

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS
Course Descriptions Spring 2020
Politics (POLT) and Legal Studies (LGST)

All Politics Department courses are open to all students who meet the prerequisites. For information on requirements for any Politics major or minor, please see the Patricia Rodriguez, Chair of the Politics Department, 312 Muller Faculty Center.

POLT 10100-01, 02 U.S. POLITICS SS LA 1 h LA SS 1 h; GE:1 Self & Society, GE h: Historical Perspective, (ICC) - Humanities, Liberal Arts, (ICC) - Social Sciences, Social Sciences, Themes: Power and Justice, World of Systems, Identities, and Inquiry, Imagination and Innovation.

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Alex Moon**, Muller 308, Ext. 4-1258

ENROLLMENT: 90

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course has three main purposes. In ascending order of importance, it seeks to familiarize students with the role of voters, interest groups, the media, and parties in the American political system. We will examine the dynamics of American political institutions and (some of) the origins of (some of) the current political cleavages in the U.S.; it will examine the gap between the ideals and practices of American Politics.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture/discussion

POLT 10100-03, 04 U.S. POLITICS LA SS 1 h; GE:1 Self & Society, GE h: Historical Perspective, (ICC) - Humanities, Liberal Arts, (ICC) - Social Sciences, Social Sciences, Themes: Power and Justice, World of Systems, Identities, and Inquiry, Imagination and Innovation.

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **C. Figueroa**, Muller 319, Ext. 4-7381

ENROLLMENT: 30 each section

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This introductory course/seminar explores the development of the U.S. political system, the values it is based on, how it works, how politics and policy intersect within it, and its impact upon individuals and groups alike. We focus on the historical and present power struggles over national identity, moral and ethical values, civic culture, political affiliation, role of media, national institutions and policy development within the context of a dynamic representative and neo-liberal U.S. democratic capitalist system.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture/Discussion; group work; Skype; guest speakers; debates; films/documentaries

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: midterm paper; in-class exercises; final paper

POLT 12200-01 POLITICS AND SOCIETY LA SO SS TPJ TQSF

3 credits;

INSTRUCTOR: **Patricia Rodriguez**

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This politics introductory course explores the impact of social forces and societal dynamics on the politics of diverse countries, as well as the influence of politics and the state on society. We will examine how and to what extent political institutions, individual and collective political action, and historical circumstances are shaping political and social developments in different countries and regions of the world. The key questions to be examined in the course are: what are different ideas/practices around democracy

in the world, why? why/when do democracies emerge but also breakdown? What is the STATE and why might it matter for different types of governance regimes? What leads people to migrate across borders, how is this connected to empire and global border governance? What impact does citizen activism have in global and national political and economic issues, and particularly in climate change issues? What alternatives are being created and implemented around the world on these issues?

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: lecture and discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: participation, papers

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 12800-01, 02 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g;

ICC: Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: Chip Gagnon, Muller 324, Ext. 4-1103 **ENROLLMENT: 25**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We examine and discuss issues of security ranging from security of the state to security of individuals. Issues include the future of war, terrorism, the global economy, nationalism, ethnic and religious conflict, and the role of the media in how we think about the international. We also study how different perspectives lead us to see different worlds, looking specifically at realism, liberalism, global humanism, and theories of identity. This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, films.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Attendance and participation in class discussions; readings for each class; three take-home exam essays.

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 12800-03 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SS LA 1b, g;

ICC DESIGNATION: Social Sciences; Theme: World of Systems; Theme: Power & Justice

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Naeem Inayatullah, Muller 325, Ext. x-3012

ENROLLMENT:

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We examine and discuss the history of international relations theory from the turn of the early 1900s to the present. That history divides into three phases: a focus on what to do with the threat presented by “brown, black, and red” people in the colonies (1900s to the beginning of WWII); the so called “Cold War” (1945-1989); and, the contemporary period (1989-present) in which the threat from the former colonies re-appears as central.

The course shows how orthodox and mainstream theory/practice hides and thereby reveals its dependence on concepts of race and colonialism. It is also a course that takes seriously the role of traditional realist theory as part of the historical and theoretical record. Issues include security, the future of war, terrorism, the global economy, nationalism, ethnic and religious conflict, ideology, and the role of race, gender, and class in how we think of the international.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: three take-home essays.

