

# UConn

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND SCIENCES**

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DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Fall 2019 Undergraduate Course Guide

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## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

### **1002 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY FRED LEE**

**MWF 9:05-9:55**

Scope: This course has two primary purposes: first, to introduce students to the history and nature of political theory; second, to display how an understanding of political theory helps us in our interpretation of modern politics and current political issues. Political theory focuses on concepts and philosophical ideas that are part of all political issues today: ideas like freedom, justice, equality, power, citizenship, and the meaning of political virtue. This course will engage students in an examination of these issues by examining six Visions of the Political from throughout the history of political thought. Given its size, it will primarily be a lecture course.

### **1202 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS MATTHEW SINGER**

**MWF 9:05-9:55**

Scope: This course will introduce students to major topics and methods of comparative politics. This will include the role of government in the economy, the spread of democracy. Students are expected to leave the course with a good understanding of how to study political systems from a comparative approach. The course will combine lecture, discussion and active participation in “political games”

Requirements: two exams, weekly exercises, periodic quizzes and participation.

Readings: 1 text, an exercise book and a collection of readings.

### **1402 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS JEREMY PRESSMAN**

**MWF 10:10-11:00\***

(\*main lecture time –discussion sections listed in people soft)

Scope: An introduction to international politics and theory that covers political, military, and economic issues.

Requirements: Assignments include exams, short assignments, papers, and readings (Textbook and additional articles)

### **1602 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS RONALD SCHURIN**

**MWF 11:15-12:05**

(\*main lecture time –discussion sections listed in peoplesoft)

Scope: This course is an introduction to American politics both for intended political science majors who will go on to more advanced, specialized courses and other students who want a general, basic understanding of the subject. It is designed to cover a broad range of material in such a manner that students can understand the wide variety of questions that have interested American political scientists and the many styles of analysis they have employed in dealing with them. Throughout the course an effort is made not only to convey systematic factual information, but to encourage understanding of concepts and evaluative perspectives that various observers of our politics have developed. Along with lectures held twice a week, individual sections will meet once a week. Work and discussion in sections—intended to supplement lectures, as well as assigned readings, will determine a significant portion of the final grade.

### **2062WH PRIVACY IN THE INFORMATION AGE KRISTIN KELLY**

**TuTh 3:30-4:45**

Scope: As technology has made information increasingly available; academics, activists, policymakers, and citizens have struggled to define (and to redefine) the meaning of privacy. By providing a thematic overview

of the topic of privacy from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives, this course will prepare honors students to critically engage with the many and varied public policy, legal, and ethical debates that arise when privacy is perceived to be at stake. The thematic focus of the course (Privacy in the Information Age) will provide students with the opportunity to engage in an ongoing discussion with one another about the impact of technology and scientific advances on how privacy how is conceptualized, valued, enacted, and protected.

**2072Q QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE** **Tu 11:00-1:30**  
**MEINA CAI**

Scope: An introduction to quantitative research methods widely used in conducting thoughtful research in social sciences in general and political science in particular. Specific topics that will be covered include data description, probability theory, inferential statistics, and non parametric statistics. Upon the conclusion of this class, the student should be able to understand how different types of statistics can or cannot be used to analyze political phenomena, including the questions in public policy. *Students must have taken MATH 101 or a passing grade on the Q readiness Test.*

Readings: Two textbooks

Requirements: Independent research project; homework exercises.

Format: Lecture, statistical lab work.

**2072Q QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE** **MWF 2:30-3:20**

Scope: This course introduces students to the conduct of research and data analysis in political science, using primarily quantitative methods. The course is comprised of two parts that are discussed side by side throughout. One part is conceptual: helping students think systematically about research design and causality. The second part is practical: helping students develop the skills necessary to understand and to use basic statistical tools in order to measure and evaluate the world around them. By the end of the course, students will have learned about the research process and will be able to collect, analyze and present quantitative evidence regarding a variety of topics.

