presented in the literature, with an eye toward improving and finding new directions in research on political behavior. Finally, each student will do original research using data from one or more surveys of the American electorate.

Comparative Politics

**CRN30163**      **POLS60406 Comparative Research on Democratization**      **Michael Coppedge**      **R**      **6:30-9:15**

One of the central tasks in the study of politics has long been to explain the birth, survival, and breakdown of democracy. [Note: This course does not cover the consequences 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. In addition to reading and discussing selected works on democratization, you are required to (1) carry out 5 small exercises to give you practice in critiquing research, generating theory, and testing hypotheses; and (2) perform original research culminating in a 15-25-page paper on some question of the determinants of democracy. I will offer in-class workshops on the data analysis techniques that you will need to do each exercise, and will also meet privately with anyone wishing an individualized tutorial on the technique.

**CRN30164**      **POLS60471 Comparative Authoritarianism**      **Karrie Koesel**      **M**      **3:30-6:15**

This seminar examines the nature and varieties of modern authoritarian regimes, the causes of their emergence, and the processes that lead to their endurance as well as their destruction. We will examine both the recent and (to a lesser extent) the older literature on dictatorship to analyze the origins, structure, and practices of contemporary authoritarian regimes throughout the world, along with some earlier example of authoritarian polities, such as communist regimes, that have largely passed from the political scene. The readings for this course have been guided by three goals. One was maximizing the range of regimes analyzed. Another was identifying scholarship that highlights different methodological approaches in political science. Finally, to focus on core issues that are central to the analysis of all regimes, whether democratic or authoritarian—for example, institutional design; competing arguments about a regime origins; the relationship between the state and the economy, the state and the international system, and the regime and society; the management of both competition for power and leadership succession; and issues of regime legitimacy and accountability. This course is open to PhD students in political science, sociology, anthropology and economics, subject to prior permission from the instructor.

## Constitutional Studies - no classes offered

## International Relations

CRN30160	POLS60205	<b>International Political Economy</b>	<b>Jazmin Sierra</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>6:30-9:15</b>
<p>This seminar explores the interaction between politics and economics in the international system, with an emphasis on the theoretical development of the subfield of international political economy. We will investigate the balance between cooperation and conflict, the effect of international institutions on economic relations, and the mutual impact of domestic and international politics. Substantive topics include the international trade system, the international monetary and financial systems, the role of the global economy in economic development, and the impact of economic globalization on domestic societies. Throughout the course, we will consider how well models developed in other fields of political science or economics can be applied to international political economy. We also will attempt to identify the "state of the art" in the study of international political economy. This course serves as a basis for future research in the fields of international political economy, international relations, and comparative political economy. It also prepares students for the international political economy component of the international relations comprehensive exam. Students are expected to participate in all class sessions, to write several short papers, and to write and present a research design at the end of the course.</p>					
CRN30161	POLS60214	<b>The Politics of Reconciliation</b>	<b>Daniel Philpott</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>3:30-6:15</b>
<p><i>(also counts toward Comparative Politics, cross-list with MGA60802)</i> As countries all across the world have made transitions away from war and authoritarianism over the past couple of decades, reconciliation has emerged as a major approach towards dealing with past injustices. Philosophers, theologians, political scientists and other scholars have embraced the concept, too. But it also remains highly controversial, criticized for betraying victims, inappropriately imposing religion in political orders, imposing forgiveness on victims, and for creating divisions. What is reconciliation? What are the warrants for it? What is its relevance for politics? What criticisms of it are valid? This course will examine reconciliation through political philosophy, theology, and comparative case analysis.</p>					
CRN30162	POLS60240	<b>Realism</b>	<b>Sebastian Rosato</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>3:30-6:15</b>
<p>This course provides an examination of the realist paradigm of international politics.</p>					

