

2009 - 2010

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
SKIDMORE COLLEGE

**GOVERNMENT
MAJORS
HANDBOOK**

Government Majors Handbook 2009-2010

Message from the Chair

Kate Graney, Associate Professor and Chair

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Government department. You will quickly learn that while your fellow majors and the faculty constitute a disparate group, they all share an interest in politics. This interest manifests itself in forms as varied as a fascination with the delicate diplomacy necessary to hold together multinational organizations, with the voting rules and institutional structures devised by multi-ethnic societies to lessen the possibility of conflict, with the ways that developing countries cope with the threats and opportunities posed by globalization, with the fundamental political questions raised by classic works in political theory and philosophy, and with how partisan conflict influences policy outcomes in the American polity. The department's courses are designed to help you engage with political issues in an informed way by introducing you to analytical, conceptual, and theoretical tools that will allow you to understand better why political actors make the choices they do, why political institutions function (or malfunction) the way that they do, and why nation-states act and interact with each other in the ways that they do.

The following information is designed to acquaint you with the most important features of the department and the major. If you have questions that are not answered by the following, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

Mission Statement

The Government department seeks to instill in its students a lively interest in politics, in how political systems work and in how we can make them work better, in contemporary political issues, in international relations and foreign policy, in political theory, and in the law. We offer a comprehensive program that reflects the broad discipline of political science. Students take three required introductory courses followed by intermediate and advanced courses in four areas: American government, comparative government, international relations, and political theory. The major is designed to serve students who wish to concentrate in a particular area, those who aspire to go on to graduate school, and those who want merely to explore the field of politics.

Our main goal is to help students think analytically and critically about political issues. We do this by developing students' knowledge of the four subdisciplines of political science, by cultivating in them the analytical skills they need to understand political issues, and by enhancing their abilities to assess critically political situations and problems from both empirical and normative perspectives.

In terms of knowledge, we aim to provide students with the historical and contemporary information they need to understand national and international political structures, behaviors, and ideas. In terms of analytical skills, we seek to offer students the methodological and technical training they require to read texts carefully; collect, analyze, and interpret data; and communicate their conclusions effectively and elegantly. In terms of critical abilities, we teach students to examine

political issues and problems from both empirical and ethical viewpoints as a first step toward developing policy recommendations that can improve political participation, processes, and outcomes.

Requirements

THE GOVERNMENT MAJOR: Requirements for a major in government are a minimum of nine courses and thirty credit hours (classes prior to 2012), or ten courses and thirty-three credit hours (Class of 2012 and beyond). These courses include:

1. GO101, 102, and 103
2. At least one course in each of the following four areas:
 - a. American Government: GO211,222 ,223 , 224, 231, 251C, 252, 305, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 331, 332, 333, 334, 352, 353, 362, 367, GH322
 - b. Comparative Government: GO203, 209, 213, 225, 227, 239, 240, 241, 251A, 327, 328, 344, 355, 358, 365
 - c. International Relations: GO201H, 219, 225, 228, 229, 251B, 301, 309, 319, 338, 339, 340, 356, 357, 366
 - d. Political Theory: GO236, GO242, 251D, 303, 304H, 308; 323; 351, 341, 354
3. Three additional government courses totaling at least 9 credits, or GO 383 or 384.

Government Minor

For the class of 2012 and after: The government minor consists of six courses with a minimum of 18 credit hours to be determined in consultation with the department chair and the student's government-faculty advisor, but must include two of the following: GO101, 102, or 103. Additionally, at least two courses must be taken at the 300 level.

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*For the classes of 2009, 2010, and 2011:* The government minor consists of five courses with a minimum of 18 credit hours to be determined in consultation with the department chair and the student's government-faculty advisor. Additionally, at least two courses must be taken at the 300 level.

### The Writing Requirement in the Government Major

The Government Department at Skidmore College is committed to helping its students become skilled writers. Recognizing that an important part of learning to write well in political science and government is learning to write well overall, the Government Department places considerable emphasis on both quantity and quality of writing opportunities in our courses and has adopted a wide-reaching and

thorough set of Standards and Expectations for Written Assignments in Government and a Uniform Code of Notation for Providing Feedback on Written Work. Students in Government Department classes expect to be held to the expectations and standards established in these documents. Thus, by successfully completing the requirements for the Government major, students fulfill the Writing Requirement in Government.

#### Policy on Civility and Comportment in the Classroom

The classroom experience is the heart of liberal education, and as such is the most important aspect of your Skidmore College education. Presumably, if you did not agree you would not be attending Skidmore. The faculty of the Government Department takes this understanding as the basis of our educational efforts. It is in an attempt to honor the centrality of the classroom experience that we offer this department policy on civility and comportment.

As is stated in the *Student Handbook*, your presence at Skidmore College is contingent upon your acceptance of, and full adherence to, the Skidmore College Honor Code. This honor code is distinct from the oath you take when writing a paper or taking an exam – it is in fact much more all-encompassing, and much more demanding.

The Code includes the following statement: *“I hereby accept membership in the Skidmore College community and, with full realization of the responsibilities inherent in membership, do agree to adhere to honesty and integrity in all relationships, to be considerate of the rights of others, and to abide by the College regulations.”* Elsewhere, the Code also calls all Skidmore students to *“conform to high standards of fair play, integrity, and honor.”*

What does it mean to do act honestly, with integrity, and according to high standards of fair play, particularly in the classroom? In our view, it includes, minimally, the following.

No student shall lessen the learning experience of others in the classroom by arriving late to class.

No student shall lessen the learning experience of others in the classroom by leaving the classroom while class is in session, except for true medical emergencies.

Cell phones must be turned off during class.

No student shall disrupt the learning experience of others in the classroom by talking to a neighbor, writing notes to other students, reviewing

one's mail, reading the newspaper, completing homework for other classes, or playing with the laptop computer, while class is in session.

No student shall disrespect other Skidmore students, professors or the house-keeping staff by putting feet on the desks or other furniture in the classroom, or by leaving trash, food, or recyclables in the room at the end of the class session.

While we will hold all students to these minimal expectations, we also have some suggestions for those who seek to go beyond the bare minimum of civil classroom comportment to become the type of mature, responsible, active learners who are an asset to any classroom and society at large. These include the following.

Every student should take copious and meaningful notes both on assigned readings and during classroom sessions. Note taking is an important skill—if you do not already possess it, you should acquire it.

Every student should take some time to review the notes that he or she has taken on the day's assigned reading before each class meeting. You will be amazed how much more invested and engaged in the class you will feel if you go into the classroom well-prepared.

Disruptions in class can be a significant impediment to learning, and no member of the Skidmore community—including faculty and students—should tolerate them. Thus every student should take responsibility for holding his or her peers and classmates to both high academic standards and high standards of civility. If people around you are chatting, passing notes or otherwise detracting from the overall quality of YOUR classroom experience, don't let them get away with it.

