

## Undergraduate Course Descriptions

### Spring 2011

#### **WWS 301/POL 308/CHV 301 Ethics and Public Policy (EM)**

This course examines major moral controversies in public life and differing conceptions of justice and the common good. It seeks to help students develop the skills required for thinking and writing about the ethical considerations that ought to shape public institutions, guide public authorities, and inform popular expectations. The course will focus on issues that are particularly challenging for advanced, pluralist democracies like the USA, such as justice in war, ecological stability, surveillance and privacy, markets and distributive justice, and the place, if any, or religious arguments in politics. **Keith M. Shaw**

#### **WWS 306/POL 329 Public Leadership and Public Policy (SA)**

This course will review key Presidential policy decisions on issues such as the Iraq wars, the Watergate tapes, the Voting Rights Act and the Cuban missile crisis, and will consider the ethical, legal, and operational frameworks for effective, responsible public leadership. Students will review relevant literature from history, psychology and politics, discuss the central policy issues in each case, and evaluate the decision-making process in view of these frameworks. **Nathan B. Scovronick**

#### **WWS 312/PSY 321 Psychology of Decision Making/Judgment (EC)**

An introduction to the logic and research findings underlying decision-making and judgment under uncertainty. The focus is on the contrast between the rational theory of judgment and choice, and the psychological principles that guide decision behavior, often producing biases and errors. Among other topics, we will consider legal, medical, and financial decision-making, poverty, well-being, and negotiation, along with the implications of the findings for the rational agent model typically assumed in economics, throughout the social sciences, and in policy making. **Eldar Shafir, Melanie N. Thomas**

#### **WWS 315 Bioethics and Public Policy (SA)**

Focuses on the relationship between selected issues in bioethics and their implications for public policy. Issues include the ethical responsibilities of doctor and patient to each other; the ethics of research with human subjects; the ethics of death and dying; the ethics of reproduction; eugenics; access to health care; the role of bioethics committees; and animal experimentation. Considers the history of cultural attitudes towards these matters, the contemporary policies designed to deal with them, and the landmark court cases that have focused on bioethics. **Harold T. Shapiro**

#### **WWS 317/SOC 312/AAS 317 Race and Public Policy (SA)**

Analyzes the historical construction of race as a concept in American society, how and why this concept was institutionalized publicly and privately in various arenas of U.S. public life at different historical junctures, and the progress that has been made in dismantling racialized institutions since the civil rights era. **Douglas S. Massey**

**WWS 320/MOL 320Hum. Genetics, Reproduction & Pub Policy (SA)**

Critical concepts in human genetics, evolution, reproductive behavior, embryology, and philosophy of science will be presented as a framework for understanding controversial human-affecting biotechnologies including embryonic stem cells, cloning, genetic selection, egg or womb vending, genetic engineering, and neuro-enhancement. Public perceptions and misperceptions of biotechnology will be explored through science fiction, movies, and popular music. Consideration will be given to competing political, religious, and ethical claims of authority in accepting, regulating, or rejecting each technology in the U.S. and other societies. **Lee M. Silver**

**EEB 328/WWS 490Ecol & Epidemiology-Parasites & Diseases**

An introduction to the biology of viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, worms, arthropods, and parasitic plants. The major emphasis will be on the parasites of animals and plants, with further study of the epidemiology of infectious diseases in human populations. Studies of AIDS, anthrax, and worms, and their role in human history will be complemented by ecological and evolutionary studies of mistletoe, measles, myxomatosis, and communities of parasitic helminths. The course focuses strongly on policy implications, particularly for the dynamics and control of emerging infectious diseases of humans and animals. **Andrew P. Dobson, Bryan T. Grenfell**

**MOL 328/WWS 399U.S. Medical Research and Researchers (SA)**

Medical research aims to improve and maintain human health. Accordingly, researchers employ such strategies as understanding biology, defining disease mechanisms, and developing ways to prevent, treat, or cure. Today, the U.S. is the preeminent global power in medical research through interactions among government, academia, and industry. This course will trace the evolution of this country's research enterprise, describe its diverse cultures, focus on its greatest achievements (and achievers), and identify a number of challenges confronting it currently. How the U.S. copes with these challenges will influence the future of world health. **Leon E. Rosenberg, Adel A. Mahmoud**

**WWS 332Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy (QR)**

The course is designed for students preparing to incorporate statistical analysis in their policy research. In the context of case studies, it will cover the principal methods of data analysis and applied statistics in social science and policy research, including multiple regression, analysis of variance and nonparametric methods. Students are expected to have some knowledge of basic probability and statistical concepts. **Graham Lord**

