

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2009

POL 52400 **PUBLIC POLICY AND THE FAMILY** **Boling**
W 2:30-5:20

This course explores a couple of important dimensions of the politics of families and family support policies: first, why is it “family values” has become a hot button, culture wars issue in the United States? What is usually meant by “family values,” who employs this language, and why? How does the public discourse about family values play out with respect to welfare policies, same sex marriage, efforts to bolster heterosexual marriage, and the like? How can and do others attempt to reappropriate the language of family values for their own political and policy agendas, e.g., progressives, feminists, the Democratic Party...?

Second, how specifically does the United States go about supporting families? What policies do we have to support working parents, and why do they have the particular contours they do? How does the US compare to other wealthy, postindustrial societies with respect to work-family reconciliation policies?

We'll read works about policies, about the policy process, and cross national comparative work, all pitched for an advanced undergraduate/graduate seminar.

POL 59000 **DIRECTED READING**

Admission by consent of department. A reading course directed by the instructor in whose field of specialization the content of the reading falls.

POL 60500 **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS** **Simonelli**
W 6:00-8:50p

Prerequisite: POL 501 or equivalent. This course will cover advanced topics in quantitative methods for political science. Most of these topics are built on the basic regression model and deal with many of the problems encountered in these models using social science data. Requirements include problem sets, an examination, and a research paper.

POL 60600 **ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE METHODS** **McCann**
W 7:00-9:50p

POL 606 is designed for students who have successfully completed our graduate seminar on linear regression models, POL 605, or its equivalent in another department. In this course, we will consider a variety of empirical models built around 'discrete' or 'limited' outcomes, such as voting choices, the decision to start a war or not, or the number of political activities that party members engage in during a campaign. Assignments in POL 606 will include frequent take-home projects and an original research paper that ideally will be suitable for presentation at a professional conference and publishable in a scholarly journal

POL 61500 **PRO SEMINAR:** **S. Parker**
M 7:00-9:50p **ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR**

Admission by consent of department. This is a course on public opinion and electoral behavior dealing with the development of political attitudes (political socialization), the stability of political attitudes, the changes attitudes undergo over a lifetime, and the role of attitudes in determining voting behavior. In addition, approaches for examining attitude change are introduced. The topics in public opinion covered include the influence of schools, parents and peers on attitudes; the development of party identification; overtime trends in political attitudes; ideological thought among the public; political participation and voting behavior; political knowledge; support for the political system; tolerance and prejudice.

POL 62200
R 3:00-5:50

RESEARCH SEMINAR:
PUBLIC POLICY/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Weldon

Admission by consent of instructor. What are the political dynamics that drive government response (or that prevent a response) to social problems? How does government action on social problems work to define or transform a social and political order? How can we learn from the study of successes and failures in addressing social problems? In undertaking to answer these and other questions, social policy scholars confront core issues of democratic theory (How are social groups represented in government processes? How should they be?), policy theory (What political factors determine agenda setting, or improve government responsiveness and effectiveness?) and comparative politics (Why are some governments more responsive to this problem than others? Is the American welfare state an underdeveloped welfare state, or just a differently developed welfare state, in comparison to other developed countries? How do social movements affect policy processes?)

This class provides an introduction to comparative social policy, and an opportunity for students to work together on research projects exploring an area of social policy of interest to them. The main project that students will undertake will be to complete research papers that could form the basis of a publishable paper or a dissertation prospectus. In these independent projects, students may focus on any social policy or geographic

POL 62300
M 2:30-5:20

RESEARCH SEMINAR:
COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Aldrich

Admission by consent of instructor. In this course we will study the politics and decision making of modern societies as they attempt to cope with environmental and natural resources problems. Whether global warming, Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY) politics, or the tragedy of the commons, citizens around the world are now encountering the consequences of rapid economic growth and development. This class explores how policymakers around the world have handled – or ignored - these critical problems. Core cases will be drawn from Japan, China, Brazil, India, Germany, and the United States. We will ensure that our empirical observations fit within broader theoretical frameworks revolving around issues such as common pool resources, policy diffusion, and risk perception.

