POL Course Description Booklet: Fall 2016

Political Science Students-

This booklet contains descriptions of the Fall 2016 course offerings of the Department of Political Science (POL). If you have any questions about a course please contact the instructor (http://www.as.miami.edu/politicalscience/people).

If you are a POL major or minor and have questions about what classes you need to complete your studies, please see the on-line advising checklist (http://www.as.miami.edu/politicalscience/undergraduate/faqs) or your advisor for details. Dr. Simon is the designated faculty advisor for political science majors who are first year students at UM (i.e., all freshmen and transfer students who entered UM this academic year). He will soon disseminate information by email to each of his advisees explaining how you can schedule an advising appointment with him for summer and fall Semester classes. If you are not a first year student please look on CaneLink to see whom your POL advisor is, and consult with them. Office hours are posted at the front desk of the POL department.

SPECIAL NOTES:

• We often teach multiple courses in a semester titled “Special Topics.” Please refer to this document to learn about the specific content of these courses, and also look at “Class Notes” and “Topic” in CaneLink when you register. This will allow you to distinguish between courses that have the same number.

• POL now has 600-level course numbers. They are reserved for graduate students only. Please do not attempt to register for a 600-level course.

We are very glad to have you in the department. If there is anything we can do to add to your experience at UM please let us know!

Best regards,

Prof. Casey A. Klofstad  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
University of Miami  
Department of Political Science  
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POL 201: Introduction to American National Government

Instructor: Sylvia Thompson; Casey Klofstad

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: This course introduces students to the principles, structures, and processes of the national government of the United States.

Course Requirements: The same textbook is used across sections; instructors supplement this text as they see fit. Most sections feature one or two mid-term exams, a brief writing assignment, and a final exam.

Prerequisite(s): None

Special Notes: A student who earned a 4 or a 5 on the AP American Politics exam can receive credit for this course.
POL 202: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Instructor: Elton Skendaj; Louise Davidson-Schmich

Subfield: Comparative Politics

Course Description: Some of the most fundamental struggles that take place in any country are over the boundaries between politics and economics and between state and society. What role should the state play in the economy? Who should be able to decide this and other issues? What effects do the political and economic systems of a given country have on people’s everyday lives? This course introduces students to study of comparative and international politics by examining how conflicts over these issues have played out in several different countries around the world. In our analysis of the political and economic systems of England, Germany, Russia, Mexico, Singapore and Nigeria, we will see various combinations of authoritarian and democratic governance, as well as widely divergent types of government involvement in the economy. From these cases we will try to develop an understanding of what factors cause (or prevent) democratization and economic development. We will also apply ideas from class to current events.

Course Requirements: Readings for this course will primarily be drawn from an introductory textbook on comparative politics. There will be a few other assigned academic articles made available to students on Blackboard. Grades will be based on multiple-choice exams, quizzes, and a brief writing assignment.

Prerequisite(s): None

Special Notes: A student who earned a 4 or a 5 on the Comparative Politics AP exam can receive credit for this course.
POL 203: Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Elton Skendaj; Costantino Pischedda

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: Introduction to the theory and practice of international relations. Course covers the development of the modern state system; diplomacy, negotiation and conflict resolution; balance of power considerations; evaluation of past and present experiences in international cooperation through various multinational organizations; international law; principles of international political economy; "high" versus "low" and "hard" versus "soft" politics; international integration in theory and practice; "North"-"South" divisions.

Course Requirements: Mid-term, final exam and a brief paper. Readings will be drawn from the textbook and selected articles.

Prerequisite(s): None

Special Notes: Students who have taken INS 101 are not eligible to enroll in this course.
POL 302: Political Fiction and Film

Instructor: Fred Frohock

Subfield: Political Theory and Methods

Course Description: Course examines politics as presented in films and in relevant texts such as novels and biographies.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 305: Introduction to Political Theory

Instructor: Fred Frohock

Subfield: Political Theory and Methods

Course Description: Politics is organized behavior shaped by power. This brief, stripped-down, and pragmatic definition is what we will use in gaining access to the political philosophers we will study in this course. Students will have a greater understanding of arguments and texts in political philosophy.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 307: Political Ideologies

Instructor: Sylvia Thompson

Subfield: Political Theory and Methods

Course Description: Covers modern and contemporary political ideologies, such as Liberalism, Conservatism, and Marxism.

