

PS 590: Critical Evaluation of New Research in Political Science

Prof. Stephen Chaudoin

Academic Year 2016-17

Fridays, 12-1:30pm

DKH 206

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Office Hours: Wed. 3-5pm or by appointment

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Course Description

The primary goal of this class is for students to engage directly with the ongoing Political Science workshop. The speaker series meets roughly 3 times per semester outside of the usual speaker sessions, typically on Mondays 12-1:30pm. There are generally 12-15 speakers per year. The goal of these meetings is to improve the quality of student participation in the speaker series. We will discuss different approaches to providing critical feedback about working papers, as well as evaluate different presentations with an eye to improving the students' own presentation style.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to attend and participate in speaker talks.

- Each student will be responsible for serving as a discussant two meetings of the speaker series per semester. The discussant will read the paper in advance and prepare comments to present orally. Students other than the assigned discussant should participate in the Q&A section of the presentations.
- Students will be responsible for posting comments related to both substantive and stylistic aspects of the papers and presentations to the course message board. These entries should discuss (1) the best substantive feature of the paper/presentation, (2) the strongest substantive criticism of the paper/presentation and a possible solution, and (3) a positive or negative comment about the presentation itself. These do not have to be long entries (around 400-500 words), although students should write as much as they think is necessary to make their point.

Grading will be based on overall participation. The breakdown will be:

- 45% attendance/participation in speaker talks
- 25% discussant comments
- 30% blog posts

Course Policies

Attendance at the talks and all other class meetings is mandatory. Students who are absent because of conflicts or illness should contact the instructor in advance, or as soon as possible afterwards. In accordance with the Student Code, (1-501) these absences will be excused at the instructor's discretion. Two or more unexcused absences will result in a grade of "Unsatisfactory."

Blog posts are due at noon on the Tuesday after each talk. Late work will be accepted, but students who are tardy on multiple occasions will receive a warning from the instructor. Failure to correct this behavior will result in a grade of "Unsatisfactory."

In accordance with the Student Code (1-401), students are expected to "refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that

aids others in such infractions.” Violations of academic integrity will be acted upon in accordance with the procedures laid out in section 1-403 of the Student Code.

To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class are asked to contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Readings

Students will read the articles associated with each of the talks.

Course Meetings (example)

FALL 2016

August 29: Introductory meeting - The goal of this meeting is to discuss expectations for the class and to go over “best practices” for giving discussant comments both in the Workshop and at academic conferences.

- *Heinz Eulau. 1988. “Editor’s Note,” Political Behavior, 10(1), 1988*
- *Chris Blattman. 2010. “The discussant’s art”*

Sept 12 (No Discussant, Optional): Michelle Egan (American University). “Single Markets: Economic Integration in Europe and the United States”

- This is an EU Center Sponsored Talk.
- 3pm Illini Union Ballroom, 2nd Floor

September 16: Laura Sjoberg (University of Florida, IR/Critical Theory) “Seeing Rape Among Women.”

- Abstract: Where are the women in conflict sexual violence? This question seems easy to answer and therefore dull: women are the victims of conflict sexual violence. Even recent work that recognizes the existence of male victims too leaves women firmly in the category of victims. This is a book about the women who fall outside of this expected category ? female perpetrators of

conflict sexual violence. After arguing that many representations of gender and conflict sexual violence overdetermine the visibility of female victims and the invisibility/impossibility of female perpetrators, *Rape Among Women* engages the stories of female perpetrators, their places in conflicts, and their places in conflict sexual violence jurisprudence. In so doing, it asks what would change about theorizing, litigating, prosecuting, and remembering conflict sexual violence in a world where it were possible to see female perpetrators. The answer that *Rape Among Women* offers is not to degender analysis of war rape. Quite the contrary, it is to complicate gendered analysis of conflict sexual violence. Understanding the links between gender, nationalism, state identity, war, and conflict helps to engage deeper notions of gender subordination and gendered violence. *Rape Among Women* looks to broaden these links and apply them to conflict sexual violence.

September 23: Dustin Tingley (Harvard, IR/Methods). “TBD.”

September 30: Lanny Martin (Rice, CP). “TBD.”

October 7: Erik Gartzke (UCSD, IR). “TBD.”

October 14: Sean Theriault (University of Texas at Austin, AP). “TBD.”

October 21: Amanda Friesen (IUPUI, AP). “TBD.”

October 28: Noam Lupu (Vanderbilt, CP). “Affluence and Congruence.”

November 4: Stephanie Rickard (LSE, IR). “TBD.”

November 9 (No Discussant, Optional): Patrik Ireland (IIT; funded by EU Center). “TBD.”

- This is an EU Center Sponsored Talk.
- Location TBD

November 11: Kristin Michelitch (Vanderbilt, CP). “TBD.”

December 2: Paul Poast (Chicago, IR). “TBD.”

SPRING 2016

January 27: Kelly Rader (Yale, AP/Methods). “TBD.”

February 3: Margit Tavits (Washington University, CP). “TBD.”

February 10: Mason Mosely (WVU, AP). “TBD.”

February 24: Kathryn Pearson (Minnesota, AP). “TBD.”

March 3: Yoshiko Herrera (Wisconsin, CP). “TBD.”

March 10: Mike Findley (University of Texas at Austin, IR/CP) “TBD.”

March 31: Emilee Chapman (Stanford, Theory). “TBD.”

April 14: Julia Grey (LSE/Penn, IR). “TBD.”

April 25: Adam Berinsky (MIT, AP/Methods). “TBD.”