

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

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<b>POS 101 (8646)</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS TTh 10:15 – 11:30</b>	<b>W. Nishiyama HU 024</b>
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<b>POS 101Y (7832/7850)</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS TTH 1:15 – 2:35</b>	<b>H. Trela LC 07</b>
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**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR SECTION 7850(presidential honors) MUST  
FIRST REGISTER FOR ONE DISCUSSION SECTION – 7851,8043,8044**

<b>POS 101 (8647)</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS MWF 9:20 – 10:15</b>	<b>P. LaVenia HU 024</b>
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**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR  
ONE DISCUSSION SECTION – # 7833 - 7849**

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.

<b>POS 102 Walker (4708)</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE &amp; INTERNATIONAL POLITICS TTH 4:15 – 5:35</b>	<b>T. LC 02</b>
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**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR  
ONE DISCUSSION SECTION – # 4709- 4717**

Political Science 102 is the introductory course to comparative politics and international relations. This course provides a broad survey of the theoretical concepts essential to a sound understanding of global politics. These concepts include power, the state, sovereignty, nationalism, democratization, international cooperation and conflict, globalization, international economics, and global environmentalism. There are three broad objectives for this course. The first is to prepare students to make better sense of contemporary events in global politics. The second objective is to prepare students for upper-level courses in global politics. The third objective is intended to fulfill the University General Education requirement for methods in social science. We will therefore also explore various methodologies ranging from evaluations of conflicting historical interpretations to concept formation, data collection, and hypothesis testing.

<b>POS 103 (5355)</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY TTH 2:45 – 4:05</b>	<b>R. Groff LC 25</b>
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**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR**

**ONE DISCUSSION SECTION - # 5356-5359 or 5361 & 6339**

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.

**POS140/ (5977)  
PUB140/ (5983)**

**INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY  
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**

**T. Birkland  
LC 25**

**STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST ALSO REGISTER FOR  
ONE DISCUSSION SECTION - # 5978 – 5982 (POS) OR #5984 - 5988 (PUB)**

In high school civics courses you may have learned how a bill becomes a law. But where do ideas for laws come from in the first place? Why do some ideas get attention while other problems are ignored? What does it take to get a law enacted AND successfully implemented? What are the roles of the executive, legislature, courts, interest groups, business, the news media, and other actors in the policy process? Why do some policies, even after extensive research and analysis, seem so irrational and haphazard?

This course introduces students to the process of public policy making. Because the policy process engages nearly all elements of politics, this course analyzes public policy making as the outcome of a number of political actors and processes. Students will gain a greater appreciation for the complexity of policymaking, the vast number of actors involved in policy making, and the factors that make policies more or less successful. Because public policy affects all fields of human activity, this course is a good introduction to policy for students in political science as well as other social sciences, criminal justice, social work, business, and related disciplines. **Previously POS/PUB 240.**

**POS 204  
(8109)**

**American Politics  
TTH 11:45 – 1:05**

**S.Friedman  
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 300 / 4718 HONORS TUTORIAL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POS 300 / 5798 Arranged  
POS 300 / 8811 Arranged  
POS 300 / 8812 Arranged**

**T. Church**

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 302  
(4719)**

**HISTORY OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY II  
TTh 1:15 – 2:35**

**P. Breiner  
ES 241**

This course will focus on major political theorists from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. We will give special attention to the contract theorists, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau; the new grand

theorists of society, de Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill, and Marx; and theorists who line up for and against professional politics. We will address such questions as the meaning of consent and legitimacy, the meaning of democratic citizenship, the relation between political equality (the basis for democratic citizenship) and property rights, the relation between equality and freedom, the meaning of economic exploitation and inequality, and the radical effects of mass democracy, capitalism, and bureaucracy on our concepts of politics.

**POS 307  
(8619)**

**AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY  
TTH 4:15 – 5:35**

**D. Ericson  
HU 024**

This course will examine the history of American Political thought through pivotal moments in American history. Course readings will include selected writings from the founding (Federalists and Anti-Federalists), antebellum (Lincoln, Douglas, Douglass, and Stranton; a potentially very powerful law firm), Progressive (Dewey and Lippman), and the New Deal (Roosevelt and Thomas) eras. The class will also read several contemporary works in American political thought. The course will use a discussion format. Students will write a research paper on one of the objects or periods studied.