Course Requirements: Approximately 50 pages of reading per week will be required. There will be three exams (objective and subjective question combination) based on the assigned reading and on class discussion. Class attendance and participation will also be factored into course grades.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201 or POL 202 or POL 203 or INS 101
**POL 313: The Constitution**

**Instructor:** Sylvia Thompson

**Subfield:** American Politics; Public Policy, Administration, and Law

**Course Description:** This course examines the US Constitution from a political and historical prospective. This is a writing intensive course.

**Course Requirements:** Approximately 50 pages of reading per week will be required. There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam (objective and subjective question combination) based on the assigned reading and class discussion. One term paper is required. Class attendance and participation will also be factored into course grades.

**Prerequisite(s):** POL 201
POL 315: American Presidency

Instructor: Gregory Koger

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: This course covers the historic development of presidential power, sources of the powers of the modern presidency, institutional decision-making, and how and to what degree presidential power should be controlled.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 343: Government in Metropolitan Areas

Instructor: Jorge Gonzalez

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: This course will introduce the student to the organization and functions of counties and municipalities in the United States. On occasion guest speakers will be featured. We will examine Miami-Dade County as a concrete example of the course content.

Course Requirements: 3 exams worth 20% each; 1 research paper worth 15%; 2 class presentations worth 15% in total; class participation 10%

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 349: U.S. Defense Policy

Instructor: June Teufel Dreyer

Subfield: International Relations or American Politics

Course Description: This course examines key problems of national security in the post-Cold War/post 9-11 environment. Of particular concern will be the structure and functioning of the US defense establishment and its interactions with those of its most probable adversaries and allies. Readings and lectures will acquaint students with the constraints on, and options open to, policy planners, and with the institutional elements of the decision-making process.

Course Requirements: Midterm; final; term paper.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201, and POL 203 or INS 101
POL 351: Public Opinion

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: This course covers the political functions of public opinion; opinion dynamics in the U.S.; quantitative analysis of elements in opinion change; principles of political control via mass media in the U.S. Particular attention will be paid to the 2016 election.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 352: Political Parties

Instructor: Gregory Koger

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: Analysis of political organizations and electoral processes in the United States: their history, current status, and present trends. Consideration of the organization, control, and finances of political parties and pressure groups, their characteristic practices, and their relationship to political democracy.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 367: The Historical Roots of American Imperialism

Instructor: Roger Kanet

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: This course examines how the United States has a history that parallels that of other great imperial powers that have pursued their interests at the expense of others.

Course Requirements: Twenty-five percent of the grade for the course will be determined by a combination of class attendance and class participation. Forty percent of the grade for the course will be based on the major research paper, including the one-page statement (5%), the five-page précis (20%), and the final paper (75%). All papers are due on the dates listed and will be downgraded, if late. An additional thirty-five percent of the grade will be determined by a mid-term examination (15%) and a final examination (20%).

Prerequisite(s): POL 203 or INS 101
POL 370: Global Energy Politics

Instructor: George Gonzalez

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: Energy use throughout history has shaped humanity's politics and economics; the politics of the depletion of fossil fuels; global warming; "green" alternative energies: solar; wind; waves; civilian nuclear power.

Course Requirements: Mid-term; term paper (7 to 10 pages); final exam.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 373: Constitutional Law I

Instructor: Arthur Simon

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: A study of the development of the principles of American Constitutional Law, with a course focus upon those constitutional principles developed from the original document. Areas of study include judicial review, separation of powers, the Commerce Clause, the Contract Clause, and the Due Process Clauses.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to regularly attend class. In every class the instructor will call on students at random to read and defend their briefs of assigned cases from the textbook. Students will have two examinations and a term paper (on topics assigned by the instructor).

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 386: Democratic Consolidation

Instructor: Roger Kanet

Subfield: Comparative Politics

Course Description: This course explores the general concept of "democratic consolidation" which has become a timely topic in the discourse of today's foreign policy. We will examine the central theoretical concepts that frame the discourse and then examine several case studies.

Course Requirements: Twenty-five percent of the grade for the course will be determined by a combination of class attendance and class participation. Forty percent of the grade for the course will be based on the major research paper, including the one-page statement (5%), the five-page précis (20%), and the final paper (75%). All papers are due on the dates listed and will be downgraded, if late. An additional thirty-five percent of the grade will be determined by a mid-term examination (15%) and a final examination (20%).

