

# Department of Political Science

## Graduate Course Descriptions Spring 2017

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**RPOS 513  
(8166)**

**Field Seminar in Public Policy**  
Th 5:45 – 9:25 pm

**P. Strach  
Husted 015**

This course introduces students to public policy and the policy process in the United States and in comparative context. In it, we focus on important *theories* of how policymaking works 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 or comparative politics broadly or policy students looking for theoretical background.

**RPOS 517  
(4463)**

**Quantitative Research Methods**  
M 1:40 – 5:20 pm

**M. Ingram  
Draper 014**

Assuming little to no participant familiarity with quantitative methods – and even some trepidation toward statistics (let's face it, few people get really excited about math) – this course provides an introduction to basic statistical methods for the social sciences. Upon successful completion, course participants will be better consumers of statistical methods, have acquired competence and understanding of introductory statistics and be able to apply these methods to real-world problems in the social sciences, including problems of interest to students. The course also prepares participants for taking more advanced and specialized quantitative methods courses, emphasizing applied data analysis. Participants will work with a variety of hands-on experiences to prepare them to conduct their own research projects, from data collection and management to presenting research findings. Topics covered include: Overview of quantitative approaches to empirical social science and casual inference; concept formation and measurement; univariate statistics; sampling; hypothesis testing; bivariate and multiple regression; assumptions underlying the linear regression model; and extensions of linear regression. No prior knowledge in statistics is required or expected.

**RPOS 532/R  
(10392, 10393)**

**The Chief Executive**  
W 5:45 – 9:25 pm

**B. Miroff  
Husted 013**

The course examines the many dimensions of the American presidency. It focuses on the most important literature covering theories of the presidency, constitutional analyses of presidential powers and limits, presidential relationships with the bureaucracy, the Congress, and the public, and presidential policies in domestic and international affairs. Requirements include two short papers on assigned readings and a longer research paper.

**RPOS 540  
(10395)**

**Urban Policy in United States**  
M 7:15 – 10:05 pm

**H. Papineau**

A research seminar on federal, state, and local policies toward the contemporary city. Evaluation of alternative conceptions of federalism, government intervention vs. market processes, and the political economy of growth. Case studies of current policy issue.

**RPOS 550  
(8694)**

**Field Seminar in Comparative Political Systems**  
T 1:15 – 4:55 pm

**C. Chen  
Husted 015**

The objective of this seminar is to provide a critical survey of the field of comparative politics, exposing the student to different methodological approaches and to substantive areas of research. The first half of the course traces the intellectual history of the field with a focus on the bifurcation between theories that emphasize the “universal” (the homogenizing effects of specific processes or variables) and the “particular” (the persistence of distinctive historical

legacies and trajectories). It then examines the recent debates between rational-choice, cultural, and structuralist scholars, and discusses the major methodological issues in comparative politics, considering the trade-offs between varieties of formal, quantitative, and qualitative methods. In the second half of the course, the focus shifts to substantive areas of research in the field of comparative politics, including the complex relations among nationalism, nation-states and societies; the origins, consolidation, and patterns of democratic governance; the dynamics behind revolutions and other forms of “contentious politics”; the political economy of development and the emergence of varieties of capitalism; and the relationship between international/global economy and domestic politics and policies. Overall, the course is designed to introduce important issues and debates that comparativists have regularly engaged in, and to provide a broad intellectual map of an extremely heterogeneous field so that the relationships between different kinds of problematiques and approaches can be better understood.

**RPOS 557/R**                      **Politics of Southeast Asia**                      **M. Weiss**  
**(10234, 10235)**                      **T**                      **5:45 – 9:25 pm**                      **Husted 012**

This class will explore the politics and societies of Southeast Asia through the lens of significant texts on the region. We will begin with a brief overview of the region as a whole, prevailing theoretical lenses, and (especially qualitative) research methods, then move on to a series of classic works covering a range of themes central both to the study of comparative politics as a whole and of Southeast Asia specifically. These themes include, for instance, state formation, regime dynamics, economic development, social mobilization, and ethnic and religious politics. Each student should be prepared to read and discuss one book per week (to be read in full) and to write a substantial, comparative paper on one dimension of Southeast Asian politics. The course is designed for those interested in comparative politics broadly. Prior knowledge of Southeast Asia is helpful, but not required.

