

Fall 2019 Courses offered by the Department of Political Science

CAS PO 111: Introduction to American Politics

Undergraduate core course. Study of the national political structure; emphasis on Congress, the executive, administrative agencies, and the judiciary. Relations between formal institutions, parties, and interest groups. Carries social science divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry, Critical Thinking.

CAS PO 151: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Undergraduate core course. Meets with CAS IR 251. Examines different patterns of political development and contemporary politics in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Introduces the comparative method in political science and competing theories of political development and political change. Carries social science divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry I, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy.

CAS PO 171: Introduction to International Relations

Explores major issues in international relations, including conflict, cooperation, and governance. Addresses dominant international relations theories and their application. Investigates state system, international law and organization, transnational actors, state behavior, and globalization. Carries social science divisional credit in CAS. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry I, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy.

CAS PO 300: Special Topics in American Politics

Topic TBA

CAS PO 313: The Politics and Policy of HBO's The Wire

HBO's television series The Wire is used to explore politics and policy. A number of interdisciplinary topics are covered, including the war on drugs, urban elections, bureaucracy, rational choice theory, and the decline of American cities. Also offered as CAS AA 313. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry II, Ethical Reasoning, Teamwork/Collaboration.

CAS PO 316: Race and the Politics of Criminal Justice Policy

Undergraduate Prerequisites: CAS PO 111 OR PO141; or consent of instructor.

How many people are affected by the criminal justice system? What is the relationship between crime and race? What criminal justice policies, if any, should change? In this course, students grapple with these questions. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry I, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.

CAS PO 321: Foundations of American Public Policy

Investigates the social and political roots of U.S. policy solutions. Cross-national comparisons and historical perspectives are used to shed light on seemingly unique American solutions to pressing social and economic problems. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 343.

CAS PO 325: Campaigns and Elections Around the World

Undergraduate Prerequisites: CAS PO 151; or consent of instructor.

Meets with CAS IR 302. Electoral campaigns in Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Changes in campaigns over time; role of international political consultants; influence of party systems, electoral systems, campaign finance regulation, vote buying, and mass media; campaign effects on voting behavior and public opinion. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 302.

CAS PO 330: Special Topics in Comparative Politics

May be repeated for credit if topics are different. Two topics be offered in Fall 2019. Section A1: The European Crisis. Europe is in crisis. With slow growth, the rise of anti-EU parties, and secessionist movements the very nature of the European Union and its member states are at stake. Is the Euro to blame? Where is the EU headed? Section B1: Political Violence. Examines the causes and consequences of political violence around the world. Topics include civil war, electoral violence, riots, protests, and government repression. Particular emphasis on Africa and South/Southeast Asia.

CAS PO 341: European Politics

Meets with CAS IR 362. Comparative study of politics in member states of the European Union, with emphasis on political development, institutions, major issues in contemporary politics, and the impact of European integration. Selective references to original and new member states of the EU. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 361.

CAS PO 343: Europe and International Relations

Meets with CAS IR 250. Provides an overview of European affairs. Topics include the foreign policies of European nations, the dynamics of European integration, NATO, international migration and ethnic conflict, and European relations with the United States, Russia, and neighboring countries. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 382.

CAS PO 346: Bombs and Bombshells: Gender, Armed Conflict, and Political Violence

Undergraduate Prerequisites: sophomore, junior, or senior standing.

Interdisciplinary course surveying women's relationship to political violence with a focus on the evolution of women's international participation in non-state, religiously-motivated groups. Women's roles in political violence throughout Western Europe, North America, and the Middle East are explored.

CAS PO 351: China: from Revolution to Reform

(Meets with CAS IR 370.) Explores the economic, political, and social upheavals that followed the Chinese revolution in 1949 and the cause of subsequent inauguration of reform in the late 1970s. Analyzes the tensions that brought about the 1989 upheaval in Tiananmen Square, as well as the implications of China's emergence as an economic power. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 369.

CAS PO 352: Rise of China

(Meets with CAS IR 365.) China's political, economic, and strategic development since the late nineteenth century, with emphasis on the period since 1949. Examines three questions: In what ways is China rising? How did it happen? What are the impacts of China's rise on the U.S. and the global system? This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 374.

CAS PO 354: Southeast Asia in World Politics

Meets with CAS IR 369. Examines Southeast Asia as an important emerging political, economic, and security region in world politics. Background materials, including the region's history, cultural diversity, and geo-strategic position, are given weight in the course. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 384.

CAS PO 357: Causes of War and Peace

Meets with CAS IR 347. War is the most destructive social act in which humanity engages. Why does war happen? This question is addressed by focusing on a variety of scholarly explanations. Theoretical discussions are paired with an examination of historical cases.

