

# Political Science GEC Course Descriptions Spring 2010

## **Political Science 100 Introduction to Comparative Politics**

MW 8:30-10:18 MQ 0159

**Ms. Hu**

**Description:** Introduction to modern nation-state in diverse institutional forms: problems of state- and nation-building, representation, conflict, and making of government policy in selected countries.

## **Political Science 100 Introduction to Comparative Politics**

TR 9:30-11:18 CL 0277

**Ms. Chidambaram**

**Description:** Why are some countries successful democracies while others are not? Is it possible for countries with many ethnic groups and deep social cleavages to be peaceful? What difference does it make that some countries have presidents and others have prime ministers? How do our votes get translated into seats? Why do some countries have a dozen political parties and others only two? These are some questions that comparative political science aims to answer. Comparative politics examines the world's different political systems by comparing and contrasting aspects about them, and by seeking generalizations about them. As an introductory course, this class will offer you opportunities to learn more about governments around the world

- how they are similar to or differ from what we see in the United States. The coverage is by no means exhaustive but is meant to give you the tools to begin to see patterns in how politics works around the world, and serve as a gateway to more advanced comparative politics courses in the future. The course will enable you to become familiar with broad concepts that underpin politics and governance in different countries and contemporary debates in comparative politics today. It will provide you "comparative literacy" by making it easier to understand various terms used in comparative political science and comprehend the international news segments of newspapers. At the end of the course, you should be able to analyze political events around the world, drawing on the theoretical explanations provided in the class.

## **Political Science 100 Introduction to Comparative Politics**

MW 2:30-4:18 CL 0277

**Mr. Davis**

**Description:** How do people in other countries view politics? What do these people try to get *through* politics? How are they ruled? Who rules? Who doesn't? Political Science 100 gets at these questions by introducing students to the basics of global politics and political science.

## **Political Science 100 Introduction to Comparative Politics**

TR 3:30-5:18 ML 0125

**Mr. Chorley**

**Description:** Introduction to modern nation-state in diverse institutional forms: problems of state- and nation-building, representation, conflict, and making of government policy in selected countries.

## **Political Science 100 Introduction to Comparative Politics**

MW 10:30-12:18 EL 2001

**Mr. Wyplosz**

**Description:** What is politics? What do people try to get through politics? How are peoples ruled? Who rules? Who doesn't? These questions are crucial for understanding how any politics any

where (be it your city, your state, your country or the world) works. This course will help students develop the skills and knowledge to answer these questions by introducing them to the comparative study of politics: the investigation of differences and similarities in government and politics across a variety of countries around the world. This course combines an examination of several core issues and themes (e.g. the state, democracy, political participation) and an in-depth study of some individual countries.

**Political Science 101 Introduction to American Politics**

TR 11:30-1:18 MQ 0159 **Mr. Burdett**

**Description:** This course is a broad introduction to the political institutions of American government and a study of their interaction. The course will provide a general basis for further study in the area of political science, but should also provide you with a basic understanding that will be of benefit regardless of your major. You will develop a working understanding of not only the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, but also of the role of the bureaucracy, political parties, and interest groups.

**Political Science 101 Introduction to American Politics**

Online **Ms. Bouche**

**Description:** This is an exclusively online course that uses an online textbook and a variety of multimedia tools--including video, powerpoints, and online quizzing--to gain mastery of the course material. Starting with the foundations of American government (Constitution and Federalism) and moving into institutions (Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy, and Judiciary) and mass political issues and involvement (Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, Public Opinion & Media, Parties & Interest Groups, and Voting, Campaigns & Elections), students will gain a comprehensive understanding of American politics using online tools on their own time.

**Political Science 101 Introduction to American Politics**

MW 10:30-11:48 CM 0200 **Professor Wright**

F 8:30-9:18 DB 0030

F 8:30-9:18 DB 0049

F 9:30-10:18 DB 0030

F 9:30-10:18 DB 0049

F 11:30-12:18 DB 0030

F 11:30-12:18 DB 0049

**Description:** Introduction to American politics, the institutions and processes which create public policy, the strengths and weaknesses of the American political systems.

**Political Science 101 Introduction to American Politics**

MW 10:30-12:18 MQ 0159 **Ms. Bryner**

**Description:** This course will provide a broad overview of the basic governing institutions and political process of American government. In this class, we will start by examining fundamental democratic ideals, and will progress to discuss the ways these ideals influence modern political behavior and modern institutions. Both American institutions and the American citizenry will be examined, discussed, and critiqued.

