GUIDE TO WINTER/SPRING SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES IN PSC

WINTER INTERIM 2020-21

PSC 321-900 Diplomatic Simulations (DeRouen) (online)  
An introduction to diplomacy and international relations using an interactive computer simulation. The simulation facilitates active learning as students are broken into teams, create their own countries, and make foreign policy decisions that characterize real world politics. THIS COURSE REQUIRES DAILY, RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION.

SPRING 2021

PSC 321-001 Voting and Participation (Davis) MWF 9 – 9:50 face to face

Voting is the single most important task charged to citizens in democracy. So, who votes? Why do they vote? And how do they choose which candidates to support? This course explores voting and political participation in the contemporary United States. Students will develop a working knowledge of the history of the franchise and engage with popular and academic work that analyzes turnout. From institutional constraints to individual-level decisions, the semester will provide a broad overview into logic of political participation that equips students to better understand the social and historical forces that shapes electoral and policy outcomes.

PSC 321--002 Religion in American Politics (Hawley MWF 1 – 1:50 face to face

This class examines the relationship between religion and American politics from the colonial period until today. It discusses the role religion played in crucial moments of American history, such as the American Revolution, the battle over slavery, the question of prohibition, the Civil Rights movement, as well as contemporary U.S partisan politics.

PSC 321—003 19th Century Political Thought (Miller) 2:00-3:15 TR Interactive AV

This course will explore the political thought of the 19th Century Europe. Authors covered will often include, but not be limited to Alexis deTocqueville, Francois Guizot, Jules Michelet, , G.W.F Hegel, John Stuart Mill and Karl Marx. Topics covered will include the relation between church and state, revolution, socialism, liberalism, and the role of historians in political movements.

PSC 321-004 Issues in Global Governance (Kalaycioglu) 9 – 9:50 AM face to face

Global governance refers to institutions, regimes and rules that regulate the conduct of global politics in multiple areas. Most global governance systems we have in place were established either after the end of World War II (1945) or after the end of the Cold War (1989). But the world and global politics have changed a lot since then. States that were previously marginal in global politics, such as China, Brazil and India, have become important actors, and the founders of these institutions, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, are increasingly turning away from them. This class focuses on the challenges facing global governance regimes, such as demands for reform, fragmentation, the establishment of alternative institutions, regionalism and normative resistance. We will learn about how these challenges impact multiple domains of global politics, including the UN Security Council, the global economy, international law, security, health, and the environment. Most importantly, we will ask whether these dynamics make for more or less peaceful global politics.

PSC 321-005 Chinese Politics (Wang) 9 – 9:50 AM Interactive AV

This course provides students with an overview of the dynamics of the politics and policy in contemporary China. It includes topics in regard to Chinese political history, political culture, institutions, ideology, political economy, and political processes; examines issues of political change and development in China; and focuses on political fundamentals, such as the Chinese Communist Party, interest groups, protests, legal reform, as well as representation.

PSC 321-006 and 007 (2 sections) Ancient Political Theory (Hughston) 2 – 2:50 pm OR 4- 4:50 pm, Hybrid

A contemporary look at some of the oldest works in the canon of Western Political Theory. By studying the works of the Ancient Greek and Roman thinkers, we will have a new lens through which we can evaluate today’s politics and examine millennia old political questions alike.

PSC 321-008 Issues in Constitutional Law: Free Speech (J. Smith) TR 11 – 11:50 am face to face

This course will examine the law and politics of government restrictions on expression in particular contexts, and the role of free speech in politics. One of the contexts will be speech on college campuses.

SPECIAL TOPICS “W” COURSES

NOTE: These are not the only W courses the Dept is offering in the Spring. There are others, with regular course numbers, in the schedule. These are only the W courses that are not listed in the course catalog.

PSC 421-002 (W) Communication and Diversity (McKnight) TR, 11:00 am, face-to-face

PSC 421-003 (W) Theories of National Identity (Hughston) TR, 3:30 pm, Hybrid

What is a nation?  What does it mean to be a member of one?  What do you owe your nation and your co-nationals?  This course is an exploration of the idea of “nation” through the lens of different political theory works over the last century.