

Political Science Undergraduate Program Summer 2017 Course Descriptions

<u>CRN</u>	<u>Course ID</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Meeting Time(s)</u>
3808	30023 01	Representation in American Politics <p>"Political representation is a fundamental element of American democracy. It connects the attitudes and behavior of citizens to political officials in governing institutions and cuts across different levels of government, from national to state to local politics. Moreover, it engages critical normative questions about racial, gender-based, and socioeconomic equality in American politics. However, undergraduate political science curricula almost never address representation directly. Instead, it gets treated as a subtopic in courses on public opinion, the U.S. Congress, or state and local politics. This gives students a brief picture of what scholars know about representation, but it does not afford a more comprehensive understanding. Given the importance of representation in learning about how democracies function, as well as its status as a scholarly crossroads in political science, representation deserves a more serious treatment in undergraduate instruction. This course will trace the scholarly debates on representation in American politics over the last 60 years. This will include models of how citizens' opinions affect the policy choices made by political officials, "descriptive" representation of racial minorities and women, and responsiveness in non-elected areas of government such as the judicial branch. Other topics will include the important role of redistricting and the non-policy elements of representation such as fulfilling constituent service requests and bringing funding back to the district. Finally, the course will look at macro-level representation—how public opinion affects not just the behavior of individual legislators, but the policy outputs from government. A key topic throughout the course will be inequality in political representation. A great deal of scholarship finds that the wealthy and white citizens tend to be better represented in government compared to the poor and racial minorities. We will explore the causes, consequences, and potential solutions for this critical problem in contemporary America."</p>	Jeffrey Harden	TWR 10:00-12:15

- 3865 30313 01 Liberal Peacebuilding and Its Critics Shinkyu (James) Lee MWF 10:00-12:15**
- How do we build peace in post-conflict societies? What are the goals and strategies of peace in the aftermath of extensive violence? The dominant approach today, known as liberal peace and adopted by leading global organizations like the United Nations and World Bank, emphasizes democracy and human rights, global free markets, and neo-liberal development. This course investigates the strengths and weaknesses of liberal peacebuilding. The first half of the course lays out the philosophical grounds of the liberal peace approach and its main arguments in the areas of human rights, security, and development. The second half of the course introduces a variety of alternative approaches to liberal peacebuilding, ranging from theories that emphasize transformative encounters among conflicting parties to those that call for sensitivity to the localities of conflicts. We will read scholarly research and major policy reports and examine several cases, including North Korea's treatment of human rights, South Africa's process of reconciliation, Somalia's problem with terrorism, and the rise of international apologies. Throughout the course, students will develop critically informed positions on key issues and identify ways to advance a sustainable peace.
- 3876 30453 01 Globalization in Africa Jaimie Bleck MTW 12:30-2:45**
- This course will explore contemporary globalization in Sub Saharan Africa and its effects on political change. Departing from the macro-perspective of Africa's marginalized role in the global economy, this course will focus on the ways that international forces and new technologies are affecting citizens and countries on the continent. Through country case studies and reviews of current events in Africa, the course will explore a diverse set of topics including technological change and development, immigration, art and culture, foreign aid, and China's role in Africa. The course will attempt to highlight the new opportunities for citizens as well as the challenges that remain for African countries in the globalized world.
- 2908 45999 01 Summer Internship Carolina Arroyo TBA**
- Summer internships are an excellent way to explore career options, to gain valuable work experience and to build your resume. Students who have secured an unpaid summer internship can apply for academic credit by contacting the Director of Internships. To qualify for credit, internships must have prior approval, must be unpaid, be at least 6 weeks in duration and provide at least 120 hours of work.