Political Science Spring 2020 Courses

(M) – Methodology

(*) – Advanced Seminar

PS 008-01: Workshop in Political Science: Political Theory Reading Group: Homer’s Odyssey
Ioannis Evrigenis
Political Theory Reading Group: Homer’s *Odyssey*. This is a one-credit course requiring the instructor’s permission to enroll.

PS 008-02: Workshop in Political Science: Plato’s Legacy: Manuscripts, Books, and Influence
Ioannis Evrigenis and Chris Barbour
Examination of the history of the dissemination of Plato’s seminal philosophical works, from antiquity, through the Middle Ages, to modernity. We will study holdings of the Tisch Library Special Collections, including medieval manuscripts and the Renaissance Aldus and Stephanus editions, which formed the basis of all subsequent Plato scholarship. We will consider the benefits and drawbacks of different media, their role in the dissemination of ideas under varying circumstances, and the ways in which their study supplements our understanding of the works they contain. This is a one-credit course requiring the instructor’s permission to enroll.

PS 21: Introduction to Comparative Politics
David Art
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
The course introduces students to the central concepts of modern political philosophy that have underlined Western political practice. We begin with the views of Rene Descartes, Thomas Hobbes, and Adam Smith, identifying and analyzing the main transformations of thinking that characterized the Enlightenment, an outlook centered on the possibility of humanity – not gods – taking responsibility for human fate, while establishing freedom and equality as the highest goals. The course reviews J. J. Rousseau's indictment of the Enlightenment and explores the alternative conceptions of reason, liberty, and morality that he introduced to modern political thought, setting the stage for protracted conflict in Western civilization for the following two centuries. The second half of the examines seminal thinkers – Hegel, Tocqueville, Mill and Nietzsche – and their attempt to redirect Western politics and society by either modifying or overthrowing the Enlightenment project.

PS 43: Justice, Equality and Liberty
Lionel McPherson
Students will learn about how moral and political philosophy relate to questions of public importance. The seminar will study a range of practical ethical questions concerning themes such as: moral responsibility, criminal justice, and the aims of punishment; terrorism and just war; multiculturalism and religious toleration; animals; the environment. We will approach these issues by considering case studies and by evaluating moral principles for resolving ethical dilemmas. We will be especially concerned with the challenges to ethical thought posed by ethnic, religious, and political diversity

**PS 61: Introduction to International Relations**  
*Richard Eichenberg*  
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: Internship: 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 102: Congress, Bureaucracy, and Public Policy**  
*Jeff 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)**  
*Brian Schaffner*  
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. This course requires the instructor’s permission to enroll.

**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 109: Seminar: The Politics of Ethnicity and American Identity (M)(*)
Deborah Schildkraut
Current political issues stemming from the changing ethnic composition of the United States. Particular attention is paid to the meaning of American national identity, how it has changed over time, and what role it plays in shaping ethnicity-related policy debates. Topics include: immigration policy, public opinion, racial profiling, language policy, U.S. census, bilingual education, dual citizenship, redistricting, representation, and elections. Please see departmental website for specific details.

PS 118-01: Topics in American Politics: Immigration Law and Politics
Christina Corbaci
Overview of the U.S. immigration system, including history, development and current trends. Students will become familiar with employment-based immigration, family-based immigration, humanitarian programs such as asylum, programs for the protection of victims or other vulnerable populations, roles of the various governmental agencies involved, legal authority for the programs and challenges in representing individuals seeking legal status. Discussion will also cover recent hot topics and changes in the field. Students will examine scenarios and cases drawn from the professors’ law practice. Students may have the opportunity to observe immigration court hearings in Boston.

PS 118-02: Topics in American Politics: Religious Liberty in the US
Raquel Swartz
The first guarantees enshrined in the Bill of Rights concern the government's ability to promote or restrict religious practice. This course examines the evolution of the Free Exercise and Establishment Clause doctrines in the United States from the Constitutional era until today. Students will learn to read legal texts, including the Constitution and case law, and will be invited to think legally by extrapolating from those texts to current affairs. We will broadly explore the extent to which accommodations should be made for personal beliefs and practices and how the law approaches the role of religion in the public sphere.

