Political Science Spring 2018 Courses

(M) – Methodology
(∗) – Advanced Seminar

PS 042 Western Political Thought II
Professor: Robert Devigne
Western Political Thought II. Introduction to central concepts of modern political thought. Among topics explored: competing conceptions of freedom; the limits of reason; the promise and perils of the modern state; the relationship between private property and inequality; the conflict between reason and religion; attempts to scientifically analyze politics. Writers read and analyzed include Descartes, Hobbes, Rousseau, Smith, Marx, de Tocqueville, Mill, and Nietzsche.

PS 061: Introduction to International Relations
Professor: Malik Mufti
Examination of several conceptual designs intended to make order out of the essential anarchy in international relations, from a theoretical assessment of the nation-state and the nature of national power to an exploration of behavior among nation-states, including the ultimate problem of war and peace and an appraisal of the factors that give an age its particular characteristics.

PS 099: Fieldwork in Politics: Fieldwork in Local Government
Professor: Shin Fujihira
Internship placements with such employers as legislators, campaigns, news media, lobbies, law firms, and administrative agencies. Twelve to fifteen hours of work per week. Written assignments, with supporting readings, on organizational structure, goals and strategies, and occupational socialization.

PS 102: Congress, Bureaucracy and Public Policy
Professor: Aaron Weinstein
The focus of this course is on the national policy-making process. Examination of such topics as agenda building, the relationship between congressional elections and public policy outcomes, legislative process, congressional-agency relations, bureaucratic politics, and program implementation. Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 103: Political Science Research Methods (M)
Professor: Natalie Masuoka
The study of quantitative methods for investigating political issues and policy controversies. Focuses on collecting, analyzing, and presenting data. Emphasizes hands-on training that provides useful skills for academic and professional settings. Topics covered include: measurement, hypothesis development, survey design, experiments, content analysis, significance tests, correlation, and regression. No prior statistics background necessary. Prerequisites: PS 11, 21, 41, 42, or 61. A methodologically focused course.

PS 104: New Media, New Politics (M)(∗)
Professors: Robin Liss
Research seminar on three media sectors: cable television, talk radio, and the political blogosphere. Analysis of the economic foundations of each, advertising, audience demographics, and program strategy. Students will conduct an original empirical study of new media.

**PS 105: Constitutional Law**  
**Professor: Dennis Rasmussen**  
Critical examination of the Supreme Court’s ever-evolving interpretations of the U.S. Constitution, with a primary focus on civil rights and liberties: religious freedom, freedom of speech and press, the right to bear arms, the right to privacy, voting and representation, and discrimination on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, and other characteristics.

**PS 111 Political Psychology (M)**  
**Professor: Deborah Schildkraut**  
Political psychology is concerned with the role of human thought, emotion, and behavior in politics, and in the linkages between these elements. In this course, we will explore several key approaches to understanding the psychology of political behavior and will examine the psychological origins of citizens' political beliefs and actions from a variety of perspectives. Topics covered include: information processing, inter-group conflict, attribution, personality, stereotyping, and prejudice.

**PS 118-01: Special Topics in American Politics: Organizing for Social Change**  
**Professor: Daniel LeBlanc & Kenneth Galdston**  
This course will trace community organizing to some of its early roots in the United States, as well as drawing connections between community organizing and other movements, including the labor, civil rights, and environmental movements. Presentations and discussions with other Boston area community organizers will be included as will be opportunities to visit with and observe local community-based organizations.

**PS 118-02: Special Topics in American Politics: Massachusetts Government Internships**  
**Professor: Benjamin B. Downing**  
Students will be placed in one of a dozen State House offices—for a legislator, committee, in the governor’s office, or for an executive branch agency—to serve in a policy-focused internship. These experiences will be supplemented with a class built around discussion of shared experiences, as well as on the interplay between policy and politics. The primary goal is for students to develop real world skills and a deeper understanding of how politics and policy intersect to create law, regulatory programs, and social change.