Prerequisite(s): POL 202
POL 388: Politics of Israel

Instructor: Bradford McGuinn

Subfield: International Relations or Comparative Politics

Course Description: From war to war and crisis to crisis, Israel is, at once, a polity, an aspiration and a contention. It is the purpose of this course to examine the Israeli system. Three themes will structure this investigation. The first considers the complex, and evolving, identity questions and politics that attend Jewishness, Zionism and being Israeli. The second investigates legitimacy, the nature and dynamics of the Israeli political system. And the third engages the multidimensional nature of Israeli security.

Course Requirements: Two essays, a final, and approximately 80-90 pages of reading per week.

Prerequisite(s): POL 202
POL 391-E: Special Topics in International Relations—Nonviolent Citizen Activism

Instructor: Elton Skendaj

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: How do the actions of private citizens matter in world politics? What lessons does citizen activism hold for the future? In this course, we will read and write about citizen action that has changed the world we live in. Readings are going to focus on many icons of nonviolent action from Gandhi to Martin Luther King. We will look at how the Gandhian movement won over the British Empire, and how nonviolent activists fought corrupt governments. We will also read and write about activists across borders who contributed to the end of Cold War and to local activists who made possible the post-1989 democratization in Eastern Europe.

Course Requirements: Attendance (10%); in-class discussion (10%); midterm examination (20%); final paper (30%); final examination (30%).

Prerequisite(s): POL 203 or INS 101
POL 392: International Terrorism

Instructor: Bradford McGuinn

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: This course concerns itself with political violence in the form of international terrorism. It engages the causes, characteristics and consequences of terrorist activity and its role in modern insurgencies. The course examines the nature and motivational structures of actors involved in terrorism, the scope of their violent actions and the reactions they elicit within the international system.

Course Requirements: Two essays, a final and approximately 80-90 pages of reading per week.

Prerequisite(s): POL 202, or POL 203, or INS 101
POL 393: Special Topics in Public Administration, Policy, and Law—Crime and Punishment

**Instructor:** Ellen Venzer

**Subfield:** Public Administration, Policy, and Law

**Course Description:** This course will focus on the relationship between the rational (and sometimes irrational) connection between criminal conduct and the punishment imposed. The class will explore the evolution of society’s definition of criminal conduct and various sentencing theories. Further, we will delve into questions such as: why are young men of color so over-represented on death row?; why do sentences for the same crime vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and even from judge to judge? Students will consider implicit biases including race, gender, and age inherent in the sentencing process and explore potential sentencing schemes designed to alleviate such disparities, including sentencing guidelines. Students will be invited to attend sentencing hearings and discuss specific sentencing rationales with the presiding judge.

**Course Requirements:** Please consult instructor.

**Prerequisite(s):** POL 201

**Special Note:** Judge Ellen Venzer is a Circuit Court Judge in the Criminal Division of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida in Miami.
POL 401: The Election

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski, Fernand Armandi, & Casey Klofstad

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: In a democracy, the actions of the government are based on the wishes of the citizenry. We will examine the vital role that elections play in this process, specifically focusing on the issues and events surrounding the on-going elections. This will be a large-format lecture course featuring prominent guest speakers from the world of campaigns and elections, the mass media, and public opinion polling, among others. We will also hold debate and election night viewing parties as a part of class.

Course Requirements: Attendance; midterm examination; final examination.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 501: Budget and Financial Management and Administration

Instructor: Rayna Stoycheva

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: This course is an introduction to budgeting and financial management in the public sector, with a focus on state and local governments. The budgeting component of the course examines the budget process, the major revenue sources, capital budgeting and finance, and budget reforms. The financial management component covers basic forecasting methods and cost-benefit analysis, and financial accounting and reporting in the public sector, with application to public pension plans.

Course Requirements: Class participation and written study questions: 25%; Budget Analysis Project: 35%; Exam: 30%; Budget and financial management issues in the news (presentation and written discussion): 10%

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 510: Political Analysis

Instructor: Rayna Stoycheva

Subfield: Political Theory and Methods

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic statistical concepts and methods, with an emphasis on interpretation and applied analysis. The applications are from the public and nonprofit sectors, and present situations that are likely to occur in those settings. Students will learn to use the Stata software package for descriptive and regression data analysis.

Course Requirements: Weekly assessments: 50%; Research paper: 30%; Current event or research article analysis and presentation: 10%; Class participation: 10%

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 520: Internship

Instructor: Arranged as needed.

Subfield: To be determined.

Course Description: Provides advanced political science majors with an opportunity to participate in a structured, supervised internship. 25-35 page research paper required.

