POLS 507: Research Design & Data Collection

Micheal Giles, Monday 9:00am – 12:00pm, MAX 12

Content: This course is designed specifically for students in their first year of the Ph.D. program. It provides an introduction to the discipline, the philosophy of science and research design.

Texts: No texts ordered.

POLS 508: Data Analysis

Miguel Rueda, Friday 10:00am – 1:00pm, MAX: 12

Content: This course provides a rigorous introduction to the mathematical tools and concepts that are needed to conduct quantitative and formal theoretical research in political science. The course starts by covering basic concepts of analysis in the real line and multivariate calculus. The second part of the course focuses on linear and matrix algebra, and the last gives an introduction to probability theory. Familiarity with these topics is essential for students who wish to become empirical researchers or formal modelers. Because of this, this course is a prerequisite for all other coursework in methods and formal theory. Knowledge of elementary algebra, equation solving, and graphs is expected.

Texts: No texts required.

POLS 510: World Politics

Dan Reiter, Tuesday 8:30am – 11:30pm, MAX: 12

Content: This is the introductory course to international relations for political science graduate students. The emphasis is theoretical, covering issues such as international conflict, decision-making, trade, and system structure. The class uses a discussion format.

Particulars: One exam; several short papers. All students other than political science graduate students must receive permission from the instructor.

Texts:
Basic Books.


**POLS 514: Advanced Game Theory**

Pablo Montagnes, Thursday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 12

*Content:* This course is the second in the formal theory sequence offered in the political science department. The class builds on the skills learned in the Introduction of Game Theory class by applying the solution concepts learned in the introductory course to more complicated games. The course will address many topics, including (but not limited to): bargaining, principal-agent relationships, and global games.

*Particulars:* Each student will be responsible for completing a problem set every other week that reinforces the techniques learned in class. There will also be a midterm and a final exam.

*Texts:*  

**POLS 520: Comparative Politics and Government**

Jennifer Gandhi, Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 12

*Content:* This course is an introduction to important concepts, themes, and approaches in the comparative study of politics. The course is organized thematically with two goals in mind: first, to enable students to understand the intellectual trajectory of the study of these topics and second, to expose them to research frontiers in these areas. The expectation is that students will complete the course not only with a better understanding of the comparative subfield as a whole, but also with their own ideas for further research.

*Texts:* To be announced.
**POLS 570: Limited Dependent Variable Models**

Adam Glynn, Monday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 12

**Content:** This course presents an overview of the likelihood theory of statistical inference, and its wide range of uses in applied quantitative political science. When dependent variables take the form of ordered or unordered categories, event counts, are censored or truncated, clustered, or otherwise violate the traditional assumptions of the linear regression model, models estimated by maximum likelihood provide an essential alternative. Topics covered include binary, multinomial, and ordered logit/probit, Poisson regression, Tobit regression, and mixture models. We will rely heavily on computational methods of analysis using the R statistical computing environment, and instruction on how to use R for applied research will be provided throughout the length of the course.

**Texts:**

---

**POLS 585-00P: Variable Topics Seminar**
**Topic/Title:** Authoritarian Institutions

Jennifer Gandhi, Tuesday 1:00 - 4:00pm, MAX: 12

**Content:** This course provides an overview of topics related to politics in authoritarian regimes. We examine the dilemmas that autocratic leaders face in maintaining power as well as the challenges and opportunities that emerge for elite and mass opponents. We also discuss the challenges of doing research on phenomena characterized by high degrees of opacity.

**Texts:** No texts ordered.

---

**POLS 585-01P: Variable Topics Seminar**
**Topic/Title:** Political Monitoring

Tom Lancaster, Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 – 2:15pm, MAX: 12

**Contents:** The term “monitoring” is frequently used in the social sciences. As a political concept, however, it is not fully investigated—especially its impact on political behavior and effective governance. This upper-division seminar will systematically study monitoring in political affairs, with an emphasis on comparative politics and international affairs. First, monitoring as a concept will be defined, especially in relation to other important concepts such as accountability. Second, we will question how monitoring is utilized in other disciplines such as psychology and economics. Third, seminar participants will ask “What is effective monitoring?” Fourth, students will investigate the importance of monitoring
in democratic theory and ask empirically-driven questions such as “How do people monitor their governments?” Finally, explanatory factors such as transparency on effective monitoring in political affairs will be identified. Given the course’s seminar format, students will bring to class for discussion specific examples of political monitoring.