Individual faculty members in the Government Department will determine the level of sanctions for disruptive behavior.

### Academic Advising and Information Resources

#### *The Faculty Advisor*

Before declaring their major, students must obtain a faculty advisor within the Department, usually but not necessarily a teacher with whom they have already taken courses. Your advisor is a valuable educational resource. He or she

will provide information about academic options and opportunities at the College. Your advisor's main function is to guide you in shaping short- and long-range academic plans, particularly a program of studies with intellectual coherence. Although students are ultimately responsible for making their own decisions and meeting all the Requirements for Degree listed in the Skidmore College Catalog, your advisor must approve your course schedule each semester before registration and release the advising hold. It is therefore imperative that you know your advisor's office hours and consult him or her well in advance of the day you register.

#### *The Department Newsletter*

The department publishes a newsletter prior to both the spring and fall registration periods. The newsletter contains all the course offerings for the forthcoming semester, as well as articles and opinion pieces written by both students and faculty about current events, internship opportunities, and off-campus study. Copies of the newsletter are available in the Government department bay and online at <http://cms.skidmore.edu/government/newsletter/index.cfm>.

#### *Academic Council Representatives*

The student representatives, Adrian Texidor '10 and Matthew Rothenberg '12, to the Academic Council, in addition to SGA responsibilities, attend all Government department faculty meetings and contribute to the writing and editing of the department newsletter. We encourage you to contact the department chair if you have any suggestions for improving the department's efforts to serve its majors.

#### Honors

##### *Pi Sigma Alpha, Tau Gamma Chapter*

Founded in 1920 as the national political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha receives into membership students of political science and related disciplines who attain high standards of scholarship and academic distinction. Eligibility requirements are: (1) six government and/or government/history courses; (2) a combined 3.5 GPA from all of these courses; and (3) a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average.

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha meet regularly during the year with the organization's faculty advisor, Professor Natalie Taylor, to discuss contemporary political issues, plan the initiation ceremonies that take place in the Fall and the Spring of each year, and to organize events designed to raise political awareness on campus. Pi Sigma Alpha has been a chartered SGA club since 1999.

### *Department Honors*

To be recommended for Honors in the department, a student must have received at least an A- on a senior thesis, have a 3.5 grade-point average in government courses, and a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average.

The senior honors thesis is a year-long project that requires students to follow a carefully sequenced period of reading, writing, and revision culminating in a paper of at least 40 pages (10,000 words) that utilizes both primary and secondary sources to defend a clearly stated thesis.

Students interested in writing a senior thesis must seek during the spring semester of their junior year a Government department faculty member to act as their thesis director. Once students have secured a thesis director, they then enroll in GO 374: Senior Thesis Prep for the fall semester of their senior year. Students complete their thesis work in the spring semester in GO 375: Senior Thesis. Students must then defend their thesis before a panel of faculty some time between April 12 and April 22.

### *Description of the Senior Thesis*

The Senior thesis is a year-long project that requires students to follow a carefully sequenced period of reading, writing, and revision culminating in a paper of at least 40 pages (10,000 words) that utilizes both primary and secondary sources to defend a clearly stated thesis.

The faculty expects that students undertaking thesis work will be well-prepared to address their chosen topic and conscientious about meeting all deadlines and fulfilling all requirements for completion of the thesis.

### *Guidelines for Completion of a Senior Thesis*

1) Students interested in writing a senior thesis must seek during the spring semester of their junior year an appropriate Government department faculty member to act as their thesis director. Students who plan to study off-campus (e.g., in a Study Abroad Program or in the Washington Semester Program at American University) during the spring semester of their junior year must seek an appropriate thesis advisor during the fall semester of their junior year.

Students should formulate a specific research question and compile a preliminary bibliography prior to approaching a potential director and be able to provide evidence that they have done the course and preparatory work necessary to complete their proposed thesis.

Government faculty are not obligated to direct a senior thesis. A faculty member will decide whether to accept or reject a student's invitation to direct a thesis on the following bases:

- a) The fit between the faculty member's specialization and interests and

the student's topic.

b) An assessment of the student's ability, commitment, and preparation for undertaking the proposed project.

2) Students enroll in "GO 374: Senior Thesis Prep" for the fall semester of their senior year. Students consult with their thesis director during the first week of classes to establish a reading list and to set a schedule of meetings.

A student's grade for GO 374 and eligibility to continue thesis work in the spring semester will be based on their response to the assigned readings, the quality of their written work, their preparation for the meetings with their thesis director, and their performance on the following required work:

a) A 5-7 page thesis prospectus that presents the thesis and the research design.

b) An annotated bibliography that includes both primary and secondary sources.

3) Students must meet with their thesis director prior to the conclusion of the fall semester to establish a schedule for the completion of different stages of the research and for the submission of various drafts of the thesis.

4) Students must receive a final grade of at least "B" in GO 374 and the permission of the department to enroll in "GO 375: Senior Thesis" during the spring semester.

5) Students begin drafting their senior thesis during Winter Break at the latest.

6) Students enroll in "GO 375: Senior Thesis" for the spring semester of their senior year. During the first week of classes, students meet with their director to identify a second reader. Students are encouraged to choose a second reader from among the Government department faculty. Students can, however, select a reader from another department on campus, provided that both the thesis director and the second reader endorse this decision.

7) Students who wish to have their thesis considered for department honors or for a Periclean Award must submit the final version of their work to their thesis director by April 10.

#### *Senior Thesis Defense*

1) Students will defend their thesis some time between April 12 and April 22. The thesis panel will include the following:

a) The thesis director

b) The second reader

c) A third reader from outside the college who is selected by the thesis director

If in any given year it is impossible to recruit a third reader from outside the college, then the thesis director may choose a third reader from another Skidmore department.

- 2) The thesis student will be asked to deliver a 15-20 minute presentation of his or her thesis work. Afterwards, 40-45 minutes will be devoted to questions from the panelists. The entire thesis defense will last one hour.
- 3) Students will be expected during the thesis defense to perform successfully the following:
  - a) Provide a summary of their research question, thesis, methodology, and findings
  - b) Provide cogent responses to questions posed by the members of the thesis panel
- 4) At the conclusion of the thesis defense, the members of the panel will convene to decide on the grade for the thesis.  
The final grade for the thesis will be determined by the panel's evaluation of the following:
  - a) The persuasiveness of the written argument
  - b) The quality of the writing
  - c) The performance during the thesis defense
- 5) The members of the panel will then meet with the student to convey the final grade for the thesis.
- 6) All students who complete a senior thesis must submit a clean (i.e., without either marginal or summary comments), graded, bound copy of their thesis to the department secretary by May 1.

