

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

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: SPRING 2007

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**POS 500  
(8634)**

**Political Philosophy  
TH 5:45 – 8:35**

**P. Breiner  
DR 34**

This class will be devoted to understanding the political theory of Machiavelli. We will read *The Prince*, *The Discourses*, *The Art of War* and two of Machiavelli's plays, "Mandragola" and "Clizia. In reading Machiavelli we will address the following questions: How can Machiavelli both advise actors on how to create durable and secure states, and yet bring all political action back to the original insecure moments when political orders are founded? Why must political actors learn constantly to improvise? How do his notions of virtù and fortune force us to rethink political morals? How reliable is political knowledge? How is Machiavelli's populist republicanism of *The Discourses* reconcilable with *The Prince*? Should we want to reconcile them? Is there a relation between good laws in a republic produced by popular "disorder" and "good laws and good arms" produced by the innovator prince? How might Machiavelli use drama to address problems he cannot resolve using political theory? How have modern thinkers used Machiavelli to project their favored political actors onto the modern political stage? We will not only engage in a close reading of Machiavelli's text, but also critically assess some of the most significant commentary of this thinker.

**POS 506 / R  
(7132/7311)**

**IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT  
Th 5:45 – 8:35**

**R. Nakamura  
DR 313A**

This is a course about policy implementation. The study of policy implementation is the examination of what happens after policy has been made. Implementation research has dealt with a variety of topics including the development of conceptual frameworks for understanding the process, case studies of specific implementation activities, and the exploration of approaches intended to improve the fit between what policy makers intend and what happens. **Crossed with PUB 506**

**POS 517  
(8907)**

**EMPIRICAL DATA ANALYSIS  
TTH 2:45 – 4:05**

**S. Friedman  
DR 23**

The course will give students familiarity with basic statistical techniques as applied in the social sciences. It will consider the role of simple statistics to describe events, groups, and other things of interest to social scientists. It will also review Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), including tricks and problems of OLS. It will also briefly introduce students to basic maximum likelihood estimation, such as logit, probit, and event count models. Thus, the class will be practical in its discussion of various statistical techniques, including weekly assignments to develop experience with each method. By the end of the class students will have the minimum ability to read and interpret base statistics that they encounter in social science journals.

**POS 521  
(4768)**

**FIELD SEMINAR - AMERICAN POLITICS  
W 5:45 – 8:35**

**B. Miroff  
ARR**

The Field Seminar in the American Political System introduces graduate students to the basic methods, theories, and normative concerns of scholars in American politics. The seminar is organized in two parts. Part I explores theories of power applied to American politics, each encompassing a distinctive approach for studying power, unique assumptions about society, specific techniques for analyzing data, and normative implications for democratic theory and democracy. Part II consists of guest lectures by members of the Political Science department. This segment gives students a chance to sample the different styles, approaches, research interests, and normative concerns of professors in the department. The seminar requires weekly reaction papers, active class participation, and a major essay critically reviewing and synthesizing the literature in a chosen area pre-approved by the instructor.

**POS 527 / R  
(4769/4770)**

**AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW  
TTh 11:45 – 1:05**

**T. Church  
ES 147**

This is the graduate version of POS 427. Students will be expected to prepare for and attend POS 427 regularly, although they will not be required to take quizzes and written examinations. Several extra sessions will discuss additional assigned material. Students will write a research paper to be presented to the seminar. There will be an oral final examination. Grade will be based on class participation, the paper, and the oral final examination.

**POS 534/R  
(8636/8638)**

**AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES  
M 5:45 – 8:35**

**A. Hildeth  
MI 118**

This seminar will examine the relationship between the development / decay of party systems and popular government. Our approach will be historical and theoretical, looking at the emergence and development of party systems, the explicit and implicit rationales under girding partisan alignments, the emergence, development, and role of third parties, the forces underlying party decomposition, the role of money, and the rise of the pressure system.

**POS 537  
(8639)**

**The Legal Process  
M 5:45 – 8:35**

**J. Novkov  
DR105**

This course critically examines the institutional role of the courts in the United States and considers their potential for shaping, blocking, and reinforcing changes in culture, society, and state structures. After an introductory segment on the role of the courts generally, we will work through several examples of moments in US history that remain subject to debate by scholars over the impact and significance of the legal process in change and development.

**POS 550  
(6643)**

**FIELD SEMINAR – COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
Th 5:45 – 8:35**

**C. Chen  
RI 002**

The objective of this seminar is to provide a critical survey of the field of comparative politics, exposing the student to different methodological approaches and to substantive areas of research. The first half of the course traces the intellectual history of the field, examines the recent debates between rational-choice, cultural, and structuralist scholars, and discusses the major methodological issues in comparative politics. In the second half of the course, the focus shifts to substantive areas of research in the field of comparative politics, including the complex relations among nationalism, nation-states and societies; the origins, consolidation, and patterns of democratic governance; the dynamics behind revolutions and other forms of “contentious politics”; the political economy of development and the emergence of varieties of capitalism; and the relationship between international/global economy and domestic politics and policies. Overall, the course is designed to introduce important issues and debates that comparativists have regularly engaged in, and to provide a broad intellectual map of an extremely heterogeneous field so that the relationships between different kinds of problematiques and approaches can be better understood.

