

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Courses
Spring 2010

101 Introduction to Politics and Political Science (Intro)

A general introduction both to the subject and to the field, this course examines the conceptual vocabulary of politics and applies it to the understanding of world events as they unfold around us during the term. It is designed for prospective majors, but also for anyone who thinks, talks, or worries about the state of the public world.

1 MWF 1:00 – 1:50 Ward

102 Government and Politics of the United States (Intro)

Introduction to Government and Politics of the United States. This course is a survey of important aspects of our governing and political culture, from the founding to the daily headlines. We will cover the branches of government, structural concepts such as separation of powers and federalism, political campaigns, media, policy and participation, among other topics.

1 MWF 10:00 – 10:50 Ward
2 TuTh 11:00 – 12:15 Cunningham

(Gen Ed)

G113 Gen. Ed.: First Year Sem/Pol & Identity at the Turn of the Century

With a focus mostly but not exclusively on the U.S., this course examines how individuals and groups develop a sense of political identity and the political consequences of holding one identity, or sets of identities, over another. Among other topics, we will examine the roles of psychology; of race, ethnicity, sex, disability, and other markers of group identity; of political institutions; and of cultural and sub-cultural contexts in shaping individual's and a nation's evolving sense of themselves. We will also examine some hot-button public policy issues, such as immigration, affirmative action and terrorism. *Note: This course is limited to students who enter UMB with 30 or fewer credits.*

MWF 8:00 – 8:50 Bussiere
W 9:00 – 9:50 Bussiere

202 Comparative Politics of Transitional Societies (Comp. Pol.)

This course is organized by countries. In most countries we take up similar themes and then compare across countries: political processes; government structure; democratization and authoritarian governments; economic development and poverty; religious politics, and the international political economy in which they operate.

1 MWF 10:00 – 10:50 Farsakh
2 TuTh 8:00 – 8:50 Zhang
3 TuTh 2:00 – 3:15 Zhang

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203 Public Policy (Amer. Pol.)

This course offers a survey of theoretical, conceptual, and applied issues related to the systematic study of public policy. As students of politics, we will engage disparate takes on elements of the policy process and public policy. In treating the meanings and functions of public policy as contested terrain, this course is designed to facilitate an analytical focus towards the subject matter. The course itself is divided into three sections: (1) theoretical perspectives for understanding, designing, and assessing public policy; (2) the policy process; and (3) groups and public policy. Another section devoted to specific policy topics is incorporated through issue forums and policy presentations.

TuTh 9:30 – 10:45 O'Brien

220 International Relations (IR)

The course examines the basic principles on which behavior of nation-states is grounded. In doing so, it draws from several disciplines including history, economics, social psychology, law and geography; it also analyzes how issues, events and institutions such as nationalism, gender, social class, ethnicity, technology, multinational corporations, wars, political ideologies, cultural traditions, and financial interests influence and are influenced by the conduct of states. Of particular concern is the impact of globalization and regional integration on the changing relations among nations and the complex problems facing the developing countries.

1	MWF	2:00 – 2:50	Shahdadi
2	TuTh	12:30 – 1:45	Weiner
3	MW	4:00 – 5:15	Peters

G245 Reading the Newspaper (Amer. Pol)

After reviewing changes in the media landscape over the past 20 years, impact on the news coverage and our way at looking at the world, we'll focus on how a paper or a TV newscast is put together on a daily basis. We will assess how reporters and editors' deadlines and pressure bear consequences on how the news is selected, reported, written or produced. We will study how they deal with access to information, censorship, bias, and accuracy especially in times of controversy. We will review the news coverage of 9/11 terrorist attacks and during the Iraq War from America, European & Middle Eastern standpoints as well as what it says about us. Finally, we will analyze the relationships between media, multiculturalism and identity as well as foreign news and media. This course relies on daily newspaper readings, concrete exercises, and writing & interaction with guest lectures. By looking carefully at the way top-ranked papers and networks go about their business, we will become more skillful, rigorous, efficient & critically self-aware readers & viewers. This course will help students improve their writing & analytical skills. *This course is an Intermediate Seminar in the General Education Program.*

MWF 9:30 – 10:45 Herron

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252 Modern Political Thought

(Pol. Theory)

Study of the major modern Western political philosophers from the Renaissance to the end of the 19th century through reading of representative works. Topics covered include: the nature of modernity, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the scientific revolution, concepts of nature and natural right, the origin and development of the modern moral/political vocabulary, revolution, history and political change, nihilism.

