POL Course Description Booklet: Summer 2015

Political Science Students-

This booklet contains descriptions of the Summer 2015 offerings of the Department of Political Science. If you have any further questions about a course please contact the instructor (http://www.as.miami.edu/politicalscience/people).

If you are a political science major or minor and have questions about what classes you need to complete your studies see the political science on-line advising checklist (http://www.as.miami.edu/politicalscience/undergraduate/faqs) or your advisor for details. Freshmen, transfer students who entered UM this year, and new POL majors/minors should see Prof. Simon for advising during his office hours. All sophomores, juniors, seniors and transfer students who have been at UM for a year or longer must see their assigned advisor during his or her office hours. If you do not know who that faculty member is, please look on CaneLink. Office hours are posted at the front desk of the POL department.

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 me know.

Best regards,

Prof. Casey Klofstad
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Department of Political Science
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POL 201: Introduction to American Politics

Instructors: Michael Milakovich (Summer 1); Richard Brumback (Summer 2)

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 Note(s): 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 (Summer 1)

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 and quizzes and a brief writing assignment.

Prerequisite(s): None

Special Note(s): A student who earned a 4 or a 5 on the comparative politics AP exam can receive credit for this course.
POL 309: American Political Thought

Instructors: Gregory Koger (Summer 1)

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: This class traces the evolution of democratic thinking in America. Topics include the meaning of representation, citizenship, equality and liberty.

Course Requirements: Participation; short papers.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 311: Conspiracy Theories

Instructors: Dr. Joseph Uscinski (Summer 2)

Subfield: American Politics

Course Description: Why do people believe in conspiracy theories? This interdisciplinary course examines a variety of explanations for conspiratorial beliefs.

Course Requirements: Class time includes lecture, movies, and discussion.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 347: American Foreign Policy

Instructor: Joseph Parent (Summer 1)

Subfield: International Relations

Course Description: This course investigates how American primacy came to be, what its consequences are, and what will drive American foreign policy in the future. Students use social science to evaluate claims and understand the world, improve their ability to advance and defend arguments, and develop a broad base of knowledge about American foreign policy history and issues.

Course Requirements: Please consult instructor.

Prerequisite(s): POL 203 or INS 101
POL 349: U.S. Defense Policy

Instructor: June Teufel-Dreyer (Summer 2)

Subfield: American Politics, or International Relations

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: Since this course will be taught in the form of readings plus class discussions, regular attendance is absolutely necessary. There will be two hour exams, to count 30% each of the final grade, plus one final exam, one and one-half hours in length, to count 40% of the final grade.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201, or POL 203 or INS 101
POL 373: Constitutional Law I

**Instructor:** Arthur Simon (Summer 1)

**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 517: Introductory Statistical Methods in Political Science

Instructor: Santiago Olivella (Summer 1)

Subfield: Political Theory and Methods

Course Description: This class is designed to introduce you to the tools needed to manipulate and analyze quantitative data rigorously, so that you may successfully take advantage of an information-rich environment to answer questions of political interest. Although the materials of the course are based on mathematical models of phenomena, and although basic mathematical (and more specifically probabilistic) thinking will be involved in our discussions, this introductory course will focus primarily on understanding the core concepts of descriptive and inferential statistics. Specifically, the class will focus on how to apply simple statistical tools to substantive problems and on how to communicate the results of such applications to others. In order to prepare you for studying sophisticated statistical techniques in the future, we will spend a substantial amount of time covering the basics of probability theory. We will then study descriptive measures of central tendency and dispersion, hypothesis testing, contingency tables and linear regression. In addition, we will learn how to collect, manage and analyze data using (mostly) open-source computer software.

Course Requirements: Two in-class exams and weekly problem-sets. You will also be required to read materials before class, and upload at least three questions raised by your readings prior to the corresponding session.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201, POL 202, or POL 203, or INS 101

Special Notes: This course is taught in Excel and R, not SPSS. You will be working in groups when receiving software instruction. This course is best intended for students who will take Prof. Olivella’s more advanced course in statistical methods in the Spring.
**POL 520: Internship**

**Instructor:** Arranged as needed. (available in Summer 1 and Summer 2)

**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. (available in Summer 1 and Summer 2)

**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 545: Environmental Policymaking

Instructor: George Gonzalez (Summer 2)

Subfield: Public Administration, Policy, and Law

Course Description: Examination of different ethical approaches to the environment; the federal government’s management of natural resources; selected environmental policies; international environmental policy issues. Topics include federal management of national grazing lands, national forests, and minerals in the public domain. Analyzes environmental policies such as air, water, toxic wastes, energy, and environmentally related issues in international trade and national security.

Course Requirements: Mid-term, final exam, and term paper (7 to 10 doubled-spaced pages).

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 581: Comparative Political Economy

Instructor: Louise Davidson-Schmich (Summer 1)

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: Regular writing assignments about course material, mid-term, and final.

Prerequisite(s): POL 201
POL 590: Directed Readings

Instructor: Arranged as needed. (available in Summer 1 and Summer 2)

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.