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

**POLT 12900-01, EXPLORATIONS IN GLOBAL & COMPARATIVE STUDIES SS LA 1b, g; ICC
Social Sciences; Theme: Identities; Theme: Power & Justice**

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Peyi Soyinka-Airewele**, 314 Muller, ext. 4-3508

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course examines critical global issues, including the nature and impact of globalization; the role of international institutions such as the United Nations; culture and identity formation; human rights and the protection of human security in a competitive marketplace; and the dilemmas of sovereignty, militarism and the struggle for a just peace. Students may assess some national and international policies and explore policy alternatives, individual responses and responsibilities. The course utilizes country case studies, international simulations, literature and film and emphasizes global awareness and critical thinking. It will provide fundamental analytical frames through which students can address current debates on representation, identity, and the global future.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lectures, discussions, and collaborative work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Regular attendance, active participation, presentations, tests, essays and projects.

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 14200-01, 02 IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES SS LA 1a, 1b

(ICC) Humanities, Social Sciences, Power and Justice, World of Systems

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Kelly Dietz**, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 21

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is your idea of the “good life” or a “perfect world”? How do you think we might achieve it, and why? Where do your ideas about the world and your own life come from? How do your individual beliefs relate to broader systems of thought we call ideologies? This course requires self-reflection on these questions as we explore ideological perspectives on political, social and economic life. Through readings, film, art, music and your own observations, the course focuses on key political ideas and the ideological debates over their meaning and practice. We examine concepts such as freedom, equality, democracy, human nature, security, order, authority, community and nation. We consider how these and other political ideas developed historically, why certain ideas endure, and why they remain important to understanding politics today. In doing so we also pay close attention to how political ideas reflect, reinforce, and challenge relations of power, especially in terms of class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The course encourages critical reflection on where your views about the world come from, and which ideas you take for granted. Encounters with views and theories different from our own help bring to light our unconscious assumptions and also what is distinctive about our political views. Ideological perspectives the course explores include liberalism and conservatism (and their “neo” variants), socialism, anarchism, and fascism.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: mostly discussion, occasional lecture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: thorough class preparation, active participation, weekly informal writing about course materials, midterm and final essays.

POLT 14400-01, 02 Global Political Thought

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Evgenia Ilieva**, 311 Muller, ext. 4-7092

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITES: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores a range of themes and issues that are integral to the study of political thought: identity and difference, freedom, democracy, community, modernity, authority, domination, liberation, political violence, power and knowledge, etc. Our goal is: (1) to analyze how these ideas have been theorized and how they have traveled, been translated, and challenged across various national and geographical boundaries; (2) to use these texts as tools to help us ask a wide range of questions about ourselves and the world we share with others; (3) to unsettle the assumption that we can only interpret and understand texts and experiences reducible to our own culture, nationality, and way of life. More broadly, our aim is to begin to appreciate political thought as a human activity that arises universally rather than as something over which only the “west” has exclusive purview. Therefore, instead of comparing “western” and “non-western” systems of thought as discrete traditions of theorizing, we will examine the transmission and translation of ideas in relation to global systems of race and empire.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, reading, short papers.

POLT 19501-01, 02 FOOD AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: **Juan M. Arroyo**, Muller 308, Ext. 4-3969

ENROLLMENT: 27 per section

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: At some level, we may think we know what it means to eat and drink sustainably. This course will challenge conceptions by examining different, and often conflicting, definitions of sustainability. Then, even if we do agree to eat and drink differently, we face challenges in changing individual behavior and social patterns in more sustainable directions. This course will look at the many actors and obstacles involved in shaping our choices regarding food and water. Political systems privilege certain ideas and also specific interests. Economic structures and patterns limit our choices. Anthropological, cultural, and sociological backgrounds structure our options. Biological and psychological predispositions affect our ability to eat and drink sustainably. Students will consider the “simple” acts of eating and drinking from all of these perspectives. Students will be challenged to understand the potential for changing patterns of consumption, examining their own choices, their communities, and the socio-political system in which we are embedded.

PREREQUISITES: Open to all students.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion/lecture; expert presentations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Readings, active participation in class discussions, 2-3 short papers (3-5 pages), 1 medium paper (5-7 pages), 1 final paper (7-10 pages); A-F.

POLT 30600-01 US FOREIGN POLICY Attributes: INBG, LMEL, LMSP, LSCO, SS

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Chip Gagnon**, Muller 324, ext. 4-1103

ENROLLMENT: 25

PREREQUISITE: Three courses in the social sciences or equivalent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will include an historical overview of U.S. Foreign Policy, but is focused on contemporary issues such as the war with Al Qaeda, the occupation of Iraq, and U.S. Middle East policy. Attention will be paid to the politics of intervention in cases of genocide. We will also consider the normative issues surrounding the cost and consequences of being a super-power/empire.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture and Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Read 5-6 book and assigned articles. There will be three exams.

