

Department of Political Science

Graduate Course Descriptions

Spring 2018

RPOS 517 **Quantitative Research Methods** **M. Ingram**
4268 **M** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **HS 004**

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 533 **WOMEN, POLITICS & POWER** **S. Friedman**
10359 **TTH** **4:15 PM – 5:35 PM** **BB 221**

Whether it's speculating about the factors impacting a woman's chance of becoming U.S. president, analyzing the work of women who already hold elective office, thinking through women's participation in the political and policy processes or simply watching the progress of a female little leaguer playing baseball on an otherwise all male team, issues relevant to gender arise in more contexts than we might think. Many are controversial, and many raise important questions about the status of women in society and in politics. What factors enhance the chances for women's political participation? Do women bring different perspectives to politics and leadership? Do they behave differently while in office? Are their "interests" being adequately represented? It will be the central purpose of this class to consider and disentangle the multiple and sometimes conflicting perspectives on these often difficult questions. Beginning with some background and historical perspective, we will overview the ways women have been involved in a number of aspects of American political life, examining women's participation as voters, candidates, officeholders and increasingly, as political leaders.

RPOS 540 **Urban Policy in United States** **T.Weaver**
10124 **M** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **HS 012**

This research seminar focuses on federal, state, and urban policies toward the contemporary city. We will consider how urban policy and politics has varied over the course of the twentieth century; examine the policy approaches to the problem of urban poverty; and consider case studies of Detroit, Philadelphia, Oakland, and New York.

RPOS 544 **American Political Development** **B. Miroff**
10125 **W** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **HS 013**

This seminar in American Political Development examines one of the fastest-growing approaches to the study of American Politics, the historical approach. Popularly known as APD, American Political Development as a field sweeps across the entire terrain of American politics rather than concentrating on only a single area. In the seminar, we will consider APD scholarship on American institutions, political culture, political economy, race and gender, and public policy. Readings will be substantial but writing assignments will be modest.

RPOS 550 **Field Seminar in Comparative Political Systems** **M. Weiss**
8149 **T** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **HS 013**

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 571/R **International Political Economy** **G. Nowell**
6141, 6186 **W** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **HS 012**

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 603/R **Contemporary Political Theory** **M. Schoolman**
10128, 10129 **Th** **5:45 – 9:25 pm** **HS 013**

This course will focus on the critical theory of the Frankfurt School and its second and third generation disciples. After beginning with background reading by George Lukacs, History and Class Consciousness, we will focus on the writings of Max Horkheimer, T.W. Adorno, and Herbert Marcuse. After completing a survey of their works, we will turn to the writings of Juergen Habermas, Alex Honneth, and Albrecht Wellmer, and conclude with reading by Sheyla Benhabib.

RPOS 612 **Preparing for Professoriate** **S. Doellefeld, B. Franchini, K. Van Orman**
6308 **Th** **1:15 – 3:15 pm** **HS 012**

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** **C. Chen**
9750 **M** **1:15 – 3:15 pm** **HS 304**

This is the second part of a required year-long course for all third-year doctoral students in political science. All enrolled students are expected to have already taken the first part of this course, POS 695. 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 spring semester, the course will pick up where we left at the end of the last semester, and students are expected to build on the initial drafts they produced while working closely with their future dissertation advisors. They will start with preliminary data-gathering, followed by theoretical construction, methodological design, and research plan. The resulting prospectus drafts will then go through rounds of revisions. As in POS 695, students will again 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 spring semester, each student is expected to have assembled a tentative dissertation committee, and to have produced a solid prospectus draft. The students will then present their works to the department.

RPOS 697	Selected Problems in POS Research Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	All Faculty
RPOS 698	Masters Essay Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	All Faculty
RPOS 798	Readings in Political Science Arranged (Permission of Instructor)	All Faculty
RPOS 897	Independent Research POS Arranged (Permission of Instructor) Load Credit <u>Only</u>	All Faculty
RPOS 899	Doctoral Dissertation Arranged (Permission of Instructor) Load Credit <u>Only</u> , ABD Status <u>Only</u>	All Faculty