Spring 2020
Course Guide

Faculty Roster
Courses

Visit our web page at: www.polisci.uconn.edu

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.” ~Albert Einstein
FACULTY AND AREAS OF INTEREST: Spring 2020

HIND AHMED ZAKI, Assistant Professor. Ph.D. University of Washington, Gender and Politics, Middle East, North Africa

ALEXANDER ANIEVAS, Associate Professor. Ph.D. Cambridge University, International Relations, International Political Economy

ZEHRA F. KABASAKAL ARAT, Professor. Ph.D. Binghamton University, Political Science, Human Rights, Women’s Rights, Issues of Inequality and Development, Turkish Politics

OKSAN BAYULGEN, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Texas, Comparative Politics

KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL, Assistant Professor in Residence, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Public Law

SAM BEST, Associate Professor, Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook, Survey Research, Public Opinion, Mass Media and Political Behavior

MEINA CAI, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Comparative Political Economy and Chinese Politics.

JEFF DUDAS, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Washington, Public Law

STEPHEN DYSON, Professor, Ph. D., Washington State University, International Relations

JANE A. GORDON, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Political Theory, African America Studies

BETH GINSBERG, Assistant Professor in Residence, Ph.D., New York University, American Politics, Racial and Ethnic Politics, Voting Behavior

THOMAS J. HAYES, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside, American Politics, Inequality, Congress, and Representation.

SHAREEN HERTEL, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University, Comparative Politics, Human Rights and Social Movements

VIRGINIA A. HETTINGER, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Emory University, Judicial Politics and Policy Analysis

PRAKASH KASHWAN, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Indiana University, Public and Environmental Affairs

KRISTIN KELLY, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Law & Society and Women & Politics

JEFFREY LADEWIG, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Texas, American Politics
FRED LEE, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Modern and Contemporary Political Theory, Race and Ethnic Politics, American Political Development

ROBERT LUPTON, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Michigan State University, American Politics, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior.

MICHAEL MORRELL, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Arizona State University, Political Theory and Political Behavior

YONATAN MORSE, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Georgetown University, Comparative Politics, African Studies

SHAYLA NUNNALLY, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Duke University, African and African American Studies

EVAN PERKOSKI, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, International Relations, Terrorism, Insurgency, and Uprisings

JEREMY PRESSMAN, Associate Professor, Ph.D., M.I.T., International Relations

DAVID RICHARDS, Associate Professor, Ph.D., SUNY Binghamton, International Relations and Human Rights

RONALD SCHURIN, Associate Professor in Residence, Ph.D., City University of New York, American Government and Politics, Public Policy

LYLE A. SCRUGGS, Professor, Ph.D., Duke University, Comparative Politics and Political Economy

MATTHEW M. SINGER, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Duke University, Comparative Politics and Latin American Politics

EVELYN SIMIEN, Professor, Ph.D., Purdue University, American Politics, Political Theory and Quantitative Methodology

JENNIFER STERLING-FOLKER, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago, International Relations

CHRISTINE SYLVESTER, Professor, Ph.D., University of Kentucky, International Relations

CHARLES ROBERT VENATOR, Associate Professor, Ph.D., UMass Amherst, Puerto Rican & Latino(a) Politics and Public Law

BRIAN WADDELL, Professor, Ph.D., City University of NY, American Politics, Public Law

DAVID A. YALOF, Professor, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, Public Law
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

1002  INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY       MWF 11:15-12:05
       MICHAEL MORRELL

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      TuTh 12:30-1:45
       LYLE SCRUGGS

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  TuTh 11:00-12:15
       JEREMY PRESSMAN

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        MWF 10:10-11:00
       PAUL HERRNSON

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.
2062W PRIVACY IN THE INFORMATION AGE
KRISTIN KELLY
MW 4:40-5:55
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 a on-going 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
MEINA CAI
MWF 10:10-11:00
STAVROS PAPADOPOULOS
MWF 2:30-3:20
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.

2607 AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES
RONALD SCHURIN
TuTh 2:00-3:15
Scope: An analysis of the aims, organization, and growth of political parties in the United States.