**2998 TOTALITARIANISM AND LATINO AMER POL THOUGHT** **M 3:35-6:05**  
**CHARLES VENATOR**

**2998 CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN PRACTICE** **MWF 11:15-12:05**  
**KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL**

Scope: This course provides students with the opportunity to gain a more practical understanding of the criminal justice system- especially by way of simulations. Students interested in possible careers in law enforcement, prosecution, criminal defense, courts, corrections, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs will find this course particularly useful as they will have the opportunity to meet and interact with the practitioners in the field as well as take part in simulations that provide a “realistic” understanding of the challenges faced by the actors in the system. From there, students will then develop strategies and solutions for dealing with those challenges and incorporate those findings into the writing assignments for the semester.

**2998 TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY** **MWF 10:10-11:00**  
**EVAN PERKOSKI**

Scope: This course explores the relationship between technological innovation and war, from railroads and rifles to drones and cyberspace. It addresses how and why innovation occurs; how technology impacts the causes of war; and how the conduct of war has evolved over time.

**2998 MAKING THE MODERN AMERICAN PRESIDENCY TuTh 12:30-1:45**  
**JEFFREY LADEWIG**

Scope: The course analyzes the origins, development, and modern powers of the American presidency.

**2998 PROTESTS IN THE UNITED STATES MWF 1:25-2:15**  
**JEREMY PRESSMAN**

Scope: This course combines the scholarly study of protests and marches with hands-on research about protests and rallies in the United States in 2019. For this latter, applied part of the course, students will engage with the Crowd Counting Consortium and its data collection efforts.

**2998 HISTORIC FIRSTS IN US ELECTIONS MWF 1:25-2:15**  
**EVELYN SIMIEN**

Scope: This course will examine history-making firsts in US elections, and consider what brings formerly inactive people into the electoral process. Students will come to understand how past presidential candidates as well as recent breakthrough elections and game changing candidates on the state and local level mobilize various underrepresented groups. We will grapple with and reflect on race and gender dynamics specific to individual candidates and their campaigns in so far as they determine voter turnout, vote choice, and electoral outcomes.

**2998 POLITICS IN THE TIME OF TRUMP Tu 4:00-6:30**  
**SAM BEST**

**2998 CONSTITUTIONAL DICTATORSHIP M 6:30-9:00**  
**CHARLES VENATOR**

**2998H EXPERIMENTS AND EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN IN POLS MW 4:40-5:55**  
**LYLE SCRUGGS**

Scope: Experiments do not provide a full understanding of how the world works, but they are fundamentally important for thinking about casual relationships in the social sciences (sociology, public policy, politics) as much as the physical sciences (biology, chemistry, physics). Unfortunately, outside of psychology, most social science training (especially at the undergraduate level) in social science departments fails to teach students how to design and conduct rigorous research. The purpose of this class is to correct that shortcoming.

**2998W IR THEORY AND THE RISE OF THE WEST TuTh 2:00-3:15**  
**ALEX ANIEVAS**

**2998W CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING Tu 3:30-6:00**  
**JEFFREY LADEWIG**

Scope: The course explores theoretical, legal, historical, and empirical issues and consequences surrounding the decennial restructuring of the U.S. House of Representatives - both among states and within states. Considerable attention is paid to the mathematical and computational aspects of both processes.

**2998W POLITICS OF MEMORIALIZING WAR AND PEACE TuTh 2:00-3:15**  
**CHRISTINE SYLVESTER**

Scope: This course considers processes whereby major wars are remembered and memorialized in the USA and elsewhere. The question addressed throughout is whose version of a war is remembered and memorialized and whose is ignored, disputed, or assigned less legitimacy in the politics of memorialization? Cases revolve around the atom bombing of Hiroshima, the rape of women in Berlin by Russian troops at the end of World War II, the destruction of ancient artifacts in recent Syrian and Iraqi

wars, the politics of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and of Confederate statues today, and how/whose war is curated in museum exhibitions, war cemeteries, and war novels. Geared for advanced undergraduate and graduate students, the course entails student presentations, in-class written analyses, and a culminating paper. Previous courses in international relations or issues of public memory helpful.

**3017 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY** **MWF 1:45-2:15**  
**FRED LEE**

Scope: Major political writings from 1900 to the present.

**3032 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT AND IDEOLOGY** **TuTh 9:30-10:45**  
**JEFFREY DUDAS**

Scope: Explores the content and direction of American political behavior through the lens of political thought, focusing especially on the period stretching from colonization of the New World to the conclusion of the American Civil War.

