

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

POS 500 / R **Political Philosophy** **P. Breiner**
(7150/9022) **T** **5:45 – 8:35** **DR 346**

In this course we will examine two of the most significant theorists to map out the meaning of modern politics and economy: Karl Marx and Max Weber. Using Marx's political writings and *Capital* and Weber's *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Economy and Society* and his political writings as our central texts, we will address the following issues: What are the origins of modern capitalism and how has it organized our everyday life? More specifically, what does it mean to even discover "an origin" for capitalism? In what ways has political economy shaped our understanding of politics and in what ways is politics an activity with its own logic of power and authority. Is there a form of political order beyond that of professional politicians, parties, and administration? Given the connection between socialism and the democratic revolution, can socialism claim to be such an order? Finally, we will examine how each theorist analyzes the kind of person(s) modern culture has cultivated.

POS 506 / R **IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT** **R. Nakamura**
(6347/9023) **M** **5:45 – 8:35** **MI 215**

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 **EMPIRICAL DATA ANALYSIS** **S. Friedman**
(7292) **M** **5:45 – 8:35** **DR 313A**

Assuming little to no student familiarity—and even some trepidation—this course provides an overview of basic statistical methods for the social sciences. We begin at the beginning, examining simple but nonetheless critical univariate statistics. With a primary focus on OLS regression, we then spend the majority of the class studying techniques designed to test hypotheses involving an increasing number of independent variables. We also spend considerable time highlighting the importance of the assumptions on which these techniques are based, consider methods of statistical significance to generalize from samples to larger populations and provide an introduction to more advanced though increasingly popular techniques including probit and logit analysis. Throughout, the focus will be consumer friendly; we will critique social science articles based on statistical methods and, using STATA, we will get a lot of practice applying what we have learned to some interesting data sets. By the end of the course, students should thus become better consumers of statistical methods, demonstrate competence and understanding of introductory statistics and show some facility toward applying these methods to social science problems of interest to them.

POS 521 **FIELD SEMINAR - AMERICAN POLITICS** **J. Cruz**
(4512) **W** **5:45 – 8:35** **DR 217**

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 522 **STATE GOVERNMENT** **J. Zimmerman**
(9011) **T** **2:45 – 5:35** **ARR**

An analysis of factors pertaining to the viability of state governments through an examination of intergovernmental relations; the interdependent roles of the Governor, State Legislature and courts in policy-making and implementation; the interaction of political parties and interest groups with formal institutions and processes, and problems in selected functional areas. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the formal powers of each plane of government, limitations upon these powers, proposals for reallocation of powers, and legislative-gubernatorial relations. Although the seminar deals with all states, special emphasis will be placed upon New York State government and politics.

**POS 537
(9021)**

**THE LEGAL PROCESS
TH 4:15 – 7:05**

**J. NOVKOV
DR 217**

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 540
(9012)**

**URBAN POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES
MW 4:15 – 5:35
CROSSED W/ APLN540, ASOC 540, RPUB540**

**C. SCALLY
AS 121 and 123**

**POS 550
(6089)**

**FIELD SEMINAR – COMPARATIVE POLITICS
TH 2:45 – 5:35**

**E. Hoffmann
DR 346**

This field seminar will address major theoretical, methodological, substantive issues in comparative political studies. Diverse theoretical paradigms, research methods, and substantive foci will be analyzed, compared, and evaluated. Ample attention will be paid to the history of ideas and ideologies and of theories and metatheories. All of political science's subfields (especially international relations) and several cognate disciplines (especially economics, sociology, and history) will help us describe and explain the norms and forms of state-society relations in various contexts. The purpose of this seminar is not only to survey contentious issues but to help students develop reasoned and informed views on these issues and to enhance students' analytical and critical skills.

**POS 553 / R
(5594/7973)**

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

**H. Sims
MI 118**

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 561 / R
(9013/9017)**

**NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING
T 5:45 – 8:35**

**C. Chen
DR 105**

Examines the role of information technology in globalization, democratization, diplomacy, security and international development. Reviews previous episodes of transformative changes in communications to place contemporary changes in a broader historical context and considers theoretical explorations of the relationship between information technologies and global politics.

