

## **SPECIAL AND UPPER DIVISION COURSES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE SPRING 2009**

### **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.

### **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 3100 Global Threats and Problems, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Andrew McNitt**

An interdisciplinary study of current global problems, this course includes a mix of faculty from the Departments of Economics, Geology/Geography, Political Science and Sociology/Anthropology. Four different social scientific approaches will be used to analyze complex questions regarding the survival of humanity given current threats to our environments, cultures, geopolitical affiliations, and socioeconomic structures. Topics may include famine, terrorism, global poverty and stratification, energy policy, and health care and disease, among others. The course may not be repeated.

### **PLS 3223 International Organizations**

**Instructor: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**

This course examines the role and importance of international organizations in helping to solve regional and global problems relating to peace and order, economic security, environmental security, and human rights. Global governmental organizations such as the United Nations and NATO will be examined, as well as the European Union. Special attention is given to international peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations, the leadership of international organizations, and the role of international organizations when force is used.

**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. Steven Roper**

International Political Economy (IPE) has emerged as one of the most important areas of international relations over the last three decades. This course provides a basic understanding of the important issues within IPE and analyzes the structure and the uses of economic power and the inter-relationship between economics and politics. In the first section of the course, we examine competing theories of political economy, including neo-mercantilism, liberalism, Marxism, dependency and hegemonic stability theory. The second section explores IPE issues such as monetary relations, international debt and development. We examine the development of Bretton Woods institutions including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The third section addresses IPE issues such as 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 expression, the right to bear arms, the right to bear arms, the right to privacy, and civil rights (discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation). This class emphasizes discussion of the assigned case materials. (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 3743     The Legislative Process, 3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Barbara Poole**

This course examines the U.S. Congress as a policy-making institution from a variety of perspectives. Topics include the historical development of Congress, nominations and elections, constituent relations, congressional relations, congressional leadership, formal and informal rules and procedures, policy formation, lobbying, and relations with the judicial and executive branches. This is an advanced course which assumes a basic knowledge of the American political system.

All students will be required to prepare several short reading responses as well as a longer paper (six to eight pages) which will analyze the political process as it applies to a particular piece of legislation. There will be three exams in total. A study guide will be given to you to help you prepare for each exam. (Writing Intensive)

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

**Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mueller**

In this course, we will analyze how the U.S. and other countries make environmental policy. We will begin by evaluating the different ways that people view the environment and environmentalism. From there, we will explore how these views manifest themselves in political behavior and government institutions---with a focus on U.S. policy-making. In addition, we will consider the tools and approaches used to make environmental policy, focusing on how the reality of politics can conflict with ideal policy-making. We will conclude by analyzing some of the major policy issues currently being debated by politicians and policy-makers today. 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? How should the U.S. political system deal with the cumulative impacts of running large deficits from year to year? What happens to the federal budget when substantial dollars are committed to purposes such as taxpayer relief, dealing with the subprime mortgage crisis or bailing out Wall Street financial institutions? These are some of the important questions to be considered in this examination of government budgeting in the United States. Any junior, senior or graduate student with an interest in the how and why of government revenues and spending is welcome 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.