Our department welcomes two new, tenure-track faculty members this semester: Dr. Eric Blanchard and Dr. Helen Knowles.

Also this semester, Dr. Lisa Glidden returns from her one-year sabbatical.

The "senior seminar" (POL 497), offered every semester and required for all POL majors, is being taught by Dr. Rank this semester.

POL 300 is the department’s course number for “topics” classes—one-time offerings or courses that could become permanent additions to our program. (POL majors and minors can take POL 300 multiple times for credit.) This semester, we’re offering five POL 300 classes covering a wide range of topics:

- Diplomacy (Dr. Warkentin)
- Enlightenment Political Thought & Its Legacies (Dr. Rosow)
- Gender & World Politics (Dr. Blanchard)
- Power in American Politics (Dr. Dragomir)
- Sustainability (Dr. Glidden)

SUS 115 (“Economic & Political Foundations of Sustainability”) may be taken as the one lower-division political science elective allowed in the major. SUS 115 is also cross-listed as POL 300 (“Sustainability”), with requirements and additional assignments consistent with an upper division course. If you would like to take SUS 115 or POL 300 and have it count toward your political science major, please let Dr. Glidden know once the semester begins so that she can file the appropriate paperwork to have the course reflected correctly on DegreeWorks.

Internship and independent study opportunities are available for interested students. Additional information and forms are available in the department office.
COURSES

POL 201-800, Global Politics
ERIC BLANCHARD | Mon/Wed, 3:00-4:25 | CRN 94874
This course introduces students to the rich empirical and theoretical study of global politics through a survey of the major topics, debates and approaches encompassed by the discipline of International Relations. During the semester, we will examine questions of war, security, political economy, international organization and global governance, paying attention to the political, social, cultural and ethical dynamics of key processes in world politics. While the course is designed to help students become familiar with the consequences that flow from the way our world is organized into sovereign nation-states, we will also consider at length the challenges posed to states and global communities in the 21st century by globalization, democratization, the technological revolution, and new forms of cultural identity. We will trace the significant legacies of international historical developments (such as World War I, World War II, and the Cold War) on the present post-9/11 situation, and map the contemporary scene, with special attention to issues such as human rights, rising powers, nuclear proliferation, inequality, climate change, terrorism, and the possible future of world politics.

POL 203-810, Critical Thinking in Politics
STEPHEN ROSEW | Tue/Thu, 12:45-2:05 | CRN 90325
This course teaches critical thinking by engaging students in major controversies over the analysis of key concepts in political science. It develops the student's basic skills in reading complex texts and in recognizing and analyzing assumptions, structuring and organizing arguments, and understanding and analyzing symbolic discourses. Each section of the course will raise competing perspectives and will focus on critical thinking and argument-making skills. The course will combine theoretical readings with discussions of specific political issues.

POL 203-820, Critical Thinking in Politics
CRISTINA DRAGOMIR | Tue/Thu, 9:35-10:55 | CRN 95528
This course is a comprehensive exploration of ideas aiming to familiarize students with making clear, reasoned judgments. It stimulates students' intellectual interests and enhances their commitment to academic standards and rigor. Students will gain a variety of skills, such as in-depth reading and working with texts. At the end of the course, they will skillfully conceptualize, analyze and synthesize different perspectives and will persuasively present them. More importantly, students will learn how to engage critically with texts, how to dismantle arguments, and how to create newer and stronger ones. In addition to extensive online and in-class discussions, the class requires reading original texts, writing four short summaries, and an in-class midterm and final exam.

POL 205-800, American Government & Politics
CRISTINA DRAGOMIR | Tue/Thu, 11:10-12:30 | CRN 90326
This course provides an introduction to the politics of the United States; it introduces students to a variety of analytical concepts and approaches useful for the study of domestic politics. This course provides a conceptual framework allowing students to understand the underpinnings of American politics. Throughout the semester we'll delve into areas such as political culture, institutions, elections, and interest groups. Students will take two exams, a midterm and final, 5 online quizzes, and engage in debates in class and online.

POL 205-810, American Government & Politics
MICHAEL RUDDY | Mon/Wed, 4:40-6:05 | CRN 92549
This course is an introduction to the American political system, including the Constitutional framework, Constitutional history and federalism. This course will examine legislative, executive, and judicial functions, as well as the nature of American political parties, interest groups, public opinion, social movements, the media, wealth distribution and the role each plays in contemporary American politics and subsequently the life of the nation.

POL 205-820, American Government & Politics
BRANDON METROKA | Mon, 6:10-8:55 | CRN 94738
This course is an introduction to the institutions and processes of the national government. Against a background of the Constitution and the social context of American politics, attention will be given to such topics as voting behavior, public opinion and political attitudes, the party system, the president, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the United States in the context of international relations. By the end of the course, students should have a fundamental grasp of and be conversant in American politics.
POL 205-830, American Government & Politics
HELEN KNOWLES | Mon/Wed/Fri, 12:40-1:35 | CRN 95523

This course provides an introduction to the politics of the United States; it introduces students to a variety of analytical concepts and approaches useful for the study of domestic politics. This course provides a conceptual framework allowing students to understand the underpinnings of American politics. Throughout the semester we will delve into areas such as political culture, institutions, elections and interest groups.

