

Politics

Bruce Magnusson, *Chair, Fall 2007*

(on *Sabbatical, Spring 2008*)

Paul Apostolidis, *Chair, Spring 2008*

(on *Sabbatical, Fall 2007*)

Shampa Biswas

Kristy King

Aaron Bobrow-Strain

Jeannie Morefield

Philip D. Brick

(on *Sabbatical,*

Timothy Kaufman-

Fall 2007)

Osborn

Matthew Voorhees

(on *Sabbatical,*

2007-08)

The departmental aim is to cultivate in students a critical ability to interpret political questions from a variety of perspectives.

A student who enters Whitman without any prior college-level preparation in politics will have to complete 34 credits to fulfill the requirements for the politics major. Courses completed in the politics major apply to the social science and alternative voices (selected courses) distribution areas.

Major requirements: The major in politics consists of 34 departmental credits, distributed as follows:

(a) At least 12 credits of 300 and 400 level courses, exclusive of the required senior seminar, and exclusive of the senior thesis or honors thesis,

(b) Successful completion of the department's senior seminar (four credits),

(c) Successful composition of a senior thesis or honors thesis; a grade of C- or better is required for the thesis (two credits).

The program for the major is to be planned by the student and his or her adviser so as to ensure adequate breadth in the courses taken. No more than eight credits earned in off-campus programs, transfer credits, and/or credits from cross-listed courses may be used to satisfy major requirements. Of these eight credits, no more than four may count toward 300 and 400-level courses. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy the course and credit requirements for the major.

Minor requirements: A minimum of 20 credits of departmental offerings. These must

include eight credits in courses 300- and above, and must include courses taught by at least two different members of the department. No more than four credits earned in off-campus programs, transfer credits, and/or credits from cross-listed courses may be used to satisfy minor requirements. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy the course and credit requirements for the minor.

The politics department also participates in various interdepartmental major study programs, including politics-environmental studies. Courses completed in this major apply to the social science and science (selected courses) distribution areas. For additional information, consult the department's home page at: <http://www.whitman.edu/Departments/Politics/Politics.html>.

106 Nations and Nationalisms

4; not offered 2007-08

This course introduces students to a range of explanations for the origins of nations and the spread of nationalism. Through a survey of contemporary case studies, we examine the different forms that nationalism can take and how it draws on race, ethnicity, class, and gender. We also examine the connections between nationalism and violence, using such cases as Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

118 Politics in the United States

x, 4

Voorhees

This course introduces students to the institutions, ideologies, and controversies of contemporary American politics. It explores questions such as these: How democratic are the processes of congressional policy making? What aids and obstacles to democracy are furnished by elections, the presidency, federalism, interest groups, courts, bureaucracies, political parties, social movements, and the media? How do experiences of American democracy vary for different social groups in terms of class, race, and gender? The course emphasizes case studies in political events and public policy while also including selected readings in political theory.

119 Whitman in the Global Food System

4; not offered 2007-08

This course uses food as a window through which to examine the study of politics and its connections to our everyday lives. Topics range from the geopolitics of food aid and trade to the gendered politics of export agriculture in the Third World, from the political ecology of obesity in the U.S. to the causes of famine in Africa. The course is designed to get students out of the classroom and into the larger community. To this end, along with standard seminar readings, discussions,

and occasional lecture, the course includes short field trips and small group projects in which students trace connections between food on campus and larger global processes.

124 Introduction to Politics and the Environment

x, 4

Brick

An introduction to key concepts in the study of politics using environmental issues as illustrations. Designed for first and second year students, this course encourages critical thinking and writing about such political concepts as equality, justice, freedom, liberalism, power, dissent, individualism, and community. Strong emphasis is placed on developing critical writing skills and persuasive oral arguments. A field trip may be required. Three periods a week.

147 International Politics

x, 4

Biswas

This course is designed as an introduction to the study of contemporary international politics. The course will explore contending approaches to the study of international politics, including political realism, political idealism and liberalism, feminism, political economy, and constructivism. We will discuss how these different approaches can help us understand major current issues, including war and peace, weapons proliferation, the environment, globalization, and human rights.

