

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

Fall 2011

WWS 300/POL 300 Democracy(SA) This course is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts of theories of democracy and economic development. It will explore the following questions: What are the institutional and technological conditions that underpin the process of economic development? What explains democratic transitions and the consolidation of political liberties? What is the relationship between democracy and economic development? How do democracies work? Does the process of globalization constrain the rule of the majority? The course will examine these questions both from a theoretical and an empirical point of view. **Nolan M. McCarty**
Carles Boix

ENV 304/ECO 328/EEB 304/WWS 496 Disease Ecology, Economics, and Policy(SA) The dynamics of the emergence and spread of disease arise from a complex interplay between disease ecology, economics, and human behavior. Lectures will provide an introduction to complementarities between economic and epidemiological approaches to understanding the emergence, spread, and control of infectious diseases. The course will cover topics such as drug-resistance in bacterial and parasitic infections, individual incentives to vaccinate, the role of information in the transmission of infectious diseases, and the evolution of social norms in healthcare practices. **Ramanan Laxminarayan**
Bryan T. Grenfell

WWS 307/ECO 349 Economics and Public Policy(SA) The role of government in promoting efficiency and equity in the U.S. economy. Conditions when markets fail to be efficient. Problems with government allocation of resources. Economic analysis and public policies regarding health care, education, poverty, the environment, financial regulations and other important issues. **Elizabeth C. Bogan**
Miklos Bankuti

WWS 309/SOC 313 Media and Public Policy(SA) Introduction to communications policy and law, covering such topics as freedom of the press and the development of journalism; intellectual property; regulation of telecommunications, broadcasting, and cable; and policy challenges raised by the Internet and the globalization of the media. **Paul E. Starr**

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**

WWS 313/POL 387 Peacemaking(SA) This seminar will assess the history, objectives, and effectiveness of international peace operations including peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peace enforcement efforts. Informed by current and recent operations in places such as the Balkans, Africa, and the Middle East, the class will assess progress by the international community in building capacity to respond effectively to political and economic transitions in post-conflict societies. The seminar will also study the development of U.S. policy toward peace operations. **William L. Nash**

WWS 324 Education Policy(SA) This course will consider some of the major issues in education policy, with particular focus on attempts to secure equal educational opportunity. It will include discussions of desegregation and resource equity, education for immigrants and the handicapped, school choice and school reform. **Nathan B. Scovronick**

WWS 325/AMS 350 Civil Society and Public Policy(SA) Civil society is the arena of voluntary organizations (churches, social welfare organizations, sporting clubs) and communal activity. Scholars now tell us that such voluntary and cooperative activities create "social capital" -- a stock of mutual trust that forms the glue that holds society together. The course will be devoted to the study of the history of these concepts, and to the analysis of their application to the United States and other societies. This will be an interdisciplinary effort, embracing history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, and other disciplines. **Stanley N. Katz**

WWS 332 Quantitative 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 Pallavi Nuka**

WWS 340/HIS 466 The History of Financial Crises(SA) An examination of what we can learn from the study of historical financial crises. When is speculation rational? How does regulation affect the development of bubbles? How do contagion and spillover occur? How does a lender of last resort affect pre-crisis behavior and post-crisis resolution? How can lenders be coordinated in work-outs? What are the appropriate tasks of central banks in dealing with crises? How does the architecture of the international financial system affect response to crises? What issues arise from bond finance and from bank lending? What are the harmful, and what are the beneficial effects of crises? **Harold James**

GHP 350/WWS 491/ANT 491 Critical Perspectives on Global Health(SA) Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course identifies the main actors, institutions, knowledge and values at work in the field of global health, and explores the environmental, social, political, and economic factors that shape patterns and variations in disease and health across societies. Topics include: technology and public health; development and the governance of

disease; human rights and social justice; the shifting role of states, civil society, and public-private partnerships in health care delivery. Students are encouraged to think creatively about health problems and to envision innovative and effective interventions. **João Biehl**
Carolyn B. Eisert

AAS 362/WWS 497/POL 338 Race and the American Legal Process(SA)This course examines the dynamic and often conflicted relationships between African American struggles for inclusion, and the legislative, administrative, and judicial decision-making responding to or rejecting those struggles from Reconstruction to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. In tracing these relationships we will cover issues such as property, criminal law, suffrage, education, and immigration, with a focus on the following theoretical frameworks: equal protection, due process, civic participation and engagement, and political recognition. **Imani Perry**

WWS 401 Policy SeminarsIn policy task forces, students work in groups of 8 to 10, 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. **Martin S. Flaherty****Jeffrey H. Orleans****Stanley N. Katz****Mario Zucconi****Ingrid M. le Roux****Sophie Meunier****Aitsahalia Hillard****Pouncy Keren Yarhi-Milo****Hugh B. Price****Keith A. Wailoo**

WWS 453 US Military Capabilities and Limitations(SA)This course will examine U.S. military capabilities and limitations throughout the spectrum of non-nuclear conflict. It will include a broad review of U.S. military culture, structure, strategy, planning, readiness, decision making, force projection, employment and logistics. It will also consider force enhancement through use of non-military U.S. capabilities, allies and indigenous populations. **James C. Marshall**

WWS 457 Special Topics in Public Affairs: Negotiation and Power in the Middle East(SA)This seminar will examine some of the contemporary and conceptual issues relating to the study of the Middle East, including the emergence of conflict, negotiation processes, disputes over resources, and regional dynamics of conflict and cooperation. The course will identify core elements relating to conflict, negotiation and conflict-resolution, as well as power dynamics. It will provide students with conceptual tools to analyze empirical case-studies relating to the negotiation of peace agreements in the region, (for example, between Israelis and Palestinians), as well as cases of water conflict and cooperation (Jordan, Euphrates). **Marwa Daoudy**

WWS 460/HIS 470/POL 426 The Great Society & Social PolicymakingThis seminar will explore one of the most productive and influential periods in American political history: the passage of the Great Society between 1963 and 1968. During these years, Congress enacted important civil rights, education, health, antipoverty, and environmental legislation, including the Civil Rights Act and Medicare. The seminar will offer students a strong

historical foundation for understanding the roots of contemporary policy challenges. It will look to this period to better understand the leadership strategies, political conditions, and institutional structures that facilitated such a great volume of domestic policymaking. **Julian E. Zelizer**

WWS 479/ECO 359 International Development(SA) This course will focus on less developed countries and will consider topics such as economic growth and personal well-being; economic inequality and poverty; intra-household resource allocation and gender inequality; fertility and population change, credit markets and microfinance; labor markets and trade policy. It will tackle these issues both theoretically and empirically. **Alicia Adsera**

EGR 492/WWS 493 Radical Innovation in Global Markets Radical innovation solves big problems and alters the way we live, colliding with government policies as the effects ripple across national frontiers. Where do these innovations come from, how do they work, and what policy problems do they cause? This class examines the impact of technical innovation on a global scale. Students learn how innovations in areas such as satellite imaging, global positioning, internet search engines, and pandemic vaccines have a profound impact on foreign policy. Students learn to think about innovation from the standpoint of business managers, government regulators, social entrepreneurs, in very practical terms. **James J. Shinn**