



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
Semester in Washington, DC Program

**SDCP 360-30: Research Seminar (3 credit hours)**  
**Summer 2015 Syllabus**  
**June 6-July 29, 2016**

Instructor	Dr. Sam Potolicchio
Faculty Contact Information	potolics@georgetown.edu
Faculty Office Hours	After class or by appointment
Course Meeting Day/Time	Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, ICC 117

**OBJECTIVE**

This course aims to socialize students into the production of original social science research. In particular, students will become familiar with the methodological diversity of political science as they study different methods, both qualitative and quantitative, of developing and testing theories.

**REQUIREMENTS**

*Scholarly Recitations* (20%): This course will introduce students to the scholarly literature of political science and religion with a particular emphasis on methodological debates and issues. Each week's readings will include scholarly articles on the topic from prominent political science journals to socialize the student in the political science discipline. In addition to these readings each student will be responsible for producing critical assessments (2-3 pages) of 2 articles chosen by the student in their particular academic concentration. The articles are designed to address both practice and theory, but more importantly, they are to spur the student to think critically about political science.

*Class Debate/Discussion* (20%): Each student will be expected to engage in our classroom discussions and debates. Students must pay particular attention to the methodological issues we confront in the assigned readings. Each student will be required to post responses to the Professor's weekly prompts. Blog site link: <https://blogs.common.georgetown.edu/sdcp360-30/>

*Speaker Question & Answer* (10%): Using the "Georgetown advantage" the course will introduce students to significant political and academic practitioners. Part of excelling in both political science and politics requires students to engage actively in the discussion. Students will be expected to ask appropriate and provoking questions of their guest lecturers.

*Final Paper* (50%): Students are expected to produce an original research paper (15-20 pages).

**GRADING**

*Attendance Policy*: SWP student attendance is expected at all meetings of your course. Unexcused tardiness is not acceptable and may result in a lower final grade as an indication of a lack of class participation. If a student misses more than two class sessions, the Assistant Dean will be contacted regarding the appropriate action to be taken.

*Late Submissions*: Unless otherwise approved by the instructor, late submissions will be penalized 10% for each day beyond the deadline.

*Incomplete Assignments*: Incompletes in the course must be approved by both the instructor and the Assistant Dean.

*Grading Scale:* Students will be given numerical grades for their various assignments. These numerical grades, when added up to form their final grades, will be converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	88-89.99
B	83-87.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	78-79.99
C	73-77.99
C-	70-72.99
D	60-69.99
F	under 60

*Incomplete Option:* Students are expected to complete all coursework by the end of the semester in which that coursework is taken. In extreme, documented instances (typically related to unexpected, documented health reasons), it may be necessary for students to request an Incomplete, "N," grade and a limited extension of time to complete the required coursework. Incompletes are not automatic, and should be requested first by the student of the professor. If the professor grants a student additional time to complete the coursework, and the work is completed by the date established by the professor on or before the incomplete deadline, the "N" is changed to the appropriate grade.

#### **RECITATION SYLLABUS**

“Evolutionary Psychological Foundations of Civil Wars” JOP 2009 (Satoshi Karazawa)

“The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” APSR 2003 (Robert Pape)

“Politicized Places: Explaining Where and When Immigration Provoke Local Opposition” APSR 2010 (Dan Hopkins)

“Is Democracy Good For the Poor?” AJPS 2006 (Michael Ross)

“Priming Gender Campaigning on Women’s Issues In U.S. Senate Elections” AJPS 2005 (Brian Schaffner)

“Violence From Above or From Below? The Role of Ethnicity in Bosnia’s Civil War” JOP 2011 (Nils Weidmann)

“Emotion Talk and Political Judgment” JOP 2011 (Susan Bickford)

“Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of The Resource Curse” APSR 2011 (Huber and Menaldo)

“The Externalities of Civil Strife: Refugees As A Source of International Conflict AJPS 2008 (Indean Salehayan)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Class 1, June 7

The Critical Mind: How Can Research Methods Improve Your Life

Class 2, June 14

“Scandal Potential: How Political and Media Context Affect The President’s Vulnerability to Allegations of Misconduct” (Brendan Nyhan)

“The Limited Effects of Testimony on Political Persuasion” (Brendan Nyhan)

Class 3, June 21

“Democratic Competition and Terrorist Activity” JOP 2010 (Erica Chenowith)

Class 4, June 28

“Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War” APSR 2003 (Fearon and Laitin)

Class 5, July 5

“Are Coethnics More Effective Counterinsurgents? Evidence From The Second Chechen War” APSR 2010 (Jason Lyall)

Class 6, July 12

Recitations Due

Class 7, July 19

Paper Review

Class 8, July 26

Research Paper Due

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONOR CODE**

*Academic Integrity:* All students within SCS will maintain the highest standards of academic and personal integrity in pursuit of their education at Georgetown. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense, and students found in violation are subject to academic penalties that include, but are not limited to, failure of the course and termination from the program.

