

Politics

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(*Semester in the West*,

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Spring 2009)

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-level 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: www.whitman.edu/Politics.

109 Introduction to U.S. Politics and Policymaking

x, 4

Beechey

This course introduces students to the various institutions, actors, and ideologies of contemporary U.S. politics and policymaking. We will make visible the multiple sites of policy formation in the United States as we move away from speaking of "the government" in the singular. Through a series of contemporary policy case studies we will explore the many openings to influence policymaking and discover the myriad ways that good ideas can die. Throughout the course we will view U.S. politics and policymaking with a critical eye toward the impacts of gender, race, class, sexuality, and other systems of power and difference. Distribution area: social science.

119 Whitman in the Global Food System

4, x

Bobrow-Strain

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 United States 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

4; not offered 2008-09

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

4, 4 **Fall: Biswas; Spring: Magnusson**

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.

179 International Political Economy

4; not offered 2008-09

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.

200A 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."

200B ST: The 2008 Elections

4, x

Beechey

This introduction to U.S. politics and policy will center on the November ballot in Walla Walla and the campaigns leading up to Election Day. We will critically engage with media coverage as we investigate policy issues of importance in the campaigns and analyze the role of race, gender, and class in U.S. politics. Emphasis will be placed on developing strong critical writing skills and persuasive oral arguments. For the core assignment, the class will work together to construct and maintain a blog analyzing the federal, state, and local elections using a variety of critical perspectives. Distribution area: social science.

202A ST: Politics of 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 politics and security strategies, the production of military/diplomatic options on the "home front," and the effects on the American presidential campaign. Distribution area: social sciences.

204A ST: Writing Politics

4, x

Bobrow-Strain

This interdisciplinary writing workshop course introduces students to diverse ways of thinking, researching, and writing about political life. Students critically examine, and then try their hands at, approaches to writing politics ranging from the graphic novel, biographical account, and documentary film script to quantitative political science, ethnography, policy analysis, and political theory. The course combines hands-on, workshop-style writing instruction with inquiry into politics of research and writing. Students will develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills that will serve them well in college and beyond. The course is particularly designed for first- and second-year students planning to major in politics. Limited to 15 students because of the workshop format. Distribution area: social science.

219 Law and American Society

4; not offered 2008-09

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 2008-09

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 King

This course introduces students to the history of European political theory through an investigation of classical Greek and premodern 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 Morefield

This course introduces students to the history of European political theory from the 16th through the 19th 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; not offered 2008-09

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 21st 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 2008-09

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 United States, 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 2008-09

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, x Magnusson

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 in-

stitutional 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.

283 Development in Theory and History 4; not offered 2008-09

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; not offered 2008-09

This course introduces the student to basic problems in natural resource policymaking 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 nongovernmental 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.

307 Political Theory and the Body Politic 4; not offered 2008-09

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, x

Morefield

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, x

Brick

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? Required of and open only to students accepted to Semester in the West.

311 Deservingness in U.S. Social Policy

4, x

Beechey

Why are some beneficiaries of social policy coded as deserving assistance from the government while others are marked as undeserving? What impacts do these notions of deservingness have on social policies and the politics which surround them? What are the consequences for the material realities of individual lives? How do gender, race, class, and citizenship status work together to construct and maintain distinctions of deservingness? This course engages with these and other questions through historic and contemporary debates in U.S. social policies such as welfare, Social Security, and disability benefits. Distribution area: social science; alternative voices.

314 The Christian Right in the United States 4; not offered 2008-09

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, x

Apostolidis

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.

325 Queer Politics and Policy

x, 4

Beechey

This seminar traces the development and impacts of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) politics in the United States from pre-Stonewall through ACT-UP and the Lesbian Avengers to the HRC, Log Cabin Republicans and contemporary transgender activism, with attention to the impacts of race and ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sex, class, and age on LGBTQ organizing. We will explore contemporary policy debates surrounding: civil unions, domestic partnership and marriage; citizenship; families and children; nondiscrimination in employment and schooling; the military; health; and hate crime, among others. Distribution area: social science; alternative voices.

328 Contemporary Feminist Theories

4; not offered in 2008-09

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

4; not offered 2008-09

This class examines some of the most influential and important political writings on empire from the late 18th 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 postcolonial 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 postcolony, 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 postcolonial search for authenticity, postimperial futures, and migration, forced migration, and exile. There are no prerequisites 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.

331 The Politics of International Hierarchy

x, 4

Biswas

This course examines the ways in which the international social-political system is hierarchical. The course looks at how such relations of hierarchy have been historically produced and continue to be sustained through a variety of mechanisms. The first part of the course focuses on the period of classical colonialism, examining the racial and gendered constructions of imperial power. The second part of the course turns to more contemporary North-South relations, studying the discourses and practices of development and human rights and critically examining the resuscitation of the project of empire in recent U.S. foreign policy practices. Distribution area: social science.

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

4; not offered 2008-09

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:* Previous coursework on Latin America in any discipline. Distribution area: alternative voices.

338 North-South Relations 4; not offered 2008-09

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 4; not offered 2008-09

In this seminar we explore changing understandings 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 2008-09

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 postmodern international theory. *Prerequisites:* Politics 147 or consent of instructor.

348 International Politics of Ethnic Conflict 4; not offered 2008-09

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

x, 4

Withycombe

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 17th 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, x

Hanson

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 Rhetoric and Film Studies 352.

358 Capital Punishment 4; not offered 2008-09

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 2008-09

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 2008-09**

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 200 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 2008-09**

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 also will consider the work of contemporary critics of the postcolonial African state. These may include writers, artists, and activists such as Ngugi wa Thiongo, 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 2008-09**

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.

378 Transnationalism

x, 4

Magnusson

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 U.S. 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
4; not offered 2008-09**

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 policymaking 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.

400A ST: Theories of Rights

x, 4

King

Human rights are usually associated with the

expansion of freedom, political progress, and the spread of universal liberal values. However, the discourse of natural human rights originally emerged in the context of imperialism, political oppression and religious conflict and was deployed to justify imperialism as often as it was used to proclaim human freedom. In this course, we will reconsider contemporary approaches to human rights in light of the history of natural rights. We will begin with an examination of the origins of rights in the early modern natural law tradition, then we will explore the political mobilization of rights in the liberal and U.S. political traditions, and finally we will consider the implications of this history for contemporary debates about universal human rights, the rights of indigenous and minority groups, and other appeals to rights discourse. Distribution area: social science.

401A ST: Public Communication and Community-Based Research: Latinos in Washington State

x, 4

Apostolidis

This course enables students who have completed courses for the project on *The State of the State for Washington Latinos* to develop their skills in public communication about their research. It also challenges them to think critically about the dilemmas regarding power and democracy that are posed when policy investigators seek to make specialized research accessible to general audiences (including non-English speakers), professional policymakers, organizational leaders, and media representatives. Students will read and discuss texts on democratic theory along with texts on communication and the media. They will also carry out public communications projects such as these: making oral and visual presentations at local public meetings; writing journalistic pieces for the State of the State Web site; meeting with state policymakers about their research; contributing to a Web site that compiles policy research from multiple community-based research projects; presenting research at other colleges; and doing press, radio, and TV interviews. In the process, students will also revise and supplement their prior research as necessary. *Prerequisites:* Either Politics 458 or Politics 404A (Spring 2008). Distribution area: social science; alternative voices.

402A ST: Democratic Theory

x, 4

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. Distribution area: social science.

458 Research Seminar: Racism and Latinos in Washington State

4, x

Apostolidis

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, alternative voices.

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

Beechey, Kaufman-Osborn, Magnusson, Morefield

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.