POLT 33100-01 Latin American Politics LA SS LSCI

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Patricia Rodriguez**

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to issues in contemporary Latin American Politics. It pays attention to the historical experiences, internal political and socio-economic structures and power relations, and behaviors of national and international actors influencing Latin American countries' politics and societies. The course involves discerning similar and different patterns (ie, clientelism, coup d'etats, political violence, racism, class conflict, revolutions), and opportunities and constraints on political and economic development in the region, through in-depth focus and comparisons of specific countries, and regionally. Readings include: **Revolution and Reaction: The Diffusion of Authoritarianism in Latin America (Kurt Weyland, 2019); The Five Hundred Year Rebellion: Indigenous Movements and the Decolonization of History in Bolivia (Ben Dangl, 2019).**

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: lecture, discussions

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: papers, participation, research project.

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 34003-01 ST: MILITARIZATION OF EVERYDAY LIFE

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Kelly Dietz**, Muller 323, Ext. 4-3581

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITE: Sophomore standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: From fashion trends, movies and video games to drones, the DREAM Act, privatized militaries and military basing, this course examines the ways in which things, people and social relations become objects of militarization. We pay special attention to how and why this is embraced by some and resisted by others. The course takes a broad view of militarization as an everyday process in order to better understand our relationships to state power as individuals, citizens, and as members of local and global communities. Doing so also allows us to gain a richer understanding of the range of actors, relations and processes that constitute "international relations." The course begins by looking at some of the central ways American culture and institutions are militarized. We then broaden our scope to explore how these typically taken-for-granted processes intersect with the militarization of relations globally. Throughout the course, we explore how and why militarization plays out differently for different people, particularly in terms of gender, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality and nationality. We critically examine the processes that give rise to and sustain militarization—and the ways in which we are all involved in the militarization of everyday life.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: thorough class preparation, active participation, weekly informal writing about course materials, midterm and final essays

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 34014-01 ST: Comparative and International Studies: Terrorism and Insurgencies

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: **Chip Gagnon**

PREREQUISITES: Sophomore Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Terrorism has been making headlines. What is it? Why do people become terrorists? How is terrorism related to insurgencies? We will be looking at these and other related questions to try to understand why people use violence and how they respond to violence.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: discussion, lecture, presentations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: participate in discussions; biweekly reading reactions; presentations; two take home exams

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 34051-01 ST: The European Union

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: Juan M. Arroyo

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITE: Three courses in the social sciences, or equivalent

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The European Union is frequently in the news because it is being shaken by economic trouble, immigration, populism, and by nationalist sentiments. This course starts by asking what the EU is, and why it should matter to US students. What is Europe anyway? Should Turkey be admitted, or not? The bulk of the course is about how the EU works and what it does. Is there a democratic deficit that threatens the EU? How does the EU challenge our notions of national identity, of the nation-state, globalization, etc.? Specific topics may include the creation of the Euro currency, and the formation of European foreign policy. A regular theme will examine the backlash against the EU, as illustrated by Brexit, and a resurgence of both the far-right and far left.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Lecture with discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Readings, papers, class participation; A-F

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 34200-01 Liberalism and Marxism LA

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: Naeem Inayatullah, 325 Muller, ext. 4-3012

ENROLLMENT: 25

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Karl Marx is one of the greatest philosophers of the 19th century and of the modern world. He is widely regarded as the best critic of capitalism in part because he so carefully studied its achievements. Marx's work (along with that of Hegel's and Freud's) can be considered as part of the architecture of our modern consciousness. To think through Marx's analysis of capitalism, history, science, nature, gender and race is to commune with our own minds and to fathom how we think and act.

Marxism and Liberalism both emerge as aspects of modernity. Their common heritage makes them twins that emphasize different visions of the past, present, and future. A study of Marxism, then, is necessarily also a study of Liberalism. We will focus on Marxism but with constant attention to its similarities and differences with Liberalism. *This course counts as a Political Theory course for the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies and the Politics minor.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, plenty of reading, 3 take home essays.

