

Political Science Spring 2019 Courses

(M) – Methodology

(*) – Advanced Seminar

PS 20: Introduction to Civic Studies

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 21: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Oxana Shevel

Theories and evidence in comparative politics, preparing students for upper-level courses that focus on specific regions, countries, and themes. The rise and fall of democracy in selected countries from different regions such as Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, East Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

PS 42: Western Political Thought II

Robert Devigne

(Cross-listed as PHIL 42.) Central concepts of modern political thought. The views of those writers who challenged the dominance of Christianity: Machiavelli, Descartes, Hobbes, and others. Some of the main transformations of political thinking that characterized the Enlightenment: the possibility of scientific thinking and reasoning as the basis for human freedom. Nietzsche's critique of the Enlightenment, and the ability to find political principles that are genuinely true or liberating.

PS 61: Introduction to International Relations

Kelly Greenhill

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 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 104: Seminar: New Media, New Politics (M)(*)

Jeffrey Berry and Robin Liss

(Cross-listed with FMS 163 & TCS 104). 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

Miranda Yaver

The development and application of American constitutional law as interpreted in the leading decisions of the Supreme Court. Included are citizenship, the commerce power, due process of law, and the equal protection of the laws. Recent trends in constitutional doctrine.

PS 108: Public Opinion and U. S. Democracy (M)

Brian Schaffner

Addresses the impact of public opinion in the United States on the political process and vice versa. Emphasis is on the linkage between U.S. 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.

Requires the completion of any PS foundation course (PS 11, 21, 41, 42, or 61).

PS 113: Seminar: Nonprofits And Civil Society (*)

Jeffrey Berry

Analysis of the role of nonprofits in the American political system. Topics include nonprofits and civic engagement, the administration of human service programs by community-based nonprofits, faith-based organizations, advocacy by nonprofits, and the regulation of nonprofits by the government. Please see departmental website for specific details.

Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 118-01: Topics in American Politics: Law and Public Policy

Miranda Yaver

The American separation-of-powers systems involves complex interactions among Congress, courts, agencies, and the president in advancing legal and policy change. This course is aimed at introducing students to the American legal system, across four key dimensions of lawmaking and

policy implementation: Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Statutory Law, and Direct Democracy. Drawing on Supreme Court cases, statutes, and case studies in policymaking, we will examine such topics as civil rights, health care, and environmental law, and the ways in which these different areas of federal and state law interact to shape policy over time.

**PS 118-02: Special Topics in American Politics: Massachusetts Government Internships
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 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

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 131: Democracy and Capitalism in Japan

Shinju Fujihira

Survey of the world's second largest economy and postwar Asia's most stable democracy. Investigation of whether Japan's democracy is fundamentally different from the one practiced in the West; whether Japan's capitalism offers an alternative model that is more efficient and fair; and whether Japan should adopt a more assertive foreign policy in the post-cold war world.

Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 138-01: Topics in Comparative Politics: Making States: Theory & Practice

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 138-02: Topics in Comparative Politics: Political Violence in State & Society

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 138-03: Topics in Comparative Politics: Democracy and its Alternatives

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 138-04: Topics in Comparative Politics: Fascism: Then and Now

Annie Pfeifer

A comparative study of the various strains and manifestations of fascism, its history and foundations in social and political developments and ideologies; philosophical and historical concepts through literature, art, myth, and film. The structure of fascism and fascist iconography. Begins with fascist tendencies in twentieth-century Europe and culminates in the present age.

PS 139-01: Seminar In Comparative Politics: States, Nations, and the Politics of Citizenship Rules (*)

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 & Public Policy (*)

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 Philosophical Critics

Robert Devigne

(Cross-listed as PHIL 140.) Examination of alternative conceptions of liberty and morality developed by critics of the Enlightenment. Topics include the charge that liberty as uninhibited activity fails to cultivate genuine individuality, erodes communities, debases culture, and is incapable of establishing norms of justice. Examination of alternative visions of art and politics

that aim to establish an autonomous and moral existence. Exploration of whether these alternative visions have been integrated into the traditional liberal framework.
Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

PS 144: The Meaning of America

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 148: Seminar: Political Thought of Montesquieu (*)

Vickie Sullivan

Examination of Montesquieu's political thought through his comparative analysis of political regimes in his major work, *Spirit of Laws*. Topics include the principles that guide tyranny, monarchy, and republican government, the principle of separation of powers, the meaning of political liberty, the impact of commerce on political life, the relation of mores to laws, and the character of Montesquieu's liberalism. His other works, *The Persian Letters* or *Considerations on the Greatness of the Romans and Their Decline*, will also be considered. Please see departmental website for specific details.

PS 151: Seminar: The Political Philosophy Of Hobbes (*)

Ioannis Evrigenis

A comprehensive examination of Hobbes's political thought through detailed study of his theory of human nature and the main political works, *The Elements of Law*, *De Cive*, and *Leviathan*. The seminar 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.

