

Fall 2016 Course Bulletin

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT | SUNY OSWEGO
431 Mahar Hall | 315.312.2350 | www.oswego.edu/polisci

ADVISEMENT COORDINATOR: DR. HELEN KNOWLES
INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR: DR. STEPHEN ROSOW
DEPARTMENT CHAIR: DR. CRAIG WARKENTIN

CLASS SCHEDULE

COURSE	TITLE	DAY	TIME	FACULTY	SUBFIELD
201-800	Global Politics	TR	12:45 – 2:05	Warkentin	Global
201-810	Global Politics	MW	3:00 – 4:25	Blanchard	Global
203-810	Critical Thinking in Politics	TR	9:35 – 10:55	Rosow	Theory
203-820	Critical Thinking in Politics	TR	12:45 – 2:05	Rosow	Theory
205-80F	American Government & Politics	TR	8:00 – 9:20	Rank	American
205-810	American Government & Politics	MW	4:40 – 6:05	Ruddy	American
205-820	American Government & Politics	M	6:10 – 8:55	Metroka	American
205-830	American Government & Politics	MW	6:20 – 7:45	Ruddy	American
205-ON1	American Government & Politics	—	Online	Snyder	American
205-ON2	American Government & Politics	—	Online	Snyder	American
215-800	Law and Courts	MWF	11:30 – 12:25	Knowles	American
300-800	Chinese Politics and Security	MW	4:40 – 6:05	Blanchard	Global
300-820	Vote Oswego	W	4:10 – 6:55	Rank	American
303-800	Ancient & Medieval Pol. Thought	TR	11:10 – 12:30	Rosow	Theory
309-800	International Law	TR	2:20 – 3:40	Warkentin	Global
335-800	The Supreme Court	MWF	12:40 – 1:35	Knowles	American
337-800	Middle East Politics	MWF	10:20 – 11:15	Glidden	Global
345-800	American Constitutional Law	MW	3:00 – 4:25	Knowles	American
346-800	American Political Development	TR	9:35 – 10:55	Rank	American
347-800	Politics of Development	MWF	11:30 – 12:25	Glidden	Global
497-800	S: Technology of Politics	T	3:55 – 6:40	Blanchard	Global

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Dr. Craig Warkentin will be returning from his sabbatical and resuming his role as Chair of the Department at the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester.
- The “senior seminar” (POL 497), offered every semester and required for all POL majors, is being taught by Dr. Eric Blanchard 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 are offering two POL 300 classes covering the following topics:
 - Vote Oswego (Dr. Rank)
 - Chinese Politics and Security (Dr. Blanchard)
- Internship and independent study opportunities are available for interested students. Additional information and forms are available in the department office.

COURSE LISTINGS

POL 201-800, GLOBAL POLITICS

Craig Warkentin | Tue/Thu, 12:45-2:05 | CRN 91022

POL 201 offers an introduction to contemporary global politics, examining a wide range of topics including ethics, the environment, identity, religion, power, media, migration, the state, the global economy, inequality, poverty, security, human rights, and global change. Throughout the semester, you’ll be challenged to think critically about our subject material, articulate informed positions on a range of issues, and connect what we’re studying to your daily life.

POL 201-810, GLOBAL POLITICS

Eric Blanchard | Mon/Wed, 3:00-4:25 | CRN 93254

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 Rosow | Tue/Thu, 9:35-10:55 | CRN 90126

This introductory class aims to familiarize you with the main concepts of political theory. Different concepts of power have been presented by philosophers along time, hence ideas and concepts will be presented chronologically from Plato to Marx. This class does not aim to present an exhaustive list of concepts or authors, but a selection of texts that have been influencing the development of western political thought. No previous knowledge of political theory is necessary to successfully complete the assignments of the class. The main goal is to acquaint you with the continuous change of political concepts throughout the course of time. You will learn how to critically analyze and evaluate political concepts, will become familiar with different systems of thought, and will learn how to compare them and apply them to political issues. In addition to a midterm and a final—both consisting of four short essays—students will write a minimum of four reading summaries, and engage in vivid class discussions on assigned texts.

