

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY
Department of Political Science
GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: FALL 2009

POS 500/R (25636/25638/)	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY T 5:45 – 8:35	T. SHANKS
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John Locke figures auspiciously and notoriously in the history of political thought as a founding father of Anglo-American liberalism, an agent of British imperialism, an architect of an emerging capitalist subjectivity, theorist of political freedom, and defender of the rule of law. Across these many representations, Locke most consistently appears as a thinker known above all for tying politics to rationality. Locke's legacy continues to be invoked today by critics and admirers alike who seek to assert and/or contest the nature of rationality required for political freedom, equality and critique. What should we make of this legacy?

The course will begin with Locke's classic political text, *The Second Treatise of Government* and its most prominent interpretations and critiques circulating in political theory today. From there, we will broaden our examination of the Lockean corpus to texts less traditionally associated with his political thought, e.g. the *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, to consider how Locke's political text might be reconsidered in relation to his understanding of reason, language, and human experience.

POS 513 (31474)	FIELD SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY T 5:45 – 8:35	H. JARMAN
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This course introduces students to public policy and the policy process in the United States. In it, we focus on important theories of how policymaking works in the United States from pressures on legislators to make policy, adapt policy, implement it, and the effect it has on citizens' individual lives. We take a broad overview of the classics as well as look at new directions in contemporary policy research. This course is recommended for students who are interested American politics broadly or policy students looking for theoretical background.

POS 514 (29398)	INTRO TO DISCIPLINE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE T 2:45-5:35	E. SOMMER
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This course is designed as an introduction to study design, strategies, data collection and measurement in empirical political science. This course will introduce students to a wide range of methods of inquiry, including qualitative case studies, large-N statistical survey research, formal models, laboratory experiments, computer simulations, content analysis, and interviews. This course will examine the strengths and weaknesses of individual approaches, as well as the benefits of multi-methods designs. Finally, the course will explore ethical considerations in research.

POS 516 (22958)	INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL INQUIRY T 5:45 – 8:35	D. ROUSSEAU
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This course is designed as an introduction to study design, strategies, data collection and measurement in empirical political science. This course will introduce students to a wide range of methods of inquiry, including qualitative case studies, large-N statistical analysis, survey research, formal models, laboratory experiments, computer simulations, content analysis, and interviews. This course will examine the strengths and weaknesses of individual approaches, as well as the benefits of multi-method designs. Finally, the course will explore ethical considerations in research.

POS 520/R (30338/30340)	AMERICAN FEDERALISM / INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS M 2:45 – 5:35	J. ZIMMERMAN RI 288
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The seminar examines the constitutional, political, and theoretical dimensions of American federalism, including the tensions between the planes of government, interstate relations, state-local relations, and the problem-solving capabilities of the federal system. Particular emphasis is placed upon the formal powers of each plane of government, the politics of employing these powers, and the limitations upon these powers. The major focus of the seminar is the political significance of the use of preemption powers by Congress to restructure national-state-local relations.

POS 522 (32162)	POLITICS AND POLICY M 5:45 – 8:35	R. NAKAMURA
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This course is about the policy process. Typically the process is subdivided into a series of activities: setting the agenda, formulating alternatives, making choices, implementing decisions, and assessing results. While most would agree that these are the parts, there is considerable controversy about how they relate to one another. The course will examine the major ways in which the process is conceptualized and research questions operationalized: (1) rational models of decision making found in the prescriptive literature, in budget and management innovations, and in formal requirements for bureaucratic decisions; (2) incrementalist models including some of those found in policy histories and development; (3) and more politically driven models such as Kingdon's garbage can model and others.

POS 526/R **FEDERALISM AND SEPARATION OF POWERS** **J. NOVKOV**
(32166/32167) **TTH 1:15 – 2:35**

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). Course will incorporate elements of pedagogical training for future constitutional law instructors.

POS 531/R **THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS** **M. MALBIN**
(32163/32164) **W 5:45 – 8:35**

This is basically a reading seminar about the U.S. Congress with some forays into state and local legislative politics. Topics will vary, but typically will include theories of representation, congressional history, elections, careers, committees, leadership, House-Senate differences and a review of the major approaches to studying and evaluating the legislative process.

POS 533/R **WOMEN AND POLITICS** **S. FRIEDMAN**
(32770) **TH 5:45 – 8:35**

Recent electoral events as well as contemporary policy debates raise important considerations as to the role of women in politics. What factors enhance the chances for women's political participation? Do women bring different perspectives to politics and leadership? Do they behave differently while in office? Are their "interests" being adequately represented? Beginning with debates about the roles of women in the larger society and then considering women's activities in a variety of political settings (electoral participation, institutions and the policymaking process), it will be the purpose of this class to consider and disentangle the multiple and sometimes conflicting perspectives on the above often difficult questions. Thus, we will highlight the multiple perspectives (both theoretical and methodological) which have been used to study women and politics, and we will consider women's roles in a variety of (mostly domestic but also some international) political settings.