157 Foundations of Feminist Political Thought

4; not offered 2007-08

This course examines the emergence of feminist political thought in Europe and America. Beginning with readings from the seventeenth century and ending with Simone De Beauvoir, we consider how early feminist writers were influenced by their political, economic, and social context. At the same time, we focus on a number of themes that reappear throughout these works. These themes range from the demand for women's suffrage and publicly funded day care to issues of sexuality and self-identity. Students are asked to consider what bearing these themes might have on contemporary feminism. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

179 International Political Economy

4; not offered 2007-08

This course will look at the variety of ways that economics and politics intersect in the international system. Using a variety of theoretical approaches (mercantilism, liberalism, marxist-structuralism), we will explore critically the role of states in domestic and international markets, the functioning of the international finance and monetary systems, the role of multinational corporations, and other issues related to economic and political development. In thinking about each of these issues, the course will raise questions about the significance and implications of the current trends toward "globalization."

200-204 Special Studies in Politics:

Introductory Level

4

An introductory course designed to familiarize first- and second-year students with basic concepts and problems in the study of politics. Each time it is offered, the course focuses on a different topic or area, and will include lectures and discussion. Two or three meetings a week. The current offering follows.

200 ST: The Iraq War

4, x

Biswas and Magnusson

The purpose of this course is to study the national, regional, and global politics of the Iraq War. Beginning with an historical overview of the region and placing the war within the context of post-Cold War security politics, the course will interrogate the case made for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq (e.g. war on terror, human rights protection, weapons of mass destruction and the violation of U.N. resolutions, democratization of the "Greater Middle East," energy resources), as well as the issues generated by the execution of the war and the occupation and insurgency that followed. These latter include military technology and strategy, the legal status of enemy combatants and the Geneva Conventions, the Abu Ghraib prison abuses, insurgency and civil war, regional religio-ethnic politics, and the production of military/diplomatic options on the "home front."

219 Law and American Society

4; not offered 2007-08

This course explores three basic topics: 1) the debates between the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists concerning ratification of the U.S. Constitution; 2) competing theories of constitutional interpretation; and 3) controversies related to the meaning and application of the Bill of Rights. Specific issues to be debated include the separation of church and state, freedom of speech, abortion rights, and capital punishment.

220 American Political Theory

4; not offered 2007-08

This course provides an introduction to major works of American political theory from the founding to the present. We confront core philosophical questions about politics in general and politics in the United States specifically, including the following: What are the purposes of government, and what political institutions are most conducive to these ends? How can the American polity be democratic while preventing the tyranny of the majority? How has American nationality been defined through the exclusion of certain social groups, and how do historically excluded groups gain political power and inclusion? Readings usually include texts by J. Madison, J. Calhoun, E. Goldman, J. Dewey, and M. L. King, Jr., among others.

221 Ancient and Medieval European Political Theory

4, x

Voorhees

This course introduces students to the history of European political theory through an investigation of classical Greek and pre-modern Christian writings. Texts to be explored may include Aeschylus's *Oresteia*, Thucydides's *Peloponnesian War*, Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Politics*, St. Augustine's *City of God*, and St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologica*. May be elected as Classics 221.

222 Modern European Political Theory

x, 4 **Voorhees**

This course introduces students to the history of European political theory from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries, focusing particularly on the origins and development of liberalism. Themes covered in this class may include: How did political theorists make sense of the developing nation state? How have modern political theorists conceived of the concepts of "justice," "freedom," and "equality"? What role did the growing dominance of capitalism play in altering political conceptions of the individual? How have Marxist and anarchist thinkers critiqued the language of liberalism? Authors to be considered may include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Tocqueville, and Marx. Politics 221 is not a prerequisite for 222.

