

## INFORMATION AND FALL 2009 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

**INFORMATION: Please read carefully before going in for advising.**

**Advising:** Please sign up for advising time with your major advisor. Advising begins Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Your advisor will give you your PIN card **AFTER** you have met with him/her. This card is required in order to register for classes online (Banner Web). Registration begins Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration rotation can be found at <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/registrar/reg/regrotation>.

**Department Meeting With New and Current Political Science Majors:** There will be a department meeting for majors on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Political Science lobby.

**Major Requirements** – Ten units in Political Science, at least seven of which must be at the 300 or 400 level. The GPA of the coursework in Political Science comprising the major must be at least 2.00 with no course grade below C-. The requirements for the major are:

- PLSC 220 - Introduction to American Government
- Two units of the following -
  - PLSC 240 - Introduction to Comparative Politics
  - PLSC 250 - Introduction to International Relations
  - PLSC 260 - Introduction to Public Policy
- One unit of the following-
  - PLSC 311 - Political Theory: Plato to Locke
  - PLSC 312 - Modern Political Theory
  - PLSC 315 - American Political Theory
- One unit of the following -
  - PLSC 372 – Methods for Public Opinion Research
  - PLSC 373 – Methods for Public Policy Research
  - PLSC 374 – Methods for Cross-National Research
  - (Prerequisite: Math 119 or PSYC 200 or Bus Stats 201 & 301)
- PLSC 400 - Senior Seminar
- Four elective units at the 300 level, three of which must be in political science. The fourth elective unit can be a 300-level PLSC elective or a course from a list of department-approved courses outside PLSC (see [http://polisci.richmond.edu/program/approved\\_courses.html](http://polisci.richmond.edu/program/approved_courses.html))

**Political Science 372, 373, or 374.** Political Science majors must complete a research methods course with a minimum grade of C-. Students may meet the requirement by taking either Political Science 372, 373, or 374. All three courses introduce students to the research process, including: hypothesis formulation, research design, and various methods political scientists use to collect and analyze empirical data. The courses will cover formulation of theoretical questions, empirical research, elementary statistical methods and data analysis, and the basic assumptions and principles of scientific political inquiry. The courses reflect upon epistemological issues in social science in the context of exercises utilizing library, field, and statistical techniques of analysis. The class will meet three hours per week; a fourth hour will be covered by a practicum or laboratory. In addition to the core elements of all three courses, each individual course offers a particular emphasis, specific methodological tools, and applications in their substantive fields. Each of these courses carries 1 unit. **ONE OF THESE COURSES SHOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**

**Political Science 388 (Individual Internship) and 390 (Independent Study):** They require departmental approval. Student and academic supervisor should fill out a contract form (available at department office or <http://polisci.richmond.edu/curriculum/forms.htm>) and special approval form (available at the department office and the Registrar's Office) before the end of Friday of the second week of the semester so that the department can grant the approval student needs for registration in these classes.

**PLSC 395 – Legislative Internship** See the course description for PLSC 395 (Legislative Internship). Students will not be able to register for PLSC 395 without permission from Dr. John Whelan

**Political Science 400 (Senior Seminar).** Three sections will be offered. Registration in senior seminar requires departmental approval. Students should sign up their preferences with Ms. Stewart, who will then give the authorization for students to register.

**Honors Program:** See <http://polisci.richmond.edu/program/honors.html> for more details.

**Requirements for the Minor:** Due to enrollment pressure, applications for the minor have been suspended until further notice.

**Summer School** – Drs. Andrea Simpson and Ted Ritter will teach PLSC220: Introduction to American Government; Dr. Jimmy Kandeh will teach PLSC 250: Introduction to International Relations & PLSC 348: Politics of Africa. Dr. Rick Mays offers a summer study abroad program to Cusco, Peru, May and/or June terms.

**Post-graduate Opportunities** - Dr. Vincent Wang, Chair, and your advisor are available to advise students on graduate programs in political science and related fields. See also bulletins and brochures for graduate programs in political science, public administration, public policy, international studies, court management, and urban affairs. This material, along with information about employment opportunities, is located in the department lounge. For information on other professional opportunities, see also the Political Science Department Bulletin Board. Pre-law advising is currently handled by Dr. Mark McGarvie in the Jepson School of Leadership Studies Center; Dr. Wang will inform all majors if that situation changes.

**Pi Sigma Alpha** - Criteria for the political science honor society are as follows:

- A minimum of six units in political science taken at UR, at least three of which must be at or above 300-level.
- Overall GPA of 3.3 or better and a political science GPA of at least 3.5

#### FALL 2009 COURSES

**Note:** For the exact times and locations of classes, see the Schedule of Classes for the Fall Semester 2010. Courses preceded by an asterisk (\*) meet the Social Analysis field of study requirement.

