

Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2014

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Political Science
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Political Science - D0755
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 4920H
Course Title Politics in Film and Television
Transcript Abbreviation Pltcs Film & TV
Course Description Political films and television shows often convey an understanding of the political world. How films portray the political process may influence society's attitudes toward politicians and government institutions. Students will compare the portrayal of politics in films and television to the reality as understood through political science.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 7 Week, 4 Week (May Session), 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Exclusions Not open to students with credit for 4920. This course is not part of the Film Studies major and does not satisfy any course requirements for that program.

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 45.1001
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned about the processes, theories, and empirical regularities of political institutions and political behavior.
- Students will learn how to apply theoretical concepts from political science to the discussion of political films, making connections between the literature and real-world political events.
- Students will learn how to evaluate the social and political impact of a film.
- Students will learn how to apply contemporary social science research methods to conduct rigorous research on political phenomena.

Content Topic List

- Politics in Film
- Elections
- Incumbency Advantage
- Legislative Politics
- Congressional-Presidential Relations
- Interest Groups
- Political Parties
- Media and Politics
- Democratization
- International Relations
- Civil War

Attachments

- concurrence from Film Studies.pdf: concurrence from film studies for 4920
(Concurrence. Owner: Smith, Charles William)
- PoliticsFilm_Honors_Syllabus.pdf: syllabus
(Syllabus. Owner: Smith, Charles William)
- Politics and Film justification.pdf: justification for regular 4920 course
(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Smith, Charles William)
- Statement of Qualitative Difference.pdf: statement of qualitative difference
(Statement of Qualitative Difference. Owner: Smith, Charles William)

Comments

- We have put in a course request for a non-honors version of this course--POLITSC 4920. I have included the concurrence from film studies as well as the statement of justification for the non-honors version of this course. *(by Smith, Charles William on 11/15/2013 09:29 AM)*

COURSE REQUEST
4920H - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Chantal
11/20/2013

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Smith, Charles William	11/15/2013 10:27 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Herrmann, Richard Karl	11/15/2013 10:53 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad, Deborah Moore	11/15/2013 11:12 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Nolen, Dawn Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle, Danielle Nicole Hanlin, Deborah Kay	11/15/2013 11:12 AM	ASCCAO Approval

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4920H: POLITICS IN FILM AND TELEVISION (HONORS)

Wednesdays, 3:40 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

Stillman Hall 0235

Fall 2014

Professor Vladimir Kogan

Office: Derby Hall 2004

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., and by appointment

E-mail: kogan.18@osu.edu

Course Description:

Political films and television shows often convey an understanding of the political world. In some cases, how films portray the political process also influences society's attitudes toward politicians and government institutions. While political films can provide an accurate depiction of the world, they can also stray substantially from political reality. In this course, students will compare the portrayal of politics in films and television to the reality as understood through political science. Our goal is not to appraise the artistic merit of the films but rather evaluate how faithfully they represent the political process. Where significant discrepancies exist, we will consider the implications of this cinematic representation for the workings of democracy. We will also use films as a tool for surveying and improving our understanding of a broad array of topics from the political science literature, including legislative behavior, elections, presidential politics, interest-group influence, and war.

This course requires the active participation of the students. There will be very little lecture. Instead, the class will consist of two parts each week. Starting the third week, during the first half of class, we will watch a political film (films are listed below by week). During the second half of class, we will discuss the film in the context of the assigned readings. A large part of your grade (see below) is based on your participation in these discussions. The success of the class absolutely depends on the contribution of the students. Be prepared to show up and say smart things. *Note: This class is not part of the Film Studies major and does not satisfy any course requirements for that program.*

Course Goals:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned about:

1. Processes, theories, and empirical regularities of political institutions and political behavior.
2. How to apply theoretical concepts from political science to the discussion of political films, making connections between the literature and real-world political events.
3. How to evaluate the social and political impact of a film.
4. How to apply contemporary social science research methods to conduct rigorous research on political phenomena.

