

**Department of Political Science
University at Albany, SUNY
Graduate Course Descriptions
Fall 2013**

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POS 513 **Field Seminar in Public Policy** **P. Strach**
(9527) **TH 2:45 – 5:35** **HS-12**

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 **Intro to Discipline of Political Science** **J. Novkov**
(6068) **M 2:45-4:35** **HS-12**

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 **Introduction to Political Inquiry** **C. Chen**
(3758) **T 2:45 – 5:35** **HS-12**

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 523 **Urban Community Development** **C. Scally**
(7993) **Th 7:15 – 10:05** **AS-121**

Examination of 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 **Community Politics** **J. Cruz**
(9598/9599) **T 5:45 – 8:35** **HS-13**

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 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 525Q **Feminist Thought and Public Policy** **V. Eubanks**
(9730) **T** **5:45 – 8:35** **BA-216**

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.

POS 529 **Law and Policy** **D. Liebschutz**
(8553) **W** **5:45 – 8:45** **HS-06**

Examination of the role of the courts in the public policy process and in substantive policy fields; integrates the literature of law and policy and applies it to such areas as mental health care, corrections, human resources, education, and housing policy.

POS 541 **Field Seminar in Public Law** **M. Ingram**
(9600) **M** **5:45 – 8:35** **HS-06**

Field seminar in public law. Covers major approaches to public law, including attitudinalism, strategic behavior, political development, and law and society. Required for students majoring or minoring in public law

POS 554/R **Political Violence, Insurgency** **B. Early**
(7595/9978) **W** **5:45 – 8:35** **HS-13**

This course will offer broad overviews of the debates surrounding the causes, effectiveness, and consequences of political violence, the groups that engage in it, and the challenges to national and international security it poses. The course will mainly focus on terrorism, but will also examine insurgencies, civil wars, and revolutions. While the course emphasizes the academic study of political violence, 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 political violence. 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 561/R **Nationalism and Nation Building** **C. Chen**
(9521/9522) **M** **2:45 – 5:35** **HS -304**

This course is designed to cover different conceptualizations of “nation” and “nationalism”; interpretations of historical and social developments associated with the building and emergence of nations and nationalist movements, and strategies for locating the study of nationalism in a more general theoretical framework. The course begins with discussions over the essential characteristics of nation and nationalism and the relevance of the problem of identity. It then provides a survey of major scholarly models and theories of nationalism, such as instrumentalist, constructivist, and primordialist views of nationalism. The third part of the course examines the theoretical and historical evolution of nationalism, nationalist movements, and nation-building. Specifically, it explores nationalism’s encounters with major political traditions such as liberalism, Leninism, and anti-colonialism, and the consequences of these encounters. The fourth part of the course addresses some of the most salient contemporary issues related to the

national question, including the effects of globalization and the resurgence of nationalism in the post-Cold War era. The course concludes by situating the study of nationalism and nation-building in broader comparative inquiries of social change. The objectives of this course are to familiarize the student with both classical and recent scholarly debates regarding nationalism and nation-building, and to help the student develop an appreciation for historically-grounded comparative theory-building.

POS 566/R **Ethnic Conflict** **M. Baskin**
(9896/9897) **M** **5:45 – 8:35** **HS-308**

Since the end of the cold war, ethnicity has served as a key source of identity conflict. This course will examine local, national and regional sources of ethnic identity and ethnic conflict, and the possibilities for management offered by a variety of institutional arrangements and international intervention.

POS 570 **Field Seminar in Internat'l Political Systems** **R. Koslowski**
(3759) **W** **5:45 – 8:35** **HU-12**

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 assess them as approaches to international relations and potential research designs.

POS 598 **Methods in Pract-Spatial Analysis** **M. Ingram**
(10340) **T** **4:15-7:05** **HS-04**

This course is designed as a brief, applied introduction to spatial analysis. Students are expected to gain a practical, working understanding of spatial dependence, how to collect data and organize data sets for spatial analysis, basic exploratory techniques, as well as more advanced applications to test or confirm hypotheses using spatial econometrics. No software needs to be purchased for this class. The main software utilized for analysis will be the free, open source GeoDa, but students will also learn how to move data back and forth between GeoDa and ArcGIS, and how to organize and visualize data in both software environments. ArcGIS is available on computers in Dewey Library.

POS 618 **Qualitative Methods** **P. Strach**
(7691) **T** **2:45 – 5:35** **HS-13**

This seminar covers the research process from its design to final analysis, focusing on qualitative and mixed-methods research. We look at how to collect, analyze, and interpret data outside of or in addition to statistical techniques. Throughout the course, we will look at questions of methodology to understand the important differences *within* qualitative research and between qualitative and quantitative frameworks. Students should come away from the course with an understanding of: 1) what qualitative research is and how it fits in the broader discipline of political science; 2) the logic of qualitative and mixed methods research design; 3) the nuts and bolts of conducting qualitative research; and 4) how to analyze the results. Though no course can

be the definitive answer to “how do I write my dissertation,” this seminar is designed to be an important step in the logic and practice of qualitative and mixed methods research. *Prerequisites: POS 516 and POS 517 or the equivalent.*

POS 663/R **Comparative Policy Systems** **Z. Barta**
(9831/9832) **W 12 – 2:50** **HU 12**

This course introduces students to theories explaining cross-national variation in policy choices. It approaches policy-making from a political economic point of view and explores the relative importance of differences in socio-economic structures, institutions and ideational factors in accounting for differing policy patterns. The first third of the course lays the theoretical foundations. It first discusses the state as the provider of public policies, the challenges of aggregating divergent policy preferences within a democratic polity and the influence of the international economic and political context on domestic policy choices. Then it explores the three main approaches to explaining cross-national variation in public policies – structuralism, institutionalism and ideational theories – and reflects on the different methodological approaches suited to each. The rest of the course uses these theoretical tools in investigating policy choices in substantive policy areas – such as macroeconomic policy, public finances, trade policy, welfare, health and education policies and regulation – in different countries.

POS 695 **Research & Writing Seminar I** **M. Schoolman**
(6337) **TH 5:45 – 7:35** **HS-13**

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** **All Faculty**
 Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

POS 698 **Masters Essay** **All Faculty**
 Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

POS 797 **Graduate Service Learning** **A. Hildreth**
 Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

POS 798 **Readings In Political Science** **All Faculty**
 Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

POS 897 **Independent Research POS** **All Faculty**
 Arranged (Permission of Instructor)
 Load Credit Only

POS 899 **Doctoral Dissertation** **All Faculty**
 Arranged (Permission of Instructor)
 Load Credit Only, ABD Status Only