

ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2017

RPOS 101W **INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS** **B. Miroff**
8439 **TTH 1:15PM – 2:35PM** **(4 credits)** **LC 18**
Students Registering for this Section Must FIRST Register for a Discussion Section: 8440-8448, 10696-10698, 10778-10780
This course will undertake a broad and critical survey of American political thought, practice and experience. Emphasis will be placed less on the memorization of facts than on the understanding of fundamental concepts, themes and issues in American politics. Subjects to be explored include American political theory, political economy, parties and elections, national institutions, civil liberties, civil rights and democratic citizenship. Course requirements will be a midterm and final, unannounced quizzes, and two short papers. Attendance at discussion sections is required and will be a component of the grading scheme for the course. **Gen Ed: US History, Social Science.**

RPOS 102X **INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS** **V. Asal**
8905 **TTH 10:15AM – 11:35AM** **(4 credits)** **LC 18**
Students Registering for this Section Must FIRST Register for a Discussion Section: 8906-8914
The course is an introduction to the actors, issues and processes of international relations and comparative politics and the theories that attempt to explain them. We will examine several of the central questions that interest political scientists when they explore international relations and comparative politics. Why are there wars? How is peace achieved? What are the implications of anarchy for world politics? How do states and decision-makers choose between conflict and cooperation? How does politics interact with economics on the global scene? Do morality and norms effect international relations and if so how? Why do some countries protect human rights and others not? How does democracy develop? The goal of the course is to create a familiarity of the elements that make up international relations and comparative politics and a critical understanding of the theories that explain them. The course will stress analytical thinking. Each student will be encouraged to identify the theories that he or she feels best explains comparative politics and international relations and to justify those choices. As a University General Education, the course is structured with multiple assignments that will convey a great deal of information both in theory and empirical knowledge in a relatively short time frame of a semester. By the end of the course students should: 1) have a strong overview of the theories of international relations and comparative politics, 2) understand how to apply these theories to better understand political interactions, 3) have an understanding of the rudiments of research in comparative politics and international relations. **Gen. Ed: Challenges, Social Science.**

RPOS 102 **INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS** **Y. Hsieh**
10286 **MWF 12:35PM – 1:30PM** **(3 credits)** **AS 14**
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.

RPOS 103 **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY** **S. McKeever**
10802 **MWF 1:40PM – 2:35PM** **(3 credits)** **ES 241**
In this course, we will read a sampling of works from some of the most influential thinkers in the Western political theory tradition. Through these readings, we will discover what political theory is, and why it is important for the study of politics. For this course, we will be most interested in studying how various thinkers define freedom, and how they think that we can be free. These thinkers will be divided into three groups: Freedom and Truth, Freedom and Economics, and Freedom and Government, so they can “debate” the answers to three important clusters of questions: 1) Does the search for truth lead to freedom? If so, how can we arrange our political and/or governmental institutions to facilitate that search for truth, so that we can be free? If not, what does that mean for our political institutions; 2) How do various economic institutions lead toward or away from freedom? How can we build economic institutions that make us free? How will this affect our political and/or governmental institutions?; and 3) Can we construct governmental institutions that lead to freedom? If so, how? If not, then what other options do we have? We will tackle one of these cluster of questions for each section of the course. **Gen. Ed: Humanities.**

RPOS 103Y
10288

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
TTH 11:45AM – 1:05PM (4 credits)

P. Breiner
LC 6

Students Registering for this Section Must FIRST Register for a Discussion Section: 10289-10295

This course will introduce you to some of the major thinkers of political theory: among them Plato, Rousseau, Paine, Marx, and Rawls. More significantly, the course will seek to teach you how to think through and argue about some of the central questions of politics: What does it mean to participate as a citizen? How much equality is desirable? What is private property and who should own the things we produce? What does a political society owe its citizens? How should we distribute political liberties and economic goods? Is it just to have everyone rule a polity or should only some qualified individuals rule? How should we react to a political society that is constantly overthrowing its social relations? In seeking an answer to these questions, we will focus on one of the central problems of political thought: *what is justice and what does a just political community look like?* This question may seem abstract, but it is central to contemporary politics. Ordinary people constantly are concerned with whether they are being treated fairly in the economy, in social life, and by political institutions. And they make many of their political choices on this basis. This ordinary sense of justice will be front and center in texts we read in this course. And we will constantly be moving between the famous texts we read and the justice of present-day politics. **Gen. Ed: Humanities.**

RPOS/RPAD 140
5545/7080

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
MW 2:45PM – 4:05PM

A. Kiesel
LC 24

Students Registering for this Section Must FIRST Register for a Discussion Section: 7303-7306, 7902-7903

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?

