

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY
Department of Political Science
GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: FALL 2010

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POS 500/R
(9540/9542)

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
T 5:45 – 8:35

P. BREINER

Equality–Right and Left: We hear at present numerous claims that the right-left continuum is outdated, that we live in a period of pluralism and post-partisanship. This seminar is going to examine the right-left continuum and its viability by reference to the concept of equality. The meaning of the concept of equality has been one of the major points of contention between right and left both as something to be limited by the right and something to be extended by the left and a dilemma for liberals who sometimes want to split the “difference” or contain egalitarian principles. We will therefore read various accounts of equality ranging from defenses of inequality with regard to citizenship and distribution of resources to liberal theories of justice that seek provide a range of distributions and political liberties while finding a place for inequality to left egalitarian criticisms of both views. In short, this course will focus on ways different political ideologies from right to left understand egalitarianism across two dimensions: concepts of political equality and democratic citizenship, and resource distribution, capabilities, and life chances.

POS 501
(17031)

FIELD SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY
TH 5:45 – 8:35

T. SHANKS

During the past quarter century political theory has exploded into a great variety of ways of thinking about politics and society, each with its own underlying assumptions and unique approach to its subject matter. Nevertheless, despite the remarkable creativity of political theory it is possible within the span of a semester's course to acquire a clear understanding of the dimensions of the field. In the three months that follow we will consider the field of political theory according to the terms by which political theorists currently understand their discipline and their work within it, including their special interests, assumptions, the histories of their respective orientations to politics and society, and the ways in which they distinguish their own approach to political theory from those of other political theorists. Importantly, the various forms of political theory will not be treated as emerging independently of one another, but will be examined as forms of contestation that developed in relation and also in opposition to each other and to the field of political science to which political theory belongs. At the same time, we will make an effort to determine the extent to which each form of political theory seeks to universalize its own approach, that is, to argue for the greater value of its own approach relative to competing theoretical approaches. While it is not possible to avoid entirely the impression that one or more approaches to political theory are being privileged over others, we will make every attempt to study each approach to political theory on its own terms. Among the approaches to be examined are Critical theory, Poststructuralism, Postmodernism, Interpretive theory, Democratic theory, the History of Political Thought and the "Canon," Identity theory, and others. At this early stage of the field seminar students should bear in mind that in the work of political theorists more than one of these approaches are often found together, which means that the terms used to describe their theoretical approaches are not entirely accurate and are somewhat artificial.

POS 513
(14072)

FIELD SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY
T 2:45 – 5:35

P. STRACH

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 in American politics broadly or policy students looking for theoretical background.

POS 514
(12766)

INTRO TO DISCIPLINE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
F 2:45-5:30

TBA

This course introduces the discipline of political science. It covers the history of the discipline and provides exposure to the individual fields. It also incorporates weekly discussion of professional issues in the discipline and in the academy more generally.

**POS 516
(7070)**

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL INQUIRY
T 5:45 – 8:35**

S. FRIEDMAN

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 522/R
(17021/17022)**

**STATE GOVERNMENT
M 2:45 – 5:35**

J. ZIMMERMAN

The values and trends conditioning the constitutional framework and intergovernmental relations of state government with national, local, and other state governments as they have evolved into the patterns prevalent today. The organization and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are examined with emphasis on the significant changes in their respective roles in policy formation and implementation, together with the interaction between the formal and the informal political institutions of state government. Selected problems of function, structure, and area are considered, as found in such topics as finance, education, health and welfare, regulation of economic enterprise, and planning.

**POS 523
(15038)**

**GOVERNMENT OF URBAN AREAS
M 7:15 – 10:05**

C. SCALLY

Examines policies and programs designed to reduce social and economic distress in U.S. communities. Focuses on local and neighborhood-based efforts to address problems of inadequate housing, unemployment, lack of community services and facilities, crime, etc. Considers role of government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations in community revitalization.

**POS 524/R
(17023/17024)**

**COMMUNITY POLITICS
TH 5:45 – 8:35**

J. CRUZ

This course focuses on power relations at the local level. During the first part of the course we will examine three classical political theory texts to glean insights about power, decision-making, and political leadership. We will use these insights as the theoretical context for our critique of contemporary community politics during the second part of the course. This part will primarily but not exclusively use case studies of small cities and neighborhoods within cities to take a critical look at the issues that local decision-makers face, the interests and interactions that shape how these issues are discussed, the processes whereby issues are negotiated and decisions made, the politics of inclusion and exclusion that structure these processes, and their outcomes.

**POS 526/R
(14828/14830)**

**FEDERALISM AND SEPARATION OF POWERS
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**

J. NOVKOV

This course will be run as a pedagogy seminar. It is designed for graduate students who anticipate teaching constitutional law or other courses on law for undergraduates in the future. While students will learn the same substantive material as undergraduates in the undergraduate class meetings, the graduate-only sessions and separate assignments will focus on pedagogy. Students should finish the term with a broad familiarity with common issues in teaching law to undergraduates and with sample syllabi and writing assignments for their own constitutional law classes. Students enrolling for four credits will also present guest lectures in the undergraduate class.