#### **PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (5) Simpson, Whelan, Ritter**

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the structure and function of American national government. It emphasizes the institutional roles of the presidency, the Congress, and the Supreme Court as well as the more informal political roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and elections. It is required for a political science major. (PLSC is a pre-requisite for 300-level American government courses.)

#### **PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (2) Inal**

This course introduces students to the "science" of politics and to a variety of concepts, approaches, frameworks, and models used in comparative study and research. Among the topics and approaches discussed will be regime classifications, parliamentary v. presidential systems of government, federal v. unitary organizational principles, political party and electoral systems, political cultures and socialization, institutional and cultural pluralism, consociationalism and corporatism, dependency, and various other "isms." Students will be introduced to selected readings that help them to identify patterns characteristic of first, second, and third world countries as well as to become aware of important differences among countries within each category. (PLSC 240 is a pre-requisite for 300-level comparative government courses.) **FSSA**

#### **PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (4) Long, Datta**

This course is designed to assist the beginning student in developing a coherent framework for the analysis of international relations. Particular emphasis is given to the nature of the international political system and to the implications of this system for a world of increasing complexity, interdependence and rapid change. The goals pursued and the methods used by nation-states and other actors are also examined, as are critical issue areas which create problems for world order. (PLSC 250 is a prerequisite for 300-level international relations courses.) **FSSA**

**PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY (2)****Roof**

This course introduces students to some of America's more pressing domestic problems (such as the federal deficit, crime, poverty, and health care), government policies and proposed solutions aimed toward solving those problems, and the methods used to analyze public policy. The student plays the role of policy analyst operating within the broader context of the American policy making process. The course combines lectures and class discussion. Students will be evaluated on the basis of exams, papers, and classroom participation. PLSC 260 is a prerequisite for 300-level public policy courses. **FSSA**

**PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL (1)****Martin**

This course introduces students to trial advocacy and concepts such as direct and cross examinations, openings, closings, and objections in the context of the courtroom. This course will develop critical thinking and analytical skills for students as they take a set of facts and develop compelling legal and logical arguments in support. Students will also learn how to think quickly on their feet and give an effective oral presentation. Students in this course will compete in various tournaments against teams from other universities and colleges for awards, and ultimately the national intercollegiate mock trial championship. Some travel is required. This is a pass/fail course. Permission of the instructors is required for those wishing to register for this course.

**PLSC 311: POLITICAL THEORY: PLATO TO LOCKE (2)****West**

This course critically analyzes the political philosophy of Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke. Emphasis will be placed on those aspects of their philosophy that are still relevant to contemporary political thought and action. There will be a test on each theorist, and students will be required to write two papers, each summarizing and criticizing one or more aspects of a person's theory, and a final paper on a basic issue addressed by most of the theorists.

**PLSC 315: AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY****Lee**

Political thought in America from colonial times to present with an emphasis on issues relating to liberty, equality, federalism, community, and national purpose.

**PLSC 326: LEGISLATIVE PROCESS****Palazzolo**

This class will take an in-depth look at the operation of Congress and how legislation is made. The course will examine the structure of Congress including the role of political parties, congressional committees, congressional leaders, and parliamentary procedures in the legislative process. The course will also look at the impact of outside factors such as interest groups and the executive branch on the legislative process. Other factors impacting the legislative process such as elections and representatives' drive to be reelected will also be covered. We will explore how well the contemporary Congress balances the often competing goals of representation, deliberation, and efficient lawmaking to address the nation's problems. (Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or permission of instructor.)

**PLSC 331: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (2)****Simon**

Role of United States Supreme Court in American politics studied through examination of landmark constitutional decisions pertaining to distribution of governmental powers. (Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or permission of instructor)

**PLSC 336: AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY****West**

This course focuses on the theoretical foundations of the American Constitution, the Constitutional convention of 1787 and events leading up to it, the most significant and controversial constitutional issues that have arisen during the course of American history, the role of the Supreme Court and other branches of government in settling those issues, and the influence and importance of certain justices of the Supreme Court. Students will be required to do a great deal of reading, take two examinations, write two short research papers (one on a famous Supreme Court decision, the other on a famous Supreme Court justice), and share the results of their research with other members of the class. A combination of lectures, discussions, and videos/films will be used to present material in class. (Prerequisite: PLSC 220)

**PLSC 337: THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM****Ritter**

This course will examine and analyze the development, structure, function, and nature of the American legal system. In this course, we will also carefully study major issues within the American legal system, such as the prevalence of litigation in American life, efforts at reforming the legal system and the legal profession, and most basically, the interaction between the American legal and political systems. (Prerequisite: PLSC 220)

