Political Science Fall 2018 Courses

(M) – Methodology
(*)) – Advanced Seminar

PS 004-03: First Year Tutorial in Politics: Political Theory of Leadership
Vickie Sullivan
An examination of the qualities of compelling leadership through the lens of great works of political theory and thought. Questions will include how leaders found and maintain political institutions, navigate crises, and pursue justice. Writings include those by Xenophon, Plutarch, Machiavelli, Shakespeare, Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Winston Churchill, and Mahatma Gandhi. The relation of a liberal arts education to leadership in today’s society will also be explored.

PS 11: Introduction to American Politics
Brian Schaffner
A study of governmental politics, functions, and programs. Emphasis given to political behavior, both at the mass level and in institutions. Survey of public opinion and political culture, parties, and elections. Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, the federal courts, and interest groups.

PS 13: Sophomore Seminar: Race & Class in American Politics
James Glaser
Race and class cleavages in the U.S. and their effect on our politics. Emphasis on how race has impeded a class-based politics in this country. Origins and decay of the Jim Crow South, American political attitudes toward race and class issues, and urban and social welfare policy. Sophomore Seminar. Please see departmental website for specific details.

PS 15: Sophomore Seminar: Politics & the City
Jeff Berry
Three major problems in urban politics: the political economy of cities, especially issues involving community economic development; race and the city, emphasizing the problems facing the poorest residents of the inner city; and political empowerment, including analysis of neighborhood government.

PS 20: Introduction to Civic Studies
Ioannis Evrigenis, Erin Kelly, and Peter Levine
Exploration of contrasting conceptions of active citizenship with roots in philosophy and practical experimentation. Course aims better to understand how people engage with their communities and develop strategies for building a better world. Emphasis on the perspective of individuals and small groups: what we should do to create, nourish, and sustain good communities. Consideration of values (ethics), facts (empirical evidence), and strategies. Readings from historical and contemporary sources. No prerequisites.

PS 41: Western Political Thought I
Vickie Sullivan  
Central concepts of ancient, medieval, and early modern political thought. Ideas of Thucydides, Aristophanes, Plato, and Aristotle during the rise and fall of Athens. Subsequent transformations of political philosophy related to the decline of the Roman Empire and the origins and development of Christian political doctrine, and the new political outlook of those who challenged the hegemony of Christianity. Analysis of how pre-modern political thought helped structure future political debate.

PS 61: Introduction to International Relations  
Jeff 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 99: Fieldwork in Politics  
Shinju 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 101: President & the Executive Branch  
Jeff Berry  
Study of the constitutional development of the presidential office, its power, prestige, and functions, as well as the influences of the person occupying that office. Major emphasis is on the process of policy formulation in the executive branch. Analysis of the president's relations with his staff, the bureaucracy, the Congress, the press, and the public. Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 102: Congress, Bureaucracy and Public Policy  
Miranda Yaver  
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)  
Nimah Mazaheri  
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 118-01: Topics in American Politics: Inside Congress & The 2018 Midterms
Steve Israel

The 2018 congressional midterm elections will be one of the important and closely watched in history. Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) who chaired the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 2011-2016, will dissect and track the elections in real-time, covering the essentials of polling, media, fundraising, Superpacs and campaign organization. Behind-the-scenes campaign experts will participate in classroom discussions.

PS 118-03: Topics in American Politics: Cyberlaw and Cyberpolicy
Susan Landau

This course is an introduction to the legal issues of cyberspace. Legal issues in this domain are complex. Technology has been evolving faster than the law's ability to handle the changes, so partially this course will be an education in the legislating and policy making of moving targets. It will also be an education in jurisdiction, privacy, surveillance, and copyright as it relates to the Internet. The perspective will be from US law and jurisprudence, although there will be periodic forays into international issues. Topics covered will include cyberlaw and cybergovernance, the Digital Revolution and its impact on First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendment issues, copyright in the Digital Age, and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

Eitan Hersh

This is an advanced research seminar with two aims: a) To present and discuss scholarship on several aspects of U.S. national elections, b) To accommodate research papers on U.S. national elections. The course’s readings offer analyses of U.S. elections by social scientists. There will be ample discussion of 2018 election underway during the term. The primary goal of the course is to help students compose exemplary, quantitative original research papers, and we will spend time every class meeting developing these papers.

