RPOS 501  Field Seminar in Political Theory.  P. Breiner
(9944)  M  5:45-8:35  Husted 015
This seminar provides an overview of some fundamental questions and fundamental texts in political theory, both past and present. It also addresses some of the major debates about how political theory should be studied, including problems of methodology in interpreting political theory. I have structured the course so that it will alternate between three dimensions of political theory: in-depth textual examination of certain key thinkers in political theory (specifically, Plato, Machiavelli, Rousseau, Rawls, and Hannah Arendt); textual commentary on these thinkers; and contemporary work that uses these thinkers as a point of departure but presses the problems they raise in new directions. We will close the course with debates about how political theory should be studied. The course is not only directed to political theorists but any graduate student in political science who would like to engage with some of the core arguments in political theory that inform inquiry in political science. Indeed, one of the points of the course is to show how political theories often assume different kinds of political science as their background.

RPOS 513  Field Seminar in Public Policy  P. Strach
(9945)  Th  2:45-5:35  Husted 015
This course introduces students to public policy and the policy process in the United States and in comparative context. In it, we focus on important theories of how policymaking works 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 or comparative politics broadly or policy students looking for theoretical background.

RPOS 517  Empirical Data Analysis  J. Karreth
(4868)  M  2:45-5:35  Husted 006
Assuming little to no participant familiarity with quantitative methods--and even some trepidation toward statistics--this course provides an introduction to basic statistical methods for the social sciences. Upon successful completion, course participants will be better consumers of statistical methods, have acquired competence and understanding of introductory statistics and be able to apply these methods to social science problems of interest to them. The course also prepares participants for taking more advanced and specialized quantitative methods courses. Special emphasis is placed on applied data analysis. Participants will work with a variety of hands-on exercises to prepare them to conduct their own research projects, from data collection and management to presenting research findings. Excerpt of topics covered: overview of quantitative approaches to empirical social science and causal inference; univariate statistics; hypothesis testing; bivariate and multiple regression; assumptions underlying the linear regression model; and extensions of linear regression, including generalized linear models. No prior knowledge in statistics is required or expected.
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.

Characteristics of political behavior that are peculiar to, or more strongly pronounced in, urban settings including factions and bossism, city-town-county tensions, politics of planning, zoning, and other decisions, ward and precinct organization activity, and voting behavior. Cities in the Capital District are used for laboratory work.

This seminar in American Political Development examines one of the fastest-growing approaches to the study of American Politics, the historical approach. Popularly known as APD, American Political Development as a field sweeps across the entire terrain of American politics rather than concentrating on only a single area. In the seminar, we will consider APD scholarship on American institutions, political culture, political economy, race and gender, and public policy. Readings will be substantial but writing assignments will be modest.

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 with a focus on the bifurcation between theories that emphasize the “universal” (the homogenizing effects of specific processes or variables) and the “particular” (the persistence of distinctive historical legacies and trajectories). It then examines the recent debates between rational-choice, cultural, and structuralist scholars, and discusses the major methodological issues in comparative politics, considering the trade-offs between varieties of formal, quantitative, and qualitative methods. 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 comparatists 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.

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<td>Democratization</td>
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<td>RPOS 554/R</td>
<td>Political Violence, Insurgency,</td>
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<td>RPOS 598</td>
<td>Methods in Spatial Analysis</td>
<td>M. Ingram</td>
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relations among units. Further, notions of diffusion, spread, or contagion inhere in many existing theories, but are rarely examined empirically with appropriate methods. Again, spatial analysis lends itself to the study of diffusion and similar processes by explicitly accounting for dependence among units of analysis. Lastly, the methods of spatial analysis can be extended to examine broader notions of interdependence, including non-geographic, relational forms of connectivity among units, blending into network analysis.

In this class, students are expected to gain a practical, working understanding of the concept of dependence, how to measure dependence using weights matrices, theoretical implications derived from the interdependence of units, how to collect data and organize data sets for spatial analysis, visualizing spatial data using GIS and mapping software, basic exploratory techniques (e.g., cluster analysis), as well as more advanced applications to test hypotheses using spatial econometrics. The main requirement is either (a) the replication of the analysis in a published paper using spatial analysis, or (b) an original research paper applying both exploratory and explanatory techniques of spatial analysis.

RPOS 603/R
Contemporary Political Theory
M. Schoolman
(5328, 5329) W 5:45-8:35 Husted 012
"The Politics of Aesthetics." This course will take up a variety of aesthetic theories and examples of works of art that have been analyzed in light of various aesthetic theories. Readings will include works by Friedrich Schiller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Walter Benjamin, Gilles Deleuze, and Jacques Ranciere. Our work will be guided by an interest in how aesthetic theory can serve as the basis for interpreting and determining the politics of various art forms, including literature, poetry, painting, and popular culture, especially film.