## Methods

CRN20223	POLS60810	<b>Quantitative Methods 1</b>	<b>Jeffrey Harden</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>9:30-10:45am</b>
<p>This course provides an introduction to quantitative research methods in political science. After a brief discussion of the basics of statistical analysis and hypothesis testing, the first part of the course will focus on ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, its assumptions, and its extensions. In the second part of the course, we will focus on widely-used methods that are appropriate when the assumptions of OLS are violated, and especially on limited dependent variable models. We will try to strike a balance between theory and mathematics on the one hand and the practical application and interpretation of statistics on the other hand. We will discuss the theoretical rationale behind and mathematical underpinnings of various statistical methods, how to apply those methods to real political questions, and how to conduct and interpret analyses using a standard statistical package.</p>					
CRN30168	POLS60835	<b>Field Research Methods</b>	<b>Jaimie Bleck</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>6:30-9:15</b>

*(also counts toward Comparative Politics)* This course introduces students to a range of methodological approaches to generate and gather original data. The course will highlight "best practices" in research design and implementation, but it will also address the logistical constraints and trade-offs that graduate students face while conducting fieldwork. Over the course of the semester, all students will develop multiple strategies to build and evaluate their own research questions.

**CRN30169      POLS60885 Introduction to Causal Inference in the Social Sciences      Jeffrey Harden      TR      11:00-12:15**

This course is an introduction to causal inference methods used in quantitative social science research. It begins with theoretical and conceptual discussions of causality, then moves to the statistical theory underlying the potential outcomes model. It then covers a variety of methods designed to assist with identification of causal effects in both experimental and observational data. The course focuses on the two complementary goals of learning the theory behind causal inference as well as practical implementation in statistical software. Students will walk away from the course with an understanding of how to apply causal inference methods and what is going on "under the hood" with their results. Class time is spent in lecture and working hands-on with example data.

### Political Theory

**CRN30165      POLS60677 Critical Theory      Ernesto Verdeja      T      3:30-6:15**

*(cross-list with IIPS 80205)* This graduate seminar focuses on the work of the Frankfurt School, a highly influential group of twentieth century intellectuals who sought to investigate the unique challenges posed by capitalism, totalitarianism, modern bureaucracy, and mass politics. Influenced by Hegel, Marx, Weber, Nietzsche and Freud, they drew from a wide array of disciplines and theoretical approaches in an effort to diagnose the pathologies of modernity. Their studies, known as "Critical Theory," were among the first that can be properly labeled interdisciplinary, encompassing insights from philosophy, aesthetics, political science, psychology, sociology and economics, among other fields. We will read the works of Georg Lukács, Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Walter Benjamin, Herbert Marcuse and Jürgen Habermas, as well as more recent critical theorists. The seminar will consider the strengths and limitations of Critical Theory through close readings of the school's key texts. Some familiarity with 'modern' social theory, particularly Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and Weber, is useful but not necessary.

**CRN30659      POLS60678 Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics      Sue Collins      W      6:30-9:15**

Aristotle indicates in the Nicomachean Ethics and Politics that the inquiry into the human good or happiness constitutes the first part of his political science. That this inquiry is so fundamental already indicates his distance from the methods and objects of contemporary political science. This course will involve a close study of the Nicomachean Ethics, with a view to understanding its substance and Aristotle's political science as a science: his methodology, objects of inquiry, distinctive questions or problems, and order of analysis. While the course will take the Ethics as its primary text, it will frequently bring it into conversation with other works of his corpus, especially the Politics, to understand the nature of Aristotle's political science as a whole.

**CRN30166      POLS60679 Hobbes and Spinoza      Michael Zuckert and Michael Hawley      R      6:30-9:15**

We will study the chief political works of Thomas Hobbes and Benedict Spinoza with an especial eye toward understanding their philosophic doctrines of natural right and of the relation between religion and politics.

### Non-Substantive

**CRN24762      POLS98702 Dissertation Workshop      Michael Zuckert      TBA      TBA**

A workshop for dissertation writers. Each participant shares some of his or her writing with the group and critiques the writing of others.

**CRN22878      POLS98701 The Academic Career      Christina Wolbrecht      TBA      TBA**

This class is designed to prepare Ph.D. students for success in finding a tenure-track position in academia.

**Political Science Graduate Students also may enroll in the following undergraduate course(s)**

CRNXXXXX POLSXXXXX Senior Seminar: XXXXX

*Registration instructions: register for three credit hours, Directed Readings POLS 66900 Sotirios Barber, department approval is required. After grade is received, request a title change to reflect course content on your transcript.*

**Courses of Interest in other Departments**

TBD