POS 541 **FIELD SEMINAR IN PUBLIC LAW** **J. NOVKOV**
(32165) **T 5:45 – 8:35**

Field seminar in public law. Covers major approaches to public law, including attitudinalism, strategic behavior, political development, and law and society. Required for students majoring or minoring in public law.

POS 551/R **DEMOCRATIZATION** **E. HOFFMANN**
(30348/30350) **TH 2:45 – 5:35**

This is a seminar on comparative political economy. We will focus on governmental authority and corporate power in modern democracies; on varieties of democracy and capitalism and of democratization and marketization; on structural and cultural legacies, political and social institutions, and domestic and foreign policies; and on the "waves" of democratization and marketization since the mid-1970s, with special emphasis on the current global and multidimensional crisis.

POS 554/R **POLITICAL VIOLENCE, INSURGENCY** **B. EARLY**
(27750/27754) **W 5:45 – 8:35**

This course will offer broad overviews of the debates surrounding the causes, effectiveness, and consequences of terrorism, the groups that engage in it, and the challenges to national and international security it poses. The course will explore what terrorism is, why it is used, and what affects the prevalence of its use. While the course will emphasize the academic study of terrorism, it will also explore the policy implications of the theories and analytical frameworks studied within the class. Significant attention will be given to the conceptual, methodological, and empirical challenges involved in studying terrorism. Students will be expected to produce an original piece of scholarship related to terrorism or a white paper on a terrorism-related policy issue.

POS 563/R **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN PEOPLE'S** **C. CHEN**
(32168/32169) **REPUBLIC OF CHINA**
M **5:45 – 8:35**

This is a graduate course designed to provide an in-depth survey of the main theoretical, empirical, and methodological approaches to the study of Chinese politics, and to situate these approaches within the broader field of comparative politics. The first part of the course covers the recent political history of China, emphasizing the period after 1949. In the second part of the course, we turn to a closer examination of key issues in the contemporary study of Chinese politics, including political institutions, economic reform, political participation, social movements, nationalism, globalization, and foreign policy. Students will be exposed to the key secondary literature on these subjects. Finally, we will conclude with an assessment of the nature and the future of the current Chinese regime. The course aims to prepare interested graduate students not only for further research and teaching about China, but also for research that involves comparison with other cases and on comparative politics more generally.

POS 567/R **CONTENTIOUS POLITICS** **M. WEISS**
(31312/31826) **W** **5:45 – 8:35**

This course will focus on key approaches to the study of contentious politics. We will explore these both through key methodological and theoretical works, and through close examination of canonical texts, primarily exemplary comparative case studies. While we will cover specific geographical or substantive cases, the analytical emphasis of the class is more on the "how" than the "what." Written assignments will include an annotated bibliography and a substantial final paper.

POS 570 **FIELD SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS** **R. KOSLOWSKI**
(22960) **M** **5:45 – 8:35**

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 571 **INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY** **G. NOWELL**
(32322) **TH** **5:45 – 8:35**

This seminar will deal in international financial crises from the nineteenth century to the present. Attention will be given to banking, central bank behavior, trade and trade deficits, as well as economic recovery programs. This is a politics class, not an economics class, but some economic theory will be presented. There are no pre-requisites.

POS 606 **SOCIAL CAPITAL & PUBLIC POLICY** **A. JONES**
(30362) **TH** **5:45 – 8:50**

Examines the role of social networks in formation, passage and implementation of public policy. Focus on political science approaches but includes sociological, anthropological and historical perspectives. Appropriate for both MA and PhD students. **(Crossed with PAD/PUB 606)**

POS 663/R **COMPARATIVE POLICY SYSTEMS** **H. SIMS**
(26276/) **TH** **5:45 – 8:50**

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. **Crossed with PAD/PUB 663**

**POS 695
(30386)**

**RESEARCH & WRITING SEMINAR I
F 1:15 – 3:30**

D. ROUSSEAU

This required course, taken in the fall of the second year PhD program, guides students toward the completion of a major research paper, fit for submission to an academic conference or journal. Students examine strategies of effective research questions, literature review, research design, and persuasive argument while they develop a research proposal and a journal article. Students workshop drafts of their work throughout the semester.

POS 697	SELECTED PROBLEMS - POS RESEARCH ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)	AII FACULTY
POS 698	MASTERS ESSAY ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)	AII FACULTY
POS 798	READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE ARRANGED (PERM OF INST.)	AII FACULTY
POS 897	INDEPENDENT RESEARCH POS ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT <u>ONLY</u>)	AII FACULTY
POS 899	DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT <u>ONLY</u>) ABD STATUS ONLY	AII FACULTY