Political Science Fall 2019 Courses

(M) – Methodology
(*) – Advanced Seminar

PS 004: First-Year Tutorial in Politics: Plato’s Republic
Ioannis Evrigenis
Introduction to political theory and to different modes of interpretation through close study of seminal texts in the history of political philosophy. Examination of fundamental political concepts, such as justice, liberty, and equality, with an emphasis on basic research methods and writing.

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 15: Sophomore Seminar: Politics in 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
Peter Levine & Brian Schaffner
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
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 99: Fieldwork in Politics**  
**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 101: The Presidency & 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 103: Political Science Research Methods (M)**  
**Deborah Schildkraut**  
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 112: U.S. Elections: Rules, Strategies and Outcomes**  
**Eitan Hersh**  
This is a survey course of U.S. elections that connects the dots from laws (the Constitution, case law, state and federal statutes) to strategies (by political parties, candidates, interest groups, and donors), and from strategies to outcomes (voting, public opinion, activism). No pre-requisites. All are welcome.

**PS 115: Information, Technology, and Political Power**  
**Eitan Hersh**  
A wide-ranging course in how politics affects information technologies and in how information affects politics and governance. Topics include oversight, government leaks, free speech, surveillance, collective action, voter decision-making, campaign targeting, Uber, Amazon and antitrust laws, and more.

**PS 117: Politics of the American South (M)**  
**Jim Glaser**  
(Cross-listed w/ AMER134) Study of politics and government in the eleven states of the former Confederacy. Themes include the role of race and class in the politics of the region, change and
continuity in Southern politics and society, and Southern political and cultural exceptionalism. Satisfies the methodological focus requirement. Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

**PS 118-01: Topics in American Politics: Hindsight Might Not Be 2020: The Upheaval of Political Communications in the Era of Trump**

*Philippe Reines and Julie Dobrow*

The greatest surprise in American political history began in the fall of 2015. Both political parties, the media, political consultants & pundits — and of course the voters — were sure Donald Trump’s ascendance, nomination, and victory was near-impossible. But why was it a surprise? From the day he announced, signs of his standing and success were obvious every step of the way. In hindsight, the real shock might be how so many missed — or ignored — hints of his victory. Is 2019 already seeing a repeat of these lapses? Will an electorate still unable to fully grasp how Trump was elected miss obvious signs about his chances for re-election? This course will look at the current state of play through the prism of 2016, focusing on how campaigns and media present the candidates; use (and misuse) polling; the impact of debates; how campaigns identify and compete in battleground states; how it all plays into selecting the Democratic nominee, and ultimately, the presidency.

Philippe Reines is a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State under Hillary Clinton. From 2002 to 2017 he also served as a Senior Advisor and Spokesman. In 2016 Philippe was assigned the role of playing Donald Trump in Hillary’s preparations for the three General Election debates against him, giving him a unique insight — then and now — into the strengths and weaknesses of his message.

**PS 118-02: Topics in American Politics: Organizing for Social Change**

*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 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, Russian, and 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 126: Chinese Politics**  
*Elizabeth Remick*  
Survey of the domestic politics of the People's Republic of China. The development of Communist Party power through the political campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s. The political, cultural, economic, and social challenges faced by post-Mao reformers. Brief consideration of foreign policy.  
Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

**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 129: African Politics**  
*Pearl Robinson*  
Analysis of political developments in contemporary Africa, with emphasis on the interaction between politics and culture. Relates Africa's historical, economic, social, and gender dynamics to general theories of politics and governance.  
Prerequisite: Sophomore Standing.

**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 135: Comparative Revolutions (M)**  
*Elizabeth Remick*  
The causes, processes, and outcomes of revolution. Student development of a theory of revolution's causes through comparative examination of revolutions in France, Russia, China,
Iran, and one other case chosen by the class. Discussion of whether the causes of revolution have changed in the late twentieth century.
Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

**PS 138: 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 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?

**PS 139: Seminar in Comparative Politics: German Politics from Bismarck to Merkel (*)**
David Art
This senior seminar on modern German politics begins with Bismarck’s unification of Germany and his construction of a political system that lasted from 1870 until 1918. We then move to the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic, before turning to the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust. The second half of the course examines the postwar reconstruction of West Germany, the dynamics of the East German communist regime, and the unification of Germany. Contemporary topics include Germany’s emerging role as European hegemon, rising populism, and the integration of immigrant and refugee populations. Students will write a research paper as a component of this course.