242 The Politics of Development in Latin America

4, x **Bobrow-Strain**

This course provides a broad introduction to critical themes in contemporary Latin American development. It begins with a survey of the political economy of Latin America from colonialism through twenty-first-century neoliberal globalization. The bulk of the course then focuses on the present. Centered on the question of how market-society relations are being contested and reworked in contemporary Latin America, it looks closely at topics such as the drug trade, immigration, the WTO FTAA, indigenous uprisings, rapid urbanization, and maquiladora-style industrialization. Finally, it compares three national cases in which popular discontent with neoliberal development has produced dramatic political shifts (Bolivia, Venezuela, and Brazil). Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

247 American Foreign Policy

4; not offered 2007-08

Analysis and interpretation of trends in American foreign policy since World War II. After a discussion of contending theories of foreign policy and a review of developments during the Cold War, we will focus on current issues in American foreign policy, including arms control, nuclear proliferation, human rights, regional intervention and conflict management, foreign aid, environmental policy and relations with other great powers, including German and European Community states, Japan, Russia, and China.

255 Politics and Religion

x, 4 **Apostolidis**

This course introduces students to crucial problems concerning the relation between politics and religion. Our approach is historical and critical, focusing on the modern world and examining the philosophical arguments found in primary texts. While we mainly study texts written in the U.S., we also consider perspectives drawn from Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Key questions include: What obligations for public officials and citizens does the principle of religious toleration entail, and why should this principle be embraced or rejected? How has religion historically supported class, gender, and racial domination, and how have activists for social justice looked to religion to justify their struggles? How does Islam provide critical distance on both the modern conditions that Christian political movements have criticized and the Christian orientation of these critiques? Are the political methods and values of the contemporary Christian right consistent with U.S. liberal democracy or subversive of it?

258 Politics in Africa

4; not offered in 2007-08

The end of the Cold War saw democratic movements emerge across Africa, offering hope that the continent could begin recovering from decades of political, economic and social crises. Key themes in this course include democratization, the patrimonial state, and state collapse. Specific topics will include the colonial legacy; ethnicity, religion, and national integration; economic development and the environment in a global economy; and state power and popular resistance. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

259 Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Religion

4; not offered in 2007-08

Most countries are characterized by significant political cleavages along racial, ethnic, or religious lines. This course introduces students to a variety of approaches for understanding the formation and institutional expression of cultural identities as political phenomena around the world. We will consider their gender and class dimensions, as well as the policy instruments states employ around the globe to reduce conflict, including varieties of affirmative action, systems of representation, and decentralization. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

268 South Asian Diasporas: Migration, Culture and Transnational Politics

4; not offered 2007-08

This interdisciplinary course examines a century of migration from the Indian subcontinent overseas. This includes the indentured labor movements to various destinations in the British empire (such as the Caribbean and Southeast Asia), the immediate post-

independence migrations of South Asians to build the post World War II-ravaged economies of Europe and the more recent postcolonial migrations of techno-professionals to North America. The purpose of the course will be to examine the impact of these migrations on the racial and cultural politics of these different locations as well as to study the economic and political transnational linkages made possible and sustained through these movements. The course emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of South Asian diasporas, with particular attention to issues of class, race, gender, generation, and sexuality. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

283 Development in Theory and History
4; not offered 2007-08

In recent years the concept of development has come under sustained attack from both the left and the right. Neoliberal critics and influential policy makers on the right assert the superiority of market forces over planned intervention while postmodern critics on the left roundly condemn development as a project of domination imposed on Africa, Latin America, and Asia by the West. Is development dead? This course situates contemporary critiques within the historical context of ongoing struggles over the meanings of development. It traces the multiple trajectories of development theory from their origins in European colonialism through contemporary debates over neoliberalism and globalization. Topics include development economics, Bretton Woods and its institutional legacies (the IMF, World Bank, and WTO), structuralism, dependency theory, "sustainability" and environmentalism, neoliberalism, national security, and 21st-century globalization.

287 Natural Resource Policy and Management

4, x

Brick

This course introduces the student to basic problems in natural resource policy-making in the American West. We will focus on the legal, administrative, and political dimensions of various natural resource management problems, including forests, public rangelands, national parks, biodiversity, energy, water, and recreation. We will also explore the role of environmental ideas and non-governmental organizations, and we will review a variety of conservation strategies, including land trusts, various incentive-based approaches, and collaborative conservation. A field trip may be required.