Required Materials:

1. *All required readings are posted on Carmen*
2. *Students are required to bring a clicker (Turning Technologies) to class daily*
Clickers can be rented or purchased at the OSU bookstore. You can purchase the cheapest model available. Note: The software-only “Response Ware” *will not* work in this class. Instructions for linking a clicker to your student account are posted on Carmen.

Assignments:

1. **Class Participation (15% of Overall Grade)**
Students can earn participation points by using their clickers to respond to questions incorporated into the course lecture and by taking part in class discussions.
2. **Daily Reading Quiz (20% of Overall Grade)**
Students are required to complete the assigned readings prior to the start of class. In the beginning of each class period, students will use the clickers to complete a short quiz testing basic comprehension and recall of major facts from the readings assigned for that day (i.e., there will be no trick questions). *Quizzes missed due to absences cannot be made up, but the lowest four quiz scores will be dropped prior to the calculation of the final grades.*
3. **Response Papers (Four total, 5% of Overall Grade Each)**
Students will write four short response papers (three to five pages each) analyzing the movie watched in class that week to the related readings. For each paper, students should assess how accurately the movie captures the relevant political processes or institutions. Students may choose which movies they analyze, with the response paper for each due the following week.
4. **Screen Play (25% of Overall Grade)**
For this assignment, students will compose a short screenplay (for example, a single scene from a movie) addressing a political science topic of their choice. The substantive topic of the screenplay should be based on a piece of empirical political science research published in a top disciplinary journal within the last 15 years. The goal is to accurately depict the findings from the research in a creative, interesting, and compelling way. The screenplay should be 10- to 15-pages pages long. In addition, students should include a one-page summary that includes the full bibliographical citation to the article and a brief overview of its findings and conclusions.
5. **Final Exam (20% of Overall Grade)**
The final will consist of two parts. Two take-home essay questions will be handed out in class and will be due on the day of the scheduled exam. Students will also complete an in-class multiple choice exam using their clickers. Students will have previously seen at least of half of the multiple choice questions during regular lecture (see Participation and Attendance and Daily Reading Quiz sections above).

******A copy of all written assignments and exam essay questions must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Carmen. Assignments will be considered late and assessed a late penalty unless they are uploaded by the beginning of the class when they are due.***

Academic Integrity:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students are required to upload their papers and written exams to Carmen, which utilizes Turnitin.com for plagiarism detection. This online service analyzes student submissions for plagiarism from published or online sources and from other students (including students who have taken the course in earlier years). To avoid plagiarism charges, students must cite all sources from which they get their information and use quotation marks when quoting directly from these sources. **Students are responsible for knowing how to correctly cite their sources; ignorance about proper citation standards will not be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.**

Late and Make-Up Policy:

All assignments and write-ups are due at the beginning of class. Assignments submitted more than 15 minutes after the class has begun will be assessed a 5 percent late penalty, and assignments submitted after the class has ended will be assessed a 10 percent penalty. There will be an additional 10 percent penalty for each subsequent day that the assignment is late. *No assignments will be accepted more than one week late.*

Make-up exams and extensions will be approved only in the event of a medical or family emergency or a University-sanctioned event. Extensions must be arranged ahead of time. You must have documentation of your emergency (for example, a doctor’s note) to be able to take a make-up exam or get an extension. After you provide this documentation, a decision will be made regarding whether and when you may take a make-up exam/get an extension. Similarly, any request for an incomplete must be accompanied by written medical documentation.

Grade Appeals:

You have one week from when the exams and assignments are returned to appeal the grade. You must submit a typed, double-spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, lectures, and answer keys. If you choose to appeal your grade, I reserve the right to decrease the existing grade if I determine that the original grade was erroneously high.

Accommodations for Disabled Students:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Grading Policy (Rule 3335-7-21):**A, A-**

The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an excellent manner. The student's performance was judged to be in this range of high quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

B+, B, B-

The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an above-average manner. The student's performance was judged to be in this range of above-average quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

C+, C, C-

The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an average manner. The student's performance was judged to be in this range of average quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

D+, D

The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in a low but acceptable manner. The student's performance was judged to be in this range of below average but acceptable quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor's personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor's experience and expertise.

