Spring 2016 Course Descriptions

PS 021: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Professor: Oxana Shevel
Theories and evidence in comparative politics, preparing students for upper-level courses that focus on specific regions, countries, and themes. Examination and evaluation of competing theoretical approaches to important phenomena in world politics, including democracy and democratization; revolutions; economic development; and ethnicity and ethnic conflict. Discussion of illustrative examples from different regions such as Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, East Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

PS 042: Western Political Thought II
Professor: Robert Devigne
Central concepts of modern political thought. The views of those writers who launched the Enlightenment and challenged Christianity: Descartes, Hobbes, and others, an outlook centered on humanity taking responsibility for human fate, while establishing freedom and equality as the highest goals. The alternative views on the meaning of liberty and justice as developed by Rousseau, Hegel, and Marx, and how this set the stage for protracted conflict within Western civilization for over two centuries. Among other topics explored: Mill's goal to reconcile the Enlightenment and its critics; Tocqueville's examination of American democracy; Nietzsche's indictment of modernity; assessment as to whether present Western thought is at peak or in atrophy. Throughout the course, we will particularly focus on the debate that continues to animate modern political philosophy: the nature and requisites of human liberty.

PS 061: Introduction to International Relations
Professor: Jeffrey Taliaferro
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 061 also has a mandatory recitation; please see SIS for details.

PS 099: Fieldworks in Politics
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: Jeffrey Berry
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: Nimah Mazaheri
The study of quantitative methods for investigating political issues and policy controversies. Focuses on collecting, analyzing, and presenting data. Emphasizes hands-on computer software 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. Recommendations: PS 11, 21, 45, 46, or 61.

PS 104: Seminar: New Media, New Politics (M) (*)
Professors: Jeffrey Berry, Robin Liss
Research seminar on three media sectors: cable television, talk radio, and social media. Analysis of the economic foundations of each sector, advertising, audience demographics, and strategy. Student teams conduct an original empirical study of the media.

PS 105: Constitutional Law
Professor: Sara Chatfield
In this survey course we study constitutionally based arguments and United States Supreme Court decisions of the law of democracy and the legal structure of the political process. We study cases that resolve questions about the powers and limits of government in the United States. We pay particular attention to the U.S. Supreme Court, constitutional structure, the development of national power, the executive, the right to privacy, civil liberties and civil rights.

PS 108: Public Opinion and US Democracy (M)
Professor: Deborah Schildkraut
Addresses the impact of public opinion in the United States on the political process and vice versa. Emphasis is on the linkage between American citizens and the democratic process. Examines what public opinion is and debates about how it can be measured. Topics include the nature of attitude formation, stability and change; the role of the media in opinion-formation; the link between attitudes and behavior; group differences in opinions; how elites influence mass opinions; political inequality; polarization; and the relationship between public opinion and policy outcomes. Prerequisite: Any PS foundation course (PS11, 21, 41, 42, or 61).

PS 118-03: Gender in US Politics
Professor: Sara Chatfield
This course will focus on the role of women in U.S. national politics as citizens, voters, candidates, and elected officials. We will consider both historical and contemporary trends in voting behavior, political party position-taking, and office-holding by women. We will also examine the development of public policies relevant to women, including marriage laws, reproductive rights, and workplace equality.

PS 118-06: Organizing for Social Change
Professor: Daniel LeBlanc
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 118-22: How Campaigns, Communications, and Organizing Can Impact Our World**  
**Professor: Doug Rubin**  
Conventional political wisdom is dead. The proliferation of media channels has radically transformed the way we communicate and the way we campaign for public office, impacting traditional campaign tactics and opening the door for different strategies and candidates. This course will explore how the way we communicate and campaign has changed, and the impact those changes have on our political process. We will include guest lectures from campaign professionals, elected officials, and grassroots organizers to illustrate the transformation of the modern political campaign, and discuss / debate the impact these changes will have on the future of our electoral system. We will also use the 2016 Republican and Democratic Primaries as a case study, and closely analyze the tactics and strategies used by the campaigns as they move through the winter and spring of 2016 toward the nominating conventions.

