

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Department of Political Science**

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: Fall 2007

POS 500/R (6016/6017)	Political Philosophy T 2:45 – 5:35	R. Groff MI 118
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This class will be devoted to a consideration of the concept of truth, the soundness of which has been called into question from various quarters of late. The aim of the course will be to introduce political theory students to the more philosophical literature on the topic, so as to allow for a rigorous discussion of the relationship between such a norm and relations of power. Students will discuss and reflect upon major contending theories of truth, e.g. correspondence, coherence, consensus, ideal consensus, pragmatic and deflationary. Some time will also be devoted to broader questions about the nature and purpose of rational inquiry.

POS 501 (4494)	POLITICAL THEORY - FIELD SEMINAR M 2:45 – 5:35	M. Schoolman DR 21A
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This seminar provides an overview of some fundamental questions in political theory, both past and present. It also addresses some of the major debates about how political theory should be studied and its relation to political science in the post - World War II period and beyond. It is generally concerned with the development of the field of political theory during the past half-century. Some of the thinkers to be read include David Easton, Peter Winch, Sheldon Wolin, Charles Taylor, William Connolly, Max Horkheimer and T.W. Adorno, Hannah Arendt, and Michel Foucault.

POS 510 (8474)	MINORITIES & THE POLITICAL LEGAL SYSTEM T 5:45 – 8:35	J. Cruz DR 115
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This seminar examines the African American and Latino experience in the politico-legal system. We will examine theories and processes of political incorporation, minority coalition building, and a selection of legal responses to minority issues and needs.

POS 512/R (7826/7827)	POLITICAL THEORY AND ANALYSIS T 5:45 – 8:35	J. Gunnell DR 105
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POS 516 Rousseau (4495)	DISCIPLINES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE M 5:45- 8:35	D. DR 303
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This course is designed to introduce students to research design in political science. Emphasis will be placed on the strengths, limitations, and assumptions of the principal methods and research strategies in the field, as well as on broad philosophical problems of social science inquiry. Students will formulate research questions and then explore how these questions can be addressed using a variety of methods, including historical case studies, interviews, content analysis, laboratory experiments, survey research, large-N statistical studies, computer simulations, formal models, and participant observation. Emphasis will be placed on eclecticism and on recognizing the interplay between theoretical and substantive questions, on the one hand, and research methods, on the other. While students will formulate and evaluate a variety of research designs in class and as part of their written assignments, the designs will not be executed and students will perform little if any data analysis.

POS 522/R (8475/8776)	STATE GOVERNMENT M 5:45 – 8:35	J. Zimmerman RI 288
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The values and trends conditioning the constitutional framework and intergovernmental relations of state government with national, local, and other state governments as they have evolved into the patterns prevalent today. The organization and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are examined with emphasis on the significant changes in their respective roles in policy formation and implementation, together with the interaction between the formal and the informal political institutions of state government. Selected problems of function, structure, and area are considered, as found in such topics as finance, education, health and welfare, regulation of economic enterprise, and planning.

POS 525q (6346)	FEMINIST THOUGHT & PUBLIC POLICY T 4:15 – 7:05 Cross listed w/ WSS525/AAPS525	V.Eubanks FA 114
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Examination of the implications of public policy research and implementation from a feminist perspective; the coherence or lack of it amongst different models of public policy formation, different perspectives on specific public policy issues, and different orientations within the women's movement.

POS 526 (4496/5630)	FEDERAL & SEPARATION OF POWERS TTH 1:15 – 2:35	J. Novkov SL 012
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Supreme Court cases analyzed in terms of constitutional issues, judicial doctrines, and theoretical principles. Cases on issues of judicial review, federal-state relationships, and separation of powers.

POS 530/R (8477/8478)	Founding the American National Government W 5:45 – 8:35	M. Malbin TBA
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The core of the course will focus on the records of the Federal Convention (with an emphasis on the roles of national and state governments, Congress and the Presidency), as well as on the ratification debates between Federalists and Anti-Federalists. To fill out the course, we shall also look briefly at the political theory of the American Revolution, government under the articles of Confederation, the Bill of Rights, and the implementation of the Constitution during the government's early years

POS 532/R (8479/8480)	THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TH 5:45 – 8:35	B. Miroff DR 346
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This is a course on the American presidency. We will approach the subject with an eye to varied theories, focal points, and methods. Requirements include two short papers and a research paper.

POS 534/R (8636/8638)	AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES M 5:45 – 8:35	A. Hildeth MI 118
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POS 541 (7488)	FIELD SEMINAR – PUBLIC LAW T 5:45 – 8:35	E. Sommer DR 021A
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This field seminar examines the various substantive areas of judicial politics and public law and the methodologies used in those fields. Topics to be examined include: appellate courts and judicial decision making, tort law and the operation of courts in civil justice, criminal courts, the role of legal doctrine - especially constitutional law - in court decisions and the relationship of law and courts to public policy. The goals of the course are to help students identify the major questions in the subfield and provide them with hands-on research experience. Course requirements include class presentations, book reviews and other short papers, a take-home final examination and a research project.