2998 THE PUERTO RICAN CATASTROPHE
CHARLES VENATOR SANTIAGO
M 1:25-3:55pm
Course cross-listed with LLAS 3998.

2998 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
HIND AHMED ZAKI
TuTh 2:00-3:15

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

2998 INDIAN POLITICS AND ECONOMY
PRAKASH KASHWAN
Th 4:00-6:30
India’s social and political structures, democracy, economic reforms, policymaking process, and development challenges in contemporary India.

2998W WOMEN AND THE LAW
KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL
TuTh 9:30-10:45
The objective of the course is for students to determine whether women are "different" and if that difference requires special treatment or equal treatment before the law. The semester begins with a look into legal theory, particularly Feminist Jurisprudence, as well as the early history of women's rights, including the struggles for the right to vote, the right to practice law, and for the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment. As such struggles have demonstrated, finding that balance between "equality" and "freedom" often conflict and inevitably influence the definitions and interpretations of such rights. The
second section of the course provides students with the opportunity to explore the special role that women have played as both actors in the legal arena as well as parties to legal disputes, including those relating to sexual harassment, sexual assault, pornography, workplace discrimination, and cases where reproductive and family rights have come into question. The course ends with a study of women in the criminal justice system.

2998W REBEL GROUP DYNAMICS
EVAN PERKOSKI
TuTh 9:30-10:45

Exploration of the multifaceted nature of armed groups, like terrorists, insurgents, and rebels. This includes their recruitment, financing, foreign support, tactical and strategic choices, organizational structure, and decline.

2998W POLITICS OF SURVEILLANCE AND VISIBILITY
KRISTIN KELLY
Th 4:00-6:30

Scope: In this course students will explore two distinct but intersecting themes: The “expansion of surveillance in U.S. society” and “the politics of visibility” that have accompanied this expansion. This course begins with a consideration of the theoretical foundations for understanding the cultural, social, and political impacts of surveillance. A central focus of the course will be on the role that surveillance plays in making things, people, and issues either more or less visible. Topics to be discussed include: national security, crime control, artificial intelligence, big data, income and racial inequality, and environmental justice.

Requirements: Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss and analyze the readings. Grading will be based on weekly reading question response, seminar participation, a draft paper, and a final paper.

2998W HEROES AND VILLAINS IN 21ST CENTURY POLITICS
JEFFREY DUDAS
MW 4:40-5:55

“An exploration of how conventional understandings of heroism and villainy influence American politics and, reciprocally, how reigning trends in American politics influence widely shared conceptions of heroism and villainy.”

2998W CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL
Tu 6:30-9:00

This course is open only to those who have been accepted into the Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Internship Program. Interns will track a bill during the legislative session and then relay their findings in a paper assignment. As part of the program requirements, interns must also compile additional work in a session binder that will be factored into the grade for this course as well. At our designated meetings, we will discuss the internship experience as well as current issues facing the Connecticut General Assembly. The overall objective of this internship experience is to gain a more realistic understanding of the state legislative process and experience what it is like to work in a high-paced office environment.
3012 MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
MICHAEL MORRELL

Scope: Major political doctrines of the contemporary period, and their influence upon political movements and institutions as they are reflected in the democratic and nondemocratic forms of government.

3030W SETTLER COLONIALISM/INDIGENOUS THOUGHT
JANE GORDON
TuTh 12:30-1:45

Some of the most exciting current work in political theory engages with questions of settler colonialism and explores historic and contemporary indigenous thought and practice. We will devote fourteen weeks to studying a selection of these texts and themes. We will use the form and content of the readings to inform our writing assignments. In addition to four one-page responses that ask you to focus closely on sections of the February readings, the first larger writing project requires that you craft a personal narrative organized around reflections on your and your family’s relationships to particular geographical spaces and physical locations. The last writing assignment is to develop an open letter that invites a carefully designated audience to reflect on and respond to an ongoing theme from the course.

3209 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
OKSAN BAYULGEN
TuTh 2:00-3:15

Scope: Political, socioeconomic, environmental, science and engineering challenges of energy sources; comparison of feasibility and sustainability of energy policies around the world.

