

Dear students,

If you are reading this, I assume you have tried to register for ORF 363/COS 323 but have been unable to do so because the class is full. First of all, let me say that I greatly appreciate your interest in the course and hope that you can all take it prior to graduation.

With that said, I think a class that is too large lowers the quality of the course for everybody. In particular, I teach my courses on the blackboard and try to interact with my students as much as possible during lecture. If the room is too big, some students would have difficulty seeing the blackboard and it becomes more challenging to have an interactive lecture. These are the reasons why I am against increasing the size of this class. **My recommendation to you:** show up to the first two weeks of class. Many registered students are shopping around and drop out after a week or two.

**Frequently asked questions:**

**1) *Can I secure a place on the waitlist if I email you?***

No. There is no official waitlist for the class before first day of class. I feel it is unfair to lock a slot based on emails because some students may not think of emailing the professor or may be more shy about it than others.

**2) *When students drop out, how do you decide who gets in?***

I will announce a precise policy during the first week of class. In Fall 2015 and Fall 2016, this was the policy (things will likely remain the same this year, but check back during first week of class to be sure):

- Seniors first, juniors second, sophomores third
- Within each category: ORF first, COS second, Other third ("other" will be randomized)
- Within each subcategory (e.g., ORF seniors): the order will be randomized

**3) *I have special circumstances: I really need this course to fulfill elective X or certificate requirement Y. Can I be given special consideration?***

Unfortunately not. Many students list reasons of this type and it becomes very tricky to treat everybody fairly. I would like to keep the policy as simple and transparent as possible (e.g., like the policy above).

**4) *Will you be adding more seats?***

Last year the capacity of the room (Friend 006) was 87. So I added 7 extra seats. I plan to do the same this year. For reasons discussed above, the number of seats will not go beyond 87.

**5) *Can you comment on my chances of getting in?***

I cannot unfortunately until the first day of class. In the past, most students who stayed in the class through the first two weeks got in. I can't predict much beyond that. If this helps, as of May 1, 2017, about 60 students have emailed me about the waitlist.

Looking forward to meeting you all on the first day of class!

-AAA