PS 158-01: Topics In Political Thought: Origins of Modern Republicanism

Vickie Sullivan

Increasing frustration with a classical liberal outlook that fosters individualism, social inequalities, and materialism has led to a renewed scholarly interest in republicanism as a salutary alternative. Republicanism offers a conception of political life in which the people play an active role in the civic life of the state. This course will examine the seminal works of modern republicanism: Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy* and Rousseau's *Social Contract*, both of which propose to bring forward elements of the ancient Roman republic as a model for modern times. In studying these two foundational works, the course will pursue such questions as: How do Machiavelli and Rousseau define the domestic and international problems to which each responds?; How do their definitions of these modern problems affect their respective depictions of ancient Rome?; How should a republic interact with other states?; To what extent does civic engagement necessarily engage a martial ethos?; What role can the people as a body play in determining a state's political fate?; How has the advent of Christianity altered the possibilities

of political life?; What does Rousseau's social contract owe to Machiavelli's thought?; To what extent is republicanism a viable alternative to liberalism?

PS 160: Force, Strategy, and Arms Control

Jeffrey Taliaferro

This course provides an overview of the role of force in international politics. It examines the circumstances under which states and non-state actors use force or the threat of force to pursue their interests and enhance their security. The course has two objectives. First, it introduces students to some theories and concepts that form the basis of security studies as a distinct area of study within the study in international politics. These include the importance of relative power, the principles of strategy, and the dynamics of coercion. Second, we examine some current security challenges facing the United States and other countries including: the future of NATO and the dilemmas of alliance management; China's naval modernization and the changing balance-of-power in East Asia; the dynamics of nuclear proliferation and nonproliferation (especially with regard to Iran and North Korea); Russia's use of hybrid warfare in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine; the rise of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and other autonomous weapons systems; cyber-leveraged military operations; and the regional rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Prerequisite: PS 61: Introduction to International Relations

PS 167: Studies in War and Empire

Malik Mufti

An introduction to basic issues in international relations theory such as the causes of war, the motivations behind imperialism, strategic thinking in various cultures, and the role of leadership. Major strategic thinkers such as Thucydides, Sun Tzu, Machiavelli, and Clausewitz.

PS 168: International Law

Deborshi Barat and Federico Jarast

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: U.S. Foreign Policy In The Middle East

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 nationalisms (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.

PS 188-01: Topics in International Relations: Gender Issues In World Politics

Richard Eichenberg

This course is a survey of many issues relating to gender in world politics, with a particular emphasis on: gender differences in political attitudes and behavior generally; gender differences in attitudes toward war and national security in particular; the cross-cultural uniformity (or lack thereof) in gender differences in attitudes and political behavior, particularly in relation to national security and war; the role of gender differences in war, in particular how gender roles are created and the effect of war on men and women; violence against women; and the role of

gender in world affairs more generally and specifically the role of gender in economic development, environmental sustainability and gender mainstreaming within international institutions.

PS 188-03: Topics in International Relations: Cybersecurity and Cyberwar

Jeffrey Taliaferro

Interdisciplinary analysis of cybersecurity in the United States and other countries, intended to introduce engineering students to policymaking and intelligence aspects of cybersecurity and liberal arts students to the technical constraints of computer networks and software. Hands-on activities including packet analysis, exploiting a vulnerable system, password cracking, social engineering, reconnaissance, and malware analysis. Examination of state and non-state actors engaged in cyber-espionage, counterintelligence, deterrence, and offensive cyber operations. Guest speakers from private sector, civil liberties groups, and intelligence community.

Prerequisites: PS 61: Introduction to International Relations (for PS and IR majors) or COMP 15: Data Structures (for CS majors in A&S or SoE)

PS 188-04: Topics in International Relations: Topics in International Relations: Race and US Africa Policy

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 188-05: Topics in International Relations: The Howard School of International Affairs

Pearl Robinson
This course is part of a larger project that aims to name, re-claim, and re-position the contributions of Howard University-based African American scholars between the 1930s and 1950s on race and empire in International Relations. It introduces critically important new scholarship on what is now referred to as the Howard School of International Affairs. It takes a fresh look at the ideas of Alain Locke, Ralph Bunche, Rayford Logan, Merze Tate, Eric Williams and E. Franklin Frazer. These scholars represent an African American (and Afro-Caribbean) internationalist tradition, and, at the time, the only sustained critique of the hierarchy of the international system and the role that race played in buttressing it. They problematized race in the discussion of international affairs, critiqued the Wilsonians, repeatedly referenced imperialism, and joined debates about anthropological methods for incorporating global and local perspectives into a single study. Yet, just as the hidden history of race in the early years of the discipline of International Relations has long been ignored, so too has the critique that emerged from the Historically Black Academy.

Developed as a connected course taught with a parallel unit offered at Howard University's Department of African Studies, this two-legged learning platform affords direct access to Howard's archives at the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center. Student interaction is structured around weekly dialogues and paired research assignments. Vintage textbooks and model syllabi are used to introduce the intellectual and historical context that shaped the emergence of IR as a

professional scholarly discipline, while archival documents from the Moorland-Spingarn collection highlight the freedom movements that were central to the intellectual, social and institutional development of the Howard School of International Affairs.”

PS 189-01: Seminar in International Relations: The Pursuit of Gender Equality (*)

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

PS 199: Senior Honors Thesis

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.