

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: SPRING 2011
Department of Political Science
University at Albany, SUNY

POS 506 / R **IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT** **R. Nakamura**
(5520 / 6713) **M** **5:45 – 8:35** **HS 12**

The study of policy implementation is the examination of what happens after policy has been made. Implementation research has dealt with a variety of topics including the development of conceptual frameworks for understanding the process, case studies of specific implementation activities, and the exploration of approaches intended to improve the fit between what policy makers intend and what happens. As in many areas of the policy sciences, two different goals propel efforts: scholarly interest in understanding why things happen, and a practical concern with improving policy outcomes. Or, in Harold Lasswell's distinction, a concern with "knowledge of the process" and the desire to develop "knowledge *in* the process."

This course has three main practical goals. First, to acquaint students with the major approaches and problems found in implementation research. Second, to show how these techniques may be combined to better analyze cases and to identify the factors associated with successes and failures. And third, to help practitioners better identify potential implementation pitfalls as well as to identify the conditions under which different countermeasures would be useful.

POS 517 **EMPIRICAL DATA ANALYSIS** **DC Shim**
(6033) **M** **2:45 – 5:35** **HS 4**

Assuming little to no student familiarity—and even some trepidation—this course provides an overview of basic statistical methods for the social sciences. We begin at the beginning, examining simple but nonetheless critical univariate statistics. With a primary focus on OLS regression, we then spend the majority of the class studying techniques designed to test hypotheses involving an increasing number of independent variables. We also spend considerable time highlighting the importance of the assumptions on which these techniques are based, consider methods of statistical significance to generalize from samples to larger populations and provide an introduction to more advanced though increasingly popular techniques including probit and logit analysis. Throughout, the focus will be consumer friendly; we will critique social science articles based on statistical methods and, using STATA, we will get a lot of practice applying what we have learned to some interesting data sets. By the end of the course, students should thus become better consumers of statistical methods, demonstrate competence and understanding of introductory statistics and show some facility toward applying these methods to social science problems of interest to them.

POS 521 **FIELD SEMINAR - AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM** **A. Hildreth**
(4160) **T** **5:45 – 8:35** **HS 13**

The Field Seminar in the American Political System introduces graduate students to the basic methods, theories, and normative concerns of scholars in American politics. The seminar is organized in two parts. Part I explores theories of power applied to American politics, each encompassing a distinctive approach for studying power, unique assumptions about society, specific techniques for analyzing data, and normative implications for democratic theory and democracy. Part II consists of guest lectures by members of the Political Science department. This segment gives students a chance to sample the different styles, approaches, research interests, and normative concerns of professors in the department. The seminar requires weekly reaction papers, active class participation, and a major essay critically reviewing and synthesizing the literature in a chosen area pre-approved by the instructor.

POS 532 **THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE** **B. MIROFF**
(9392) **M** **5:45 – 8:35** **DR 313A**

This is a course on the American presidency. We will approach the subject with an eye to varied theories, focal points, and methods. Requirements include two short papers and a research paper.

**POS 550
(5319)**

**FIELD SEMINAR – COMPARATIVE
POLITICAL SYSTEMS
TH 5:45 – 8:35**

**M. Weiss
HS 13**

This field seminar will address major theoretical, methodological, substantive issues in comparative political studies. Diverse theoretical paradigms, research methods, and substantive foci will be analyzed, compared, and evaluated. Ample attention will be paid to the history of ideas and ideologies and of theories and metatheories. All of political science's subfields (especially international relations) and several cognate disciplines (especially economics, sociology, and history) will help us describe and explain the norms and forms of state-society relations in various contexts. The purpose of this seminar is not only to survey contentious issues but to help students develop reasoned and informed views on these issues and to enhance students' analytical and critical skills.

**POS 553
(9584)**

**POLITICS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
T 5:45 – 8:50**

**H. Sims
HS 15**

**POS 561
(9391)**

**NATIONALISM AND NATION-BUILDING
TH 5:45 – 8:35**

**C. Chen
HS 12**

This course covers classical and recent scholarly debates regarding nationalism and nation-building; theoretical and historical evolution of nationalism, nationalist movements, and nation-building; and some of the most salient contemporary issues related to the national question, including the effects of globalization and the resurgence of nationalist movements in the post-Cold War era.

**POS 583 / R
(9559 / 9560)**

**GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
W 5:45 – 8:35**

**B. Early
HS 12**

The organization of world politics in the context of globalization. Overview of international organizations such as the United Nations and regional organizations such as the European Union. Examination of the historical and current international legal frameworks. Analysis of 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. 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.

**POS 603 / R
(6767 / 6768)**

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY:
"Introduction to the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School"
TH 2:45 – 5:35**

**M. Schoolman
HU 112**

The purpose of this graduate course is to introduce students to the Critical theory of the Frankfurt School and the major variant of Critical theory that developed out of and in reaction to it. The seminar will study the early essays of Max Horkheimer, his coauthored *Dialectic of Enlightenment* with T.W. Adorno, Adorno's *Aesthetic Theory* and collected essays in *The Culture Industry*, Walter Benjamin's "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical reproduction," and Jurgen Habermas's *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action* and final chapter in the first volume of *The Theory of Communicative Action*. Students also will be required to do independent research on other Critical theorists who have pursued one or more of the theoretical problems defining the work of Horkheimer, Adorno, Benjamin, or Habermas, which will serve as the basis for student semester term papers.

**POS 604
(7947)**

**INEQUALITY & PUBLIC POLICY
W 5:45 – 8:50**

**A. Jones
DR 15**

Examines the politics of formulating and policies that seek to end inequalities based on gender, race, class, sexual identity and/or other categories of marginalization. Theoretical and case study readings focus on the challenges, paradoxes and successes of a variety of social change initiatives.

POS 606 **SOCIAL CAPITAL AND PUBLIC POLICY** **A. Jones**
(9337) **T 5:45 – 8:50** **DR 313A**

Examines the role of social networks in formation, passage and implementation of public policy. Focus on political science approaches but includes sociological, anthropological and historical perspectives. Appropriate for both MA and PhD students.

RPOS 626 **Bargaining and Negotiation** **V. Asal**
(9572) **T 5:45-8:50** **DR 313B**

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of the theory and practice of Bargaining and Negotiation. We will examine the what how, why and when of bargaining and negotiation from theoretical and practical perspectives. The course will look at this subject broadly with insights from business/nonprofit settings all the way to international relations between states. The course will be built around the use of simulations where students will be “the lab rats” in their own experimental learning.

POS 696 **SELECTED PROBLEMS IN** **A. Hildreth**
(6712) **POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH:**
RESEARCH AND WRITING SEMINAR PART II (2) **HS 12**
M 1:15 – 3:00

This course, which is taken in the spring of the second year of the PhD program, focuses on the implementation of the research design created in POS 695 and the production of a final paper suitable for publication or conference presentation. Students will conduct and analyze original research as well as produce drafts under the guidance of a course instructor and faculty mentor from their subfield. Students will present their final results in a research conference at the end of the spring semester. RPOS 695 is a prerequisite for this course.

POS 697 **SELECTED PROBLEMS - POS RESEARCH** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)

POS 698 **MASTERS ESSAY** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST.)

POS 702 **POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION** **H. Sims**
(8617) **TH 5:45 – 8:35** **HS 17**

POS 798 **READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM OF INST.)

POS 897 **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH POS** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT ONLY)

POS 899 **DOCTORAL DISSERTATION** **All Faculty**
ARRANGED (PERM. OF INST. - LOAD CREDIT ONLY)
ABD STATUS ONLY (1 Credit Registration constitutes full-time study)