Then this course is for you! This course introduces students to the process of public policy making in the US and internationally. 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. **Required for Public Policy majors. Only one version of RPOS/RPAD 140 may be taken for credit. Gen Ed: Social Sciences.**

RPOS 204
9666

BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT
MW 2:45PM – 4:05PM

T. Taylor
FA 114

The purpose of this course is to trace and investigate the development of the Black Lives Matter movement. The course will explore the historical, political, social, and economic forces that gave rise to the movement. Specifically, the course will focus on racial disparities in law enforcement and officials and the response of the justice system. The course will also compare and contrast the Black Lives Matter movement with the Civil Rights movement from 1954-1968. The effective use of social media and technology as tools to promote racial justice will also be analyzed.

RPOS 204
10711

TRUMP'S EFFECT ON NY LAW & POLICY
TTH 4:15PM – 5:35PM

J. Malatras
AS 14

In a few short months, the Trump Administration has already had a dramatic effect on state and local policy. In this course we will examine how new policy directions by the Trump Administration—after eight years of the Obama Administration exercising strong federal policy authority—effects New York State law and public policy. We will explore timely topics using academic texts, media, and policy briefings in areas like civil rights, healthcare, education, and the environment, and will compare the Trump Administration to previous presidential administrations. Students will produce opinion pieces, policy memos, press releases and reports to get practical experience dissecting key issues and tensions between state and federal rules, laws, and powers.

RPOS 204
10712

NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
T 5:45PM – 8:35PM

F. Mauro
HU 24

When New Yorkers head to the polls this year on November 7th their ballot will include a referendum on whether citizens of the state should call for a convention to potentially reform our State constitution. What are the pros and cons of calling for a constitutional convention (Concon)? In this course we will examine the political arguments made in favor and against the Concon

RPOS/RPAD 316
5765/7037

METHODOLOGICAL TOOLS FOR PUBLIC POLICY
TTH 11:45AM – 1:05PM

I. Choi
SL G12

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 nonexperimental 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 Policy majors. Only one version of RPOS/RPAD 316 may be taken for credit. Gen. Ed: Math.**

RPOS 319
9305

AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
TTH 10:15AM – 11:35AM

T. Weaver
SS 116

This course introduces students to the institutions that comprise the American political system, explores competing ideas about relationship between government and citizens, and examines how key interests use American politics to achieve their goals. In doing so, we will harness the insights of the sub-field known as American Political Development (APD) to think about how American government and politics has been structured over time. In contrast to mainstream “snapshot” accounts of politics, this historical perspective will enable us to appreciate the degree to which the contemporary political conflicts are shaped by America’s evolving institutional arrangements, political ideologies, and entrenched interests. At the outset of the course we will discuss the central ideas behind the study of APD. We will then examine examination the key ideas and interests that have shaped the development of American political institutions since the 17th century. Each week after that we will consider a theme (e.g. civil rights and civil liberties) and/or an institution (e.g. Congress) to explore how they have evolved over time. Throughout the semester, we will think about how our historical perspective can help us sharpen our understanding of contemporary developments in American politics.

RPOS/RPAD 321
8271/8431

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TTH 4:15PM – 5:35PM

F. Mauro
HU 24/SS 133

This course focuses on the role of state and local governments in the American federal system; the roles and responsibilities of governors, legislatures, and courts in policy-making and implementation; the organization, functions, and jurisdiction of local governments; and the interaction of political parties and interest groups with formal institutions and processes. In light of New York State’s November 2017 referendum on the calling of a state constitutional convention, emphasis will be placed on the nature and evolution of the constitutions of the 50 states and the processes by which state constitutions are revised and amended.

RPOS 323
8915

URBAN GOVERNMENT
TTH 5:45PM – 7:05PM

J. Cruz
HU 133

This course examines the historical development and contemporary problems of urban governments in the United States. We will focus on the context of urban policymaking, urban-suburban relations, the relationship between public and private power, the role and impact of race, ethnicity, class, and the fiscal crisis.

RPOS 326
9239

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC LAW
TTH 1:15PM – 2:35PM

M. Ingram
FA 126

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., as well as some examples from outside the U.S., introducing comparative legal problems. 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, including as part of the public concentration in political science. 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. There are no prerequisites, but any of the introductory political science courses (101, 102, 103) will provide useful background.

