Fall 2020 Undergraduate Course Guide

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INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
FRED LEE
EMRE GERCEK
MWF 9:05-9:55am
MWF 12:20-1:10pm
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.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
MEINA CAI
MWF 11:15-12:50PM
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.

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
STEPHEN DYSON
TuTh 9:30-10:45AM
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)

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
DAVID YALOF
MW 10:10-11AM
(*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.

PRIVACY IN THE INFORMATION AGE
KRISTIN KELLY
TuTh 3:30-4:45PM
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 is conceptualized, valued, enacted, and protected.

**2072Q QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**
SAMUEL BEST  
TuTh 2-3:15PM
STAFF  
MWF 9:05-9:55AM
STAFF  
MWF 11:15a-12:05p

**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.

**2607 AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES**
RONALD SCHURIN  
TuTh 11-12:15PM

**Scope:** An analysis of the aims, organization, and growth of political parties in the United States.

**2998 CONTEMPORARY AFFAIRS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**
JEREMEY PRESSMAN  
TuTh 11-12:15PM

**Scope:** We will focus on the contemporary international relations of the Middle East. This includes the foreign policy orientations of major countries, ongoing civil wars, migration, great power intervention, sectarianism, energy and environmental issues, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

**2998 NATIONAL AND CYBER SECURITY**
ARTHUR HOUSE  
TuTh 2-3:15PM

**Scope:** An Examination of U.S. National Security Challenges and the Advent of Cyber Warfare.

**2998 RETHINKING COLLECTIVITY**
EMRE GERCEK  
MWF 2:30-3:20PM

**Scope:** After two world wars, the Holocaust, anticolonial movements, and totalitarianism, thinkers in twentieth-century Europe started to question the idea of humans as the rational creators of a better world. This questioning also informed the ideas of collectivity and agency: how can we rethink transformative collective agency? This course considers the humanist, anticolonial, structuralist, feminist, and post-structuralist responses to this question. It explores how thinkers from these perspectives offered alternative ideas of collectivity and agency and, in so doing, redefined other key concepts such as self, power, action, emancipation, and democracy.
POLITICAL THEORY AND POPULAR MUSIC
MICHAEL MORRELL
TuTh 3:30-4:45
Scope: This course will engage students in an examination of various genres of popular music—rap, reggae, pop, rock, country, heavy metal—and investigate their connections to a wide-ranging number of political theories and ideologies, including, among others, libertarianism, conservatism, classical liberalism, Marxism, feminism and the state of nature. Students will engage in their own original analysis of the signs of political theory in popular music.

THE 2020 ELECTIONS
SAMUEL BEST
Tu 4-6:30PM

CRITICAL ELECTIONS IN US HISTORY
RONALD SCHURIN
TuTh 9:30-10:45AM
Scope: While most presidential elections have some impact on politics and public policy, a few in the course of American history have truly redefined the role of government and reshaped the American party system. This class will look closely at the concept of the “realigning election,” beginning with a theoretical overview and proceeding to a close examination of elections generally placed in this category: 1828, 1860, 1896, 1932, 1980. We will also explore more recent contests that may or may not belong on this list. What made these elections unique? What were the economic and social circumstances at the time, and how did the candidates and parties seek to capitalize on underlying issues? What did the results say about American society, and how did the outcomes change the nation’s political system?

THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
JEFFERY LADEWIG
M 9:30-12AM
Scope: Analytically explore the dynamics of the 2020 presidential campaigns and elections from various perspectives including institutional, demographic, economic, and the media.

COMPARATIVE GENDER POLITICS
HIND AHMED ZAKI
MWF 1:25-2:15PM

LEGAL HISTORIES RESEARCH
CHARLES VENATOR
M 4-6PM

POLITICS OF MEMORIALIZING WAR AND PEACE
CHRISTINE SYLVESTER
TuTh 2:00-3:15
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.

POLITICS OF WAR THROUGH FICTION AND MEMOIR
CHRISTINE SYLVESTER
TuTh 12:30-1:45pm
Scope: This course explores at least five different types of wars and war experiences through five exemplary literary works.
3002 CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL THEORY
EMRE GERCEK
Scope: The goal of this course is to explore some ideas that appeared early in the history of Western political thought and that continue to influence our thinking today: war, empire, justice, democracy, revolution, and freedom. We will approach these notions by studying six famous works in the history of political thought: Thucydides History of the Peloponnesian War, Plato’s Republic, Aristotle’s Politics, The Bible, and Machiavelli’s The Prince and Discourses on Livy.

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.

3032 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT AND IDEOLOGY
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
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.

