

Course descriptions for Fall 2014

Undergraduate courses

PSPA 101: Issues in Contemporary Politics- Mr. Nadim Zaazaa

PSPA 101 examines a selection of contemporary political issues across themes of universal relevance such as nationalism and statehood, global development and inequality, the international political economy, international conflict, the media and communication technologies. The course will introduce the origins of these issues and explain why they are so relevant nowadays. Lively engagement of these issues will enable students to approach political debate using the relevant theories and sound methods of analysis.

PSPA 201: Introduction to Political Science- Dr. Ohannes Geukjian

An introduction to the study of politics with emphasis on the basic concepts, ideas, and issues relating to the process of government in the modern state. This course introduces students to important political concepts such as democracy, freedom; state, institutions, and government to enable them understand the political process, decision making, policy, and participation in society. The course also covers a wide range of topics that include political systems, regimes, ideologies, globalization, elections, party systems, nations, and society. The purpose is to introduce students to the science of politics and explain to them that they cannot escape politics in society because it is at all levels. Politics is inevitable, it is all around us, it structures our lives and defines the range of our options. The course prepares students to think more clearly about society and government and about relationships with others, to be more tolerant of diversity and get more meaning out of life. Whether we like it or not politics defines the basic conditions of social life within which we define ourselves. In this course, students will try to understand what aspects of society do affect our lives and how we should make decisions that minimize problematic matters. The political process can be used to accomplish what is good for the individual and for society.

PSPA 201- Introduction to Political Science- Dr. Lina Haddad Kreidie

Politics is an inescapable part of life. Can you imagine any human organization that doesn't have conflict over collective decisions? This course will introduce you to the formal study of politics. We will explore political issues at all levels—individual, group, national, and international. You will become familiar with the basic vocabulary of the discipline, learn about the different ways that political issues are studied, and develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. The course is designed for prospective majors as well as for those simply seeking a better understanding of the political world. There are no prerequisites.

PSPA 202: Introduction to Public Administration- Ms. Carmen Geha

This introductory course to public administration is an opportunity for students and practitioners to acquire knowledge of the theory and practice of public sector management. It familiarizes students with the theoretical foundations of public administration as a discipline. The course offers three thematic focuses: a) the political context and environment of public administration, b) the managerial and human element of public administration, and c) the role of public administration in public policy and equitable development.

The course is based on interactive classroom discussions and provides students the chance to research contemporary issues in public administration in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

PSPA 202: Introduction to Public Administration- Dr. Tania Haddad

Public Administration is an interdisciplinary field that aims to study and advance the management and organization of public sector institutions. It is inherently an applied field of study focusing on organizational theory, management models, and their relation to political and public policy processes. This course will help provide students with an overview of the nature of public administration by addressing basic concepts, processes, approaches in the evolution, and challenges of public administration. It will provide students with knowledge of the history, theories, and foundations of Public Administration and New Public Management. The course also familiarizes students with the notions and applications of public service, policy-making and public budgeting. The classes are intended to bring about an understanding and a conversation about contemporary themes in the practice and organization of public life.

PSPA 203: Research Methods- Dr. Tania Haddad

A main objective of the course is to make students more sophisticated and enlightened consumers of social science research. PSPA 203 focuses on the problems involved in asking and answering questions about political studies and public administration. Topics covered include the nature of administrative inquiry, framing a research problem, choosing a research design, developing hypotheses, sampling designs, and measuring variables. In this course students will learn how to read, evaluate, and write empirical social science in the field of Political Studies and Public Administration.

PSPA 210: Introduction to Modern and Contemporary Political Thought- Dr. Eric Goodfield

This course will explore the political ideas that emerged from a variety of major political and intellectual movements during the period following World War II up and until the present

time. Political theories of democracy, liberalism, socialism, anarchism, communism, conservatism, race, class, gender, critical theory, green politics and post-colonialism will be considered. In order to introduce these movements, course sections will generally start with a classical writing from the tradition which may predate the contemporary period. Through this survey, students will be introduced to the core concepts, concerns and motivations of contemporary political thinkers as well as actors. The course takes a central interest in the development of political ideas in the context of real world events, struggles and ideological commitments. Course readings are intensively discussed during class sessions and used as a basis for the final argumentative essay.