POL 203-820, CRITICAL THINKING IN POLITICS

Stephen Rosow | Tue/Thu, 12:45-2:05 | CRN 91144

In this course we read several classic texts of political philosophy to examine notions of truth, justice, happiness and the good life, individual and common good, violence, freedom, morality, and the origins and nature of inequality. The aim of reading these texts, however, is not only to learn what the “classics” say about these concepts, but also critically to examine our own position with respect to what is taken to constitute the “Western canon” as the intellectual grounds of western culture. To this end, the second part of the course will focus on language and its relationship to power to interrogate the category of the “classic text.” Throughout the course, our primary goals will be to understand what is being said and done in the text and to use the expanded conceptual vocabulary we acquire in this understanding to think critically about the ideas we encounter in the course and beyond.

POL 205-80F, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Allison Rank | Thu, 8:00-9:20 | CRN 92313

This course provides an introduction to the politics of the United States; it introduces you to a variety of analytical concepts and approaches useful for the study of domestic politics. It provides a conceptual framework allowing you to understand the underpinnings of the American politics. Throughout the semester students will delve into areas such as political culture, institutions, elections, and interest groups. You will learn about the evolution of this system, and about the tension between intent and practice. Assignments are designed to improve different writing skills, including your ability to summarize the main points of an argument succinctly, to explain theories clearly, to use language precisely and demonstrate command of political science terminology, and to make an argument in which you state a thesis and support it through the use of evidence. The class entails one on-line midterm and one on-line final exam, regular quizzes, short essays, brief presentations, and regular, well-informed class activity.

POL 205-810, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Michael Ruddy | Mon/Wed, 4:40-6:05 | CRN 90738

POL 205-830, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Michael Ruddy | Mon/Wed, 6:20-7:45 | CRN 91143

This course is an introduction to the American political system, including the Constitutional framework: legislative, executive, and judicial functions; as well as the nature of American political parties, interest groups, public opinion, social movements, the media, and the role each plays in contemporary American life.

POL 205-820, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Brandon Metroka | Mon, 6:10-8:55 | CRN 90999

This course is an introduction to the institutions and processes of the national government. Against a background of the U.S. 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. Throughout the term, special attention will be given to the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. By the end of the course, students should have a fundamental grasp of and be conversant in American politics.

POL 205-ON1, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Eric Snyder | Online | CRN 91594

POL 205-ON2, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Eric Snyder | Online | CRN 91922

An introduction to the American federal system. Examines the Constitution, Congress, the presidency, Supreme Court, bureaucracy, political parties, elections, campaigns, interest groups, and the policy process.

POL 215-800, LAW AND COURTS

Helen Knowles | Mon/Wed/Fri, 11:30-12:25 | CRN 92894

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the various theories and methods of law and legal interpretation that have been (and are being) employed by academics, practitioners of politics, and judges. It equips interested students with the knowledge and critical analytical understanding of law and courts they need in order to pursue more advanced study in the field (study that includes, but is not limited to, POL345: Constitutional Law and POL355: Civil Liberties). The course will strongly emphasize the importance of developing critical writing and discussion skills.

POL 300-800, CHINESE POLITICS AND SECURITY

Eric Blanchard | Mon/Wed, 4:40-6:05 | CRN 91045

This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the politics and security of the People's Republic of China since 1949. China's impressive rise in economic terms raises important questions about whether or not China will be a revisionist or status quo great power in the future. What does China "want"? Is China a "threat" to its neighbors and to the United States? Or can it be successfully "socialized" into the international community? We will assess these and other questions by considering the dynamics of Chinese domestic politics and the security interests and behavior of the ruling Chinese Communist Party, as well as China's multiple historical identities—as communist, developing country, and as responsible great power. We will apply and critique the major theories of global politics as they pertain to Chinese foreign and security policy towards the United States, the Asia-Pacific, and other regions.

