

SUMMER SESSION 2013 POLITICAL SCIENCE SPECIAL TOPICS **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Specific scheduling information may be found in the online schedule of classes.

102G, Special Topics in American Politics “The Laws of Politics,” Summer Session II

Instructor: Thad Kousser

This class studies the intersection of election law, politics, and academia. We will look at major policy changes that affect the way that politics works, the legal decisions that govern them, and the academic research aimed at influencing policymakers and judges. Our four areas of focus will be campaign finance, redistricting, nominating primaries, and term limits. Students will make presentations summarizing cases and research, prepare legal briefs of their own, and argue their cases before a mock Supreme Court.

119A, A00, Special Topics in Political Theory, “Political Science Fiction”

Instructor: David Barzilai

Description Forthcoming

119A, B00, Special Topics in Political Theory, “Global Justice”

Instructor: Fonna Forman

Description Forthcoming

138D Special Topics in Comparative Politics “Abuse of Power”

Instructor: Kaare Strom

The exercise of power is a crucial part of politics. Yet, power can be, and often is, abused. This course surveys many different forms of power abuse. Since the abuse of power is by no means confined by national boundaries, the course will be broadly cross-national. In the initial meetings, we shall discuss the nature of power and its abuse. The course will then survey a variety of abuses of power, such as agenda manipulation, rent-seeking, fraud, extortion, corruption, exploitation, and gross political oppression. Generally speaking, we shall begin with more benign abuses and gradually move on to more severe forms. Also, the course will initially focus on abuse of power in countries and contexts that are most likely to be familiar, such as legislative politics in the United States and Europe. Later, we shall examine abuses of power in settings that may be less familiar. The course will use a variety of teaching materials. Some readings employ analytical tools from the field of political economy, but the course presupposes no particular background in that field, only a willingness to learn.

154 Special Topics in International Relations “Weapons of Mass Destruction”

Instructor: Erik Gartzke

This course provides an overview of the threats posed to national and international security by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons. Students will learn about how these weapons function, why states seek them, and how nations attempt to prevent proliferation. The course will do this in part by delving into the technical and policy challenges related to these weapons. It will further address how CBRN weapons shape states’ national security strategies and regional security dynamics. Efforts at the international level to restrict the use and proliferation of these weapons will be discussed. We will also explore the future of WMD and CBRN terrorism.