



**Summer Session 2019**

# USE YOUR SUMMER TO THE FULLEST



Summer Session  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

**Be Boulder.**

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### Political Science American Political Systems

PSCI 1101-100

**Summer Term A:** June 03 – July 5, 9:15 – 10:50

**Instructor:** Vanessa Baird, Associate Professor of Political Science

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Some principles of politics are timeless. This course of American government approaches our system in terms of what we know in other countries and across time. We will answer some of the following questions:

- What can fictional (but rigorous) thought experiments tell us about our current state of politics, here and throughout the world?
- Why do we call political science a “science?”
- Why are most conspiracy theories likely to be wrong, given human nature?
- Why it might be good for democracies for parties and interest groups to have more power (not less)?
- In what way might American democracy benefit in the future from a Trump presidency today? In what way are rights and liberties anti-democratic?
- Are human beings rational (rational might not mean what you think it means)?
- Can human beings think about politics two dimensionally?
- What makes people think weird stuff?

#### FACULTY BIO: VANESSA BAIRD

Professor Baird is a scholar of the Supreme Court and the political psychology of procedural justice. She has studied why people respect the law, democracy, the police, and why people believe that resorting to violence is the only way to get things done. Her work focuses on American politics, but also the politics of other countries.