### Political Science Courses

**RPOS 101  INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS**  
Jessica Pidgeon  
2191 4W1  
ONLINE  
This course will undertake a broad and critical survey of American politics. Emphasis will be placed on the understanding of fundamental concepts, themes, and historical and current controversies in American politics. Subjects to be explored include the Founding, parties and elections, national institutions, civil liberties, movements, and media, among others.  
**Gen Ed: US History, Social Sciences.**

**RPOS 101  INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS**  
Anne Hildreth  
2192 4W2  
ONLINE  
This course will introduce you to the workings of American politics and its key actors, institutions and policies. We begin at the beginning: the first section of the course reviews the views, debates and conflicts dating from the founding period in American politics. In examining the actions of the framers of the constitution we explore how they resolved their differences and the role the conflicts of their time play in our 21st century lives. The course examines the role of the public and elections, the workings of the major institutions of government and the ways actors inside and outside of government impact the policy making process.  
**Gen Ed: US History, Social Sciences.**

**RPOS 102 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**  
Nolan Fahrenkopf  
2195 6W1 MTWTHF 9:30AM-10:50AM  
HU129  
This course is an introduction to the theories and practices of international relations and comparative politics. We will explore how various actors (for example, states, individuals, and non-governmental organizations) interact with one another in the international arena, as well as essential issues and problems that comparativists wrangle with, including war and democratization. We will consider questions such as: What is a state? What is a nation? Why do wars occur? How does anarchy in the international system affect the behavior of states? What causes terrorism? By the end of the course you should develop a better understanding of many of the essential issues, theories, and problems that political scientists research, and you should acquire a rudimentary knowledge of the methods that are used.  
**Gen. Ed: Social Sciences, Challenges for the 21st Century.**

**RPOS 103 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY**  
Eileen Brino  
2123 4W1 MTWTHF 12:30PM-2:50PM  
HU128  
This course is an introduction to political theory and examines some of the major texts and thinkers of the Western political tradition. Some of the theorists that will be read in this course include Locke, Rousseau, Tocqueville and Wollstonecraft. Some broad themes central to understanding political life that will be discussed include the sovereign state, contract theory, freedom, equality, democracy and human rights. The way in which different political theories can give expression to various forms of political institutions will also be examined throughout the course.  
**Gen. Ed: Humanities, International Perspectives.**
Ever wonder why…

- The US was unable to pass gun control legislation that would have expanded background checks on gun purchases in spite of over 90% of the public being in favor?
- The US is among the few countries internationally that does not guarantee paid sick leave or paid maternity leave?
- The government had to shut down in 2013 costing the US economy $24 billion due to a partisan stalemate in Congress over health reform?

This course introduces students to the policy making process. As a student in this course, you 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. Throughout the course, we will ask questions such as: Where do ideas for policies come from in the first place? Why do some ideas get attention while other problems are ignored? What does it take to get a policy formulated, 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? There are no prerequisites for this course. Required for Public Policy majors. Gen Ed: Social Sciences.

RPOS 204 AMERICAN POLITICS IN FILM Jose Cruz
2427 ONLINE

RPOS 316 METHOD TOOLS FOR PUB POLICY Matthew Ingram
2201 ONLINE

Introduction to research design, statistics, and computer usage in public policy with an emphasis on the interpretation of results. Students examine experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental research designs, summarize and present univariate distributions, perform bivariate and multivariate analyses including simple cross-tabulations and multiple regression analysis, and learn to use a computer to perform statistical and data management operations. Required for public affairs majors. Required for Public Policy majors. Only one version of RPOS/RPAD 316 may be taken for credit. Gen. Ed: Math.

RPOS 334 AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES & GROUPS Jose Cruz
2428 4W3 HU 133

