



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# 2012-2013 UNDERGRADUATE SEMINARS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

PLEASE CONSULT THE DIRECTORY OF CLASSES FOR SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION INFORMATION: [WWW.COLUMBIA.EDU/CU/BULLETIN/UWB/](http://WWW.COLUMBIA.EDU/CU/BULLETIN/UWB/)

## FALL 2012

### **POLS W3911 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY (PT)**

#### **SECTION 001: RELIGION, DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS, JEAN COHEN**

This course will begin with a focus on the work of four classic thinkers in the critical analysis of religion: Rousseau, Marx, Tocqueville and Weber. We will discuss the meaning of the secularization thesis in their work, the relation of religion to modernity, and their views, when relevant, on the relation between religion and democracy. We then turn to contemporary authors involved in rethinking the secularization thesis, the place of religion in modernity as well as its relation to democracy. The works of Casanova, Assad, Rawls, Taylor and Habermas will be read.

### **POLS W3921 SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (AP)**

#### **SECTION 001: GAYS & LESBIANS IN AMERICAN POLITICS, JUSTIN PHILLIPS**

This course will provide a broad overview of the politics of gay and lesbian rights in the United States. Topics to be examined include the history of the movement, major U.S. Supreme Court and state supreme court rulings dealing with gay rights, and changing public opinion towards gays and lesbians.

#### **SECTION 002: MEDIA & AMERICAN POLITICS, KATHLEEN KNIGHT**

Both conventional wisdom and scholarly research about the role of the mass media in American politics have changed rapidly in a very short period of time. This course explores the influence of the mass media on politics with attention to changes in the relationship between the media and government. We will start with consideration of the historical role of the mass media and how it has changed. Then we will focus on the question of how much real influence the media have, and how it is exercised. This will involve examination of media treatment of substantive topics of current interest. These will include the fall political campaigns, the war, and additional topics chosen on the basis of student interest. This is a research seminar in American politics. Students are expected to engage in original empirical research on one of several topics in mass media and politics and to contribute to group efforts on data collection, coding, fact checking, cross-verification and review. In the event of excess demand, an application process will take place at the first class meeting.

#### **SECTION 003: BILL OF RIGHTS, MARTHA ZEBROWSKI**

This seminar is an investigation of the nature and importance of the federal Bill of Rights in the American federal and state constitutional systems. Common readings, class discussions, and student seminar papers consider the social, political, and legal significance of the Bill of Rights in historical and contemporary American discourse and analysis, along with constitutional case law regarding specific rights. The first part of the course is devoted to a discussion of common, required readings that consider the Bill of Rights in historical and contemporary perspective. The second part of the course is devoted to students' presentations, in class, of their own research on individual topics relating to a particular right grounded in the American federal and state bills of rights.

#### **SECTION 004: ISSUES THAT DIVIDE AMERICA, IRWIN GERTZOG**

Seminar focuses on four political issues so contentious that they have produced enduring cultural, socio-economic, and political divisions throughout the United States. The four issues are slavery and efforts to end it; the use of alcoholic beverages and the struggle to curtail it; abortion and attempts to prohibit it; and lesbian and gay rights and the battle to impede them.

#### **SECTION 005: EQUALITY & THE LAW, ROBERT AMDUR**

#### **SECTION 006: TERRORISM & COUNTERTERRORISM, BRIGITTE NACOS**

The seminar is designed to illuminate students' understanding of the most important aspects of domestic and international terrorism with an emphasis on the United States as target of and responder to this sort of political violence.

**SECTION 007: POLICY MAKING, JUDITH RUSSELL**

This seminar directs readings and research on public policy making in the American federal government. It is designed to help students think analytically about the ways in which the structures, processes and actors at the heart of public policy making interact. It examines how political institutions--the executive and legislative branches--are organized and motivated to produce policy, the politics of government organization, bureaucratic operation and survival, how the budget process drives policy making processes, policy structures and relationships that have emerged out of custom and practice, theories and models of decision making, concepts of rationality and choice, agenda-setting, political innovation, interest groups' role in policy formation as well as that of the judiciary. Specific policy areas we will engage as case studies are: economic and employment policy, energy and environmental policy, and policy responses to terrorism and disaster. Some policy investigations we will engage are evolving as we study them during the semester.

