

**POS 102
(9869)**

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE &
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

S. SIN

***ONLINE COURSE**

Note: This course will be conducted completely online via the university's Blackboard system, to include assignment and exam submissions.

The course is an introduction to the actors, structure, issues, processes, and major theories of international relations and comparative politics. Throughout the course, we will examine several broad questions that scholars of international relations and comparative politics endeavor to address – questions such as 1) Why do wars occur; 2) How do wars come to an end; 3) What determines outcome of wars; 4) What is the relationship between international economics and world politics; 5) Why are some states able to become wealthy but some states continue to remain poor; 6) How do democratic states develop; 7) what are the causes of political violence; and 8) what role does civil society play in international politics?

The course will stress analytical thinking and empirical examination of international relations and comparative politics theories. By the end of the course, students should: 1) have a thorough understanding of the fundamental arguments of major international relations and comparative politics theories; 2) be able to analyze global political phenomena using these major theories; and 3) be able to conduct rudimentary empirically based political science research. The course will evaluate the students' mastery of the aforementioned learning objectives through a series of graded online instructor-moderated discussions; a series of graded quizzes; three short writing assignment, a midterm exam; and a final exam. **Gen. Ed: Social Sciences.**

**POS 102
(9868)**

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE &
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***BLENDED COURSE – ONLINE AND SATURDAY MORNINGS 10:00 – 2:00 pm**

Note: This course will be conducted as a hybrid course with approximately half of the course being conducted online and the remaining half of the course being conducted over six intensive Saturday sessions (2 to 4 hours per session). Students must participate in both online and face-to-face portions in order to be successful in the course.

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Gen. Ed: Social Sciences.

POS 103

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
TTH 10:15 - 11:35**

P. BREINER

STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR ONE DISCUSSION SECTION

This course, consisting of lectures and discussion sections, will introduce students to some of the major thinkers and some of the major questions of political theory. Though the course will read some of the classic political thinkers, like Plato, Rousseau, Locke, Marx, and Machiavelli, it will be organized around four major questions central to our understanding of politics: What do we mean by justice? What do we mean by democracy? What is property and what is its relation to politics? And how do we relate the demands of morality with those of politics? It will be an aim of the course to help students refine their capacity for political argument. However, beyond increasing their skill in political argument, the course seeks to teach students that seemingly abstract ideas have a lot of bearing on practical politics. **Gen. Ed: Humanities, International Perspectives.**

**POS 103
(8847)**

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
MWF 1:40 - 2:35**

W. NISHIYAMA

STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR ONE DISCUSSION SECTION

What is justice? What rights do we have and what justifies these rights? What is the best form of government and why? What is the relationship between the state and the citizen? This course attempts to answer these questions by considering the ideas of Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche, and Rawls. We will first, examine how one theorist builds upon the thoughts of previous theorists, if this is indeed the case. And second, we will apply the ideas of these theorists to contemporary issues in politics and to our personal lives. **Gen. Ed: Humanities, International Perspectives.**

**POS/PAD 140
(6514) (9186)**

**INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
TTH 8:45 - 10:05 AM**

E. PEREZ-CHIQUES

STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR THIS SECTION MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR ONE DISCUSSION SECTION

This course introduces students to the process of public policy making. This course analyzes public policy making as the outcome of a number of political actors and processes. 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. Through 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. **The course is a requirement for students in Rockefeller College's Public Policy program, and is also considered a Social Science course under the General Education requirements.**

TOPICS COURSES You may register for more than one of these; 204 topics are repeatable. You can take it more than once if the subject matter is different.

**POS 204Y
(8258)**

**THE POLITICS OF ELECTION REFORM
MWF 10:25-11:20**

A. HILDRETH

The 2012 elections (along with fascination about 2014 & 2016) form the backdrop for this look at important problems in our political process and the merits of a variety of reform proposals. The rules that structure politics and elections influence the decisions and behavior of all the participants and have significant implications for the quality of our democracy. Public participation and engagement, representation, each of these important features of our politics are shaped by the rules of the game. In this course you will work in cooperative teams to examine a series of reform problem areas and proposed changes to the nomination process, campaign finance rules, election, administration and redistricting opportunities and obstacles for political reform.