300 The Politics of Development
4; not offered 2007-08

The purpose of this course is to critically analyze the dominant conceptualizations of third world development, as well as development policy-making. The course will examine how different theories of development (e.g. modernization theory, dependency theory, post-structural approaches) have conceptualized and critiqued development ideas and policies and raise questions about the approach and functioning of dominant development institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF. The kinds of issues covered by

the course will include economic growth, population, environment, gender and democracy. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

307 Political Theory and the Body Politic
4; not offered 2007-08

This seminar examines the metaphor of the body politic in the history of western political thought, paying particular attention to the transformation of this political trope during the transition to modernity. Through a diverse set of reading ranging from Aristotle to Hobbes to Foucault, students focus on how these authors use the body politic to imagine political community as they see it and as they believe it ought to be. Often, but not always, these authors evoke metaphorical or material bodies to describe the contours of this community, its form and shape, its impermeable limits, who it naturally includes and excludes, the relationship between its origins and the contemporary polity, and the possibility of its violation. Whether the body emerges in these works as divine or profane, satirical or scientific, this class assumes that it always points beyond itself toward a variety of different political puzzles. *Prerequisite:* Politics 222 or consent of instructor.

308 Liberalism and Its Discontents
4; not offered in 2007-08

This seminar explores the ongoing debate between liberal theory and its critics. The course will address questions such as: what are the limitations and promises of liberal individualism? How do liberal theorists reconcile human freedom with social good? Is the connection between liberal politics and free market capitalism necessary and inevitable? What are liberal ethics? What is the historic and contemporary relationship between liberalism and imperialism? How do liberal theorists explain or rationalize nationalism? How do liberal theorists reconcile a theory of universal human equality with the existence of state borders? Readings for this class focus on contemporary liberal authors and their conservative, communitarian, socialist, democratic, and feminist critics. *Prerequisite:* Politics 222 or consent of instructor.

309 Environment and Politics in the "New West"
4; not offered in 2007-08

This seminar explores the changing political landscape of the American West, with emphasis on changing environmental values and on conflicts over natural resource policy. Amid dramatic social, economic, and demographic changes, the West is at war with itself over conflicting claims to public resources such as water, pasture, minerals, timber, fresh air, and recreation. What are the causes of these conflicts, and what kinds of approaches will be necessary to address them? Next offered Fall 2008, and available only to students accepted to Semester in the West program.

313 Social Policy and Democracy in the United States

4; not offered 2007-08

This course examines contemporary issues in social policy in light of the historical development of the U.S. welfare state. It considers how social programs in the United States have been shaped by a variety of factors including social class relations, party competition, and racial and gender power dynamics. The course focuses on the policy areas of social security, poverty relief, health care, labor relations, and housing. Students will participate in a service learning project in the local community to provide a concrete context for learning about issues in U.S. social policy. We also consider the politics of the U.S. welfare state in the context of democratic theory, asking: 1) What social policies are necessary to ensure the freedom and equality of democratic citizens? and 2) How can the formation of social policy be democratized? Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

314 The Christian Right in the United States**4; not offered 2007-08**

This seminar explores the politics of the Christian right as both a social movement and a cultural phenomenon. It also uses the study of the Christian right to reflect more generally on American social movements, American political culture, and the relationship between religion and politics. We examine the mobilization of the Christian right in the context of the postwar new right more broadly. We also consider whether the movement's emergence has fulfilled or violated theoretical principles concerning church/state separation, religious liberty, and the role of religion in a democratic society. In addition, we analyze Christian right popular culture as a structural feature of capitalist society and in terms of its formation of gender, racial, and sexual identities. One evening seminar per week.

316 Culture, Ideology, Politics**4; not offered in 2007-08**

This course explores the political meaning of culture, focusing on popular culture in the United States. Students experiment with different ways of understanding the political character of popular culture by examining a variety of cultural sources and reading the works of modern political theorists. Special attention is given to Hollywood films, the advertising industry, the news media, radicalism in the 1960s, popular music, and lesbian and gay activism. The course also discusses the concept of ideology and its usefulness in the critical analysis of popular culture (or "mass culture," or "subcultures"). Two periods per week.