**POS314  
(8620)**

**Problems of Political Inquiry  
TTH 11:45 – 1:05**

**R.Groff  
BA 210**

This course will revolve around the fact that at least some of us want to know things about political life. This fact raises a host of interesting questions, for example: what is the nature of such knowledge? How do we come by it? How does that nature of the object of such knowledge (i.e., political life) affect what it is possible to know about it? The course will involve students in a systematic consideration of these and related issues. Readings will be both historical and contemporary, and will cut across the fields of political theory and philosophy.

**POS 320  
(4720)**

**AMERICAN FEDERALISM  
TTH 8:45 – 10:05**

**J. Zimmerman  
CH 151**

The course focuses on the theoretical, constitutional, and political dimensions of American federalism, including the tensions between the planes of government, interstate relations, and the problem-solving capabilities of the federal system. Particular emphasis is placed upon the formal powers of each plane of government and the limitations upon these powers. The reasons for the political significance of the increasing use of preemption powers by the Congress will be examined. Three equally weighted examinations and periodic quizzes will be administered. Each student must write a research paper on an aspect of federalism.

**POS 324  
(7123)**

**LATINO POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES  
Arranged**

**C. Caamano**

This course will review Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican participation, perspectives and issues on American politics. Each Latino sub-group will be analyzed and comparisons will be made between Latino sub-groups and between Latinos and other groups. The following questions will be examined: What is the context of Latino politics? What is different about Latino political

behavior? What is the place of Latinos in the U.S. political system? What issues form the basis of their political mobilization and incorporation? What are their political prospects? **Cross listed with ALCS 375 SUNY Learning Network On-line Course.**

**RPOS 328                      LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY                      R. Wagner**  
**(8621)                      MWF 9:20 – 10:15                      ES 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**  
**(8441)                      TTh 1:15 – 2:35                      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 RPAD 329 & RPOS329 may be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s) : RPOS 101 or 101z and 102, or junior or senior class**

**NOT WRITING INTESITIVE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS.**

**RPOS 332                      THE PRESIDENCY                      B. Miroff**  
**(8622)                      MWF 12:35 – 1:30                      HU 137**

This course will explore the many dimensions and meanings of the American presidency. It will look at theories of the presidency, constitutional and institutional facets of the office, and the role of the individual in the Oval Office. Case studies will treat recent presidents and the policy dilemmas they faced.

**POS 336                      CIVIL LIBERTIES                      H. Trela**  
**(8829)                      TTH 5:45 – 7:05                      ES 242**

This course is a general introduction to civil liberties in the United States. It is designed to give students an understanding of the role of civil liberties in the American polity, the interrelationships of law and politics in civil liberties disputes, and the role of courts – especially the U.S. Supreme Court – in the process. While there will necessarily be some lecture, most class sessions will consist of structured discussion of assigned materials. Students will be assigned seats and called upon at random with questions regarding the material assigned for that date. The course will focus on a number of specific issues in civil liberties that are of particular relevance to law and politics today: the effort to control “hate speech” on university campuses, racial and gender equality, the right to privacy, and gay/lesbian rights.

**POS 338                      POLITICAL INTERNSHIP                      R. Tynes**  
**(4721)                      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 341  
(8920)**                      **WASHINGTON IN PERSPECTIVE  
ARRANGED**                      **M. Malbin  
Wash., D.C.**

**POS 342  
(8921)**                      **WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP  
ARRANGED**                      **M. Malbin  
Wash., D. C.**

**POS 346  
(7125)**                      **LAW, CIVIL RIGHTS, & SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**                      **S. Barclay  
ES 245**

The course will examine relevant court cases as well as local, state and federal laws that define the boundaries for legal recognition of sexual orientation and personal sexuality in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The course includes examination of the recent court cases in Hawaii, Alaska, New York, and Vermont as well consideration of the current case in Massachusetts. We will examine the legal assumptions behind current and historical cases defining personal sexuality and sexual orientation. As well, we will consider the social and political impetus in each era that drove the courts and legislatures to make such decisions. This course highlights an interesting area of law and politics that is the modern equivalent of the original civil rights cases from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century involving race. As such, this topical issue is sure to be increasingly an important aspect of state and federal court decisions and legislative battles. This is a good course for students interested in the law and the development of legal and political ideas over time. **Crossed with Women's Studies.**

**POS 351  
(8830)**                      **EUROPEAN POLITICS  
M 5:45 – 8:35**                      **S. Cebi  
ES 242**

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 362  
(8623)**                      **NATIONALISM & NATION BUILDING  
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**                      **C. Chen  
ES108**

This course is designed to cover different conceptualizations of “nation” and “nationalism”; to trace the historical and social developments associated with the building and emergence of nations and nationalist movements; and to examine the complex role of nationalism and nation building in the contemporary world. The first part of the course is an overview of the major theories of nationalism and nation building.