PS 118-03: Topics in American Politics: (Mis) Information and Democracy
Sarah Sobieraj
The legitimacy of democracy hinges on voters having sufficient accurate information to make meaningful decisions on their own behalf when they enter the voting booth. This has never been as simple as we might hope: the ideal of the informed citizenry has been thwarted by gatekeeping, public relations, propagandists, the silencing of marginalized voices, conspiracy theories, and the misuse of statistics (intentional and unintentional). Even so, we have reached a crisis in our information environment. Heightened political polarization, an endless array of venues generating news and news analysis, and new information and communications technologies that dramatically increase the speed and scale at which misinformation can be circulated have proved fertile ground for information pollution. The outcome is a populace that is ideologically selective in determining what information is trustworthy and resistant to facts that belie our political proclivities. In this interactive and timely course we will examine the sources and targets of misinformation, the social contexts in which misinformation thrives, the consequences of its prevalence, and issues of responsibility and regulation. We will also devote considerable attention to possible paths forward as individuals trying to make sense of the world
around us and as a political culture in need of revitalization. Throughout the semester, students will weave together knowledge gleaned from academic research, related writings from NGOs and think tanks, current events, and their own curated information environments.

PS 118-04: Topics in American Politics: Massachusetts Government Internships
Benjamin B. 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 120: Seminar: Power and Politics in China (*)
Elizabeth Remick
Advanced seminar on sources of political power and resistance in post-Mao Chinese politics. Debates in recent research over state strength, origins of political reform, development of civil society, prospects for democratization, corruption, censorship, religion, and protest. Please see departmental website for specific details. Requirement: PS 126 or HIST 44, or permission of instructor.

PS 124: Political Economy of Advanced Industrial Democracies (M)(*)
Shinju Fujihira
Examines the political foundations of capitalism in the U.S., Europe, and Japan. Topics include: Keynesianism and monetarism, neoliberalism and partisan governments, interest group politics, central banks and monetary policy, welfare states, corporate governance, financial and labor markets, industrial policy and technological innovation, taxation and redistribution, class and gender inequality, and immigration.

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 128: Gender, Work, and Politics in East Asia
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 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: Religion and Politics
Rabia Zafar
Using a broad comparative lens, this course explores the intersection of religion and politics. It considers how and why religion came to be politically salient in some contexts while processes of secularization took hold in others. The course is organized thematically to include topics such as the role of colonialism in activating religious political identities, the use of religion in postcolonial independence movements, conditions under which societies and institutions became secularized, sectarianism as a response to international intervention, and the causes of religious violence. A disparate set of historical and current cases from the Middle East, South Asia, and Western Europe will be used to contextualize the theoretical arguments studied in this course.

PS 140: Liberalism and Its Philosophical Critics
Robert Devigne
The course examines seminal writers of the Left and Right – Rousseau, Burke, Marx, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Schmitt among others – who developed critiques of the West’s modern liberal project centered on the promotion of individual self-interest. Among the specific topics explored: globalization vs. the nation as the central organizing principle among modern people; the charge that liberalism dominates classes and peoples via de-politicized “soft power;” political and social structures developed as alternatives to liberalism’s private property and representational democracy; the relationship between liberalism and the development of nihilism and a moral groundlessness; points of continuity and differences in Left and Right criticisms of liberalism and the success and failures of their respective attempts to overcome liberalism’s problems. There will be regular discussion in class of past and present movements in opposition to liberalism and the contemporary plights of Western civilization.

PS 142: Ethics and International Relations
Ioannis Evrigenis and Kelly Greenhill
Examination of issues at the intersection of politics and morality through the prism of international relations. Inquiry into the nature and extent of justice, and of its implications for the
conduct of individual citizens and states, with a focus on whether fellow citizens have special rights. Study of influential theories regarding whether it is permissible to kill even in defense of the state, whether human rights exist and, if so, the extent to which they must be protected, and the responsibility or lack thereof arising from poverty in other parts of the world. Application of these theories to contemporary examples, including drones, counter-terrorism, surveillance, and torture.