**SECTION 008: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, RAYMOND SMITH**

This class will provide an examination of the 2012 Presidential Election as it is unfolding. Early in the course, we will preview the election, examining the political processes and institutions that are likely to shape the outcome. The second part of the course will revolve around the election itself, and will focus on a close examination of the November 6 election itself. During the last part of the class will take a closer look at the institution of the Presidency itself and the transition to power. Along with other assignments, students will write and present a research paper incorporating the actual results of the election.

**POLS W3951 SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS (CP)****SECTION 001: DEMOCRATIZATION & REGIME CHANGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, KIMULI KASARA****SECTION 002: SIZE OF GOVERNMENT, LUCY GOODHART**

Also counts as an American politics course.

As current American debate illustrates, the role of the state, and the size of government spending as a percentage of GDP, is one of the fundamental issues that structures the political landscape. Across many, if not most, of the advanced, industrialized democracies, the appropriate level of government expenditure is the issue that separates and defines political parties, energizes voters, and informs a normative debate on the proper role of the state in society. In this seminar, we will first read some of the canonical texts that supported the growth in state spending after World War II and the opposing voices arguing for a more minimalist state. Next, we will review the empirical analyses of who wants more spending or less, and why, in order to determine whether available theory can help to explain the significant variations we observe over time and across country in the actual level of state spending. A further step is to explore whether we are more likely to understand the reasons for state spending if we see it as the delivery of public goods, as a mechanism for redistribution or as insurance against risk. Last, but not least, we consider how and whether increased global integration has influenced both the demand for public expenditure and the ability of policy-makers to respond to popular preferences.

**SECTION 003: VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM, ISABELA MARES**

This course provides a theoretical framework for understanding the variation in economic and social institutions among advanced capitalist economies. Can we meaningfully talk of the German or Swedish model and, if so, what are their distinctive characteristics? In what ways do these economies differ from liberal market economies, such as the United States or the United Kingdom? Do these cross-national differences persist in the face of increased economic integration and globalization? We will explore these questions by examining institutional and policy differences in the following areas: (a) training and skill formation; (b) financial institutions and corporate governance, (c) the welfare state, (d) systems of industrial relations.

**POLS W3961 SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR)****SECTION 001: GLOBALIZATION & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, PABLO PINTO**

Prerequisites: POLS V1601 or the equivalent, and instructor's permission. Globalization involves the increasing integration of economic, social and political processes across international borders. Workers in Bangalore man telephones in the middle of the night to provide technical support to customers in the US and Europe. Farmers in Chiapas and college students in Nice demonstrate against the World Bank. Multinational corporations and backyard business clamor for greater access to markets. Governments in Asia find that they are beholden to panic by investors a world away. To some degree, these processes (or ones like them) have always been with us. However, international politics, which has traditionally been organized around the physical control of geography by sovereign governments, increasingly poses tensions or contradictions as the scope of the world that defies boundaries increases. While globalization means many things to many different people, this course will begin to map some of the most obvious examples where sovereignty and the global society collide. Globalization defies easy definition in part because these processes are dynamic and ongoing. We will explore the economics, politics and conflict processes associated with a globalizing world.

**SECTION 002: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE COLD WAR, ROBERT JERVIS**

**SECTION 003: LAW & ETHICS OF INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION, MICHAEL DOYLE**

This seminar offers an opportunity for students to explore the law, ethics and politics of international intervention. We will concentrate on humanitarian and preventive intervention. When should states or international organizations be permitted or required to intervene in order to rescue populations from a humanitarian emergency? When can states anticipate a potential attack and act so as to forestall it? Drawing on the literature and examining historical cases, the seminar aims to foster a discussion of what would be better procedural and substantive guidelines for making these difficult decisions.