The second part of the course focuses on the development of nationalism and nation building in different perspectives, such as democracy, communism, anti-colonialism, ethnic conflicts, and globalization. Next, concrete manifestations of contemporary nationalism in Western Europe,

Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe, and the United States will be examined. The course will conclude with the assessment of the prospects for nationalism in today's changing world

**POS 363**                      **AMERICAN CRIMINAL COURTS**                      **G. Pogarsky**  
**(6085)**                      **M**      **4:15 – 7:05**                      **DR 346**  
Cross listed with CRJ 353

**POS 364**                      **BUILDING DEMOCRACY**                      **E. Hoffmann**  
**(6660)**                      **TTH**      **11:45 – 1:05**                      **ES 241**

This is a course 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 course is historically founded and compares the interaction between government and business in various contexts.

There will be diverse assigned readings, frequent documentary films, ample class discussion, occasional lectures, two 10-page papers, and a compulsory attendance policy.

**POS 370**                      **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – THEORY**                      **T. Walker**  
**(7127)**                      **TTH**      **8:45 – 10:05**                      **ES 242**

This course examines three leading theoretical schools of thought in global politics. We will read works by Hans Morgenthau, Immanuel Kant, and Thomas Paine as representatives of the realist, liberal, and cosmopolitan research traditions. We conclude the course with a discussion of contemporary world politics in light of these three traditions. The goal of the course is to systematically compare and evaluate claims made by realists, liberals and cosmopolitans concerning global politics. Students will be evaluated by reading quizzes, group works, classroom participation, one take-home midterm, a short in-class examination, and a major research paper. We strongly recommend that students have already taken Political Science 102.

**POS 375**                      **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**                      **D. Watson**  
**(7490)**                      **MWF**      **1:40 – 2:35**                      **HU 137**

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.

**RPOS383**                      **AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY**                      **D. Rousseau**  
**(8624)**                      **TTH**      **10:15 – 11:35**                      **PH 116?**

This course examines the formulation of American foreign policy, with particular focus on the period of the United States' active involvement in international politics since World War II. Among

the major topics of discussion are important policy issues and historical questions on US postwar design in Europe and Asia. We will look into various institutional, social, and political forces that shape the development and implementation of American Cold War policy. We will also cover such contemporary issues as globalization and terrorism; what is globalization, how it affects our daily life, and how it shapes the United States' war on terrorism and military intervention in "rogue states."

**RPOS399 (8625)      SELECTED TOPICS: IT AND WORLD POLITICS      MWF 11:30 – 12:25      R. Koslowski SL 020**

This upper-level undergraduate course provides a broad overview of the information and communications revolutions and their impact on global economics and politics. We will examine previous episodes of transformative changes in communications to place contemporary changes in a broader historical context and we will consider theoretical explorations of the relationship between information technologies and world politics. The bulk of the course, however, will examine the practical impact of the information revolution on diplomacy, international political economy, national security and international organization with a particular emphasis on the information technologies used to run transnational corporations, government agencies and other public sector organizations.

Course syllabus and content available to enrolled students on WebCT

**POS 400 / 4723 HONORS TUTORIAL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE      T. Church**  
**POS 400 / 6460 Arranged**  
**POS 400 / 8813 Arranged**  
**POS 400 / 8814 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 410Z (7130)      MINORITIES & THE POLITICO-LEGAL SYSTEM      MWF 1:40 – 2:35      J. Cruz ES 140**

This course will examine the African American and Latino experience in the politico-legal system. The course will be set in the context of the civil rights movement. From there we will proceed to examine theories and processes of political incorporation and the debate on affirmative action. This review should help us better understand minority politics in reference to questions about political obligation, political equality, and political stability. A 20-page research paper, with an opportunity to revise and resubmit, is required. **Cross-listed with RPUB 410z (7177)**

**POS 419Z (6075)      SENIOR SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY      TTH 2:45 – 4:05      M. Schoolman FA 114**

This course will take up the relationship between politics and memory. Specifically, how does, and how ought, memory of past events – world-historical events, such as war, holocaust, or the election or defeat of a political leader, or quite personal events, such as growing up black, working-class, or female – influence the way in which we imagine the sorts of political action and political policies we should pursue collectively or individually? Is politics, and also our concept of politics, nourished by memory or impoverished by it? What forces in society encourage us to

forget past events, and what forces encourage us to remember them? Does the study of politics by social scientists consider the role that memory plays, could play, or does not play in politics, or do theories of political behavior forget that importance of remembering and, if so, why? These and similar questions will be pursued through readings in philosophy, social theory, history, from diaries, and through film, music, and other art forms.