Course Requirements: To be determined.

Prerequisite(s): This course is open to Junior and Senior Political Science majors only, with a minimum GPA if 3.5 in the major, and 3.3 overall. Permission is requires of the supervising Professor.
POL 521: Public Affairs Internship

Instructor: Arranged as needed.

Subfield: To be determined.

Course Description: Opportunity for the advanced student specializing in public administration to participate in an administrative capacity in an agency of state or local government. Periodic conferences with adviser and paper required.

Course Requirements: To be determined.

Prerequisite(s): This course is open to Junior and Senior Political Science majors only, with a minimum GPA if 3.5 in the major, and 3.3 overall. Permission is requires of the supervising Professor.
POL 522: Introduction to Graduate Public Administration

Instructor: Michael Milakovich

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: This is an introductory graduate course in public and non-profit administration for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. POL 522 is one of the first courses for students entering the MPA and JD-MPA programs, and for those interested in pursuing careers in law, politics, and public and non-profit management. The objectives of the course are to: 1) present a broad overview of concepts, theories, processes, and practical challenges facing professional public/non-profit officials; 2) discuss contemporary issues facing public agencies; 3) analyze the similarities and differences between public and private management; 4) prepare current and future public managers for higher level responsibilities in public agencies; and 5) explore alternative theories, proposals/concepts for change (e.g. digital governance, empowerment, community-ownership, public-private enterprises, mission-driven government, customer service, etc.) in public and non-profit organizations in the future. While a number of methods and teaching technologies will be used in the seminar, the primary teaching approach will be lecture-seminar-discussions. All participants are encouraged and expected to contribute to in-class discussions and share observations and conclusions with other members of the group.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 526: Administrative Law

Instructor: Arthur Simon

Subfield: Public Policy, Administration, and Law

Course Description: This course probes the legislative, legal, and political aspects of "regulating" in the public interest. It examines the legal dimensions of bureaucratic power and procedures as well as the constitutional and statutory constraints on regulators and administrators. Topics to be considered include agency rulemaking, agency adjudication, agency investigation and enforcement, political controls on agencies, judicial review of agency decisions, governmental liability and immunity, public records and public meetings laws. Both federal law and Florida law are covered. The primary objective is promote a better understanding of administrative law as an array of institutional arrangements that define, empower and control the activities of government agencies in a democratic society.

Course Requirements: Approximately 25 pages of readings a week; two midterm examinations and a final examination; and a 15 to 20 page final paper.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201

Special Notes: This is a challenging course. It is mainly intended for MPA students and pre-law students. Class attendance and participation are strongly emphasized. The professor extensively uses (and posts copies of) detailed Power Point slides. Students are expected to brief cases.
POL 544: Chinese Foreign Policy

Instructor: June Teufel Dreyer

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: This course will examine the international relations of the People’s Republic of China, in theory and in practice. It will consider the structure and context of foreign policy decision-making as well as domestic influences on the foreign policymaking process, and the PRC’s interactions with the international community.

Course Requirements: One midterm examination and a final paper.

Prerequisite(s): POL 203 or INS 101
POL 553: The Environmental Movement: Groups, Beliefs and Values

Instructor: George Gonzalez

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: This course is an exploration of the origins and political impact of environmentalism in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in the global context. Course addresses the impact of democratic participation on environmental politics.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 557: Ethical and Managerial Issues in Government, Business, and Non-Profits

Instructors: Jonathan West

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: Governments at all levels in this country—national, state and local—have encountered high profile scandals involving ethical wrongdoing. Business and nonprofit organizations have faced similar headline grabbing problems. Countless examples of unethical and ethical behavior occur in organizations daily, both here and abroad. This course examines ethical theories as well as the causes and consequences of such actions. It also explores the managerial strategies and competencies needed to effectively cope with the ethical issues confronting individuals and organizations.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to: (i) read in preparation for class discussions; (ii) participate actively in class discussions, cases, etc.; (iii) prepare and present PowerPoint projects; (iv) analyze and present two cases & one article; (v) take an in-class midterm and a take-home and a final exam.

Prerequisite(s): Upper level undergraduate standing
POL 558: From Electronic Government To Digital Governance

Instructors: Michael Milakovich

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: This graduate and advanced undergraduate seminar explores the transition from electronic government (e-gov) to digital or d-governance, emphasizing political participation, citizen-centric public administration and the proliferation of global information technologies and social media.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 563: Senior Thesis I

Instructor: Arranged as needed.