POS 554/R (7489/7491)	POLITICAL VIOLENCE, INSURGENCY & TERRORISM W 5:45 – 8:35	V. Asal DR 341
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The course will examine the causes for the emergence of insurgencies and terrorist organizations, their impact on government and society, and the efforts to counter them are the focus of this course. Using existing theory and research, students examine the origins and impact of terrorism, as well as strategies for dealing with sub-national political violence.

POS 561/R (8536/8537)	NATIONALISM & NATION BUILDING M 5:45 – 8:35	C. Chen RI 002
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This course is designed to cover different conceptualizations of "nation" and "nationalism"; interpretations of historical and social developments associated with the building and emergence of nations and nationalist movements, and strategies for locating the study of nationalism in a more general theoretical framework. In addition, it examines some of the most salient contemporary issues related to the national question, including the effects of globalization and the resurgence of nationalism in the post-Cold War era. The course aims to familiarize the student with both classical and recent scholarly debates regarding nationalism and nation-building, and to help the student develop an appreciation for historically-grounded comparative theory-building.

POS 564/R (8481/8482)	RUSSIAN DOMESTIC POLICIES AND FOREIGN POLICIES TH 2:45- 5:35	E. Hoffmann MI 118
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A historically and topically organized seminar on major developments in Russian domestic politics and foreign policy. Focuses on Russian state-society relations and domestic-international linkages, especially the politics of economic and social reforms in the post-Stalin USSR and in post-Soviet Russia. Also, the interplay between social science theories and Russian area studies will be explored.

POS 570 (4498)	FIELD SEMINAR - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TH 5:45 – 8:35	G. Nowell DR 313A
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A survey of the substantive, methodological, and normative concerns of contemporary scholars of international relations. Offered jointly by the faculty in international relations as the basic foundation course.

POS 584/R (8483/8484)	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY W 5:45 – 8:35	T. Walker TBA
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A study of the foreign policy making and diplomacy of the United States, the objectives and formulation of policy goals and procedures and the domestic constraints on U.S. statecraft. Prerequisite(s): As specified for M.A. or Ph.D. students.

POS 599 (8485)	SELECTED TOPICS: TH 2:45 – 5:35	P. Strach DR 303
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This seminar covers the research process from its design to final analysis, focusing on qualitative and mixed-methods research. Students should come away from the course with an understanding of: (1) what qualitative research is and how it fits in the broader discipline of political science; (2) the logic of qualitative and mixed methods research design; (3) the

nuts and bolts of conducting qualitative research; and (4) how to analyze the results. Prerequisites: POS 516 and POS 517 or the equivalent.

POS 603/R **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY:** **P. Breiner**
(8486/8487) **W 5:45 – 8:35** **TBA**

This course is going to focus on contemporary democratic theory. In particular it will deal with the concept of democratic citizenship not merely as a “concept” within theories of democracy but as a term whose very meaning has been a locus of contestation and political conflict. In keeping with this approach we will examine T. H. Marshall's famous claim that democratic citizenship is in a relentless struggle with the market and social class and that citizenship as communal inclusion and as political equality require extending citizenship into the social realm. We will then examine various reactions to this claim about political equality including arguments that equal citizenship demands equal distribution of political resources, that it demands the realization of deliberative democracy, that we must reshape citizenship to accommodate the recognition of different group identities, that democratic citizenship can only flourish if we embed citizenship in the concept of the nation, and finally that political equality demands a cosmopolitan citizenship that supersedes all civil society or state-centered notions. All in all, this seminar will deal with democratic theory as part and parcel of an ongoing conflict over the meaning of citizenship.

PAD 606 **SOC. CAPITAL & PUBLIC POLICY** **A. Jones**
(8610) **W 8:45 –9:50** **DR 115**

This course examines how social capital – the structure of social ties, norms and networks within social groups -- affect the development and effectiveness of public policy. The course addresses the role of networks in structuring opportunity and inequality; efforts to transform social capital into political action; and the ability of policy to effectively tap into the beneficial aspects of social networks as well as curb negative effects like discrimination. Particular attention is paid to issues of racial and economic inequality.

POS 663/R **COMPARATIVE POLICY SYSTEMS** **H. Sims**
(6373/6374) **W 5:45 – 8:35** **DR 115**
Cross listed w/ PAD/PUB666

This seminar investigates why some industrial societies have addressed challenges such as economic management and health care more effectively than others. It compares both policies and institutional structures charged with implementation in European powers, the U.S. and Japan.

POS 666/R **INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY** **H. Sims**
(6375/6376) **M 5:45 – 8:35** **DR 115**

After considering how 'the environment' emerged as a salient issue in the United States, the course surveys its evolution and policy strategies in other prosperous nations and in China. Alternative perspectives on environmental policy are explored.

POS 697 **SELECTED PROBLEMS - POS RESEARCH** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)

POS 698 **MASTERS ESSAY** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)

POS 798 **READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM OF INST.)

POS 897 **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH POS** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT ONLY)

POS 899 **DOCTORAL DISSERTATION** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT ONLY)
ABD STATUS ONLY (1 Credit Registration constitutes full-time study)