**PLSC 350: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY (1)****Kangas**

In contrast to the “macro” perspective of PLSC 250 (Introduction to International Relations), this course adopts a “micro” view and focuses on the sources and substance of U. S. foreign and defense policy. The first half of the semester concentrates on the policy process itself (including the “inputs” that affect the process), while the second half is concerned with the “outputs,” i.e., U. S. policy toward selected geographical and functional issue areas. Some analytic tools will be examined which will allow students to better understand and evaluate the complexities of foreign policy behavior. Besides the normal exams, there is likely to be some sort of policy project and some short written exercises. (Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or 250, or permission of instructor.)

**PLSC 357: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF EAST ASIA****Wang**

Interactions among the major powers in the Asia-Pacific region during and after the Cold War. Crucial country cases and thematic issues (with focus on identity, security, and economic interdependence) informed by perspectives from major international relations theories (e.g., realism, neo-realism, liberal-idealism, liberal institutionalism, Marxism, and constructivism). (Prerequisite: PLSC 240, or 250, or permission of instructor)

**PLSC 360: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY****Carapico**

This course focuses on the work of foreign aid agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank in developing nations, including projects designed to stimulate economic growth, improve social services, reduce poverty, stabilize the physical environment, or promote reform agendas. We will study development agencies, their programs, and their effects from a policy perspective, utilizing simulation games and professional assessment models. (Prerequisite: PLSC 250 or permission of the instructor)

**PLSC 362: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY****Eisen**

Examines legal aspects, both regulations and case law, of environmental policy. Central issues are whether legal responses (1) effectively address the needs of the parties most affected; (2) properly weigh such facts as economic efficiency, protection of nonhuman species, and the possibility of unintended consequences; and (3) are diluted by the political process. (Same as ENVR 362.) (Prerequisite: PLSC 260 or ENVR 201.)

**PLSC 374: METHODS FOR CROSS-NATIONAL RESEARCH (2)****Sznajder**

Core topics related to research methodology with a specific focus on issues and techniques in the collection, interpretation, comparison, and modeling of cross-national and cross-cultural data. (Prerequisite: PLSC 240 or 250 and MATH 119 or BUAD 301 or PSYC 200 with a grade of C- or better.)

**PLSC 379.01: CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY (1)****Palazzolo**

This course explores the interaction between the Congress and the Presidency. We review the structure and functions of each branch and study theories of presidential-congressional relations in terms of policy making, appointments, and political strategy. We will apply theories of presidential-congressional interaction to the relationship between President Obama and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Requirements will include readings, reaction papers, a research paper on the current administration and Congress, and a final exam. (Prerequisite: PLSC 220)

**PLSC 379.02: CRITICAL RACE THEORY: RACE, LAW & CULTURE (1)****Simpson**

Why has the discourse on race disintegrated into circular discussions about merit, privilege, and victimization? In the thirty-six years since Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, we have failed to solve problems of housing discrimination, police brutality, and poor inner-city schools. In this course, we will examine the work of a group of scholars who contend that we cannot solve these problems without a radical shift in the analytical framework. We

usually study race in the context of neutral political and legal systems. We sometimes analyze it in a "multicultural" context that dilutes issues of superiority and oppression. The authors we will read challenge concepts of neutrality, color-blindness, and multiculturalism. Part of the course will focus on the political-legal aspects of critical race theory, while other parts will address the intersection of race, class, and gender and the emerging scholarship on whiteness.

**PLSC 388: INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP (.5-1)**

**Wang**

Credit may be given for an academic program undertaken with faculty supervision in conjunction with part-time (paid or unpaid) employment. Prerequisites: a clear proposal, accepted by the faculty supervising the work; and permission of Department Chairperson.

**PLSC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (.5-1)**

**Wang**

Independent study is generally approved only when a qualified student has a project that lends itself to this particular form of research. Students interested in independent study should pick up a copy of the "Guidelines for Political Science 390 A, B, and C" from the Department Secretary. An "Independent Study Agreement Form" must be signed by the student and the faculty member agreeing to supervise the independent study. Prerequisite: Permission of Department Chairperson and supervising faculty member.

