

## **SPECIAL AND UPPER DIVISION COURSES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE SPRING 2008**

### **PLS 2513 Moot Court, 1 credit hour**

**Instructor: Dr. Karen Swenson**

A role-playing simulation in which students represent attorneys in simulated appellate court competitions. Students will attend at least one competition per semester of enrollment as determined by the instructor, with learning activities ranging from oral arguments to the preparation of written legal briefs. The course may be repeated for a total of six semester hours, but no more than two semester hours may count towards the Political Science major or Political Science minor. Students may pay expenses associated with registration, travel, room and meal charges while attending competition. Restricted to students selected to represent EIU at the moot court competitions designated by the department; completion of the fall semester course or permission of instructor is required for registration in the spring semester course.

### **PLS 2611 Model Illinois Government, 1 credit hour**

**Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Ashley**

Have you ever thought that you could do a better job running the Illinois government than our current officials? How are decisions made in Springfield? Who has a role in the policy process? Do you want to gain experience in state politics?

If any of these questions interest you, then you should get involved in Model Illinois Government (MIG). Participants will represent state government officials from the executive branch or the General Assembly, serving as senators, representatives, lobbyists, budget staff, or journalists. Students can also serve as lawyers or judges in a moot court competition. You can also earn one credit hour by enrolling in PLS 2611, which meets weekly during the spring semester. During class meetings, we will prepare for the simulation by studying Illinois politics and the policy process. Grades are based on participation, attendance, and written work. The class is run in a seminar style. Students who have taken the class before may repeat it twice for credit. All students are welcome to take the class; no previous MIG experience is necessary.

### **PLS 3203 American Foreign Policy, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**

This course examines the political process of American foreign policy making. Special attention is devoted to the influence of the Cold War and the American governmental institutions that make foreign policy, including the President, Congress, the CIA, the State Department, and the National Security Council. The course also examines current issues facing the United States, including terrorism, drug trafficking, trade policies, and military action abroad. (Meets the Writing Intensive requirement).

**PLS 3323 Post-Communist Politics and Government, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Oleg Kodolov**

This course examines political and economic developments in the former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe since collapse of communism in the late 1980s-early 1990s. Particular attention is devoted to building new political structures and to economic and social policies in post-communist nations. Other issues include identity and public social policies in post-communist nations. Other issues include identity and public opinion and ethno-territorial politics, nationalism, and regionalism. While contemporary Russian politics constitutes a significant component of this course, many other nations are discussed. Building on historical material, comparative analysis is used to evaluate the vast diversity in the nations with communist legacy in regards to political attitudes, geopolitical orientation and economic and political development.

**PLS 3343 Government and Politics of the Middle East, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. David Carwell**

This course is an introduction to the political cultures of the contemporary Middle East with an emphasis on the political organization and behavior of the states of this region, the problems of political modernization, the inter-regional conflicts, and the American role in the Middle East. The class format will be a combination of lectures and discussions of recent regional developments. (Writing Intensive).

**PLS 3373 International Political Economy, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Oleg Kodolov**

This course introduces you to the theories and institutions involved in political economy. Competing theories of political economy will be analyzed. Examples of other subjects to be considered, from a political science perspective, are: monetary relations; international debt and development; international trade; the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; the World Trade Organization; regional trading blocs and the role of multi-national corporations.

**PLS 3543 American Civil Liberties , 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Karen Swenson**

This is a public law class, focusing on significant and controversial Supreme Court decisions in the following areas: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, affirmative action, right of privacy, equal protection as it applied to race, gender, sexual orientation, and other forms of discrimination and the right to bear arms. This class emphasizes discussion of the assigned case materials. The course will include a Supreme Court simulation project. (Writing Intensive).

**PLS 3703 African American Politics, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Kevin Anderson**

This course is designed to analyze how African Americans have interacted with the American political system. It will provide an overview of the roles and processes by which African Americans have engaged the political system in the United States as well as consider the historical background and context of the constitutional framework and broad interactions with the major institutions of American Government. This course will also study the role of political parties, elections, and social movements in the development of African American political activity.

**PLS 3763 Environmental Politics & Policy, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mueller**

Who makes environmental policy in the U.S.? What powers do the president, Congress, states, and courts possess to shape this policy? What powers do the public, interest groups, industry and media possess? Who comes first when developing new policies—the poor, the voters, or the economy? Are all Republicans necessarily anti-environmental? Will adopting a comprehensive climate change policy in the U.S. hurt our economy? These are a few of the questions we will address in this course, as we explore whether an opinion shift on environmental policy in the U.S. will result in significant policy changes. This class involves discussion, group activities, and lectures. Grades will be based on essay exams, writing responses, and a research paper.

**PLS 4853 Contemporary Constitutional Development, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Karen Swenson**

More than most public law classes, this class will concentrate on explaining and predicting why the Supreme Court decides cases as it does, not only by understanding precedent and the doctrine of *stare decisis*, but by understanding other influences on the Court and individual Justices. We will focus on cases pending before the Supreme Court this term as well as the primary cases that the Court will rely on as precedent in deciding these current cases. We will also focus on the personal and political backgrounds of the Justices of the current Supreme Court. The key project for this course is a Prediction Paper; you will set forth a comprehensive theory of judicial decision-making, and apply the theory by predicting how three Justices will vote on a case currently pending before the Court. This course is open to graduate students as well as junior and senior students with some background in law and courts.

**PLS 4873 Human Resource Management in Government, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Ashley**

This course involves an examination of personnel management practices in the public sector. It merges a traditional public personnel management approach with contemporary approaches to human resource management. Current issues such as affirmative action, drug testing, and gender discrimination will also be discussed within the context of personnel management. (Writing Intensive).

**PLS 4893 Government Budgeting and Politics, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Richard Wandling**

What are the major stages in federal, state and local budgeting? What factors shape the spending choices made by government officials? What is the role of politics in the development, adoption and execution of government budgets? What do we know about the revenue side of public budgeting—e.g. income, sales and property taxes? These are some of the important questions to be considered in this examination of the major processes, methods and politics of government budgeting in the United States. Any junior, senior or graduate student with an interest in how governments raise and spend money is welcomed to join this class. Grades will be based on exams; case studies and budget exercises; research/writing projects; and participation.

**PLS 4913 Contemporary Political Theory, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Kevin Anderson**

This course is designed to give students a broad overview of modern and contemporary political thinkers and the dominant issues of the time. Beginning with Machiavelli and continuing through Marx to contemporary proponents of civil disobedience and Post-statism, several streams of political thought will be covered, including Liberalism, Conservatism, Marxism and Anarchism. Students will read and interpret original writings of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century political thinkers. (Writing Intensive).

**PLS 4933 Ideologies of Third World Nations, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. David Carwell**

Third World ideologies is an exploration of some of the theories of political development and mobilization used in the lesser-developed world. Particular writers examined include Gandhi, Frantz Fanon, Julius Nyerere and Marx. Mobilizing ideals covered include nationalism, religion (especially Islam and Liberation Theology), and the desperation that leads to such extremist ideologies as the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and the Shining Path movement in Peru. No previous experience in political theory is necessary. Exams are essay, and the reading load is heavy.