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 Ward

312 Political Economy

(Pol. Theory)

Designed to introduce the undergraduate student to competing paradigms in economic thought and public policy, the course begins with a brief overview of historical, philosophical, psychological roots of political economy. It continues with an inquiry into conservative, liberal, and radical political economic perspectives and concludes by applying these perspectives to policy questions concerning economic development and income distribution.

TuTh 12:30 – 1:45 Ferguson

318 Legislative Process

(Amer. Pol.)

What are the procedures and explanations of the processes of legislatures in democratic settings? This course will emphasize the workings of the U.S. Congress but will give limited attention to legislatures in other countries as well as to the State Legislatures in the U.S. The main features of the discussion will be the rules, informal practices, the committee systems, the leadership, bicameralism, legislative elections, and relation with the executive and judicial branches.

MWF 12:00 – 12:50 Cnudde

321 Diversity & Public Policy

(Amer. Pol.)

This course offers a survey of key public policy issues related to diversity and American public policy. It investigates theoretical perspectives on the role of group based analysis for understanding public policy as well as specific public policy domains. Policy issues most relevant to race and ethnicity, social class, gender and sexual orientation are systematically explored as well as a policy issue that works at the intersection of these groups cleavages. The course provides the foundation from which to analytically engage the major policy issues of the day as they relate to diversity in the United States.

TuTh 4:00 – 5:15 O'Brien

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332 Civil Liberties in the U.S.

(Amer. Pol.)

An analysis of the constitutional rules governing civil liberties in the American system, primarily through decisions of the Supreme Court. Topics to be covered include freedom of speech, press and assembly; the “right to privacy”, and issues of equality.

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 Bussiere

361 Politics of Eastern Europe

(Comp. Pol.)

It has been twenty years since the revolutions of 1989 swept across Eastern Europe, leading to the collapse of the communist regimes there. This course will investigate the progress of democratization over the last 20 years in Eastern Europe. Particular emphasis will be placed on the wars of Yugoslavian succession, and the efforts of the international community to punish the war criminals who committed genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity in the conflicts there. Special attention will also be paid to such states as Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, where relevant. Romania will serve as case study throughout the entire course, and it is anticipated that students will have the opportunity to work with Romanian Foreign Ministry officials, Romanian professors, and Romanian students via the internet. Special attention will also be paid to East European foreign politics in the post communist period, the expansion of NATO and the European Union Eastward, and Russia’s reaction to this.

TuTh 11:00 12:15 Weiner

365 Politics of Communication

(Comp. Pol.)

This course analyzes how politics and the mass media reciprocally influence each other. It is particularly concerned to understand why research in this area often disagrees and to begin to get a handle on real patterns of interaction. For that reason, the course does not just focus on media in the United States. It also pays some attention to changes through time – that is, history. A principle concern is understanding how business models of various media affect their operations and strategies and how politics enters into them.

TuTh 2:00 – 3:15 Ottenberger

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369 Politics of the Middle East (Comp. Pol.)

The attacks of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in September 2001 and the war on Iraq in 2003 have made the Middle East one of the most regularly covered- and hotly debated-regions. This course asks why the region is important and why it appears unstable and resistant to international and domestic pressures calling for economic development and democratization. It seeks to provide answers to these questions by discussing the creation, and then transformation, of the modern states in the region. It also examines the role of Islam and nationalism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the history of Western involvement in the region, and the ways in which economic and international developments impact Middle Eastern States' openness or resistance to democracy. The course pays attention to central themes such as modernization, development, democratization, state/society, and state/military relations.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 Farsakh

377-1 Special Topics: States, Wars and Empires (IR, Comp. Pol.)

The aim of this class is to explore the link between state building and empires construction. How different is a state to an empire and under what conditions do each emerge? Can states emerge without a war? Why, and when, does a state become an empire? This class seeks to answer some of these questions by exploring theories of the state and empire building. It will take the Middle East as a case study, focusing particular on Iraq, Iran and Israel. We will study how each of these states emerged and how wars, both internal and external ones, impacted their legitimacy and structure. We will also examine theories of decolonization and the role of international institutions in impacting the link between state and empire building. The class would be of interest to students interested in political theory and international relations.

Th 5:30 – 8:00 Farsakh

377-2 Special Topics: Politics of East Asia (Comp. Pol.)