**WWS 333Claims and Evidence in Policy Research (SA)**

Students will learn such basics of policy research as formulating researchable questions, designing studies, and using empirical evidence to evaluate claims. Students will examine substantive problems and both qualitative and quantitative research approaches, through critical reading of social science research, review of WWS senior theses, and examples drawn from the professor's experience conducting policy research with the World Bank. The course will also cover such practical aspects of research as ethics and regulations concerning human subjects, use of library and

reference search tools, resources for acquiring and presenting data. **Marlaine E. Lockheed**

### **CEE 334/WWS 334/ENV 334 Global Environmental Issues (SA)**

As the world population grows and becomes more industrialized, human impact on the global environment also increases. This course examines a set of global environmental issues such as climate change, ozone layer depletion, population growth, and depletion of global fisheries, as well as regional issues such as loss of biological diversity, deforestation and desertification, acid rain, and the pollution and overuse of fresh waters. It also provides an overview of the scientific basis for these problems and examines current and possible future policy responses. One three-hour seminar.

**Denise L. Mauzerall**

### **GHP 351/WWS 494 Epidemiology**

This required course for GHP students focuses on the distribution and determinants of disease. Diverse methodological approaches for measuring health status, disease occurrence, and the association between risk factors and health outcomes will be presented via classic and contemporary studies of chronic and infectious illness and disease outbreaks. Emphasis on: causal inference, study design and sampling, bias and confounding, the generalizability of research, health policy and research ethics.

**Joseph J. Amon**

### **GEO 366/ENV 339/WWS 335 Climate Change: Scientific Basis (STX)**

This course explores the causes and consequences of human-induced climate change, and the range of potential policy responses. By studying the natural climate system and how it is influenced by human perturbation, we will develop a quantitative understanding of how climate is expected to change in the future as greenhouse gases accumulate in the atmosphere. The course also examines scientific themes that should frame any public policy based on risk management, including irreversibility, uncertainty, and surprise. We will also examine the ways in which people, governments and other institutions are actually responding to climate change. **Michael Oppenheimer**

### **HIS 393/AAS 364/WWS 492 Race, Drugs, and Drug Policy in America (HA)**

From "Chinese opium" to Oxycontin, and from cocaine and "crack" to BiDiI, drug controversies reflect enduring debates about the role of medicine, the law, the policing of ethnic identity, and racial difference. This course explores the history of controversial substances (prescription medicines, over-the-counter products, black market substances, psychoactive drugs), and how, from cigarettes to alcohol and opium, they become vehicles for heated debates over immigration, identity, cultural and biological difference, criminal character, the line between legality and illegality, and the boundaries of the normal and the pathological. **Keith A. Wailoo**

### **WWS 402 Policy Seminars**

In policy seminars students work in groups first formulating the general problem, then engaging in individual research on subtopics, and finally presenting their inferences for discussion and debate and producing a collective policy report. **James I. Gadsden,**

**Martin S. Flaherty, Brandice Canes-Wrone, Harold A. Feiveson, Stephen A. Somers, James M. Verdier, Hillard Pouncy, William L. Nash**

**MOL 425/WWS 341 Infection: Biology, Burden, Policy (SA)**

This course will examine fundamental determinants of human microbe interaction at the biological and ecological aspects. The focus will be on major global infectious diseases, their burden of illness, and policy challenges for adequate prevention and control. Each infectious agent will be discussed in terms of its mechanism of pathogenesis, disease progression, epidemiology, as well as strategies for its control. Specific emphasis will be placed on the public health aspects of each disease. **Thomas E. Shenk, Adel A. Mahmoud**

**WWS 452/POL 326/WOM 451 Special Topics in Public Affairs: Inequalities (SA)**

This seminar examines various types of human inequalities and considers several thought-provoking explanations for their occurrence. The focus is primarily conceptual and philosophical, although the discussions will include references to current instances of inequality and policies designed to alleviate them. The readings include both classics in political theory and more contemporary works. **Nannerl O. Keohane**

**WWS 457/POL 398 Special Topics in Public Affairs: International Institutions and International Law (SA)**

This course will focus on the continual tension between international law and international politics. It will examine the impact of this tension on issues of intervention and also on other issues of substantive importance, including environmental protection, trade, human rights, laws of war applicable to the "war on terror," and crimes of state. It will discuss recent developments affecting international institutions and recent changes in international law, such as the changing conception of "sovereignty." **Robert O. Keohane**