**PLSC 400: SENIOR SEMINAR (3).....Roof, Whelan, Mayes**

**For descriptions of each section, see next page**

**PLSC 491: HONORS: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND WRITING (1)**

**Palazzolo**

## **SENIOR SEMINARS FALL 2009**

### **PLSC 400.01: SENIOR SEMINAR: AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM IN POLITICS & POLICY (1) Roof**

Since its founding the U.S. has always been perceived as different and exceptional among other Western nations. Scholars of “American exceptionalism” have investigated distinctively American traits and institutions such as the cultural emphasis on both equalitarianism and individualism, the degree of ethnic diversity and regional divisions, the strength of the American economy and the weakness of Socialism, and America’s unique role on the world stage. This class uses the lens of American exceptionalism to explore the evolution of American political values, institutions, and policy. Particular emphasis will be given to: the development of the limited American welfare state; the unique operation of our political institutions with sections on the executive branch, Congress, the courts, the states and the electoral process; and the development of an American foreign policy that puts the U.S. increasingly out of step with its longstanding allies.

### **PLSC 400.02: SENIOR SEMINAR: AMERICAN GOVERNOR (1)**

**Whelan**

The seminar will examine the current role of the American Governor in state and national politics. Three of the last five presidents have been governors, reflecting the enhanced role of the modern governor. Specifically, we will analyze how gubernatorial aspirants seek and win the office, the leadership opportunities and constraints they face while serving as governor and the options that are available to them on leaving office. Furthermore, governors are usually the most important figures in their state governments, thus affording a window on the current status of state governments in our federal arrangements. Since the seminar is being offered during the 2009 Virginia gubernatorial election, the Virginia case will be used to illustrate the making of a governor. Also, the race is attracting national attention as it poses an early test of the post-2008 political waters. While Virginia provides some case material, it should be noted that the course adopts a comparative state government approach, ranging beyond Virginia.

### **PLSC 400.03: SENIOR SEMINAR: CHILDREN’S HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE POLICY (1)**

**Mayes**

From changes in juvenile justice to compulsory education, immunization and child labor laws, Head Start, SCHIP (the States’ Children Health Insurance Program), No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and an array of other programs and policies, children have become both a top political priority and, arguably, a national obsession. Consequently, 'childhood' has become one of the most researched areas of medicine, public health and the social sciences. This senior seminar examines the extraordinary evolution of public policies intended to safeguard children's health, educational opportunities, and general welfare in America; it also endeavors to judge their effectiveness. The course is ultimately designed to generate lively discussions of key childhood issues (education, family life, parenting, health care, etc.), discover new insights and questions related to children, and to encourage you to apply theory to public policy.

## **SENIOR SEMINARS SPRING 2010**

### **PLSC 400.01: PUBLIC HAZARD, PERSONAL PERIL: THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTIC MOVEMENT**

**Simpson**

Students will examine the environmental justice movement through multiple disciplinary lenses. Led primarily by working-class women of color in urban environments, this movement seeks policy redress for unjust distribution of toxic waste sites and industries with toxic emissions. Civic engagement and contemporary political activism has a new face—activists must compete for media exposure and negotiate political and economic interests. This is especially difficult for women who occupy the space where minority, working-class, and gender status meet. The urban context, along with the characteristics of the grassroots leadership challenges traditional social movement theory. The rise in prominence and power of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the anti-globalization, environmentalism, and environmental justice movements adds a new wrinkle to the process by which we build and sustain movements. This course explores how grassroots activism, the junction of race, class, and gender, the politics of place, economic incentives, and the involvement of NGOs affect the relative success of such movements.

**PLSC 400.02: CONFLICT PROCESS****Long**

This course examines the causes and patterns of international conflict. Rather than covering specific conflicts in depth, the course takes a theoretical, analytical approach to international conflict. Topics will include the formation of interstate rivalries, the effects of treaties and international institutions, the factors affecting war outcomes, and other related research. In this course, students will learn how to view empirical evidence as capable of supporting or falsifying hypotheses about the way the world may work, and will be encouraged to think of new evidence as useful regardless of its effect on their existing ideas. Students will also learn how to compare the utility of specific theories in understanding the causes and patterns of international conflict, and will assess the value of classic and recent qualitative and quantitative research on international conflict. Because much of the recent research on the causes of war uses statistical methods, it is expected that students have taken the research methods course in Political Science or an equivalent course in Statistics or another social science.

**PLSC400.03: THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF ANTI-AMERICANISM****Datta**

This seminar investigates the nature and origins of anti-American sentiment and its consequences for the United States and other actors in the international system. Through reading and discussing recently published books and articles from scholarly and popular journals, students will identify and critique the major debates on how, and to what extent, world public opinion (i.e., anti-Americanism) develops and matters. The goals of this course are to challenge students to think critically about global perceptions of the United States, learn to empirically measure anti-Americanism, and to evaluate how political elites and the mass public outside the United States perceive and react to the U.S. national interest over time. In addition to a major research paper (25-30 pages), each student will be required to write a short policy paper on improving the U.S. image abroad in light of current U.S. foreign policy objectives.