**PS 141: Shakespeare's Rome**
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 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 154: Political Philosophy of J.J. Rousseau
Robert Devigne
The course examines Rousseau's charge that the modern idea of liberty as uninhibited activity fails to cultivate genuine individuality, erodes communities, debases culture, and promotes a self-interested politics that is incapable of establishing legitimate norms of justice. We explore Rousseau's vision of politics, art, and the family that aim to establish a genuinely autonomous and moral existence at either the level of the individual or society. We analyze why Rousseau cultivated romanticism and bohemianism among artists and revolutionary practice among political intellectuals. Along the way, we analyze Rousseau's innovative views of nature, reason, religion, the will, language, music, theater, monarchy, sovereignty, revolution, republicanism, education, gender, the family, and the best life, and discuss how many of his views have become important features of modern culture.

PS 158: Topics in Political Thought: Origins of Islamic Political Thought
Malik Mufti
This course will survey the development of political philosophy in the Islamic world, from its early development through the great debates that raged between the 9th and 14th centuries on issues such as the respective spheres of human reason and divine law, the relationship between the individual and the polis, and the proper conduct of warfare. It will focus on the writings of thinkers including al-Farabi, Ibn Rushd, and Ibn Khaldun, and will conclude by considering their legacies in contemporary Islamic political thought.

PS 176 Migration, Refugees, and Citizenship in a Globalized World
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 185: Seminar: Nuclear Weapons and International Politics (*)
Jeff Taliaferro
Examination of the causes and consequences of nuclear weapons proliferation for international politics since 1945. Topics include the dynamics of nuclear proliferation; nonproliferation and counterproliferations strategies; nuclear strategy and deterrence; the demise of the JCOPA and Iran’s nuclear latency; the US-North Korea nuclear negotiations; the future of US-Russian-Chinese strategic arms control; and cyber threats to nuclear arsenals. Pre-requisite: PS 61: Introduction to International Relations and junior or senior standing.

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: Freedom of Religion, Conscience and Belief- America’s Role in Defending the First Freedom Abroad
Katrina Swett
Freedom of Religion, Conscience and Belief, a fundamental right protected in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ICCPR, was, for many years viewed as something of an orphan right in the world of human rights advocacy. In 1998, the US Congress acted to raise the profile of religious freedom advocacy in US foreign policy with the adoption of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA). The wisdom of the decision to legislatively prioritize international religious freedom advocacy has been borne out by multiple trends over the past two decades. The first of these is the growing risks to a range of communities – both religious and humanist- who are increasingly targeted for persecution in many corners of the world. From Yazidis, to Ahmadis, Bahai’s to secular humanists, Jehovah’s Witnesses to Rohingya Muslims and many others, communities of belief have been targeted by authoritarian governments (and occasionally by liberal democracies -headscarves in France) around the world. Another trend that has at times put international religious freedom issues at the center of US security policy is the link between radical religious extremism and the threat of terrorism directed at US interests. This course will examine the state of religious freedom globally as well as the role the US has played in advancing this basic human right.

PS 188-02: Topics in International Relations: War, Politics, and Film
Frank Sobchak
From the invention of the first simple “moving pictures” more than 130 years ago to the latest multi-million dollar high tech blockbuster, films have served a political purpose. On occasion, the purpose was explicit. Propaganda—both in acknowledged “fiction” and in documentary form—often made film its chosen vehicle. More often, the political dimension of film is subtler, and the political impact is beyond the intent and expectation of those involved in the crafting of the specific medium. War films are no different, and they weave elements of culture, society, and politics together in order to form storylines. One of war’s greatest theorists, Carl von Clausewitz, famously mused that “war is the continuation of politics by other means.” By extension, war films are as enshrined in politics as the wars they represent.

PS 188-03: Topics in International Relations: What is Grand Strategy?
Zoltan Feher
The course would examine grand strategy, a concept that has gained popularity in foreign policy commentary and academic debates in recent years, even though it often seems such an elusive notion. Our approach will dwell at the intersection of theory, history and policy. We would first define grand strategy and contrast it: strategy with military strategy and foreign policy. We will
then delve deeply into the debate over which factors (international vs. domestic) determine foreign policy grand strategy, enumerating the many theoretical approaches (classical reality, neorealist, liberal, neoclassical realist, constructivist). The second half of the course would look at the individual grand strategies of major powers in the 20th and 21st centuries, including Britain, Germany, the Soviet Union, the United States, and China.

**PS 189: Seminar in International Relations: International Relations of East Asia (*)**  
**Shin 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 194: US Environmental Policy**  
**Ninian Stein**  
(Cross-listed as ENV 135) Overview of environmental policy focusing initially on the United States experience, then linking to global environmental policy-making. Introduction to the ways in which environmental policies are made in the United States and abroad including major actors, key decisions, and future challenges.

**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.