Spring Semester 2016
Political Science
Graduate Course Descriptions

Visit our website at www.umsl.edu/~polisci
PS 6401-G01
Introduction To Policy Research
Adriano Udani

Class time: Mo and We from 5:30pm -6:45pm
Class location: 106 Express Scripts Hall (ESH)

SAME AS PPA 6010. Special consent form required.

This course is an introduction to the logics of quantitative analysis used by political scientists, policy analysts, and public administrators for conducting empirical research and generating knowledge for mass publics. Students will develop a strong foundation of methodological skills to not only conduct quantitative policy research, but to critically analyze and master the underlying assumptions of “scientific” approaches that require the aggregation of data and build upon statistical inference. This class will mainly deal with survey data. Using nationally representative surveys of the U.S. electorate, students are expected to write a series of three analysis papers that culminate into a poster that addresses an empirical question of interest, perform various statistical analyses that test proposed hypotheses, and publicly display and explain statistical results and implications by the end of the semester. The course is organized into five sections: 1) Measurement Theory; 2) Logic of Comparison and Control; 3) Statistical Inference; and, 4) Synthesis and Extensions. Given course materials and fully participating in class discussions, students will reach the following objectives:

- Apply a disciplined way of reasoning to examine and understand social and political phenomena;
- Evaluate the theoretical and practical consequences of how we quantify social and political phenomena;
- Critically evaluate arguments, research, reports, and public discourse;
- Develop interesting, relevant, and testable research questions;
- Conduct and interpret basic statistical analyses;
- Gain statistical literacy; and,
- Conduct statistical analysis in STATA.
PS 6402-G01
Intermediate Techniques In Policy Research
David Kimball

Class time: Mo and Wed from 5:30pm - 6:45pm
Class location: 102 Social Science Building (SSB)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing and POL SCI 6401

Elementary distribution theory, statistical inference, and introduction to multiple regression. Emphasis on practical applications.
This class serves as an introduction to Policy Analysis from an applied perspective. While the class covers the background on the theories of policy analysis, as important is a general introduction to the types of questions that analysts pose and decisions that analysts make. The class emphasizes steps in the policy analysis—from posing public problems, asking about what causes them and how they may be solved and using evidence to support a recommendation.
PS 6440-G01
Proseminar in Public Policy Administration
Marquita Bowers-Brown

Class time: Wednesdays from 6:55pm-9:35pm
Class location: 312 Clark Hall (CH)

This course is intended to prepare students to lead and manage in public governance, to participate in and contribute to the public policy process and to articulate and apply a public service perspective. The course will familiarize students with the vocabulary, values and key elements of public management, as well as the complexities of the field through readings, cases, discussion and written exercises.
The growing aging population has become a worldwide trend. With its declining fertility and mortality rates, the United States is experiencing a sharp demographic transition. While only 4.1% of the total population were 65 years old and older in 1900, 13.4% of the total population were aged 65 and older in the US in 2012. This course will examine social policies, problems, and trends in social programs and services for older people. It will focus major attention on the strengths and limitations of existing policies and programs related to income maintenance, health, long-term care, housing, transportation, nutrition, employment, learning and civic engagement. This course will familiarize students with social policies and programs for meeting the rapidly growing needs of the older population in our society. Policies, programs and services for the elderly population will be examined from historical, observational and analytical perspectives.
Once associated with the ideals of social justice and democratic entitlement, the welfare state has come under increasing attack as an impediment to global "competitiveness" and economic growth. Although most welfare regimes have their roots in the 19th century, (including the US-American version), the modern welfare state owes much to the reconstruction needs engulfing many polities after 1945, coupled with a sustained economic boom stretching from the 1950s through the early 1970s. Despite its obvious contributions to national recovery and prosperity, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan challenged the “postwar consensus” in the 1980s, followed by neo-liberal assaults as of the 1990s. The austerity programs emerging out of the 2008 financial crisis are rapidly chipping away at what remains. But this is not the whole story.

This course examines the forces behind efforts to dismantle, reform or otherwise restructure welfare state policies in a variety of advanced industrial contexts. Given “rising costs,” on the one hand, and the vehement "moral debates" involving everything from stem-cell research to assisted suicide, we will concentrate very heavily on national health care systems, and the responses these issues evoke among ever more culturally and religiously diverse “national” communities. We consider the historical foundations, financing & service delivery mechanisms, the role of EU gender norms, demographic change, ethnic diversity, “best practices” and new austerity constraints, especially under the Euro-crisis. Our approach will be primarily qualitative in nature, but students will be expected to draw on many types of empirical data in broader class discussions. We will focus on national case studies stretching from the USA to Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, the UK, and the Mediterranean states. We will further assess these systems in relation to cross-cutting questions of gender, race/ethnicity, religious pluralization and democratic citizenship.
Theory of Decisions and Games
Robert Clinton

Class time: Thursdays from 4:15pm - 6:55pm
Class location: 306 Clark Hall (CH)

Same As POL SCI 4060 and PHIL 4465.
Prerequisites: Six hours of Philosophy and junior standing, or POL SCI 6401 (or the equivalent, or consent of the instructor)

This course is a survey of one of the leading topics in contemporary political theory: the formal analysis of political institutions and behavior, sometimes termed “formal theory.” The course is designed primarily for advanced students in political science, other social sciences, philosophy, and law, though it may include material that is of interest to students outside those fields as well. We will cover topics in game theory, social and public choice theory, social contract theory, spatial theory, and voting theory, focusing on such problems as the classical voting paradox, public goods and free rider problems, agenda manipulation, cycles, vote-trading, individual and collective rationality, and social and political instability. In this course, formal theory will be treated as a branch of modern political thought and placed within the broader context of traditional social and political philosophy. Thus no particular mathematical training or background in formal logic is required. General familiarity with social and political institutions, along with some common sense, is more important than formal training in mathematics or logic.
PS 6470-G01
Proseminar in Urban Politics
Todd Swanstrom

Class time: Tuesdays from 6:55pm-9:35pm
Class location: 427 Social Science Building (SSB)

Same as P P ADM 6470 G01

The Proseminar in Urban Politics is designed to acquaint students with the literature in urban politics. The first half of the seminar will focus on theories of power and urban politics, including elitist, pluralist, nondecision making, public choice, growth machine, and regime theory. The second half of the seminar will examine specific issues through the lens of power, such as race, urban renewal, reform versus machine politics, inner-ring suburban decline, and regionalism – especially as they apply to St. Louis.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

This course will examine the theoretical and policy issues of international political economy. In particular, it will focus on the politics of international trade, finance and investment. It will also analyze the themes of interdependence, hegemony, and dependency, as well as consider relations between developed and developing countries. Finally, the relative usefulness of liberal, Realist and Marxist approaches to the study of international political economy will be weighed.