**PS 119-01: Seminar in American Politics: Seminar in American Racial Politics (*)**  
**Professor: Natalie Masuoka**  
This seminar course will address the state of racial politics in the United States by discussing the unique identities, ideologies and approaches to government found within Asian American, black and Latino communities. Content will primarily cover contemporary American politics from 1964 to the current. An introductory course on American government is recommended but not required.

**PS 119-02: Seminar in American Politics: America’s Holy Constitution (*)**
**Professor: Aaron Weinstein**

This course explores how the U.S. Constitution rose to become an almost "sacred" symbol in national politics. Some of these reasons are religious: the fact that our earliest governments were founded on Puritan covenant theology. Others are historical, such as the national trauma of the Civil War. As we will see, the Constitution has been and continues to be a uniquely compelling political symbol for both the political right and left. It is more than a blueprint for governance: it often becomes a moral text, in itself.

**PS 128: Gender, Work and Politics in East Asia**
**Professor: Elizabeth Remick**

This course examines the connections between gender and economic development in East Asia during the post-WWII period. Paying attention to differences among East Asian countries, it looks at how men and women have participated differently in the post-war "miracle." It examines the kinds of work that women have done, considering different experiences that women of different classes have had during the development process. To what extent is the gender division of labor mandated or facilitated by the state, under what conditions, and for what reasons? What role do culture and politics play in creating the gender division of labor? How has women's participation in economic development altered gender relations? Has the miracle liberated women, as some predict it should?

**PS 131: Democracy and Capitalism in Japan**
**Professor: Shinju Fujihira**

Examines Japanese democracy, capitalism, and foreign policy in comparative perspective. Topics include actors and institutions in democracy (the constitution, political parties, bureaucracy, interest groups, civil society); institutions and policy outcomes in capitalism (labor and financial markets, industrial policy, welfare state, economic inequality, energy and environment); and foreign and security policies (US-Japan alliance, Japan's relations with China and Korea, Asian regionalism, maritime disputes).

Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

**PS 138-01: Special Topics in Comparative Politics: Political Violence in State and Society**
**Professor: Consuelo Cruz**

This course examines the varieties in form and scale of political violence. It also assesses salient theories that aim to explain or trace the origins and logic of such violence. Finally, the course tests these theories against empirical cases mainly drawn from the Latin American experience.

**PS 138-02: Special Topics in Comparative Politics: Making States: Theory and Practice**
**Professor: Consuelo Cruz**

What are states? How are they built? What determines variations in their character and strength? We address these questions by a) closely examining key selections from the theoretical literature on the state, and b) probing major empirical cases from different regions of the world.

**PS 138-03: Special Topics in Comparative Politics: Policing in the US and Europe**
**Professor: David Art**

What are the origins of domestic security institutions (police) in Western Europe and the United States? How did major political developments (such as WWI and WWI, rise of fascism, the Civil
Rights Movement, colonialism and de-colonization) affect the use of coercion domestically? How did public attitudes toward the police change over time in different states, and why? Why is there no mass incarceration in Europe? What are the origins (political, social, economic, and cultural) and consequences of mass incarceration in the United States? These are some of the key issues this senior seminar will address.

**PS 138-04: Special Topics in Comparative Politics: Labor and Inequality in the Global Economy**  
Professor: Nimah Mazaheri

This course looks at the pressing issues that labor and workers face in today’s global economy. Although the forces of economic liberalization and the rapid expansion of trade networks around the world have created many new opportunities for workers everywhere, they have also created new problems for many countries both rich and poor. In some cases, they have exacerbated social and economic inequalities and sparked social movements and even political crises. The ways that governments, employers, labor organizations, and individual workers have experienced and responded to the changing tides and trends in the international economy over time is the main goal of this course. Some of the topics to be considered are the rise and fall of union power, labor unrest and the politicization of labor in the developing world, and “sweatshops” and international labor standards.

