

**INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS
2018-2019**

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 22, at 12:30 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 26. 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 2.** 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) – Four sections will be available, two in the fall and two 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> for more details

PLSC 220	Intro to American Government	Dr. Ted Ritter	2 sections (1 online)
PLSC 250	Intro to International Relations	Dr. Stephen Long	1 section (online)
		Dr. Jimmy Kandeh	1 section
PLSC 348	Politics of Africa	Dr. Jimmy Kandeh	1 section
PLSC 350	American Foreign Policy	Dr. Stephen Long	1 section (online)
PLSC 365	US Healthcare Policy + Politics	Dr. Tracy Roof	1 section (online)

Honors Program – See <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 2018 COURSES

Note: For the exact times and locations of classes, see the Schedule of Classes for the Fall Semester 2018.

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT **Staff**

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 **Reda, 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 **Long, Reda**

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**Roof**

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**Datta**

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 279: SPECIAL TOPICS – THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (a.k.a. The Great Ideas that Shape the World)**Legro**

This course is a romp through the great ideas that explain the world we live in. It addresses such issues as war, globalization, international law, terrorism, imperialism, crisis management, grand strategy, psychotic leaders, and more. Although "theory" is sometimes seen as dull, intimidating, irrelevant, or all the above, this course will be engaging, accessible, and essential for how to think about and manage international politics. Theories are important because they define how we see the world and respond to it. In short, theories drive action. Each of the approaches comes with a particular set of answers as to why people and states deal with one another as they do. As citizens and future world leaders, your votes and policies will be driven by the particular ideas you believe are right and appropriate. The question is, are they? Developing an understanding of how different theories explain international politics and which are most persuasive is thus the central substantive aim of the course.

PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL**Ritter, Patterson**

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: 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 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. (Fulfills the major requirement for political theory.)

PLSC 323: MONEY, POLITICS, AND PRISONS**Simpson**

The connections between the economy, politics, and the prison system in the United States are important for understanding concepts of justice in a democracy. Explores links between privatization of prisons, political incentives, and theories of justice. Prerequisite: PLSC 220.

PLSC 325: RACIAL POLITICS**Simpson**

Comparative examination of the history, problems, and political role of minority groups in the U.S., with a concentration on the African-American political experience. Prerequisite: PLSC 220.

PLSC 331: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**Staff**

Role of the United States Supreme Court in American politics studied through examination of landmark constitutional decisions pertaining to the distribution of governmental powers. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 220 or 260 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 346: POLITICS OF CULTURAL PLURALISM**Kandeh**

Comparative examination of politicization of race, ethnicity, religion, and caste in contemporary world. Prerequisites: PLSC 220, 240, or 250 or IS 290 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 348: POLITICS OF AFRICA**Kandeh**

Comparative study of state formation, nation-building, political economy, social structure/movements, selected regions and countries in Africa. Prerequisite(s): PLSC 240 or 250, 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 International 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 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 356: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**Joireman**

Politics, processes, and institutions underlying contemporary global economic interdependence, with special focus on international trade, finance, and assistance; alternative theoretical models for understanding these events, processes, and institutions. Prerequisite: PLSC 250 or permission of instructor.

PLSC 361: POLITICS OF SOCIAL WELFARE**Erkulwater**

Study of the development and effectiveness of programs in the United States that seek to promote economic equality and alleviate need. A focus on programs for both the poor and the middle class. Fall 2018 topics will include rural poverty, student loan policy, and middle-class insecurity. Prerequisite: PLSC 220 or 260 or SOC 101, or permission of instructor.

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 2018

PLSC 400-01: AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

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 egalitarianism 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 and the unique operation of our political institutions. Students are expected to write a senior thesis in the area of American public policy, values, or political institutions with the option of including comparative analysis with other comparable countries. It is helpful to have completed some coursework in American government or policy.

PLSC 400-02: THE EVOLUTION OF EAST-WEST DIVIDE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Sznajder Lee

After the historic enlargement of the European Union (EU) in 2004 to encompass the formerly communist states of east central Europe, numerous observers had high hopes for bridging the persistent political, economic and social divide between the eastern and western parts of Europe. Yet, despite economic gains from EU membership, the divide persists. In the nearly fifteen years that have followed, the countries that formerly were the most effective reformers began treading a populist path that increasingly put them at odds with EU leadership and may ultimately undermine the European integration project. These developments raise questions about the nature and extent of the divide between east and west, as well as between north and south, in the EU. The purpose of this seminar is to examine the regional diversity in the EU, and specifically, its political and economic implications. The course covers a variety of topics intended to attract students with a broad range of interests in political science. Topics include:

- Examination of the EU enlargement process
- Democratization and democratic backsliding
- Party politics and the rise of populism
- Post-communist economic reform, economic development, varieties of capitalism, and foreign direct investment
- Regional development
- Good governance, organized crime, and state reform
- Social policy and social inequality
- Civil society and organized labor

SPRING 2019 COURSES (Tentative)

PLSC 220: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Staff

See Fall 2018 description.