Subfield: None

Course Description: General reading, preparation of research design, and collection of data.

Course Requirements: To be determined.

Prerequisite(s): Admission to this course requires permission from the Director or Undergraduate Studies. Contact Prof. Klofstad for details.
POL 564: Senior Thesis II

Instructor: Arranged as needed.

Subfield: None

Course Description: Continuation of POL 563. Entails writing and defense of the thesis.

Prerequisite(s): Admission to this course requires permission from the Director or Undergraduate Studies. Contact Prof. Klofstad for details.
POL 575: Civil-Military Relations

Instructor: Bradfrod McGuinn

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: Course examines the relationship between states and their soldiers across various historical periods and regional contexts, and how this relationship has been altered in an era where the viability of old structures of state authority are no longer self-evident.

Course Requirements: Two essays, a final and approximately 100-120 pages of reading each week.

Prerequisite(s): POL 203 or INS 101
POL 581: Comparative Political Economy of Post-Industrial Democracies

Instructor: Louise Davidson-Schmich

Subfield: Comparative Politics

Course Description: This seminar examines four key turning points in the development of capitalism: the industrial revolution, the aftermath of the depression and world wars, the oil crisis of the 1970's, and today's "globalization". We will compare the relationships between government and the economy in Western Europe, Canada, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and Japan in each period, and attempt to evaluate why these countries react similarly or differently to identical changes in world economy.

Course Requirements: weekly written responses to readings, take home midterm and final exams

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 582: Political Economy of Development

Instructor: Michael Touchton

Subfield: Comparative Politics

Course Description: The puzzle of economic development remains one of the most intractable for scholars and practitioners despite decades of research. Billions of people have been lifted out of poverty in recent decades, but billions more remain desperately poor. There is little agreement on what strategies work and why some countries succeed while others fail to grow. What is worse, many scholars and practitioners believe previous strategies, such as the Washington Consensus reform packages, may have done more harm than good for the developing world. This course takes up the challenge of alleviating poverty and promoting economic growth around the world by addressing important political and economic arguments surrounding these areas. The result is an advanced understanding of the mutual relevance of politics and economics for development.

The seminar will provide the opportunity for students to develop their own interests in the topic through extensive research and analysis. Over the course of the semester I expect students to critically evaluate the process of economic development with respect to the interaction of politics and economics. Included within this evaluation is an understanding of the benefits and detractions of development strategies, a working knowledge of development policy and an appreciation of the complex processes leading to the success or failure of development efforts.

Course Requirements: I design this course to assist students’ professional growth regardless of the direct relevance of the political economy framework or the aspects of development that we’ll study during the semester. Specifically, students will perform independent research, synthesize diverse information and reach plausible conclusions regarding a topic of their choice. Furthermore, class participation requires students to disseminate information in a forum resembling a professional workplace. Students will benefit directly from these assignments: the skills developed in this course will carry one far beyond the academy and assist students’ careers for years to come.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 584: Contemporary Latin American Politics

Instructor: Michael Touchton

Subfield: Comparative Politics

Course Description: For years Latin America lagged behind many regions in political and economic development. Volatile swings between democracy and dictatorship, growth and stagnation, stasis and revolution were the norm during the 19th and 20th centuries. Recently, countries such as Chile, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Uruguay have begun to enjoy the benefits of consolidated democratic government and stable economic development. By contrast, others such as Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Venezuela have remained mired in poverty and poor governance. Explaining the different levels of government performance, stability, and policy choices across the region is a challenge for scholars, policymakers and students alike. This seminar rises to the challenge as it explores political institutions, governance, politics, and policy choices in a variety of Latin American countries. For instance, we will tackle difficult questions surrounding democratization, authoritarian governance, accountability, inequality, and human development.

The seminar will provide the opportunity for students to develop their own interests in Latin American politics through extensive research and analysis. Over the course of the semester I expect students to critically evaluate Latin American political institutions, processes, and outcomes from a variety of perspectives. Included within this evaluation is an understanding of the benefits and detractions of certain institutional arrangements, a working knowledge of how different countries in the region are governed and an appreciation of the complex processes leading to specific outcomes across countries.