*Schedule for Completion of a Senior Thesis*

Fall of Junior Year

- 1) Students who plan to study off-campus during the spring seek the approval of an appropriate Government department faculty member to direct their thesis

Spring of Junior Year

- 1) Develop thesis topic
- 2) Students in residence at the college seek the approval of an appropriate Government department faculty member to direct their thesis

Fall of Senior Year

- 1) Apprise thesis director of intention to proceed with thesis work
- 2) Enroll in GO 374: Senior Thesis Prep
- 3) Establish in consultation with thesis director a reading list and set a schedule for meetings
- 4) Complete thesis prospectus and annotated bibliography
- 5) Establish a research and writing schedule in consultation with thesis director

Winter Break of Senior Year

- 1) Begin drafting thesis

Spring of Senior year

- 1) Apprise thesis director of intention to proceed with thesis work
- 2) Enroll in "GO 375: Senior Thesis"
- 3) Select second reader by the end of the first week of classes
- 4) Submit completed thesis to thesis director by April 10
- 5) Defend thesis during some time between April 12 and April 22

### Awards

Each year the Government Department recognizes academic achievement by awarding four academic prizes in May.

*The Henry C. Galant Prize:* Established to honor Henry C. Galant, Professor of Government, 1954-1986, and awarded to a major who has excelled in the study of comparative politics. *Talia C. Markowitz '09*

*The Susan Riley Gunderson '64 Prize:* Established by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Riley, and awarded to a major in government for outstanding work in the field of American government. *Julia Bienstock '09*

*The Erwin L. Levine Prize in Government:* Established to honor Erwin L. Levine, Professor of Government, 1961-1988, and awarded to a major in government who has done outstanding work in political theory, preferably in American political thought. *Laurie Graham '09*

*The Henry T. Moore Prize in Government:* Established in honor of Henry T. Moore, President of Skidmore College, 1925-1957, and awarded to a government major who has excelled in the study of international relations. *Alison Schultz '09*

### Internship Opportunities, Independent Studies, and Off-Campus Study

*New:* The Levine Internship Award in American Government, Politics and Law

Award Competition: These internship awards honor the memory of Erwin L. Levine, who was a Skidmore Government Department Professor of American Politics and Law from 1961 until his retirement in 1988. Through the generosity of his family and friends, these awards celebrate the life and legacy of a beloved teacher, respected scholar, treasured colleague, and inspired student of the history, theory and practice of American politics and law. The Levine Internship Awards are offered on a competitive basis to support Skidmore students who wish to undertake Government Department internships in fields related to the practice of American government, politics and/or law. Skidmore students from any major or minor may apply. Students are not required to apply for academic credit, but proposals must demonstrate the academic aspects of the internship experiences. Students may propose an internship in government, political, or legal offices and must demonstrate appropriate academic preparation. Examples of internship sites include: city, state, or federal government office, federal agencies (e.g., State Department) or international agencies addressing U.S. political and legal issues (e.g., the United Nations), a pressure group lobbying Congress, or a Presidential library with an emphasis on the president's politics.

Preference will be given to students who receive financial aid. During the academic year, one grant is awarded in fall and another in spring semester in the amount of \$1000 cash stipends. Summer grants are awarded in the amount of

\$3000 cash stipends (typically one or two grants are awarded in the summer). Selected students for summer grants will receive a \$300 per week stipend for an 8 to 10 week internships (not to exceed \$3,000.00); local summer internships may include housing on campus.

Applications are available online at the Dean of Studies and the Government department websites.

### *Internships*

Government majors and minors interested in pursuing internships should contact the department's internship director, Professor Robert Turner. In addition to his encyclopedic knowledge of local, state, national, and international internship opportunities, Professor Turner is also the coordinator for the New York State Assembly and Senate intern programs. The deadline for applying for the New York State Assembly and Senate intern programs is October 31.

Many past government majors have participated in interesting and enriching internships. The following is not an exhaustive list of these experiences, but it should be sufficient to give you a sense of the kinds of opportunities available to enterprising Government students:

- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Representative Constance Morella
- The Saratoga Foundation
- The New York State Department of Economic Development
- Environmental Advocates in Albany
- The Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Public Works
- The Saratoga Springs City Planner
- NBC Nightly News
- WAMC
- The Saratogian
- Lifetime Television
- The Recording Industry Association of America
- The City Planner of Norwich, Connecticut
- The New Hampshire Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services

Students interested in pursuing an internship must complete an Internship form prior to registering for either GO 299 or GO 399. These forms are available in the Dean of Studies Office. In order to complete this form, students need to solicit from their on-site supervisor a list of their responsibilities and from their supervising faculty member a description of the readings and assignments that will constitute the academic component of the internship.

Academic credit cannot be granted for internships that do not include academic work supervised and graded by a member of the Government department. The supervising faculty member, the student's academic advisor, and the department chair must sign the Internship form in order for the student to receive permission to pursue a credit-bearing internship.

### *Independent Studies*

The Government Department allows students who meet certain criteria to present an independent study proposal to a faculty member. An independent study usually consists of a course of intensive reading on a topic that is not addressed by one of the department's established course offerings. *An independent study is not an "entitlement" or a "right."* A faculty member might decide not to grant a student's request for an independent study for a variety of reasons, including (but not limited to) an independent study proposal that addresses a topic outside of the faculty member's sphere of competence, *a series of other commitments* that preclude the faculty member from taking on additional teaching responsibilities in a given semester, or a faculty member's concern that the student may be unable to complete the proposed course of study successfully.

A faculty member *will not consider* an independent study proposal unless the student has met *all three* of the following criteria:

- 1) The student has completed *at least one course* with the faculty member.
- 2) The student's topic is one that is not addressed by any of the department's course offerings.
- 3) The student presents to the faculty member *some time during the semester prior to the one in which the student hopes to enroll in the independent study* a brief description (two or three paragraphs) of the proposed independent study. This description should include a discussion of both the content and the goals of the independent study. The student also will be responsible for working with the faculty member to compile a list of appropriate readings for the independent study.

### *The Washington Semester Program*

The Washington Semester Program offers students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher the opportunity to spend a semester at American University studying in one of the following programs: American politics, economic policy, foreign policy, international business and trade (DC only), justice, journalism, public law, or transforming communities. Each program has three components: a seminar (worth eight semester hours of 300-level course credit), an internship (worth four semester hours of 300-level course credit) and either a research project or an elective course selected from American University's offerings (worth four semester hours of 300-level course credit). Students can use Washington Semester courses to fulfill major and/or minor requirements with the approval of the chair or program director of the appropriate department or program. See Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (Starbuck Center 202, ext. 5355) for further information about specific programs and application materials.

### *The West Point Student Conference on United States Affairs*

Each November the department sends one student to West Point to attend a three-day conference on a contemporary topic of concern in American foreign policy. The November 4—7, 2009 conference, SCUSA 61, is “SCUSA 61: Advancing as a Global Community Amidst Scarcity and Instability” Participating student delegates take part in a series of roundtable discussions with other delegates on a particular theme or question.