**3042 THEORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS** **MW 4:40-5:55**  
**ZEHRA ARAT**

Scope: Human rights have become a significant part of contemporary political discourse and social activism, and many problems and disputes, ranging from child labor to corporate responsibilities, are framed as human rights issues. However, “human rights” is not a new concept or concern. This course explores the articulation of human rights at different time points and in different cultures, as well as some current human rights issues, such as health care, women’s rights, and humanitarian intervention.

**3208W POLITICS OF OIL** **M 4-6:30**  
**OKSAN BAYULGEN**

Scope: This is a course on the complex relationship between oil and politics. It seeks to develop students’ research, thinking and writing skills about the role of oil in the international political system as well as in domestic politics. Today, oil undeniably affects all aspects of our lives but who really controls oil resources and what does that mean for national and international distribution of political power? How has the contest over oil resources affected the relations among nations as well as the economic, political, social and environmental development of oil-rich countries? What are the alternatives to oil and what needs to be done to reduce dependency on it? This course will address these questions as well as analyze and compare individual cases of how oil shapes the way we think about the world.

Readings: Several books and a course packet

Requirements: 1 midterm, research project

Format: lecture, discussion, films

**3212 COMPARATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS** **MWF 10:10-11**  
**SHAREEN HERTEL**

Scope: The subject of human rights is generally organized around several core theoretical concepts, including but not limited to: 1) the divisions between what are called different “generations” or types of rights; 2) the distinction among different aspects of state responsibility for rights; and 3) the spheres in which rights are realized (i.e., public versus private sphere). This course explores and challenges these core concepts by contrasting human rights experiences in different regions and subject areas.

**3214 COMPARATIVE SOCIAL POLICY** **MWF 2:30-3:20**  
**LYLE SCRUGGS**

Scope: This course offers a detailed comparative introduction major social programs in advanced industrial democracies. In addition to learning the basic principles underlying these major social policies, the course addresses major theoretical explanations for development of national social policies.

- 3245 CHINESE POLITICS AND ECONOMY** **TuTh 9:30-10:45**  
**MEINA CAI**  
Scope: Chinese political structure and policymaking process, attempts at democratization, process and outcome of economic reforms, development challenges in contemporary China.
- 3247H GENDER AND WAR** **TuTh 11-12:15**  
**CHRISTINE SYLVESTER**  
Scope: Gender aspects of war. Masculinities and militaries; gender-based war violence; laws of war and post-war conditions for male and female soldiers and civilians.
- 3410 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY** **TuTh 11-12:15**  
**ALEXANDER ANIEVAS**  
Scope: Politics of international economic relations: trade, finance, foreign direct investment, aid.
- 3412 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS** **TuTh 11:00-12:15**  
**PRAKASH KASHWAN**  
Scope: This course seeks to provide students with the means to critically analyze environmental concerns globally. As a result, the course is inherently interdisciplinary, as students will need to understand concepts from economics and the biophysical sciences to grapple with the environmental problems facing the global community today. The course is also squarely focused on the environment as a global problem, as most environmental problems present transboundary policy challenges for which current political structures are ill-equipped to handle. Thus, environmental solutions demand policy options that are difficult to formulate in contemporary national and global politics.  
Requirements: Several reflective essays; group research project.
- 3426 POLITICS, PROPAGANDA, AND CINEMA** **Th 6:30-9**  
**DAVID RICHARDS**  
Scope: Lectures and films from several nations serve to illustrate techniques and effects of propaganda, analyzing the pervasive impact that propaganda has on our lives. The course concentrates on the World War II era.
- 3429 POLITICAL VIOLENCE** **M 4-6:30**  
**EVAN PERKOSKI**  
Scope: Nature and origin of violence, including torture, genocide, terrorism, and civil war, on the part of individuals, non-state groups, and states.
- 3434H EXCAVATING EVERYDAY IR** **TuTh 9:30-10:45**  
**JENNIFER STERLING-FOLKER**  
Scope: Examination of daily international practices utilizing an everyday objects lens, with attention to ethical implications for activism, change and social justice.
- 3622H AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP** **TuTh 9:30-10:45**  
**DAVID YALOF**  
Scope: Using both contemporary and historical case studies of political leaders in the United States, the course gives students the opportunity to develop their own answers to the age old question: Do great leaders make history or does history make great leaders? The course focuses on the ways in which American political institutions, American political culture, and American democratic principles define opportunities and constraints for political leaders, both inside and outside of government.  
Grading: midterm, quiz, final, multiple writing assignments, occasional in-class writing assignments, and class participation.

