INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

2019-2020

Please read carefully before meeting with your advisor.

Meeting with New and Current Political Science Majors – If possible, please attend this meeting on Thursday, March 21, at 4:00 p.m. in the Whitehurst Living Room. Faculty will be available to answer questions.

Advising – Begin by making an appointment with your major advisor. Advising begins Monday, March 25. Your advisor will indicate on BannerWeb that you are eligible to register AFTER you have met with him/her; without this notice, you will not be able to register for classes online. Registration begins Monday, April 1. The registration rotation is available at http://registrar.richmond.edu/registration/undergraduate/rotation.html.

Major Requirements – Ten units in Political Science, at least six 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 specific requirements 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 - Classical Political Thought
  - PLSC 312 - Modern Political Theory
  - PLSC 315 - American Political Theory
- PLSC 270 – Social Science Inquiry
- PLSC 400 - Senior Seminar
- Four elective units at the 300 level

Political Science 388 (Individual Internship) and 390 (Independent Study) – These courses require departmental approval. The student and academic supervisor must fill out a contract form (available at the department office or http://polisci.richmond.edu/research/index.html or http://polisci.richmond.edu/internships/index.html) before the end of Friday of the first week of the semester so that the department can grant the approval the student needs for registration in these classes.

Political Science 400 (Senior Seminar) – Five sections will be available, two in the fall and three in the spring. Registration in a senior seminar requires departmental approval. Students should sign up by listing their top two preferences with Marielle Jones, Administrative Coordinator for Political Science, who will authorize registration. ALL SENIORS MUST SIGN UP FOR A SEMINAR.
**Summer School** – See [http://spcs.richmond.edu/summer/school/schedule.html](http://spcs.richmond.edu/summer/school/schedule.html) for more details.

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<td>PLSC 365</td>
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**Honors Program** – See [http://polisci.richmond.edu/major-minor/honors.html](http://polisci.richmond.edu/major-minor/honors.html) for more details.

**Post-graduate Opportunities** - Dr. Richard Dagger 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. Stephen Simon.

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

- A minimum of five units in political science taken at UR, at least two of which must be at or above the 300 level, by the end of the spring semester of the junior year
- Overall GPA of 3.3 or better and a political science GPA of at least 3.5
- Must be a junior or senior
FALL 2019 COURSES

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  Sparacino
This course introduces students to the structure and functions 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. The course is required of political science majors. (PLSC 220 is a prerequisite for 300-level American government courses.)

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS  Chen, Sznajder Lee
The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the analytical tools needed to study domestic politics cross-nationally, as well as acquaint them with the political arrangements of various regions of the world. In particular, this course will introduce you to three topics: (1) the major themes of comparative politics (e.g., the origins of the modern state, social movements, and democratization); (2) the major concepts used in comparative politics, and (3) the methodologies political scientists use to evaluate rival theories. By comparing how political systems develop and function in different countries, we will theorize about the historical development and future trajectories of domestic politics in the various parts of the world. (PLSC 240 is a prerequisite for some 300-level courses in comparative politics.) FSSA

PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  Datta, Long
This course assists 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 that pose problems for world order. (PLSC 250 is a prerequisite for 300-level international relations courses.) FSSA

PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY  Erkulwater
This course introduces students to some of America’s pressing domestic problems (such as the federal deficit, crime, poverty, and health care), government policies and proposals 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 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY  McGowen
This course introduces students to the process of inquiry and research in the social sciences. Students will learn how to form research questions and hypotheses, prepare literature reviews, design research studies, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data. (Required of all Political Science majors.)

PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL  Patterson, Ritter
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.

**PLSC 311: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT**
Cherry
Examines enduring basic issues in political theory studied through the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and other thinkers from ancient Greece through the Renaissance. (Fulfills the major requirement for political theory.)

**PLSC 327: THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY**
Sparacino
Political leadership in American political system from perspective of chief executive. Particular attention to expansion and use of presidential power. Prerequisite: PLSC 220

**PLSC 333: CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIL LIBERTIES**
Bowie
Analysis of contemporary legal status and interpretation of constitutional rights and liberties. Emphasis on landmark Supreme Court decisions involving various provisions of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or PLSC 260 or permission of instructor.