The United States Military Academy provides students with free lodging and meals, while the department pays the registration fee and defrays all transportation costs.

### *The United States Air Force Academy Assembly*

The U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs sponsors an annual conference on a topic of contemporary significance. The conference runs for three days during February and features talks by prominent academics, business leaders, government officials and non-governmental organization members. Students also participate in a series of roundtable discussions with other "delegates."

The expense of travel to Colorado Springs prevents the department from covering all transportation costs. Students in the past have applied for funds from the SGA, Student Opportunity Funds from the Dean of Studies as well as the Dean of Student Affairs Office to cover the shortfall.

### *Transfer Credits*

Courses completed at another college or university that students wish to apply toward the major must be approved by the Chair. Make an appointment with the Chair after the College Registrar has received your transcript, and bring along the catalogue description and/or syllabi of the courses completed elsewhere.

### Clubs

Many Government majors participate in the Model United Nations Club, the International Affairs Club, Skidmore Young Republicans, Skidmore Democrats, and the Model European Union Club. Members of The Model UN and Model EU clubs participate in simulations of those two multinational organizations held in New York City and at SUNY Fredonia, respectively. Members of the International Affairs Club work to organize a variety of events designed to increase global awareness on campus. The club officers are as follows:

Model United Nations Club-- President: TBA  
International Affairs Club-- President: TBA  
Model European Union Club-- President: TBA  
Skidmore Young Republicans-- Co. Presidents: TBA  
Skidmore Democrats-- President: Amy Bergstraesser '11

## Course Descriptions

### GO 101. INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT 3

An analysis of United States national government with emphasis on constitutionalism, the presidency, Congress, and the judiciary. Reference will also be made to the impact of political parties and pressure groups on the contemporary political system. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.) R. Turner, B. Breslin, R. Seyb, N. Taylor

### GO 102. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY 3

Study of seminal works in political philosophy. Students will examine texts by thinkers such as Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Bacon, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Marx, Tocqueville, Madison, Jefferson, and Nietzsche in an effort to uncover both classical and modern answers to enduring human questions. We seek to find, through these texts, comprehensive and consistent answers to the question of human happiness and its relation to political life, justice, friendship, obligation, regimes, political and moral virtue or excellence, science, and religious faith. Students will learn how to read texts carefully, to think critically, and to write well. Not open to students who have taken GO303 or 304. (Fulfills humanities requirement.) T. Burns, F. Taylor

### GO 103. INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS 3

A survey of the key concepts and principles of comparative politics and international relations. Issues covered include state building and state failure; the functioning of democratic and non-democratic regimes and the ideologies that support them; the changing nature of the international system; the causes of war and search for peace; and the problems of national and transnational security, such as terrorism, globalization, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and environmental challenges. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.) S. Hoffmann, R. Ginsberg, A. Vacs, K. Graney

### GO 201H. PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS 4

A survey of the patterns of relations among nation-states from the Congress of Vienna to the 1960s. The course will introduce key concepts and frameworks to explain international politics, and identify major factors that cause and prevent war. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. R. Ginsberg

### GO 203. COMPARATIVE EUROPEAN POLITICS 3

A survey of the governmental and political features of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and other European states. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or [103](#) or permission of instructor. R. Ginsberg

### GO 209. THE LATIN AMERICAN PUZZLE 4

A comprehensive analysis of Latin American political, social, and economic processes and institutions from a multidisciplinary perspective. The course examines Latin America's political development, ethnic problems, gender roles, and eco-

conomic strategies as well as the changing role of institutions such as the state, socioeconomic organizations, the church, and the military. It considers how Latin American societies changed after independence while noting those political, social, and economic aspects that remain unchanged. The objective of the course is to provide a critical examination of the evolution and transformation of Latin America while offering the analytical elements necessary to interpret similar processes in other geographical areas and historical periods. (Fulfills LS2 requirement.) A. Vacs

**GO 211. COURTS, POLITICS, AND JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES 3**

A survey of the role of courts in contemporary American politics and society. Students will explore the organization and functions of state and federal courts and their relation to other political institutions and to society generally. Topics will include the decision-making processes of judges, attorneys and litigants in various judicial settings, the role and impact of courts as policy-makers, the selection and recruitment of judicial personnel, access to judicial power, courts and the media, and contemporary trends in litigation. B. Breslin

**GO 213. COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS 4**

An examination of several different constitutional systems from around the world, using cases such as the United States, Israel, Canada, Poland and South Africa. All constitutional systems are unique, but when studied comparatively, they help illuminate some of the fundamental principles of modern politics: constitutionalism, democracy, justice, citizenship, liberty, and community. As part of the course, students will consider how constitutional structures influence ethnic, religious and personal identities. B. Breslin

**GO 219. POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION 3**

An introductory survey of how economics, history, law, and politics together help explain the growth and development of the European Union over time. The course focuses on common institutions and decision-making, internal and external policies, issues of national and European identities, and place of Europe in the wider world. (Fulfills LS2 requirement.) R. Ginsberg

**GO 222. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 4**

The study of state and local government, politics, and policies within the United States federal system. Emphasis on connections between government structure, politics, and the economy, with special attention to questions of public policy. R. Turner

**GO 223. CURRENT ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY 4**

An analysis of the public policy process through an examination of several current policy issues. The course will begin with a study of the fundamentals of policy formation, and will then investigate specific policy issues. Issues may include AIDS, drugs, affirmative action, and welfare. Students will participate in a mock legislative session. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. N. Taylor

GO 224. AMERICAN INDIAN POLITICS AND POLICY 3

Examines contemporary American Indian politics and policy. Students analyze the historical and contemporary tensions existing between tribal nations and the federal and state governments around such issues as sovereignty, treaty rights, jurisdiction, taxation, land, sacred lands, political economy, and citizenship. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural and historical roots of those tensions. (Fulfills cultural diversity requirement) P. Ferraioli

GO 225. MILITARY AND POLITICAL LESSONS FROM WORLD WAR II 4

A selective study of the crucial events of the twentieth century aimed at finding appropriate lessons for people who will live in the twenty-first century. Topics include: importance of incorporating technological advances into military doctrine, how "blitzkrieg" offensives work and how to defeat them, and advances in aerial and undersea warfare from 1939 to the present day. Interprets World War II as what military planners now call a "Revolution in Military Affairs," shows how that RMA still governs strategy and tactics today, and how the next RMA is already visible on the horizon. *Prerequisite:* One of the following: [GO101](#), [103](#), [201](#), [HI105](#), [106](#), [122](#), [SO101](#), or permission of instructor. S. Hoffmann

GO 227. FROM GENGHIS KHAN TO GORBACHEV: POWER AND  
POLITICS IN RUSSIAN HISTORY 4

A comparison of traditional Russian society with Soviet society after 1917. The course will focus first on the political, economic, and social characteristics of the authoritarian tsarist empire. Then we will turn to the revolutionary changes initiated by Lenin, the terror of Stalin, the reforms of Khrushchev, and the stagnation under Brezhnev. The course will focus in particular on changes in political structures and participation, economic organization and equality, and cultural life, including gender roles. Readings will include novels, memoirs, and press translations. K. Graney

GO 228. UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD 4

This course examines the development and current features of American foreign policy focusing on the international challenges and opportunities faced by the United States after the end of the Cold War. It analyzes some of the major patterns of United States foreign policy, reviews some important interpretations and methodological approaches to the study of United States foreign policy, discusses the ideological components of these policies, examines the foreign policy actors and the decision making process in which they participate, and evaluates the changing objectives and circumstances shaping recent American international initiatives. Special attention will be devoted to the impact of the end of the Cold War and the rise of interdependence and globalization on recent United States economic, strategic, and environmental foreign policies as well as in the formulation of specific approaches to different regions of the world.

*Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. R. Ginsberg, A. Vacs

GO 229. INTERNATIONAL LAW 3

An introduction to and survey of the history, principles, instruments, theory, and

practice of international law. Students explore the reach of and limits to international law with regard to the use of force, arms control and disarmament, human rights, and criminal justice in light of transnational crime and terrorism. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or [IA101](#). R. Ginsberg

GO 231. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY 4

An exploration of how political, economic, and social interests contend for influence and exert power in the realm of environmental policy. We look at the ways in which local, regional, national, and international governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and interests groups, and the public interact in defining environmental problems, and formulating and implementing solutions. The course uses case studies on timely environmental issues ranging from cleaning up toxic waste pollution to protecting endangered species to understanding the clashes between science and politics at local, state, federal, and international levels. (fulfills social sciences requirement)

*Prerequisite:* [GO101](#), [ES100](#), or permission of instructor. R. Turner

GO 236. AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

An examination of the writings of selected thinkers in the American political tradition. The course will place particular emphasis on the thought of the framers and on the response of succeeding political leaders and thinkers to the framers' principles.

*Prerequisites:* [GO101](#) or [102](#), or permission of instructor. T. Burns or N. Taylor

GO 239. NATIONALISM AND POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST 4

Introduction to the basic problems and trends of the major "confrontation" and oil states of the Middle East, including leadership, instability, modernization, nationalism, and war. Covers Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Turkey, and the Palestinians. In-depth coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. (Designated a non-Western culture course.) S. Hoffmann

GO 240. POLITICAL MODERNIZATION: THE CASE OF INDIA 3

A study of problems inherent in modernizing political systems, as exemplified by the development of mass politics in India, the relationship of political to economic development in this major "third world" nation, and the rise of Indian nationalism under the nonviolent concepts of Mahatma Gandhi. The course provides background necessary for a sound understanding of India's movement to independence as a modern nation-state. (Designated a non-Western culture course.) S. Hoffmann

GO 241. ETHNIC CONFLICT AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM 4

An exploration of the major approaches to the study and understanding of ethnic conflict and nationalism. Students examine sociobiological and psychological "primordialist" theories, realist and instrumentalist approaches, and normative/ideational explanations. These theoretical approaches will be illustrated through case studies, which may include: "troubles" in Northern Ireland; sovereignty movements in Quebec and Chechnya; ethnic violence in Indonesia, Nigeria, and the former Soviet bloc; indigenous people's movements in Mexico; separatism, racism, and anti-immigrant violence in Europe; or others. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permis-

sion of instructor. (Fulfills social sciences requirement.) K. Graney

GO 242. LIBERTY, COMMERCE AND THE MORAL LIFE 3

An examination of the distinctive understandings of liberty in the midst of the emergence of a new world of commerce in the 18th century. Students will focus on the writings of David Hume and Adam Smith comparing their ideas against the backdrop of other thinkers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries such as Locke, Hobbes, Mandeville, and Rousseau. Students will also judge the debates and disagreements among key figures in modern political philosophy. What are the origins of political liberty? Is vice or virtue the animating force of what Smith called the "system of natural liberty?" *Prerequisite:* GO102 or permission of instructor. F. Taylor

GO 251. TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 3

Typically organized courses focused on selected problems, areas, and issues of special interest in political science at the intermediate level. Topics vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* for A, and B, [GO103](#) or permission of instructor; for C, [GO101](#); for D, for the class of 2012 and after, GO102.

- A. Comparative Politics
- B. International Relations
- C. American Politics
- D. Political Theory

GO 252. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF POLITICS 3

An examination of how citizens' and public officials' attitudes, values, beliefs, experiences, and cognitive capacities shape political behavior and influence the actions of American political institutions. Topics include political socialization, political personality, attitude formation and change, and political decision-making. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Seyb

GO 299. PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP IN GOVERNMENT 3

Internship in government, political, or legal offices for students with appropriate academic preparation. The intern is required to produce a substantial research paper related to the area of the internship, on a topic approved by the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or [103](#) (depending on the area of the internship) and one other government course in the area of the internship (American, comparative, or international).

GO 301. CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND LAW 4

An analysis of changes in international politics and law from the Cold War to the present. Topics include regional conflict; multilateral peacekeeping; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; international law; human rights; and the structure, function, and role of international organizations and nongovernmental organiza-

tions. Students actively engage in global problem-solving exercises utilizing theoretical concepts, case studies, policy briefs, and policy debates. This course may be taken in conjunction with participation in Model United Nations, Model European Union, or other intercollegiate simulations. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. R. Ginsberg

GO 303. CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

Political thought of Plato and Aristotle. This course will treat the character of the political thought that Socrates initiated. Consideration will be given to the reasons for the original tension between wisdom and politics and to the manner in which theory can inform practice. Selected Greek comedies and tragedies, as well as Roman and medieval political thought may also be considered. *Prerequisite:* for the class of 2012 and after, GO102. T. Burns

GO 304H. MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

Political thought of the Renaissance to that of the late nineteenth century. Selected thinkers include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche. Particular emphasis will be placed on the aspirations of liberalism and the criticism these aspirations inspired. *Prerequisite:* for the class of 2012 and after, GO102. T. Burns

GO 305. INTEREST GROUPS AND PUBLIC POLICY 3

An examination of political theories and contemporary practices of interest groups in the making of public policy in the United States. The course includes a review of theoretical approaches to interest groups, models of policy-making, a survey of groups active in selected policy areas, and techniques of influence. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Turner

GO 308. CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

Political thought of the twentieth century. Primary attention will be given to the influence of Nietzsche as reflected in existentialism, post-modernism, and post-modern feminism. Additional topics might include the influence of Freudianism on political thought, the debate between Rawls and Nozick on social justice, and the claims of communitarianism. *Recommended preparation:* [GO303](#) or [304](#). T. Burns

GO 309. LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES 3

An examination of the relations between Latin America and the United States, including their political, strategic, and economic aspects. The course reviews some of the major theoretical interpretations of these relations and analyzes some crucial historical events and developments before focusing on crucial contemporary topics including collective security, revolutionary change, imperialism and nationalism, economic issues, human rights and democracy, drug traffic, and migration. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. A. Vacs

GO 311. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 4

A survey of the American constitutional system emphasizing sources and uses of

governmental power, the political role of the Supreme Court, the Court's jurisdiction, and the allocation of powers between the federal government and the states.

*Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. B. Breslin, F. Taylor

GO 312. CONTEMPORARY CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS 3

An examination of selected constitutional issues, including the proper role of the Supreme Court in our political system. The course covers theories of judicial review, as well as many of the complexities of modern civil rights and civil liberties.

*Prerequisite:* permission of instructor. B. Breslin

GO 313. POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES  
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS 4

A study of the civil rights, black nationalist, black power, black liberation, American Indian, women's, and queer movements in the United States. The course will look at the history of the emergence of these movements and the impact these movements have had on public policy and social change. Particular consideration will be given to movement ideology. Students will prepare a research design and a final paper. Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. N. Taylor

GO 314. CIVIL LIBERTIES 4

An analysis of recent Supreme Court decisions interpreting our civil liberties, civil rights, guarantee of due process of law, and equal protection of the laws. B. Breslin

GO 315. IMMIGRATION POLITICS AND POLICY 4

An examination of immigration and the issues arising from it—the reshaping of cities, suburbs and rural areas, and the altering of racial dynamics, labor markets, politics and culture in the U.S. Students will address varied topics such as the historical evolution of American immigration policy, theories of immigration, the economic costs and benefits of immigration, the assimilation of recent immigrants, and the future direction of U.S. immigration policy. *Prerequisite:* GO 101 R. Turner

GO 316. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 4

An examination of the administration of public policy in the United States, with attention to government organization, budgeting, personnel, procurement, regulation, due process, intergovernmental relations, and reform. Students will select one federal agency or program for study in depth. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Turner

GO 319. WHAT THE UNITED STATES DOES WRONG IN THE WORLD:  
VIEWS FROM INDIA AND ANSWERS FROM WASHINGTON 4

Outside the United States, and outside Western Europe, the role of the United States in the world is often called "dominant," "hegemonic," "discriminatory," and even "trigger-happy." One source for this critique is India, a democracy now seeking great power status in the world. Many informed Indian strategic thinkers believe that the United States will block the rise of new great powers by such means as preventing the international movement of high technology. Is there substance to these changes? Can the United States government make a persuasive reply? These are the central issues of the course. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. S. Hoffmann

GH 322. THE HISTORY AND POLITICAL THOUGHT OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION 3

The creation of a new nation, 1763-1789. This course will give special attention to the political ideas which gave direction to the American Revolution and the Constitution. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor.

GO 323. DISSIDENT POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

This course will examine the writings of several dissidents of the twentieth century (including Milosz, Solzhenitsyn, and Havel) and their unique contributions to the enduring themes of political theory. *Prerequisite:* GO103 or one political theory course; for the class of 2012 and after, GO102. F. Taylor

GO 327. POLITICS IN RUSSIA AND THE SOVIET SUCCESSOR STATES 4

An analysis of politics in Russia and in the post-communist republics of the former Soviet Union. After analyzing the disintegration of the U.S.S.R. under Gorbachev, the course will focus on the attempts since 1991 to create democratic political systems. Special attention will be paid to elections, constitutions, political party formation, parliaments, leadership strategies, and nationalism. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. K. Graney

GO 328. NATIONALISM, COMMUNISM, AND DEMOCRACY: POLITICS  
IN EAST EUROPE 4

East European politics from 1918 to the present. The course analyzes democracy and fascism before World War II, the rise and fall of communism, and the rebirth of democracy and nationalism after 1989. Major topics include modernization and political development, nationalism and political culture, one-party dictatorships, and multiparty presidential and parliamentary democracies. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. K. Graney

GO 331. STATE AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY 4

An introduction to the concepts, ideas, and strategies employed in the pursuit of state and local economic development. We will survey and critically review the range of strategies commonly used to improve the economic prospects of neighborhoods, cities, and regions, including luring corporations with tax breaks, emulating Silicon Valley, promoting high technology, building sports stadiums and prisons, and community development. This course will rely heavily on interviews of policy-makers and analysis of state policies and problems to help students appreciate the importance and complexity of economic development policy. A background in economics is not required. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Turner

GO 332. THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM 4

An examination of the influence of our political parties at critical moments of the formation of the American democracy. The course explores how political parties emerged almost immediately after the ratification of the Constitution and engaged in public debate on the meaning of republican government as well as the meaning of citizen participation and representation. Students will learn to appreciate the distinction between American political development and the historical study of

politics. They will also become familiar with party realignment and be able to recognize the unique character of the elections of 1800, 1828, 1860, 1896, and 1932. Students also learn to appreciate the challenge of finding the appropriate role for political parties in our democracy. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. N. Taylor

GO 333. AMERICAN POLITICAL RESEARCH 4

A senior seminar in which each student will conduct individualized research into a topic or question in contemporary American politics. Each student will prepare a research design, class progress reports, and a final paper. Special attention will be given to primary sources, such as government documents, and to computer-based research techniques and resources, such as Internet and data bases. *Prerequisite:* Senior government major status, or permission of the instructor. R. Turner

GO 334. THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY 4

An analysis of the Presidential role in United States politics. The course will examine the expansion of the constitutional and political powers of the President in the light of contemporary politics. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Seyb

GO 338. INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS 4

An exploration of the techniques and practice of diplomatic negotiations as a peaceful way of resolving international disputes. The course addresses a variety of international negotiating problems (political, strategic, environmental, and economic) that involve different kinds of actors (great, intermediate, and small powers; intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations; and private groups) from various parts of the world in diverse settings (global, regional, and local). Theoretical materials and case studies are used to gain insight into the issues and questions involved in diplomatic negotiations. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or [201](#) or permission of instructor. A. Vacs

GO 339. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT 4

Explores changes in international politics that lend more weight to economic and environmental issues and analyzes the responses to those changes of developed and developing countries and regional, international, and nongovernmental organizations. Students examine different theoretical perspectives on international political economy issues, engage in problem-solving exercises, and conduct a major research paper or prepare for participation in Model United Nations, Model European Union, or other simulation exercises. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. R. Ginsberg, A. Vacs

GO 340. THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REGIME: PROMISE AND PERIL 4

An examination of the philosophical, religious and legal bases of the modern international human rights regime. Students will explore such questions as: How did the concept of human rights evolve? How do states, international and nongovernmental organizations, and individuals try to provide for and protect human

rights around the world? When do they succeed and why do they fail? What is one's individual responsibility regarding the international human rights regime? Students will work with the primary texts that form the international human rights regime and will engage in research projects that examine the practice of human rights provision and violation around the world. *Prerequisites:* GO 103 or IA 101. K. Graney

