

Department of Political Science

Graduate Course Descriptions – Fall 2018

**RPOS 500
10006**

**Political Philosophy
Th 5:45 – 9:25 pm**

**P. Breiner
Husted 15**

In this course we will examine two of the most significant theorists to map out the meaning of modern politics and economy: Karl Marx and Max Weber. Using Marx's *Capital* and his copious political writings including among others *The Eighteenth Brumaire* and *The Civil War in France* and Weber's *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Economy and Society* and his political writings as our central texts, we will address the following issues: What are the origins of modern capitalism and how has it organized our everyday life? More specifically, what does it mean to even discover "an origin" for capitalism and how does the "origin" repeat itself within the constantly changing forms that capitalism has undergone? In what ways has political economy shaped our understanding of politics and in what ways is politics an activity with its own logic of power and authority distinct from political economy? Is there a form of political community beyond that of professional politicians, parties, and administration or is there (as Weber claims) no escape from this modern "business" of politics? Given the connection between socialism and the democratic revolution, can socialism claim to be such an order? Finally, we will examine how each theorist analyzes the kind of person(s) modern culture has cultivated. This seminar is not just for political theorists but also for any graduate student who wants to get a firm grasp of these two thinkers.

**RPOS 516
10155**

**Introduction to Political Inquiry
T 5:45 – 9:25 pm**

**S. Stohler
Husted 17**

This course is designed to serve as a foundational introduction to empirical social science research. Students will learn how to formulate appropriate research questions and design strategies to answer them. These exercises will serve as a basis for evaluating the merits and demerits of individual approaches, and the deeper philosophical foundations of empirical research itself. These exercises will also allow students to explore the ethics of empirical legal research. Students can expect to present regularly and offer feedback to others about ongoing research projects. Students will be required to develop two research prospectuses and one grant proposal.

**RPOS 523
8394**

**Urban Community Development
M 7:15 – 10:05 pm**

**TBA
AS 123 (Uptown)**

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.

Note: This course is designed for masters' students and will not count towards the credit requirements of the PhD.

**RPOS 529
6149**

**Law & Public Policy
M 5:45 – 9:25 pm**

**M. Leinung
Husted 308**

This seminar introduces students to the interrelationships of law, courts, and public policy. There are thus two broad sets of issues to be examined in this course: First, the policy implications, the strengths and weaknesses, of the specific legal tools available to government – private law, tort law, criminal law – and, second, the special role of regulation, the legislature, judges and courts in making public policy in a democratic political order.

Note: This course is designed for masters' students and will not count towards the credit requirements of the PhD.

**RPOS 539/R
9561/9562**

**Seminar in Campaigns and Elections
W 5:45 – 9:25 pm**

**M. Malbin
Husted 6**

Election campaigns can be studied from the perspective of candidates, potential candidates, parties, consultants, advocacy organizations, the media, voters, and many others. Each of these affects the others. All function in a context shaped by election rules, as well as by larger structural considerations (governmental, constitutional, economic, technological and social.) This seminar will change from year to year, but the potential breadth of the subject does not. Ultimately, we want to consider how campaigning might matter – not only to election outcomes, but to the relationship between citizens, elected officials and governing. In 2018, the general themes of this course will be pursued with a focus on the midterm congressional elections,

the contemporary role of political party and non-party organizations, and debates over state and federal campaign finance and election reform.

RPOS 541 **Field Seminar in Public Law** **J. Novkov**
9960 **W** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **Husted 308**

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

RPOS 546/R **Comparative Public Policy** **Z. Barta**
9563/9564 **M** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **Draper 246**

Why do countries differ in their policy choices? Why do some countries provide health care and education through the public sector, while in others the provision is mostly private? Why do some countries borrow extensively while others keep their budgets in balance? Why do some countries pay unemployment benefits indefinitely, while others barely pay such benefits at all? This course answers such questions by exploring the nature of social conflicts surrounding policy-making, the differences in national policy-making institutions, changing ideas about the desirable goals and best types of policies and the influence of the international economic and political environment on national policy-making.

RPOS 552 **Communist & Post-Communist Systems** **C. Chen**
9981 **T** **1:15 – 4:55 pm** **Husted 304**

This course provides a survey of the politics of communism and post-communism in Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and East Asia. It begins with an overview of the origin and development of Leninism in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China, stressing both the similarities and differences between these countries' experiences under Leninism. The second part of the course examines and analyzes the profound political, economic, and social changes in former Leninist societies during the post-communist transformation. Specifically, we will cover different paths of political development; economic reforms; social transformation; and nationalism and ethnic conflicts. The course will conclude with a broad discussion of the international dimensions of post-communism. The primary aims of the course are to familiarize students with the major challenges confronting former Leninist countries as they move away from socialism in varying ways, and to provide students with not only the theoretical tools necessary for understanding the collapse of Leninism, but also the perspectives crucial to making well-grounded evaluations of the diverging political and socio-economic trajectories in these countries.

RPOS 554/R **Political Violence, Insurgency** **V. Asal**
10156/10157 **Th** **6:15 – 10:05 pm** **Husted 204**

This course examines the relationships among, and differences between the following activities in the international political system: political violence, insurgency, and terrorism. The course will include a consideration of the causes of these activities, their effects on national and international politics, and an evaluation of governmental responses to them.

RPOS 570 **Field Seminar in International Political Systems** **B. Early**
8962 **M** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **Husted 15**

This course will provide a survey of the major concepts and theories employed in the study of international relations. It will cover the bedrock assumptions undergirding most theories of international relations, the actors and structures they rely upon, and the concepts they leverage. Students will receive an overview of the grand theories of international relations and be introduced to the study of foreign policy. Students will gain a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the major theoretical approaches of international relations, how the theories relate to one another, their intellectual origins, and their empirical track records. Students will also develop foundational skills in identifying areas in need of additional research to which IR theory can be applied. Emphasis within the class will be placed upon preparing students for the comprehensive examination in international relations.