PSPA 211: Introduction to Comparative Politics- Dr. Ohannes Geukjian

A survey of concepts and issues in comparative politics. This course will survey a number of crucial theoretical and substantive topics like political culture, political development, political parties and participation, political regimes and the state, governments and political elites. This course acquaints the student with basic theoretical frameworks for the study and analysis of political Phenomena, and establishes criteria for comparing political systems. The course focuses on the country studies like the United Kingdom, France, Russia, the United States, and Iran. Students may like to compare between two-party democracies and multiparty democracies, parliamentary and presidential regimes and so on. This course also closely examines the application of concepts, frameworks, and criteria in selected countries. The course aims to introduce students to the most common theories and approaches in comparative political study and analysis in order to develop and understand political processes and political change that occur in political systems. The course describes, explains, and compares political events and institutions found in different states. The course also encourages students to compare between processes and performance of political systems.

PSPA 211: Introduction to Comparative Politics- Dr. Theodor Hanf

A survey of concepts and issues in comparative politics. This course acquaints the student with basic theoretical frameworks for the study and analysis of political phenomena, and establishes criteria for comparing political systems. This course also closely examines the application of these concepts, frameworks, and criteria in selected countries.

PSPA 212: Contemporary Trends in Public Administration and Management- Mr. Samer Hankir

This course aims at exploring the latest reform trends in the public sector across the world. Administrative reform and development programs and projects have been influenced by many internal and external forces that could not be avoided. Globalization, technology, economic

constraints, increasing public demands, international donors and other factors have triggered Government restructuring efforts that this course seeks to discover and analyze. Most public sector reform agendas focus on promoting the principles of economy, effectiveness, efficiency and social equity, as well as on building new partnerships with the private and voluntary sectors. The course sheds light on the ongoing administrative developments that seek to replace the traditional bureaucratic model with more flexible systems. The challenges that face the efforts to create the proper balance between a dynamic public service and the cohesive identity of the public sector are a never-ending story!

PSPA 213: Introduction to International Relations- Dr. Ohannes Geukjian

A survey of the basic forces and factors determining relations among states, with special emphasis on the international system, foreign policy, national power, the restraints on determinants of state action, contemporary problems and major issues faced by states, and the patterns of interaction that prevail among states. This course aims to introduce students to information about global politics and about the global contemporary society and the characteristics of important participants in world politics such as nation-states, non-state actors, and multinational corporations. The course provides information about the scope and function of major international institutions and gives references to the theoretical and empirical literature on world politics. Students will learn about values too, not just theories and facts. They will also learn about how choices are made and avoided by state leaders and that there are often losers and winners. This course will also enable students to comprehend why and how states behave in particular ways. National interests, interdependence, and war and peace are some issues that determine state behavior. Serious reflection on such matters is a crucial component of the study of world politics.

PSPA 213: Introduction to International Relations- Dr. Lina Haddad Kreidie

We live in exciting and troubling times to study global politics. The world has entered a period of dramatic and confusing change. Many of the institutions that shaped and regulated our world's political life are undergoing rapid evolution or decay, and new institutions are emerging equally quickly. Events such as the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States of America, raise concerns about the violent nature of global politics, the Global people's uprising against existing establishments open our eyes to new trends in local and global politics -- even while the globalization of the world's economy accelerates and international cooperation to solve emerging global problems continues to increase. This course provides theoretical tools and frameworks of analysis that permit us better to understand the global political setting in which we as individuals act. Such an understanding serves two immediate functions.

PSPA 214: Early Islamic Political Philosophy - Dr. Bashir Saadeh

This course is an introduction to early and medieval Islamic political thought. It focuses on the history and construction of Islamic political notions as it includes discussions of legitimacy, authority (for example Imamate, and Caliphate), ethics, law, community and many others as discussed by early Muslim writers. It exposes the various intellectual and administrative influences (mainly Greek, Persian, and Indian) that suffused Islamic traditions. Special attention will be given to the formation of the main legal schools of the Islamic tradition and the various political notions they develop of the first three centuries of Islamic empires. Students will come to understand the turbulent link between legal and political practices.

In so doing, this course will critically engage with a small selection of key texts written and transmitted from the Prophet to the consolidation of the Sunni traditions around the end of the Abbasid era, from works attributed to Imam Ali, Ibn al Muqaffa', Al Farabi, Al Mawardi, Ibn Rushd, Nasir el Din Tusi, and others.

Students will come to understand the assimilation of Greek and Persian textual traditions in Islamic political thought and its consequence on conceptions of community, authority, leadership, and so on. Students will become familiar with the "mirror for prince" literature (through authors such as Ibn al Muqaffa'), philosophy as political science (for example Al-Farabi), and the synthesis of the two with writers such as al-Mawardi.

PSPA 219: Arab Political Thought and Ideology- Dr. Samer Frangie

The aim of the course is to explore various intellectual and political debates in the modern Arab world. The course provides an overview of the development of modern Arab political thought and delves into some of the main political, intellectual, and academic debates in this domain. The course starts with the Nahda, and then investigates the debates generated by Arab nationalism, communism and the defeat of 1967. It then covers the transformation in political critique through focusing on the Palestinian revolution, the Islamic revival and the authoritarian transformation. Additional topics include the question of representation, the politics of the everyday and the relation with the west.

