

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Department of Political Science
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: FALL 2007**

POS 101Y INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
 B. Miroff
(6913/6935) TTH 11:45 – 1:05
 LC 07

**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR SECTION #6913 MUST
FIRST REGISTER FOR ONE DISCUSSION SECTION – # 6914 – 6919, 6921, & 6922- 6933**

**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR SECTION #6935(Honors) MUST
FIRST REGISTER FOR ONE DISCUSSION SECTION – # 6938**

This course will undertake a broad and critical survey of American political thought, practice and experience. Emphasis will be placed less on the memorization of facts than on the understanding of fundamental concepts, themes and issues in American politics. Subjects to be explored include American political theory, political economy, parties and elections, national institutions, civil liberties and democratic citizenship. Course requirements will be three exams and 3 debate reports. Attendance at discussion sections is required and will be a component of the grading scheme for the course.

POS 102 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
 D. Rousseau
(4425) MWF 10:25 – 11:20
 LC 002

**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR
ONE DISCUSSION SECTION – # 4426 - 4432**

This course is designed to introduce students to theories of comparative and international politics and to survey the contemporary international system. It will begin with an overview of the major theoretical visions of international relations and a survey of important historical periods. We will then use these theoretical lenses to examine major international events and issues confronting states in the international system today. Topics will include the emergence of the Cold War, the breakdown of the Soviet Union, the rise of the European Union, the spread of nuclear weapons, the impact of nationalism, the economic development of Third World states, the impact of international trade, the violation of human rights, and the degradation of the global environmental. Requirements will include weekly reading quizzes, three short written assignments, student debates, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

102H INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
 D. Rousseau
(7644) MWF 10:25 – 11:20
 LC 002

**OPEN TO HONORS STUDENTS ONLY
STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR
THE DISCUSSION SECTION # 8469**

POS 103 **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY**
 J. Gunnell
(7531) **TTH 8:45 – 10:05**
 LC 24

**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR
ONE DISCUSSION SECTION - # 8459- 8467**

An introduction to the history of Western political theory. The course, consisting of lectures and textbook readings, survey the work of major political thinkers from ancient Greece to the present. The purposes of the course are to introduce students to the classic literature of political thought and to provide a vehicle for becoming familiar with political concepts such as justice, power, authority, and freedom.

POS 204 **American Politics**
 S. Friedman
(7659) **MWF 1:40 – 2:35**
 AS 0014

Current Controversies in American Politics. What's the first thing you think of when you think about politics? For many of us, the answer to that question might have to do with current and controversial issues-for example, debates about abortion, immigration or institutions like the utility of the electoral college or campaign finance reform. In this course, we will take a look behind the rhetoric and examine the political and policy factors that come into play to produce a more thorough understanding of these controversies. After describing how these factors work, we will further enhance our understanding through engaging in a series of simulations and debates, thus deepening the feel for the political process.

Pos 204Z **POLITICAL THEORY: Freedom, Rights, and Equality**
 W. Nishiyama
(8502) **TTH 1:40 – 2:35**
 CH 151

Freedom, rights, and equality are not only some of the basics tenets of theoretical inquires regarding government but also are some of the fundamental concepts of everyday debates concerning politics. For example, does a right to privacy entail a right to my body, to have an abortion, to commit suicide thereby easing my suffering? What are the limits of property rights and intellectual property? Does a newspaper have the freedom to publish an article, which compromises national security? Does equality entail merely equality under the law or does it mean something more, like affirmative action?

In this course, we will analyze these three concepts and understand how they relate to different notions of justice. Some of the readings in this course include the following authors: J. S. Mill, Ronald Dworkin, John Rawls, Brian Barry, Michael Walzer, Isaiah Berlin, Robert Nozick, Judith Jarvis Thomson, Will Kymlicka, Amartya Sen, and Henry Shue

POS 204Y **DIALOGUES IN GLOBAL POLITICS**
 T. Walker
(tba) **M 5:45 – 8:35**
 TBA

This course introduces students to a wide variety of topics in global politics. These include issues of international peace and conflict, international organization, globalization and the distribution of wealth, democratization, environmental scarcities, and other issues facing United States foreign policy in particular. This course will fulfill the University's General Education requirement for Oral Discourse. Grading will be based on 13 weekly papers as well as several oral presentations and debates. These presentations will be graded not only on their logic, evidence, and

persuasiveness but also on command of language, eloquence, delivery style, and responsiveness to critiques.

POS 230H LAWS, COURTS AND POLITICS
T. Church
(8437) TTH 10:15 – 11:25
 HU 108

OPEN TO HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY

This course is writing intensive, honors college version of RPOS 330. The course will examine how law, courts, and politics are related in the American system of government. Major topics will include the role of lawyers in the legal system, and the functioning of both tort law and criminal law. Reading will include a wide variety of materials, including court cases, statutes, journal articles, scholarly books, and in-depth case studies. Several short papers will be assigned, with opportunities for rewriting and revision, and emphasis will be placed on developing skills in analytical writing.

