

Political Science Department
GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES SPRING 2012

POLS 60009 Elections & Public Policy CRN 28434

Wednesday 6:00-8:30 pm

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.

POLS 60032 Public Opinion CRN 28435

Thursday 6:30-9:00 pm

Geoffrey Layman

This course provides a detailed and comprehensive survey of the vast literature devoted to public opinion and political behavior research. In essence, this is a seminar on the political and social behavior of individuals, political socialization, the psychology of opinion holding, and the methodology used to study individuals. The core of this seminar examines the foundations upon which most social science research and theories are based--the elusive individual.

POLS60205 International Political Economy CRN 28436

Thursday 3:30-6:00 pm

Amitava Dutt

This course examines the interactions between international politics and international economics. We begin with a brief exploration of the economic rationale for trade and financial relations, and then examine the recent political history of the global trade and finance. Topics include global and regional trade liberalization; coordination and cooperation in monetary policy (including the advent of the single currency in Europe); causes and implications of financial crises; and the linkages among economic globalization, environmental regulation, and human rights.

POLS 60226 International Security

Tuesday 3:30-6:00 pm

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.

POLS 60453

Comparative Field Seminar

Monday 3:00-5:30 pm

Michael Coppedge & John Gerring

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.

POLS 60454 Violent and Nonviolent Arab Revolutions

Monday 9:00-11:30 am

Emad Shahin

What became commonly known as the “Arab Spring,” in reference to pro-democracy revolutions, actually covers a widely diverse political landscape. This course focuses on violent and nonviolent social movements that took place in several Arab countries over the past decades to demand reforms and basic democratic rights. This course also analyzes regime responses to accommodate or suppress these demands. It accesses the reasons why some of these movements succeeded in attaining their goals through peaceful means while others turned violent. It looks into structural as well as ideological factors that shape the relationship between the state and society and affected the trajectory of these uprisings. Specific countries will be covered in detail including Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain. The course draws on literature on theories of nonviolence and political science perspectives. (Crosslisted with IIPS 60221)

POLS 60606 Federalist and Anti-Federalist Debate

Tuesday 7:00-9:30 pm

Michael Zuckert

This seminar will study the most important texts in the ratification debate over the Constitution in 1787-88. The focus will not be historical, however, but on the debate as a conflict of two kinds of political sciences, or of two versions of democratic theory. To that end, we will begin the course by looking at some current examples of democratic theory to set up some categories for discussing this earlier debate. We will also compare the institutional analysis of The Federalists and the Anti-Federalists to some of the main conclusions of current political science.

POLS 60624 Theories of Law

Thursday 3:30-6:00 pm

Mary Keys

What is law? What constitutes a just law? Is there any universally valid, moral foundation for law: human rights, natural law, a categorical imperative, etc.? Or is law purely positive, a product of the will of those possessing political power, its justice merely a matter of following the established procedures? These questions constitute the core of this seminar. We will focus on the contemporary debates on these issues among legal theorists, in particular H.L.A. Hart (*The Concept of Law*) and John Finnis (*Natural Law and Natural Rights*), preparing to understand them better through careful study of Thomas Aquinas's writings on law and justice. We will begin with some seminal short writings by American jurist Oliver Wendall Holmes, on "The Path of Law" and "Natural Law."

POLS 60657 The Political Philosophy of Charles Taylor

Tuesday 3:30-6:00 pm

Ruth Abbey

The Canadian philosopher, Charles Taylor (b. 1931) is a leading figure in contemporary political theory. With the publication of his recent tome, *A Secular Age*, Taylor has also come to be considered as a leading Catholic political philosopher. This course will examine Taylor's thought from his earliest works up to *A Secular Age*. Proceeding chronologically, we will examine his contribution to the liberal-communitarian debate and to the debate surrounding multiculturalism. We will study his views on freedom, democracy, the dialogical self, the ethics of authenticity and modern social imaginaries. We will investigate some of his engagements with other leading twentieth-century thinkers such as Foucault, Rawls and Habermas as well as discussing some of the criticisms that have been leveled against Taylor's positions over time.

POLS 60810 Quantitative Methods

Wednesday 3:00-5:30 pm

John Griffin

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.

POLS 60835 Field Research Methods

Tuesday 6:30-9:00 pm

Jaimie Bleck

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.

POLS 61002 Religion, the State and American Politics

Monday 3:00-5:30 pm

Philip Munoz

This graduate seminar examines philosophical, constitutional, and political questions pertaining to church, state, and American politics, including: Do individuals have a right to religious liberty? If so, how might that right be protected politically? How does the American Constitution protect the right to religious freedom? What is the proper relationship between church and state? Is religion necessary, good, or bad for liberal democracy? Readings include selections from classical, medieval, and modern political science, leading cases of American constitutional law, and contemporary political authors.

POLS 98701 The Academic Career

Wednesday 9:00-11:30 am

John Griffin

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