**PLSC 343: POLITICS OF ASIA**
Chen
Study of historical, cultural, and social forces shaping contemporary politics of Asia. Comparative survey of major political systems and critical examination of key issues. Attempts to link Asian studies with mainstream political science. Prerequisite: PLSC 240

**PLSC 344: EUROPE TODAY**
Sznajder Lee
An examination of political, social, and economic developments in Europe (both western and east-central) since World War II. Topics include European integration and the development of the European Union institutions, postcommunist transitions and their consequences, and the domestic politics of selected European states. Prerequisite: PLSC 240 or permission of instructor.

**PLSC 351: GLOBALIZATION**
Pribble
Analysis of the political, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of globalization. The course considers how globalization has affected the nation-state, interstate relations, and the democratization and development of countries around the world. Students will evaluate different definitions of globalization; analyze the extent to which globalization limits the autonomy of national governments; and consider whether the effects of globalization vary across different regions of the world. Prerequisite: PLSC 240 or 250 or Global Studies 210

**PLSC 353: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**
Long
Investigates international issues that threaten the security and prosperity of societies and individuals in the modern world. Issues include global terrorism, human slavery and trafficking, genocide, civil wars and insurgencies, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Prerequisites: PLSC 250 or Military Science 205.

**PLSC 379: THE BLACK RADICAL TRADITION**
Walker
“What happened to the politics of liberation?” First raised in the waning years of the Pan-Africanist/Marxist-Leninist-Maoist phase of the modern black freedom movement in the United States, this question orientates this seminar that will explore the contours of insurgent forms of Africana social and political thought. With a temporal focus on the twentieth century, we will concern ourselves with explicating the dominant themes, theoretical orientations, and methodological understandings that in/form the construction and articulation of black radical thought. Our discussions will include considerations of feminism, nationalism, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, and Pan-Africanism and will range across traditional
disciplinary configurations. We will pay acute attention to the thought of such figures as Toni Cade Bambara, Amiri Baraka, Amilcar Cabral, Angela Davis, Cheikh Anta Diop, W.E.B. Du Bois, Frantz Fanon, James Forman, C.L.R. James, Claudia Jones, Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Walter Rodney, Assata Shakur, Barbara Smith, and Malcolm X. Seminar readings will consist of both germinal texts in black radical thought as well as contemporary interrogations of black radical thinkers and texts.

PLSC 379: SPECIAL TOPICS: THE LIMITS OF POWER IN DEMOCRACY  Ruscio
A premise of American democracy is that political power is constrained, and therefore leaders who exercise political power must be held accountable. It is a defining feature of our political system that has led to complex institutional structures and other elaborate mechanisms to achieve accountability. The very structure of our constitutional system arises from this central premise, but also legislatively enacted provisions flow from it. Those include, as examples, the War Powers Act, the Inspector General Act, and the establishment of the Government Accountability Office. There is also the ultimate question of impeachment. What are the connections between theory and practice? Underlying this approach is a fundamental leadership dilemma: what qualities must leaders have to be effective in a complex system of constrained formal powers?

PLSC 388: INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP (.5-1)  Dagger
Students may receive credit 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 member supervising the work, and permission of Department Chairperson.

PLSC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (.5-1)  Dagger
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 Administrative Coordinator. An "Independent Study Agreement Form" must be signed by the student and the faculty member who agrees to supervise the independent study. Prerequisite: Permission of Department Chairperson and supervising faculty member.
SENIOR SEMINARS FALL 2019

PLSC 400-01: REPUBLICANISM
Dagger
The focus of this seminar is on the republican tradition in political theory, an ancient way of thinking about politics that has played an important part in the history of political thought and has experienced a notable revival in recent decades. Readings will range from the classical writers of ancient Greece and Rome to contemporary “neo-republican” authors, such as Philip Pettit and Robert Taylor, and their critics. The major research paper for the course will concentrate on some aspect of republicanism, either historical or contemporary, or on the implications of republicanism for some problem in political theory or public policy today.