E

The instructor judged the student not to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course. Credit for a course in which the mark of "E" has been received can be obtained only by repeating and passing the course in class. (See rules 3335-7-23 to 3335-7-28 of the Administrative Code.)

Course Overview and Schedule:**Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview****Week 2: Politics in Film***Reading:*

- Christensen, Terry, *Reel Politics: American Political Movies from Birth of a Nation to Platoon* (New York: Basic Blackwell, 1987): Preface.
- Giglio, Ernest, *Here's Looking at You: Hollywood, Film & Politics, Second Edition* (New York: Peter Lang Publishers, 2007): Chapter 1.

Week 3: **Elections I**

Film: "Primary Colors" (1998)

Reading:

- Sides, John and Lynn Vavreck, *The Gamble: Random, or Romney?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013): Chapters 1-4.
- Abramowitz, Alan I., 1989, "Viability, Electability, and Candidate Choice in a Presidential Primary Election: A Test of Competing Models," *Journal of Politics* 51(4): pp. 977-992.

Week 4: **Elections II**

Film: "The War Room" (1993)

Reading:

- Popkin, Samuel L., *The Candidate: What It Takes to Win – and Hold – the White House* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012): Chapters 1-3, 9-10.

Week 5: **Incumbency Advantage**

Film: "The Distinguished Gentleman" (1992)

Reading:

- Jacobson, Gary C., *The Politics of Congressional Elections, Eighth Edition* (New York: Pearson, 2012): Chapters 1-3.
- Desposato, Scott W., and John R. Petrocik, 2003, "The Variable Incumbency Advantage: New Voters, Redistricting, and the Personal Vote," *American Journal of Political Science* 47(1): pp. 18-32.
- Carson, Jamie L., Erik J. Engstrom, and Jason M. Roberts, 2007, "Candidate Quality, the Personal Vote, and the Incumbency Advantage in Congress," *American Political Science Review* 101(2): pp. 289-301.

Week 6: **Legislative Politics**

Film: "Charlie Wilson's War" (2007)

Reading:

- Mayhew, David, *Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1974): Part I.
- Grimmer, Justin, Solomon Messing, and Sean J. Westwood, 2012, "How Words and Money Cultivate a Personal Vote: The Effect of Legislator Credit Claiming on Constituent Credit Allocation," *American Political Science Review* 100(4): pp. 703-719.

Week 7: **Congressional-Presidential Relations I**

Film: "The Contender" (2000)

Reading:

- Segal, Jeffrey, 1987, "Senate Confirmation of Supreme Court Justices: Partisan and Institutional Politics," *Journal of Politics* 49(4): pp. 998-1015.
- Schickler, Eric, "Congressional Investigations of the Executive Branch," unpublished manuscript.

Week 8: **Midterm Exam**

Week 9: Congressional-Presidential Relations II

Film: "The West Wing," Season 1, Episode 9 and Season 3, Episode 4

Reading:

- Cameron, Charles, *Veto Bargaining: Divided Government and Interbranch Bargaining* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000): Chapters 1-3.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, 2001, "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals," *American Journal of Political Science* 45(2): pp. 313-329.

Week 10: Interest Groups

Film: "Thank You for Smoking" (2005)

Reading:

- Wright, John R., *Interest Groups and Congress: Lobbying, Contributions and Influence* (New York: Pearson): Chapters 1,3,4, and 6.
- Hall, Richard L., and Frank W. Wayman, 1990, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees," *American Political Science Review* 84(3): pp. 797-820.

Week 11: Political Parties

Film: "House of Cards," Chapter 9

Reading:

- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins, *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005): Chapters 1-4.

Week 12: Media and Politics

Film: "Wag the Dog" (1997)

Reading:

- Krosnick, Jon A. and Laura A. Brannon, 1993, "The Impact of the Gulf War on the Ingredients of Presidential Evaluations: Multi-Dimensional Effects of Political Involvement," *American Political Science Review* 87(4): 963-975.
- Karol, David, and Edward Miguel, 2007, "The Electoral Cost of War: Iraq Casualties and the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election," *Journal of Politics* 69(3): pp. 633-648.