**WWS 466/NES 466/POL 466 Special Topics in Public Affairs: The Arab-Israeli Conflict (SA)**

The course examines the history and dynamics of the struggle between the Jewish and Palestinian national movements for sovereignty and control over territory each claims as its historic homeland. The course will review the inter-state dimension; the competition between national movements; wars and their aftermath; and diplomatic efforts to achieve peace. **Daniel C. Kurtzer**

**WWS 469/POL 469 European Union (SA)**

The European Union is an extraordinary political experiment. It has grown to a supranational polity composed of 27 member states governed by an ever-growing set of political institutions, and sharing common economic and social policies, a common foreign and security policy, and (for some members) an agreement abolishing border controls and a common currency. The course reviews the history of European integration in the post-war era, the EU's core institutions, the substance of major EU policies, and the key challenges facing the EU in the coming years. It also examines regional integration and cooperation in East Asia and other regions. **Andrew Moravcsik**

**WWS 472Special Topics in Public Affairs: The Economics of the Welfare State (SA)**

All advanced countries have extensive "welfare state" programs that provide insurance against economic losses, support people with low incomes, etc.. But these programs vary widely in extent from the relatively small US welfare state, to the larger welfare states of much of Europe, to the generous programs of Scandinavia. At the same time, there is heated controversy about the effects of such programs. This course surveys welfare state programs, including health care systems, across various countries, analyzes the debates over their economic effects, and looks at the political economy of reform in the US and countries such as France. **Paul R. Krugman**

**WWS 475/POL 393Special Topics in Public Affairs: Grand Strategy (SA)**

Military strategy was defined by Clausewitz as the use of battle to achieve the objectives of war. Grand strategy is broader, encompassing the attempted use by political leaders of financial, economic, and diplomatic, as well as military, power to achieve their objectives in peacetime and in war. This seminar will examine the theory and practice of grand strategy both to illuminate how relations among city-states, empires, kingdoms and nation states have evolved over the centuries and also to identify some common challenges that have confronted all who seek to make and execute grand strategy, from Pericles to Barack Obama. **Aaron L. Friedberg, G. John Ikenberry**

**WWS 477/POL 478Special Topics in Public Affairs: International Political Economy of East Asia (SA)**

This course examines conditions that support open markets and economic growth with a focus on the East Asian experience. How have the countries of East Asia responded to the constraints and opportunities of the world economy? The path to export-led rapid growth in Japan, Korea, China, and Southeast Asia will be compared to assess the "East Asian Miracle" and the role of state-led industrial policy. The 1990s in which Japan's growth stalled and the region went through a major financial crisis will be discussed to determine policy lessons. What implications does China's emergence as economic powerhouse hold for the region and global economy? **Christina Davis**

**WWS 480National Security Policy (SA)**

This course will focus on the State Department's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, the strategic plan for the department. It will review the recommendations of the most recent QDDR, and consider how best to implement its recommendations, including: how best to organize and deploy new bureaus on Conflict and Stabilization Operations and on Energy Resources; how best to integrate a development focus on women and girls; how best to utilize private partnerships; how a new Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights can best partner with the Defense Department in countries such as Afghanistan, Sudan and Mexico. **Anne-Marie Slaughter**

**WWS 482/JDS 482Special Topics in Public Affairs: Israeli Extremism and the Search for Peace (SA)**

In 1995 Israel's prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, was assassinated at a peace rally by a religious student. Rabin's assassination helped derail the peace process; it also exposed deep currents of political extremism in Israel. This course explores the roots of Israeli political radicalism. It examines the impact of the Arab-Jewish conflict on Israeli politics and assesses the way the '67 War impacted political alignments in Israel. The course considers how political radicalism in Israel reacted to the peace efforts of the '90s and it looks at how in the 21st century, with the rise of fundamentalism globally, political radicalism impacts Israel. **Eran Kaplan**

**WWS 488 Special Topics in Public Affairs: Arts and Cultural Policy in Contemporary Cuba (SA)**

This course will address the creation, promotion and consumption of art and culture in Cuba--and will analyze the policy framework within which this takes place. It will examine the goals of the revolutionary government with respect to literacy and cultural democracy and will review how these objectives have been realized through changing circumstances since 1959. It will ask how cultural policy relates to diversity, emigration, tourism, the preservation of heritage, and the fraught histories of imperialism and nationalism. **Shanti Pillai**