**SECTION 004: FOREIGN POLICY & DECISION MAKING, BARBARA FARNHAM**

Prerequisites: POLS V1601 or the equivalent, and instructor's permission. How can we account for the foreign policies of states in the international system? Why do they behave the way they do? This seminar focuses on a critical examination of the major explanations for foreign policy outcomes. Our main emphasis is on decision-making. However, we will begin with explanations operating at other levels of analysis, such as the international system and domestic politics. We then explore decision-making explanations, including those derived from cognitive and social psychology, theories of motivation and personality, the impact of the political context, and the role of group dynamics. Throughout, we will be looking at these different approaches in the light of actual episodes taken largely, but not exclusively, from American foreign policy.

**SECTION 005: GREAT POWERS IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, STUART GOTTLIEB**

**POLS C3998 SENIOR HONORS SEMINAR**

**TANISHA FAZAL**

Prerequisite: admission to the departmental honors program. A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis. See [here](#) for application information and deadlines.

# SPRING 2013

## **POLS W3912 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY (PT)**

### **SECTION 001: TBA**

## **POLS W3922 SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (AP)**

### **SECTION 001: 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT, FREDRICK HARRIS**

This course surveys the political and social thought of African-Americans during the 20th century. It will consider the social, political, and historical context of political ideologies in black communities, from the standpoint of early thinkers and activists such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett to post-World War II thinkers such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, bell hooks, Cornel West, among others. The course will critically assess such perspectives as liberalism, nationalism, feminism, conservatism, and Marxism as considered by important black thinkers of the era. The course approaches the study of African Americans political and social thought from theoretical and historical perspectives.

### **SECTION 002: POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY, KATHLEEN KNIGHT**

The seminar is designed to examine some major psychological concept useful in politics. These include: rationality & emotion, socialization, ideology, persuasion, tolerance, authoritarianism, racism & terrorism.

### **SECTION 003: EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP, MARTHA ZEBROWSKI**

This seminar is an examination of the nature and practice of executive leadership in public, private (i.e., for profit, business), and non-profit institutions in the US. The course does not begin with a theory of executive leadership. Rather, the goal of the course is to develop such a theory, a theory that takes into account the similarities and differences among the very different institutional sectors in American life, and a theory that distinguishes authentic leadership from three related matters, the effective exercise of power, effective management, and celebrity. The first half of the term is devoted to a discussion of common, required readings that consider the nature and practice of executive leadership in public, private, and non-profit institutions, and to a discussion of problems associated with research and with organizing and analyzing data on leadership. During the first half of the term, each student prepares a research prospectus (approximately 12 pages) for a major research paper (approximately 35 pages) on a particular public, private, or non-profit executive leader or problem in executive leadership. The second half of the term is devoted to students' oral presentations, in class, of their own research and to class discussions of their research (each presentation approximately 50 minutes). The seminar research paper is due at the beginning of exam week; there is also a final quiz during exam week.

### **SECTION 004: FIRST AMENDMENT, ROBERT AMDUR**

### **SECTION 005: ISSUES THAT DIVIDE AMERICA, IRWIN GERTZOG**

Seminar focuses on four political issues so contentious that they have produced enduring cultural, socio-economic, and political divisions throughout the United States. The four issues are slavery and efforts to end it; the use of alcoholic beverages and the struggle to curtail it; abortion and attempts to prohibit it; and lesbian and gay rights and the battle to impede them.

### **SECTION 006: THE SOUTH IN AMERICAN POLITICS, IRA KATZNELSON**

### **SECTION 007: COMMUNICATION, POWER & POPULISM, BRIGITTE NACOS**

The course examines the role of media and communication in the emergence and success or failure of social and populist movements throughout American history with a special focus on the modern-day Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street movement.

### **SECTION 008: BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS, MICHAEL TING**

Prerequisites: POLS W1201 or the equivalent, and instructor's permission. This course is a comprehensive, high-level introduction to American bureaucracies and their study. It is appropriate for any student with an interest in American political institutions and a background in political science and economics. Topics include the working environment of bureaucrats, the external institutional environment, and the roles played by various agencies in the American political system.