PLSC 400-02: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR
McGowen
This senior seminar will build upon your previous substantive and methodological coursework and culminate in the execution of an original quantitative empirical data analysis project using a public opinion survey of your choice. At the end of the course, students will have completed an academic research paper, including original literature review, research design, and data analysis, complete with graphical and tabular presentation. In addition, students will learn how to use the R statistical package (coveted by many prospective employers) and conduct research employing advanced statistical techniques common in the field. Readings will give a broad survey of the methods and canonical questions so students can produce a project that will advance our body of knowledge. Emphasis will be on political behavior in American politics; however, the exact subject matter or particular quantitative survey for analysis will be open to the student. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 270 and permission of instructor.
SPRING 2020 COURSES (Tentative)

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT                Sparacino
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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 312: MODERN POLITICAL THEORY  
Dagger
Explores the ideas of major political philosophers of the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Edmund Burke, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Marx, and J. S. Mill. (Fulfils the major requirement for political theory.)

PLSC 315: AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY  
Cherry
Political thought in America from colonial times to present with an emphasis on issues relating to liberty, equality, federalism, community, and national purpose. (Fulfils the requirement for a political theory course.)

PLSC 327: THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY  
Sparacino
Political leadership in American political system from perspective of chief executive. Particular attention to expansion and use of presidential power. Prerequisite: 220 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 329: CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS  
McGowen
Analysis of institutions and process of American electoral system and behavior of American electorate. Prerequisite: 220 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 337: AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM  
Bowie
Analysis of structure, processes, and personnel of American legal system. Emphasis on decision making of private parties, judges, juries, and attorneys in context of civil litigation and criminal prosecution. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 OR 260 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 347: POLITICS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS  
Kandeh
Comparative analysis of political, social, and economic development or modernization of nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Topics include influence of ideology, revolution and reform, national integration, neo-imperialism and dependency, and economic growth and equality. Prerequisites: PLSC 240 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 349: POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN  
Pribble
Influences of historical, social, and cultural forces on contemporary politics of Latin America and the Caribbean. Effects of social structure and underdevelopment on processes of democratization, institution building, national integration, and economic development. Case studies of selected countries illustrate major themes and issues explored. Prerequisite: PLSC 240 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 350: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY  
Long
Analyzes the traditions, processes, substance, and goals of American foreign policy, in addition to exploring national security and defense policy, foreign economic policy, international diplomacy, and foreign policy ethics. Prerequisites: PLSC 220 or 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 355: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST  
Carapico
The international relations of southwest Asia and northeast Africa with an emphasis on issues related to war, peace, and power, including the role of European empires and the United States in the formation of the regional nation-state system; contemporary conflicts in the Persian Gulf and Israeli-Arab arenas; the political economy of oil; terrorist attacks and counter-terror strategies; and American foreign policy toward the region. Prerequisite: PLSC 250.
PLSC 365: U.S. HEALTHCARE POLICY & POLITICS   Staff
Examination of political and economic evolution of the American healthcare system: doctors, hospitals, managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, health insurance, public health, epidemiology, mental health, pediatric health, tort reform, and psychopharmacology, among other topics. Includes comparative analysis of other countries' healthcare systems.

PLSC 379: SPECIAL TOPICS – GENDER, POLITICS, AND PRISONS   Simpson
Women’s incarceration has doubled the pace of men’s incarceration in recent decades. More women are in local jails than men. State prisons for women have fewer rehabilitative programs than prisons for men. One state, Oklahoma, imprisons more women than any other state. What is causing this increase in the incarceration of women? Why do women have fewer opportunities than men to learn and develop skills? These are the questions driving our inquiry. We will visit at least one women’s prison during the semester as well as explore the theory, history, and policies that inform how gender shapes and limits rehabilitation in jails and prisons. This course will be taught at UR downtown.

PLSC 388: INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP (.5-1)   Dagger
Students may receive credit 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 member supervising the work, and permission of Department Chairperson.