RPOS/RPAD 328
9236/9288

LAW AND POLICY
MWF 1:40PM – 2:35PM

P. Nicholas
HU 137

Due Process. Education. Environmental Regulations. Gun Control. Health Care. Marriage. Privacy. Speech. Voting Rights. These are just a small, small sample of the kinds of public policy issues that state and federal courts have made significant impacts on in the last couple of decades. Thus, it is important to ask: How do courts and judges shape public policy? Are courts counter-majoritarian when they impact policy? Do we want courts to be making policy? In this course we explore those questions by viewing the legal system in a political and social context. Our materials will be political and sociolegal scholarship that touches on issues of judicial behavior, class, democracy, education, implementation, personal injury, race, and social change. Much of the themes and material are academic and focused on the structure and behavior of the legal system. However, we do take a closer look at

some specific policies as case studies. This is not a law school course that examines the wording of statutes and legal precedent. It is instead of holistic, 30,000 foot overview of how our courts and often unelected judges impact significant public policy. ****Only one version of RPOS/RPAD 328 may be taken for credit.**

RPOS 329/RPAD 329Z ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP M. Christakis
4794/6139 W 4:15PM – 7:05PM HS 204 (HUSTED – Downtown)
9276/9278 ++ ++ This section of RPOS 329 reserved for transfer students in the NY Politics Living-Learning Community. Students in the LLC must register for 329 Discussion (9277/9279) first (W – 7:15-8:15PM – HS 12).

This class examines leadership, management and human behavior within and among complex organizations, with special emphasis on the distribution and use of power by organizational actors. The course will also examine how leaders can position their organizations to gain the greatest results and most significant impact on and for organizational stakeholders. **Only one version of RPAD 329Z/RPOS 329 may be taken for credit. Note – This course will be taught on the Downtown Campus.**

RPOS 331 AMERICAN LEGISLATURES S. Friedman
10761 TTH 11:45AM – 1:05PM HU 20

Let's be honest; Congress these days doesn't rank too high on people's lists of most trusted institutions. According to many, what is supposed to be the "people's branch" has drifted from its founding principles and has become too partisan, too unrepresentative and overall ineffective. Are these charges fair? This course seeks to describe how the U.S. Congress really works and to provide an introduction to the understanding of legislative processes. The course is organized into three sections: the historical background and internal workings of Congress; the role of Congress as the representative voice of the people in their districts; and the role of Congress as an actor in the broader U.S. political system. All this is particularly relevant as we consider the place of Congress at the beginning of the administration of a new chief executive.

RPOS 334 AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES & GROUPS M. Malbin
10240 TTH 2:45PM – 4:05PM LC 3A

This course examines nature and role of political parties in US politics and government. How do the parties help shape and influence competition, participation, and public policy? Why does the US have two dominant major parties and what is the role of minor parties? How and why have American parties changed? How do changes in the nature and power of other actors in the electoral process, especially interest groups and the media, affect the role of the parties? Who makes up the party coalitions in US politics today? How have those coalitions changed, and how are they changing today? Why do the parties seem more polarized than they once were? And what should we expect in the future? The 2016 election results and the 2017 parties in government provide the backdrop for our discussion of the significance parties to democratic politics today.

RPOS 336 CIVIL LIBERTIES S. Stohler
10241 W 5:45PM – 8:35PM HU 24

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution holds that "Congress shall make no law [. . .] abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." Free speech is among the most cherished values in the Constitution and different social groups have drawn on the language to further their interests. But the precise guarantees of the First Amendment are ambiguous. In this course, students will examine how the U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted the First Amendment during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and ultimately determine for themselves how and to what extent the First Amendment should protect free expression in American society.

RPOS 351 EUROPEAN POLITICS I. Hwang
10439 TTH 8:45AM – 10:05AM HU 109

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.**

RPOS 360 VIOLENT POLITICAL CONFLICT N. Siddiqui
10386 MW 2:45PM – 4:05PM BB 125

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of violent political conflict. We will examine the how, why, and when of internal conflict, ranging from civil war to ethnic conflict, party violence, and religious riots. The course will focus on the key empirical and normative questions raised by violent political conflict and examine the answers provided by existing literature. What are the

causes of civil war? Why do people participate in riots? Why do parties engage in electoral violence? Is ethnic conflict inevitable? The second half of the course will feature in-depth case studies of particular internal conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

RPOS 364 **BUILDING DEMOCRACY** **A. Vitek**
10438 **MWF 12:35PM – 1:30PM** **HU 109**

The post-World War II era has been marked by the steady spread of democratic regimes. Despite this, many states' transitions towards democracy have ended up stagnating and even regressing back to authoritarianism. This course will look at theories of how to build democracies that are both responsive and accountable while also being resistant to the kinds of shocks that have derailed the transition process in the past. The class will focus on democratization in the context of areas such as institution building, political economy, international aid/intervention and civil conflict.

RPOS 365 **GOVERNMENT & THE MASS MEDIA** **S. McKeever**
10283 **MW 4:15PM – 5:35PM** **PH 123**

We hear a lot about "The Media" in our contemporary political discourse, and everyone has an opinion on the media: "it is too biased," "it is too shallow," "it is the bedrock of free speech," "it keeps politicians honest," 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 view media through a variety of lenses to try to get a better understanding of how media works, how it exerts governmental and political power, and how governmental and political power is exerted through it. We will begin by studying it theoretically and historically before trying to get an understanding of the relationship between government and media and in particular democratic government and media. Along the way, we will examine inherent issues that media must contend with as well as discover how "media" (as the plural of "medium") itself already communicates with us and so is politically relevant. At the end of the course, we should have a better understanding of the complexities of the various issues surrounding mass media, so that we can more intelligently engage with the rapidly changing nature of it.