RPOS/RPAD 343 HOMELAND SECURITY Rick Mathews
1505/2459 4W1 ONLINE

This undergraduate survey course introduces students to the US government response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, specifically, the second largest reorganization of the executive branch that produced the US Department of Homeland Security. Topics examined include border and transportation security, customs, immigration policy and enforcement; preparedness and capabilities building, response and resilience; critical infrastructure protection; threat and vulnerability assessment and risk management; cyber security; counter-terrorism. Although the course is primarily focused on US federal government activities, it will also examine state and local dimensions of homeland security as well as US government interactions with other countries in the homeland security domain. Only one version of RPOS 343 may be taken for credit. This course is in the American Politics concentration.
RPOS 346  LAW, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY  David Jones
1852  4W2  ONLINE
This course will examine how law, institutions, and society interact to define the contested boundaries of rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identifying people (LGBTQ). To do so we will use legal and political scholarship related to legal mobilization and LGBTQ rights. The session will be broken into topics (e.g. adoption, employment, marriage, military, school, sexual behavior) but we will also cover important events as they happen chronologically. The readings may be challenging for non-Public Law students but we will start the first few days with a crash course in the judicial system and LGBTQ identities.  This course is in the Public Law Concentration.

RPOS 351  EUROPEAN POLITICS  Injeong Hwang
2507  6W3  ONLINE
This course is a comparative introduction to the governmental systems and current political issues in Europe, with a concentration on Western Europe. The focus will be on a selection of European states and the European Union (EU) as an overarching integration project. We will start the course with a short overview of the countries and the history of Europe. We will then examine the institutions, parties and political processes that affect political behavior in representative European democracies. In the second half of the course we will explore the European Union's development by addressing four main dimensions: its historical development, the main theories that explain its political evolution, the European institutional framework, and its main public policies.  Gen. Ed: International Perspectives.  This course is in the Global Politics concentration.

RPOS 356  RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY  Inga Miller
2430  6W1  ONLINE
This course provides a broad overview of Russian foreign policy. The first part of the course examines Russia's foreign policy in the light of major political theories and Russia's history. It also identifies various security and identity issues that are at the heart of Russia's foreign policy. The second part of this course focuses on Russia's foreign policy in the post-1991 period, concluding with an examination of Russia's current involvements in Ukraine and Syria. Familiarity with politics and history of Russia is desirable, but not prerequisite.  This course is in the Global Politics concentration.

RPOS 365  GOVERNMENT AND MASS MEDIA  Sean McKeever
1853  4W1  ONLINE
Everyone has an opinion on the media: "it is too biased," "it is too shallow," "it is the bedrock of free speech," and the like. In this course, we will dig deeper than anecdotal evidence and personal experience to try to discover what media is really like and what role it plays in the political realm. We will read a couple theories on media in America, we will briefly study the history of media in America, we will analyze some potentially inherent pitfalls of media, we will examine the various kinds of media and how the medium itself speaks, we will seek to understand the relationship between media and government, and we will debate the proper role of media in a democracy. We will explore how the media itself exerts political and governmental power and how it interacts with governmental and political power.  This course is in the American Politics concentration.

RPOS 367  POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST  Yeu-Fen Hsieh
2431  6W3  ONLINE
This course will introduce the recent history and politics of an area loosely defined as the “Middle East and North Africa” (MENA), usually referring to the countries and territories situated between parts of Western Asia and North Africa. The course will give an overview of the region and focus on selective countries, depending on the themes, which range from nationalism, colonialism, political economy, political institutions, regime types, state-society relations to foreign policy.  Prerequisite(s): prior knowledge of one or more countries in the region will be helpful, but not required; RPOS102 strongly recommended.  Gen. Ed: International Perspectives.  This course is in the Global Politics concentration.
RPOS 380  BASICS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW    Keon Weigold
2434   6W1        ONLINE
Analytical survey of the precedents and limitations of world law. The uses of law for the pacific settling of disputes and wars using varied texts, cases, and documents. *This course is in the Global Politics and Public Law concentrations.*

RPOS 383  AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY      Steve Sin
2473   6W3        ONLINE
American foreign policy is about the history, the values, and the institutions that determine how the United States conducts itself in the world. This course will consider U.S. foreign policy in the context of the following questions: What is the nature of power? How do we think the world should be? And, what we can do to affect history in a meaningful way? To these ends, we will consider theories of international relations, the values and ethics by which we judge foreign policy, and the institutions, tools, and tactics that go into forming foreign policy.