3208WH POLITICS OF OIL
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
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.
3235  LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS  
MATTHEW SINGER  
TuTh 12:30-1:45PM  
Scope: This course examines political and economic change in modern Latin America. We will undertake both a historical overview and analyze current events and issues. The first part of the course will examine the shift from elite rule to mass politics in the first half of the 20th century. During this period, economic growth and modernization led to the rise of two new urban classes—a new commercial/industrial elite and a new working class. These two groups—along with other groups such as the church and the military, formed different coalitions, which led to different party systems and political regimes. In some cases, these political regimes led to stable civilian rule, and in others, the rise of military dictatorships in the 1970s and 1980s. The second part of the course examines political and economic changes at the end of the twentieth century. We will study economic change, particularly the effects of the debt crisis, changes in international finance and the shift towards market reforms. Using a comparative framework, we will examine the process of economic and political change from both a historical perspective and the contemporary period in a group of five countries (Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, Brazil and Argentina).

3406  GLOBALIZATION AND POLITICAL CHANGE  
ALEXANDER ANIEVAS  
MWF 10:10-11AM  
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.

3429  POLITICAL VIOLENCE  
EVAN PERKOSKI  
T 4-6:30  
Scope: Nature and origin of violence, including torture, genocide, terrorism, and civil war, on the part of individuals, non-state groups, and states.

3430  EVALUATING GOV. RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
DAVID RICHARDS  
TuTh 11-12:15PM  
Scope: The measurement of human rights practices and conditions is the first step towards building theories to explain the causes and consequences of government respect for human rights. More importantly, it also facilitates evidence-based policy making, which is the making of policy decisions based on careful and rigorous analysis using sound and transparent data. Further, research and reports using data generate a good deal of public pressure to improve human rights practices by empowering activists to stimulate discussion about, and draw attention to, human rights issues. All of these types of things are necessary in the effort to attain human dignity for all persons worldwide. This course is part lecture, part workshop, and part practical real-world application; all in the realm of human rights measurement.

3464W ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT  
JEREMEY PRESSMAN  
TuTh 12:30-1:45PM  
Scope: This course addresses the politics, history, and other aspects of Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian relations. Assignments: readings, paper, exams, simulation.
3606  ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
PAUL HERRNSON
MWF 1:25-2:15PM

3608H ART/SCIENCE/BUSINESS OF CAMPAIGNS
PAUL HERRNSON
M 4-6:30PM
Scope: This course explores the impact of knowledge developed in fields ranging from political science, psychology, communication, statistics, computer science, marketing, and the fine arts on the conduct of modern political campaigns.

3633  RACE AND POLICY
SHAYLA NUNNALLY
TuTh 12:30-1:45
Scope: This course has been designed to introduce students to black leadership, specifically the principles, goals, and strategies used by African American men and women to secure basic citizenship rights during the modern civil rights era. Through critical examination of dramatic and poignant events, students will arrive at some understanding of how African American men and women influenced the political process via public persuasion, grassroots mobilization, and direct action. Students are expected to 1) participate in class dialogue, 2) read new and recent scholarship, and 3) review a rich array of sources—oral histories, memoirs, documentary films, music, and archival sources on the modern civil rights movement. In short, this course focuses squarely upon the modern civil rights movement starting with the murder of Emmett Till and ending with the march from Selma to Montgomery. Requirements of this course include class dialogue, HuskyCT activity, random quizzes, short writing assignments, as well as a midterm and final exam.

3672  WOMEN AND POLITICS
ZEHRA ARAT
TuTh 2-3:15PM
Scope: A cross-cultural study of causes and consequences of gender inequalities and women’s struggles. In addition to the major traditional and feminist gender theories, the course examines national and international political structures, actors, and policies that reinforce or attempt to end inequalities. Although the emphasis is on politics, the course is interdisciplinary in nature and taught from a feminist perspective. It introduces text analysis, some key social scientific concepts, and basic tools of social analysis.

3802  CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
KIMBERLY BERGENDAHL
TuTh 9:30-10:45AM
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 8-9:15AM  
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.

3812  JUDICIAL POLITICS  
VIRGINIA HETTINGER  
TuTh 12:30-1:45PM  
Scope: The Supreme Court in the Political Process.

3822  LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE  
JEFFREY DUDAS  
TuTh 11-12:15PM  
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 12:30-1:45PM  
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.

4994/4997  SENIOR THESIS  
MATTHEW SINGER  
TuTh 8-9:15AM  
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. The course will address writing a research design and literature review, structuring a thesis, and the like. This course does NOT count for honors credit.  
Requirements: Readings, papers, participation, and presentations.  
Admission to class is limited to honors students. Students should contact Professor Sterling-Folker for a permission number.