Week 13: Democratization

Film: "The Last King of Scotland" (2006)

Reading:

- Geddes, Barbara, 1999, "What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: pp. 115-144.
- Mansfield, Edward D., and Jack Snyder, 1995, "Democratization and the Danger of War," *International Security* 20(1): pp. 5-38.

Week 14: **International Relations**

Film: "Deterrence" (1999)

Reading:

- Wagner, R. Harrison, 1991, "Nuclear Deterrence, Counterforce Strategies, and the Incentive to Strike First," *American Political Science Review* 85(3): pp. 727-749.
- Fearon, James D., 1994, "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review* 88(3): pp. 577-592.

Week 15: **Civil War**

Film: "Hotel Rwanda" (2004)

Reading:

- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin, 2003, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97(1): pp. 75-90.
- Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon, 2013, "United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War," *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 875-891.

****FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 28, 10 to 11:45 a.m.****

d) Statement of Qualitative Difference (see the 9 points below)

The ASCC Honors Panel expects that honors courses will differ from non-honors courses in a variety of ways and so requires that the proposer include a statement that addresses the following items (with particular attention to the differences between the two versions of the course, if a non-honors version exists):

1. How the specific goals of the course will be achieved.

The primary purpose of the course is to push students to engage academic research on politics in a more creative and applied way. In the course, students will compare the scholarly understanding of political issues and problems to the way these are depicted in television and film. These goals will be accomplished through: (1) in-class discussions that follow the screening of the film; (2) written assignments that require students to compare and contrast the films to published political science research.

The regular and honors versions of the course differ in these respects in two primary ways. First, the topics of discussion in the honors course will be more demanding, putting greater emphasis on the assigned readings and research and less on the films. Second, students in the honors course will complete an additional paper assignment — not included in the regular version of the course — requiring them to compose their own screenplay depicting the findings of a research study that they identify, read, and analyze.

2. The exposure to the basic material in the course, and ways in which added breadth and depth of material will be included.

Students in the honors version of the course will cover more material (in terms of the number of assigned readings) and will also be expected to achieve a higher level of mastery and comprehension of overlapping material included in the regular course.

3. The exposure to, and use of, methodology and research techniques, and especially the ways in which the course will provide exposure to the nature of scholarship in the field.

Unlike the regular course, students in the honors version will be reading top modern empirical and theoretical political science research published in the discipline's leading journals. This will provide them exposure to the cutting-edge methodologies, research designs, and tools used by the disciplines top scholars.

4. Amount and quality of work expected from students on papers, examination(s), and projects; and the method of grading that work.

Students in the honors version of the course will complete an additional written assignment (screenplay). In addition, they will be expected to complete all assignments at a higher level of excellence than students enrolled in the regular version of the course. All written assignments will be graded by the instructor, and students will receive in-depth, detailed comments on their work.

5. The amount and kind of student/faculty contact, including how the course will offer a significant level of interaction and engagement between faculty and students, and how such engagement will be achieved.

This course is built primarily around in-depth, in-class discussions. These discussions will create substantial amounts of constructive, engaging, and thought-provoking student-faculty contact. After the screening of each film, each course will begin with three key discussion questions written by the instructor that will serve as the basis for the initial discussion, with subsequent topics emerging organically from student comments.

6. How an environment will be fostered that facilitates intellectual exchange among students (if applicable).

The emphasis on class discussion and participation (both in the structure of the course and the grade weight placed on participation) will result in substantial and intellectually rewarding interactions between students.

7. Ways that creative thinking will be an essential aspect of the course requirements.

The final assignment, which will require the students to write their own screenplay, will challenge the students to engage the substantive topics from the course and the discipline in a new, creative, and engaging way.

8. How the course will embrace, as appropriate, interdisciplinary work and study.

This course focuses primarily on political science research. Unlike most other courses in the department, however, the assigned topics and readings span all of the major substantive subfields of the discipline and make use of a variety of empirical and theoretical tools and approaches.