PSPA 220: Globalization and Culture- Dr. Bashir Saadeh

This course brings together a wide array of social science tools in order to understand the phenomenon of globalization. Why will look firstly at the political economy of globalization How trade developments, technological innovation, the capitalist modes of production and the formation of nation-states have all contributed to a certain dynamics of globalization that is different from previous era of global orders. In order to do this, International Political Economy

as a field will be the focus.

Secondly, we will come to understand the cultural implications of globalization, namely the politics of identity, the blurring of localized traditions or adversely, the reinforcement and reinvention of tradition, or the creation of multiple modernities. Here, articles and book extracts from political anthropology as a field will mostly be used especially in trying to delineate understanding of culture and modernity.

PSPA 221: Theories and History of the State- Dr. Tariq Tell

A first aim of the course is to explore the state as a political construct and introduce the various theories that analyze it. A second is to provide an analytical comparison of the processes of state formation in the Middle East and modern Europe and its overseas offshoots. Topics covered include theoretical approaches and debates pertaining to the state; the history of state formation in Europe since early modern times; the relationship between capitalist development, war-making, democratization and state-building; the emergence of nation states in Europe and the Americas; colonization and the colonial/post colonial state and the impact of globalization on contemporary states. We will then turn to a survey of the literature on “the Arab state” and its various forms, covering such topics as state formation/state building under Ottoman and post Ottoman imperial rule; revolutions from above and post colonial state-building in the Arab East; oil the resource curse and the Rentier State; and the persistence of authoritarianism in the Arab World. The course closes with an inquiry into the failures of the Arab state asking if they should be attributed to a regional exceptionalism rooted in religion or political culture, or in persistent imperial intervention and continuing patterns of Neo-Colonial rule.

PSPA 232: Conflict and Conflict Regulation- Dr. Theodor Hanf

A course that explores the causes, patterns and outcomes of violent conflict in multi-communal societies, their intrastate as well as international dynamics. It focuses the conditions and chances of different modes of regulating communal conflicts such as partition, population transfer, domination by one group, assimilation, power sharing and open democracy.

PSPA 238: International Political Economy- Mr. Khalil Gebara

This course is multidisciplinary course that focuses on the interaction between politics and economics. This course recognizes that not only national governments play a role, but foreign and international institutions must be taken into consideration. It studies the politics of international economic relations. The importance of this course is that it focuses on the ways in which political forces (state, institutions, interest groups) shape

the systems through which economic interactions are expressed and the effects that economic interactions have upon political structures and outcomes.

PSPA 257: Regional and Local Administration- Dr. Tania Haddad

A course that deals with the legal aspects, organization, and theories of regional and local administration. This course examines issues of centralization-decentralization, central- regional-local government relations, and balanced development at the national level.

PSPA 258: Comparative Public Administration- Dr. Thomas Haase

History books are filled with stories about the emergence, and subsequent decline, of ancient civilizations. In today's discourse, contemporary scholars discuss whether modern civilizations might someday suffer the same fate. Notwithstanding the lessons that can be learned from exploring the rise and fall of the world's civilizations, it is important to note that they all shared one thing in common: their growth and development was intricately linked to the capacity of their administrative systems. As such, an important question for administrative scholars has been whether different civilizations, separated by time and geography, share common administrative characteristics. In other words, is it possible to discover universal "patterns and regularities" of public administration shared by all civilizations?

While this question has yet to be answered, this course invites students to explore public administration from a comparative perspective. In doing so, students will be introduced to administrative systems from both historical and contemporary contexts. A diversity of topics will be addressed, for instance, the purpose and structure of administrative systems, contemporary trends in public administration, and the extent to which culture, bureaucratic centralization, and politics can create interesting and complex challenges for public administrators. While it may be true that different societies will often face similar administrative challenges, one important theme that runs throughout this course is that the appropriate solutions to these challenges will likely differ, due to cultural, social, demographic, and political contexts, from one country to another.

PSPA 259: Public Administration in Lebanon- Mr. Samer Hankir

This course digs into the structures and functions of the Lebanese public administration. It provides a comprehensive overview of the main entities that make up the public sector of Lebanon and seeks to present and analyze the complex accountability relationships in a simplified manner. Students who are eager to learn about the Lebanese administrative apparatus will get introduced to the general political environment that surrounds the administration and to the various types of regulatory and organizational frameworks that govern its operations. Many conceptions (or misconceptions) about the Lebanese public sector will turn to be "myths" and a

more realistic understanding of the common features and peculiarities of the Lebanese administration will be established in a highly interactive setting.

