

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Faculty

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

Hunter Baker (2010). Associate Professor of Political Science and Dean of Instruction. 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). Assistant Professor of Political Science. B.S., Lipscomb University; M.A., University of Alabama; Ph.D., University of Tennessee.

Micah Watson (2007). Associate 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.

Staff

Kendra BeDen (2009) Academic Secretary—Warren F. Jones Academic Suite.

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 Theory, and Research Methods). Then students take courses in both American and Global politics courses to ensure a balance in their studies while having additional hours to pursue their specific interests. Moreover, the Department encourages both practical and theoretical learning through internships and study abroad experiences which provide a broader understanding of other cultures and worldviews. Finally, the capstone experience provides students the opportunity to synthesize their knowledge in writing their senior thesis.

I. Major in Political Science—42 hours

- A. Required: PSC 111, 211, 214, 245, 322, 323, 332, 498.
- B. Upper-level American Politics—3 hours
- C. Upper-level International Relations/Comparative Politics—3 hours
- D. Select one concentration and a total of no less than 12 hours

of at least three PSC courses by honors contract.
C. PSC 245 should be completed prior to the second honors contract.

D. The student will write the honors thesis in PSC 498.

III. Teacher Licensure for Government (Grades 7-12)

A.

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.

For each honors contract course, the student must:

- Come to agreement with the instructor of the course regarding the nature of the contract prior to the beginning of the course. Students are advised to contact the instructor prior to the end of the previous Fall or Spring Semester.
- Obtain the Department Chair's approval of the honors contract.
- Complete the required paperwork with the Office of the Director of the Honors Community prior to the first day of classes for the semester.

The professor supervising each honors contract will evaluate the work and personally consult with the student about continuance in the program. This evaluation will also be presented to the department faculty at its next regularly scheduled department meeting. If a student makes a grade of B or higher in an honors project, they will be able to continue in the program. If a student makes two B's, the department will meet to evaluate the student's work and the professor's evaluation to determine whether the student should continue. A grade below B is unacceptable in an honors contract class and will result in dismissal from the program. The student may appeal the decision to the department as a whole.

Greater detail for admission, honors contract requirements and other program specifics is provided at

Assessment of Majors

Political science majors culminate their studies by taking Senior Seminar (PSC 498) in which they will demonstrate the ability to write a quality, in-depth political science research paper using the methods of the discipline. The student will present his/her paper to fellow seminar members and political science faculty. All senior political science majors must take the Major Field Achievement Test in Political Science, a national civics test, and write an essay demonstrating their understanding of the role of religion in the public square.

Student Organizations

Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Honor Society in Political Science. Eligible students are juniors who have completed ten semester hours of work in political science including at least one upper-division course, with an average grade of B or higher in those courses. They must also have achieved an overall GPA placing them in the top one-third of their whole class (i.e., junior or senior class). They need NOT be political science majors or minors to qualify for membership.

The **Union Pre-Law Society** is open to all students regardless of major who are interested in attending law school. The purpose is to promote a greater understanding of law and the legal profession and to prepare students for law school.

Student Awards

Departmental Awards are given to graduating seniors for outstanding work in fulfilling a departmental major or minor.

The John W. Burgess Award is granted to a graduating senior for meritorious work in political science.

Political Science Research Awards are presented for the best original research papers presented as part of the requirements for any political science course.

Course Offerings in Political Science (PSC)

() Hours Credit; F–Fall, W–Winter; S–Spring; Su–Summer

111. Introduction to Political Science (3) F

An introduction to the concepts and concerns of political science: the power relationships among men, between men and the state, and among nations.

211. Politics and Government of the United States (3) F, S

**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

416. Constitutional Law II (3) S—Even Years

A study of the constitutional doctrines relating to civil rights and civil liberties such as First Amendment freedoms, equal protection, privacy, and rights of the accused.

425. Politics and Religion (3) Every Third Year

An examination of the interaction between politics and religion in domestic and international politics.

431. Political Science Internship (repeatable up to 6) As Needed

Individually designed study which permits the upper-level student to learn through participation in actual government settings, either domestic or international. Close consultation with the department in the design of this study will be necessary to conform to University standards regarding internships.

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand**295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand**

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) On Demand

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

498. Seminar (1-3) As Needed

To be used at the discretion of the department.

499. Seminar in Political Theory (3)

An intensive analysis of more major issues in political theory. This course may be repeated for credit.