

Political Science Graduate Program

Class Schedule - Fall 2019

American Politics

CRN 19775 POLS 60050 Encounters with the State David Cortez R 3:30-6:15

Considerable efforts have been made to explore the effects of state-visibility on modern conceptions of citizenship, political trust, the formation of political interests and preferences, and general attitudes toward government. The impetus for this stems not only from a discernible decline in levels of citizen trust in government, but from a perception of receding state-visibility over the last four decades. Given the positive effects of state-contact on citizen participation and political attitudes, the retrenchment and drift of government social programs, and the development of a “submerged state,” presents a significant problem for contemporary (and future) American politics. Scholars argue that the further obscured the role of the state becomes to the public, the less likely they are to both hold positive attitudes toward government, and assume political identities. But has the state, indeed, receded from public view? And if so, for whom? Motivated by this central question, this course explores how encounters with the state shape the experience of citizenship (or lack thereof) in the United States. By focusing on myriad examples where the state has not become “submerged” — where the state makes contact with civil society — we will explore the distribution of power and privilege in American politics.

CRN 21053 POLS 60116 Empirical Research in the Law Matthew Hall T 3:30-6:15

This course introduces students to the use of empirical research methods by courts of law. Students will learn the basic elements of social science research methods and examine the application of such methods to help resolve various legal controversies, such as race and gender discrimination, capital punishment, damages in tort cases, rules of evidence, and jury selection. The course will culminate in students designing their own original research project. No background in statistics or empirical methods is required.

Comparative Politics

CRN 14507 POLS 60453 Comparative Field Seminar Michael Coppedge and Michael Hoffman T 6:30-9:15

Theoretical Approaches to Comparative Politics This course surveys the major approaches to the comparative study of politics and evaluates the great variety of methods employed. Many of the most important books and articles are used as examples. This course is designed to be helpful to those preparing to take the comprehensive examination in comparative politics.

CRN 19778 POLS 60473 Democratic Transitions Scott Mainwaring M 3:30-6:15

This course will analyze the conditions that make democracy and authoritarian regimes more or less likely to be stable and, conversely, that make democratic breakdowns and transitions more or less common. We will also examine some of the conditions that make democratic deepening, stagnation, and erosion more (or less) likely. These questions have long been of central interest to social scientists, historians, and democracy advocates. And they sometimes have huge consequences for the world, as was demonstrated by the aftermath of the breakdown of democracy in Germany in 1933 or by the fall of communism (1989) and the breakup of the Soviet Union (1991).

The first part of the course will examine theoretical approaches to studying political regimes. Part II will include recent work on democratic breakdowns and on patterns of democratic stagnation and deepening after transitions to democracy. Part III will examine patterns of regime change and stability in authoritarian regimes.

CRN 11971 POLS 63800 Proseminar Benjamin Radcliff R 6:30-9:15

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.

Political Theory

CRN 19779 POLS 60669 Thucydides Susan Collins T 3:30-6:15

That Thucydides' War of the Peloponnesians and Athenians remains a seminal text of Political Theory and International Relations testifies to its bold claim to be "an everlasting possession." The inquiry Thucydides undertook over two centuries ago into the fundamental causes of war and human action and the greatest aims of nations and states earned him the title of the first "scientific" historian. Through a close study of his great work, then, we will seek to understand what kind of science it constitutes and what truths it purports to discover. We will take up such central questions of political life as freedom and empire; the causes of war; the relation of speech and deed; the nature of regimes; the foundation of peace and political order. In the course of our study of the war in which an oligarchic Sparta eventually prevailed over the great empire of democratic Athens, we will consider also how in the flux of history, there may yet be the possibility of a wisdom that is continuous with human beings?that exists, Thucydides states, "in accord with what is human." Our overarching goal will be to achieve, as far as possible in a single semester, the unparalleled clarity regarding political life and human affairs for which Thucydides himself is justly celebrated.

CRN 19780 POLS 60685 Hegel's Philosophy of History and Philosophy of Right Dana Villa R 3:30-6:15

A class devoted to the reading of Hegel's Lectures on the Philosophy of History and selections from his Philosophy of Right. Some attention paid to predecessors (Kant, Fichte) and later critics such as Marx.

Non-Substantive

CRN 13869 POLS 98702 Dissertation Workshop (Political Theory) Susan Collins TBD TBD

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

CRN 19782 POLS 98705 Editing and Publishing in Political Science Geoffrey Layman M 6:30-9:15

In contemporary academia, obtaining a tenure-track job and earning tenure requires publishing in peer-reviewed journals. However, the peer-review process and the way in which editorial decisions are made at refereed journals are mysteries to most young scholars. The purpose of this course is to take some of the mystery out of the publishing process by giving students an insider's view into how editorial decisions are made at *Political Behavior*, a leading specialty journal in American Politics and Comparative Politics. As of January 1, 2019, the editorial team of *Political Behavior* (Geoff Layman and Ben Radcliff as co-editors, Wayde Marsh as editorial assistant) is located at Notre Dame. This provides an opportunity for graduate students to learn a great deal about how the peer-review process works, how journal editors make publishing decisions, and, most importantly, what types of research manuscripts are most likely to be accepted for publication in a respected refereed journal. Students will learn about the peer-review process by writing reviews of submissions to the journal and comparing those to the actual external reviews of those submissions. Students will learn about editorial decision-making by recommending reviewers for submitted manuscripts and recommending decisions on manuscripts based on completed reviews. Finally, and most importantly, students will use what they have learned about the peer-review and editorial processes to produce a research paper that is potentially publishable at *Political Behavior* or a journal of similar quality. The course is meant primarily for students who have completed comprehensive exams. However, students who are at an earlier stage in the graduate program also are welcome to enroll.

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

POLS TBD - Sr. Seminars

Registration instructions: Permission must be granted from faculty member and emailed to the Graduate Studies Coordinator. The Coordinator will give you an override to register for three credit hours, Directed Readings POLS 66900

Courses of Interest in other Departments

CRN 15390 LAW 73837 The Judicial Role in American History Barry Cushman R 9:00-10:40

LAW This seminar will examine the lives, careers, legacies, and changing historical perceptions of leading state and federal judicial figures in American history. In consultation with the instructor, each student will prepare a substantial research paper treating one or more aspects of an important judge's contributions to American public life and to the development of American law.