POLT 35005-01 ST: Writing and Criticism LA SS

3 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR: Naeem Inayatullah, Muller 325, Ext. 4-3028

ENROLLMENT: 28

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Grasping the technical, political, theoretical, and psychodynamic motivations for writing. Understanding the meaning, purpose, and practice of criticism. Students will evaluate their written work via collaborative and individual assessments of others' work. Together, we will seek to write and criticize well as a means to living meaningfully. *This course counts as a Political Theory course for the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies and the Politics minor.*

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: willingness to accept alternative teaching methods.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Plenty of reading, writing, and discussion

POLT 36600-01 Environmental Politics

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: Tom Shevory

ENROLLMENT: 20

PREREQUISITE: Two courses in the social sciences or permission from the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The class is designed as a survey of a set of global environmental issues and the power relationships that undergird them. We begin the course with an overview of the nature of the environmental crisis and some theoretical approaches to understanding it, including attention to cultural and historical contexts. Once students gain some familiarity with history and theory, we move to a discussion of a set of discrete policy problems. These include: climate change, toxics, the fossil fuel economy, food and agriculture, among others. Each issue is addressed in relation to race, gender, and class implications. Modes of political action—including civil and uncivil disobedience—are also analyzed, given environmentalism's status as a social movement. Students will also participate in the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival in April by attending FLEFF events, some of which will be integrated into class sessions. <https://www.ithaca.edu/fleff/> The aim of the course is not only to expose students to a set of environmental ideas and issues, but to show how these are deeply imbedded within contemporary political discourses. Students should be prepared for a moderately heavy reading load, along with a set of critical writing assignments. Books (excerpted from or read in entirety) include, Carolyn Merchant, *Reinventing Eden: The Fate of Nature in Western Culture*, Jang Rong, *Wolf Totem*, Barry Estabrook, *Pig Tales: An Omnivore's Quest for Sustainable Meat*, Steve Early, *Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money*, and the *Remaking of an American City*, Ashley Dawson, *Extreme Cities: The Perils and Promise of Urban Life in the Age of Climate Change*.

This course counts as a Public Policy course for the Politics major and the Politics minor.

LGST: 37500-01 Human Rights, Genocide, and Post-Genocidal Justice

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Amy Rothschild

ENROLLMENT: 20

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine the history, theory, and practice of human rights. How are human rights employed by different persons and groups across the globe, including in attempts to secure freedom and justice and in attempts to reckon with or recover from pasts of war or genocide? The course will delve into some of the key debates within the field of human rights, including debates between universalism and cultural relativity, and between individual and collective rights. It will also look at some of the main critiques of human rights. Does it matter if there is an international human rights regime if human rights are not enforced? In what ways can human rights be considered a colonialist enterprise? Topics examined in this course include globalization, genocide, suffering, transitional justice, the relationship between human rights and culture, the relationship between human rights and colonialism, and the principle of humanitarian intervention.

POLT 40114-01 SEMINAR: THE U.S. EMPIRE

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Asma Barlas

ENROLLMENT: 22

PREREQUISITES: Junior/senior standing; one POLT course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this seminar, we will study the U.S.'s political history as an empire and its implications for democracy, human rights, and social justice for both U.S. citizens and those of other countries. Specific issues include the ideologies and practices that enabled U.S. global ascendancy; the social and political costs this ascendancy exacted from the rest of the world; and the ethical dilemmas involved in maintaining it. This discussion-based class requires **regular attendance**. Texts: Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*; Daniel Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire*; David Stannard, *American Holocaust*; and Howard Zinn, *A People's History of American Empire: A Graphic Adaptation*.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Student-led discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING: Two journals, mid-term paper, and final paper.

This course counts as a Comparative and International Studies course for the purposes of the Politics major, the Concentration in International Studies, and the International Politics minor.

POLT 40203-01 Seminar in Political Theory: The Persistence of the Dialectic

3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: Evgenia Ilieva, 311 Muller, ext. 4-7092

ENROLLMENT: 15

PREREQUISITE: One course in the humanities or social sciences.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the social and political dynamics of recognition – the process by which we come to an understanding of who we are. We begin by examining the foundations of the notion of recognition in Hegel's master-slave dialectic, before proceeding to consider the ways in which a number of contemporary thinkers have responded to, reinvented, and challenged the Hegelian account of the emergence of self-consciousness. Possible readings include texts by Hegel, Nietzsche, Jessica Benjamin, J. Glenn Gray, Kelly Oliver, and Judith Butler.

COURSE FORMAT/STYLE: Discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING: Participation, plenty of reading, 3-4 take-home papers.