GO 341. FRENCH LIBERAL TRADITION

An examination of the unique strain in French political philosophy which confronts the origins and impact of liberal democratic theory. Students will engage thoughtfully and critically with an underappreciated tradition in French political philosophy and will gain an awareness of both the positive and negative potentialities of modern democratic life. Students will encounter the well-known triad of Montesquieu, Constant, and Tocqueville as well as contemporary French thinkers such as Bertrand de Jouvenel and Pierre Manent. *Prerequisites:* GO102 or permission of instructor. F. Taylor

GO 344. COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND CULTURE:  
INDIA AND JAPAN 4

A comparison of the political systems of the two major Asian democracies, India and Japan, with an emphasis on the role of culture in explaining political behavior and economic development. Special attention is paid to the problems being experienced by the Indian and Japanese versions of parliamentary democracy, and to the economic policies favored by the two governments. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of instructor. (Designated a non-Western culture course.) S. Hoffmann

GO 351A. TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT 3

GO 351B. TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT 4

A seminar devoted to a particular issue or a particular thinker. Topics will vary from year to year. Recent topics have included "Rousseau's Political Philosophy," "The 'Public' and 'Private' in Modern Political Thought," "Machiavelli's Political Thought," and "Shakespeare's Rome." The course may be repeated with the approval of the department. *Prerequisite:* for the class of 2012 and after, [GO102](#). *Recommended additional preparation:* GO303 or 304. The Department

GO 352. WOMEN AND THE LAW 4

The rights of women under constitutional and statute law in the United States. Examines changing patterns in the legal status of women, legal protection against public and private discrimination, and the effectiveness of law as an instrument of social change. Students will participate in a moot court *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. The Department

GO 353. SEX AND POWER 4

Examines changing patterns in the regulation of sex, sexuality, and representations of sex and sexuality under constitutional and statute law in the United States. Attention will be focused on how these regulations support or challenge power relationships. Students will participate in a moot court. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. The Department

GO 354. FEMINIST POLITICAL THOUGHT 3

A critical exploration of contemporary feminist political thought. The course will focus on the different conceptions of subjectivity found within feminist thought and the implications of those conceptions for political society. Readings will come from a wide range of approaches including postmodernism, psychoanalytic theory, and standpoint theory. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or [103](#), or permission of instructor; for the class of 2012 and after, [GO102](#). N. Taylor

GO 355. AFRICAN POLITICS 4

An analysis of states and societies of Africa during the colonial and independent periods. Topics to be covered include: the effect of colonialism on state structures, social groupings, and ethnic identities; regime types and domestic politics; pressures to populate regions that are not easily habitable; the effects of disease, starvation, and natural disaster on the continent's demographics; and public policies to master water and land. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#), or permission of instructor. (Designated a non-Western culture course.) C. Whann

GO 356. AFRICA IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 4

Africans and outsiders with interests in Africa have been concerned with matters of land, water, plants, and other natural resources. State and nonstate actors have sought to manage, control, or extract them for economic gain or use them as weapons of political control. Topics to be covered in this course include the political economy of conflict; human and environmental control; African cash crop production, mining, and oil drilling; the politics of famine and drought; and regional and international control of water. These topics will be analyzed in the context of theories of international relations and foreign policy making. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#), [IA101](#) or consent of instructor. (Designated a non-Western culture course.)

GO 357. SEXING GLOBAL POLITICS: GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 4

An exploration of how the theory and practice of international relations is gendered. Students examine how the fundamental international relations concepts of security and defense are defined in gendered ways, and how the practice of diplomacy, war-making, and international economic development are gendered. Special focus on the environmental impacts of international relations' gendered past and present, and how women's and environmental organizations work together to challenge traditional patterns of global governance. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of the instructor. K. Graney

GO 358. CARIBBEAN POLITICS 4

An advanced course investigating political structures and processes in the Caribbean region. Explores the impact of domestic and international factors on political institutions and civil society in the small countries of the region. Themes addressed in the course include culture, ethnicity, crops and other resources, migration and tourism, colonialism and international intervention, drug smuggling and money laundering. The course also examines how climate and weather shape politics and political economy. *Prerequisite:* [IA101](#) or [GO103](#). C. Whann

GO 362. POLITICS OF THE CONGRESS 4

A seminar devoted to the examination of the congressional system through research, class discussion, and written work. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of instructor. R. Seyb

GO 364. SPECIAL TOPICS IN GOVERNMENT 1-3

An upper-level course devoted to the intensive study of a particular topic in political science, especially with a visiting scholar.

GO 365. TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS 4

Selected issues, regions, and research in comparative politics. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics: post-authoritarian transitions in Eastern Europe; party politics in Israel. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of the instructor. The Department

GO 366. TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 4

Selected issues, regions, and research in international relations. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics: Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), conflict and compromise; United States and Japan, allies in collision. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* [GO103](#) or permission of the instructor. The Department

GO 367. TOPICS IN AMERICAN POLITICS 4

Selected issues, periods, and research in American politics. Topics will vary from year to year, depending upon the specialization and research interests of the instructor. Possible topics include: urban government, politics of AIDS, political role of the labor movement, etc. Students may take the course more than once, with the approval of the department, if the topic is different each time. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) or permission of the instructor. The Department

GO 371. INDEPENDENT STUDY 3

An opportunity for qualified majors to do special studies in the field of political science beyond or outside of the regular departmental offerings. The student's study program is supervised by a member of the department. Written work and regular periodic discussion meetings are required. The Department

GO 374. SENIOR THESIS PREP 3

Independent research under the direction of a member of the department, undertaken in the fall of the senior year by students writing a senior thesis. Students should consult departmental guidelines regarding the senior thesis, which specify the expectations for this course.

GO 375. SENIOR THESIS 4

Optional for government majors. Particularly recommended for majors wishing to develop a problem or theme in depth and for those working toward professional

careers or in preparing for graduate work. The student's work is supervised by a member of the department. Individual and, if appropriate, group conferences will be held during the term. Written work and regular periodic discussion meetings are required. Proposals for the senior thesis must be prepared in consultation with a government faculty thesis-sponsor, approved by the sponsor and the student's advisor, and submitted to the chair for approval during the semester preceding the one in which the student wishes to work on the thesis. Application deadlines precede registration periods; see the department calendar for specific dates.