Course Requirements: I design this course to assist students' professional development regardless of Latin America's direct relevance. Specifically, students will perform independent research, synthesize diverse information and reach plausible conclusions regarding a topic of their choice (within Latin American politics). Furthermore, class participation requires students to disseminate information in a forum resembling a professional workplace. Students will benefit directly from these assignments: the skills developed in this course will carry one far beyond the academy and assist students’ careers for years to come. I guarantee students will be well-versed in researching, presenting, discussing and analyzing issues in Latin American Politics by the end of the semester.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 586: Conflict in the Middle East and Africa

Instructor: Bradford McGuinn

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: Introduction to major paradigms for the explanation of war and conflict in two of the most unstable regions of the world. Reading and class discussions on select cases of current and past conflicts in each region in order to discern patterns of conflict within and across regions, gain a clearer understanding of what drives violent conflict, and assess strategies of resolution.

Course Requirements: Two essays, a final and approximately 100-120 pages of reading each week.

Prerequisite(s): POL 202, or POL 203, or INS 101
POL 590: Directed Readings

Instructor: Arranged as needed.

Subfield: To be determined.

Course Description: This course provides an opportunity for students to organize an independent study with a particular tenure-line faculty member.

Course Requirements: To be determined.

Prerequisite(s): To be determined.

Special Notes: A student may only sign up if s/he has found a professor who has agreed to work with him/her. This course does not fulfill the two 500-level seminar requirement for the political science major.
POL 596-KL: Special Topics In Public Administration, Policy And Law—Equity and Diversity in Public Administration

Instructor: Cole Taratoot

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: The United States Constitution, under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, says that, “No state shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws,” thus promoting an ideal of equal treatment of citizens by both the federal and state governments. However, at the same time, American political culture has always recognized a value in a diverse citizenry. The dilemma then becomes how can public administrators seek to achieve equality in policies while still maintaining a respect for diversity? Can these two values coexist? To examine these questions, this course will look at federal and state policies, laws, and court decisions as means for helping public administrators develop policies and procedures that meet legal requirements and recognize the values of equity and diversity in the treatment of its citizenry (external) and public employees in the public work space (internal). The course will examine these topics through the socio-demographic attributes of both our diverse citizenry and public administrators. These attributes will include race, gender, ethnicity, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, and religion. The values of equity and diversity are among the core competencies promoted by NASPAA (The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) and thus knowledge of these competencies are of value to any public administrator.

Course Requirements: Interview/Biography assignment where student must interview a public administrator who is socio-demographically different from those he or she works with (15%); Midterm and final exam (25% each) that are all essay; Original case study (25%) where the student outlines a current issue or event pertaining to equity and diversity in public administration and analyzes the issue by applying class material; Participation (10%)

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 596-T: Special Topics In Public Administration, Policy And Law—Bureaucratic Politics

Instructor: Cole Taratoot

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: Bureaucratic Politics is an introductory examination of the principles, structure, functions and processes of federal administrative agencies of the United States government and the relation to the broader field of public administration. Particular emphasis will be placed on the legal, ethical, and political ramifications of agencies and public administrators acting in a political environment. Emphasis will also be placed on the interactions between the bureaucratic agencies and public administrators with other branches of the federal government, state and local governments, and interest groups. Special attention will also be given to administrative and bureaucratic power, democratic control, and accountability. The purpose of this course is to ensure that students will have a better understanding of the structure of the federal government, the functions of federal agencies and the services they offer, and to attempt to dispel many of the myths associated with governing in the United States, particularly with regard to federal agencies and public administrators.

Course Requirements: Participation: 5%; Midterm Exam: 25%; Final Exam: 25%; Short Paper: 15%; Agency Presentation: 10%; Final Paper: 20%

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 597-T1: Special Topics In International Relations—Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Violence

Instructor: Costantino Pischedda

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: This is an undergraduate seminar on nationalism, ethnicity, and related forms of political violence. The course explores the causes and consequences of ethnic identification and nationalism as well as the causes of ethno-nationalist conflict and policy approaches to its management.

Course Requirements: The course has two main goals. First, it intends to expose students to the main theoretical debates and empirical findings on ethnicity, nationalism, and associated forms of political violence. Second, the course aims to further students' critical and creative thinking on theoretical and policy questions related to ethnicity and nationalism, through class discussion and a research paper.

Prerequisite(s): None
POL 597-TU: Special Topics In International Relations—Comparative Political Economy

Instructors: Maria Gomez-Mera

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: This course compares how domestic politics and macroeconomic policies interact with globalization. Case studies include welfare states in the U.S. and Europe, East Asian development, post communist transitions and market restructuring in Latin America and Africa.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): None