**POS 529
(12642)**

**LAW AND POLICY
W 5:45 – 8:35**

D. LIEBSCHUTZ

**POS 539/R
(17025/17026)**

**SEMINAR ON CAMPAIGN & ELECTIONS
W 5:45 – 8:35**

M. MALBIN

Some of the regular topics covered in this course include candidate emergence, incumbency, the electoral roles of parties and interest groups and communications strategies/media. In addition, the seminar looks at the interplay between rules or laws, contexts and outcomes.

POS 554/R **POLITICAL VIOLENCE, INSURGENCY** **B. EARLY**
(11460/11464) **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 570 **FIELD SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS** **D. ROUSSEAU**
(7072) **M** **5:45 – 8:35**

This purpose of this course is two-fold. First, the survey course is designed to introduce graduate students to a wide range of theories of international politics. During the course of the semester we will examine a wide variety of theories, including among others neo-realism, power transition theory, hegemonic stability theory, neo-liberalism, interdependence, the democratic peace, bureaucratic politics, organizational theory, constructivism, and decision making theory. Second, the course will sharpen students' research design skills. The written assignments require students to take the often abstract theories presented in the readings and develop practical research designs for testing hypotheses derived from the theories. The papers will not include data collection or the execution of actual tests. Rather, they will focus on the conceptual problems of designing tests which eliminate competing hypotheses, operationalizing variables, and identifying potential sources of data. Students' grades will be based on three short research designs and discussion leadership.

POS 571/R **INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY** **G. NOWELL**
(16252/16254) **T** **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 572 **COMPARATIVE FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY** **H. JARMAN**
(17041) **T** **5:45 – 8:35**

What are the consequences of the recent financial crisis for global politics? Why do industrialized countries feel the need to give grants, loans and special trade preferences to developing countries? How do political factors shape global markets? The course tackles these questions by analyzing some broad themes: part one places the course in the context of the recent crisis, part two examines domestic pressure to change the system, and part three deals with multiple levels of policymaking through a series of policy case studies. By the end of the course, you should have an appreciation of the underlying structural and political differences between modern industrial countries and how these affect the allocation of aid, finance, and trade preferences. This course combines elements of global politics, comparative politics and public policy, and is aimed at graduate students who want to write about and reflect on these topics in some depth.

POS 577 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & GLOBILIZATION** **R. KOSLOWSKI**
(17293) **T** **5:45 – 8:35**

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 623
(16552)**

**AFRICA IN WORLD POLITICS
TH 5:45 – 8:35**

A. SOMIDE

Despite having enormous natural resources, Africa remains the most marginalized continent in the political and economic affairs of the contemporary world. Moreover, recurrent violent communal and regional conflicts, coupled with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and economic and environmental scarcity, has caused widespread human insecurity throughout the continent.. This course examines the evolution of the international system since World War II and the implications and ramifications for Africa. We will survey dominant theoretical approaches in international relations and their relevance for our understanding of concepts such as state, sovereignty, power and security in the African context. The course also examines the rising role of non-state actors such as multinational corporations, regional trading blocs, ethnic militias, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations in conflict/cooperation and development in Africa. At the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the impact of globalization on the states and peoples of Africa, causes of conflict and cooperation in international relations, the impacts of the structure of international economy on economic development of African states, the emerging role of Africa in global energy security, and the U.S. national security interests and policies in Africa.

**POS 663
(10130)**

**COMPARATIVE POLICY SYSTEMS
TH 5:45 – 8:50**

H. SIMS

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
(13468)**

**RESEARCH & WRITING SEMINAR I
M 5:45 – 7:15**

A. HILDRETH

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.)**

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POS 698

**MASTERS ESSAY
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)**

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**POS 729
(17035)**

**SEMINAR IN PUBLIC LAW
TH 2:45 – 5:35**

J. NOVKOV

This course will address the intersection of legal studies and American political development. What do considering the institutional aspects of law and studying it through historical and developmental lenses enable us to understand about law as a political phenomenon? If we understand judges and other legal actors to be institutionally bounded and historically contextualized, how does this change the way we comprehend legal decision-making and legal change? What additional purchase can we gain on regimes, legal time, law's interactions with ideology and culture, and the relationship between law and power through these types of analyses? And what can thinking about law in an institutional sense bring back to the study of American politics?

**POS 789/R
(17287/17289)**

**SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS:
T 2:45 – 5:35**

V. ASAL

In this course we will examine several key questions: 1) Why are people excluded to start with? 2) What is political inclusion? 3) How can it be operationalized? 4) How can it be explained? In general the class aims to provide you with

an opportunity to gain knowledge of the breadth of the literature as well as an opportunity to learn about a particular area in depth. It will also lay out the key conceptual frameworks and methods that can be used to study these questions. Finally, and perhaps most importantly it will provide you with an opportunity for to do original research.

**POS 789/R
(17288/17290)**

**SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS:
W 5:45 – 8:35**

M. WEISS

This class will explore the politics and societies of Southeast Asia through a focus on significant texts on the region. We will begin with a brief overview of the region as a whole and prevailing theoretical lenses, then move on to a series of classic works covering a range of themes. Each student will write a substantial, comparative paper on one dimension of Southeast Asian politics. The course is designed for Southeast Asianists as well as those interested in comparative politics broadly or other economically and politically developing regions. Prior knowledge of Southeast Asia is helpful, but not required.

POS 798

**READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
ARRANGED (PERM OF INST.)**

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POS 897

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH POS
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT ONLY)**

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POS 899

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT ONLY)
ABD STATUS ONLY**

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