POL 300-820, VOTE OSWEGO

Allison Rank | Wed, 4:10-6:55 | CRN 91916

In this practical skills-based course students will run a non-partisan voter registration and get out the vote (GOTV) campaign on campus. Students will learn the nuts and bolts of building and running a political campaign including how to set and revise campaign goals, develop a coalition, work with the media, recruit and train volunteers, and develop and articulate a unified message. The students in this course will not simply be volunteers for a campaign. They will be campaign staff involved in making decisions about the direction of the campaign. This course will benefit any student hoping to secure a job in politics, advocacy, or the non-profit world. Class time will be divided among guest speakers, skills trainings, campaign strategy meetings, field work, and analyzing contemporary research on the civic participation of American youth.

POL 303-800, ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

Stephen Rosow | Tue/Thu, 11:10-12:30 | CRN 92680

This course will investigate the history of the construction of a tradition of Western political theory that continues to resonate in current politics. The concepts and arguments that were initially formed in ancient Greece and Medieval Europe continue to frame the current language of politics. During the course, students will read translations of original texts by Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, St. Augustine, Marsiglio of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as a selection of Islamic and Jewish political philosophers. The course is the first of a sequence of survey courses in political theory. It would be useful for students to have taken POL 203 or the equivalent.

POL 309-800, INTERNATIONAL LAW

Craig Warkentin | Tues/Thurs, 2:20-3:40pm | CRN 92893

International actors are bound by certain rules and principles in their interactions with one another. This course focuses on the creation, enforcement, and political implications of those rules and principles, collectively referred to as international law. During the semester, we'll cover broad topics such as the nature of international law, tensions between law and sovereignty, and questions of legitimacy, relevance, and justice. We'll also examine specific legal cases, practical applications of international law, and a range of issue-areas including human rights law, humanitarian law, international criminal law, environmental law, the use of force, and management of the global economy.

POL 335-800, THE SUPREME COURT

Helen Knowles | Mon/Wed/Fri, 12:40-1:35pm | CRN 91923

This course will examine 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.

POL 337-800, MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

Lisa Glidden | Mon/Wed/Fri, 10:20-11:15am | CRN 92890

Is the "Arab spring" over? Why did it happen in the first place? Why haven't Israel and Palestine been able to negotiate a peace accord? This course examines contemporary political issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Other topics we'll study are international relations, the politics of oil, issues of democratization, gender, religion, and the development of civil society. You will have the opportunity to question your assumptions, learn how to critically approach the subject matter, articulate informed positions on relevant issues, and develop policy prescriptions to address key political problems.

POL 345-800, AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Helen Knowles | Mon/Wed, 3:00-4:25pm | CRN 91593

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 346-800, AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Allison Rank | Tue/Thu, 9:35-11:55am | CRN 92891

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the subfield of American political development. This subfield emphasizes the relationships between contemporary politics and political history by engaging in careful tracing of the consequences (intended and unintended) of political actions as well as the role of language (rhetoric and narrative) in political change. This course will expose students to the methodological approaches of process tracing and discourse analysis.

POL 347-800, POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Glidden | Mon/Wed/Fri, 11:30-12:25 | CRN 92682

Why are there so many “developing” countries in the world? What does it mean to be a developing country? Why have some countries been able to improve their economies and their population’s lives, while other countries have not? The international community for the last 60+ years has attempted to bring about “development,” with very few success stories. In this course, students will critically examine the notion of development and how it has been put into practice. We’ll examine how and why the paradigm of development has changed over time, success stories and unsuccessful stories, and gender and development.

POL 497-800, TECHNOLOGY AND POLITICS

Eric Blanchard | Tues, 3:55-6:40 | CRN 91363

This seminar will investigate the relationship between technology and politics in theory and practice. We will look at questions such as: How should we define and understand the political from the vantage point of a society and culture saturated with technology? Should humankind even relinquish some technologies because they are too dangerous? Together we will explore various topics at the intersection of technology and politics, including but not limited to democratic politics, global surveillance, gendered technologies, robotics in warfare, automation in society, and the movements of capital. During the semester, we will study the process of producing research questions, develop the skills of identifying resources and reviewing literatures, practice making arguments, and perfect our ability to use proper citation practices. In close consultation with the instructor, each student will draft a high quality research paper built in stages over the course of the semester, present their research and provide critiques of their peers throughout the process.