**POS 204Y
(8569)**

**LOBBYISTS & SPECIAL INTERESTS IN
NEW YORK GOV'T
TTH 10:15-11:35**

S. NEJAME

The purpose of this course is to explore the role of lobbying as part of a larger strategic campaign for influencing the political and statutory process. The role lobbyists play in the legislative arena can be compared to that of lawyers in the judicial arena. Just as lawyers provide the Trier of fact (judge or jury) with points of view on the legal issues pertaining to a case, lobbyists do the same providing local, state, and federal policymakers with points of view on public policy issues. In this course students will explore and understand some basic principles for effective lobbying. Using different cases from New York, we will examine a bit of the history of lobbying, its ethical standards, how it relates to campaigning, and the role of the media. Students will learn strategies for effective lobbying and have a chance to apply and practice them in a simulated classroom format.

COURSES IN POLITICAL THEORY

**POS 302
(9524)**

**HISTORY OF POLITICAL THEORY II
TTH 11:45 – 1:05**

T. SHANKS

History of Modern Political Thought. Modern political thought begins with idea of a radical break with the past, i.e. with tradition and a natural social and political order. From this idea of beginning politics anew emerges a new understanding of revolution and foundation that echoes today in the language of constitutions, human rights, and resistance. What kind of political freedom is inaugurated by such revolutionary reasoning? Does equality between rich and poor, men and women, colonizer and colonized require that we strip away our social and political identities and cultural traditions in order to start fresh? What are the costs of turning a blind eye to political history, economic inequality, or identity differences such as race, culture, and gender? In response to these questions, we will consider the various meanings of political freedom and equality offered by theorists of the social contract tradition (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau), their critics (Hume, Wollstonecraft, Burke), and the heirs to these debates who seek to consider political rationality and freedom in new ways (Mill, Marx, Arendt).

**POS 310
(9871)**

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**

S. MCKEEVER

The 20th century saw the rise of totalitarian states of the right (e.g., Nazi Germany) and of the left (e.g., the USSR) that threatened to tear the world apart. Amidst this political reality, freedom became one of the dominant concepts of 20th century political theory. The focus of this class will be the examination of a few of the most influential strands of 20th and 21st century political theory to answer two important questions: “What is freedom?” and “How can we be free?” These questions will cause us to ask if our society is a totalitarian society and to question the prospects of freedom in our society. As we will see, the thinkers we read will be divided with regards to the concept of freedom, the prospects of freedom, and the path to achieve freedom. Along the way, we will discover freedom’s relationship to truth, time, and art.

POS 419Z

**SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY -
THE POLITICS OF HAPPINESS**

T. SHANKS

(9595)

TH 2:45 – 5:35

Contemporary American society is endlessly fascinated with the question of what makes a happy life. Self-help books line the shelves telling readers how to have it all, slim down, shape up, and opt out. At the same time, each election cycle brings another round of the politics of marriage equality, choice, and family values. Behind this fascination is an important question of political theory and feminist politics: is happiness a private or a public concern? In this course, we will explore the role of happiness in the history of political thought, feminist critiques of the ‘happy home,’ and contemporary theorist’s considerations of the value of political unhappiness and happiness. This is a writing intensive course and a participation-focused seminar for students with prior courses in political theory and/or feminist theory, requiring weekly contributions, both oral and written. Assignments will include a weekly journal, two exams, and a lengthy final paper. Because the course meets only once a week, a strict attendance policy will be enforced.

COURSES IN AMERICAN POLITICS

**POS/PAD 321
(3732) (9069)**

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MWF 9:20 – 10:15**

J. ZIMMERMAN

An analysis of factors pertaining to the viability of state and local governments as political systems through an examination of intergovernmental relations; the interdependent roles of governors, legislatures and courts in policy-making and implementation; the organization, functions and jurisdiction of local governments; the interaction of political parties and interest groups with formal institutions and processes, and problems in selected functional areas. Emphasis is placed upon socio-economic and political trends leading to change in state and local governments, consequent issues raised and proposals made in response to such issues. Three equally weighted examinations and periodic quizzes will be administered. Each student must write a research paper on his/her home local government.

