

# Political Science GEC Course Descriptions Winter 2010

## Political Science 100

## Introduction to Comparative Politics

MW 1:30-3:18 MQ 0159

Mr. Davis

MW 3:30-5:18 MQ 0159

Ms. Chidambaram

TR 2:30-4:18 MQ 0159

Ms. Hu

**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 100H

## Introduction to Comparative Politics

MW 1:30-3:18 DB 0048

Professor Shabad

**Description:** This course is concerned with several major questions posed by politics in the 20th and 21st centuries. The first question concerns *democracy*: what is it; how do democracies differ from one another; and what are the conditions for and consequences of democratic rule? The second issue has to do with the *relationship between politics and economics*, specifically the complex relationship between democracy and the market. The third question has to do with the state: what is it; why is it important; and why are some states "failed" states? We will address the first two questions by first considering the United States as a referent against which to compare and contrast other cases of long-lived democracies as well as one very problematic case of democratization with some degree of marketization (Russia) and one case of marketization without democratization (China). The third issue, concerning "stateness," will be addressed by an examination of the case of Afghanistan.

**Requirements:** Midterm and final exams, and three short essays based on the readings and a small amount of research.

**Readings:** one or two books and a set of articles

## Political Science 101

## Introduction to American Politics

TR 8:30-10:18 CL 0137

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

Professor Box-Steffensmeier

**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 4:30-6:18 CL 0137

**Mr. Nawara**

**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 CL 0177

**Ms. Laird**

**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 1:30-3:18 CL 0137

**Mr. Kypriotis**

**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 12:30-2:18 CL 0177

**Ms. Bouche**

**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 11:30-1:18 CL 0137

**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 101 Introduction to American Politics**

MW 10:30-12:18 CL 0137

**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**

MW 9:30-11:18 CL 0177

**Mr. Cole**

**Description:** This course is an introduction to American Politics. Topics covered include political institutions, political behavior, the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, and elections. Current events, as they relate to these topics, will also be examined. Special emphasis will be placed on acquiring the knowledge necessary to participate meaningfully in our nation's governmental and political affairs.

**Political Science 145 Politics of Global Problems**

MW 9:30-11:18 CL 0171

**Mr. Allan**

**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 145 Politics of Global Problems**

MW 2:30-4:18 CL 0177

**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    3:30-5:18                      AP 0177                      **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    10:30-12:18                      CL 0177                      **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 145                      Politics of Global Problems**

MW 4:30-6:18                      CL 0177

**Mr. Grynaviski**

**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 145H                      Politics of Global Problems**

MW 9:30-11:18                      DB 0048

**Professor Mitzen**

**Description:** Many people argue that after the end of the Cold War and 9/11, much of what we have come to understand about how the world works no longer makes sense. Others say that international relations, by which they mean relations among sovereign states in anarchy, remain fundamentally unchanged. This course gives students the conceptual tools and helps them develop the analytical skills necessary for thinking about this question and others like it. Throughout the course, discussion will be grounded in real world problems.

**Political Science 201                      Introduction to Political Behavior**

MW 10:30-12:18                      SB 0215

**Ms. Bryner**

**Description:** Focus on concepts such as attitude, role, and group and their application in such areas as voting behavior and political participation.

**Political Science 201                      Introduction to Political Behavior**

TR 2:30-4:18                      CL 0171

**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                      OH 0110

**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 4:30-6:18                      CL 0171

**Mr. Keiber**

**Description:** This course is an introduction to political theory and assumes no prior knowledge. The course focuses on some well-known contemporary texts and covers themes such as justice, freedom, power, and democracy. Throughout the course we will connect the material to contemporary political issues.

**Political Science 211 Introduction to Political Theory: Approaches**

MW 9:30-11:18                      BE 0285

**Professor MacGilvray**

**Description:** This course provides an introduction to some of the leading approaches to the normative (ethical or moral) study of politics. We will focus in particular on three kinds of authority that political thinkers have appealed to in defending their views: the authority of

nature, especially of human nature; the authority of contracts, or rational agreements between free agents; and the authority of history, understood as a process with a certain logic or structure. Topics considered will include the role of virtue in public life, the nature and limits of political obligation, and the limits of human agency and freedom. Readings by Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Marx, Nietzsche, and others.