**RPOS 571/R**                      **International Political Economy**                      **G. Nowell**  
**(6454, 6504)**                      **Th**                      **5:45 – 9:25 pm**                      **Husted 017**

An introduction to competing theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of international political economy. The course will examine the utility of these different theoretical approaches and attend to major current issues in the field. Prerequisite(s): As specified for M.A. or Ph.D. students.

**RPOS 582/R**                      **Global Security**                      **C. Clary**  
**(9909, 9911)**                      **M**                      **5:45 – 9:25 pm**                      **Husted 017**

This is a course about the nature, causes, effects, and prevention of political violence in the modern world. Students taking the course will be asked to critically analyze contemporary global security problems. How do modern armies fight and win wars? How dangerous is the proliferation of nuclear weapons? What causes terrorism? When do civil wars emerge and how do they end? How will cyber capabilities change the global security environment? Political violence causes enormous suffering. The course aims to provide theoretical tools and analytical approaches to help make sense of why that suffering occurs, and the manner in which it can be alleviated.

**RPOS 604**                      **Inequality & Public Policy**                      **J. Dodge**  
**(5673)**                      **W**                      **5:45 – 9:25 pm**                      **Draper 246**

This course addresses the formulation and implementation of public policies that seek to end diverse inequities. Specifically, this course will explore alternative definitions of equality and their implications for public policy; the role of issue definition and agenda-setting in policy making; the troublesome challenge of measuring equality for purposes of developing or assessing policy; the causes and politics of inequality, and the dynamics of governing institutions that produce, exacerbate or ameliorate inequalities. The course will equip students with a variety of policy analytic tools to help them analyze inequalities and the various public policies used to address them.

**RPOS 612**                      **Preparing for Professoriate**                      **S. Doellefeld, B. Franchini, K. Van Orman**  
**(6649)**                      **Th**                      **1:15 – 3:15 pm**                      **BBB002**

Students will develop a working knowledge of the American system of higher education, an understanding of what it means to be a professional academic, and the processes common to tenure-track academic positions. This course will be taught in conjunction with the Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership. Topics include: Transitioning from Student to Professional, Understanding Institution Types, The Academic Job Market, What Successful New Faculty Know, Understanding the Tenure Process, Balancing Faculty Commitments of Research, Teaching and Service, Movements in Institutional Change to Improve Learning, Department and Institutional Assessment. Prerequisites: Admission to a terminal degree program; CAS 601, PAD 590 or POS 611; and permission of instructor.

**RPOS 696**                      **Research & Writing Seminar II**                      **S. Friedman**  
**(10462)**                      **Th 4:15 – 6:05 pm**                      **Husted 308**

This course is the second half of a year-long research and writing seminar – POS 695 & POS 696 – in which students concentrate on further developing a paper that is eligible for submission to an academic journal and presentation at a professional conference. In POS 695, we conceptualized and developed the basics of a research design for a paper and considered how the potential topic would serve as a contribution with value added to the existing literature. With continued supervision of a faculty mentor and through a variety of class activities, we will now work on the execution of that research design, dealing with the inevitable issues and concerns that go with the territory of project implementation. The culmination of the work will be a presentation to faculty and graduate students in the political science department.

**RPOS 697**                      **Selected Problems in POS Research**                      **All Faculty**  
    Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

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

**RPOS 701/R**                      **Tutorial in Political Theory**                      **M. Schoolman**  
**(9917, 9918)**                      **M 1:40 – 5:20 pm**                      **Husted 012**

One of the great debates in political theory has been about what kind of "individual" democratic societies produce and requires. This topic has occupied the minds of the finest thinkers in America and in Europe during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Do democracies necessarily produce or require individuals who are moral? immoral? political? apolitical? apathetic? acquisitive? narcissistic? aesthetic? subservient? alienated? resentful? enlightened? violent? peaceful? Is there a distinction to be made between "individualism" and "individuality"? Or, perhaps, is democracy not productive or in need of any sort of individual, so that the individual is a fiction, a fabrication of several centuries of discourse? This course will take up "the question of the individual" in modern democracy and will explore it through the writings of Tocqueville, Emerson, Whitman, Thoreau, Melville, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche, Foucault, Bellah, Kateb, and others.

**RPOS 798**                      **Readings in Political Science**                      **All Faculty**  
    Arranged (Permission of Instructor)

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

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