**PS 118-23: Massachusetts Government Internships: Learning While Doing**  
**Professor: Benjamin 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 once a week 90 minute 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 125: Building the European Union**  
**Professor: David Art**  
Introduction to the project for greater economic, political, and security integration among the current members of the European Union in its historical context, economic and political setting, and future ambitions. Covers recent events and important European events-in-the-making, including the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty, the expansion of the European Union, and the EU-sponsored strategies to facilitate democratic transitions in Eastern Europe.  
Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

**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 134: Comparative Politics of the Middle East**  
**Professor: Irina Chindea**  
This survey course looks at the political development of the Arab states, Turkey, and Iran since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in World War I. It analyzes the various factors that shape the political institutions, actors, and ideologies of these states – factors such as history, culture, religion, economics, and foreign intervention – and tries to reach some conclusions about the prospects for future socio-economic and political change, including liberalization, in the Muslim Middle East. As such, the course seeks to provide students with an empirically rich regional case study of some of the central concerns of comparative politics theory in general.

**PS 138-02: 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 138-14: Making States: Theory & 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 139-01: Seminar: Policing 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 139-06: Seminar: 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 151: Seminar: Political Philosophy of Hobbes (*)
Professor: Ioannis Evrigenis
A comparative examination of Hobbes's political thought through detailed study of his main political works, The Elements of Law, De Cive, and Leviathan. We will consider Hobbes's alleged atheism and relativism, the role of the state of nature and of fear in his political theory, his views on the sources of conflict and his proposed remedies, as well as the implications of his theory for international relations. We will examine whether, to what extent, and how Hobbes's views changed from one work to the next, and study the ways in which prominent commentators have built their methodologies around their interpretations of Hobbes's political thought.

PS 158: Rise and Decay of the West
Professor: Robert Devigne
Literature that examines whether the modern West will avoid the fate of all previous civilizations of world historical significance: decay and/or fall. Among the topics explored: the charge that the arts and sciences erode social cohesion; the argument that the Western technological mind promotes "enfeeblement of the spirit;" the idea that modernity marks the peak or "end of history;" the position that modern Western values necessarily lead to a nihilistic crisis of beliefs. Throughout the course, there will be comparisons between the modern West and Persia, Greece, Rome, and Christendom and analysis of corruption as a source of individualism, cultural development, and philosophy. Readings include Rousseau, Hegel, Nietzsche, Tocqueville, Heidegger, Strauss, Schmitt.

PS 160: Force, Strategy and Arms Control (M)
Professor: Jeffrey Taliaferro
Examination of the political, economic, military, and ethical factors affecting the use and utility of military force in international relations. Study of the political and decision-making process by which nations decide to use military force. Study of the major arms control agreements of the post-World War II period, including negotiations currently under way.
Recommendations: PS 61.

PS 168: International Law
Professor: Clare O’Hare
An introductory survey course on international law, which provides a broad overview of the international legal framework. It will cover the United Nations legal order as well as select areas of international law (such as international trade, investment, human rights and dispute resolution).
Through a moot exercise, students will also develop the ability to think critically about international law and its role in international society; and acquire general professional legal
skills, in particular the ability to formulate and structure legal argument—both in writing and orally.

**PS 170: Understanding Civil Wars: Internal Conflict and International Response**  
**Professor: Kelly Greenhill**  
Since the end of WWII, the vast majority of wars have been within states rather than between them. This course surveys competing theories about the causes, conduct, and conclusion of the dominant brand of conflict in the world today and examines how the international community deals with these (enduring and often seemingly intractable) militarized disputes. Topics examined include conflict prevention, conflict mediation, military intervention, peace implementation, peacekeeping and peace enforcement, and refugee and IDP crisis management. The course combines theories from international relations, comparative politics and conflict resolution with case studies of recent and ongoing conflicts.