**Political Science 101 Introduction to American Politics**

MW 2:30-4:18 MQ 0159 **Mr. Lempert**

**Description:** Introduction to American politics, the institutions and processes which create public policy, the strengths and weaknesses of the American political systems.

**Political Science 101                      Introduction to American Politics**

TR 3:30-5:18                      MQ 0159    **Mr. Pereda**

**Description:** Introduction to American politics, the institutions and processes which create public policy, the strengths and weaknesses of the American political systems.

**Political Science 145                      Politics of Global Problems**

TR 10:30-12:18                      CL 0220    **Mr. Allan**

**Description:** This introductory course aims to help students understand, critically analyze, and see themselves as part of world politics. We will begin with a theoretical introduction to the history of world politics, searching for patterns, continuity, and change. With these theoretical tools in hand we will then study the central political problems of our day – war, peace, genocide, the Israel-Palestine conflict, trade, development, hunger, and human trafficking. At the end of the course we will theorize about the future, asking what will and should global politics be like in fifty years? Throughout, students will be encouraged to develop their own perspective on the world, from which they can take stands on and connect their own actions to important global issues.

**Political Science 145                      Politics of Global Problems**

MW 11:30-1:18                      BO 0412    **Mr. Nunez**

**Description:** International Relations (IR) is essentially the study of politics without government, or the problem of international order. There are over six billion people in the world, organized into nearly 200 states. Politics within states – i.e. domestic politics – is typically organized hierarchically, with an ultimate political authority – i.e. a government – at the top guarding the political game by enforcing its rules. International politics, on the other hand, lacks such an ultimate authority. With no central authority, the international arena is essentially anarchic and its political order is fundamentally an instance of governance without government. Anarchy, however, does not imply chaos.

This course examines the structure and dynamics of politics in an anarchic environment. Requiring no prior knowledge of IR, the course will provide students with a basic vocabulary for international politics, address major political issues of international importance, and outline theoretical frameworks used to make sense of them. The course focuses on the most traditional subfield of the discipline: international security. In other words, the problem of war is central in this course.

**Political Science 145                      Politics of Global Problems**

TR 8:30-10:18                      ML 0175    **Mr. Traven**

**Description:** This course will provide students with a broad introduction to the study of international relations. The course will begin with a brief introduction to the history of world politics and an introduction to the dominant schools of international relations (IR) theory. It will then move on to analyze a series of enduring problems in world politics as well as a series of more or less contemporary problems in world politics. As this is a course in political science special emphasis will be placed on understanding why states, decision makers, or other relevant actors behave in certain ways. For example, why do states engage in war, or why do they follow or violate international law in particular circumstances? To make the theoretical answers to these questions clear, engaging, and policy relevant, throughout the course we will discuss contemporary and historical examples when it is appropriate. The guiding

presumption behind this aspect of the course is that we can go some way toward resolving important global problems by coming to grips with the causal mechanisms that generate them.

However, given that international politics raises a particularly important set of normative problems, throughout the course we will also place additional emphasis on trying to understand the moral complexities associated with world politics. For instance, instead of simply asking why states go to war, we will also ask questions such as the following: Under what conditions is it morally permissible or just for states to go to war? Is it ever permissible for states, or possibly even non-state actors, to intentionally kill civilians in war? Do powerful states such as the US and its allies have a moral obligation to intervene in the affairs of countries such as Sudan to enforce human rights?

Keeping these empirical and normative considerations in mind, in this course we address the following set of problems and issues in world politics: world order, war, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, free trade and globalization, humanitarian intervention, and international law.

**Political Science 145                      Politics of Global Problems**

TR    12:30-2:18    DL 0264

**Ms. Bayram**

**Description:** Cooperation and conflict in world politics. Covers basic theories of international relations and key issues, including security, political economy, international organizations, and the environment.

**Political Science 201                      Introduction to Political Behavior**

MW   3:30-4:48    MP 1046

**Mr. Devine**

**Description:** Democracy requires that citizens develop and express opinions about the political world, and that the government be responsive to their opinions. This course explores how such a process can take place, and why both citizens and government often fall short of the democratic ideal. Why do citizens vote – or not vote? How do citizens understand – or fail to understand – their political system? How do elected officials know what citizens want, and what causes them to respond – or not respond – to the public will? To answer these questions and other critical questions, this course focuses upon analysis of public opinion, voting behavior, and political participation.