POL 205-ON1, American Government & Politics
ERIC SNYDER | Online | CRN 97425

POL 205-ON2, American Government & Politics
ERIC SNYDER | Online | CRN 98344

This course will introduce students to American democracy and its founding, contemporary governmental institutions and politics at the national level of government. It will provide students with opportunities to participate as citizens in the U.S. political system. There will be discussion of political theories, ideas and they will then be applied in daily discussions of current political affairs. Specific topics that will be analyzed include: political parties, interest groups, media, Federalism, the Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, and the policy-making that results from their interactions.

POL 300-800, Diplomacy
CRAIG WARKENTIN | Tue/Thu, 12:45-2:05 | CRN 95028

Diplomacy—the art and practice of managing relations between states and other international actors—is a fundamental component of foreign policy and global politics. This course surveys the actors, dynamics, and processes that comprise modern diplomacy and covers a range of attendant issues. Topics addressed include the role and functions of diplomats, institutions of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, negotiations, public diplomacy, international law, non-state actors, the communications revolution, and prospects for reform.

POL 300-810, Power in American Politics
CRISTINA DRAGOMIR | Tue, 2:20-3:40 | CRN 96531

From the beginning of the nation to today’s events in Ferguson and New York City, questions such as “Who has power in American Politics?,” “How is it exercised?,” “How can it be transformed?,” and “How can minority groups access transformative power?” have persisted, challenging Americans’ consciousness and informing the practice of American Politics. This course aims to answer these questions while surveying American political institutions (Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary) and looking at movements such as feminism, the Civil Rights Movement, and immigrant and LGBTQ organizing. The course is writing, reading, and debate intensive. Many of our sessions take place online, so students should be prepared to collaborate both in class and online. Additionally, there will be a midterm (in class exam) and a final paper.

POL 300-820, Gender & World Politics
ERIC BLANCHARD | Tue, 3:55-6:40 | CRN 98337

This course presents a comprehensive introduction to a way of analyzing and researching global politics and international relations that takes gender seriously as an analytic category. The course is particularly concerned with the ways in which gender is implicated in the construction of international relations —how this affects the foreign policies of states and the security of people—and what this means for the actions of other actors in world politics, such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs), and social movements. We will attempt to better understand just how “gender matters” in many facets of international relations such as war and peace, foreign policy, economics, security, activism, the environment, development, and human rights. Additional topics we will investigate in-depth include nationalism and identity, human security, post-war reconstruction, “trafficking,” and the information revolution. By the end of the course, students will be able to better critique foreign policies and global governance practices by understanding their gendered formulations, implementations, and consequences.
POL 300-830, Sustainability
LISA GLIDDEN | Mon/Wed/Fri, 10:20-11:15 | CRN 98339
SUS 115-800, Economic & Political Foundations of Sustainability
LISA GLIDDEN | Mon/Wed/Fri, 10:20-11:15 | CRN 96823
The purpose of this class is to provide students with a working vocabulary and understanding of the multidisciplinary, difficult to define concept, sustainability. Too often “discussions” about sustainability are pointless exercises in people talking past one another. Students in this class will develop the tools to knowledgeably engage in debates and articulate arguments about sustainability and related issues.
Note: SUS 115 ("Economic & Political Foundations of Sustainability") may be taken as the one lower-division political science elective allowed in the major. SUS 115 is also cross-listed as POL 300 ("Sustainability"), with requirements and additional assignments consistent with an upper division course. If you would like to take SUS 115 or POL 300 and have it count toward your political science major, please let Dr. Glidden know once the semester begins so that she can file the appropriate paperwork to have the course reflected correctly on DegreeWorks.

POL 300-840, Enlightenment Political Thought & Its Legacies
STEPHEN ROSOW | Tue, 3:55-6:40 | CRN 98343
Many people in the West as well as some in non-Western states continue to believe in the importance of principles of Enlightenment political theory: progress; individual natural rights; universality; thinking critically; and that the aim of government is to provide for the health and wellbeing of the population as a whole. This course will explore the foundations, continued salience, and criticisms of these ideas. Readings will include writings by Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Bentham, Kant, Hegel, Freud, Foucault, Hannah Arendt, and as well as contemporary theorists such as Bonnie Honig, Charles Taylor, and William Connolly. POL 203 or the equivalent background in history, philosophy, social or literary theory is suggested.

POL 305-800, State & Local Government
MICHAEL RUDDY | Mon/Wed, 6:20-7:45 | CRN 90330
This course is a seminar designed to provide students with a basic understanding of how public policy is formulated and political decisions are made by state and local governments. The course will examine the general principles of federalism as that process impacts upon state and local governments. That examination will explore the relationships and factors that impact upon state and local electoral politics, political institutions, and public policies. We will more closely investigate the impact those factors have had on state-wide politics, local politics, regional politics and state-local relations for a representative selection of states in different regions of the nation.

