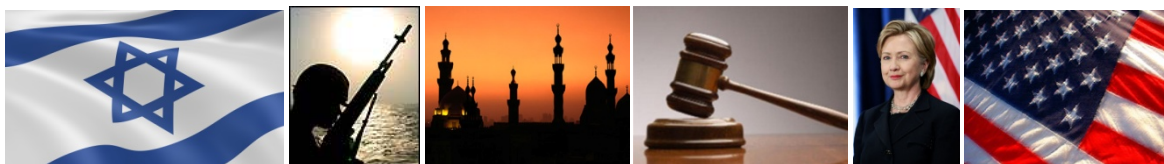


# Poli Sci Courses - Fall 2014



## **Fundamentals of Political Science. POLI 1501. Luders. A slot.**

**M/W 9-10:15 am (US and Global)**

How can we explain war? International cooperation? The rise of the Nazis? Suicide terrorism? The recent uprisings in the Arab world? The discipline of political science provides a set of conceptual tools to explain these diverse phenomena. This course is meant to introduce students to the systematic study of politics in order to move us beyond mere opinion toward substantive knowledge based on rigorous social science methods. By investigating these puzzling and vexing questions, and many others, students will sharpen their analytical skills and be better able to explain complex political phenomena. This course is intended for non-majors and for those considering majoring in Political Science. (Open to non-majors; for majors: fulfills intro course requirement.)

## **Intro to Comparative Politics: Challenges for Democracy and Development. POLI 1201. Harris. K slot. T/TH 10:30-11:45 am (US and Global)**

Why are some countries democracies while others are dictatorships? What consequences do democracy and dictatorship have for economic development and the well-being of citizens? What factors promote democratic transitions and democratic consolidation? What are the key challenges to new democracies (ethnicity, corruption, clientelism, conflict), and how are they overcome? Why do ethnic divisions lead to conflict in some countries, but not in others? This course will address these and other questions by drawing examples from a multitude of countries representing different regions of the world, and mixing lectures with short films and student discussions. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors: toward intro course requirement or Comparative Politics distribution.)

## **Great Political Thinkers: Introduction to Political Theory. POLI 1401. Holbreich.**

**M slot. T/TH 1:45 – 3:00 pm (Foundations).**

What is politics? Can politics promote "the good life"? What are the various goals of politics and the ways of organizing political life? To answer these questions, this course explores the central concepts of political thought including: regime, nature, justice, virtue, liberalism, capitalism, communism, equality, and liberty. Readings will include Homer, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx and Nietzsche. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors: fulfills intro course requirement or toward Political Theory distribution.)

## **American Social Movements. POLI 2160 / SOC 1436. Luders.**

**B slot. M/W, 10:25 – 11:40 PM (US & Global).**

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor... it must be demanded by the oppressed," As this quotation from Martin Luther King Jr. implies, citizens must sometimes resort to protests, strikes, sit-ins, strikes, and boycotts, and other disruptions to demand attention to their grievances and compel social change. Yet, shared grievances do not automatically produce social movements, and the impact of these challenges on entrenched norms or institutions is often uncertain. This course thus poses two broad questions: How do we account for the emergence of social movements, and why are some movements successful in bringing about change, while others are not? To furnish students with the tools necessary to answer these questions, this course surveys a rich interdisciplinary literature. We explicate the central concepts of social movement theory through an investigation of two American social movements – civil rights and the women's movement. Then, going beyond the United States, we apply the analytical tools of social movement theory to elucidate the development and outcome of terrorist mobilization. By the end of the semester, students will have a better understanding of the processes of social change as well as some insight into the challenges of combating contemporary terrorism. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors, toward American Politics distribution.)

## **Media and Politics. POLI 2170. Cormack. NPT slot. Tuesday. 3:05-5:35 pm (US & Global)**

How do politicians use the media? How does the media influence politics? The 24 hour news cycle, increasing use of direct communications, and the viral nature of online media is changing politics. This course encourages students to look at how politicians use the media to get elected, maintain power, and achieve different policy goals. Additionally, we will explore how the media in turn influences American politics. The class will provide students an opportunity to critically engage with local politicians via social media and develop fundamental skills and understandings of the strategic nature of political communication. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors, toward American Politics distribution.)

