Political Science Fall 2020 Courses

(M) – Methodology

(*) – Advanced Seminar

Class Formats
(P) – In-Person: Courses where participants will meet in-person every class session but may be open to virtual participants.
(H) – Hybrid/Dual Modality: Courses that will have a mix of both online and in-person class sections for each student.
(V) – Virtual: Courses that will be entirely online. Synchronous, unless otherwise noted.

PS-004: First-Year Tutorial in Politics: Shakespeare's Politics (P)
Vickie Sullivan
Shakespeare’s plays provide profound insights into the human psyche. They also present a remarkably varied political landscape, offering depictions of ancient and modern, pagan and Christian, republican and monarchical, martial and commercial regimes. This advising seminar will study Coriolanus, Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, Macbeth, Henry V, and Hamlet in order to consider a central question of political theory—the effect that politics and religion have on the human personality and human possibilities.

First Year Students Advising Seminar

PS-011: Introduction to American Politics (H)
James Glaser
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-015: Sophomore Seminar: Politics & the City (M)(V)
Jeffrey 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-020: Introduction to Civic Studies (H)
Brian Schaffner 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.

PS-021: Introduction to Comparative Politics (V)
Nimah Mazaheri
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-041: Western Political Thought I (H)**
Ioannis Evrigenis
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-061: Introduction to International Relations (V)**
Michael Beckley
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: Internship: Fieldwork in Politics (V)**
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.

**This virtual course is led asynchronously, not in a designated time block.**

**PS-101: The Presidency & Executive Branch (V)**
Jeffrey 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.

*Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.*

**PS-103: Political Science Research Methods (M)(V)**
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. A methodologically focused course.
**Prerequisites: Completion of any Political Science Foundation Course: PS 11, 21, 41, 42, or 61 or Political Science first year tutorials: PS 2, 3 or 4.**

**PS-105: Constitutional Law (H)**  
*Hon. Judge Dennis Curran (Ret.)*  
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.

The course will be taught by Honorable Dennis J. Curran, Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court (ret.), who has presided over 450 civil and criminal trials. Justice Curran has taught several ExCollege law-related courses, and taught law school courses and at the Summer@Brown program.

He had received four statewide judicial awards for the advancement of justice in Massachusetts.

**PS-111: Political Psychology (M)(H)**  
*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.

**This course is planned to meet virtually for the first several sessions; the Professor will give instructions for if/when in-person meetings will begin**

**Recommendations: PS 11, 21, 41, 42, or 61.**

**PS-112: U.S. Elections: Rules, Strategies, and Outcomes (P)**  
*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 (M) (P)**  
*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-118-01: Topics in American Politics: The American Legal System (H)**  
*Hon. Judge Dennis Curran (Ret.)*  
The law governs and yet mystifies. This course offers a compelling, real-world approach to criminal law and procedure (including I.C.E. detainers), our court system, civil procedure, contracts (such as internet "click-wrap"
agreements), employment law, negligence, product liability, the jury trial, as well as alternatives to litigation. We will study the law from a political science perspective, recognizing that law reflects public policy made by political institutions which strive valiantly (though sometimes unsuccessfully) to reflect social values. Although introductory in nature in its approach to the substantive law, the course will nevertheless address dramatic, cutting-edge legal issues. Our goal is to demystify the legal process by offering you an insider's view of how laws are made, applied, and administered with justice.

**PS-118-02: Topics in American Politics: Community Organizing (H)**
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-119-01: Seminar in American Politics: Polling the 2020 Election (H)**
Brian Schaffner
The class will focus on understanding and analyzing the 2020 U.S. 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. A main component of the course will be a class project to develop, conduct, and analyze a survey of voters during the 2020 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. Students 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. PS103 or an equivalent methods course is a pre-requisite and enrollment is by instructor permission.

*Prerequisites: PS 103 and permission of instructor*

**PS-121-01: Seminar: Political Culture in Comparative Perspectives (V)**
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 (P)**
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, popular protests, and other topics.