CAS PO 360: Introduction to Latin American Politics and International Relations

(Meets with CAS HI 399 and CAS IR 367.) Introduction to the patterns and complexities of Latin American politics and foreign policies. Focuses on the distinctive Latin American political experience and alternative explanation for it, including colonization, the international economy, and human and material resource capacity and utilization. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 367.

CAS PO 377: Africa in International Politics

Meets with CAS IR 351. Introduction to the international relations of post-colonial Africa. Core themes include the politics of post-independence international alignments, the external causes and effects of authoritarian rule, and Africa's role in the global political economy. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 390.

CAS PO 384: Global Governance and International Organization

Provides an overview of major theoretical perspectives on the creation and function of international organizations, comparative case studies of selected organizations, and an examination of present and future roles of international organizations in selected issue areas. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry I, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy.

CAS PO 390: Special Topics in Political Theory

Topics vary. Topic for Fall 2018: Political Freedom. Examines the experience and dilemmas of political freedom thematized in political theory and practice. Drawing from an eclectic mix of genres we ask what political freedom is, how it arises, what blocks it, and how we sustain it.

CAS PO 391: Classical to Early Modern Political Theory

Focuses on philosophical subjects relevant to ethics and politics, such as virtue and happiness; human nature and reason; qualifications of leadership; aims and means of civic education; and conceptions of law (man-made, natural, divine). Texts by Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli. Meets with CAS PH 453. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Philosophical Inquiry, Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking.

CAS PO 394: Catastrophe & Memory

Examines the ways in which catastrophes, both natural and social, enter into cultural memory. Goal is to understand how events that seem to defy comprehension are represented in works of art and given a place in the memory of a culture. Meets with HI221. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Aesthetic Exploration, Historical Consciousness, Research and Information Literacy.

CAS PO 458: Immigration and Development in Asia

(Meets with CAS IR 441.) Transnational immigration and economic development in Asia, focusing on China, India, and South Korea. Cases examined include the rise of manufacturing prowess in China, India's software industry, and Korea's corporate competitiveness in the world

CAS PO 501: Formal Political Theory

Undergraduate Prerequisites: PO 111, 141, 151, or 171. Calculus (MA 121,123, or 127) and probability (MA 113, 115, or 213) are helpful, but not required.

Graduate Prerequisites: completion of BU Social Science Math Boot Camp. Some additional familiarity with calculus and microeconomics is helpful, but not required.

A course on formal theory, covering decision theory, game theory, and social choice theory. Topics include spatial models, electoral competition, bargaining, deterrence, and signaling models. This course fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: Social Inquiry II, Quantitative Reasoning II, Critical Thinking.

CAS PO 502: Political Analysis: A Primer

The logic and methods of empirical analysis in political science. Introduces research design for a variety of social science applications, as well as data analysis, data visualization and statistical software.

CAS PO 503: The U.S. in the Middle East

Undergraduate Prerequisites: senior standing.

Meets with CAS IR 503. Examines the historical development and present status of the United States' association with the Middle East: American commercial, economic, political, military, and humanitarian interests in the area and their interaction. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 570.

CAS PO 505: Readings in American Politics

May be repeated for credit if the topics are different. Two topics are offered Fall 2019. Section A1: American Exceptionalism. Politicians tell us America (the US) is different...special, the envy of the world. Critics agree...it is different alright, the country of guns, inequality, and inadequate health care coverage. But is the US different? How different? Compared with whom? Why? Section B1: Controversies in American Justice. Are Supreme Court justices engaged in political decision making? Do judges' personal biographies affect their decisions? Can juries find the truth at trial? Should prosecutors be elected? This seminar considers these and other controversial topics surrounding the American justice system through a scientific lens.

CAS PO 511: American Electoral Behavior

Undergraduate Prerequisites: PO111 and junior standing or above.

The scientific study of elections and political participation with emphasis on voting in U.S. presidential elections. Topics include partisanship, ideology, voter turnout, political participation, campaign organization and strategy, and the effects of campaigns on voters.

CAS PO 516: Gender and Politics

Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing or above.

Analyzes the relationship between gender and politics, law and policy primarily in the United States. Considers inequalities based on gender and sexuality, women's changing political, gender- and sexuality-based political action and social movements. Also offered as CAS WS 516.

CAS PO 517: Urban Politics and Policy

Explores the impact of American urban politics on the implementation of local policy. Topics include deindustrialization, white flight, neighborhood effects, housing policy, schools, regionalism, and factors that constrain policy-making capacities. Also offered as CAS AA 517.