POL 63100
R 6:00-8:50p

RESEARCH SEMINAR:
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
War

Shimko

Admission by consent of department. Understanding war and international conflict has been a, and perhaps *the*, central concern of international relations. This is reflected in the vastness of the literature on the subject and the variety of approaches from which it has been approached. No class can possibly cover the full range of theory and research, and this class does not attempt to do that. This class does aim to provide the student with a reasonably wide survey of existing literature and theory about the "causes," processes and consequences of war. The aim is to look at a number of central and enduring issues--the relationship between human aggression and war, the debate over connection between political/economic systems and war, and the systemic causes of war. The course also provides the student with the opportunity (actually the requirement) to engage in empirical research on some aspect of war, or design a larger research project..

Each student will have to write two critical essays on the readings during the course of the semester (and at least once give a 15-20 minute presentation in class based on these essays). The other major requirement will be either a 25-30 page journal-length, theoretically-driven, empirical research paper or a research design.

POL 63200 **RESEARCH SEMINAR** **Beres**
T 7:00-9:50p **IN PEACE AND WORLD ORDER**

This course is designed to acquaint graduate students with the essential norms, institutions and dynamics of international law. Adopting a "world order" perspective, we will examine international law as a strategy for supporting peace and human rights in global affairs. Special attention will be directed toward the problems of terrorism, genocide, insurgency, justice and nuclear war. Each student will be expected to prepare a major research paper dealing with an appropriate topic of the course. There are no examinations.

Note on Procedure: POL 632 is conceived as a sustained investigation of international law and world order. The readings and seminar sessions represent a pair of closely-linked, interdependent parts. For this reason, students are required to partake of both parts on a regular basis.

POL 64000 **PRO SEMINAR:** **Woods**
T 7:00-9:50p **COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

This course is an introduction to the theories, concepts, methodologies, and literature of comparative politics. The course seeks to expose students broadly to the discipline, to spark interest in issues and theories, and to provide tools for later research.

POL 65100 **RESEARCH SEMINAR: POLITICAL THEORY** **Weinstein**
T 3:00-5:50

This course is an in-depth investigation into a selected area of political thought. There will be intensive study and close analysis of the selected topic, school, or theoretic system. We will develop historic and philosophic methods applicable to the study of political thought.

POL 69300-001 **INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR** **Clark**
M 2:30-5:20 **Qualitative Methods**

Admission by consent of instructor. This course is an introduction to the use of qualitative methods in political science. The principal focus of this seminar will be political science research, although we will also read some of the classics outside the political science literature. In the last decade or so, political scientists have begun to be more self-conscious about the standards and procedures involved in analysis of non-quantitative data, including research choices such as case selection, research design, and data-gathering and -analyzing procedures. Studying qualitative methods entails several distinct, but related, tasks. First, the course will cover issues of research design using qualitative methods, drawing on recent methodological and philosophy of science debates. Second, the course will focus on the strategies and techniques of qualitative analysis. These include data gathering techniques such as observation (participant and non-participant), interviewing, and archival research, as well as strategies for recording, organizing, and writing up qualitative field data. Third, the course will discuss practical issues such as getting funded, as well as the practical political and ethical issues that can arise in field research.

POL 69300-002 **INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR** **Carroll**
W 5:30-8:20 **Gender, "Power," and "Direct Action"**

Today the concept of political power is generally conflated with dominance. But in the history of women's political thought, there is a strong tradition that challenges this conception of power, encompassing efforts to analyze power in populist terms, or in terms of autonomy, to emphasize the power of opinion, the power of consent, collective power, the creative and revolutionary power of the masses, the power of action, "self-power," "power to" as opposed to "power over," and "the powers of the 'powerless'." As Hannah Arendt wrote: "It is only after one ceases to reduce public affairs to the business of dominion that the original data in the realm of human affairs will appear, or rather, reappear, in their authentic diversity" (On Violence, 1972).