PSPA 260: Introduction to Public Policy Analysis- Dr. Lina Haddad Kreidie

The fundamental objective of PSPA 260 is to introduce students to public policy as an academic discipline and as a systematic method of thinking about the design, development and assessment of public sector policies. Throughout this course, students will discuss policy debates and controversies that are important in different public policy sectors. Students will follow the issues, examine the rhetoric, and begin their own analyses of these current policy problems.

PSPA 263: Public Policy and the Legal Framework- Mr. Mahmoud Haidar

PSPA 263 introduces students to the legal framework of policy formulation and implementation. Public problems have increasingly become the domain of public awareness of matters of legality, rule of law, government intervention and activism.

The course uses case studies drawn from the world, Lebanon, and the region to explore such reports in current-affairs fashion. Topics such as regime change, politicians' impeachment, legalizing drugs, or domestic violence lawmaking, are examples of matters discussed therein. Cases assigned deal with citizens' participation or influence on the policymaking in question, including such legal, ethical and ideological considerations therein. The case study method, used across all class sessions and in examinations as well, is tackled through different templates that propose analysis and discussion tools, designed to draw out evaluation and critically constructed conclusions.

Learning outcomes result from class discussions, presentations, online forums, review of material in and outside class (videos, news, scholar works, etc.) and examinations of real-life and practical situations.

The philosophy of this course is one of building critical thinking with respect to policymaking. Learning is designed to prepare students for real-life practical issues of law and policymaking, in a mind-stimulating, not memorizing passive fashion.

PSPA 273: Human Resources and Personnel Administration- Dr. Antonio-Martin Porrás Gomez

Human resources management (HRM) concerns the design of systems in an organization to ensure the effective use of employees' knowledge, skills and abilities in order to accomplish organizational goals. HRM deals with the recruitment, selection, training and development, compensation, retention, evaluation, and promotion of employees, and labor-management relations within an organization. In the public administration, the greatest expenses (and the greatest assets) are civil servants. Hence, a proper understanding of HRM in the public sector

becomes crucial. Acknowledging this, this course will emphasize the importance of HRM functions in the public sector, revealing them as major contributors to the accomplishment of public agencies' missions. It will examine theories, practice, and problems relating to human resources and personnel administration, focusing on key aspects of human resources planning, organizing, leading, and controlling, and their implications on public policy.

PSPA 277: Public Budgeting- Dr. Khalil Nakib

This course is a survey of government budgeting as a function of public management, with an emphasis on the budgetary process and its principles and its phases ranging from fiscal planning to formulation, approval, execution and controlling. This course will also deal with the role of the public budget in development and in fiscal and monetary policies.

PSPA 289: Multi-level governance theory- Dr. Antonio-Martin Porras Gomez

This course explores the theoretical contours, empirical evidence, and normative debates elicited by the concept of multi-level governance, a concept that has become increasingly relevant with the weakening of territorial state power. Multi-level governance is a useful descriptor of decision-making processes that involve the simultaneous mobilization of public authorities at different jurisdictional levels (supranational, national and subnational) as well as that of non-governmental organizations and social movements.

Based on a conceptual and historical analysis, this course will emphasize the importance of theorizing multi-level governance simultaneously in politics (political mobilization), policy (authoritative decision making) and polity (state restructuring) terms. A multidimensional analytical space will be offered that captures the developments that challenge traditional territorial and jurisdictional boundaries in center–periphery, state–society and domestic–international dynamics.

This course will also assess the empirical relevance of the concept of multi-level governance, with its applicability being tested in two different policy settings that involve actors located at different jurisdictional levels: the European Union Cohesion Policy and the Euro-Mediterranean dimension of the European Union Neighborhood Policy (as embodied in the Union for the Mediterranean). This will be followed by a normative approach to explore the input and output legitimacy of multi-level governance, and how it contributes to the overall democracy of the political systems.

PSPA 291C: Senior Seminar Lebanese Politics- Dr. Theodor Hanf (Cross course with PSPA 324)

A course that examines the evolution of the political system and the different approaches to the study of government institutions in Lebanon. This course focuses on patterns of change involving state and society from the founding of the state in the early 1920s to the present.

PSPA 297: Senior Seminar in Organization Theory- Mr. George Bitar

This senior seminar provides an examination of the development, the theoretical structure, the major concerns, areas of emphasis and debates in the field of organization theory, from its origins to the present. It takes an interdisciplinary approach and covers the body of empirical findings relevant to organization and management theory, practices and prescriptions. It puts emphasis on those ongoing findings and elements of theory that impact the contemporary study, research, and philosophy in the field of public administration.