PLSC 240: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Sznajder Lee, Reda

See Fall 2018 description.

PLSC 250: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Long, Reda

See Fall 2018 description.

PLSC 260: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

Erkulwater

See Fall 2018 description.

PLSC 270: SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY

McGowen

See Fall 2018 description.

PLSC 290: MOCK TRIAL

Ritter, Patterson

See Fall 2018 description.

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 333: CIVIL RIGHTS/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.

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 341: HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS

Joireman

Addresses the changing international legal framework regarding humanitarian interventions. Surveys the literature addressing the effectiveness of external interventions. Discussion of the justifications and consequences of intervention. Application to contemporary conflicts. Reviews changing ideas of sovereignty and the ramifications of state decisions to intervene in the internal affairs of other states. Prerequisite: PLSC 240 or 250 or GS 290.

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, post-communist transitions and their consequences, and the domestic politics of selected European states. Prerequisites: PLSC 240 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 359: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**Datta**

Analyzes themes and selected topics in global governance. The course explores how state and nonstate actors work together to confront and solve contemporary transnational challenges. Prerequisite: PLSC 250.

PLSC 365: U.S. HEALTHCARE POLICY AND POLITICS**Roof**

This class will focus on the politics of health care policy and reform and the factors that have made it such a controversial arena of public policy. It will look at the history of efforts to reform the American health care system with particular focus on reforms to achieve universal health insurance coverage, including the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), better known as Obamacare, and the proposals for replacing or modifying it. It will look at the major policy challenges in the health care system including expanding coverage, controlling costs, and improving quality, and it will explore many of the proposed solutions.

**PLSC 379: SELECTED TOPICS – BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME -- Erkulwater/French
(section 01 – cross-listed with Anthropology 379)**

Current anthropological work focuses on the way human rights concepts and institutions are mobilized in particular political struggles in various parts of the world. In this course, we apply this framework to analyzing the politics of selected public policies in the United States. Through our case studies, we will consider questions such as: In whose interests are human rights deployed, why, and under what circumstances? Is the concept of human rights about freedom, and if so, what kind of freedom? Is capitalism or liberal democracy essential or inimical to human rights? Possible case studies for spring 2019 include: deinstitutionalization and disability rights, mass incarceration, labor and immigration policy, and gun control policy.

PLSC 379: SPECIAL TOPICS – RACE, MEDIA, AND POLITICS **McGowen**
(section 02)

The rules and norms of the news media have large effects on society, and their presentation of race is a perfect example. This course will explore the nature and construction of race, the media establishment and its role in politics, and how the two are related. There will be special attention paid to the influence of media on the creation and perpetuation of racial stereotypes and the effects of racialized media images on political processes.

PLSC 379: SELECTED TOPICS – RUSSIA IN THE AGE OF PUTIN **Merritt**
(section 03)

PLSC 379: SELECTED TOPICS – CRITICAL RACE THEORY **Simpson**
(section 04)

PLSC 388: INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP (.5-1) **Dagger**
(See Fall 2018 description.)

PLSC 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (.5-1) **Dagger**
(See Fall 2018 description.)

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 2019

PLSC 400-01: THE MISCHIEFS OF FACTION **Cherry**

In Federalist 10, James Madison, writing as Publius, suggests that the chief advantage of the proposed Constitution is “its tendency to break and control the violence of faction.” However, as current events and contemporary political science show, America is quite capable of suffering from heated political divisions. In this course, we will study a variety of political theorists who have sought to understand the problem of faction and proposed solutions to ameliorate it. Potential thinkers to be studied, and written about for the senior thesis, include Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Hume, and Madison.

PLSC 400-02: UNDERSTANDING WAR **Long**

This is an advanced seminar course examining the causes and patterns of international conflict. Rather than covering specific conflicts in depth, we will take a theoretical, analytical approach to international conflict. In so doing, we will discuss empirical evidence supporting various theories from the international relations literature about why wars break out, why some are more severe than others, why some spread while others remain localized, and what tools are most effective at preventing war. This course presupposes knowledge on international relations on at least the level of PLSC 250, and preferably on the 300 level. It also presupposes that you have taken the Political Science methods course (PLSC 270), as most of the assigned readings will include some form of quantitative analysis.