**PS-126: Chinese Politics (V)**
*Elizabeth Remick-Yamamoto*
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 (V)**
*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.

*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 permission of instructor.*

**PS-138-01: Topics In Comparative Politics: Democracy & its Alternatives (H)**
*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.

*Recommendation: PS 21*

**PS-139-01: Seminar in Comparative Politics: German Politics from Bismarck to Merkel (*)&(H)**
*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.

**Recommendation: PS 21**

**PS-147: Seminar: Political Philosophy of Nietzsche (*) (H)**

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.

**This discussion based class will synchronize in class and remote interactions.**

**PS-158-01: Topics In Political Thought: Rise and Decay of the West (H)**

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.

**This discussion based class will synchronize in class and remote interactions.**

**PS-180: Regionalism in Africa (H)**

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.

**Recommendations: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor.**

**PS-181: Public Opinion and Foreign Policy (M) (V)**

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-185: Seminar: Nuclear Weapons and International Politics (*) (V)  
Jeffrey 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.  
Prerequisite: PS 61: Introduction to International Relations and junior or senior standing.

PS-187: Intelligence and National Security (H)  
Jeffrey 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 and sophomore standing.

PS-188-01: Human Rights and American Foreign Policy (H)  
Katrina Swett  
Fundamental notions of universal human rights are deeply embedded in American history and its sense of national identity. Much of the early writing and debate about the moral foundations of the nation suggest that Americans viewed themselves as a righteous template after which the rest of the world should pattern itself. However, America’s self-image and its implications for U.S. foreign policy became more relevant in the 20th century when America emerged as a major player on the world stage. Particularly in the post-World War II period, the U.S. played a pivotal role in establishing universal human rights as a key organizing principle for the new world order. This course will examine the role that human rights ideas have played in America’s own foreign policy and the cross currents, contradictions, and inconsistencies that have emerged.

PS-188-02: The Transnational Politics of Forced Migration (H)  
Anna Larson  
This course introduces the concept of forced migration and establishes its importance within the IR field. It considers different theoretical conceptions of the state and citizenship, before exploring how states define, delineate and differentiate themselves, compete with one another, maintain sovereignty and interact with their citizens. It moves on to considering the places between and outside of states and at the fringes of citizenship and considers how these spaces might be seen as a threat to the international state system. It examines the securitization of borders and neo-nationalism in an apparently global era. Drawing on a variety of interdisciplinary case studies, the course considers historical and current examples and causes of forced migration and their impacts on social, economic and political environments both in the immediate vicinity and globally. It examines key debates on refugeehood and displacement including the changing meaning and crises of citizenship, intersectional identities, the
shortcomings of the international human rights framework, the gendered impacts of forced
migration, and the changing character of states, governance, sovereignty and identity within a
global context.

**PS 188-03: Gender in International Relations (H)**

**Anna Larson**

This course situates gender as central to social explanation in IR and examines the gendered
nature of global politics. It introduces feminist views of the state and citizenship, and how these
correspond to and critique realist and liberal notions of the same. It considers the post-positivist
methodological contributions to the discipline that feminist scholars have made. It provides
gendered analyses of the global economy and relates these to the way in which states interact
with one another. It explores concepts of masculinities in relation to IR in general and focuses
student attention on the intersection between gender, foreign policy, violence and war. Drawing
on different case study examples, including that of US intervention in Afghanistan, it encourages
students to engage in deep-dive analyses of the ways in which international intervention in
conflict and conflict prevention are gendered and to consider why this matters, both to
communities in host countries and to US citizens at home.

**PS-189-01: Seminar in International Relations: International Relations of East Asia (*) (H)**

**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.

*Prerequisite: PS 61*

**PS-189-02: Seminar in International Relations: American Primacy (*) (V)**

**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) (V)**

**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 chapter.