RPOS 367 **POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST** **G. Nowell**
8027 **MWF 11:30AM – 12:25PM** **HU 124**

This class will cover selected topics in relation to the political development of the Middle and near East, an area loosely defined to cover the region from Morocco to Afghanistan and including modern Turkey and the Caspian littoral states. Topics will vary. Examples will include, but are not limited to, the classic British Imperial period, revolutions, the oil industry, regional conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, and the tensions between secular modernization and Islamic systems of government.

RPOS 383 **AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY** **C. Clary**
10282 **MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM** **HU 24**

The United States is the most powerful country in the world. Since the end of World War II, the United States has fought wars against or conducted major military operations in at least sixteen different countries. The United States spends three to four times as much on its military as China, the next biggest spender. While a tiny part of the U.S. budget, the United States is the largest provider of foreign aid globally. U.S. decisions in international trade and climate negotiations have global effects. As a result, we should all try to better understand how the United States behaves in international politics, how it has behaved in the past, why it behaves that way, and how it should behave. This course will introduce students to theories of foreign policy that may explain U.S. behavior, along with more detailed case studies of important episodes in U.S. diplomatic and military history and reviews of contemporary U.S. foreign policy challenges. Students will leave the course with a greater knowledge of historical and contemporary U.S. foreign policy as well as a theoretical toolkit they can employ to understand international politics more broadly.

RPOS 390/RPAD 498 **INTERNSHIP RPOS/RPAD** **D. Trowbridge**
9343/9344 **M 5:45PM – 8:35PM** **CH 151**

This course offers students the opportunity to integrate theoretical concepts related to politics, public administration, and organizations with practical experience in political, public sector and administrative institutions. This course seeks both to enhance the education value of the internship and to make it a springboard for a successful career. The course has four major components: skill development, career options, employment strategies, and school to work connection. Students enrolled in this class must obtain an internship during the same semester, and it is the student's responsibility to find their own internship. Students must have an overall minimum GPA of a 2.50. Students should contact the Undergraduate Internship Coordinator/Rockefeller College's Office of Career Development to discuss internship opportunities, how to obtain an internship and to receive a permission number for the course. ***May not be taken by students with credit for RPAD 498/RPOS 390.***

**RPOS 397
8599**

**THINKING AHEAD: CAREERS IN POLITICAL
SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY
W 11:30AM – 12:25PM (1 credit)**

**A. Hildreth
SS 116**

This one credit course will help students answer that perennial question: what do people do with a Political Science/Public Administration degree? Drawing on both our alumni network and friends of Rockefeller College, each class session will feature a different guest speaker to introduce students to a range of careers that began in the Political Science or Public Administration classroom. Using readings, our guests' resumes, and other tools, students will understand the connection between the skills they are developing in the classroom and on campus, and the large array of paths and workplace options that may be available after graduation. ***If possible, please keep the hour after class open in your schedule to be available for lunch with the guest speaker on occasion.***

**RPOS 399
10296**

**CLIMATE CHANGE LAW AND POLICY: DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL
MW 5:45PM – 7:05PM**

**E. Stein
ES 241**

Overview of U.S. and international law addressing the global crisis of catastrophic climate change, what can be done to prevent it, and the dangers of climate denial. 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 Paris Agreement, the international human right to a clean environment and climate, and the current attempts to locate and enforce such rights in international and U.S. law. In U.S. law, the course examines laws governing the principal sources of greenhouse gases: transportation and electricity generation, and what cities are doing to safeguard their populations from climate change impacts. The course materials are primary legal documents: treaties and Supreme Court and other federal and state cases. Students will negotiate treaties, write legal documents, and argue cases.

**RPOS/RPAD 399
10791/10792**

**DRUG POLICY
MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM**

**P. Nicholas
BL 25-110**

This course examines United States drug policy, and focuses primarily on the public policies that address opiates, cocaine, and marijuana. The course begins with what our nation's first public policies that addressed drugs consisted of—how and why certain drugs became criminalized. We then explore drug policy as a more developed policy area in the 1970s and 1980s with a large number of active participants including presidents, Congress, courts, government agencies, and interest groups, and ways they established or opposed the modern 'War on Drugs'. Our course then focuses on contemporary policymaking surrounding the current opioid epidemic and the policy solutions government officials and societal groups offer to address this crisis. We will also discuss the similarities and differences drug policy has with other policy areas like environmental politics and national defense.

**RPOS 410Z
10251**

**MINORITIES & POLITICAL LEGAL SYSTEM
TTH 2:45PM – 4:05PM**

**J. Cruz
HU 130**

This course will examine the African American and Latino experience in the American politico-legal system, with special attention to the civil rights movement and the history of affirmative action.