POS/PAD 325 GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF NEW YORK STATE F. MAURO
(3733) (9070) TH 5:45 – 8:35

Introduction to the major political and governmental institutions of New York State. Examines the historical, constitutional, and economic setting of government and politics in New York State; the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government with an emphasis on separation of powers and checks and balances among the branches; state-local relations and federal-state relations; and the nature of party competition and elections in New York's unusual multi-party system.

POS/PAD 329Z BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS M. CHRISTAKIS
(5580)(7308) TH 4:15 – 7:05

Examinations of political behavior within and among administrative agencies, focusing on the sources of power in the bureaucracy, and the ways in which agencies use their political resources to shape public policy. **Only one of RPAD 329 & RPOS 329 may be taken for credit. Political Science majors this course does not satisfy the upper level writing requirement.**

POS 331 AMERICAN LEGISLATURES S. FRIEDMAN
(3734) MWF 12:35 – 1:30

This course provides an introduction to the workings of the American Congress. We focus on the historical background/internal workings of the institution, the role of Congress as the representative voice of the people in legislative districts, and the role of Congress as an actor in the broader U.S. political system. Throughout, we will raise critical questions about the meaning.

POS 334 AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES & GROUPS S. KOCZAK
(9866) MW 5:45 – 7:05

The Founders of the United States warned us against "the evils of faction." And yet, the first thing they did after they began to implement the American experiment was to form factions. As they go, so do we.

POS 365 GOVERNMENT AND MASS MEDIA C. FERRADINO
(8570) TTH 2:45 – 4:05

Unlike other countries with government-controlled mass media, the American media are charged with the dual task of acting as a "watchdog" for government while also existing as a profit-driven industry. How can media be expected to preserve Constitutional ideals and foster civic participation while also having to maintain a healthy bottom line? Is this set-up fair? Is it feasible? These questions serve as the framework for the course and ones to which we will return throughout our study. To that end, we will look at institutional and policy effects media have on government, as well as the government's influence on this industry. Students also will be introduced to relevant topics such as the history of media and government, the regulatory process and policies, and media ownership. We will also explore other areas of the mass media that influence democratic participation and public perception such as political cartoons, magazines, television, movies, and the Internet, and examine the effects on citizens, politicians and the political process in general.

RPOS 399 CONTROVERSIES IN AMERICAN VALUES S. FRIEDMAN
(8574) MWF 9:20 – 10:15

Call it the reverence for our American political tradition or call it political indoctrination. Whatever you think of it, we have all been taught about concepts—equality, liberty, justice, and the like. This course takes a look at some "values" that have played a key role as part of American culture, examining alternative conceptualizations, current day debates and above all, the ways these concepts are relevant for each of us as 21st century American citizens. We begin with a brief look at where in the first place our values and beliefs come from (political socialization), spend the majority of the course considering a variety of American values and conclude with the application of these values to some current controversial issues.

**RPOS 399
(7808)**

**VOTING TRENDS IN
NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS
MW 4:15 – 5:35**

B. GYORY

This course will study voting trends nationally and in state politics with a particular focus on NYS and certain swing states. The course will meld an exploration of well established political science postulates explaining voting behavior and trends, with a study of key data points underlying and explaining political demography including, but not limited to: population, registration, partisanship (as well as explaining the rise of independent voting) race, gender, ethnicity as well as regional patterns and polling. The focus will be on charting and predicting the potential for political realignment both nationally (and within different regions) and here in NYS. The NYS units will focus on statewide trendlines, as well as the Mayoral race in NYC and in key County Executive races and Upstate Mayoral races.

**RPOS 399
(7102)**

**POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
TTH 10:15 – 11:35**

B. MIROFF

A discussion-centered examination of political leadership. We will be reading classic works on leadership (Plato, Machiavelli, Weber among others) and contemporary studies by political scientists. The major paper for the course will apply these theories to Abraham Lincoln's leadership on the issue of slavery. There will also be two short papers based on assigned readings.

**POS 424
(9596)**

**COMMUNITY POLITICS
TTH 2:45 – 4:05**

J. CRUZ

This course focuses on power relations at the local level. We will examine a landmark study of community power as well as a series of case studies focusing on issues of race, class, ethnicity, and gender at the local level. The course will conclude with a reflection between community, individuality, and political empowerment.

