

2017 SPRING - 321 & 422 CLASS SCHEDULE

PSC 321. 3 semester hours.

Course content varies from offering to offering. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours, with permission of the department.

321.001	16671	Politics of Latin America	MWF	1:00pm-1:50pm	Christopher Hale	TH 105
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This course examines both historical and contemporary political developments in the Latin American region. It attempts to understand these developments through a variety of theoretical perspectives designed to understand Latin American politics. Throughout the course, we examine five cases in-depth: Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Argentina, and Venezuela.

321.002	16672	Politics of the Middle East	MWF	2:00pm-2:50pm	Dina Bishara	TH 105
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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 opposition, identity politics, economic development, the political economy of oil, Islamist social and political movements, and the politics of gender.

321.003	16673	African Politics	TR	11:00am-12:15pm	Nicholas Kerr	TH 105
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This course introduces students to the politics of contemporary Africa. It challenges the dominant representations of the continent as conflict prone, economically underdeveloped, and politically unstable. Instead, the course presents Africa as a dynamic region comprised of fifty-four independent states with diverse political and economic realities. Students will explore core topics such as ethnic politics, democratization, economic development, formal and informal institutions, public opinion and behavior, as well as the role of Africa in global affairs. These themes are examined through a variety of learning materials and collaborative learning methods that expose students to dominant theoretical approaches and political science methodologies.

321.004	16674	Media and Politics	TR	12:30pm-1:45pm	Nichole Bauer	TH 105
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This class investigates how the news media operate as political actors. The news media perform vital functions to democracy. Citizens learn about important events from the news media, and elites learn about the preferences of citizens from the news media. We will examine these conventional functions performed by the media. We will also explore how digital technology and interactive platforms like Twitter and Facebook have changed the way citizens participate in politics. This class will cover a range of topics including how the media set the political agenda, frame political debates, and distill complex policy issues for citizens.

321.005	20610	Vampires, Cyborgs, Zombies	TR	11:00am-12:15pm	Stefanie Fishel	MH 308
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This course is intended for students who want to learn about how we come to understand politics from particular ideas of the body and its relation to other bodies. This body can be gendered, animalized, radicalized, or roboticized to reflect social fears and hopes about our political systems and those within it. This class will be approached from a variety of historical, theoretical, social, political, and scientific perspectives. It will incorporate a multidisciplinary study of the body and its relation to social theory and politics with the readings drawn from political theory and philosophy; sociological and anthropological studies of the body as a phenomenon both natural and cultural; military and legal publications; feminism and gender studies; and lastly through the natural sciences and technology. Fiction and movies will also be used to explore the way we understand ourselves to be human (or not). Of interest to students wanting to delve into the relations between the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. No prerequisites needed.

321.006	16805	Social Inequalities	TR	11:00am-12:15pm	Gregory Phillip Austin	GP 229
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Social inequality refers to the systematic uneven distribution of people across social categories based upon achieved and ascribed characteristics. Different cultures and societies vary in the amount and extent inequalities exist within them. This course focuses on social inequality in the United States with some comparison to other cultures and societies for reference. In this course, we analyze the inequalities of power and privilege as they relate to class, political status, sex and gender, sexual orientation, and race. We will examine the causes and consequences of the many types of inequalities present in our society through a variety of ways, but primarily through television/movie/documentary, pop culture, and current events analysis.

321.007	16892	Politics of Immigration	TR	9:30am-10:45am	Ali Fuat Birol	TBA
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This course focuses on the issue of migration that has become an increasingly global phenomenon. In this course, we explore a theoretical ground to understand what the meaning of the movements of people across state borders can be and how this mobility is a part of our political and daily practices.

321.900	20731	Diplomatic Simulations	ONLINE	ONLINE	Dr. DeRouen	ONLINE
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An Introduction to diplomacy and international relations through the use of an interactive computer simulation. The Statecraft 2.0 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 TO TAKE THIS COURSE. The Statecraft account costs \$35.

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This course counts for the "W" designation for the Core Curriculum

422.001	13786	Political Psychology	TR	9:30am-10:45am	Nichole Bauer	MH 308
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The goal of political psychology is to explain why citizens engage in certain types of political behavior, and how citizens think about politics. We will consider the role of personality, cognition, emotions, stereotypes, and group dynamics in politics, campaigns, and voting. Throughout the semester, we will learn about key concepts from psychology and we will apply these concepts to politics. We will also investigate how experimental methods can provide insight into what motivations political attitudes and behaviors. As this is an upper level course that fulfills the university's writing requirement, there will be an extensive amount of writing in this class. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.