POL 323-800, Postmodern Political & Social Theory
STEPHEN ROSOW | Tue/Thu, 11:10-12:30 | CRN 98342
Several aspects of contemporary life challenge fundamental institutions and assumptions of modern politics and modern political thought: the increased power of transnational corporations and the seeming subordination of politics to global capital; the new powers of surveillance and control of digital information technologies; the acceleration of social life; the fluid movements of people across national borders; the rise of identity politics; and environmental challenges. All of these seem to challenge the modern ideas of sovereignty, the subject as an autonomous, free individual, and democracy. This course explores how current political theory is addressing these challenges to modern thought and practice. POL 203 or the equivalent, or some background in philosophy, social theory or literary theory would be helpful.

POL 329-800, American Foreign Policy
ERIC BLANCHARD | Mon/ Wed, 4:40-6:05 | CRN 98338
American Foreign Policy is a course designed to introduce students to the foreign policy of the United States with particular attention to the period since 1945. In this class, we will explore key concepts such as the national interest and identity, cover the major schools of thought on US foreign policy, and study American foreign policy responses to contemporary global challenges. Students will learn to utilize and critique the conceptual frameworks provided by International Relations (IR) theory and the subfield of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA). We will ground our studies in a working knowledge of the history of US foreign affairs, familiarity with recent developments in IR theory, and a healthy respect for the complexity of the policy making process. Recognizing the impact of international, systemic factors, and domestic sources of US foreign policy, we will study several cases in-depth (such as the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam War, and the US experience in Iraq after the Cold War) and survey current issues in US relations with Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. We will close the semester by assessing the current administration’s foreign policy and considering several future challenges.
POL 335-800, The Supreme Court
HELEN KNOWLES | Mon/Wed/Fri, 11:30-12:25 | CRN 98345

This course will reflect on the history and future of the U.S. Supreme Court. It will consider the decision-making of the justices; media coverage; the contentious process of appointing Supreme Court justices; and the role of law clerks and political actors. We will read and analyze arguments made by judges, journalists, and scholars. The course will culminate with a case study of a case pending before the current Court; students will work through the case, sitting as a sort of mock court. For this project, the ultimate goal is for groups of students to write opinions in the case from the perspective of randomly assigned members of the current Court.

POL 345-800, American Constitutional Law
HELEN KNOWLES | Mon/Wed, 3:00-4:25 | CRN 97420

The U.S. Constitution establishes the framework and principles for a government of limited powers. This course will lead students through a series of decisions addressing the scope of those powers granted to the three branches of the federal government, and the relationship of those powers to those retained by the states. We will consider the methods of legal reasoning used in the different cases, the patterns that have occurred over time, and the political implications of those decisions. Most of the reading will be primary documents—such as Court opinions, presidential statements, and Congressional debates. In each class students will be randomly called on to answer questions about the reading, so enthusiasm and preparation is essential.

POL 389-800, Security Studies
CRAIG WARKENTIN | Tue/Thu, 2:20-3:40 | CRN 98346

The notion of security shapes our daily experience and public discourse in distinctive and important ways. Security is also a central concern of the academic discipline of international relations. But what is security? How can we best understand it? And what can we do to achieve it? This course surveys these and other questions, as well as specific topics in the field of security studies. We'll examine contending theoretical approaches to the study of international security and explore a range of issues including the role of intelligence in national security, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, humanitarian intervention, energy, health, crime, and child soldiers.

POL 405-800 Mass Media & Public Opinion
ALLISON RANK | Tue/Thu, 8:00-9:20 | CRN 98341

In this course we will analyze the development of mass media and its role in the American political process. Topics covered in this class will include the impact of the media on political knowledge, the construction of political spectacles, and the attempts of actors and institutions to leverage the media for political gain.

POL 409-800, Comparative Energy Policy
LISA GLIDDEN | Mon/Wed/Fri, 11:30-12:25 | CRN 98340

Why does the US have a reactionary energy policy marked by vast inconsistencies and shaped by crisis, while Brazil and Denmark have maintained consistent energy policies? How has Cuba managed to achieve sustainable development? Are renewable energy sources capable of providing power all the time? How much nuclear power should be in a country's energy mix? What is the future of fossil fuels after peak oil? This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to understanding current energy issues and responses to these questions. For each energy source it explains the science of electricity generation, for example, alternative energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal sources, reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, and ethanol. The second part of the analysis examines current energy policies on a cross-national basis. We examine energy policies of several countries around the globe. With this broad approach, you will be able to assess states' current energy policies and to articulate policy shifts in order to create a more sustainable future that meets the energy needs of the world's citizens.

POL 497-800, Seminar: Defining America
ALLISON RANK | Wed, 4:10-6:55 | CRN 96533

This seminar will focus on the various ways that America employs, pushes against, and renegotiates boundaries (physical and constructed) as well as why and when it does so. Topics covered in the class will include the impact of the closing of the frontier on American political culture, the malleable nature of whiteness in American history, and understanding how fear motivates political behavior.