

## **GLOBAL POLITICS AND SOCIETIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **GPS 121: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)**

A basic survey of the geography and history of Central and South America, with special attention to 20th--century social, political, and economic problems. Emphasis on developing students' written communication skills. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

### **GPS 214: QUALITATIVE METHODS (4)**

This course will emphasize tools in the qualitative social scientist's research toolkit. Students will gain in-depth understanding of and hands on training with interviewing, fieldwork, focus groups, unobtrusive methods, content analysis, case studies, auto-ethnography, and narrative analysis. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission.

### **GPS 216: RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (4)**

Study of the nature, requirements, and procedures in the social sciences with emphasis on the applied skill in critical analysis of published scholarly works. Epistemological topics in concept formation, hypothesis generation, and theory construction. Corequisite: GPS 216L or permission.

### **GPS 216L: LABORATORY FOR RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (2)**

This course explores varieties of social science research, both quantitative and qualitative: experiments, field experiments, sample surveys with emphasis on data collection, organization and processing, statistical analysis, participant observation, narrative analysis, interview techniques, unobtrusive measures, focus groups, and research write-up. Prerequisite: q. Corequisite: GPS 216 or permission.

### **GPS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC - GLOBAL POLITICS, INDIGENEITY, AND DECOLONIAL THOUGHT (4)**

This course introduces indigeneity and decolonial thought as two critical categories of analysis for contemporary global politics. We will look closely at the historical, theoretical and popular development of these border epistemologies. Some of the key topics of discussion include economic and political relations between the state and indigenous nations, environmental positions across borders, cultural practices as a form of citizenship, indigenous forms of governance, land use, water rights, sovereignty and digital networks of resistance. We will begin by grounding our examination here in North America and expand to selected indigenous communities across the Global South. Also listed as ES 250. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

### **GPS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - SMALL CITIES STUDIO (4)**

This course is the first class taught as part of a new joint program with Virginia Tech focused on small cities. It will include an instructor and students from Virginia Tech connected through Skype or other distance learning platforms. The course is cross-campus undergraduate studio that focuses on the unique needs and opportunities of smaller cities. Undergraduate students will work under faculty supervision on behalf of Co-Lab/City Works XPO of Roanoke and deliver actionable research project. In the studio model, students are expected to design and shape the implementation of the project. The experience is designed to provide a sheltered work experience for advanced students and actionable solutions for the community partners with whom the students work. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

### **GPS 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (2)**

This course will focus on the transition from undergraduate work to the "real world." Students will reflect on the culmination of their learning in their respective majors and assess their work skills and interests. Emphasis will be placed on career planning and graduate and professional school preparation.

**GPS 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)**

Students will write an integrative thesis, to be co-directed by faculty from the GPS department. The thesis will be written during the fall semester of the senior year.