UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WINTER 2017-2018

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RPOS 101 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS A. Hildreth
1035 ONLINE

Does it matter which party occupies the White House or dominates the Congress? How can the public shape politics today? What factors influence policymaking on key issues including gun rights, immigration or energy? In this course, we will introduce you to the workings of American politics and its key actors, institutions and policies. We review the debates and conflicts at the founding period in American politics and how they still resonate in the role of the public, 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 Y. Hsieh
1167 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 356 RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY I. Miller
1225 ONLINE

This course provides a broad overview of Russian foreign policy. The first part of the course examines Russia's foreign policy in the light of major political theories and Russia's history. It also identifies various security and identity issues that are at the heart of Russia's foreign policy. The second part of this course focuses on Russia's foreign policy in the post-1991 period, concluding with an examination of Russia's current involvements in Ukraine and Syria. Familiarity with politics and history of Russia is desirable, but not prerequisite. *This course is in the Global Politics concentration.*

RPOS 365 GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS MEDIA S. McKeever
1226 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.*