**GO 383. NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PROGRAM 15**

A semester-long intensive field experience. Students spend a minimum of 30 hours a week working in Albany for an Assembly Member and their research staff, conducting research, responding to constituent mail, bill tracking, bill memo preparation and attending committee and public hearings, among other tasks. The program also has an academic seminar component, Policy in the NY State Legislative Process, and includes other weekly meetings (Issue Forums), as well as mandatory participation in a Mock Legislative Session at the end of the semester. S/U only. *Prerequisites:* GO 101 and junior or senior standing. GO 222 recommended. R. Turner

**GO 384. NEW YORK STATE SENATE PROGRAM 15**

A semester-long intensive field experience. Students spend a minimum of 30 hours a week working in Albany for a Senate member and their research staff, conducting research, responding to constituent mail, bill tracking, bill memo preparation and attending committee and public hearings, among other tasks. The program also has an academic seminar component, and includes other weekly meetings (Issue Forums), as well as mandatory participation in a Mock Legislative Session at the end of the semester. S/U only. *Prerequisites:* GO 101 and junior or senior standing. GO 222 recommended. R. Turner

**GO 399. PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP IN GOVERNMENT 3, 6, or 9**

Internship experience at an advanced level in government, political, or legal offices for students with substantial academic preparation. The intern must produce a major research paper related to the area of the internship, on a topic approved by the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor. *Prerequisite:* [GO101](#) (if internship is in the area of national politics or a legal office), or GO103 (if internship is in the area of comparative or international politics), and at least two advanced courses in the appropriate field for the internship.

### **The Faculty**

**Beau Breslin**, Assistant Dean of the Faculty and Director, First Year Experience.  
Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., University of Pennsylvania; B.A., Hobart College

*Honors:* Skidmore College Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2008

*Subdiscipline:* American Government (Constitutional Law)

*Courses Taught:* GO 101: Introduction to American Government, GO 211: Courts, Politics, and Judicial Process in the United States, GO 213: Comparative Constitutional Systems, GO 311: Constitutional Law, GO 312: Contemporary Constitutional Problems, GO 314: Civil Liberties, LW 200: Law, Justice and Citizenship

**Katherine Graney**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., University of Wisconsin, Madison; B.A., College of the Holy Cross

*Subdiscipline:* Comparative Politics/International Relations (Former Soviet Union)

*Courses Taught:* GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, GO 227: Russia: A Century of Change, GO 241: Ethnic Conflict and the Global System, GO 327: Politics in Russia and the Soviet Successor States, GO 328: Nationalism, Communism, and Democracy: Politics in East Europe, GO 340: The International Human Rights Regime: Promise and Peril, GO 357: Sexing Global Politics: Gender and International Relations

**Tim Burns**, Associate Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., University of Toronto; B.A., Boston College

*Subdiscipline:* Political Theory

*Courses Taught:* GO 102: Introduction to Political Philosophy, GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, GO 236: American Political Thought, GO 303: Classical Political Thought, GO 304: Modern Political Thought, GO 308: Contemporary Political Thought

**Roy H. Ginsberg**, Professor and Joseph C. Palamountain, Jr. Chair in Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., The George Washington University; B.A., Bradley University

*Honors:* Skidmore College, Moseley Lectureship, 2006-2007

*Subdiscipline:* Comparative Politics (Western Europe)

*Courses Taught:* GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, GO 201: Principles of International Politics, GO 203: Comparative Politics of Western Europe, GO 219: Political Economy of European Integration, GO 228: United States Foreign Policy in a Changing World, GO 229: International Law, GO 301: Contemporary International Politics and Law, GO 339: International Political Economy and the Environment

**Steven A. Hoffmann**, Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., University of Pennsylvania; B.A., Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton

*Subdiscipline:* Comparative Politics/International Relations (India and Asia)

*Courses Taught:* GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, GO 225: Military and Political Lessons from World War II, GO 239: Nationalism and Politics in the Middle East, GO 240: Political Modernization: The Case of India, GO 319: What the United States Does Wrong in the World: Views from India and Answers from Washington, GO 344: Comparative Politics and Culture: India and Japan

**Ronald P. Seyb**, Associate Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D., M. Phil & M.A., Yale University; B.A., University of California, Irvine

*Honors:* Skidmore College Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2005

*Subdiscipline:* American Politics (Presidency & Congress)

*Courses Taught:* GO 101: Introduction to American Government, GO 252: The Psychology of Politics, GO 334: The United States Presidency, GO 362: Politics of the Congress

**Flagg Taylor**, Assistant Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., Fordham University; B.A., Kenyon College

*Subdiscipline:* Political Theory

*Courses Taught:* GO 102: Introduction to Political Philosophy GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, GO 242: Liberty, Commerce and the Moral Life, GO 251: Abraham Lincoln as a Statesman, GO 251D: The Scottish Enlightenment, GO 311: Constitutional Law, GO323: Dissident Political Thought, GO 341: French Liberal Tradition, GO 351: The French Liberal Tradition, GO 351: Rousseau's Political Philosophy

**Natalie Fuehrer Taylor**, Assistant Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., Fordham University; B.A., Kenyon College

*Subdiscipline:* American Politics (Social Movements and Public Policy)

*Courses Taught:* GO 101: Introduction to American Government, GO 223: Current Issues in Public Policy, GO 236: American Political Thought, GO 313: Politics of Contemporary Social Movements GO 332: American Political Development, GO 354: Feminist Political Thought

**Robert Turner**, Associate Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison; B.A., Middlebury College

*Subdiscipline:* American Politics (State and Local Government & Public Administration)

*Courses Taught:* GO 101: Introduction to American Government, GO 222: State and Local Government, GO 231: Environmental Politics and Policy, GO 305: Interest Groups and Public Policy, GO 315: Immigration Politics and Policy, GO 316: Public Administration, GO 331: State and Local Economic Development Policy, GO 333: American Political Research

**Aldo C. Vacs**, Professor of Government

*Degrees:* Ph.D. & M.A., University of Pittsburgh; B.A., Universidade de Sao Paulo

*Subdiscipline:* Comparative Politics/International Relations (Latin America & International Political Economy)

*Courses Taught:* GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, GO 209: The Latin American Puzzle, GO 228: United States Foreign Policy in a Changing World, GO 309: Latin America and the United States, GO 338: International Diplomatic Negotiations, GO 339: International Political Economy and the Environment

**Pat Ferraioli**, Visiting Assistant Professor

*Degrees:* Ph.D., M.A. & B.A., University at Albany, State University of New York

*Subdiscipline:* American Government, American Indian Politics & Policy, Law, Women's Studies

*Courses Taught:* GO 101: Introduction to American Government, GO 224: American Indian Politics and Policy, GO 311: Constitutional Law, GO 353: Sex and Power, GO 367: Communication Law

**Sumita Pahwa**, Lecturer

*Degrees:* Ph.D. Candidate, ABD. Johns Hopkins University; B.A., Middlebury College

*Subdiscipline:* Comparative Politics/International Relations (Middle East and South Asia)

*Courses Taught:* GO 103: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics, IA 101: Introduction to International Affairs, GO 365: Topics in Comparative Politics—Religion and Secularism in Contemporary Politics

*Updated on October 22, 2009*

**Department of Government  
Skidmore College**

**Visit our website to view the Handbook online  
<http://cms.skidmore.edu/government/index.cfm>**