**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 150: Plato’s Socrates**  
**Ioannis Evrigenis**  
Faced with a death sentence, Socrates claimed that even the fear of death could not prevent him from doing what is right, offering as proof not words, but deeds. Taking Socrates' distinction between words and deeds as our starting point, and focusing on the relationship between the arguments and the action, we will study the Laches, Symposium, Meno, Protagoras, and Republic, as well as the works recounting his last days, in an attempt to understand Plato's Socrates and his views regarding knowledge, virtue, justice, courage, and the care of one's soul.

**PS 158-01: The Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**Peter Levine**  
In this seminar, we will study Martin Luther King Jr. as a political thinker. The whole class will read major works by King and excerpts from biographies and historical documents. Additional readings will be distributed among students, who will contribute insights from their assigned texts to the seminar discussions. The additional readings will include works that influenced King, writings by some of his contemporaries, and interpretations from a recent volume, To Shape a New World: Essays on the Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr., edited by Tommie Shelby and Brandon M. Terry. We will investigate King’s understanding of the Civil Rights Movement—why it was necessary and what it aimed to achieve. Specifically, we will study his ideas about the political and economic organization of white supremacy, the impact of racial ideologies, and the importance of racial integration and the right to vote. We will investigate King’s philosophy of civil disobedience and nonviolence as well as a set of values he relates to that philosophy: dignity, sacrifice, self-reflection, self-improvement, love, faith, and freedom. We will relate these values to King’s understanding of justice. Criticisms of King will also be considered. Studying King and his critics will provide a window into post-WWII American political thought. (This course is the Capstone for the Civic Studies Major and open to other majors.)

**PS 160: Force, Strategy, and Arms Control (M)**
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 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: 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 188-02: 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 Frazier. 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-Spingarn 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 188-03: Topics in International Relations: Cybersecurity and Cyberwarfare**  
*Jeffrey Taliaferro and Ming Chow*  
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: 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 188-05: Topics in International Relations: Human Rights and American Foreign Policy**  
*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 US 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 US 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 have played in American foreign policy and the cross currents, contradictions and inconsistencies that have emerged. We will look at these issues both historically and in the current context, examining topics ranging from enhanced interrogation techniques (torture) employed by the Bush administration to the challenges posed by violent extremist groups such as ISIS to the international architecture of human rights.

**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: 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 189-03: Seminar in International Relations: Conducting Research on Public Opinion and Foreign Policy (*)
Richard Eichenberg
This seminar focuses on two things: important choices facing US foreign policy, and the level of public support for specific policies and policy alternatives. Among the substantive choices to be studied are: public threat perceptions; public support for defense spending; the use of military force; alliance commitments; trade agreements; immigration; and international institutions. We also focus on the methodological issues in ascertaining public support: survey design, sampling, and measurement; rudimentary statistics for establishing relationships between political and demographic characteristics; and the use of statistical software to analyze these relationships. In addition, the instructor will make several recent public opinion surveys available to students to analyze for their research papers. Prerequisite: one prior course in political science.

PS 191: Issues in American Public Policy
Peter Levine
This course is meant as an introduction to methods of public policy analysis, similar to the content of an introductory course in a graduate school of public policy. The whole class will first study and discuss one question: Which students should attend which k-12 schools in the USA, and who should decide that matter? Concrete policy options include mandatory assignment to neighborhood public schools, school choice, charter schools, vouchers, etc. Each student will then select a different policy issue and write three short essays that will join to produce one policy memo. As students conduct research for their individual papers, we will learn methods and theories of policy analysis. Our overall framework will be the Institutional Analysis and Design (IAD) framework developed by Elinor Ostrom and her colleagues. We will use it both for the k-12 school example and for each student’s individual project.

PS 195: Seminar: U.S. Elections (M)(*)
Eitan Hersh
Examination of Political geography; apportionment and gerrymandering; presidential elections; legislative elections; primaries; turnout; the economy and partisanship in elections; race and immigration attitudes in elections; campaign strategy; campaign finance; voting rights Emphasis on original data analysis and original, quantitative research. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing.
PS 199: 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.