9. Evidence of a pedagogical process that will demand a high level of intellectual output.

This course will be a challenging one. Students are expected to attend daily — and to come to class prepared, something that will be assessed through daily quizzes. By ensuring that students have a basic grasp of the facts, the quizzes will also allow me to target other course assignments (including the exams and written papers) less toward regurgitation of facts and more toward critical thinking and the application of theoretical constructs from the readings to address real-world issues and questions.

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4920: POLITICS IN FILM AND TELEVISION

(1) Catalog course description

Examination of how films and television portray politics, using political science research to compare these depictions to reality.

(2) Rationale

Political films often convey an understanding of the political world. In some cases, how films portray the political process also influences society's attitudes toward politicians and government institutions. Sometimes political films provide an accurate depiction of the world; often, however, their portrayal strays substantially from political reality. In this course, students will compare the portrayal of politics in films and television to the political reality as understood through political science. Where significant discrepancies exist, we will consider the implications of this cinematic representation for the workings of democracy. We will also use films as a tool for surveying and improving our understanding of a broad array of topics from the political science literature, including legislative behavior, elections, presidential politics, local politics, interest-group influence, and war.

(3) Learning objectives/outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned about:

- (a) processes, theories, and empirical regularities of political institutions and political behavior;
- (b) how to apply theoretical concepts from political science to the discussion of political films, making connections between the literature and real-world political events;
- (c) how to evaluate the social and political impact of a film;
- (d) how to apply contemporary social science research methods to conduct rigorous research on political phenomena.

Students will also engage the teaching process as active learners, peer educators, and public scholars. Among the skills they will develop and strengthen are:

- (a) thinking and writing critically, imaginatively, and reflectively about the material covered in the course;
- (b) respectful and constructive participation, not limited to verbal contributions;
- (c) effective, analytical, and persuasive writing skills through the completion of three short analytical essays and one long research paper;
- (d) ability to employ critical thinking and demonstrate social scientific literacy, including basic quantitative literacy;
- (e) application of abstract theory and research methods to understand contemporary political events and public policies.

(4) Content topic list

See syllabus

From: "Podalsky, Laura" <Podalsky.1@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: concurrence request
Date: November 13, 2013 at 12:52:43 PM EST
To: "MacGilvray, Eric" <macgilvray.2@polisci.osu.edu>
Cc: "Swift, Matt" <swift.23@osu.edu>

Dear Eric,

The Interdisciplinary Film Studies Committee (IFSC) agreed to concurrence for the two new courses being proposed by Political Science.

However, we respectfully request that the syllabus for both classes (as well as any on-line descriptions on the departmental website) include a clear statement that the course will not count toward the Film Studies major. As you know, there are more and more courses that are using film as a point of departure to study other topics and issues. This can cause confusion among some students who, based on the title, assume that the courses count toward the Film Studies major. That, in turn, causes headaches for the advising staff on our end of things.

Your help with minimizing such potential problems would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Laura

Laura Podalsky
Acting Director, Film Studies
Professor and Vice Chair
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese
The Ohio State University
1775 College Rd.
Columbus, OH 43210

From: MacGilvray, Eric
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 2:54 PM
To: Podalsky, Laura
Subject: concurrence request

Dear Laura (if I may),

I'm writing to request concurrence by the Program in Film Studies for a new course being proposed by the Department of Political Science on Politics in Film and Television. The course is being proposed by Professor Vladimir Kogan, who was newly hired into our department last year. The course will not focus on the technical, narrative or aesthetic aspects of film, as I take it a Film Studies course would do, but rather will compare the cinematic portrayal of political events and processes with what political science scholarship has to say about them. I therefore do not foresee significant overlap with FS offerings.

I've attached copies of two syllabi -- one for a regular and one for an honors version of the course -- which include more detailed information about the course topics and requirements. If you're able to offer concurrence then a reply to this email will suffice. However, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks,

Eric

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