3240 CLIMATE JUSTICE
PRAKASH KASHWAN
TuTh 2:00-3:15

Introduction to major debates about the distributional consequences of climate change and the policies and programs meant to address it. Implications for the design of global, national, and subnational institutions of climate governance.

3247H GENDER AND WAR
CHRISTINE SYLVESTER
WF 4:40-5:55

Most studies of war focus on abstract issues of war such as types of wars, causes of war, weapons systems and strategies of war fighting. Missing from such accounts are the experiences of ordinary people who create, fight, resist, observe and are empowered or victimized by armed conflict and its militaries. This course brings to light gender and other people-centered dimensions of war, including warrior cultures and training, masculinities and war, child soldiers, women and LGBTQ individuals in the military, ethnicity and religion, and gender-based violence in war. Cases include the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Boko Haram in Africa, the Mexican drug war, cyberwar and nuclear war. This is an Honors course.

3250W POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EAST ASIA
MEINA CAI
W 4:00-6:30

Economic, political, and social development of East Asia.
This course is an exploration of the timeless question, “Why does political violence occur?” To properly consider this specific type of violence, we will begin our inquiry with a philosophically and psychologically-oriented consideration of the root question, “Why are people aggressive/violent?” We then move on to see how the psychological perspective might inform individual-level analyses of political violence such as terrorism and politicide. From there, we will examine repressive state behaviors (human rights violations, in particular) from the state and regime-type levels of analysis. We will finish by looking at the phenomenon of intrastate conflict.

Scope: This course addresses the politics, history, and other aspects of Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian relations. Assignments: readings, paper, exams, simulation.

This course is designed to introduce undergraduates to a number of historical developments that have contributed to the Modern American Presidency. First, we will explore all of the Presidents since FDR as well as analyze the development of the office of the presidency. Second, we will address a number of specific electoral, institutional, and policy issues important to the modern presidency. Finally, the course will address fundamental questions concerning the relationship between the presidency and American democracy.

Some misunderstandings about American politics stem from their portrayal in films. Unlike books, which allow an individual the opportunity to immediately ponder, discuss, and research what has just been read, films present an uninterrupted stream of information that is meant to entertain, but also can result in learning and opinion formation. The substantive components of the course cover historical periods that include the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the 1960s, and contemporary political institutions and processes, such as campaigns and elections, the Presidency, and Congress. The course materials contrast theatrical portrayals in films with the thinking of politicians, social commentators, and scholars. The skills component of the course involves writing and revising papers that critically analyze the films and presenting those papers in class.

Scope: This course will study the two areas necessary to understand American elections: rules and behavior. The first part of the class will focus on the electoral system in the United States covering topics like the Electoral College, registration rules, the nominating process. The second part will examine political behavior, investigating topics such as candidate choice decisions and voter turnout. We will discuss theories from the political science literature as well consider actual cases in electoral politics. The course will emphasize presidential elections although those at lower levels will be discussed and debated as well.
3617  AMERICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY  MWF 1:25-2:15
JEFFREY LADEWIG

Scope: This course is an introduction to a number of aspects in political economy. First, we will analyze two of the seminal theoretical works in the field. Second, we will specifically address some of the principle policy issues in American Politics from a political economy perspective. Finally, the course will briefly address more fundamental and philosophical questions concerning the relationship between economics and politics.

3627  CT STATE AND MUNICIPAL POLITICS  Tu 6:00-8:30
RONALD SCHURIN

Scope: An examination of contemporary Connecticut politics on the state and municipal levels. The course will include an overview of Connecticut political history, a review of current state issues, and a discussion of the role of political parties, lobbyists, and key state officials in Connecticut’s political life.

3633  RACE AND POLICY  MWF 1:25-2:15
SHAYLA NUNALLY

Examination of contemporary public policy through the lens of race.

3642  AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS  Tu 6:00-8:30
SHAYLA NUNNALLY

Political behavior, theory, and ideology of African-Americans, with emphasis on contemporary U.S. politics.

3802  CONSTITUTIONAL LAW  MWF 9:05-9:55
VIRGINIA HETTINGER

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  TuTh 9:30-10:45
DAVID YALOF

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.

