

Political Science Honors Course Descriptions Winter 2010

All Honors-level Courses

Political Science 100H

MW 1:30-3:18 DB 0048

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Professor Shabad

Description: This course is concerned with several major questions posed by politics in the 20th and 21st centuries. The first question concerns *democracy*: what is it; how do democracies differ from one another; and what are the conditions for and consequences of democratic rule? The second issue has to do with the *relationship between politics and economics*, specifically the complex relationship between democracy and the market. The third question has to do with the state: what is it; why is it important; and why are some states “failed” states? We will address the first two questions by first considering the United States as a referent against which to compare and contrast other cases of long-lived democracies as well as one very problematic case of democratization with some degree of marketization (Russia) and one case of marketization without democratization (China). The third issue, concerning “stateness,” will be addressed by an examination of the case of Afghanistan.

Requirements: Midterm and final exams, and three short essays based on the readings and a small amount of research.

Readings: one or two books and a set of articles

Political Science 145H

MW 9:30-11:18 SB 0215

Global Politics

Professor Mitzen

Description: Many people argue that after the end of the Cold War and 9/11, much of what we have come to understand about how the world works no longer makes sense. Others say that international relations, by which they mean relations among sovereign states in anarchy, remain fundamentally unchanged. This course gives students the conceptual tools and helps them develop the analytical skills necessary for thinking about this question and others like it. Throughout the course, discussion will be grounded in real world problems.

Political Science 596.03H

MWF 11:30-1:18 BE 0188

Honors Seminar in Political Science

Professor Verdier

Description: This course will focus on the key questions of comparative and international politics: why states go to war, how can they deter nuclear war, how to curb nuclear proliferation, why dictatorships exist, how democracies emerge, what makes democracy stable, and what is the political rationale for terrorism. In addition, students will be taught to calculate basic game theory equilibria—Nash equilibrium, subgame-perfection, and Bayesian learning.