317 Campaigns and Elections in the United States**4; not offered 2007-08**

This course engages students in a concentrated study of U.S. electoral politics. Major themes of the course include the role of the media in campaigns; strategies of campaign organizing; the system of campaign finance; voting behavior; electoral dynamics of race, gender, and class; and independent and third party candidates. We also consider theoretical issues con-

cerning the significance of elections, representation, and campaign-related communications for a robust democracy. An important component of this course is participation in a community-based learning project in partnership with a local organization. In major election years, the course also involves analysis of campaigns running concurrently with the course.

328 Contemporary Feminist Theories**4; not offered in 2007-08**

This course will begin by exploring various schools of contemporary feminist theory (e.g., Marxist feminism, liberal feminism, ecofeminism, psychoanalytic feminism, etc.). We will then ask how proponents of these schools analyze and criticize specific institutions and practices (e.g., the nuclear family, heterosexuality, the state, reproductive technologies, etc.). Throughout the semester, attention will be paid to the ways gender relations shape the formation and interpretation of specifically political experience. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

329 Theories of Empire**x, 4****Morefield**

This class examines some of the most influential and important political writings on empire from the late eighteenth century to the present. We will focus on the arguments of pro-imperial authors (e.g. James Mill), anti-imperial authors (e.g. Edmund Burke), and contemporary post-colonial and political theorists interested in troubling both the historical legacy and continuing presence of empire today (e.g. Edward Said). The class will consider a variety of general themes including: colonial ambiguity, the problem of sovereignty, cosmopolitanism, the status of women in the colony and post-colony, the invention of race and the persistence of hybridity, the relationship between capitalism and empire, the tension between liberal equality and colonial hierarchy, the role of history in the colonial imagination, the colonial and post-colonial search for authenticity, post-imperial futures, and migration, forced migration, and exile. There are no pre-requisites for this class but students are strongly encouraged to have taken or take in addition to this class Politics 222: Modern European Political Theory. Distribution area: alternative voices.

332 The Politics of Place**4; not offered 2007-08**

This seminar course explores the relation between culture, power, and place. In an age when forces of globalization seem to blur or even obliterate fixed borders, powerful images of firmly bounded "local" places are constantly held up as antidotes to a wide variety of perceived evils ranging from global capitalism to religious secularization. Yet, these invocations of place are often historical, highly romanticized, and dependent on the exclusion of certain undesirable Others. Drawing on cases ranging from struggles over the Nevada Nuclear Test Site to the Rwandan genocide, from competing images of nature in the Amazon basin

to the politics of ecotourism in the Pacific Northwest this course asks: 1) How are places imagined and constructed through processes of political struggle? and 2) How do these different imaginaries of place, in turn, shape political struggles?

334 The U.S.-Mexico Border: Immigration, Development, and Globalization

4, x

Bobrow-Strain

This course examines one of the most politically-charged and complex sites in the Western hemisphere: the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. The borderlands are a zone of cultural mixings, profound economic contrasts, and powerful political tensions. In recent years, the border has emerged as a key site in debates over U.S. immigration policy, national security, the drug war, Third World development, social justice in Third World export factories, and transnational environmental problems. This course examines these issues as they play out along the sharp line running from east Texas to Imperial Beach, as well as in other sites from the coffee plantations of Chiapas to the onion fields of Walla Walla. These concrete cases, in turn, illuminate political theories of the nation-state, citizenship, and transnationalism. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take this course in conjunction with the U.S.-Mexico border trip usually offered at the end of spring semester.

335 Globalization and the Cultural Politics of Development in Latin America

x, 4

Bobrow-Strain

This course examines the diverse ways in which class, race, and gender identities are being reworked in the context of contemporary globalization in Latin America. Using a series of recent ethnographies, it explores issues such as the construction of gender in sites such as maquiladora factories and the Caribbean sex-tourism industry, the making of transnational identities through migration, racial politics and indigenous movements in Mexico, Brazil, and Ecuador, and the recent growth of leftist political movements throughout the region (e.g. Venezuela and Bolivia). *Prerequisites:* Consent of instructor based upon previous coursework on Latin America in any discipline. Distribution area: alternative voices.

