Spring 2016 Grad Course Atlas

POLS 500: Political Theory
Ben Hertzberg, Monday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 8

Content: This course will provide graduate students (and qualified undergraduates) with in-depth introductions to historical texts and contemporary theoretical debate around two or more of the following topics: democracy and political representation, identity and politics (gender/ethnicity/race), jurisprudence and legal theory, or war, peace, and civil conflict. Specific selection of topics will depend on student interest.

Required Texts: TBD

POLS 509: Linear Model
Zac Peskowitz, Thursday 8:30am – 11:30am, MAX: 12

Content: Political Science 509 is an introduction to probability and statistics for Political Science PhD students. In the first half of the course we will cover the foundations of probability theory, properties of random variables, asymptotic approximations, methods for developing and evaluating statistical estimators, and hypothesis testing. The second half of the course will develop the linear regression model with a focus on its assumptions, statistical properties, inference, and diagnostics. An additional goal of the course is to improve students' statistical computing skills through in-class exercises and problem sets.

Texts:

POLS 510: World Politics

Dan Reiter, Monday 9:00am – 12:00pm, 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.

W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Columbia University Press.

POLS 513: Intro to Game Theory

Cliff Carrubba, Tuesday 8:30 – 11:30am, MAX: 12

Content: Introduction to game theory. The focus of the class will be on the basic tools and solution concepts of game theory. We will also consider the usefulness of formal theory and its appropriate/inappropriate application.

Particulars: Exams—Midterm and final exams
Grading—Midterm exam-30%; Final exam-40%; Problem sets-30%
**POLS 515: Applied Game Theory**

Shawn Ramirez, Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm, MAX: 12

**Content:** This course hones prior training by examining how techniques are used in formal science research. Topics may include voting and elections, political institutions, regime transition/consolidation, principal agent models, bargaining, information/cheap talk, role of third parties and committees, deterrence, mechanism design, and endogenous state formation. Lectures and problem sets will emphasize solution concepts and modeling variations. Student will complete exams and assignments independently. Mandatory prerequisites are POLS 513 and 514.

No textbooks required.

**POLS 540: American Government and Politics**

Abramowitz, Friday 1:00 - 4:00pm, MAX: 12

**Content:** General survey of classic and recent research on major questions in American politics research. Topics include public opinion, mass media, voting and participation, elections, institutional theories, Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, and inequality. The development of areas of research will be stressed, along with the theoretical frameworks dominant in substantive areas of inquiry.

No textbooks required.

**POLS 571: Longitudinal Data Analysis**

Greg Martin, Wednesday 9:00am – 12:00pm, MAX: 12

**Content:** Data with a time dimension are ubiquitous in applied political science research. This course covers quantitative methods for dealing with time series, panels, and event histories.
We will cover both theory and applications of these methods, with the goal of getting students up to speed to be both producers and consumers of cutting-edge empirical research.

**Texts:**

---

**POLS 572: Modeling Complex Systems**

Courtney Brown, Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 – 6:45pm, MAX: 2

**Content:** This seminar approaches the study of politics and society from the perspective of the new field of complex systems. This is a cutting edge area, and students gain an appreciation for how a great many social and political phenomena are actually the result of underlying systems that are both beautiful and sophisticated (including fractal systems). The course is ideal for assisting students to develop unique and nontrivial theories of politics and society together with model specifications that exactly match those theories. Helping students develop theories and specifications useful for research is a key component of the course. The subject is taught with an extremely user-friendly approach, and students should have little or no trouble mastering the course content. High school algebra is all that is required to begin. Substantively, the course focuses on a system's view of modeling, and students will learn a great many practical tools that help to bridge the divide between a verbally-stated theory and its mathematical representation.

**Texts:**


California: Sage Publications.

California: Sage Publications.

---

**POLS 585-00P: Variable Topics Seminar**  
**Topic/Title: Political Economy of Development**

Richard Doner, Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 – 2:15pm, MAX: 4

**Content:** This course is designed to introduce students to political approaches to the question: Why have some countries and regions achieved better economic and social outcomes than others? “Political” approaches refer to the impact of interests, rules and organizations, and history. This course will thus explore the ways in which these factors affect outcomes such as public health, inequality, local business growth, and the provision of education. The course will draw examples from Asia, L. America and Africa. But in part to give the course some focus and in part because of my own expertise, a slight majority of the examples will be drawn from East Asia.

**Particulars:** Requirements include: 1) class participation (25%); 2) exams (mid-term, final 20% each); 3) research paper – 15-20 pp (35%).

**Texts:** Articles and book chapters available through the library or posted on Blackboard.

---

**POLS 585-01P: Variable Topics Seminar**  
**Topic/Title: Design and Analysis of Experiments**

Adam Glynn, Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:15pm, MAX: 4

**Content:** Experiments are a prominent instrument of inquiry in the natural and the social sciences. The first part of the course introduces the logic of experimentation and discusses various methodological issues in the design and analysis of experiments. Topics include
randomization inference, blocking, non-compliance, attrition, interference, and heterogeneous treatment effects. The second part of the course builds on this foundation to discuss some practical issues and ethical considerations in designing and implementing experiments.

**Texts:**
New York: W.W. Norton.

---

**POL 585-02P: Variable Topics Seminar**
**Topic/Title: Politics of Race and Gender**

Beth Reingold, Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 6

**Content:** Gender and race interact and intersect in complex and confounding ways, yet they have a persistently powerful influence upon politics and society. This seminar will introduce students to major theoretical perspectives, debates, controversies, and research findings in the empirical study of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and politics primarily in the United States. Depending on student interest, we may also explore related research in international relations and comparative politics.