**3625 PUBLIC OPINION**  
**SAMUEL BEST**

**TuTh 12:30-1:45**

Scope: What is public opinion? Why and how does it matter in a democracy? And how can we connect the “vox populi” with American public policy?

Public opinion is the basis for democratic theory and practice. Without the considered, thoughtful voice of the people, it is impossible to fulfill the goals of the Founders or to match preferences of voters to the public policy that dictates their lives. The goal of this course is to evaluate and conceptualize the role of public opinion, considering its power, authority, and limitations.

We will begin with some larger theoretical ideas and debates, to introduce the context for our policy cases and visitors close to home, here in Connecticut.

**3642 AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS**  
**SHAYLA NUNNALLY**

**TuTh 12:30-1:45**

Scope: This course examines the historical and contemporary politics of African Americans and their political development. The course surveys literature about African Americans' identity, political consciousness, ideologies, partisanship, public opinion, and general relationship with the American political system.

**3652 BLACK FEMINIST POLITICS**  
**EVELYN SIMIEN**

**MWF 11:15-12:05**

Scope: Despite the emergence of the study of women and politics within the discipline of political science, efforts to transform the curriculum and integrate perspectives of African American women have met with limited success. This course offers a fairly broadly, yet comprehensive account of black feminist politics by drawing a link between those who have written about African American women as political actors and those who have engaged in black feminist theorizing. Starting with slavery, students will be expected to think, write, and speak intelligently about the unique disadvantaged status of African American women. In short, this course focuses squarely upon some of the most vexing and controversial issues affecting the lives of African American women: rape, sexual harassment, sterilization abuse, misogyny in rap music, and HIV/AIDS. Requirements of this course include class dialogue, HuskyCT activity, random quizzes, as well as a midterm and final exam.

**3710 POLITICAL SCIENCE FICTION**  
**STEPHEN DYSON**

**M 6:30-9**

**3802 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**  
**KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL**

**MWF 9:05-9:55**

Scope: This course encompasses the principles of the United States Constitution and how these principles relate to the organization, powers, and limits of the government, as well as to the relationship between the government and the American people. The most fundamental principles include the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, and individual rights. This course will focus more on the institutional dimension of constitutional law, emphasizing presidential, congressional, and judicial powers, and questions of federalism.

**3807 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES**  
**VIRGINIA HETTINGER**

**TuTh 8-9:15**

Scope: This course examines the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution with a focus on the Bill of Rights. Topics include freedom of expression and association, the separation between church and state and the free exercise of religion, the right to privacy and equal protection

**3822 LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE**  
**JEFFREY DUDAS**

**TuTh 12:30-1:45**

Scope: This course is an exploration of the myriad relationships between law and popular culture, where popular culture is seen simultaneously as a reflection, a distortion, and a shaper of law and legal practice.

**3827 POLITICS OF CRIME AND JUSTICE**  
**KRISTIN KELLY**

**TuTh 2-3:15**

Scope: This course is designed to provide students with a framework for exploring the meaning and operation of crime and justice in American Society. Topics are organized around four major themes: (1) Politics and Perceptions: The Meaning of Crime in America; (2) Controlling Crime: Criminal Law, Public Policy and the Police; (3) The Administration of Justice: Courts, Sentencing and Criminal Justice Policy; and (4) Punishment: Goals, Theory and Practice.

Requirements: Midterm, Final, one 8-10 page research paper on a topic developed by each student.

Format: Lecture with an emphasis on class discussion.

**3837W CIVIL RIGHTS AND LEGAL MOBILIZATION**  
**VIRGINIA HETTINGER**

**TuTh 11-12:15**

Scope: Strategies used by interest groups to achieve civil rights recognition through the legal system and legislative process.

**3857 POLITICS AND EDUCATION POLICY**  
**RONALD SCHURIN**

**MWF 9:05-9:55**

Scope: Analysis of interactions among educational policy, politics, and other social forces. Insights and concerns from politics and other social sciences disciplines applied to different levels and types of schooling.