3817  LAW AND SOCIETY  MWF 9:05-9:55
JEFFREY DUDAS

Scope: Different – even divergent – conceptions of law abound within the American polity. The course explores a range of these conceptualizations and approaches to law. A core focus centers on the multi-dimensional relationships between law and citizen within the U.S. society. To this end, institutional,
process, symbolic, and psychological dimensions of law are investigated. Here, an emphasis is on the political, social, cultural aspects of law.

3822W LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE
VIRGINIA HETTINGER

Exploration of themes in the study of law and courts by contrasting scholarly work against representations of such themes in movies, televisions, and other media of popular culture.

3827SL POLITICS OF CRIME AND JUSTICE
KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL

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.

4997 HONORS THESIS
MATTHEW SINGER

Scope: This course is required for all senior political science majors who are writing an honors thesis. Juniors in the honors program planning on a December graduation must also register for this class. This course does not meet on a regular basis; it functions like an independent study. Admission to class is limited to honors students. Students should contact Professor Singer for a permission number.

5010 PROS/DISS WRITING
JANE GORDON

For students beginning work on a prospectus, its purpose is to help you conceptualize and design a research project and to craft an effective prospectus. We will do this by going through each of the composite steps: formulating a researchable project; writing a statement of the problem; framing the arguments/thesis; situating work in the appropriate literatures; developing a methodological approach commensurate with the objectives and claims of the study; and making a case for its significance and contribution to the discipline and beyond. Students will, of necessity, work at different paces, however, having drafted and received feedback on versions of each of these core components will prove indispensable to preparing a final, defensible version of the prospectus.

For students already writing a dissertation, it is designed to facilitate your work. Over the course of the semester, each student will share two different drafts of portions of the same chapter.
For students completing a prospectus and beginning a dissertation, it is designed to give you a giant, last batch of feedback on your proposal and to facilitate your transition into writing the dissertation by having you share a first draft of one of its chapters.

In addition to working on your own writing, this class requires that you be an attentive and engaged reader. All students are expected to read all of the work that is submitted in advance of our meetings so that they are able to offer constructive feedback on how the work can be improved. Class participants typically use track changes to comment on each other’s work and then email the file to the author.

5010  CRITICAL WAR STUDIES II
CHRISTINE SYLVESTER
W 1:30-4:00

Critical War Studies II focuses on conflict situations that involve anti-colonial armed and drug wars today, plus warlike actions in the USA associated with white supremacy, Islamophobia, Anti-semitism, domestic terrorism and militarized policing. Readings range from Franz Fanon to Kathleen Belew's recent book, Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America. Students who have taken the Critical War Studies course may take or sit in on Critical War Studies II. The two are now separate courses.

5260  DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS
MATTHEW SINGER
Th 1:30-4:00

The course covers the rules that govern the selection and exercise of power and their consequences. Specific topics will include what it takes to get elected, how presidents differ from prime ministers, the operation of coalition governments, the use of quotas for the election of women and minorities, the development of party systems, and the consequences of these rules for democracy and economic development.

5322  HUMAN SECURITY
DAVID RICHARDS
M 1:30-4:00

Examination of emerging conceptions of human security, important elements of which include good governance, food, water, political, economic, and environmental security. Definition, measurement, and the politics of human security. Relationship to domestic and international policy-making and advocacy.

5410  BLACK FEMINIST THEORY AND POLITICS
EVELYN SIMIEN
Tu 1:30-4:00

This course draws a link between those who have written about African American women as political actors and those who have engaged in Black feminist theorizing. The concept of intersectionality will be central to the course—that is, the complex nature of mutually constitutive identities (read: multiple group identity) and the simultaneity of oppression insofar as they determine hierarchical relationships and lived experiences that are contextually situated in public and private realms. Through careful examination of some of the most vexing and controversial issues that disproportionately affect the lives of African American women, students will acquire a critical understanding of how interlocking systems of oppression uphold and sustain each other in contemporary American politics (and other societal domains, more generally).
Introduction to the data analysis techniques most often used by political scientists. Requires no previous background in statistics.