

## SP26 POLS Topics Course Descriptions

- CRN 82947 POLS 300.008 - T: Dispute Resolution and Law  
Taught by Lawrence Jones, JD. TR 3:30-4:45p
  - *Think being a lawyer means dramatic courtroom showdowns? Think again—most cases settle long before trial. This course dives into how real legal disputes are resolved through mediation, arbitration, restorative and collaborative practices, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). You'll learn how attorneys, advocates, and mediators use strategy, communication, and creativity to reach fair outcomes, explore the professional considerations and skills behind successful settlements, and discover how technology and AI are shaping the future of conflict resolution. Perfect for students interested in law, justice, or any career that requires negotiation and problem-solving.*
- CRN 82952 POLS 300.002 - T: Pol of Making a Difference  
Taught by Dr. Hannah Wood. TR 2:00p-3:15p
  - *This course examines how individuals and communities create change through civic engagement, civic education, and advocacy. Students connect theory to practice through guest speakers, readings, and hands-on projects that explore participation, power, and progress. The course culminates in a project where students make a tangible contribution to an advocacy, education, or civic initiative of their choice.*
- CRN 82955 POLS 300.003 - T: Am Democracy and SCOTUS  
Taught by Dr. Jessica Hejny. W 6:00p-8:45p
  - *This course explores the development of American democracy through the lens of Supreme Court cases. As the arbiter of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has played an outsized role in defining the limits of state power and the rights of citizens. The Court has also waded into subjects that affect the everyday lives of Americans. Each week we will cover two or three key cases that have defined an area of American politics and American life. Topics include: federalism, race, voting rights, criminal rights, police use of force, due process, free speech, LGBTQ rights, abortion, money in politics, and executive power. We will use these cases as a lens through which to understand both the evolution of American democracy and our present moment.*
- CRN 83017 POLS 300.004 - T: New Mexico Law and Politics  
Taught by Dr. Jeremy Farris. TR 8:00a-9:15a
  - *What makes New Mexico politics different? This course will consider how the New Mexico Constitution differs from the federal Constitution, the relationship between New Mexico and the federal government, and the relative powers of the Legislature and Governor, in comparison to other states. We will also explore the structure of New Mexico's sources of revenue and why the presence of oil and gas, the presence of the federal government, and New Mexico's unique history and demography make the State politically distinct and fascinating to study.*
- CRN 83018 POLS 300.005 - T: US Enviro Policy and Law  
Taught by Dr. Jessica Hejny. M 6:00p-8:45p
  - *Why hasn't Congress passed any major environmental laws since 1990? Why are Republicans and Democrats so far apart on environmental issues? What power does the president have to influence environmental policy? Why are environmentalists constantly suing the government? Where is environmental policy being made if not in our increasingly*

*polarized Congress? This course provides a comprehensive introduction to U.S. environmental policy from a historical perspective. We will explore how the federal government has addressed environmental issues over the past 50 years, focusing particularly on the green state legislation of the 1960s and 1970s, critiques of command and control regulation, the effects of conservatism on environmental policymaking, and the turns to state-level governance, market-based solutions, and collaborative governance. Over the course of the term, we will ask how and why these approaches to policymaking have changed over time. And we will compare these methods of policymaking to determine which approaches allow the government to make policy most effectively and democratically.*

- CRN 80599 POLS 320.001 - T: MidEast Pol & Societies

Taught by Dr. Yury Bosin. Online Max, non-synchronous.

- *For centuries, the Middle East has served as a crossroads for conquests, migrations, trade, and cultural exchanges, linking Europe, Africa, and Asia. It is the birthplace of some of the world's major religions, including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Today, the MENA region is of immense global significance due to its vast reserves of oil and gas, making it a key player in the world's energy markets. It also serves as a key hub for shipping routes that are vital to international trade and commerce. However, MENA has also been one of the most unstable regions in the world, marked by internal and interstate conflicts over the past 70 years. Security threats in the Middle East often have widespread effects, impacting stability of global powers like the U.S., China, and the European Union. This course will explore the politics and societies of the MENA states. The goal of the course is to foster a better understanding of the cultural, social, and religious diversity of the Middle East and to develop nuanced perspectives on the complex issues shaping domestic, regional, and transnational politics of the Middle East and North Africa. Using a comparative approach, we will examine factors such as geography, demographics, economic and political systems, democratization, human rights, as well as security and cooperation in the region. The course will include lectures, discussions, quizzes, and independent study assignments to help students build critical thinking and analytical skills for further exploration of the region and other topics in international relations and comparative politics.*

- CRN 58803 POLS 340.002 - T: Insurgencies & Rebellions

Taught by Dr. Yury Bosin. Online Max, non-synchronous.

- *Why do insurgent movements emerge and end? How do they fight? How do governments and foreign armies respond? This course will address these questions from different perspectives and in different historical and geographic contexts. The course will cover theories and concepts of security and insurgency, strategies and tactics of insurgency and counter-insurgency, and case studies of the most formidable insurgencies of our era. The course will combine lectures, discussions and activities to help students develop critical thinking and analytical skills for further study of insurgency movements and other related topics of international politics.*

- CRN 82823 POLS 400.005 - Adv T: Poli SciFi

Taught by Dr. Chris Butler. MWF 9:00a-9:50a.

- *Politics is often an underlying theme of science fiction. Indeed, contemplating the "perfect society" (and perhaps revealing the faults of such perfection) through storytelling is older than science fiction itself. There is much we can learn of human nature and society writ large by thinking through characters in a story. Science fiction is about imaging alternate realities,*

*examining strange political and economic institutions, and, sometimes, promoting a particular kind of change. In this course, the reading will include political strategy written as fiction (Conservative Insurgency) and science-fiction stories concerning social justice movements (Octavia's Brood). We will share the various kinds of science fiction we like (or have been exposed to), including watching some science fiction. Coursework will include short reading responses and a final project. The final project may be a work of fiction related to politics (such as a short story, a screenplay, or a podcast) or a political analysis of a body of science fiction (such as a novel, a series, or a movie).*

- CRN 82824 POLS 400.006 - Adv T: Political Games

Taught by Dr. Chris Butler. MWF 11:00a-11:50a.

- *This class surveys rational choice models of politics, ranging from voting models to game-theoretic models of international conflict. Once you understand strategic interaction, you can see how decision-makers make sometimes puzzling choices to get a better deal for themselves. You also begin to see how you could make such choices yourself. Many are often surprised that political science uses mathematics. This course is one of those surprises. On the upside, I'll guide you through how to do the math of rational-choice calculations. If you brush up on basic algebra, you'll do just fine. Much of the coursework will be quizzes and/or homework. There is also a final paper in which you identify the use of or a missed opportunity for strategic improvement as related to one of the models.*