

# Course Descriptions

## **INTS 4238: Modern Political Violence**

**Instructor: Hilary Matfess**

The landscape of contemporary political violence is marked by a dizzying array of actors, including rebel groups, militias, gangs, and state governments. In this class, students will develop a better understanding of belligerents in modern conflicts and how they relate to one another. Students will also develop an in-depth understanding of a non-state armed group or conflict of their choice.

## **INTS 4701: U.S. National Security**

**Instructor: Paul Viotti**

An intermediate course which examines the post-war history of U.S. policy and America's response to the post-Cold War environment. Current issues include alternative strategies in nuclear deterrence and arms control; and security policy toward the Third World, Europe and the Atlantic Alliance, and Japan. Prerequisite: INTS 4702

## **PPOL 4701: Topic: Inequality, Ethics, and Public Policy**

**Instructor: Hinckley Jones-Sanpei**

This course tackles one of the “wicked problems” of public policy: increasing inequality in the United States. The first part of class will explore inequality, its different meanings, measurements, and related outcomes of interest. We will look at some of the regulatory arenas such as housing, education, and banking that are part of policy systems that contribute to inequality. As with many “wicked problems,” we do not completely understand how different policy options impact inequality, much less how they might influence outcomes such as health and education. There are also politically powerful interests and ideas working against change. The second part of class will explore an ethics of care framework, asking what responsibilities we have for people in our communities. Finally, using an ethics of care lens we will explore different policy options that may address the increasing inequality.

## **INTS 4708: Topic: Water Policy**

**Instructor: Linda Mendez Barrientos**

Water is a key resource for the sustainment of all life. Under many circumstances, it is scarce, too abundant, and inequitably distributed across groups in society and nature. This diversity of situations produces the conditions for the emergence of conflict among users, hence requiring the design of institutions to facilitate effective management. This makes water governance a complex but urgent issue to tackle. This class examines such institutions in a variety of levels- state, federal, and international- and analyzes how they affect water access and use. Students in the class will also engage in careful examination of the sources of conflict and cooperation among water stakeholders on a regional and global scale. The main goal of the course is to foster the student's capacity to access how water-related conflicts can be prevented through the design and implementation of relevant policies.

## **INTS 4709: Topic: Gender and Conflict**

**Instructor: Hilary Matfess**

How does gender impact one's experience of conflict and the post-conflict period? How do armed groups leverage gendered associations to their benefit? In what ways do our gender stereotypes influence our understanding of conflict dynamics? In this class, students will encounter a variety of perspectives on the gendered dimensions of security. They will develop the ability not only to critique existing policies that address the gendered dimensions of conflict and instability, but also gain experience articulating policy recommendations. Though this is not a ‘skills’ class, the course is designed to make you a stronger and more confident writer.

## **INTS 4711: Topic: Power and Oppression**

**Instructor: Kristen Noble**

This course is designed to be an introspective practice in examining how frameworks apply to societal norms, personal and cultural identity and academic settings. We will explore frameworks on racial equity, oppression, gender, implicit bias, and intercultural conflict, in addition to others. We will critique white supremacist structures that influence our everyday interactions, work-environment, and how we view and engage in the world around us.

## **INTS 4822: Contemporary Political Theory**

**Instructor: Alan Gilbert**

The readings for this course are centrally from indigenous women (Roxane Dunbar-Ortiz on indigenous civilizations and the founding of the US in land-grabbing/genocide, Latin women (Valeria Luiselli and Gloria Anzaldua on American aggression and the Borderlands, and Black women on the prison-industrial complex (Michelle Alexander, Angela Davis, Susan Burton). The course will also examine theories of how to dismantle these diverse and longstanding forms of oppression through democratic solidarity from below (Heather McGhee *The Sum of Us*) and how to defeat a dangerous movement toward racist autocracy (Masha Gessen, Hannah Arendt, Jason Stanley).

We will also explore Nick Estes's ideas of municipal democracies with multiracial participation from below standing against oppressive states and displaying international solidarities with the Palestinians and Kurds (also Abdullah Ocalan, "Liberating Life" on the oppression of women and the women's liberation army in Rojava). Estes and Dunbar-Ortiz's "Examining the Wreckage" links settler-colonialism and the centrality of racism to capitalism.

The course will conclude with W.E.B. Du Bois's Black Reconstruction and Aldon Morris, *The Scholar Denied: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Founding of Sociology*. Du Bois is the greatest American social historian and perhaps the greatest social theorist since Marx.

## **INTS 4900: International Politics**

**Instructor: Jack Donnelly**

This graduate level introduction to international relations theory is intended equally for MA and PhD students and for those who do and do not plan further work in international politics. We obviously cannot study all important theories in one term. I have chosen topics largely on the basis of my judgment of the most important theoretical issues in the field, with two major exclusions: theories of international political economy and theories of foreign policy. The resulting course operates at the "system" level and gives special attention to political realism (*Realpolitik*) -- the oldest and still most popular theoretical perspective in the field -- and "constructivist" work.

The course situates theories and approaches to international relations along two axes. Substantively, we explore the place(s) of force, institutions, and ideas in international relations. Methodologically, we explore theories and approaches (variously labeled "rationalist" and "problem-solving") that take actors or the international system as fixed or given and those (often labeled "constructivist" or "critical") that focus on the processes by which international relations is socially constructed and the possibilities for its transformation. Taken together, this body of work provides you a set of tools and resources to think more deeply and systematically about international issues.

