

SPECIAL TOPICS (PSC 321 and PSC 421) COURSES

WINTER INTERIM (December-January mini-term)

PSC 321-900 This course is an introduction to diplomacy and international relations through the use of a course-long computer simulation. The Statecraft software program allows students to break into teams and design their country and foreign policy decisions that characterize real world politics. YOU MUST HAVE A RELIABLE DAILY INTERNET CONNECTION

Can be applied to International Studies major.

SPRING 2019

PSC 321-001 International Organizations, Dr. Seungbin Park

This course focuses on understanding and analyzing why states create international institutions and why the effects of these institutions vary. It will begin with a discussion of why states create international institutions and why such institutions do or do not produce desired outcomes. Later sections of the course will examine how international governance has evolved in diverse issue areas —peace and security, the international economy, the environment, human rights, and international migration— and what the current challenges are.

PSC 321-002 Authoritarianism, Dr. Albrecht

The surprising persistence of authoritarian regimes since the end of the Cold War has inspired a major new literature in comparative politics on how non-democracy works. This course addresses a number of important questions related to the functioning of authoritarian regimes. These include such as: How should authoritarian regimes best be classified? What explains the durability of authoritarian rule and what are the factors that might lead to the downfall of authoritarian regimes? How do these regimes try to generate compliance and support? To what extent are they successful in doing so? Why do so many of them hold elections and convene parliaments? How do citizens make claims against authoritarian regimes? How do regimes respond to popular mobilization? This course will explore authoritarian politics in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, and the post-Soviet countries.

PSC 321-004 Politics of the Middle East, Dr. Bishara

This course is designed to introduce advanced undergraduate students to contemporary Middle East politics. The course adopts a thematic approach to the study of Middle East politics. Important themes and questions in comparative politics will guide our analysis of the complex political realities in the contemporary Middle East. The course begins with a historical overview of the emergence of the

modern state system in the contemporary Middle East. The rest of the course draws on the tools of comparative politics to address some of the major issues facing the Middle East. These include, but are not limited to, authoritarianism, political participation, identity politics, economic development, the political economy of oil, Islamist social and political movements, and the politics of gender.

PSC 321-007 Equal Opportunity and the Law, Dr. Smith

The concept of equal opportunity is a bedrock principle of American political culture. We pride ourselves on the idea that all Americans, regardless of race, gender, class level or other demographic characteristics, have a chance to live the American Dream of getting a good job, owning your own home and creating a successful and satisfying life. Other components of American political culture, such as the belief that it is the individual's responsibility to provide for their own welfare, are only defensible if equal opportunity exists.

However, the American Dream is not enjoyed equally by all. Race, gender, and socioeconomic class seem to influence who achieves the dream. This course will examine whether equal opportunity is a reality in America, and what effect the law and public policy have on equal opportunity.

Do inequalities in starting points, race, gender, and access to quality schooling make the American Dream unreachable for some portion of Americans? How do factors over which we have no control affect our chances of achieving the American Dream?

PSC 421-001 Terrorism and Political Islam, Dr. Albrecht (Writing Course)

This is an introductory course into two distinct subjects: terrorism and Islamist movements. The main aim of the course is to show when and why Islamists turn violent, but it also emphasizes that not all Islamists are terrorists. The first part discusses correlates of terrorism, including agents, strategies, and ideologies of terrorist organizations as well as the causal underpinnings of terrorist group formation. The course's second part highlights varieties in Islamist organization, namely social movements, opposition groups, state actors, and militant organizations. The final part of the course focuses on empirical examples of Islamist terrorist organizations: Hamas, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda, and the Islamic State. **Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this class. Students who have taken, or plan to take, Dr. Albrecht's 300-level version of this class are not permitted to enroll.**

PSC 421-002 International Relations of the Middle East, Dr. Hazbun (Writing Course)

This seminar examines the evolution of regional geopolitics in the Middle East within the context of global politics. It traces how colonialism, state building, and nationalism formed the Middle East regional system and how domestic political struggles, external interventions, and geopolitical rivalries have defined shifts in the sources of both state and societal insecurity and the dynamics of the regional order. We also explore American diplomatic and military engagement in the region, state and societal opposition to the US, and the impact of the Iraq war on regional politics. We conclude by considering the rise of

new regional powers and non-state actors, the “new Arab wars” in the wake of the uprisings, and current debates about the future evolution of regional politics and the role of the US in the region.

PSC 421-003 Gender and Black Masculinities, Dr. Austin

What does it mean to be a man? What does it mean to be a Black man? How do race, age, class, and sexual identity have an effect on the production of Black masculinities? We will look at the role of gender and the experience of Black males by examining issues such as: men’s movements and social organizations, how “Black men” are made in society, sexuality and fertility, male aggression and violence, male body image and health, media representations of boys and men, the role of Hip-Hop and Black athletes, and how these ideas might have changed over time.