## **Race and Religion in American Politics. POLI 2175. Luders.**

**D1 slot. M/W, 1:25-2:40 PM. (US & Global).**

This course begins with the proposition that race and religion must be placed at the center of any analysis of the historical and contemporary dynamics of American politics. Over the semester, students will consider the importance of race and religion in shaping American institutions, propelling partisan strife, and how these divisions continue to affect political discourse and public policy. This course addresses how race and religion affected the development of social policy from the New Deal to current policy debates at the intersection of religion and politics. Special attention will be paid to political mobilization of African Americans in the 1960s, conservative evangelicals from the 1970s to the present, Republican dominance until 2008, and the presidency of Barack Obama. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors, toward American Politics distribution.)

## **Essentials of US Legal System. POLI 2197. Strauss. Monday: 6:00 - 8:30 pm (US & Global)**

Most Americans will, at some point, be touched by the U.S. Legal System – either as a litigant, witness or juror. Most people, however, are ignorant about the basics of the US legal system. What should every citizen know about the US legal system? This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of our legal system including the derivation of law (common law and statutory) and the role of the judiciary in interpreting the law. Students will also gain a familiarity and understanding of the structure of the U.S. legal system at both the state and federal level, and which courts hear the different types of cases. Although the course concentrates on civil procedure, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of criminal procedure as well. Students will also be introduced to various concepts imbedded in our legal system including federal and state regulatory agencies and their jurisdiction, alternative dispute resolution (arbitration and mediation, including the Beit Din), class actions, how courts obtain facts, and privileged communications. Students will come away from this course with an understanding as to how the legal system can and does impact all of our lives and will also have an opportunity to observe actual court proceedings. Course includes guest lecturers as well. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors: toward American Politics distribution.)

## **Comparative Law: American and Talmudic. POLI 2198H / JUDS4932H. Levine. QRT Slot. Tuesday: 6:00 - 8:30 pm (US and Global).**

The current trend toward globalization has renewed interest in comparative law. The era of legal isolationism is coming to an end, and there has been an increased focus on the similarities between legal systems in forging global discourse across jurisdictions. By comparing the structure of the Jewish legal system with the American one, students will come to understand the foundational concerns that go into creating any legal system, and to better analyze - on an ideological plane - what the law should be. We will begin the semester by looking at the foundational concerns with any legal system: what is the goal of a legal system and what should it be, what is the role of the central text (the Constitution or the Torah) and who has authority to interpret it, and whether there is room for pluralism within the American or Jewish legal systems. The second half of the semester will focus on substantive issues - including abortion, capital punishment, and duress - and analyze the difference between the American legal approach and the halachic approach. The focus of the independent readings will be on primary sources including several cases and Talmudic excerpts, and several guest lecturers will be speaking on contemporary legal issues. Through understanding the differences between the American and Jewish legal systems, students will develop a critical understanding - and concomitantly, an appreciation - for the nuances of the law as well as the legal structure as a whole. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors: toward American Politics distribution.)

## **Terrorism. POLI 2330. Browne.**

**E Slot. M 3:10-4:25 PM / W 3:35 – 4:50 pm. (US and Global)**

Are terrorists psychopathic madmen or rational political actors? Is terrorism an effective tool for achieving political goals? What are the most effective counterterrorism strategies? This course addresses these and other critical questions in the field of Terrorism and Counterterrorism studies. The readings will familiarize you with a variety of modern and historical terrorist movements while focusing on a series of universal themes. The class will commence with a discussion of the varying definitions of the word “terrorism”. We will then examine the historical origins, as well as the contemporary causes, of terrorist violence. Later in the semester we will talk about the role of the press in publicizing terrorist causes and learn about the psychology of terrorists. Finally we will consider how best to bring an end to a campaign of terrorist violence, examining negotiations with terrorist groups as well as hard and soft counterterrorism measures. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors, toward International Relations or Comparative Politics distribution.)

## **Game Theory in International Relations. POLI 2350. Browne.**

**C slot. M/W 11:55-1:10 pm (US & Global)**

From the Iranian nuclear issue to why your date hasn't called you back, Game Theory offers a wealth of insight. Game Theory is a relatively new academic field and yet its power to explain and predict behavior has already led to applications in a

diverse array of fields including economics, international relations, military strategy, artificial intelligence and biology. This course introduces students to the basic concepts of elementary game theory in a way that allows students to begin solving simple problems right away. Because the course draws on a wide variety of examples from business, current events, science and everyday life, students of every major and field will find the course highly relevant to their academic pursuits as well as their daily life. (Open to non-majors; for Poli Sci majors, toward International Relations distribution.)