SPRING 2015 POLITICAL SCIENCE SPECIAL TOPICS  
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

POLI 138D, Special Topics in Comparative Politics “Corruption in Developing Countries”  
Instructor: Simeon Nichter

This course explores corruption in developing countries across the world. First, we will examine various types of corruption, ranging from bribery to financial kickbacks. Second, we will investigate examples of such corruption in numerous domains including elections, natural resources, development projects, and international business. Third, we will explore causes and consequences of corruption, with an emphasis on political and economic factors. Finally, we will assess successes and failures of numerous actions undertaken by domestic and international actors to reduce corruption in developing countries. The course draws on work from political science, economics, and anthropology, and provides many examples of corruption from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

POLI 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.