POSC 4025 Youth and Politics  
Interdisciplinary Capstone Course  

Fall 2017  
Tuesday/Friday, 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Faber Hall 668  

Course Instructor: Olena Nikolayenko  
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Office Location: Faber Hall, Rm. 677  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  

Course Description  

Youth is widely regarded as the future of the nation and an agent of social change. Young people aged between 15 and 29 constitute approximately 20 percent of US population. How does the young generation participate in politics? What influences youth’s voting behavior? What is the impact of family, schools, and social media on youth’s political engagement? The course will address these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective by drawing upon literature in anthropology, political science, psychology, and sociology.  

This course is divided into several parts. Part I examines how American youth participates in politics and acquires politically relevant attitudes and beliefs through family, schools, peers, and social media. Part II focuses on the use of social science methodology to prepare students for the design of their own research projects. Next, the course discusses youth’s political behavior in East Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. The course concludes with student presentations of their research.  

Students in the course are expected to examine a linkage between youth and politics by carrying out original empirical research. Each Fordham student will conduct a few in-depth interviews with his or her peers to analyze patterns of youth political behavior. At the end of the course, students will complete a research paper based upon their empirical findings.
Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will
- advance their knowledge of multiple approaches to the study of youth and politics
- deepen their understanding of world politics
- strengthen their communication and research skills
- learn ethical principles in human subjects research

Course Requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>Research Design</td>
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<td>Literature Review</td>
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<td>Final Research Paper</td>
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Participation
Student participation is critical to effective learning. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to the class and meaningfully contribute to classroom discussions of the course material.

Presentation
At the end of the semester, each student will make a short presentation based upon his or her research project. Students are also expected to attend their fellow students’ presentations and ask thoughtful questions about their research.

Quiz
There will be one quiz administered in class to test one’s knowledge of key concepts. The quiz will be composed of ten multiple-choice questions.

Research Design
This assignment is designed to prepare students for writing an empirical research paper. Each student is required to submit a one-page single-spaced summary of the proposed research project. Students need to clearly state their research question and briefly describe their methodology.

Literature Review
The purpose of the literature review is to provide a critical overview of extant scholarship on the topic related to one’s research project. The literature review should be approximately four double-spaced pages long, excluding a list of references at the end of the text. At least ten academic sources, mostly articles in peer-reviewed social science journals, should be cited in the literature review. Please use the American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style to cite sources.
Final Research Paper
Each student is expected to write a research paper at the end of the course. This paper will be based upon original empirical research carried out by the student this semester. The paper should be 16-18 pages long, excluding references and the appendix (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font). The research paper should be divided into several sections following the title page and an abstract: introduction, literature review, methodology, findings, and conclusion. The appendix should include a list of main interview questions. More detailed guidelines regarding this assignment will be provided in class.

Students will be responsible for dropping off a hard copy of the final paper at the instructor’s office (Faber Hall, Rm. 677) no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 15, 2017. There is no final exam.

Important Dates

October 10  Literature Review due
October 31  Research Design due
November 28/December 1/December 5  Student Presentations
December 15  Final Paper due

Late Penalty

Students are responsible for submitting a hard copy of each assignment at the beginning of the class on due date. Assignments handed in after the class will be considered late. The late penalty is ten percent of the assignment’s grade per each day of lateness.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with the standards of academic integrity. Failure to properly acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others constitutes plagiarism and is a very serious academic offence. Please review the Fordham University Undergraduate Policy on Academic Integrity to get familiar with the standards of academic integrity, available at: http://www.fordham.edu/info/25380/undergraduate_academic_integrity_policy.

Required Readings

There is no general “textbook” for this course. Most assigned readings are articles published in peer-reviewed journals. The course readings are available via the Blackboard. Students are expected to download the assigned readings from the course web site and read them prior to the class.
Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Sept 5. Introduction

Sept 8. Portrait of a Generation


Sept 12. American Youth and Elections


Sept 15. Who Protests and Why in Contemporary America


Sept 19. The Role of Family and Schools


Sept 22. The Impact of (Social) Media


**Sept 26. First Steps in Writing a Literature Review**


**Sept 29. Writing a Literature Review**


**Oct 3. The Impact of Neighborhoods**


**Oct 6. Immigrant Youth**


**Oct 10. Research Design**

*NOTE: The literature review is due.*

**Oct 13. Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods**


**Oct 17. The Art of Interviewing**


**Oct 20. Ethics in Human Subjects Research**


**Oct 24. Youth in East Asia**


Liu, Fengshu. 2014. “From Degendering to (Re)gendering the Self: Chinese Youth Negotiating Modern Womanhood.” *Gender and Education* 26(1): 18–34

**Oct 31. Youth in Eastern Europe**

*NOTE: The research design is due.*


Nov 3. Youth in the Middle East


Nov 7. Review of the Research Design
NOTE: Individual meetings with each student

Nov 10. Analyzing Interview Data

Nov 14. How to Make a Research Presentation


Nov 17. Writing an Empirical Research Paper

Nov 21. How to Write an Abstract

Nov 28. Student Presentations

Dec 1. Student Presentations

Dec 5. Student Presentations

Dec 8. Wrap-Up Discussion
NOTE: Please bring a laptop for a web-based course evaluation.