**POS 439Z
(7763)**

**INTERSTATE RELATIONS
MWF 11:30 – 12:25**

J. ZIMMERMAN

Cooperative interstate relations are essential for the maintenance of the economic union and the political union established by the United States Constitution. The fundamental law establishes an interstate regulatory framework in the form of four important provisions—interstate commerce, full faith and credit, rendition of fugitives from justice, and privileges and immunities. Furthermore, the constitution authorizes states to enter into compacts or agreements to promote interstate cooperation in the provision of services and establishment of uniform regulations, and provides for the impartial settlement of intractable interstate controversies by establishing the U.S. Supreme as a court of the states with original jurisdiction over such controversies. Methods by which interstate disputes may be resolved are described and evaluated. Three equally weighted examinations and periodic quizzes will be administered. Each student must write a major research paper on an aspect of interstate relations, and a series of shorter papers.

COURSES IN PUBLIC LAW

**POS 326
(8255)**

**INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC LAW
TTH 8:45 – 10:05**

J. NOVKOV

What is law and why is it such a significant part of modern-day society and culture in the United States? How does the legal system operate through its various actors – judges, lawyers, and juries – to enable individuals to resolve disputes without resorting to violence? How does the law operate to structure and control the state? From where does legal power arise and what are its limits? How does the law both constrain and empower subordinated individuals and groups in American politics and society? These questions and others are the subject of this course, providing students with a general overview of the legal system of the U.S. The course is intended primarily for students who have little/no prior background in law. Some students will take the course as a gateway to further study about law, others will use it to broaden their understanding of the legal system as one of the most significant and powerful institutions in the modern state.

**POS 330
(10282)**

**LAW, COURTS & POLITICS
TTH 2:45 – 4:05**

DUMAS

This course will provide a broad overview of the public law subfield. More specifically, we will focus on gaining a general understanding of how political scientists study the judicial system, focusing on the Supreme Court, the interaction between the judicial and the other branches of government, the appointment process, the decision-making processes of judges, and external influences on the Court. In this sense, we will not be studying law as practitioners, but rather as observers, who are concerned with understanding the place of law and the judiciary within the American political system.

**POS 335
(10289)**

**SUPREME COURT
TTH 4:45 – 7:05**

K. ZUBER

This course will examine the role and function of the Supreme Court in American politics. Core topics include: the historical development of the institution; the nature and scope of judicial power; models of judicial decision-making; and the ability of the Supreme Court to generate political and social change. The course has three goals. First, the course will provide foundational knowledge about the essential mechanics of the United States Supreme Court and its role in the American political system. Second, the course will introduce students to competing theories in the field of public law about the nature of judicial-decision making. Third, the course will aid students in the development of critical thinking skills by allowing them to analyze and discuss current events and problems using the theories and concepts discussed in class. The course will be taught using a team-based learning format.

**POS 336
(8657)**

**CIVIL LIBERTIES
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**

DUMAS

The United States Supreme Court has become increasingly involved in enforcing its understandings of the constitutional requirements of the Bill of Rights. Therefore, this course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of major constitutional cases and concepts in areas such as free speech, racial discrimination, sex and privacy, among others. We will be considering cases in light of their political and social context and understand judicial reasoning is not an objective science, but is open to interpretation. The US Constitution has remained largely unchanged since 1787 but various civil rights and civil liberties have been adopted and adapted by the Supreme Court. By the end of the course, students should be able to explain how protections for civil rights and liberties have changed over time and discuss important debates over civil rights and civil liberties.

**POS 399
(7532)**

**CLIMATE CHANGE LAW AND POLICY:
DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL
MW 7:15 - 8:35 P.M.**

E. STEIN

Overview of U.S. and international law addressing the global crisis of catastrophic climate change. The course includes a general overview of the science, economics, policy and legal framework of the law of climate change. This includes the international law of treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol, the international human right to a clean environment, and the attempts to locate and enforce such rights in international and U.S. law. In domestic law, the course examines what governs the principal source of greenhouse gases: transportation and electricity generation. Included is a review of the centrality of the car in our culture and its limits, and the regulation of the electric and natural gas industries – the sources for lighting and heating. The course examines current federal, regional, and state models to mitigate global warming. In addition, students will negotiate treaties, write legal documents, and argue their case.