**Texts:**


**POLS 585-02P: Variable Topics Seminar**  
**Topic/Title: Electoral Politics**

Miguel Rueda, Friday 2:00 – 5:00pm, MAX: 12

**Content:** This graduate seminar will survey recent theoretical and empirical work on electoral politics. We begin by examining models that study the role of elections as accountability and information-aggregation mechanisms. We then take a look at empirical applications to these ideas in the context of industrialized democracies. The last part of the course explores electoral competition in developing democracies. We will focus on electoral manipulation and on how such manipulation interferes with the accountability-enhancing role of elections. Prerequisites: Regression Analysis (POLS 509) and Introductory Game Theory (POLS 513).

**Texts:** No textbooks required for this course.

**POLS 585-03P: Variable Topics Seminar**  
**Topic/Title: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Human Rights**

David Davis, Edward Queen, Dabney Evans, Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 12

**Note:** This course is also being taught as Global Health 526

**Content:** This graduate seminar, open to students from the Graduate School, the Law School, and the School of Public Health, examines the theory and practice of global human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective. In addition to issues of the history, origins and legitimacy of universal human rights, the seminar will discuss standards, institutions and processes of implementation. The seminar will also examine human rights across a variety of substantive issues areas, including: conflict; development; globalization; social welfare; public health; and rights of women and other vulnerable groups.

**Particulars:** Evaluation will be based on seminar participation, a series of short thought papers and major research paper. Students will also make brief presentations of their final papers.
POLS 585-04P: Variable Topics Seminar
Topic/Title: Democratic Theory

Ben Hertzberg, Monday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 12

Content: This course offers a comprehensive survey of normative and theoretical approaches to democracy. We will examine the moral and philosophical questions democracy raises as a political regime and institution, investigating the best definition of democracy, the question of its moral justification, and particular difficulties to which it is subject today. Readings come from historical texts and ongoing contemporary philosophical debates.

Texts:
John Dewey, *The Public and Its Problems*
ISBN: 9780804002547
University of Chicago Press

Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*
ISBN: 9780300049381
Yale University Press

ISBN 9780872200685
Hackett Publishing Co.

POLS 585-05P: Variable Topics Seminar
Topic/Title: Bureaucracy

Alex Bolton, Wednesday 9:00 – 12:00pm, MAX: 12

Content: This course examines bureaucratic politics and policymaking in a variety of contexts. Three questions will dominate the course: (1) What drives the development of the administrative state and state capacity?; (2) Why and when do we delegate to bureaucratic agencies?; and (3) To whom is agency policymaking responsive (if anyone)? Topics to be covered include the development of the administrative state and state capacity; the political and economic causes and consequences of state capacity; political control over the bureaucracy as well as the development and exercise of bureaucratic autonomy and its impact on policy outcomes; rationales for delegation to bureaucratic actors; interest group influence and regulatory capture; measuring characterizing bureaucratic preferences; organizational approaches to understanding bureaucratic decision-making; and the politics of privatization. The primary focus of the course will be on the United States, but we will also engage with
significant work from other contexts on each of these topics. Students will be encouraged to apply the tools of institutional analysis to topics of interest to them within the field of bureaucratic politics.

Texts: None ordered.

**POLS 585-06P: Variable Topics Seminar**

**Topic/Title:** The Frankfurt School and its Contemporary Critics

Ralph Buchenhorst, Date/Time: TBA

Crosslisted with Philosophy 554

**Content:** The seminar aims at analyzing and discussing the main characteristics of the so called *Critical Theory*, an approach to modern social constellations first institutionalized with the foundation of the *Institute for Social Research* in Frankfurt and continuing its academic and intellectual activities into its third generation. Additionally, the course attempts to follow both the historical and the contemporary reception of the philosophical, sociological and aesthetic implementations of the *Frankfurt School*. Some of the central texts of its authors will be read and contextualized by confronting them with some of their most pronounced critics. The course consists of four blocks, following the chronological order of the theories historical development: first block: the pre-war period, second block: the post-war period and the second generation, third block: contemporary critical theory, forth block: critical reception of the Frankfurt School.