## **POLS W3952 SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS (CP)**

### **SECTION 001: CORRUPTION, TIMOTHY FRYE**

Over the past 15 years scholars, policymakers, and academics have devoted increasing attention to the rule of law and corruption as obstacles to economic development. This body of research has raised many interesting questions. What do we mean by "corruption" and the "rule of law" How can we study "illegal" activity? Why do people obey the law? Can anything be done about it? These questions will be at the center of our attention. We will examine debates about the sources and consequences of corruption and the rule of law. We will also explore theories of corruption and legal development rooted in culture, institutions, economic endowments, and social structures. One goal is to assess different theories of the rule and law and corruption. Another goal is to design policies based on these arguments.

**SECTION 002: EAST ASIA, KAY SHIMIZU**

This seminar introduces students to many of the questions and challenges shared by the countries of East Asia. Over the past several decades, this region has experienced explosive economic growth, led first by Japan, then the East Asian Tigers, and now by China. Their growth strategies have included, among others, rapid industrialization, export led growth, and state financing, but each country's unique features have resulted in diverse outcomes. The class will explore how the countries of East Asia have confronted common challenges, and how the region has contributed to the development of broader social science theories. Topics covered by this course include the role of the state in industrial policy, immigration and its challenges, the political effects of demographic change, and the limits of export led growth.

**SECTION 003: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY, M. VICTORIA MURILLO**

Prerequisites: POLS V1501 or the equivalent, and instructor's permission. This class focuses on the transformation of Latin American Political Economy since the 1980s as a result of the processes of democratization and economic liberalization. The class reviews the debates on the relationship between both processes, focusing on the impact of political dynamics on economic policymaking in the first part of the course and on the political consequences of these economic reforms in the second part of the course. The seminar assumes a basic background on Latin American politics and history. Class discussion will combine theoretical concepts and their application to Latin American politics since the 1980s. Additionally, the seminar provides a forum to develop your writing skills in presenting cogent arguments within the framework of social science.

**POLS W3962 SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR)****SECTION 001: LEFT-RIGHT DIVIDE IN A GLOBALIZING ECONOMY, YOTAM MARGALIT**

Also counts as a comparative politics seminar. Most voters share similar goals of wanting the economy to grow and their country's citizenry to prosper. Why then do we often see such heated policy disagreements between politicians on the left and the right? Are these disagreements about what policies "work" best to achieve these agreed goals, or are they a result of moral differences regarding the goals that should be pursued? Furthermore, how have these disagreements been affected by the pressures stemming from an increasingly integrated international economy? This course will review some of the major normative and positive issues dividing the left and right on social-economic policy. Students will learn about the ideological foundations of the debates and engage the empirical literature on key political issues currently contested in advanced economies worldwide.

**SECTION 002: POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TRADE & INVESTMENT, PABLO PINTO**

Prerequisites: POLS V1601 or the equivalent, and instructor's permission. This seminar examines the politics of several major issues in international trade and direct investment. It analyzes the distributional impact of globalization, and explores why and how governments regulate the flow of goods and capital across national borders. The course is divided into four blocks that look at the patterns and distributive consequences of trade, the political economy of trade politics, the political economy of trade reform, and the political economy of investment, respectively. Students are required to actively participate in weekly discussions, to write two review papers during the course of the semester, and submit a final research paper on one of the topics of the seminar.

**SECTION 003: FOREIGN POLICY & DECISION MAKING, BARBARA FARNHAM**

Prerequisites: POLS V1601 or the equivalent, and instructor's permission. How can we account for the foreign policies of states in the international system? Why do they behave the way they do? This seminar focuses on a critical examination of the major explanations for foreign policy outcomes. Our main emphasis is on decision-making. However, we will begin with explanations operating at other levels of analysis, such as the international system and domestic politics. We then explore decision-making explanations, including those derived from cognitive and social psychology, theories of motivation and personality, the impact of the political context, and the role of group dynamics. Throughout, we will be looking at these different approaches in the light of actual episodes taken largely, but not exclusively, from American foreign policy.

**POLS C3999 SENIOR HONORS SEMINAR****TANISHA FAZAL**

Prerequisite: admission to the departmental honors program. A two-term seminar for students writing the senior honors thesis. See [here](#) for application information and deadlines.