PS 119-02: Seminar in American Politics: Polling the 2018 Election (*)(M)
Brian Schaffner

The class will focus on understanding and analyzing the 2018 U.S. midterm elections through the perspective of political polling. Special attention will be paid to understanding what factors affect how people evaluate candidates, decide who to support, and turn out to vote in midterm elections. A main component of the course will be a class project to develop, conduct, and analyze a survey of voters during the 2018 elections. In the process of conducting this survey, students will gain valuable first-hand experience in learning how to write survey questions, how to properly sample and interview respondents, and how to analyze survey data. You will also gain important skills in learning how to construct a research paper highlighting your findings, present your findings to an audience of your peers, and evaluate research presented by others.

PS 121 Seminar: Political Culture from a Comparative Perspective (*)
Consuelo Cruz

How cultural meanings and practices shape political struggles and institutions. Survey of culturalist theories of political dynamics and structures, and assessment of theories against a
range of empirical case studies from Asia, the Middle East, Western Europe, Latin America, and the United States.

**PS 122: Soviet Russia Post-Soviet Politics**  
_Oxana Shevel_  
Analysis of domestic political, economic, and social development of the Soviet Union and its successor states. Approximately one third of the course is devoted to an overview of political, economic, and social structures that defined Soviet Communism. The remaining two-thirds of the course considers the divergent paths taken by the fifteen successor states of the Soviet Union after 1991. The course applies social scientific theories while examining developments such as state collapse and state formation, political and institutional changes, the politics of economic reform, the challenges of nationalism within the multinational state, electoral revolutions, and other topics.

**PS 127: Latin American Politics**  
_Consuelo Cruz_  
This course is intended to deepen our understanding of Latin America and of politics. To that end, we will be concerned with both the political dynamics of Latin America and with significant debates in political science. This course will familiarize students with the rich histories of several Latin American countries and engage social scientific theorizing of such processes as imperialism, colonialism, revolution, regime change, identity politics, and issues in political economy.

**PS 130: Seminar: African Political Economy (M)(*)**  
_Pearl Robinson_  
Theories explaining the impact of political institutions on African economies. Questions include: Why has sustainable development been so elusive? What are the determinants of state-business relationships in economic policy-making in the neo-liberal era? How does the quality of governance affect issues of poverty and redistribution? Can gender-targeted strategies turn the tide of poor economic performance? We follow shifts in development thinking, the leverage of foreign interests, and the relationship between ideas and economic policy-making in Africa over the last half-century. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or approval of Instructor.

**PS 134: Comparative Politics of the Middle East**  
_Malik Mufti_  
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 socioeconomic 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 138-01: Topics in Comparative Politics: Policing in the US and Europe**  
_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 WWII, 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 138-02: Topics in Comparative Politics: Democracy and its Alternative**  
**David Art**  
This course examines political regime types over the last two centuries. We will trace the development of democratic institutions and engage the classic question “what causes democracy?” But we will also consider non-democratic regime types (monarchic, totalitarian, authoritarian, competitive authoritarian) and analyze their origins and dynamics. PS 21 is preferred, but not required.

**PS 138-03: Topics in Comparative Politics: Politics of Oil & Energy**  
**Nimah Mazaheri**  
This course examines how oil, energy, and other natural resources have shaped economic and political outcomes in countries around the world. It begins by exploring research on how oil and natural resources affect political regimes and the risk of civil war and international conflict. The economic effects of oil and natural resources are then considered through an analysis of the "resource curse" hypothesis. We will evaluate this hypothesis by investigating the experiences of countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and North America. The final part of the class takes a public policy focus by looking at how governments design and implement policy related to oil and energy, how oil and energy industries respond to this policy, and how this affects consumers and the public as a whole. We examine topics such as the role of OPEC, regulation, and energy policy in the United States.

**PS 147: Seminar: Political Philosophy of Nietzsche (*)**  
**Robert Devigne**  
Nietzsche's views of philosophy, nature, morality, religion, art, science, and politics. Analysis of view that "God is dead" and that we are no longer capable of distinguishing whether one value is better than another. Assessment of the qualities that must exist--in both the individual and society--for human creativity to regenerate. Exploration of whether Nietzsche successfully broke from Western political philosophy. Please see departmental website for specific details. Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor and completion of PS 41 or 42.