338 North-South Relations
4; not offered 2007-08

With a focus on political economy, this course examines the construction and maintenance of inequality in the international system, and a consideration of the consequences of inequality for the possibility of state action in the "global south." The first part of the course examines the construction of Northern domination, the expansion of the European state system and the global political economy (theories of imperialism, colonization, world systems, and international society). The second part will examine the maintenance of Northern power over the South, the effects of incorporating the South on political and

economic structures, and the mechanisms reproducing global hierarchies (dependency, development, military intervention, global culture). The final part of the course will examine strategies employed by the South to oppose or to accommodate a globally disadvantaged position in the international system. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

339 Nature, Culture, Politics

x, 4

Brick

In this seminar we explore changing under-standings of nature in American culture, the role of social power in constructing these understandings, and the implications these understandings have for the environmental movement. Topics discussed will include wilderness and wilderness politics, management of national parks, ecosystem management, biodiversity, place, and the political uses of nature in contemporary environmental literature. The seminar will occasionally meet at the Johnston Wilderness Campus (transportation will be provided).

347 International Political Theory
4; not offered 2007-08

An exploration of major themes and issues in contemporary international political theory, including the nature of the international system and international society, topics in international political economy, the emerging role of international organizations, the role of ethics in international politics, and recent feminist, critical and post-modern international theory. *Prerequisites:* Politics 147 or consent of instructor.

348 International Politics of Ethnic Conflict
4; not offered 2007-08

This seminar will examine the causes and dynamics of ethnic conflicts, how they have been shaped by local and international political and economic systems, their implications for national and international security, and responses to them by the international community. In addition to considering alternative frameworks for understanding conflicts that become defined along ethnic or communal lines, the course will examine several cases in some depth. These might include Rwanda, Yugoslavia, and South Africa. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

349 Background of African American Protest Rhetoric

4; not offered 2007-08

Students examine the conflicting strategies of assimilation, separation, and revolution, and the rhetoric of the civil rights movement used to promote and attack these strategies. Various stages of the social movement will be examined, with a primary focus on the nature of public argument about blacks in America beginning with the arrival of the first Africans in the early seventeenth century and ending with the era of vigorous African American protest in about 1965. May be elected as Rhetoric and Film Studies 340. This course may not satisfy both politics and rhetoric and film studies major requirements.

352 Political Campaign Rhetoric

4; not offered 2007-08

This course focuses on communication used in political campaigns, particularly in the current election year. The course will examine advertisements, speeches, and media coverage, using a variety of communication theories. Class discussions will center on such issues as: 1) How passive or active is the public in campaigns? 2) What makes an effective and beneficial political advertisement? 3) What is the importance of character versus issues in campaigns? 4) What is a good campaign strategy? 5) How do campaigns target or alienate different racial, gender, and regional groups? May be elected as RFS 352.

358 Capital Punishment

4; not offered 2007-08

This course examines various controversies concerning the practice of capital punishment in the United States. Topics to be explored include the relationship between capital punishment and other forms of state violence, recent Federal and state court rulings on the death penalty, the relationship between race, gender, and the imposition of capital sentences, the morality of execution as a punishment, various methods of execution, and contemporary movements to abolish or restrict imposition of the death sentence.

359 Gender and International Hierarchy

4; not offered 2007-08

This course draws attention to the manner in which international hierarchies and gender relations intersect to have implications for the lives of third world women. The course examines how the needs and interests of third world women are addressed in various international discourses and practices, how third world women are affected by international political practices and how third world women sustain, resist and transform international power structures. We will cover a number of different issue areas that include security and war, development and transnational capitalism, media and representation, cultural practices and human rights, women's movements and international feminism. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

363 Genealogies of Political Economy

4; not offered in 2007-08

What is capitalism? Where did it come from? How does it work, and what are the politics of its epochal expansion? This course explores the origins, dynamics, and politics of capitalism as they have been theorized over the past two hundred years. It begins with classical political economy, closely reading the works of Ricardo, Smith, and Marx. It then traces the lineages of classical political economy through the works of theorists such as Weber, Lenin, Schumpeter, Gramsci, Keynes, and Polanyi. The course ends with an examination of theorists who critique Eurocentric political economy by approaching the dynamics and experiences of capitalism from Europe's former colonies. Topics addressed in the course include debates about

imperialism, the state, class struggle, development, and globalization.