This is a course on the politics of East Asia, including China, the two Koreas, Japan, and Vietnam. We will begin by analyzing the cause of the rapid economic growth in the region since World War II, including land reform, economic planning, and strategic trade policies. We will then explore the impact of economic development on East Asian political systems, especially the recent trend towards democratization. Finally, we will discuss the international politics of East Asia since 1979, with an emphasis on how China's rise has changed the regional balance of power. Throughout the course, we will pay close attention to the linkages between domestic and international politics.

TuTh 11:00 – 12:15 Zhang

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377-3 Special Topics: Genocide & World Politics (IR)

Genocide, the scourge of humanity, was once described by Winston Churchill, as the “crime with no name”. The Holocaust resulted in the determination of the international community to do something, so that it never again would silently stand in witness to this “crimes of crimes”. This course will focus on genocide as a phenomenon which takes place in an international system lacking a central governmental authority sufficiently strong enough to stop genocide as it unfolds in a world of sovereign states. What has the international community done, and what can it do to prevent and punish this most heinous and evil of war crimes? The course will examine the political, economic, sociological, and psychological causes of genocide, with case studies, among others, of the genocides that took place in Armenia, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Darfur.

TuTh 4:00 – 5:15 Weiner

377-4 Special Topics: Order & Justice in World Politics (IR)

In international relations, order and justice are often presented as binaries; realism-conservatism of dominant powers prefer a focus on order while others seek a change in the status quo through employing values of justice. This course delves deep into this opposition. It will engaged students in theoretical reading of scholarship on order, justice and ethics in international politics. The course will be organized in a seminar format, requiring intensive reading and writing. It is meant for undergraduate students in junior standing or above who already have familiarity with core international relations theories.

W 5:30 – 8:00 Alamgir

(Pol. Theory)

455 (377-5) Problems of Politics: Postmodernism & Politics of Life & Death

Political Science today is still largely reliant on the notion of power as sovereignty as convinced by Hobbes over 300 years ago. Recently, however, postmodern critics have raised significant challenges to the Hobbesian account of sovereignty, arguing that it relies on a host of misconceptions regarding the nature and workings of power in contemporary age. In this course, we will examine the specific critiques of sovereignty advanced by Michael Foucault, and his move toward understanding of the state in terms of governmentality and power in terms of *biopower*. We will begin the course with a foundational; reading of Hobbes, and conclude it by evaluating the coherence and persuasiveness of Foucault’s views, first through a critical assessment of Foucaultian critique of sovereignty in the work of Giorgio Agamben, and second through an engagement with a host of concrete applications of biopolitical analysis in both contemporary political world and the domain of queer theory.

Th 5:30-8:00 Schotten

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456 Political Thought of Lincoln (Pol. Theory)
This course will take seriously the idea of Abraham Lincoln as a political thinker in the practice of political statesmanship. Our examination will consider how Lincoln understood the Founding, and how he changed our perception of what America means. Lincoln wrote beautifully, often in Biblical language, and we will reflect upon his journey with religion and reason.

TuTh 2:00 – 3:15 Cunningham

459 Karl Marx's Marxism (Pol. Theory)
This course will be an intensive, advanced level seminar study of the work of Karl Marx. Previous coursework in political theory and/or philosophy is strongly recommended.

Tu 5:30 – 8:00 Schotten

479 Independent Study (Elective Only)

- 1 Alamgir, Jalal
- 2 Bussiere, Elizabeth
- 3 Cnudde, Charles
- 4 Cunningham, Maurice
- 5 Farsakh, Leila
- 6 Ferguson, Tom
- 7 O'Brien, Erin
- 8 Schotten, Heike
- 9 Shahdadi, Hormoz
- 10 Ward, James
- 11 Watanabe, Paul
- 12 Weiner, Robert
- 13 Wu, Zhang

488, 489 & 495 Internships (Elective Only)
The internship program helps students integrate their course work with practical training by involving them in day-to-day aspects of government, politics and public affairs. Interested students should speak with the Political Science Department professor in charge of internships. To receive 3 credits a student must work ten hours per week and submit a 10 page paper (PS 488). To receive 6 credits, a student must work 13 hours a week and submit a 20 page paper (PS 488 and 489). To receive 9 credits, a student must work 25 hours per week and submit a 30 page paper (PS 590). Permission of instructor required. For more information, see the handout in the literature stand outside the Political Science Department office, as well as the instructor.

Cnudde

