

Autumn 2008
Political Science Course Descriptions
Graduate Level Courses

Political Science 614

Urban Politics

M W 9:30-11:18 CL 0115

Professor W. Nelson

This course will provide an in-depth analysis of political development and conflict in ethnic communities in American cities. The course will focus on the political histories and policy orientations of major ethnic and racial groups in the United States, including Irish, Italians, Jews, African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans. Case studies of ethnic and racial voting in American elections will be presented and closely analyzed. A number of models and theories of ethnic political mobilization will be carefully examined. The course will also evaluate a range of ethnic related policy issues, e.g. minority immigration, voting rights, affirmative action, school desegregation, welfare reform, federal empowerment zones, and urban redevelopment.

Political Science 636

Southeast Asia

M W 9:30-11:18 CL 0137

Professor Liddle

This course focuses on Indonesia, the largest country in Southeast Asia. We will take both a historical and analytical approach, examining the sources of continuity and change in the major periods of post-colonial Indonesian politics: parliamentary democracy (1950-1959), founding father Sukarno's "guided democracy" (1959-1965), the military-dominated New Order (1966-1998) and today's presidential democracy.

Political Science 670

Political Theory: Socrates to Machiavelli

M W 11:30-1:18 CL 0109

Professor MacGilvray

In this course we will focus on several foundational texts in the history of western political thought, six of which come to us from ancient Athens, and three from the Christian middle ages. Although these texts come to us from times and places that are as different from each other as they are from ours, they deal with a common set of themes, including the nature of political wisdom, the relationship between politics and religion, and the role that virtue, piety and justice have to play in public life. Readings by Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, and others.

Political Science 684
Models

Introduction to Political Science Research

M W 3:30-5:18 DB 2078

Professor McConaughy

Introduction to political science research with emphasis on survey and experimental designs, data generation techniques, data processing, and computer utilization.

Political Science 685
Elementary

Methods of Quantitative Analysis:

M W 9:30-11:18 DB 2078

Professor Keele

Explication, interpretation, and application of techniques for quantitative analysis of political data; descriptive and inferential statistics, with emphasis on bivariate analysis.

Political Science 709

Seminar on American Politics

M W 1:30-3:18 DB 2078

Professor Wright

Introduction to the central research areas and literature of the field of American politics.

Political Science 726 **Methods and Approaches in Comparative Politics**
M W 1:30-3:18 CL 0102 **Professor Gunther**

This course is intended to provide a broad overview of the various kinds of data, methods and approaches found in Comparative Politics. Its main purpose is to identify the strengths and unique contributions of each particular approach, as well as the shortcomings of each approach. The course begins with an overview of The Comparative Method and the nature of Political Science's claim to be scientific. Each of the following six sections of the course examines a particular approach to the study of Comparative Politics: case studies; qualitative comparative studies; quantitative, aggregate-data comparative studies (both ecological and contextual); cross-national survey research; thick description; and rational choice. These sections will unavoidably begin with a review of the often stultifying methodological "classics" which introduce this approach and describe its strengths and weaknesses. Students will then read examples of work using this approach, and write a short critique, identifying the strengths and weaknesses illustrated by each piece. This will be followed by an exploration of the special characteristics of economic and fiscal data commonly used in comparative research and a workshop on the art of in-depth interviewing.

In the final section of the course, students will present and discuss a research question and design of their own choosing. It is hoped that students would select for these research proposals theoretical and empirical questions that might eventually serve as the foci of their respective dissertations.

Political Science 735 **Comparative Political Economy**
F 1:30-4:18 DB 2078 **Professor Brooks**

This course will provide a graduate level introduction to the study of comparative political economy. A central objective is to explore the different ways that states and markets have been organized and transformed over time and across nations. The first part examines methods and models of political economy, including rational, sociological and institutional approaches to analysis of the political and economic processes. We will then turn to examine theories of institutional change and to research on the changing boundary between state and market in the areas of social protection, and trade policy. Finally, we will examine the links between domestic politics and global processes. The course will emphasize the diverse epistemological and methodological foundations of research in comparative political economy, while seminar discussions will encourage participants to identify the theoretical assumptions that underpin landmark scholarship in the field of comparative political economy (CPE), to use theoretical debates to frame and structure arguments about this research, and to relate major theories and debates in CPE to broader questions in the discipline of political science.

Political Science 747 **Research Methods in International Politics**
T R 9:30-11:18 DB 2078 **Professor Braumoeller**

Congratulations! You have just been asked to join the editorial board of International Organization. You and your colleagues will be tasked with reviewing a number of submissions each week, discussing how they might be improved, and recommending either publication, rejection, or revision. Three of these reviews must be written and handed in prior to the weekly meeting of the Board and will form the basis of the Editor's evaluation of your performance at the end of your term.

Political Science 761 **Political Psychology and International Relations**
T R 1:30-3:18 DB 0062 **Professor Herrmann**

A seminar introducing students to theories of international relations that employ psychological perspectives; cognitive world views and political identity, especially nationalism, receive special attention.

**Political Science 766
Social Inquiry**

M 3:30-6:18 DB 0062

Topics in Political Theory: Pragmatism and

Professor MacGilvray

This course will provide a detailed examination of the pragmatic theory of meaning and justification with an eye toward assessing its implications for the study of social and political life. Topics will include the role of belief and desire in empirical inquiry, the role of metaphysical commitments in normative inquiry, the genesis of the self through social interaction, the relationship between scientific and democratic ideals of community, and the challenges of political justification in pluralistic societies. Readings by Peirce, James, Mead, Dewey, Rorty, and others.

Political Science 776

T 3:30-6:18 DB 2078

Comparative Political Institutions

Professor Nooruddin

Study of state building process, regime types, and contemporary governmental institutions from a broad cross-national perspective.

Political Science 795

F 2:10-4:00 DB 0048

Teaching Political Science

Professor Baum

This two-hour course, graded S/U, is designed to provide preparation for teaching independent courses in the department, for teaching careers beyond OSU, and for developing credentials in teaching that will help in the placement process. We will consider a range of subjects and issues in the teaching process, ranging from issues in student learning and motivation to approaching the first day of class. There will be one written assignment, a plan for teaching an undergraduate course in this department. The course is intended primarily for third-year students, most of whom will begin teaching in winter or spring 2009.

Political Science 800.01 Design of Research in American Politics

M 1:30-3:18 CL 0183

Professor T. Nelson

This course will familiarize students with research in political psychology that uses experimental methods, and will prepare them to conduct experimental studies of their own. Time in class will be devoted to (1) lectures on various aspects of experimental design and procedure; (2) class discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of particular studies; and (3) planning student research projects. Each student will participate in a group research project, and must contribute a written report of the results of that project that will form the basis of the course grade. Students will also lead class discussions of specific studies in the literature, and complete a take-home midterm.

Readings include selections from *Experimental Foundations of Political Science*, edited by Kinder and Palfrey; and *How to Design and Report Experiments* by Field and Hole.

Political Science 826

R 3:30-6:18 DB 0047

Comparative Politics

Professor Nooruddin

Research seminar on various topics in comparative politics.

Political Science 846

R 3:30-6:18 DB 2078

Research in International Politics

Professor Schweller

Research seminar in international politics.