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

MW 9:30-11:18      PA 0060

**Mr. Kertzer**

**Description:** This introductory course explores America's role in international politics, aiming to teach students how to critically analyze the major events shaping American foreign policy today. Are we winning the War on Terror, and how would we know? Where does national identity come from, and how has nationalism transformed how we think about the world around us? Are we worrying too much about nuclear weapons, or are we not worrying enough? What will the world look like in 2025? The class begins with an introduction to International Relations (IR) theory, which we then use as a set of building blocks in the second half of the course to help us understand some of the most pressing issues in US foreign policy today.

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

TR 3:30-5:18      CL 0220

**Ms. Becault**

**Description:** What is the U.S. role in the world? What is the nature and purpose of American power? When does and when should the United States intervene in civil wars? Should the goal of spreading 'freedom, democracy, and free enterprise' be achieved with military force?

This course addresses these pressing issues surrounding contemporary American foreign policy. To this end, emphasis will be placed on theoretical understandings of American foreign policy relations. The course is divided into two parts. Part I provides the theoretical background. We will analyze the various factors that influence American Foreign policy, such as the international system, public opinion, and the news media as well as the characteristics of the supposedly new world order that emerged after the end of the Cold War. Part II in turn considers major issues the United States faces today, among them international terrorism, democracy promotion, and humanitarian intervention. We will discuss them in light of the theoretical and historical frameworks approached in the first part of this class.

Overall, this course's main objective is to provide students with the theoretical and analytical tools to become critical, thoughtful, and informed observers of American foreign policy and of world politics more generally. It is devoted to the study of both theories of foreign policy and foreign policy issues. No in-depth knowledge of past and current events is required for this course, but your readiness to think with an open, but critical mind is essential. At the end of this course, you should have a greater understanding of American foreign policy, possess the necessary skills to debate its effectiveness and legitimacy, and to anticipate future trends in American foreign policy relations.

The course meets the GEC requirements of diversity/international issues (#5) and social science (#7). The learning objectives include: 1) understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture; 2) understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies; 3) comprehending human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts; 4) assessing individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

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

MW 1:30-3:18                      RA 0110                      **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 367.01                      Contemporary Issues in American Politics**

TR 4:30-6:18                      DB 0030                      **Mr. Imerman**

**Description:** This section of 367 addresses American politics in a globalizing context, with a strong emphasis on improving students' skills in writing and oral presentation. The course addresses major issues facing the United States today and into the near future, including the financial crisis, health care reform, immigration, nuclear proliferation, and democratic promotion, and explores how these issues influence, and are influenced by, the gradual globalization of economics and politics. Students are expected to thoughtfully engage in class discussions, craft multiple papers that emphasize quality research and writing, and demonstrate their ability to convey their research in oral presentations.

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

MW 10:30-12:18                      CL 0135                      **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 485                      Techniques in Political Analysis**

MW 9:30-11:18                      DB 0125                      **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    4:30-6:18            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**

MW   12:30-2:18            DB 0125

**Ms. Winters**

**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**

TR    8:30-10:18            DB 0125

**Mr. Heidemann**

**Description:** Political science, and social science more broadly, is about investigating relationships in the political and social world—why two or more variables are related, and the nature of these relationships. This course will introduce students to the scientific process of conducting political research. Topics covered include designing a research project, levels of measurement, operationalizing variables and describing data, hypothesis testing, as well as several core techniques to test hypotheses, such as correlation, difference of means testing, analysis of variance, and simple regression. Emphasis will be on conceptual understanding of these techniques, rather than memorizing complex statistical formulae and deriving mathematical proofs. Students will gain valuable data analysis skills they can use in a variety of careers in the real world.

**Political Science 597.01                      Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics**

MW   3:30-5:18            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 597.01                      Interdependence and Nationalism in World Politics**

MW   9:30-11:18            AV 0200

**Mr. You**

**Description:** This course, designed for students who are interested in the study of world politics, is a comprehensive overview of a variety of global problems both in the area of international security (IS) and international political economy (IPE). The course will examine major problems in world politics, such as great power politics; liberal peace; humanitarian intervention; transnational terrorism; the politics of globalization; and anti-globalization movements. The causes and consequences of each global problem will be examined through the prism of existing international relations theories. The first half of class will focus on major theories and problems of international security. The second half of class will focus on major theories and problems of international political economy.

**Political Science 597.01**

**Interdependence and Nationalism in World  
Politics**

TR 8:30-10:18 AV 0110

**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**

TR 2:30-4:18 AV 0110

**Mr. Woo**

**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 597.02**

**Political Problems of the Contemporary World**

TR 9:30-11:18 PA 006

**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.