

POSCIR Graduate Courses for Fall 2022

POSC 801-010

Scope and Methods in Political Science

Redlawsk

Fri 1215 PM – 145 PM

This class is an introduction to the wide range of research that makes up our field. You will meet most, if not all, of our departmental faculty as we hear about their research. We will get a sense of the wide range of epistemologies and methods represented in our department and get a feel for the work people are doing as you embark on your own academic career.

POSC 810-010

Topics in International Relations

Bueno-Hansen

Mon 200 PM – 500 PM

This course will explore the nexus between peacebuilding and transitional justice situated in broader debates about state building. Political leaders, policymakers, scholars, and activists struggle to find appropriate responses to severe human rights violations that occur during periods of civil conflict, war, authoritarian regimes, political repression, and genocide. Peacebuilding has the objective of providing external assistance to states impacted by conflict. The theory and practice of transitional justice focus on mechanisms that facilitate accountability, reconciliation, reparations, and truth. The seminar will consider the relevance of the legacy of colonialism to transitional justice and peacebuilding theory and practice and emphasize case studies.

POSC 812-010

Pro-Seminar: Political Theory

Rasmussen

Tue 200 PM – 500 PM

The subfield of political theory is perhaps the oldest in the discipline, spanning thousands of years and even more pages of text. This seminar does not attempt to provide a thorough history of the subfield but is instead a general course to introduce students to some of the most historically significant texts, current debates in the discipline, application of theoretical ideas in contemporary politics, and approaches to reading and interpreting texts. Students will get a grounding in the field that will provide a foundational understanding of the subfield for the purposes of teaching as well as serving as a base of knowledge for more advanced courses in political theory and political science. The course fulfills both the proseminar requirement and may be used towards the skills requirement.

POSC 815-010

Intro to Stat Analysis for POSC (first years)

Bagozzi

Wed 200 PM – 500 PM

This course is designed to acquaint students with the basics of statistical analysis, and to introduce students to the quantitative study of political science. The class is the first of two required research methods courses, and it is designed to lay the foundation for Statistical Analysis for Political Science II. As such, we will begin with elementary statistics and probability and will then move through hypothesis testing and (multivariate and bivariate) regression analysis. No particular background in math or statistics beyond the high school level is assumed. The format of the course is varied and will include lectures, discussions, and lab sessions. Grading will be based on lab-oriented homework assignments and a final paper/project.

POSC 816-010
Miller

PHIL Science/Research Design (first and 2nd years)
Wed 200 PM – 500 PM

This seminar is designed to offer graduate students in political science an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to write a research design and conduct advanced social research. The seminar begins with a discussion of issues related to the philosophy of science and the conduct of inquiry in the social sciences, and then moves to the study of conceptual issues associated with research design and the use of qualitative, survey, experimental, and quasi-experimental methods, with an emphasis on causal inference. A major objective of the seminar is to write a research design that could be a first draft of the dissertation proposal or to complete the long paper. Students will be responsible for producing a research design, several analytical briefs, as well as an oral presentation.

POSC 825-010
Green

Pro-Seminar: International Relations
Thur 200 PM – 500 PM

This is the grad seminar that introduces the field of international relations to students. It is a survey course of topics in the current IR literature and some theories. Grades are determined by performance on a couple of written exams and a paper.

POSC 840-010
Kinderman

International Political Economy
Mon 530 PM – 830 PM

This graduate seminar provides an overview of key debates and approaches in International Political Economy, a subfield concerned with the interactions between politics and economics in the international realm. The course has two principal foci. On one hand, we will focus on the construction of IPE as a field of inquiry and on a variety of competing research programs. On the other hand, we will also cover a range of substantive topics including trade, international financial institutions, money and exchange rates, and the Ukraine crisis and the weaponization of finance.

POSC 847-010
Cassese

Political Psychology
Tue 200 PM – 500 PM

This course is a survey of contemporary readings in political psychology, focusing on course areas of theory and research in mass politics. Examples of topics covered are (but are not limited to): citizen competence, motivated reasoning, political cognition, heuristics, emotion, the psychological foundations of political ideology, political polarization, authoritarianism, gender, and race/ethnicity, personality, and biopolitics.

POSC 852-010
Carrion
PM

Comparative Democratization
Tue 530 PM – 830

Until recently, the most important debate in comparative democratization was related to the origins of democracy: what causes democracy in some places and prevents it in others? The field of comparative democratization is now paying increasing attention to the issue of democratic backsliding and authoritarian reversals. Why is it that the new millennium is witnessing a global decline of democracies? Even more recently, scholars have interrogated the role of populism in this process of democratic backsliding. As a new research agenda emerges, it is important to consider that the new debates are posing questions that comparativists have asked before: why do democracies break down? How do transitions from authoritarianism occur? Therefore, the overarching questions this seminar addresses are the following: what can we learn from past debates to

illuminate the new ones? What old approaches deserve updating and what old theories need to be forgotten? Ultimately, the field of comparative politics will become stronger as it rescues and builds on past achievements and discards old paradigms.

Accordingly, we will start the seminar by examining the 1970s literature on democratic breakdowns and assess its relevance to current debates. We will read key early works on transitions from authoritarianism and theories of democratization. We will discuss the collapse of communism and the new regimes that replaced it. We will then examine the rise of hybrid regimes and competitive authoritarianism in the 21st century. A significant component of the seminar is devoted to democratic backsliding and autocratization. In this regard, we will analyze the global rise of populism and its impact on democratic erosion and authoritarian reversal. The last part of the seminar discusses the very recent literature on processes of transition from competitive authoritarian/populist regimes.

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