**PS 157: Markets, Morals, & Religion (*)**  
**Dennis Rasmussen**  
Examination of two leading figures of the Scottish Enlightenment who happened to be best friends: David Hume, who is widely considered the greatest philosopher ever to write in the English language, and Adam Smith, who is almost certainly history's most famous theorist of commercial society. Analysis and comparison of their views of reason, morality, politics,

**PS 158-01: Topics in Political Thought: Rise and Decay of the West**  
**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 180: Regionalism in Africa**  
**Pearl Robinson**  
The intersection of domestic politics and international relations in Africa: examination of regional economic communities, regionally based solutions to problem-solving and new regionalism in the post Cold War era. Particular attention given to state-building and national sovereignty as they impinge on regional projects. Theories of the state, regional integration theory, international regime theory, and constructivist international relations theory frame five themes: the construction of regional norms, transnational civil society, peace and security, trade and economic development, and the African human rights system.

**PS 181: Public Opinion and Foreign Policy (M)**  
**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 184: Senior Seminar: Better than the Truth (M)(*)**  
**Kelly Greenhill**  
This senior seminar examines the sources, manipulation and consequences of unverified and unverifiable information in international politics, with a particular focus on the influence of such information on the formulation and conduct of foreign and defense policy. The employment and exploitation of various organizations and techniques for influencing domestic and foreign audiences will be examined through the use of case studies and analyzed in terms of both theory and practice. Sources to be examined include rumors, conspiracy theories, entertainment media, propaganda and myths.

**PS 187: Intelligence & National Security**
Jeff Taliaferro
This course examines the role of intelligence in United States national security. It provides an overview of conceptual foundations of intelligence studies and traditional dimensions of intelligence activity (clandestine collection, analysis, counterintelligence, and covert action); debates about role of secrecy and intelligence agencies in a liberal democracy; and a discussion of intelligence in counterterrorism, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) nonproliferation, and cyber-warfare.
Prerequisites: PS 61

PS 188-01: Topics in International Relations: The Politics of Self-Determination
Vartan Oskanian
The course will study and analyze several currently active self-determination movements, through the dual lenses: international law on self-determination and global politics, and assess whether these movements can rely on international law to support their independence claim -- or it is all politics. Students will also become acquainted with conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation methods and skills, international court proceedings through in-class negotiations simulations and mock court litigations.

PS 188-02: Topics in International Relations: Chinese Foreign Policy
Michael Beckley
China has the world's largest military and the second largest economy. Despite its impressive size and economic vitality, however, China remains a vulnerable nation surrounded by powerful rivals. This course examines the geo-strategic challenges facing China on four fronts: at home, with its immediate neighbors, in surrounding regional systems, and in the world beyond Asia.

PS 189-01: Seminar in International Relations: Turkish Foreign Policy (*)
Malik Mufti
This seminar studies the determinants, mechanisms, and main elements of Turkish foreign policy. It combines three main elements: an investigation of the relationship between domestic political dynamics - particularly competing conceptions of Turkish identity - and foreign policy; a chronological survey of Turkish diplomatic history; and in-depth analyses of Turkey's relations with its primary interlocutors on the regional and global levels.

PS 189-02: Seminar in International Relations: International Relations of East Asia (*)
Shinju Fujihira
This seminar examines the contemporary controversies in the field of international relations, in light of the empirical evidence drawn from the Asia-Pacific region. Topics include power and deterrence, alliance politics, economic regionalism and rivalry, domestic politics and nationalism, multilateral institutions, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and Islamist militancy, territorial and maritime disputes, and energy and environment.

PS 189-03: Seminar in International Relations: American Primacy (*)
Michael Beckley
The United States is the world's only superpower. Will this period of American primacy last? This course reviews the major threats to American power and evaluates how the United States can overcome them.
PS 198: Senior Honors Thesis (M)
Richard Eichenberg
This course explores the theoretical, empirical, normative, and methodological problems involved in conducting political science research. It will also provide a forum for discussing students' draft thesis chapters.