**RPOS 430Z
10550**

**FOUNDING THE AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
T 5:45PM – 8:35PM**

**M. Malbin
BBB 14**

How many times in contemporary politics have we heard references to what "the Framers intended"? Many of the disputes in American politics today reflect ongoing debates that were articulated during the drafting and ratification of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. (Some examples: small versus large government; executive, legislative and judicial power; factions and political parties; direct democracy, citizenship, and representation; the role of "elites"; the freedoms of speech and religion; etc.) Scholars and lawyers debate the role that the Framers' intentions *should* play today. Whatever one may think about that issue, there is no question that *understanding* the 1787 debates, their philosophical underpinnings, and their practical aftermaths will give invaluable insights into what happened later, what is still happening, and why.

**RPOS 439Z
6403**

**TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS: POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
TTH 10:15AM – 11:35AM**

**B. Miroff
BB 221**

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.

**RPOS 449Z
9337**

**TOPICS IN PUBLIC LAW: LAW, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY
TTH 8:45AM – 10:05AM**

**M. Ingram
BB 213**

This course examines core ideas about the rule of law, justice, and democracy. The class is divided into three main sections. First, we begin by defining these core concepts and discussing normative or ethical implications of alternative definitions. Key questions that motivate this first part of the course are: What is the rule of law? What is justice? What is a democracy? And, why are each of these -- rule of law, justice, and democracy -- desirable objectives? Why should we value and strive for these goals? Second, we examine prominent sources of data and information so that we can measure these core concepts across countries and over time. That is, we will discuss broadly recognized measures of the rule of law, justice, and democracy in order to be able to compare one country to another, and points in time to other points in time. Key questions that animate this section are: How can we measure rule of law, justice, and democracy? What are prominent existing measures? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these measures? Lastly, we will then examine specific countries, focusing on the U.S. in comparative perspective. Using the conceptual and measurement tools developed above, students will gain an ability to identify patterns of political and legal behavior (e.g., governing, judging, policing) that are consistent and inconsistent with the rule of law, justice, and democracy. Key questions here are: How does the rule of law, justice, and democracy compare across countries, or over time within individual countries? This is a writing intensive course, so the main requirement consists of a paper that will develop over several structured stages of feedback and revision. This paper will use the tools from the first two sections of the course and can either: (1) compare one time period to another within a single country, or (2) compare one country to another, discussing any variation in rule of law, justice, and democracy across time periods or countries, as well as possible causes, consequences, or normative implications of any variation identified in the comparison.

**RPOS 479Z
8917**

**TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:
POLITICS & MONEY: U.S. BANKING & FINANCIAL CRISES
MWF 9:20AM – 10:15AM**

**G. Nowell
BB 137**

Special topics course in International Relations. Topics will vary from semester to semester. In Fall 2017 the topic will be "Politics & Money: U.S. Banking & Financial Crises". 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.

**RPOS 479Z
10454**

**TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
MWF 10:25AM – 11:20AM**

**B. Early
BB 356**

This course provides an overview of the threats posed to national and international security by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons. Students will learn why these weapons should not all be considered "weapons of mass destruction" through exploring the risks and consequences of their use by state and non-state actors. The course will do this by delving into the technical and policy challenges related to these weapons' construction. It will further address how CBRN weapons shape countries' national security strategies and regional security dynamics. Efforts at the international level to restrict the use and proliferation of these weapons will also be explored. Students will be given three writing assignments throughout the semester, including a major research paper on a related topic of their choice.

**RPOS 486
7955**

**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS
W 5:45PM – 8:35PM**

**K. Alaei/A. Alaei
LC 3C**

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to global health and human rights and the contemporary challenges and solutions associated with them. The course will be taught by physicians and human rights champions, with guest lectures from experts in political sciences, international health, philosophy, social welfare, international law, gender studies, and public policy, among others. Through lectures, discussion, and case studies, students will develop a broad theoretical understanding of health as a human right, become familiar with legal and policy frameworks to support public health for disadvantage populations, and acquire skills in the application of these concepts and the implementation and evaluation of solutions to our modern health challenges. ***Political Science majors – this course does not satisfy the upper level writing requirement.*** Gen. Ed: Challenges, Social Science.