RPOS 583/R **Global Governance** **R. Koslowski**
10172/10173 **T** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **Milne 215**

This course examines the organization of world politics in the context of globalization and provides an overview of international organizations, such as the United Nations, and regional organizations, such as the European Union. The course reviews the historical evolution of the international system and the basic concepts of international relations. It then examines international cooperation beyond the confines of formal organizational structures with particular emphasis on international regimes, institutions and norms that govern state practices in particular issue areas - from trade and weapons

proliferation to the environment and refugees. The course also examines transnational relations of non-state actors such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational corporations as well as transgovernmental relations of sub-national governments and government agencies that shape policymaking at a global level. **Note: PhD students will receive a separate list of additional readings to help prepare them for comprehensive exams. Written assignments for Masters and PhD students will also differ. The instructor will arrange some additional sessions with PhD students to discuss additional readings and for PhD project presentations, as needed.**

RPOS 584 **American Foreign Policy Formulation & Implementation** **C. Clary**
9565 **W** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **Husted 17**

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. The United States is the largest provider of foreign aid globally. U.S. decisions in international trade and climate negotiations have global effects. How is U.S. foreign policy made? Who influences those choices? Why does the United States make the national security decisions that it does? How different is policy formulation and implementation in the Trump administration compared to its predecessors? How constrained are presidents by the structure of the international system and the inertia of U.S. bureaucracy? This writing-intensive course will introduce students to theories of foreign policy that seek to 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.

RPOS 611 **Seminar in College Teaching** **B. Franchini**
6899 **W** **12:35 – 2:35 pm** **Husted 310**

An overview of the scholarship of teaching and learning, students will develop and practice teaching skills. Course will be taught in conjunction with the Institute for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Leadership. Emphasizes the skills and knowledge necessary to design and teach a course that effectively facilitates student learning. Topics include: student learning styles, encouraging critical thinking, assessing student learning, designing assignments, active learning & group work, course design, efficient grading, how to run a lecture, and the use of writing in the classroom. *Prerequisites: Admission to a terminal degree program and permission of instructor.*

RPOS 613 **Becoming a Reflective Teacher: The Teaching Portfolio** **B. Franchini**
6901 **M** **12:35 – 2:35 pm** **Husted 8**

Students will build on the skills developed in CAS 601, PAD 590 or POS 611 as well as gain a familiarity with scholarship and techniques to help them develop as reflective teachers. Students will construct a teaching portfolio that can be used as part of a job search and as the foundation of a professional portfolio which can be used as a part of the tenure process. This course will be taught in conjunction with the Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership. Topics will include: The Teaching Portfolio and Teaching Statement as Formative and Summative Document; Peer Evaluation Training; Designing Courses for Significant Learning; Teaching Materials—Activities and Assignments; Coaching Students as Learners; The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning; Teaching Evaluations; and From Teaching Portfolio to Tenure File. *Prerequisites: Admission to a terminal degree program; CAS 601, PAD 590 or POS 611; and permission of instructor.*

RPOS 618 **Qualitative Methods** **P. Strach**
7596 **Th** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **TBA**

This seminar covers the research process from its design to final analysis, focusing on qualitative and mixed-methods research. That is, 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. This seminar is designed to be an important step in the logic and practice of qualitative and mixed methods research. ***Prior to starting the course, you must complete the online human subjects training. You may have done this already in POS 516, if not please see: <http://www.albany.edu/research/compliance/Training.htm#IRB>*

RPOS 666 9962	Global Environment: Politics and Policy Th 5:45 – 9:25 pm	B. Greenhill Husted 17
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This course examines the theory and practice of international environmental politics to better understand why the international community has been successful at solving some international environmental problems but not others. It considers policies that aim to address transnational issues such as climate change, ozone depletion, overfishing, deforestation, and species extinction. Theoretical approaches applied to these problems will consider not only the central role of states, but also the ways in which non-state actors, such as non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, and transnational networks of cities, are becoming important players in managing these problems.

RPOS 695 7904	Research & Writing Seminar I M 1:40 – 3:30 pm	C. Chen Husted 17
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This is the first part of a required year-long course for all third-year doctoral students in political science. Before taking this course, students should have already taken POS 516 and either POS 517 or POS 618, as the knowledge they gained from these courses will play an important role in this class. This year-long course is designed to help advanced graduate students formulate and execute a major research project that could potentially be developed into a future dissertation or a journal article. Students are encouraged to use this opportunity to produce a working draft of a dissertation proposal by the end of the year. During the fall semester, the course will begin with a review of fundamental issues of conducting social scientific research, and then proceed to discuss what constitutes a good dissertation; what the essential elements of a dissertation prospectus are; how to situate a research project within the existing literature and debates; how to craft specific, relevant, and doable research questions; and how to design a viable research plan to adequately answer these questions. Students will also participate in, and benefit from, peer review processes as they develop the skills of providing informed feedback to, and accepting constructive criticisms from, their colleagues. By the end of the fall semester, students should be able to produce a solid draft that they can build on, expand, and improve upon in the spring semester.

RPOS 697	Selected Problems in POS Research Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	All Faculty
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RPOS 698	Master's Capstone Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	All Faculty
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RPOS 797 6344	Graduate Service Learning Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	TBD
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RPOS 798	Readings in Political Science Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	All Faculty
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RPOS 897	Independent Research POS Arranged (Permission of Instructor) Load Credit <u>Only</u>	All Faculty
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RPOS 899	Doctoral Dissertation Arranged (Permission of Instructor) Load Credit <u>Only</u> , ABD Status <u>Only</u>	All Faculty
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