367 African Political Thought

4; not offered 2007-08

This course will explore themes in African politics such as colonialism, nationalism, development, authenticity, gender, violence, and justice, through the ideas of some of Africa's most notable political thinkers of the past half-century, including Fanon, Nkrumah, Senghor, Nyerere, Mandela, and Tutu. The course will also consider the work of contemporary critics of the postcolonial African state. These may include writers, artists, and activists such as Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Chinua Achebe, Wangari Maathai, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and Wambui Otieno. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor. Distribution area: social science or alternative voices.

373 Political Ecology of Latin America

4; not offered 2007-08

This course examines the environmental politics of Latin America. It focuses on struggles over different natural resources—water, land, minerals, forests, and even raw genetic material—with an eye toward understanding how these struggles affect environmental health and human livelihoods. Topics include water politics, rainforest deforestation, bioprospecting, mining, ecotourism, “sustainable development”, rapid urbanization, race, gender, and environmental justice movements. In the end, it uses these cases to explore the cultural politics of nature-society relations in Latin America by asking how our very conceptions of what constitutes “nature”, “resources”, and “the environment” are produced, and how those categories themselves are sites of material and symbolic struggle. *Prerequisites:* Consent of instructor based upon previous coursework on Latin America in any discipline.

377 Environmental Politics

4; not offered 2007-08

A seminar exploring the relation between politics and the environment. Topics will include discussion of the origins of environmental ideas and values, the intersection of those ideas with the public policy process, and issues of global resource protection and international cooperation on world-wide environmental concerns such as deforestation, global climatic change, and natural resource management. A field trip is required.

378 Transnationalism

4; not offered 2007-08

This seminar examines the increasingly important political arena outside the exclusive control of the international system of states. Topics include transnational ideas and norms (neoliberalism, human rights), economic globalization, human migration, communications (global media and the internet) and security issues (criminal networks and arms proliferation). The focus will be on how transnational processes work and how they affect both the structure of the international system and internal politics.

379 Freedom of Speech and the First Amendment

4, x

Withycombe

Arguments over the “appropriate boundaries” of freedom of speech are among the most interesting and hotly debated issues addressed by the legal system. In this course, the evolution of current legal standards on freedom of speech will be traced from the earliest statements on free speech in ancient Athens, through British Common Law to Colonial America, and finally to a wide range of cases that made their way to the United States Supreme Court. Issues such as privacy, obscenity, “fighting words,” and commercial speech will be discussed, along with considerable discussion dealing with special issues of free speech such as free speech and fair trials, prior restraint, and free speech in prisons, schools, the military, and the marketplace. May be elected as Rhetoric and Film Studies 350. This course may not satisfy both politics and rhetoric and film studies major requirements.

380 Argument in the Law and Politics

x, 4

Hanson

This course emphasizes the study and practice of argument in the law and politics and involves three critical aspects. First, students engage in and evaluate legal argument in important court cases. Second, students participate in and evaluate political campaign and public policy-making processes. Third, students are exposed to argumentation theory as a way of interpreting the arguments they construct and evaluate. The goal of the course is to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the use of argument. May be elected as Rhetoric and Film Studies 351. This course may not satisfy both politics and rhetoric and film studies major requirements.

400-404 Special Studies in Politics:

Advanced Level

4

Advanced seminars designed for students who have had considerable prior work in the study of politics. Each time they are offered, these seminars focus on different topics. Students are expected to complete extensive reading assignments, write several papers, and participate regularly in discussions. One period a week. The current offerings follow.

