

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Faculty

Sean Evans (2000). Associate Professor of Political Science and Department Chair. B.A., David Lipscomb University; M.A., University of Alabama; Ph.D., University of Colorado.

Hunter Baker (2010). Associate Professor of Political Science and Senior Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. B.S., Florida State University; M.P.A., University of Georgia; J.D., University of Houston Law Center; Ph.D., Baylor University.

Gregory Ryan (2010). Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science. B.S., Lipscomb University; M.A., University of Alabama; Ph.D., University of Tennessee.

Micah Watson (2007). Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for Politics and Religion. B.A., University of California at Davis; M.A., Baylor University; Ph.D., Princeton University.

Mission Statement

The Department of Political Science seeks to create active, informed citizens and leaders who use their analytical, research, and communication skills to improve their community.

Curriculum

Called the "queen of the sciences" by Aristotle because of its impact on law, society, philosophy, ethics, economics, and religion, political science is more than the study of government, political attitudes and behavior, and public policy. It is the study of people, their motives, their values, their relations with others, and the best way for individuals and groups to achieve their goals while improving society. Moreover, as Christians, the study of politics increases our understanding of God by learning how He wants us to live with others and how our faith leads us to be good stewards of our local, national, and global community.

Consequently, the Department seeks to (1) create an active, informed citizenry capable of influencing government; (2) prepare students for a changing world by developing and refining their analytical, communication, and research skills; (3) foster the understanding of the role of Christians in the public square and the most effective means to renew society; (4) prepare students for graduate and professional opportunities in politics, law, public service in the U.S. and abroad, business, teaching, and other endeavors; and (5) develop students who can be leaders in political, social, and religious institutions.

To this end, the Department offers a broad range of courses that focus on how individuals and groups interact with governmental and global systems while preparing students to exercise leadership in our changing domestic and global worlds. Each student begins by orienting themselves to the discipline by taking classes in each

of the subfields of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political

C. Upper-level International Relations/Comparative Politics—3 hours

D. Select one concentration and a total of no less than 12 hours

1. American: Select 9-12 hours from Upper-level American Political Politics courses

2. International Relations: Select 9-12 hours from Upper-level IR and Comparative Politics courses.

3. Political Theory: Select 9-12 hours from Upper-level Political Theory courses.

4. General: Select 12 hours from 2 of concentrations (1., 2., or 3. above)

II. Major in Political Science with Discipline-Specific Honors—42 hours

A.433; PSY 213, 318; SE 225.

D. Completion of applicable portions of the Praxis II.

E. For additional information, see the Assistant Dean for Teacher Education and Accreditation.

Admission and Progression in Major in Political Science with Discipline-Specific Honors

The department requires a one semester residency requirement for the first time college student before applying to the program.

313. Political Parties in the United States (3) F—Even Years
A study of the nature, development, and functioning of political parties in the United States. Attention is given to leaders, issues, and problems of our party system.
322. Western Political Thought I (3) F
Great political thinkers in the Western tradition from the Greeks to the 17th Century.
323. Western Political Thought II (3) S
Great political thinkers in the Western tradition from the 17th century to the present.
324. Contemporary Global Issues (3) S—Odd Years
Current affairs focusing on events and attitudes within the world community with an assessment of their impact on domestic and foreign policy decisions in the U.S. and abroad.
325. Politics and Governments of Asia (3) S—Odd Years
A study of Asia in modern times with emphasis on China, Japan, and one additional state selected on the basis of political conditions in Asia at the time of the course.
330. Public Administration and Policy Making (3) As Needed
A study of the “fourth branch” of government of the United States with a focus on the development of public policy and its administration. The relationship among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches is also emphasized.
331. Early Christian Political Thought (3) F—Odd Years
Reciprocal credit: CHR 331.
A study of political thought from the beginning of Christianity to the Reformation.
332. Comparative Political Systems (3) F
An analysis of the primary political systems that form the basis of modern nation-states, namely, liberal democratic systems, communist and post-communist systems, and the developing systems of the post-colonial international community. This course does not deal with particular governmental structures.
333. International Organizations and Law (3) F—Odd Years
International organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, as they interact with international community. International law and its development are examined.
335. Modern Christian Political Thought (3) S—Even Years
Reciprocal credit: CHR 335.
A study of the various streams of Christian political thought since the Reformation.
337. American Political Thought (3) S—Odd Years
The study of American political thought from the colonial times to the present.
340. The Judicial Process S—Even Years
The nature of law, the principal actors in the legal system—police, lawyers, and judges—and their roles in the system as well as the ability of courts to make social policy.
342. The United States Congress (3) S—Even Years
The role of Congress in American government, including congressional elections, representation, the organization of Congress, and policy-making and its interaction with others such as the president, interest groups, the media, and political parties.
344. The American Presidency (3) S—Odd Years
A study of the constitutional, institutional and historical development of the presidency with special attention to the selection, roles, and powers of the president and his interaction with other political actors.
347. Ethics and Public Policy (3) S—Odd Years
The application of ethical theories to contemporary political issues.
355. Politics of the Developing States (3) F—Odd Years
Developing states referred to as the Third (Fourth) World, including Bangladesh, most of Africa, and parts of SE Asia, beginning with the end of the colonial period.
360. Politics of Islam (3) S—Even Years
The politics of Islamic beliefs such as traditionalism, reformism, and secularism, and their political influence on governments throughout the Islamic world and their relationship with Israel.
361. Liberalism and Religion (3) Every Third Year
A study of secular theories that examine the role of religion in the public square.
365. International Security (3) Every Third Year
Strategic theory, terrorism, counterterrorism, military intervention, and intelligence in the contemporary world.
400. Democratization and Human Rights (3) F—Even Years
A study of the theoretical underpinnings of democracy and the origins and development of human rights in the world today.
414. International Relations Theory (3) Every Third Year
Traditional and modern international relations theories such as realism, idealism, and postmodernism.
415. Constitutional Law I (3) F—Odd Years
A study of the constitutional structure of government as developed by the U.S. Supreme Court relating to federalism, the separation of powers, the jurisdiction of the courts, the taxing power, the war power, and the commerce power.