Readings and class discussion will concentrate on four general themes:

- the role of gender/sexuality/race/ethnicity, sexism/heteronormativity/racism/ethnocentrism, in defining and shaping politics, political institutions, political culture, and political science;
- the various ways in which women (across racial/ethnic identities) and persons of color (across gender identities), as political actors, observers, and scholars, have challenged and redefined "politics as usual;"
- the questions of whether and how political (interest) groups can or should be defined or studied in terms of gender, sexuality, race, and/or ethnicity; and
- the intersecting, interdependent relationships between gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and religious and national identities.

Thus, we will study gender and race (and, to a lesser extent, sexuality and ethnicity) as political constructs or ideologies and as systems of political (economic and social) stratification. In addition, we will examine how these aspects of gender and race affect the political behavior and experiences of women, persons of color, and other marginalized groups as citizens,
workers, voters, political activists, community leaders, political candidates, and public officials. Our examination of the subject will necessarily take an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating perspectives from political science, women’s/gender/sexuality studies, African American studies, Latino studies, history, sociology, social psychology, etc., into our overall understanding of gender and race and their critical influence upon politics.

Readings will likely include a number of earlier, foundational works as well as more recent research that builds upon, complements, and/or challenges these foundational studies (and others).

POLS 585-03P: Variable Topics Seminar
Topic/Title: Collaborative Governance and Environmental Problem Solving

Michael Rich, Monday 1:00 – 4:00pm, MAX: 7

Content: Over the past few decades the distinctions between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors have become far less rigid and their boundaries more permeable. Solving the tough public problems that citizens typically have turned to government to do so in the past today frequently require collaborative, cross-sector partnerships that engage all three sectors at multiple levels (federal, state, local). This in turn has yielded a variety of collaborative governance arrangements to ensure that all partners are working better together to effectively solve public problems.

The rise of collaborative governance is perhaps most mature in the field of environmental policy. The course has two primary objectives. First, what is collaborative governance? What do collaborative governance arrangements look like, how do they work, and what roles and functions do the various participants perform. Second, does collaboration make a difference? Do collaborative governance arrangements lead to better policy outcomes? For example, are institutions (public and private) more responsive to citizen demands? Are policy outcomes more efficient? More effective? More equitable?

The course opens with presentation and discussion of a variety of theoretical and analytical frameworks for thinking about collaborative governance. We then apply these frameworks to a variety of short case studies to both sharpen our theoretical understanding as well as to test these theories and analytical perspectives with real world cases. The second part of the course will be driven by student research projects that explore in depth the application of a collaborative governance regime to a specific environmental problem. Cases will be drawn from a wide variety of environmental problems including land management (public and private), natural resources and conservation, air and water quality, and sustainability, among others.
READINGS

Emerson and Nabatchi, *Collaborative Governance Regimes*


Scheberle, *Federalism and Environmental Policy: Trust and the Politics of Implementation*

steelman, *Implementing Innovation: Fostering Enduring Change in Environmental and Natural Resource Governance*

Portney, *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Economic Development, the Environment, and Quality of Life in American Cities*

Selected journal articles and case study report

GRADING

Class participation—presentations, discussion, etc.  25%

Final Examination  25%

Research Paper  50%

Texts:

Kirk Emerson and Tina Nabatchi. 2015. *Collaborative Governance Regimes.*
Georgetown University Press.

Routledge.

Georgetown University Press.

Todd A. Steelman. 2010. *Implementing Innovation: Fostering Enduring Change in Environmental and Natural Resource Governance.*
Georgetown University Press.

Cambridge: MIT Press.
POLS 585-04P: Variable Topics Seminar
Topic/Title: Politics and Punishments

Michael Owens, Thursday 2:00 – 5:00pm, MAX: 3

Content: Mass imprisonment is now as American as apple pie. Today, seven million Americans (1 of every 31 adults) are under "correctional control" via prison, jail, parole, or probation. Plus, many remain under "correctional control" long after they've "paid their debts to society." What political factors explain mass imprisonment? How does mass imprisonment influence politics?

This heavily discussion-oriented and writing-intensive seminar permits room for debate about the merits of "excessive" punishment (i.e., punitiveness via politics). It allows interrogation of a set of factors that influence punitive policy designs for people with records of arrests, convictions, and imprisonment in the USA. Our set will include: crime victimization; racial threat, resentment, and control; political economy (inclusive of finance and rural development); the triumph of conservative ideology; perversities of partisan electioneering; the “War on Drugs”; and the American passion for degradation.

Grading: The professor will evaluate the performance of students based on a set of activities: (1) drafting, revising and, presenting research papers; (2) writing original Op-Eds in lieu of a final examination; (3) co-leading seminar discussions, which will require students to meet and plan with the professor in advance of their co-leadership; (4) submitting short reflection papers; and (5) using Twitter (#POL5490PoliPuni) to share news, events, reports, and ideas relevant to the course.

Texts:
Dilts, Andrew. Punishment and Inclusion: Race, Membership, and the Limits of American Federalism.
Temple University Press.

Whitman, James Q. Harsh Justice: Criminal Punishment and the Widening Divide between America and Europe.
Oxford University Press.

Oxford University Press.
New York: Picador.


University of California Press.

Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

University of Chicago Press.

Peffley, Mark, and Jon Hurwitz. *Justice in America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and Whites*.  
Cambridge University Press.

New York: Oxford University Press.