**POS 551 / R  
(6644/6646)**

**DEMOCRATIZATION AND MARKETIZATION  
TH 2:45 – 5:35**

**E. Hoffmann  
MI 118**

This is a seminar on comparative political economy, with emphasis on the relationships between democracy and capitalism and democratization and marketization. We will examine the emergence of democratic and capitalist institutions and cultures since the early Greeks, with emphasis on the American and European experiences, “third wave” democratization and marketization in the 1970’s and 1980’s and major changes in global politics and economics since the early 1990’s. In short, this seminar is historically founded and compares the interaction between government and business in various contexts.

**POS 553 / R  
(6049/6050)**

**POLITICS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
T 5:45 – 8:50**

**H. Sims  
DR 115**

Global economic crisis highlights unresolved questions about the concept of development, an elusive goal which many nations have pursued in recent decades. This seminar considers the role of key institutions that have championed the cause, including such powerful international agencies as the World Bank and bilateral aid agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development. National and local perspectives on the problem also are assessed. The course draws on experience in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in addition to Central and Eastern Europe. **(Crossed with PAD 664)**

**POS 571  
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**Seminar: Graduate**

**G. Nowell**

This class will cover economic and historical themes related to the development and functioning of the modern state system, as treated in both the comparative and international relations literatures. One example of such a relationship is Kindleberger’s study of the Great Depression and the development of hegemony theory in IR. Another example is Polanyi’s theses regarding capitalist instability and the propensity to fascism. Additional possible issue areas include the development and stability of the modern state system, tariffs, multinational corporations, imperialism, cartels, fascism, economic development, financial crises, and monetary systems. The general idea is to cover themes that will bolster student preparation for IR and Comparative examinations.

<b>POS 603/R (5954/5955)</b>	<b>CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY: "POLITICS AND POSTMODERNISM"</b> T      5:45 – 8:35	<b>M. Schoolman DR 105</b>
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This course will consider the critical theory of the Frankfurt School, its relation to Marx, Weber, Freud, and Nietzsche, and its development in the work of Habermas and his disciples since the original work by its founders, Horkheimer, Adorno, and Marcuse. The course will pay more attention to the Frankfurt School's theory of mass culture and aesthetics and the subsequent debates surrounding these studies, but considerable attention will be paid, too, to the ways critical theory has contributed to and occasionally shaped other developments in contemporary political theory, such as theories of deliberative democracy, identity politics, multiculturalism, minority rights and others.

<b>PAD 606 (8610)</b>	<b>SOC. CAPITAL &amp; PUBLIC POLICY</b> W      8:45 – 9:50	<b>A. Jones DR 115</b>
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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.

<b>POS 631 (4771)</b>	<b>LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP</b> Arranged	<b>J. Zimmerman</b>
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<b>POS 632 (8640)</b>	<b>TOPICS: LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b> W      5:45 – 8:35	<b>R. Nakamura</b>
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<b>POS 667 / R (4772/7142)</b>	<b>POLITICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS</b> Th      5:45 – 8:50	<b>H. Sims DR 115</b>
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Such environmental challenges as water and energy use and approaches to global climate change are seen in comparative and international perspectives. Widening trade globalizes the 'institutions versus the market' debate familiar in the United States and its environmental implications are explored. Although the major focus is on policies and institutions to address environmental concerns, the role of ordinary people in environmental transformation is also briefly considered. Course requirements include a research paper and periodic short assessments of class materials. **Crossed with PAD 667 and PUB 667**

<b>POS 697</b>	<b>SELECTED PROBLEMS - POS RESEARCH ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>
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<b>POS 698</b>	<b>MASTERS ESSAY ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>
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<b>POS 789 (8641)</b>	<b>SEMINAR: GLOBAL AND HOMELAND SECURITY</b> M      5:45 – 8:35	<b>R. Koslowski MI 215</b>
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This graduate course introduces students to the basic concepts of the subfield of international security and considers the contemporary challenges posed by the potential use of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors in a globalizing world. We review the evolution of national security politics of the United States after WWII and the development of nuclear deterrence within the context of the Cold War with the Soviet Union as the basis for the development of deterrence theory as the dominant conceptual framework of international security of the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The course will then consider alternative approaches such as global geopolitics, societal security, human security and environmental security that developed (or were rediscovered) as the changing circumstances of the post-cold war world called into question certain postulates of the deterrence as theories associated with the nuclear superpower conflict. The course then analyses in detail emerging transnational threats such as terrorism, the challenges of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the tensions between economic globalization and the imperatives of homeland security as well as the post-Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> responses focused on reorganizing government with the Department of Homeland Security.

<b>POS 798</b>	<b>READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE ARRANGED (PERM OF INST.)</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>
<b>POS 897</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT RESEARCH POS ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT <u>ONLY</u>)</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>
<b>POS 899</b>	<b>DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT <u>ONLY</u>) ABD STATUS ONLY (1 Credit Registration constitutes full-time study)</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>