UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WINTER 2016-2017

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RPOS 101 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS A. Hildreth
1047 ONLINE

In what ways might it matter whether the Democrats continue to occupy the presidency or Congress continues to be dominated by Republicans? What are the different ways we can understand the power that the public has in shaping politics today, or whether they have any at all? What factors influence policymaking on key issues including gun rights, immigration or energy? In this course, we 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. Thereafter, 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 I. Hwang
1182 ONLINE

Comparative and international politics embodies the notion of "know the world, know yourself." This course introduces students to key scholarly discussions about how to compare politics in different countries and how to study global politics. There are no prerequisite requirements, except for an open mind and curiosity for domestic politics around the globe and world politics in general. By the end of the class, students should be familiar with the key concepts and debates in international affairs and recognize the value of learning about different polities around the world. Gen. Ed: Social Sciences, Challenges for the 21st Century.

RPOS 356 RUSSION FOREIGN POLICY I. Miller
1264 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 THE MASS MEDIA S. McKeever
1265 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 two conflicting theories on the purpose and value of American media, 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 395 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY X. She
1228 ONLINE

This course provides an overview of major theoretical perspectives and empirical issues in the field of international political economy (IPE), an interdisciplinary field that incorporate perspectives of political science and economics. To understand issues of interdependence, cooperation, and contention in the contemporary world economy, this course is designed to equip you with both theoretical tools and empirical knowledge, using a body of work drawn from international relations, comparative politics, and international economics. Issues we will explore together include trade politics, international monetary system, global production and regulation, regionalism, economic crises and structural adjustments, aid and development, as well as controversies around globalization. *This course is in the Global/Comparative Politics Concentration.*