**PS 139-01: Seminar in Comparative Politics: States, Nations, and the Politics of Citizenship Rules (*)**  
Professor: Oxana Shevel

How do states decide who has the right to citizenship? For modern nation-states, defining the boundaries of the nation in whose name the state is constituted has always been a critically important task. For today's states hosting large numbers of immigrants and minorities, this question remains highly salient, and often politically contested. In this course we will examine the politics of citizenship policymaking in modern states, paying particular attention to alternative theoretical explanation. Are citizenship rules determined primarily by material considerations, such as economic, demographic, and security concerns? Or perhaps by ideational considerations, such as prevailing images of the nation and normative ideals? Do international norms and standards constrain and inform citizenship policymakers today? Is citizenship politics and policies fundamentally different in democratic and authoritarian states? In this course we will focus on such questions and analyze contemporary and historical citizenship policies in various countries in the world, paying particular attention to Western and Eastern Europe as well as North America.

**PS 139-02: Seminar in Comparative Politics: Poverty and Public Policy (*)**  
Professor: Nimah Mazaheri

Over 1.3 billion people live in extreme poverty. This seminar examines why poverty persists and what governments can do about it. Key topics include the causes and consequences of poverty, how governments measure poverty and characterize the poor, and the types of solutions available to governments and international organizations for reducing poverty. We also examine how political and economic dynamics shape policy responses to poverty. Other subjects covered are inequality, collective action, the informal economy, and unemployment.
PS 140: Liberalism and its Philosophic Critics  
Professor: Robert Devigne  
Cross-listed as PHIL 140. Discussion of present plights of Western civilization: large swaths of alienated groups and sectors in society; polarized and divided states; partisan divisions in public opinion; growing inequalities; cultural fragmentation; that consider Left and Right philosophic critics of the liberal project to build societies centered on promoting individual self-interest. Readings include Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Schmitt, Strauss, and Arendt.

PS 141: Shakespeare's Rome  
Professor: Vickie Sullivan  
This course examines Shakespeare's Rape of Lucrece, Coriolanus, Julius Caesar, and Antony and Cleopatra in light of his classical sources, Plutarch and Livy. In addition to considering Shakespeare's views on the reasons for Rome's greatness and on the causes of its decline, it will examine ancient Rome as a model of civic participation, the demands of Roman virtue, the role of women in a martial regime, and the place of philosophy in the city. Study of Shakespeare's poetry will broach a central question of political philosophy: how does the character of the regime affect the character of the individuals who compose it? Finally, examination of Shakespeare's works on Rome in conjunction with his classical sources will lead to consideration of the question whether Shakespeare diverges from those sources to come to an independent judgment of Rome. Co-listed with Classics.

PS 144: The Meaning of America  
Professor: Dennis Rasmussen  
Examination of American political thought, concentrating on the founding debate, the development of Lincoln's thought and the Civil War, and Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America. Topics include the Puritan origins of America, the meaning of and the relationship between our founding documents, the challenges posed by the Anti-Federalists, the defense of the large republic in The Federalist, the role of religion in American life, the problems presented by slavery, the proper role of a democratic statesman, and Tocqueville's hopes and worries about liberal democratic society and government (especially its American variant).

PS 145: Political Thought of Machiavelli (*)  
Professor: Vickie Sullivan  
Topics include Machiavelli's views on Christianity and the role of religion in a state, his insistence on the centrality of foreign policy in defining the nature of a regime, his belief in the necessity of great individuals to found and reorder civilizations, and the relation between his claim to originality and his insistence that the ancient Roman republic is a model for imitation. Machiavelli and the transition from ancient to modern Western political philosophy. Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 159-01: Seminar in Political Theory: The People, Revolution, and Popular Constitution Making (*)  
Professor: Joshua Braver  
This seminar focuses on the concept, history, and politics of the people’s the power to enact a revolution and institutionalize it in a constitution. The seminar begins with interrogating the
abstract idea of the people. We will look at variety of classical and modern thinkers to ask: Who are the people? How are they created? Are they bound by law, or is law counterrevolutionary? Does representation divide the people or constitute it? From there, we will analyze particular cases of popular constitution-making around the world beginning in the 18th century with the U.S. and French Revolutions and then on to more contemporary examples in South Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Lastly, we will briefly evaluate the new emerging social science on constitution-making.