**RPOS 496Z
5522**

**GREAT IDEAS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
F 1:40PM – 4:30PM (4 credits)**

**Z. Barta
BI 152**

This honors seminar aims to introduce you to some of the central ideas, themes and approaches of political science. The theme for the course will be “varieties of democracy”. We will look at how political scientists have approached and answered the question “What makes a country democratic?” We will draw on many different subfields of political science – such as political theory, public law, international relations, American politics, public policy and comparative politics – and you will have the chance to discuss the merits and weaknesses of different scholarly approaches with invited speakers from the ranks of the faculty of the Department of Political Science at UAlbany, who will present their own work to you. The last three classes of the course will be dedicated to applying what you learned in your own research projects. ****Open to Honors Program students only.**

**TPOS 220
10505**

**GREAT TRANSFORMATIONS IN AMERICAN POLITICS
TTH 1:15PM – 2:35PM**

**T. Weaver
HU 130**

In last four decades, American politics and policy have undergone a series of profound transformations that have altered the relationship between the government, the market, and the citizen. This course will consider three of these: the shift towards a pro-market economic policy; the rise of mass incarceration; and the changing welfare state. In addition to exploring these policy shifts, we will also examine the ideas that have underpinned them: liberalism, neoliberalism, and conservatism. Moreover, while many of the great transformations in American politics and policy have occurred at the federal level, there is much variation among the states and the cities. Therefore, we will also peer beneath the national level to see how these shifts have played out differently in different places. As such, our study at the subnational level will focus on two contradictory tendencies: the right-wing imposition of austerity on the states and progressive efforts to raise the minimum wage at the state and local levels. We will also consider whether the Trump presidency will herald another “great transformation.” ****Open to Honors College students only.**

**TPOS 261Y
10284**

**COMPARATIVE ETHNICITY
TTH 8:45AM – 10:05AM**

**V. Asal
FA 126**

This course focuses on examining where concepts of ethnicity and nationalism come from and how and why groups are discriminated against and how and why ethnicity and ethnic identity is used to mobilize for rights and sometimes to push for independent statehood. The course will draw on cases from around the world and use interactive exercises to examine these questions in depth. T POS 261 is the Honors College version of R POS 361. Only one may be taken for credit. ****Open to Honors College students only.**

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES – FALL 2017

Course	Class #	Days	Times	Location	Professor
RPOS 101W	8439	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	LC 18	Bruce Miroff
RPOS 101W	8440	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	PC 263	Huidong Peng
RPOS 101W ++	8443 ++	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	ES 108	David Siracuse
RPOS 101W	8446	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	ED 21	Keith Preble
RPOS 101W	8441	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	HU 113	Huidong Peng
RPOS 101W	8444	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	HU 116	Keith Preble
RPOS 101W	8447	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	ES 108	David Siracuse
RPOS 101W	8442	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	PC 263	David Siracuse
RPOS 101W	8445	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	HU 108	Keith Preble
RPOS 101W	8448	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	HU 113	Huidong Peng
RPOS 101W	10696	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	BB 368	Jiacheng Ren
RPOS 101W	10697	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	BBB 3	Jiacheng Ren
RPOS 101W	10698	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	BB 368	Jiacheng Ren
RPOS 101W	10778	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	ED 121	Chelsea Foster
RPOS 101W	10779	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	ED 121	Chelsea Foster
RPOS 101W	10780	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	ED 121	Chelsea Foster
RPOS 102 (3 credits)	10286	MWF	12:35PM-1:30PM	AS 14	Yeu-Fen Hsieh
RPOS 102X (4 credits)	8905	TTH	10:15AM-11:35AM	LC 18	Victor Asal
RPOS 102X	8906	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	BB 209	Inga Miller
RPOS 102X	8907	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	BB 141	Charmaine Willis
RPOS 102X ^^	8908 ^^	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	BB 217	Nakissa Jahanbani
RPOS 102X	8909	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	BB 217	Nakissa Jahanbani
RPOS 102X	8910	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	BB 209	Inga Miller
RPOS 102X	8911	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	AS 15	Charmaine Willis
RPOS 102X	8912	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	HU 27	Inga Miller
RPOS 102X	8913	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	HU 32	Charmaine Willis
RPOS 102X	8914	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	HU 112	Nakissa Jahanbani
RPOS 103 (3 credits)	10802	MWF	1:40PM-2:35PM	ES 241	Sean McKeever
RPOS 103Y (4 cr.)	10288	TTH	11:45AM-1:05PM	LC 6	Peter Breiner
RPOS 103Y	10289	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	ED 21	Nels Frantzen
RPOS 103Y	10292	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	BB 221	Zheng Wang
RPOS 103Y	10290	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	PH 116	Nels Frantzen
RPOS 103Y	10293	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	HU 111	Zheng Wang
RPOS 103Y	10291	F	3:50PM-4:45PM	PH 116	Nels Frantzen
RPOS 103Y	10295	F	3:50PM-4:45PM	HU 19	Zheng Wang
RPOS/RPAD 140	5545/7080	MW	2:45PM-4:05PM	LC 24	Andre Kiesel
RPOS/RPAD 140	7303/7293	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	FA 126	Hyewon Kang
RPOS/RPAD 140	7306/7302	F	12:35PM-1:30PM	HU 32	Crystal Charles
RPOS/RPAD 140	7304/7301	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	FA 126	Hyewon Kang
RPOS/RPAD 140	7902/7904	F	1:40PM-2:35PM	HU 114	Sun Young Pyo
RPOS/RPAD 140	7305/7282	F	2:45PM-3:40PM	LC 21	Crystal Charles
RPOS/RPAD 140	7903/7905	F	2:45PM-3:45PM	HU 114	Sun Young Pyo