**POS 425Z
(9898)**

**JUSTICE REFORM IN LATIN AMERICA
MWF 10:25 – 11:20**

M. INGRAM

This course examines the patterns, causes, and consequences of justice reforms in Latin America since the 1980s. First, students will explore the various types of sociopolitical conflicts that give rise to demands for legal resolution, including: (1) human rights violations during civil wars or authoritarian regimes that give rise to demands for transitional justice in post-conflict or post-authoritarian settings, (2) rampant criminality, including organized crime, that gives rise to public demands for more effective criminal justice systems, and (3) institutional dysfunction and/or corruption that give rise to demands for more effective justice institutions in general. In each area, students will examine (a) the differing nature and sources of offenses and others wrongs/harms, (b) the consequences of failing to address these harms effectively (including political, economic, and social costs of weak, abusive, or otherwise ineffective justice institutions), and (c) the manner in which governments and other actors have sought to build more effective responses to these harms, including truth

**POS/PAD 340
(6042)(9071)**

**INTRO TO POLICY ANALYSIS
TTH 1:15 – 2:35**

J. LEE

Policy analysis involves advising policy makers about political, technical, and implementation feasibility of their options. This course will introduce students to different roles played by analysts, techniques of analysis, and to the range of generic policy implements. Only one version of RPUB 340 may be taken for credit.

This is an introductory survey of public policy analysis. Its goal is to strengthen analytic skills that will enhance your understanding of the policy process and increase your ability to identify problems, enumerate solutions, and evaluate alternative policies.

COURSES CROSS-LISTED WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE

POS 363/CRJ 353 AMERICAN CRIMINAL COURTS

See schedule of classes for multiple offerings

Examines the organization and operations of state and local criminal court systems from the perspective of social science research and public policy analysis. Major issues include: the role of courts in American society; bail and pre-trial procedures; the roles and decisions of prosecutors, judges and the defense bar; selection and operation of grand juries and trial juries; sentencing of criminal defendants; and others. The operations of juvenile and adult courts are compared, and efforts directed toward court reform are assessed. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing.

HONORS & ARRANGED COURSES

POS 300 HONORS TUTORIAL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE ALL FACULTY

Students in the Political Science Honors Program take this one-credit tutorial in conjunction with any 300-level course they take that they wish to count toward the requirements of the honors program. Specific sections are grade A-E others S/U

POS 390/PUB 390 POLITICAL INTERNSHIP
(8554) (9175) M 4:15 – 7:05

J. MACLAUGHLIN

Internship work in a governmental agency (legislative, executive, or judicial) or in a politically or legally oriented non-governmental organization. The department will provide assistance to students in obtaining internships in positions that are relevant to their interests. Includes both internship work and an academic component that involves class sessions, readings, and written assignments. Interested students should contact the coordinator of undergraduate studies in political science and submit an application indicating their interests. We will try to match student interests with agency needs. Internships are only open to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of at least 2.50. This course may be taken only once for credit toward the political science major or minor.

POS 400 HONORS TUTORIAL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE ALL FACULTY

Students in the Political Science Honors Program take this one-credit tutorial in conjunction with any 400-level course they take that they wish to count toward the requirements of the honors program. Specific sections are grade A-E others S/U

POS 496Z GREAT IDEAS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
(6479) TTH 1:15 – 2:35

P. BREINER

This honors seminar aims to introduce you to some of the central ideas of political science. The theme for the course will be the relation between ordinary civic actors and professional political actors. Among the questions we will ask are the following: Are only professional politicians capable of making competent and responsible decisions or do ordinary citizens have an equal if not greater capacity? How do these two kinds of actors interact? Under what circumstances do ordinary people take politics into their own hands and under what circumstances do they leave politics to professional politicians? Should we rely on such a division of labor? Readings will include Tarrow and Rudé on social movements and protest, Putnam, Olsen, and Hirschman on civic involvement, Downs and Bartels on voting, and Mosca, Weber, Schumpeter and Dahl on elites and professional politicians. There will be three papers assigned, based on the course reading. Each paper will be ten double-spaced pages. Active participation in the seminar conversation will be an important component of the course--and of your grade.