400 ST: Politics and Jurisprudence

4, x

Voorhees

Central to the exercise of political authority is the power to make, interpret, and execute laws, and while law is thus a powerful means of social control, it is also an important political resource for citizens. This course will examine a number of approaches to the meaning of law and to the social and political purposes that law serves. Among the themes we will explore in this course are the structure of legal reasoning, the relationship between law and morality, the extent to which justice and equality are legitimate legal objectives, the purposes of punishment and sanction, the tensions between natural and positive law, the status of political

rights, and the justifications for civil disobedience.

401 ST: Democratic Theory

4, x

King

In contemporary political discourse, ‘democracy’ is often presented as the sole legitimate form of government. However, what democracy actually means, how it is reflected in laws, institutions and values, and the ways its challenges, limits and tensions can be resolved are the subjects of much debate. This course will engage the following questions: What is democracy? How do different conceptions of democracy view freedom, equality and citizenship? What kinds of institutional arrangements best reflect and foster ‘democracy’? We will consider these questions in terms of the historical roots of democracy in ancient Greece, the reinvigoration of democratic thinking during the Enlightenment, and current debates about democracy and democratic participation in the contemporary world.

402 ST: Marx and Marxist Theory

x, 4

King

Karl Marx was an enormously influential thinker for the politics of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and his thought has dramatically shaped the ways we think about power, freedom, class and capitalism. This course will engage Marx’s own social and political thought, examine the interpretations, applications and evolutions of Marx’s philosophy by later socialist thinkers and consider the question of Marxism’s relevance (or lack thereof) in the contemporary world. We will explore such themes as capitalism and class conflict, historical materialism, alienation and exploitation, reform and revolution, justice and freedom. Texts may include Marx and Engels, Lenin, Bernstein, Luxemburg and Marcuse.

458 Research Seminar: Racism and Latinos in

Washington State

4; not offered 2007-08

This course combines critical reading on theories of race and racism and the history of Latino experiences in the United States with independent research that is meant to inform practical efforts to address these problems. Each student designs and carries out a research project that expands a body of research done by previous students in this course on social conditions for Latinos in Washington State. Previous areas of research have included education, health care, immigration, voting rights, labor, and other fields. The course involves a Community-Based Learning component that links students with professionals whose work impacts Latinos and who provide consultation to help students orient their research. Students learn how to conduct systematic empirical research on social and political problems: formulating questions; determining appropriate methods; gathering and analyzing data; conducting personal interviews; and making policy recommendations based on results. Students are also expected to make their research politically relevant by engaging in organized public educational activities.

The core intellectual challenge, in turn, is to hold academic reflections in creative tension with both practical research and political action. *Prerequisites*: consent of instructor. Distribution area: social sciences.

481, 482 Individual Projects

1-4, 1-4 **Staff**

Directed individual study and research. *Prerequisites*: appropriate prior coursework in politics and consent of the supervising instructor.

490 Senior Seminar

4, x **Bobrow-Strain, Biswas, Brick,
Magnusson**

This team taught seminar will meet one evening a week throughout the semester. Its purpose is to engage senior majors in sustained discussion of contemporary political issues. Requirements include attendance at all seminar meetings; extensive participation in discussion; and the completion of several papers, one being a proposal for a senior thesis or honor thesis. *Required of*, and open only to, senior politics majors. (Fall degree candidates should plan to take this seminar at the latest possible opportunity.)

497 Senior Thesis

2, 2 **Staff**

During the first two-thirds of each major's final semester at Whitman, he or she will satisfactorily complete the senior thesis launched the prior semester, and then defend that thesis orally before two faculty members. Detailed information on this process is provided to students well in advance. No thesis will be deemed acceptable unless it receives a grade of C- or better. *Required of*, and open only to, senior majors not taking Politics 498.

498 Honors Thesis

2, 2 **Staff**

Designed to further independent research leading to the preparation of an undergraduate honors thesis on a subject of analytical or theoretical interest in politics. *Required of* and limited to senior honors candidates in politics. Conducted under close faculty supervision. *Prerequisites*: admission to honors candidacy and consent of department chair.