For more information about PSPA undergraduate courses, please see link below:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/registrar/Documents/catalogue/undergraduate12-13/pspa.pdf>

Graduate courses

PSPA 305: Political Theory in the Arab World- Dr. Samer Frangie

The aim of this course is to investigate the transformations in political critique in the Arab world, from the moment of anti-colonialism in the middle of the twentieth century to its unravelling and the emergence of different paradigms of contestation. The course starts with the anticolonial moment and the Marxist reaction to it, focusing on the work of Fanon and Laroui. It then moves to the question of representation, and the issues raised by Said's *Orientalism*. The next topics address the question of religion, secularism and the inheritance of the enlightenment, through a reading of Talal Asad's work. The last section of the course looks at politics under authoritarianism, probing the everyday and subversion as potential forms of political critique.

PSPA 310: International Politics- Dr. Waleed Hazbun

This MA graduate seminar provides a survey of the discipline of international politics and contemporary research in the field. The goal is to introduce students to the field of international politics and provide training in the skills needed for graduate work in the field. Students develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills through close reading of key texts and writing exercises. Several weeks will be devoted to close reading key 'classic' essays in the field. In addition to covering central theoretical perspectives in international relations theory, the course

introduces students to contemporary debates in international politics and policy with an emphasis on topics and themes relating to the Middle East. Course will also provide a multi-week overview of Lebanon's position in regional and global politics. Students will have to write critical review essays, op-eds, and elements of a draft MA thesis proposal.

PSPA 324: Government and Politics in Lebanon- Dr. Theodor Hanf (Cross course with PSPA 291 C)

A course that examines the evolution of the political system and the different approaches to the study of government institutions in Lebanon. This course focuses on patterns of change involving state and society from the founding of the state in the early 1920s to the present.

PSPA 329F: Islam, Law and History- Ms. Dahlia Gubara

Islamic law' is often described as "one of the oldest surviving legal traditions in human history." Spanning the course of fourteen centuries and covering a vast geographical expanse stretching from Morocco to Indonesia, from Europe to South Africa, discussions on its past, present and future role in Muslims lives, states, cultures and societies continue to proliferate and captivate scholarly and political imaginations.

At the core of the concept itself, and indeed the debates surrounding it, are variable understandings of the ideas 'Islam', 'Law' and 'History.' This course begins by revisiting these three concepts, their disciplinary formations and interconnectivities, as well as their impact on historical analysis and contemporary realities today. Combining theoretical, historiographical and interpretive/textual components, the aim is to examine *both* the place of 'law' in the Islamic tradition, *and* the evolution of normative, intellectual and institutional structures and practices in constituting something called 'Islam' or an Islamic sphere of life, across time and space.

PSPA 350: Foundations of Organization Theory - Mr. George Bitar

This graduate course explores the major debates, both theoretical and applied, that frame contemporary discussions about organizing in the public and nonprofit sectors. It introduces organization theories about public organizations and the basic methods used to study organizational behavior in non-private spheres. The course considers the body of management theory and practices that impact modern public administration thought, philosophy and practice. Topics include organizational governance, decision-making patterns, organizational performance, culture learning, as well as postmodern narratives on organizational management. (It is a core course offered annually).

PSPA 351: Foundation of Public Administration- Dr. Thomas Haase

How might you respond if you were asked: “what is public administration?” This is not an easy question to answer. Dwight Waldo wrote in *The Study of Public Administration* (1955, pp 2-3) that there are two typical definitions for the words “public administration.” On the one hand, public administration is the organization and management of men and materials to achieve the purposes of government. On the other hand, public administration is the art and science of management as applied to the affairs of state. These definitions suggest that “public administration” can refer to two different, but closely related, categories of exploration: 1) the process or practice of public affairs; or 2) an area of intellectual inquiry and study.

This course invites students to explore the latter of these two categories. More specifically, the course enables students to consider what is meant by the phrase “*the study of public administration.*” By using this question as a macro-level guide for inquiry, students will explore a variety of topics. The first half of class will attempt to narrow down what is meant by “public administration.” Topics include: the history of public administration as a field of study; the meaning of public administration; the politics and administrative dichotomy; and the difference between the public and private sectors. The second half of class will focus on the study of public administration. Topics include: the role of theory with respect to the field of public administration; public administration as an interdisciplinary subject; comparative public administration; the future of the study of public administration; and research ethics.

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<http://www.aub.edu.lb/registrar/Documents/catalogue/graduate12-13/pspa.pdf>