

Special Topic Classes Spring 2006

The following classes are Special Topic Classes. It is important to realize before registering for these classes that often these classes are not offered again as the same topic.

PSC 407Z-001 - Special Topics: Caribbean Development

PSC 407Z-002 - Special Topics: Democratization

PSC 409Z-001 - Special Topics: Contemporary Liberal Political Thought

PSC 411Z-001 - Special Topics: Law & Society

EPS 790-001 - Special Topics: Education Ethics & Politics

PSC 407Z-001

Special Topics: Caribbean Development - Tuman

This course examines the political economy of development in the Caribbean. The course provides an overview of recent theories of economic and political development in the region. The course also explores recent political changes in selected Caribbean countries and the effects of regional and international relations on domestic politics.

PSC 407Z-002

Special Topics: Democratization - Kuenzi

Perhaps one of the most salient and pertinent topics in the field of comparative politics today is that of democratization. This course focuses on the phenomenon of democratization. We will seek to answer questions such as: What factors are likely to cause the initiation of the democratization process? What factors affect the prospects for democracy to survive and thrive in a country? What institutional arrangements are most likely to maximize the prospects for the consolidation of democracy? How satisfactory are the theories of democratization? We will begin by focusing on some of the key concepts in the course. We will then explore the process of the transition to democracy, looking at different types of transitions and explanations of transitions. Next, we will look at the process of the consolidation of democracy, as well as the factors that bear upon this process. Finally, we will assess the state of and prospects for the consolidation of democracy in the world today.

PSC 409Z-001

Special Topics: Contemporary Liberal Political Thought - Lutz

The course examines "liberalism," the political theory which has shaped liberal democracies such as the United States in the modern West. Readings will focus on contemporary analyses of liberalism's claim that the chief goals of politics ought to include individual liberty, equal rights, and toleration.

PSC 411Z-001

Special Topics: Law & Society - Hays

Critical study of law as a social, political, and economic phenomenon. Topics covered include the theoretical construction of the law, law in dispute resolution, economic disparities in the law, policy impact of legal institution, law as culture, and law a source of social liberation and oppression.

EPS 790-001

Special Topics: Education Ethics & Politics - Lutz

The course examines the place of education in political life by studying how important political theorists have understood the challenge of promoting citizenship and civic virtue along with freedom and a genuinely liberal education.