

ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SUMMER 2017

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

RPOS 101 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS Anne Hildreth
2005 4W2 ONLINE

This course will introduce you to the workings of American politics and its key actors, institutions and policies. We begin at the beginning: the first section of the course reviews the views, debates and conflicts dating from the founding period in American politics. In examining the actions of the framers of the constitution we explore how they resolved their differences and the role the conflicts of their time play in our 21st century lives. The course examines the role of the public and elections, the workings of the major institutions of government and the ways actors inside and outside of government impact the policy making process. **Gen Ed: US History, Social Sciences.**

RPOS 102 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS Injeong Hwang
2460 6W2 ONLINE

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. **Gen. Ed: Social Sciences, Challenges for the 21st Century.**

RPOS/RPAD 140 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY Katherine Slye
2461/2462 6W2 ONLINE

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?

This course introduces students to the policy making process. 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. Throughout 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. *Required for Public Policy majors.* **Gen Ed: Social Sciences.**

**Session Code List on Page 4

RPOS 204 **AMERICAN POLITICS IN FILM** **Jose Cruz**
2463 **4W2** **ONLINE**

This course examines visual representations of selected aspects of American politics. Our focus is film. We will use movies as our primary texts and will compare and contrast the facts, ideas, and symbols they provide with written accounts and analyses of the phenomena, processes, and events represented. Although this will not be the primary focus of the course, we will also explore the implications of media representations of politics for democracy and democratic participation.

RPOS 204 **WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION** **Nolan Fahrenkopf**
2474 **6W2** **ONLINE**

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

RPOS 365 **GOVERNMENT AND MASS MEDIA** **Sean McKeever**
1741 **4W1** **ONLINE**

Everyone has an opinion on the media: "it is too biased," "it is too shallow," "it is the bedrock of free speech," 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 read two conflicting theories on the purpose and value of American media, we will briefly study the history of media in America, we will analyze some potentially inherent pitfalls of media, we will examine the various kinds of media and how the medium itself speaks, we will seek to understand the relationship between media and government, and we will debate the proper role of media in a democracy. We will explore how the media itself exerts political and governmental power and how it interacts with governmental and political power. *This course is in the American Politics concentration.*

RPOS 373 **GOVT & POL REPUBLIC CHINA** **Xiaoye She**
2475 **4W1** **ONLINE**

This course provides students an overview of politics, economy and society of China, and helps students understand the domestic sources of China's rising power and its related controversies. It begins with an overview of Chinese politics as a field, and a brief synopsis of political history from revolution to reform. The second part explores some of the contemporary issues and challenges in China, covering political institutions, economic governance, state-society relations, and contentious politics. The course then concludes with a broader discussion on regional and global dimensions of China's rising power, and the future political landscape. No previous knowledge of China's history, culture, or language is required nor will such knowledge be assumed. *This course is in the Global Politics concentration.* Gen Ed: International Perspectives.

RPOS 399/RPAD 366 **INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY** **Joshua Caldon**
2545/2505 **6W1** **ONLINE**

In his 2015 State of the Union Address, President Obama asserted "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change." Necessarily, an environmental threat like the one framed by President Obama affects countries other than the United States. In turn, finding solutions to mitigate, adapt and improve the international physical environment will depend on the relations between states and the policies they develop independently and mutually. This course will allow students to critically analyze present and historical international environmental concerns at an individual, group, and state level. In doing so, students will gain a more comprehensive understanding of shared environmental concerns and develop skills to discern how and why state and non-state actors address these environmental concerns. At the end of this course the student will be able to address specific international environmental issues that interest them. They will be able to effectively explain and communicate what influences the actors involved, and define possible policies options these actors are likely to promote and the likely reactions to these policy options by other actors. *This course is in the Global Politics concentration.*

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY COURSES

RPAD/RPOS 140
2462/2461

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY
6W2

Katherine Slye
ONLINE

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RPAD 366/RPOS 399
2505/2504

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
6W1

Joshua Caldon
ONLINE

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RPAD 438
2466

U.S. HEALTH REFORM AT THE CROSSROADS
6W2

Stephen Weinberg
ONLINE

US health policy is experiencing one of the most unstable periods of any major policy issue in American history, having just undergone one major revision and now facing the immediate prospect of a complete change in direction. This course will have two major parts: (i) exploring the Affordable Care Act's main elements, political history, economic rationales, and major impacts and (ii) examining current policy, to the extent that clear policy initiatives have emerged or been passed. At least three weeks of the course will be spent on the Affordable Care Act; how much time is spent on more recent policy changes will depend on the clarity and detail of those changes. The professor will update the course as events unfold, even over the course of the term.

**Session Code List on Page 4

Session Code List:		
6W1	Six Week 1	May 30 - July 7, 2017
6W2	Six Week 2	June 26 - August 4, 2017
6W3	Six Week 3	July 10 - August 18, 2017
4W1	Four Week 1	May 30 - June 23, 2017
4W2	Four Week 2	June 26 - July 21, 2017
4W3	Four Week 3	July 24 - August 18, 2017
12W	Twelve Week	May 30 - August 18, 2017
MIN	Non-standard dates	