POS 250H RESEARCH AND METHODS IN POS
V. Asal
(8440) MWF 9:20 – 10:15
 SL 03

OPEN TO HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY

This course is designed to equip students with the tools for doing original research in the social sciences and in particular in political science and providing them with a guided opportunity to do such research. The course is structured to teach students the basics of social science research: research design, literature review techniques, data collection, qualitative and quantitative methods, and report writing and presentation.

POS 300 / 4718 HONORS TUTORIAL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
T. Church
POS 300 / 5798 Arranged
POS 300 / 8811 Arranged
POS 300 / 8812 Arranged

Students in the Political Science Honors Program take this one-credit tutorial in conjunction with any 300-level course they take that they wish to count toward the requirements of the honors program. Specific sections are graded A-E others are S/U.

POS 301 HISTORY OF POLITICAL THEORY - I
R. Groff
(4436) TTH 11:45 – 1:05
 ES 241

This course will closely examine some of the pivotal texts in political theory from the Greeks until Machiavelli. These texts will include Plato, The Republic; Aristotle The Politics, and Machiavelli, The Prince, and The Discourses. Questions to be discussed will be the meaning of political justice; the significance of active citizenship for the enjoyment of freedom and the achievement of moral excellence; the role of conflict and power in the creation of political order, and the relation of power to justice; the role of fortune in political affairs; and the tense relation between practical political knowledge and philosophy.

POS 306 CONTEMPORARY DEMOCRATIC THEORY
P. Breiner
(7704) MWF 10:25 – 11:20
 SS 116

This course will deal with recent theories of democracy and their origins. We will read some of the classical arguments for democracy including Rousseau and Madison. We will then examine a variety of different contemporary models of democracy ranging from competitive elitist models, pluralist models, participatory models, and deliberative models. Among the questions we will debate will be the following: Is the role of democracy merely to protect the pursuit of individual interests or must it engage citizens in the process of decision-making? How much democratic participation is necessary to realize political equality and self-government? Does political equality require that we extend participation to the workplace or to local communities? How democratic is the American constitution? Should it be a model for other countries? Does the market hinder or preserve democracy? Which should give way if democratic equality conflicts with claims about property rights? Is democracy compatible with executive power?

POS 307 **AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY**
 J. DiGianni
(8675) **M** **5:45 – 8:35**
 SS 116

Many politicians, pundits, and activists make claims of what it means to be an American citizen. However, most of these portrayals contradict each other, painting very different pictures of American life. This course will examine what it means to be an American citizen. The goal of this course is achieve a more profound understanding of American political life. We will seek to uncover recurring topics of conflict and tension, explore traditional themes, and attempt to expose myths and falsehoods. Exploring the political and philosophical writings of prominent historical Americans will assist students in constructing an idea of what it truly means to be an American citizen. This course should help students come to their own conclusions as they tread through our contentious political environment.

POS 308 **THEORISTS & THEORIZING**
 M.Schoolman
(4933) **MWF** **12:35 – 1:30**
 ES 241

While the two political theorists to be studied in this course have yet to be determined as of the March date of this course description, the theorists chosen will be those whose work is pertinent to the study of the political dimensions and implications of mass culture, especially film, and consumerism, especially advertising and other forms of culture that affect consumer beliefs, understandings, attitudes, and behavior. The course will generally be concerned with mass culture and pop culture and their place in modernity.

POS 321 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
 J. Zimmerman
(4438) **MWF** **9:20 – 10:15**
 ES 242

An analysis of factors pertaining to the viability of state and local governments as political systems through an examination of intergovernmental relations; the interdependent roles of governors, legislatures and courts in policy-making and implementation; the organization, functions and jurisdiction of local governments; the interaction of political parties and interest groups with formal institutions and processes, and problems in selected functional areas. Emphasis is placed upon socio-economic and political trends leading to change in state and local governments, consequent issues raised and proposals made in response to such issues. Three equally weighted examinations and periodic quizzes will be administered. Each student must write a research paper on his/her home local government. **(Crossed with PUB 321)**

POS 323 **URBAN GOVERNMENT**
 J. Cruz
(7661) **TTH 11:45 – 1:05**
 LC 004

This course examines the historical development and contemporary problems of urban governments in the United States. We will focus on the context of urban policymaking, urban-suburban relations, the relationship between public and private power, the role and impact of race, ethnicity, class, and the fiscal crisis.