**Political Science 210                      Introduction to Political Theory**

TR    9:30-11:18    SO E0125

**Professor Neblo**

**Description:** Introduces several leading theoretical approaches to the study of politics, such as theories of human nature, social contract theory and theories of history.

**Political Science 210                      Introduction to Political Theory**

MW   2:30-4:18    CL 0137

**Mr. Keiber**

**Description:** This course is an introduction to political theory, and assumes no prior knowledge. We will read some well-known works and cover central concepts in political theory such as justice, freedom, and power, as well as central questions such as "is government necessary?" and "what is the nature of political obligation?" We will try to keep things interesting and connect the readings to contemporary political questions. By the end of the quarter you will have new tools to better understand the political world around you.

**Political Science 245**

**The U.S. in World Politics**

TR 9:30-11:18 PA 0060

**Ms. Kollars**

**Description:** The role of the United States in world politics since the Second World War, emphasizing structural change in economic and political-military relations.

**Political Science 245 The U.S. in World Politics**

MW 2:30-4:18 CL 0177

**Mr. You**

**Description:** This course, designed for students who are interested in the study of U.S. foreign policy, is a critical historical review of the controversial issues over U.S. foreign policy since WWII. Drawing on a variety of theories of foreign policy, the course systematically examines both the causes and consequences of U.S. foreign policy doctrines.

The first half of class focuses on basic theories of international security and foreign policy decision making. The class systematically examines important sources of American foreign policy with emphasis on both external and internal factors. Drawing on these theories, the second half of class explores both the causes and consequences of each U.S. foreign policy doctrine, such as the Truman Doctrine, Détente, the Carter Doctrine, the Reagan Doctrine, Clinton's Doctrine of Democratic Enlargement, Bush's Unilateralism, and the current Obama administration's foreign policy initiatives.

**Political Science 245 The U.S. in World Politics**

MW 8:30-10:18 MP 1046

**Mr. Pu**

**Description:** This is an introductory-level course for U.S. foreign policy and international relations. In the first section, we will discuss basic concepts and analytical tools in the study of international relations. In the second section, we will review some historical events of U.S. foreign policy since the World War II. In the final section, we will consider some contemporary issues of U.S. foreign policy such as the global financial crisis, politics of international trade, and the War on terror. Foreign policy is complicated and theories of international relations can be tricky. As an instructor, my role is like that of a tour guide: I will not only show you the roadmap, but also help you identify the most interesting spots during our journey. I hope to make the journey as interesting and enjoyable as possible, and thus my door is always open to your suggestions and concerns. Everyone can ultimately succeed in our collective endeavor.

**Political Science 245 The U.S. in World Politics**

TR 1:30-3:18 CL 0277

**Mr. Grynaviski**

**Description:** The role of the United States in world politics since the Second World War, emphasizing structural change in economic and political-military relations.

**Political Science 367.01 Contemporary Issues in American Politics**

TR 9:30-11:18 CL 0133

**Professor Nelson**

**Description:** Discussion of and critical writing about controversies in contemporary American politics; aimed at fostering analytical abilities in reading comprehension, oral, and written expression.

**Political Science 367.01 Contemporary Issues in American Politics**

MW 11:30-1:18 CL 0133

**Mr. Goldstein**

**Description:** This course will seek to encourage students to develop critical thinking and analytic writing skills through the examination of important debates regarding the

consequences of American national security policy in the wake of 9/11/01. Generally, we will consider the war on terror and its impact in the forms of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will then examine specific dilemmas that these foreign policies have unearthed. For instance, are the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan just (moral) wars? What interrogation tactics can legally and morally be used in war? Specifically, we will debate the appropriateness of and responsibility for “enhanced interrogation” techniques on suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, and prisoner of war detention at Abu Ghraib in Iraq. Examination of these issues will also occasion a debate of the responsibilities of the executive branch in the production and maintenance of national security policy in the post-9/11 era. An eclectic body of theory and research from political science, law, psychology, and philosophy will inform our opinions on these critical questions.