Ultimately, American foreign policy is about how the United States participates in and shapes the course of world history. Through greater understandings of how power, values, and institutions comprise U.S. foreign policy, the student becomes better empowered to engage, participate, and contribute to U.S. foreign policy and the fate of the world we inhabit. *This course is in the American Politics and Global Politics concentrations.*

RPOS 399/RPAD 366  INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY    Joshua Caldon
2510/2509  6W1        ONLINE
In his 2015 State of the Union Address, President Obama asserted "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change." Necessarily, an environmental threat like the one framed by President Obama affects countries other than the United States. In turn, finding solutions to mitigate, adapt and improve the international physical environment will depend on the relations between states and the policies they develop independently and mutually. This course will allow students to critically analyze present and historical international environmental concerns at an individual, group, and state level. In doing so, students will gain a more comprehensive understanding of shared environmental concerns and develop skills to discern how and why state and non-state actors address these environmental concerns. At the end of this course the student will be able to address specific international environmental issues that interest them. They will be able to effectively explain and communicate what influences the actors involved, and define possible policies options these actors are likely to promote and the likely reactions to these policy options by other actors. *This course is in the Global Politics concentration.*
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY COURSES

RPAD/RPOS 140 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY Katherine Slye
2405/2406 6W3 ONLINE

Ever wonder why…
- The US was unable to pass gun control legislation that would have expanded background checks on gun purchases in spite of over 90% of the public being in favor?
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RPAD/RPOS 343 HOMELAND SECURITY Rick Mathews
2459/1505 4W1 ONLINE

This undergraduate survey course introduces students to the US government response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, specifically, the second largest reorganization of the executive branch that produced the US Department of Homeland Security. Topics examined include border and transportation security, customs, immigration policy and enforcement; preparedness and capabilities building, response and resilience; critical infrastructure protection; threat and vulnerability assessment and risk management; cyber security; counter-terrorism. Although the course is primarily focused on US federal government activities, it will also examine state and local dimensions of homeland security as well as US government interactions with other countries in the homeland security domain. Only one version of RPOS 343 may be taken for credit.

RPAD 344 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ???
2462 4W2 ONLINE

This course provides a study of applicable policies, protocols, and laws that impact the practice of emergency preparedness at the federal, state, and local levels of government. The study includes a brief review of the history of emergency management setting the stage for an examination of "best practices" and philosophies. These drive the nation's preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts of various levels of emergencies and disasters which in turn helps facilitate a community's resilience in the face of disasters. The methodology used in this course includes classroom discussions and activities, studies of applicable case studies, and individual exploration resulting in a well crafted paper. Where applicable, simulation activities provide opportunities for the student to "experience" realistic situations similar to real-world emergencies and disaster operations. Prerequisite(s): RPAD/CEHC 101, Introduction to Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, recommended.

RPAD 366/RPOS 399 INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY Joshua Caldon
2509/2510 6W1 ONLINE

In his 2015 State of the Union Address, President Obama asserted "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change." Necessarily, an environmental threat like the one framed by President Obama affects countries other than the United States. In turn, finding solutions to mitigate, adapt and improve the
international physical environment will depend on the relations between states and the policies they develop independently and mutually. This course will allow students to critically analyze present and historical international environmental concerns at an individual, group, and state level. In doing so, students will gain a more comprehensive understanding of shared environmental concerns and develop skills to discern how and why state and non-state actors address these environmental concerns. At the end of this course the student will be able to address specific international environmental issues that interest them. They will be able to effectively explain and communicate what influences the actors involved, and define possible policies options these actors are likely to promote and the likely reactions to these policy options by other actors. This course is in the Global Politics concentration.

RPAD 438  US HEALTH POLICY AGE OF OBAMA  Stephen Weinberg
2508  6W3  ONLINE
How does “Obamacare” work, why is it designed the way it is, and what have its impacts been so far? This course will examine the Affordable Care Act (colloquially known as Obamacare) through the lens of economics. We will examine the main structure of the Affordable Care Act and how the various provisions address (or fail to address) such key economic issues as asymmetric information, market power, and economic justice. Finally, the course will review empirical evidence on the impacts of the law.

RPAD 470  GOVERNMENT INFORMATION STRATEGY & MANAGEMENT  Djoko Sayogo
2504  6W1  ONLINE
This course draws from literature and case studies to understand cultural differences in the concepts of digital government, practical applications for building information capabilities of organizations across national and cultural boundaries and understanding the behavioral aspects of digital government within the larger society and global economy. Topics include the global information environment; managing information in multi-national settings; information access, security, and privacy; information systems for international organizations; international trends in information and technology policies, and using information and technology for global collaborative networks.

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