POS 325 **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF NEW YORK STATE**
 F. Mauro
(4439) **Th 5:45 – 8:35**
 HU 24

Introduction to the major political governmental institutions of New York State. Examines the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government; state-local relations, federal-state relations, the historical, constitutional, and economic setting of government and politics in New York State; the nature of New York's political parties and elections; and selected policy questions. **(Crossed with PUB 325)**

POS 328 **LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY**
 S. Barclay
(6556) **MWF 12:35 – 1:30**
 HU 147

The course is designed to familiarize students with the courts as policymakers and the law as policy. The first half of the course will examine the courts as policymakers, criminalization of social problems, the individualization of social problems through civil legal actions, who creates and controls policy, the impact of court decisions, influencing policy through and within the courts, and the relationship of social movements. The second half will consider examples of policymaking in traditional and non-traditional situations. In addition, we will apply our understanding of the nature of policymaking to consider a likely future Supreme Court case.

POS 329 **BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS**
 A. Jones
(7460) **TTh 2:45 – 4:05**
 ES 242

Examinations of political behavior within and among administrative agencies, focusing on the sources of power in the bureaucracy, and the ways in which agencies use their political resources to shape public policy. Only one of RPAD329 & RPOS329 may be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): RPOS 101 or 101z and 102, or junior or senior class

NOT WRITING INTRESTIVE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS.

POS 331 **AMERICAN LEGISLATURES**
 S. Friedman
(4440) **MWF 12:35 – 1:30**
 AS 014

This course on the U.S. Congress will cover how the institution works and why anyone -- in this age of presidential dominance and cynicism about institutions -- should care how it works. Why

does it matter if legislators make careers out of politics, or whether committee chairs are forced out through term limits? How do congressional elections work in the age of campaign reform, issue ads and the Internet? What role do party leaders play in the post-Gingrich House and post-impeachment Senate? And how do all of these developments mesh with our views about representation? To help sort out these issues, each student will be assigned a member of Congress to follow through library and on-line research. Students will write papers relating what they learn about these Members to the institutional topics discussed in the course's assigned reading. There also will be exams on the reading and lectures.

POS 335 **AMERICAN SUPREME COURT**
 E. Sommer
(8442) **TTH 1:15 – 2:35**
 CH 151

This course will examine the U.S. Supreme Court through both text and cases. The topics include, among others – the evolution of the judiciary and its effects on the other branches of government, the influence of the court on the incorporation of civil liberties, internal institutions of the court and models of judicial decision-making (or simply - how justices make decisions), and issues around judicial appointments. The course goals are to improve students understanding of how the Court functions, and to develop critical analytical skills about prevalent claims concerning the Supreme Court. There will be two mid-term exams and a final examination. The course will also include online assignments and periodic quizzes. Opportunities for extra credit will be available.

POS 338 **POLITICAL INTERNSHIP**
 STAFF
(4441) **ARRANGED**

Internship work in a governmental agency (legislative, executive, or judicial) or in a politically or legally oriented non-governmental organization. The department will provide assistance to students in obtaining internships in positions that are relevant to their interests. Includes both internship work and an academic component that involves class sessions, readings, and written assignments. Interested students should contact the coordinator of undergraduate studies in political science and submit an application indicating their interests. We will try to match student interests with agency needs. Internships are only open to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of at least 2.50. This course may be taken only once for credit toward the political science major or minor.

POS 351 **EUROPEAN POLITICS**
 R. Koslowski
(8443) **TTH 10:15 – 11:35**
 HU 109

This course covers issues in European politics from the French revolution to contemporary times. Some attention will be paid to the crises of World Wars I and II as well as the development of European integration within the context of an international economy led by the United States.

POS 360 **VIOLENT POLITICAL CONFLICT**
 B. Nussbaum
(7750) **MW 5:45 – 7:05**
 CH 151

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of violent political conflict. We will examine the how, why and when of violent political conflict both domestic and international. The course will focus on the key empirical and normative questions raised by violent political conflict and what answers to these questions [the existing literature offers](#). In this course, in addition to studying the theories that have been developed to explain the politics and history of violent political conflict, students will have an opportunity to participate in simulation exercises designed to sharpen their analytic skills in the subject area.

POS 363 **American Criminal Courts**
Smith/CR staff
(6354) **MWF 12:35 – 1:30**
SS 116

POS 371 **THE PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
G. Nowell
(8444) **TTH 1:15 – 2:35**
HU 137

This course examines international relations as “practiced” rather than from the point of view of abstract theory. Past versions of this course have examined guerilla warfare, economic crises, and other major events. Assigned readings may vary from works by academics to works by some of history’s worst dictators. Requirements include a midterm and final.

POS 373 **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**
C. Chen
(6558) **MWF 10:25 – 11:20**
ES 241

This course introduces students to the government and politics of the People’s Republic of China, emphasizing events in the period since the Chinese Communist Party established its regime in 1949. The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad survey of Chinese politics grounded in specific historical contexts. No previous knowledge of China’s history, culture, or language is required nor will such knowledge be assumed.