**PS 176: Migration, Refugees and Citizenship in a Globalized World**  
**Professors: Kelly Greenhill and 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 188-09: Conducting Research in International Politics (M)**  
**Professor: Richard Eichenberg**  
This course provides intensive instruction in all phases of the research process, including: translating a general topic into specific research questions and hypotheses; finding and aggressively evaluating scholarly literature; finding and evaluating sources of raw information and data; analyzing information and presenting it effectively in written, tabular, and graphic form; employing quantitative and qualitative methodologies for analyzing information; organizing and writing effective scholarly reports; and presenting the results of research effectively to others. The course will also provide an introduction to rudimentary statistical techniques and the software used to conduct statistical analysis. Students will complete several homework assignments and also complete a substantial research project.
**Professor: Irina Chindea**  
In today's global environment, massive flows of illegal immigrants, violent non-state actors (e.g., terrorist and criminal networks) and cyber-insurgents and activists pose transnational, non-traditional security challenges undermining the ability of state institutions to govern in countries all over the world. In this context, this course surveys the ways in which illegal immigrants, violent non-state actors and cyber-criminals have an impact on domestic, regional and international security, and discusses - in comparative perspective - the policy responses of the European Union and the United States to these challenges. The course aims to establish whether the European Union has a coherent common security and defense policy vis-à-vis both traditional and transnational security threats; the extent to which the EU is a credible security and foreign policy actor in the international arena; and whether EU institutions have the ability to respond to and withstand the manifold transnational security challenges of the 21st century. In answering these questions, we will trace the way EU institutions have responded to traditional and transnational security threats since the inception of the European integration project until the present; and how the EU responses compare to those of the United States in the face of similar transnational and non-conventional threats as well as international crises such as the violent breakup of Yugoslavia, the Arab Spring, the civil war in Syria, the situation in Ukraine, the rise in power of drug cartels, terrorist organizations as Al Qaeda and ISIS and cyber activist groups (e.g., Anonymous).

**PS 188-23: Race, Ethnicity and US Africa Policy**  
**Professor: Pearl Robinson**  
Scholars debate whether foreign attachments of US ethnic lobbies foster policy advocacy that runs counter to the national interest. This course traces the shift in emphasis of African-American internationalists from the defense of Black nationality to broader human rights advocacy around norms of racial equality, the rule of law, and economic justice. Case studies address the role of race, ethnicity and religion in the making of US Africa policy from 1850 to the present.

**PS 188-26: Europe’s Role in World Politics**  
**Professor: Kostas Lavdas**  
As Europe goes through a fascinating period of crisis and change in an uncertain international environment, this course asks the fundamental questions about the EU’s role in international politics. It provides an accessible but wide-ranging introduction to the international dimensions of the process of European integration and to today’s role of the EU as an international actor. The course aims to familiarize students with the role of the European Union in today’s world, while at the same time providing an introduction to the international and security-related aspects that influenced the historical process of European integration. What sort of capabilities does the EU possess for international engagement in missions and operations (peacekeeping missions, disarmament operations, humanitarian and rescue tasks, military advice and assistance, conflict prevention and peace-keeping, and the general tasks of combat forces in crisis management)? Topics will include NATO and transatlantic relations, the role of European international relations in the development of common European foreign policy initiatives, the evolution of European foreign, security and defense policies (from the WEU and the EPC to the CFSP and the ESDP),
the role of Europe in the management of regional crises, the role of Europe in the global war on terror.

**PS 188-30: Political Foundations of Economic Prosperity**  
**Professor: Daniel Drezner**  
This course addresses one of the great mysteries in world history: why some countries began to experience mass prosperity at the start of the 19th century, why some countries caught up, and why other countries have fallen further behind, and what this means for world politics. Topics include: myths about national prosperity; how political institutions undergird economic prosperity; how openness to the global economy affects national prosperity; financial crises; the rise of inequality; and technological, environmental, ideological, political and ethical challenges to global prosperity in the future.

**PS 196: Independent Study**  
**Professor: ARR**

**PS 199: Senior Honors Thesis (M)**  
**Professor: ARR**

(M) = Methodologically focused course  
(*) = Advanced seminar