PLSC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (.5-1)   Dagger
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 Administrative Coordinator. An "Independent Study Agreement Form" must be signed by the student and the faculty member who agrees to supervise the independent study. Prerequisite: Permission of Department Chairperson and supervising faculty member.

PLSC 395: LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP   Palazzolo
Combines weekly seminar on the state legislative process with work as assistant to a state legislator, government agency, interest group, or press during session of the Virginia General Assembly. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 and permission of instructor.

SENIOR SEMINARS SPRING 2020

PLSC 400-01: NOTORIOUS RBG: GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND THE COURTS   Bowie
“I ask no favor for my sex; all I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks.” ~ Sarah Grimké
Throughout her legal career the above quote has been a personal mantra for Ruth Bader Ginsburg and it has shaped her approach to taking on the issue of gender discrimination in the law via the courts. This course will analyze gender discrimination and the courts through the lens of Ruth Bader Ginsburg from her role as a litigator, through her decisions as a judge on the U.S. Courts of Appeals, and her judicial rulings on the U.S. Supreme Court. For example, how do judges make decisions in gender discrimination
cases? Are their decisions based on the law, politics and ideology, gender, external influences (reversal, congressional, executive, and public opinion constraints), or a combination of all? How does gender influence the nomination and confirmation process – do senators treat female nominees differently than males, and if so, how and why? Does gender play a role in litigant and attorney success at the courts? These questions, among others, will be the focus of this course. We will predominantly approach this course from a social science perspective, but there will be some constitutional law incorporated into the course. Specifically, we will focus on theory development, research design, and interpretation of the empirical findings. One of the major components of the seminar will be learning how to conduct social science research on law and courts and students will be required to complete a thesis on the course topic. The pre-requisite for the course is PLSC 270, and while not required, it’s recommended that students have taken either PLSC 331, 333, or 337.

PLSC 400-02: MEDIA POLITICS RECONSIDERED        Chen
Recent political developments have revealed how media influence in politics evades conventional understanding. With a crisis of media credibility looming in democracies and the sophistication of media control growing in autocracies, the need is imminent for a reconsidered media role in politics, one that transcends the idealized notion of the Fourth Estate and the banal impression of manipulating the public mind. The optics of political theater feature prominently in not only earning popularity but also governing. Across democracies and autocracies, the unexpected ways in which the media shape politics and governance provide opportunities to reimagine fruitful theoretical frameworks that better grasp media politics. This seminar is designed to guide students in absorbing existing insights and employing them to reconsider how politics relates to the media and vice versa. Students are expected to write a research paper that critically evaluates existing theories, makes rigorous observations, and draws conclusions that inform us on the similar, diverging, and evolving themes regulating the patterns of media politics in countries across the democratic spectrum. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220, 270 and permission of department.

PLSC 400-03: HUMAN RIGHTS        Datta
What are human rights? To what extent are they universal versus cultural? Should the international community have the responsibility to protect (R2P) others in times of crisis like famine, natural disasters, and genocide? What about displaced populations like refugees? Are women’s rights really human rights? How can we evolve into a global community that respects LGBTQ rights and the rights of marginalized groups? Should the West lead the global human rights agenda or back off? In this class, we will ask some of the most pressing questions in human rights today and move quickly toward original research. The course will proceed as follows. Weeks 1 to 3 will ask the big questions in human rights, introduce some of the core theoretical and policy debates, and prompt discussion. Students will be expected to pick a question about human rights about which they are passionate and stick with that research question for the remainder of the semester. (If the student does not have a research question, I will provide one.) Weeks 4 to 6 will explore how to write a review of the scholarly literature in detail. Students will hand-in a draft literature review which will make up part of the course grade. Weeks 7 to 9 will devote time to research methods including qualitative and qualitative analysis. Students will be expected to find a data source and explore that data to answer their research question. Weeks 10 to 12 will be about writing up summary results. The final weeks of the semester will be devoted to student research presentations and revising the final paper. My goal is to help write a paper that you could publish in an undergraduate research journal. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220, 270, and permission of instructor.