RPOS 604
Inequality and Public Policy
J. Dodge
(6229) M 5:45-8:35
This course addresses the formulation and implementation of public policies that seek to end inequalities based on gender, race, class, sexual identity and/or other categories of marginalization. Theoretical and case study readings focus on the challenges, paradoxes and successes of a variety of social change initiatives. Prerequisite: Wss 525 (Feminist Thought and Public Policy) recommended.

RPOS 605
Migration & Membership
R. Koslowski
(9958) M 5:45-8:35 Husted 304
Surveys dilemmas faced by local, national and international policymaking bodies addressing population movement. Attention on the political and policy dimensions, including debates about national identity, immigration policy, political rights of immigrants, and integration (assimilation) policies. U.S., international and comparative contexts examined.

RPOS 612
Preparing for the Professoriate
B. Franchini
(7498) Th 1:15-3:15 Chemistry 151
Students will develop a working knowledge of the American system of higher education, an understanding of what it means to be a professional academic, and the processes common to tenure-track academic positions. This course will be taught in conjunction with the Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership. Topics include: Transitioning from Student to
Professional, Understanding Institution Types, The Academic Job Market, What Successful New Faculty Know, Understanding the Tenure Process, Balancing Faculty Commitments of Research, Teaching and Service, Movements in Institutional Change to Improve Learning, Department and Institutional Assessment. Prerequisites: Admission to a terminal degree program; CAS 601, PAD 590 or POS 611; and permission of instructor.

RPOS 618 Qualitative Methods  
J. Novkov  
(9959)  
T 2:45-5:35  
Husted 006
This course examines qualitative research and how it fits in the broader discipline of political science. It covers the contributions and limitations of qualitative research; the nuts and bolts of conducting qualitative research; and how to analyze the results. Prerequisites: Pos 516, Pos 517 or equivalent.

RPOS 696 Research & Writing Seminar II  
M. Schoolman  
(5302)  
M 2:45-5:35  
Husted 012
This course is the second half of a year-long research and writing seminar – POS 695 & POS 696 – in which students concentrate on further developing a paper that is eligible for submission to an academic journal and presentation at a professional conference. Students in POS 695 have been developing a paper for publication and presentation and will continue to refine their work in POS 696 with the supervision of a faculty mentor who has agreed to serve as their faculty mentor. The work that students will develop and revise for publication and presentation at the conclusion of POS 695 reached 25 or more pages and included substantial bibliographies. At the end of the spring semester all students in POS 696 are required to present their research papers to the faculty of the Department of Political Science as a whole.

RPOS 697 SELECTED PROBLEMS - POS RESEARCH  
All Faculty  
Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

RPOS 698 MASTERS ESSAY  
All Faculty  
Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

RPOS 729/R Seminar in Public Law  
S. Stohler  
(9963, 9964)  
M 5:45-8:35  
Husted 308
Judicial Power: Comparative Perspective on Normative & Empirical Issues
Over the past four decades, a wide variety of courts have exercised increasing powers over government officials in ways that appear to contrast sharply with historical trends. In this course, we will examine whether this shift represents an increase in judicial power and, if so, the causes of this shift. We will also examine whether a shift to judicial governance is normatively desirable. The course will give substantial attention to courts in the United States as well as other world regions, including Europe, Latin America, South Asia, and Africa.

RPOS 783 Selected Topics in Public Policy  
Z. Barta  
(9965)  
W 12:10-3:00  
Draper 246
Public Spending and Fiscal Policy
This course focuses on the politics of public finances. It explores the social conflicts surrounding taxation, public spending, and public debt, the role played by different political actors and institutions in fiscal policy choices, and the influence of non-governmental and supra-national organizations (like rating agencies or the International Monetary Fund) on national public finance. It seeks to answer questions like ‘Why do different countries spend and tax so differently?’ ‘Why do some countries get dangerously indebted?’ ‘How do others keep their budgets in balance?’ The course relies primarily on lectures and class discussion. The last classes are set aside for projects analyzing the significant problems of several countries in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis.

RPOS 798  READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE  All Faculty
        Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

RPOS 897  INDEPENDENT RESEARCH POS  All Faculty
        Arranged (Permission of Instructor)
        LOAD CREDIT ONLY

RPOS 899  DOCTORAL DISSERTATION  All Faculty
        Arranged (Permission of Instructor)
        LOAD CREDIT ONLY, ABD STATUS ONLY