++ This section of RPOS 101W reserved for first year students in the American Politics Living-Learning Community

^^ These sections of RPOS 102X reserved for transfer students

COURSE/SECTION CLOSED

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES – FALL 2017

Course	Class #	Days	Times	Location	Professor
RPOS 204	9666	MW	2:45PM-4:05PM	FA 114	Timothy Taylor
RPOS 204	10711	TTH	4:15PM-5:35PM	AS 14	James Malatras
RPOS 204	10712	T	5:45PM-8:35PM	HU 24	Frank Mauro
RPOS 250	9303	MWF	1:40PM-2:35PM	HU 109	Sally Friedman
RPOS 306	9234	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	AS 14	Mykolas Gudelis
RPOS 308	10238	MWF	11:30AM-12:25PM	HU 20	Mort Schoolman
RPOS 310	10239	MWF	9:20AM-10:15AM	HU 132	Mort Schoolman
RPOS 314	9237	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	AS 14	Mykolas Gudelis
RPOS/RPAD 316	5765/7037	TTH	11:45AM-1:05PM	SL G12	Iseul Choi
RPOS 319	9305	TTH	10:15AM-11:35AM	SS 116	Tim Weaver
RPOS/RPAD 321	8271/8431	TTH	4:15PM-5:35PM	HU 24/SS 133	Frank Mauro
RPOS 323	8915	TTH	5:45PM-7:05PM	HU 133	José Cruz
RPOS 326	9239	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	FA 126	Matthew Ingram
RPOS/RPAD 328	9236/9288	MWF	1:40PM-2:35PM	HU 137	Philip Nicholas
RPOS 329/RPAD 329Z	4794/6139	W	4:15PM-7:05PM	HS 204 **	Michael Christakis
RPOS 329/RPAD 329Z ++	9276/9278	W	4:15PM-7:05PM	HS 204 **	Michael Christakis
329 Discussion ++	9277/9279	W	7:15PM-8:05PM	HS 12 **	Michael Christakis
RPOS 331	10761	TTH	11:45AM-1:05PM	HU 20	Sally Friedman
RPOS 334	10240	TTH	2:45PM-4:05PM	LC 3A	Michael Malbin
RPOS 336	10241	W	5:45PM-8:35PM	HU 24	Stephan Stohler
RPOS 351	10439	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	HU 109	Injeong Hwang
RPOS 360	10386	MW	2:45PM-4:05PM	BB 125	Niloufer Siddiqui
RPOS 364	10438	MWF	12:35PM-1:30PM	HU 109	Andrew Vitek
RPOS 365	10283	MW	4:15PM-5:35PM	PH 123	Sean McKeever
RPOS 367	8027	MWF	11:30AM-12:25PM	HU 124	Gregory Nowell
RPOS 383	10282	MWF	10:25AM-11:20AM	HU 24	Christopher Clary
RPOS 390/RPAD 498	9343/9344	M	5:45PM-8:35PM	CH 151	David Trowbridge
RPOS 397	8599	W	11:30AM-12:25PM	SS 116	Anne Hildreth
RPOS 399	10296	MW	5:45PM-7:05PM	ES 241	Eleanor Stein
RPOS/RPAD 399	10791/10792	MWF	10:25AM-11:20AM	BL 25-110	Philip Nicholas
RPOS 410Z	10251	TTH	2:45PM-4:05PM	HU 130	José Cruz
RPOS 430Z	10550	T	5:45PM-8:35PM	BBB 14	Michael Malbin
RPOS 439Z	6403	TTH	10:15AM-11:35AM	BB 221	Bruce Miroff
RPOS 449Z	9337	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	BB 213	Matthew Ingram
RPOS 479Z	8917	MWF	9:20AM-10:15AM	BB 137	Gregory Nowell
RPOS 479Z	10454	MWF	10:25AM-11:20AM	BB 356	Bryan Early
RPOS 486	7955	W	5:45PM-8:35PM	LC 3C	Kamiar Alaei
RPOS 496Z	5522	F	1:40PM-4:30PM	BI 152	Zsofia Barta
TPOS 220	10505	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	HU 130	Tim Weaver
TPOS 261Y	10284	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	FA 126	Victor Asal

++ This section of RPOS 329 reserved for transfer students in the NY Politics Living-Learning Community. Students must register for 329 Discussion first.