**POS 427Z  
(4724)**

**AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW - II  
TTH 11:45 – 1:05**

**T. Church  
ES 147**

An examination of US Supreme Court cases dealing with several areas of civil liberties: free speech, equal rights for racial minorities, and the right to privacy. Class sessions will involve structured discussion of opinions in the assigned cases and regular class preparation is required. Course requirements: regular class preparation and participation, unannounced quizzes, mid-term and final examinations, and a term paper, requiring students to write a judicial opinion in a case currently before the US Supreme Court.

**RPOS 437  
(8630)**

**LAW AND SOCIETY  
TTH 10:15 – 11:35**

**S. Barclay  
HU 109**

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 469Z  
(5799)**

**TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS:  
GOVERNMENT POLITICS OF IRELAND  
TTH 11:45 – 1:05**

**J. Zimmerman  
SS 131**

The course examines the historical origin of the Republic of Ireland; focuses upon the principal officers and institutions of the national government (Dáil Eireann, Seanad Eireann, Taoiseach, Uachtarán na Eireann, Departments, State-Sponsored Bodies) and the local government system; the political parties and interest groups; and analyzes the politics of the decision-making process. There will be three one-hour examinations, including the final examination, and periodic quizzes. Each student is required to complete a research paper on an aspect of the Irish governance system.

**POS 479Z  
(7589)**

**TOPICS: MIDDLE EAST / INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS  
M 2:45 – 5:35**

**G. Nowell  
CH 151**

This class will cover selected topics in relation to the political development of the Middle and Near East, an area loosely defined to cover the region from Morocco to Afghanistan and including modern Turkey and the Caspian littoral states. Topics will vary. Examples include, but are not limited to, the classic imperial period, revolutions, the oil industry, regional conflict such as the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980's, and the tensions between secular modernization and Islamic systems of government. This class is designed to explore topics not directly related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

<b>POS 479Z (8632)</b>	<b>TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION T 2:45 – 5:35</b>	<b>D. Rousseau BA 210</b>
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The purpose of this writing intensive course is to aid students in the development of strong analytical and writing skills. The course will focus on the development, proliferation, and control of nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological weapons. Each week students will write a short (3-5 pages) paper on a topic related to weapons of mass destruction. They will then review the papers of their peers and submit rewrites of their own work after addressing comments by both the instructor and their peers. Course requirements include shortpapers, class participation, midterm and final exam.

<b>POS 479Z (8633)</b>	<b>TOPICS: SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RECONSTRUCTION AFTER WARS W 2:45 – 5:35</b>	<b>M. Baskin SL 002</b>
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This course will explore sources of the new, post-cold war armed conflicts and reconstruction at the end of wars. It will explore international organizations, bad neighborhoods, ideology, identity politics and the drive for resources. It will examine third-party intervention; how wars end; and postwar economic, political and social reconstruction. It will consider cases from Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

The class will address current issues under discussion in New York and international capitals, as well as the deeper dynamics of these conflicts. It will address priorities, decision-making, unintended consequences and formal and informal national-international relationships. Students will employ class discussions, written exercises and role playing in simulations in order to understand the logic of different vantage points (international-local, Government-NGO, Critical-Constructive) and underlying dynamics of national-international conflict management.

<b>POS 495Z (8922)</b>	<b>RESEARCH IN WASHINGTON ARRANGED</b>	<b>M.Malbin Wash., D. C.</b>
<b>POS 498/(4725)</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT STUDY (A-E) (PERM. OF INST.)</b>	<b>T. Church</b>
<b>POS 498/(4726)</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT STUDY (S/U) (PERM. OF INST.)</b>	<b>T. Church</b>
<b>POS 498Z (4765)</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT STUDY – WRITING INTENSIVE ARRANGED (A-E GRADING)</b>	<b>T. Church</b>
<b>POS 499Z (4766)</b>	<b>HONORS THESIS ARRANGED</b>	<b>M. Schoolman</b>

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.