CAS PO 520: Readings in Public Policy

Topics vary. Topic for Fall 2019: Urban Public Policy Lab. An experiential learning course applying data to local government policy. Course work combines applied team-based projects in partnership with local governments and readings about techniques for gathering and analyzing data relevant for policy.

CAS PO 528: Seminar: The Political Economy of Advanced Industrialized Societies

Undergraduate Prerequisites: CAS PO321 or PO324 and junior standing or consent of instructor.

Meets with GRS IR 723. Surveys forces contributing to national differences in social and economic policy; identifies current challenges to state sovereignty, such as globalization and immigration; and examines how nations from different welfare state regimes are coping with these threats to the nation state. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 621.

CAS PO 529: Globalization and Contemporary Capitalism in Advanced Industrialized Nations

Meets with CAS IR 596. Considers the impact of globalization on advanced industrialized nations. Explores global and regional governance of finance, trade, and multinationals. Examines changes in national economic practices in Europe, Asia, and the US, and their effects on jobs, inequality, welfare, and democracy. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 538.

CAS PO 530: Readings in Comparative Politics

Topics vary. Topic for Fall 2019: Electoral Politics in Africa. After decades of military and single-party rule, the vast majority of African countries now hold multiparty elections. The course explores electoral politics in contemporary Africa, with a focus on democratic transitions, electoral authoritarianism, ethnic politics, distributive politics, and election-related violence.

CAS PO 535: European Integration

Meets with CAS IR 550. Explores present, past, and potential future of the European Union. Investigates who is in charge and who matters in policymaking and politics. Examines a wide range of EU policies, including economics, security, and trade, and their impact on EU member-states. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 525.

CAS PO 549: Problems and Issues in Post-Mao China

Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing.

Meets with CAS IR 585. An in-depth examination of politics in post-Mao China, this course focuses on several critical issues, uses various conceptual frameworks to try to understand why the reform process broke down and examines prospects for the future. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 558.

CAS PO 558: War and Society in the Modern Age

This course takes a state-oriented approach to understanding war in the modern age (as distinct from focusing on segments of the armed forces). How states fight wars and how changes in warfare affect the relationship between state and society.

CAS PO 569: Money, Guns, and Power

(Meets with GRS IR 630.) What is the relationship between money and war? This course explores the relationship between money, guns, and power through the lens of American and European military spending and through larger theoretical conversations on the concept of power.

CAS PO 571: Government and Politics of Contemporary Africa

Meets with CAS IR 534. Analysis of independent black Africa; factors of continuity and change in modern Africa, problems of political order, ambiguities of independence. Case studies of individual countries selected for additional emphasis on specific issues and problems of the developing countries. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 565.

CAS PO 576: The Foreign Policy of the People's Republic of China

Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Meets with CAS IR 577. Explores China's perception of its role in the world, its evolution from a regional to a world power, and its security and economic relationships within the international system. Relationships with the superpowers, Third World, and world economy, focusing on technology and capital transfers. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 578.

CAS PO 577: The Persian Gulf/Arabian Peninsula

Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing or above or consent of instructor.

Meets with CAS IR 504. The Persian Gulf/Arabian Peninsula system as a major focus of international concern. An in-depth examination of the political, economic, and societal evolution and dynamics of these states: their interrelationships; superpowers', European, and Japanese policies toward them. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 585.

CAS PO 589: Religion and International Relations

Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing or consent of instructor.

(Meets with CAS IR 561 and CAS RN 561.) Explores the role of religion in contemporary international relations in the context of questions about the common core of modernity. Reviews scholarly and policy literature, and case studies, in order to elucidate religion's intellectual and operational diversity in international relations.

CAS PO 590: Readings in Political Theory

Topics vary. Topic for Fall 2019: Great Speeches. Great Speeches. Concerns the theory and practice of great speeches. Students read classical works about oratory and the art of speech writing, deliver famous speeches in history, and write and deliver their own speeches. Especially recommended for those fearful of public-speaking.

CAS PO 592: Enlightenment and Its Critics

Meets with CAS HI 514 and PH 412. Explores how eighteenth-century criticisms of the Enlightenment have been taken up by twentieth-century thinkers such as Heidegger, Horkheimer, Adorno, Gadamer, and Foucault; discusses recent defenses of Enlightenment ideals of reason, critique, and autonomy by Habermas and others. This course cannot be taken for credit in addition to the course with the same title that was previously numbered CAS PO 693.

CAS PO 594: Historical Traditions of Feminist Theory

Undergraduate Prerequisites: junior standing or consent of instructor.

Explore selected writing from the history of feminist theory, 18th century to the rise of the late-20th century feminist movement, to understand the richness of that history and the varieties of approaches theorists took in understanding and resisting gender-based oppression. Also offered as CAS WS 594.