*SafeAssign:* Georgetown subscribes to SafeAssign, a Web-based service that, among other things, is able to sniff out possible plagiarism in student work.

*Citation system:* An important aspect of academic integrity is using an acknowledged system of bibliographic references to document the sources of ideas and quotations in one’s work. Examples include APA style, MLA style, and Turabian.

*Plagiarism:* The presentation of someone else’s ideas or work as your own, without proper acknowledgement is the worst crime a scholar can commit. The sources for all information and ideas in your papers that are not your own must be documented using the documentation system followed by the American Psychological Association or the Modern Language Association. In addition, all quotations must be identified as quotations, using quotation marks and documentation of the source of the quotation. Anything less than these standards is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Work that appears to have been plagiarized or otherwise violated the

Honor Code (see below) will be reported to Georgetown's Honor Council. If the Council finds that the work violates the university's standards of academic honesty, the work will receive a grade of zero for the assignment for the first offense; a second infraction will earn an F for the course. The Honor Council may impose sanctions of its own as well.

*The Honor Code pledge:*

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life,  
I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System:  
To be honest in any academic endeavor, and  
To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

OTHER ITEMS

*Faculty Bio:* Sam Potolicchio is the Director of Global Education at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and the Distinguished Professor and Department Chair of Global Leadership Studies at the Russian Presidential Academy, the largest university in Europe. Dr. Potolicchio is the President of the Preparing Global Leaders Foundation, an international leadership training program with campuses in Russia, Macedonia, Croatia, Jordan and the United States. Dr. Potolicchio is the Visiting Senior Lecturer at the Lugar Academy at the University of Indianapolis and a Visiting Professor at Georgetown and New York University.

Potolicchio is also the academic director for Georgetown's Global Visiting Student Program and is a founding faculty member of programs in Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary. He advises top political officials, business leaders, and governments in more than 20 countries including CEO's, members of parliament, and high-ranking appointed officials in the Middle East, the Balkans, and Eastern Europe.

Potolicchio was named by the Princeton Review as one of the "Best Professors in America" in 2012, the only one chosen from his field. He has won numerous teaching awards at Georgetown and the K. Patricia Cross Award from the American Association of Colleges and Universities as one of the future leaders of American higher education in 2011.

He is the official lecturer on American Federalism for the Open World Leadership program at the Library of Congress, where he speaks weekly to visiting dignitaries from the post-Soviet republics. Potolicchio's book chapters on Religion and Politics have been published in volumes by Congressional Quarterly Press and Oxford University Press. He has delivered keynote lectures internationally at over 150 different universities in 40 countries including Oxford, Yale, Sorbonne, Dartmouth, Brown, Cambridge and Bologna.

Potolicchio has taught students during his summers from almost 140 different countries. He is currently the lecturer on American Politics at Georgetown's Global Education Institute where he lectures to high-level government officials and businessmen from China and Japan.

Potolicchio also serves as the scholar-in-residence at the Landon School and as a basketball coach has guided his team, the Jelleff Hoyas to 6 undefeated championship seasons. He received a bachelor of arts in Psychology from Georgetown, masters in Theological Studies from Harvard, and a bachelors, masters and doctorate from Georgetown in Government.

*Updated Syllabus:* Students will, on occasion, receive via email an updated syllabus from the instructor as we tailor the class readings to fit students' interests and as our speakers assign readings.

*Students with Disabilities Policy:* Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (Leavey Center, Suite 335; 202-687-8354; [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu); <http://ldss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm>) before the start of classes to allow their office time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your professors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

*Classroom Etiquette:* Students should turn off all cell phones, pagers, or other communication devices while in class. Class discussions should be respectful and considerate of others' views and opinions.

*Academic Recourse Center (ARC):* ARC strives to facilitate the success of Georgetown students through services for students with disabilities, student-athletes, and any student facing academic challenges. To learn more about how ARC please visit: <http://guarc.georgetown.edu/>.

*Georgetown Writing Center:* As a member of the Georgetown community, you will have full access to the University Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu>) located in Lauinger Library 217A. Offered to students at all levels, the center's tutoring has proved helpful to those wishing to improve their grammar and style, to respond more effectively to assignments, to learn to organize both short papers and lengthy research projects, and to turn first drafts into publishable projects. Some students seek assistance on a regular basis; some only occasionally. For well-established students, the writing tutors have also offered on-line help, responding to questions about papers submitted through email attachments and counseling students through phone conferences.

*Counseling and Psychiatric Service (CAPS):* CAPS serves as the university's primary mental health agency for its students and campus community. CAPS staff collaborates directly with students in overcoming difficulties that may interfere with the accomplishment of their educational, personal, and career goals. To learn more about CAPS services please visit: <http://caps.georgetown.edu/>

*End of syllabus*