

**Spring 2010**  
**Political Science Course Descriptions**  
Graduate Level Courses

**Political Science 672**

MW 11:30-1:18 DB 0080

**Modern Political Thought**

**Professor MacGilvray**

**Description:** In this course we focus on the social and political thought of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In particular, we will examine some of the earliest and most influential attempts to respond to the challenges posed by the decline of traditional social hierarchies and the rise of modern democratic societies. Topics of discussion will include the relationship between equality and inequality, liberty and conformity, alienation and exploitation, and morality and power.

Readings by Alexis de Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Max Weber.

**Political Science 716**

MW 1:30-3:18 DB 2078

**Judicial Politics: Decision Making**

**Professor Baum**

**Description:** This course is concerned with explanation of judicial behavior--judges' choices among alternatives in cases--as one type of behavior of public policy makers. The course will examine several categories of potential explanations: judges' policy preferences, legal considerations, group processes within courts, and the courts' political and social environments. In examining these determinants, we will consider competing theories of judicial behavior and a range of analytic approaches to the study of that behavior.

Students will have multiple options for sets of paper assignments. They can choose an option on the basis of their interest in beginning a research project and the kinds of papers that they would find most useful to write.

**Political Science 727.02**

MW 11:30-1:18 AV 0200

**Government and Politics of Southern Europe**

**Professor Gunther**

**Description:** This course presents a comprehensive overview of government and politics in Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal. These countries have lacked a historical tradition of stable democratic governance, and for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were dominated by right-wing, corporatist authoritarian regimes. Since the mid 1970s, however, these countries have all consolidated their democratic systems, and three of them have been outstandingly successful in forming and maintaining stable governments. Thus, one purpose of this course will be to explore the origins of instability and the weakness of democratic institutions and practices in the past, as well as the processes through which stable and consolidated democratic regimes were established in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first part of the course explores the historical origins of politically relevant social, cultural or political cleavages, as well as the impact of late industrialization on political mobilization and participation. We then turn our attention to the emergence and basic characteristics of the current democratic systems.

While Southern European societies and political systems have shared many common features in the past, they have followed very different political trajectories over the past several decades. Thus, we cannot speak of a single "Southern European model" of democracy: the fragmented multiparty system of Italy, for example, stands in sharp contrast with the tendency in Greece, Portugal and Spain to move towards majoritarian two-party politics. Accordingly, we

will examine the distinguishing characteristics of executive-legislative relations, the party systems, and public policy and outputs in these four political systems.

All students will read a common core of comparative studies of the four countries, but will be able to choose two of these four countries for more detailed study. Student responsibilities include a midterm and a final examination, as well as a comparative analysis of government and politics in two countries of their own choosing.

**Political Science 744**

M 3:30-6:18 DB 0024

**Democratic Transitions**

**Professor Wallace**

**Description:** Theoretical and empirical examination of the dynamics of transitions between authoritarian and democratic regimes.

**Political Science 751**

TR 1:30-3:18 DB 2078

**Conflict and Peace**

**Professor Schweller**

**Description:**

**Political Science 759**

F 9:00-11:48 DB 2078

**International Organization**

**Professor Mitzen**

**Description:** While the international system is often described as anarchic, international life is in fact organized to a significant degree. This course examines theoretically the sources of order in IR, ranging from informal norms and ordering principles to formal international organizations and law, with a variety of institutions in between. Beginning with the problem of collective action under anarchy, the readings cover such topics as international regimes, the influence of power and distributive conflict on institutions, explanations of institutional variation and design, compliance with international rules, the concept of legalization, and the interaction between international relations and theory and international law. Students are expected to have knowledge of international relations theory.

**Political Science 766**

T 3:30-6:18 DB 0024

**Selected Topics in Political Theory**

**Professor Neblo**

**Description:**

**Political Science 774**

T 3:30-6:18 DB 2078

**Readings in Political Participation and Voting Behavior**

**Professor McClerking**

**Description:**

**Political Science 775**

TR 11:30-1:18 DB 2078

**Readings in American Public Parties**

**Professor Beck**

**Description:** The course will examine selected classic and contemporary readings in the scholarly literature bearing on each of the three "parts" of the party – the party organization, the party in the electorate, and the party in government -- as well as on the conceptualization and development of parties, their interactions to define a party system,

and their role in the electoral process. Although the primary focus will be American parties, some cross-national comparisons will be used for the perspectives they offer on parties in the US. Grades for this class will be based on a research paper, written book and article reviews, and participation in class discussion.

### **Political Science 786**

MW 9:30-11:18 DB 0150

### **Causal Analysis**

**Professor Keele**

**Description:** Analysis of causal models by Simon-Blalock techniques, recursive and nonrecursive path estimation; special topics include measurement error, standardization, and ordinal data.

### **Political Science 789**

M 3:30-6:18 DB 0125

### **Survey Research Practicum**

**Professor Weisberg**

**Description:** This course provides an overview of survey research, going through interviewing, response processes, missing data handling, nonresponse bias, sampling, coverage issues, the differences between Internet, mail, phone, and face-to-face surveys, and ethical issues in survey research. The course follows the Total Survey Error approach. In addition to readings, lecture, and discussion, students will choose among a variety of possible practical experiences such as observing phone interviews and critiquing surveys. This course is part of the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization (GIS) in Survey Research and will include students from several different departments.

### **Political Science 806**

R 3:30-6:18 DB 2078

### **Foundations of Political Psychology**

**Professor McGraw**

**Description:**

### **Political Science 812**

TR 9:30-11:18 DB 2078

### **Seminar: Political Elites and Leadership**

**Professor Liddle**

**Description:** This graduate seminar considers various approaches to the study of leadership as an autonomous force in political life. Readings focused on leadership will be drawn from all fields of political science, including political theory, American, comparative and international politics. We will also explore the social movement literature in political sociology, particularly its concepts of resources and opportunity structure, and the role of agency (as in the contrast between structure and agency) as it has developed in recent decades in both sociology and anthropology. Student requirements will include two 10-15 page critiques of the assigned literature plus an end of quarter essay on the prospects for leadership studies.

**Political Science 867**

**Research in Mathematical Political  
Science**

MW 1:30-3:18 DB 0062

**Professor Keele**

**Description:** Design and examination of research focusing on a problem in mathematical political science.

W 2:30-4:18 DB 0150

**Professor Steffensmeier**

**Description:** Design and examination of research focusing on a problem in mathematical political science.

TR 1:30-3:18 DB 0062

**Professor Minozzi**

**Description:** Design and examination of research focusing on a problem in mathematical political science.