PS 159-02: Seminar in Political Theory: Popular Sovereignty (*)
Professor: Ioannis Evrigenis
If the word sovereignty describes the highest political authority—including the power to make and remake a polity's fundamental laws—popular sovereignty locates that power in the people. But what is a people, and who gets to decide? What does it mean for the people to be sovereign, given that they are usually represented and ruled by governments? What are the promise and perils of this political arrangement? Examination of a wide range of sources and methods, focusing on Germany's transition from Weimar to the Nazis, the US from its founding to the present, and the relationship between populism, public opinion, and democracy.

PS 168: International Law
Professor: Maria Alvarez-Tolcheff Alarco
The function of international law in the international community and its relation to international politics, with special emphasis on the nature of the legal process.

PS 172: US Foreign Policy in the Middle East
Professor: Malik Mufti
The evolution of American foreign policy toward the Middle East since World War II. Basic American interests in the region, and how the U.S. has pursued those interests in connection with issues such as conflicting nationalism (including the Arab-Israeli conflict), the role of Turkey and Iran in the regional balance of power, and the Islamist revival. Implications of the Soviet Union's collapse for future American policy in the Middle East. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 176 Migration, Refugees, and Citizenship in a Globalized World
Professors: Kelly Greenhill & Oxana Shevel
Analysis of the causes and consequences of modern population movements that have occurred around the world since the late twentieth century, and recipient states' reactions to it. Topics include the political, economic, social, and security determinants of refugee and migration flows; the political and social responses of receiving governments and societies; the security and crime-related issues and concerns engendered by international migration; changing conceptions of citizenship and nationality in receiving states; the role played by the international institutions in influencing state policies towards refugees and immigrants, and the moral and ethical issues for public policy posed by international population movements. Cases examined are drawn from throughout the world, with particular emphasis on Europe and the United States.
Prerequisite(s): PS 21 or PS 61

PS 181: Public Opinion and Foreign Policy (M)
**Professor: Richard Eichenberg**
Study of the domestic politics of foreign policy, especially the relationship between leaders and people, which is central to democratic theory and practice. Examination of public and elite opinions on international issues: nuclear weapons, arms control, military intervention, and defense spending; historical and comparative focus. Inquiry into the determinants of attitudes, the impact of public opinion, the role of the media, and the effects of foreign policy events on domestic politics.
Recommendations: PS 61.

**PS 188-01: Special Topics in International Relations: The Causes and Consequences of Foreign Military Intervention**
**Professor: Meg Guliford**
What is military intervention? What are the different mechanisms by which states can choose to intervene militarily? Why do states use military force to intervene into the domestic affairs of other states? How have the motivations for military intervention changed over time?
In this course, we will examine such questions about foreign military intervention by leveraging a host of theoretical arguments and empirical evidence outlined in academic articles, periodicals, and policy documents. The course is designed to teach students how to evaluate the primary theories about the causes of military intervention as well as identify and critique the consequences.
Prerequisites: PS 61

**PS 189-01: Seminar in International Relations: The Pursuit of Gender Equality in US Foreign Policy (*)**
**Professor: Richard Eichenberg**
In August 1995, President William Clinton established the President's Interagency Council on Women and declared: "We are putting our efforts to protect and advance women's rights where they belong—in the mainstream of American foreign policy." In January 2013, President Barack Obama issued a Presidential memorandum on the "Coordination of Policies and Programs to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women and Girls Globally."

The purpose of this seminar course is to examine the rationale for pursuing women’s rights—and human rights generally—as a priority in US foreign policy. Among the topics to be covered are the following:

- The origins of the policy in the human rights initiatives of President Carter
- The nature of political debate and controversy about the policy
- The evolution (growth) of the Office of Global Women’s Issues in the US Department of State and the programs that it implements
- Case studies of programs implemented in specific countries
- The state of public support for the policy within the American public