POS 375 **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**
D. Watson
(8499) **MWF 11:15 – 1:05**
SS 116

This course examines the formulation of American foreign policy, with particular focus on the post-World War II period. The course will examine a variety of issues, including decision making processes, hegemony, democratization, globalization, public opinion, multilateralism, international law, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. Course requirements include group presentations, short papers, participation, midterm and final exam.

POS 400 / 4442 HONORS TUTORIAL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
T. Church
POS 400 /5684 Arranged
POS 400 /8110 Arranged
POS 400 /8111 Arranged

Students in the Political Science Honors Program take this one-credit tutorial in conjunction with any 400-level course they take that they wish to count toward the requirements of the honors program. Specific sections are grade A-E others S/U

POS 426Z **AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**
 J. Novkov
(4443) **TTH 1:15 – 2:35**
 SL 012

This course will consist primarily of reading and analyzing the opinions of the United States Supreme Court in the areas of federalism -- the relationship of the federal government to the states -- and separation of powers in the national government (including cases examining presidential power). Students will be required to prepare assigned cases on a regular basis plus a major writing assignment.

POS 437 **LAW AND SOCIETY**
 S. Barclay
(8571) **MWF 10:25 – 11:20**
 HU 019

This course examines selected readings from the law and society movement. This course considers the role of legal institutions and legal norms in defining and constraining social interactions. It also considers the nature of litigation in relation to the development of social problems and social forces.

POS 439Z **TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS – RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT**
 A. Hildreth
(4444) **MWF 11:30 – 12:25**
 ES 108

The 2008 presidential primaries and not so 'invisible' campaign provide the backdrop to this critical look at the politics of presidential selection. The class will explore how we choose a president by focusing on many of the key factors that influence the process: the election calendar, consultants, polls, advertising, debates, political geography, money, and the electorate.

POS 439Z **TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS –**
 A. Jones
(7476) **ES 140**
 Th 5:45 – 8:35

This course examines dilemmas and dynamics accompanying the migration, settlement, and integration of immigrants in the US, with special attention to the political and policy dimension of these processes. The readings cover a variety of immigrant groups and, where possible, include a historical perspective. Class discussions will consider the implications of new immigrant integration for government agencies and political actors and the policy dynamics of decision making.

POS 469Z **TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS:**
 E. Hoffmann
(7477) **Global Politics and Film**
 HU 027
 M 2:45 – 5:35

This course explores the linkages between politics and film, focusing on documentary political films about 20th century wars, the Cold War, and globalization. There will be extensive writing and reading assignments in addition to post-film reports and discussions. And there will be a compulsory attendance policy.

POS 472Z **INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS & RESOLUTIONS**
M. Baskin
(8446) **MW** **4:15 – 5:35**
 BA 224

This course will address the dynamics of conflict in the international system from classical and contemporary perspectives. Students will study “traditional” inter-state war, the civil wars of the post-Cold War era, and the asymmetric “war on terror” with radical, non-state actors. They will explore the internal and systemic sources of international, internal and asymmetric conflicts. They will review efforts to manage and resolve different types of conflict, and review approaches to conflict prevention, theories of negotiation, conflict mitigation and peace building. Students will examine theoretical and empirical literature, and will engage in role-playing, as well. **The writing in this class will prepare students to think analytically and practically about international conflict and resolution.**

POS 479Z **TOPICS: POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**
R. Koslowski
(7478) **T** **2:45 – 5:35**
 ES 108

Surveys the domestic and international politics of migration. Examines labor migration to advanced industrial states, border control, immigrant incorporation, refugee policies, emigrant participation in home country politics and the effect of migration on international development, democratization and security.

POS 496Z **GREAT IDEAS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**
J. Novkov
(4445) **TTH** **10:15 – 11:35**
 ES 147

Great Ideas in Political Science is intended for students enrolled in the honors program in political science. The seminar will discuss major works that have influenced the discipline. A wide range of works are under consideration for inclusion in the course, covering topics such as the sources of democracy and dictatorship, the role of institutions in politics, and the causes of war.

POS 498/4446 **INDEPENDENT STUDY (A-E)** **(PERM. OF INST.)**
T. Church
POS 498/4466 **INDEPENDENT STUDY (S/U)** **(PERM. OF INST.)**
T. Church

POS 498Z **INDEPENDENT STUDY – WRITING INTENSIVE**
T. Church
(4492) **ARRANGED (A-E GRADING)**

POS 499Z **HONORS THESIS**
J. Novkov
(4493) **ARRANGED**

Restricted to students in the Political Science Honors Program. Reading, research, and the writing of an honors thesis under the direction of an individual faculty member, is part of the Honors Student Program. Overseen by the chair of the department.