**POS 572
(9496)**

**COMPARATIVE FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY
W 5:45 – 8:35**

**H. Jarman
DR 115**

This class deals with how developed countries behave towards developing countries. Why do industrialized countries feel the need to give grants, loans and special trade preferences to developing countries? What factors determine how these resources are distributed? Are the rules governing global finance 'fit for purpose'? The course tackles these questions by analyzing some broad themes: part one places the course in the context of a post-9/11, economically unstable world, part two examines domestic pressure for change, and part three deals with multiple levels of policymaking. Finally, we look at two case studies: the role of foreign economic policy in preventing the spread of AIDS, and how the rapidly expanding Chinese economy is affecting industrialized states. By the end of the course, you should have an appreciation of the underlying structural and cultural differences between modern industrial countries and how these affect their allocation of aid, finance, and trade preferences.

**POS 583
(9014)**

**INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORGANIZATION
T 5:45 – 8:35**

**D. Rousseau
DR 313A**

The purpose of this course is three-fold. First, the course will introduce students to a wide range of theories related to international institutions, international law, and social mobilization. Second, the course will examine the role of institutions in a number of issue areas ranging from human rights and genocide to landmines and weapons of mass destruction. Third, the course will require students to conduct original research in the area of international institutions. Course requirements include an article-length final paper, weekly reaction papers, and discussion leadership.

**POS 584 / R
(9016/9018)**

**GLOBAL SECURITY
M 5:45 – 8:35**

**T. WALKER
DR 217**

This seminar in American foreign policy (POS 584) has four broad objectives. First, this course will provide a sound understanding of American foreign policy that will help prepare you to teach an introductory course in the subject. The first three meetings will be devoted to a broad overview of the major concepts and persistent themes in American foreign policy. The following meetings will be more intensive examinations of certain topics. A second objective aims at polishing presentation and teaching skills. Class presentations and active participation will therefore play an important role in this seminar. A third objective is to improve research and revision skills. We will therefore spend considerable time on how research puzzles emerge, clarify, and develop. A major research paper—delivered in several stages—will be required. A fourth goal of this seminar is to place American foreign policy within a broader theoretical context of the discipline of international relations. This objective raises several questions. How do theories of foreign policy relate to systemic theories like neorealism? Can the study of foreign policy become more comparative and rigorous? Is the American approach to foreign policy relatively unique when compared to other major powers?

POS 603 / R **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY:** **M. SCHOOLMAN**
(9197/9198) **"POLITICS AND POSTMODERNISM"** **DR 313A**
TH 2:45 – 5:35

Important texts shaping contemporary political theory. This course will focus on major contemporary political theorists whom students should read in preparation for their Ph.D. major field examinations in political theory and to write a dissertation prospectus. Among the political theorists and their work to be read and discussed are Hannah Arendt (On Revolution), Leo Strauss (Natural Right and History), Juergen Habermas (Philosophical Discourse of Modernity), Giles Deleuze (A Thousand Plateaus), John Rawls (Political Liberalism), Jean Lyotard (The Postmodern Condition), Michel Foucault (Power/Knowledge), and a work from the new field of comparative political theory, among others. Students enrolling for this course will have the opportunity to decide by January 15 which political theorists and texts they want to focus on for the semester.

POS 696 **Selected Problems in Political Science Research:** **A. Jones**
(9019) **Research and Writing Seminar Part II (2)** **RI 002**
W 5:45 – 8:35

This course, which is taken in the spring of the second year of the PhD program, focuses on the implementation of the research design created in POS 695 and the production of a final paper suitable for publication or conference presentation. Students will conduct and analyze original research as well as produce drafts under the guidance of a course instructor and faculty mentor from their subfield. Students will present their final results in a research conference at the end of the spring semester. RPOS 695 is a prerequisite for this course.

POS 631 **LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP** **J. Zimmerman**
(4650) **Arranged**

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

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

POS 702 **POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION** **H. Sims**
(9020) **TH 5:45 – 8:50** **DR 115**

Comprehensive perspective on the political dimension of public administration in industrial democracies, especially the United States. Relationships between administrative agencies and chief executives, legislative bodies, courts, media, and interest groups examined. Issues raised by federalism and privatization probed. Focus on whether bureaucracy can be kept safe for democracy. Prerequisite: Pad 500 or the equivalent recommended. **Crossed with PAD 702.**

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)