**Political Science 367.01**

TBA TBA Online

**Contemporary Issues in American Politics**

**Professor Steffensmeier**

**Description:** The legislative branch of our government is a remarkably accessible institution, able to cultivate, gather, and implement the preferences of a diverse group of actors from inside and outside Congress. Moreover, Congress manages to create innovative and coherent public policy out of a cacophony of voices, each demanding that their side be heard. This course seeks to examine two of the actors vital for producing public policy in the legislative arena: the legislature itself, comprised of the members, structures, and processes integral for the establishment of public law; and the interests attempting to attract the attention of the legislative branch - among them businesses, citizens, and organizations. Additionally, this course will attempt to create a firm understanding for how these two sets of actors, legislative bodies and interests, interact with one another to fuel change and evolution in our political system.

Understanding how interest groups and legislatures interact requires more than a casual read through the vast literature on the subject. For students to get a picture of how these two essential pieces of the American political system operate, this course requires students to establish contact with and either work for *or* monitor an interest group's legislative activities over the course of the quarter. A starter list of interest group names, addresses, and phone numbers is provided for students to facilitate contact with these groups.

Using an internet-based teaching and learning system, two substantive texts, a writing text, and a research requirement, the course hopes to allow for significant academic freedom in choosing topics of interest while providing a strong learning experience for members of the class. Extra credit will be given for student produced videos on the interest group.

**Political Science 485**

MW 8:30-10:18 DB 0125

**Techniques in Political Analysis**

**Mr. Powell**

**Description:** What is political *science*? This course introduces students to the science of politics. The primary goal is to provide students with the basic skills necessary not only to analyze political issues, but also to design and perform their own political research. This includes topics such as research design, the nature of data, and basic quantitative analysis. There is a particular emphasis on learning these techniques through a practical, hands-on approach using real political data.

**Political Science 485**

**Techniques in Political Analysis**

TR 3:30-5:18 DB 0125

**Ms. Fournet**

**Description:** How do political scientists conduct research? Students taking this course will learn about research design, data collection and analysis, and theory testing. This course will help those students interested in conducting social science research, with a specific focus on the analysis of political phenomena.

**Political Science 485 Techniques in Political Analysis**

TR 10:30-12:18 DB 0125

**Mr. Kypriotis**

**Description:** This course provides an introduction to some of the basic research techniques and data analysis concepts used in doing research about politics. Included will be basic principles of making and testing hypotheses, conceptualizing and measuring variables, and statistical tests and analysis. Uses of Stata (a statistical analysis program) in aiding research will be emphasized throughout the course.

**Political Science 485 Techniques in Political Analysis**

MW 12:30-2:18 DB 0125

**Mr. Christenson**

**Description:** PS 485 introduces students to the process of empirical political analysis. It explores the greater research methods enterprise used to make claims about political phenomena. Students will gain insight into theory building, research design and empirical testing that can be applied across disciplines and in various careers. In particular, students will learn to utilize elementary statistics to engage a host of substantive topics, including public opinion polling, electoral behavior and political participation.

**Political Science 597.01**

**Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics**

TR 8:30-10:18 DB 0080

**Mr. Kumar**

**Description:** An examination of the relationships industrialized countries have with each other and nations in the Third World; focus on the potential for cooperation and conflict.

**Political Science 597.01**

**Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics**

MW 2:30-4:18 MQ 0162

**Mr. Duska**

**Description:** This GEC course is intended for both political science majors and non-majors. Its main focuses are the theories and empirics that surround the study of empires in International Relations. The course will begin with a very brief overview of the main theories of IR. From there, it will continue with an overview of the main theories relating to imperial behavior in the international system as well as imperial decline. From there, the course will begin to focus on the legacy of empire in the form of the contemporary body of theory known as Postcolonialism. This section of the course will focus heavily on how post-imperial states have fared since the advent of decolonization (both imperial metropolises and colonies). The course will conclude with a sustained evaluative and critical examination of the idea of contemporary American empire (Pax Americana) that will explore the empirical and ideological roots of American empire and pose the important question of whether all great powers are destined to fall. This course will include multimedia presentations including a screening of George Lucas' "The Empire Strikes Back."

**Political Science 597.01**

**Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics**

TR 12:30-2:18 CL 0220

**Mr. Luecke**

**Description:** This class provides students with a general survey of existing theories of change in international politics and foreign policy. These theories will be empirically illustrated through an examination of the evolution of the international system, the changing character of U.S. foreign policy over time, and the international challenges facing the Obama administration.

**Political Science 597.02      Political Problems of the Contemporary World**

TR      2:30-4:18      CL 0220

**Ms. Farrar Chandler**

**Description:** Critical political problems of industrialized and Third World societies, including governmental legitimacy, conflict and violence, social welfare, equality, and economic development.