** Denotes courses taught on Downtown Campus

COURSE/SECTION CLOSED

Political Science Courses by Concentration – Fall 2017

American Politics					
RPOS 319	American Political Development	9305	TTH	10:15AM-11:35AM	Tim Weaver
RPOS/RPAD 321	State & Local Government	8271	TTH	4:15PM-5:35PM	Frank Mauro
RPOS 323	Urban Government	8915	TTH	5:45PM-7:05PM	José Cruz
RPOS/RPAD 329	Administrative Leadership	4794	W	4:15PM-7:05PM	Michael Christakis
RPOS/RPAD 329	Administrative Leadership ++	9276	W	4:15PM-7:05PM	Michael Christakis
RPOS 331	American Legislatures	10761	TTH	11:45AM-1:05PM	Sally Friedman
RPOS 334	American Political Parties & Groups	10240	TTH	2:45PM-4:05PM	Michael Malbin
RPOS 365	Government & the Mass Media	10283	MW	4:15PM-5:35PM	Sean McKeever
RPOS/RPAD 399	Drug Policy	10791	MWF	10:25AM-11:20AM	Philip Nicholas
RPOS 410Z	Minorities & Political Legal System	10251	TTH	2:45PM-4:05PM	José Cruz
RPOS 430Z	Founding the American National Government	10550	T	5:45PM-8:35PM	Michael Malbin
RPOS 439Z	Political Leadership	6403	TTH	10:15AM-11:35AM	Bruce Miroff
Global/Comparative Politics					
RPOS 351	European Politics	10439	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	Injeong Hwang
RPOS 360	Violent Political Conflict	10386	MW	2:45PM-4:05PM	Niloufer Siddiqui
RPOS 364	Building Democracy	10438	MWF	12:35PM-1:30PM	Andrew Vitek
RPOS 367	Politics of the Middle East	8027	MWF	11:30AM-12:25PM	Gregory Nowell
RPOS 383	American Foreign Policy	10282	MWF	10:25AM-11:20AM	Christopher Clary
RPOS 399	Climate Change Law & Policy: Domestic & Global	10296	MW	5:45PM-7:05PM	Eleanor Stein
RPOS 479Z	Politics & Money: U.S. Banking & Financial Crises	8917	MWF	9:20AM-10:15 AM	Gregory Nowell
RPOS 479Z	Weapons of Mass Destruction	10454	MWF	10:25AM-11:20AM	Bryan Early
RPOS 486	International Health & Human Rights	7955	W	5:45PM-8:35PM	Kamiar Alaei
Political Theory					
RPOS 306	Contemporary Democratic Theory	9234	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	Mykolas Gudelis
RPOS 308	Theorists and Theorizing	10238	MWF	11:30AM-12:25PM	Mort Schoolman
RPOS 310	Contemporary Political Philosophy	10239	MWF	9:20AM-10:15 AM	Mort Schoolman
RPOS 314	Problems of Political Inquiry	9237	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	Mykolas Gudelis
RPOS 430Z	Founding the American National Government	10550	T	5:45PM-8:35PM	Michael Malbin
Public Law					
RPOS 326	Introduction to Public Law	9239	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	Matthew Ingram
RPOS/RPAD 328	Law & Policy	9236	MWF	1:40PM-2:35PM	Philip Nicholas
RPOS 336	Civil Liberties	10241	W	5:45PM-8:35PM	Stephan Stohler
RPOS 399	Climate Change Law & Policy: Domestic & Global	10296	MW	5:45PM-7:05PM	Eleanor Stein
RPOS 449Z	Law, Justice & Democracy	9337	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	Matthew Ingram
Electives					
RPOS/RPAD 140	Introduction To Public Policy	5545	MW	2:45PM-4:05PM	Andre Kiesel
RPOS 204	Black Lives Matter Movement	9666	MW	2:45PM-4:05PM	Timothy Taylor
RPOS 204	Trump's Effect on NY Law & Policy	10711	TTH	4:15PM-5:35PM	James Malatras
RPOS 204	NYS Constitutional Convention	10712	T	5:45PM-8:35PM	Frank Mauro
RPOS 250	Current Policy Debates Viewed Through a Social Science Lens	9303	MWF	1:40PM-2:35PM	Sally Friedman
RPOS/RPAD 316	Methodological Tools for Public Policy	5765	TTH	11:45AM-1:05PM	Iseul Choi
RPOS 390/RPAD 498	Internship RPOS/RPAD	9343	M	5:45PM-8:35PM	David Trowbridge
RPOS 397	Careers in Political Science and Public Policy	8599	W	11:30AM-12:25PM	Anne Hildreth
RPOS 496Z	Great Ideas in Political Science	5522	F	1:40PM-4:30PM	Zsofia Barta
TPOS 220	Great Transformations in American Politics	10505	TTH	1:15PM-2:35PM	Tim Weaver
TPOS 261Y	Comparative Ethnicity	10284	TTH	8:45AM-10:05AM	Victor Asal

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COURSE/SECTION CLOSED