The Study of Political Science at Duquesne

The study of politics is an investigation into the way human beings make decisions about how to arrange their collective and individual affairs with an eye towards achieving certain public goods or goals. Thus politics is also an attempt to respond to fundamental questions like, "How should we live?" and "What is justice?" Through an awareness of the similarities and differences among political philosophies, political systems, and political practices, the student becomes familiar with politics as a day to day enterprise of dealing with the problems of a complex and changing world.

The Political Science program at Duquesne University introduces students to the four major divisions of the discipline: political theory and methodology, American politics and public policy, international relations, and comparative politics. While each of these divisions has distinctive subject matter and methods, each is also closely connected with the others.

For example, we may start by looking at politics from the perspective of American politics and public policy. How government works in this country is an important part of the picture, and to understand it we study the various institutions of our federal system. But what government does, and why it does some things and not others, are issues that also quickly come to the fore. In terms of what government does, we see that some of the most important decisions involve dealing with the other countries of the world—hence we would be led to study international relations. As we look at these other countries, we notice that their governments are not run the way ours is, nor often do those governments pursue the same kinds of goals as ours. Investigating these differences, or similarities, is the province of comparative politics. If we stop and think further about this diversity, we may start to wonder why our government is as it is, and whether we would be a better nation if we tried in some other way to reach different goals. These questions about what the best kind of government is, and what the ends of politics are, are the questions of political theory.

The Political Science Department has a tradition of superb classroom instruction. Most courses are taught by full-time faculty, who are recognized for their significant contributions to the discipline, the College and the University.

The Major and Minor Programs

The major in Political Science comprises 30 credits, including 15 credits of required courses, distributed among the four subfields: American National Government (105), Comparative Political Systems (208 or 209), International Relations (245), Western Political Thought I or Western Political Thought II (317 or 318) and Introduction to Policy Analysis (298). Students may design their own course of study for the remaining 15 credits, in consultation with faculty advisors. No more than six credits taken at the 100 level can apply toward the major (and three of these credits will be American National Government).

The optional Law and Politics concentration in Political Science requires all Political Science majors to meet all existing requirements (30 credits, including 15 required credits and 15 elective credits.) Students concentrating in Law and Politics choose 12 of their 15 major elective credits from the following list:

POSC 203 – The American Congress
The minor in Political Science encompasses 15 credits and can involve specialization in one of the four subfields, or a broader program designed to reflect student interests. No more than three credits at the 100 level can apply toward the minor.

Students in the College of Liberal Arts may double major (see the last pages of this handout for ideas), and every year a number of Political Science majors take advantage of this opportunity. Work in almost any other discipline can complement the study of politics. Students may want to consider a double major in light of career goals, or simply to deepen and give greater coherence to their undergraduate educations.

In planning a course of study in Political Science, students are strongly urged to pay attention to the course numbering system. The level of a course number, i.e. 100, 200, 300, or 400 is usually important. Courses at higher levels normally build on or develop material from courses at lower levels. For example, the 200 level courses serve as introductions to the various subfields. Thus in a given subfield, students should try to take 200 level courses before 300, and 300 before 400. In a given semester, students may be taking a 200 level course in one area, while doing advanced work in another; there is no need to take all the 200 level offerings before moving on to the more advanced levels.

A few exceptions need to be noted. The Advanced Seminar (436) as its name suggests is to be taken as the capstone to one's study of politics. This course gives students a chance to do intensive work in a specialized area of the discipline that is of particular interest to the faculty member teaching it that semester. Enrollment in the Advanced Seminar is limited to students in their last semester.

Review the department website http://www.duq.edu/political-science for information to help you plan your course scheduling.

Students who elect to take Quantitative Analysis (427) may well want to take this course at an earlier point in their studies than the number would suggest, for the skills and techniques of research and analysis taught here can be extremely helpful in gaining a critical understanding of the material students will learn in their other courses.
Students may also wish to spend a semester studying in Washington, D.C. McAnulty College has an arrangement with American University that allows students to study and intern in Washington. The Ambassador Thomas P. Melady Scholarship is available to support students who study at AU.

The Internship in Practical Politics (430) gives the student an opportunity to spend one semester working on responsible political activity and constituency service in the office of a state or federal representative. It is taken as a regular academic course. The student receives four academic credits, while being expected to work 16 hours each week of the semester in the political office. The internship program is competitive; only a few interns are placed each semester. While there are no prerequisites for the program, American National Government (105) and the American Congress (203) are good courses to have taken.

**Special Programs and Extracurricular Opportunities**

Students interested in applying for Truman, Marshall, and Rhodes Scholarships are advised by the Honors College director. The Truman Scholarship is for students interested in pursuing graduate education in Public Policy and is applied for in the junior year. Our department has had three finalists for the Truman since 1994. The Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships are for students interested in studying in Great Britain. One of our majors was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship in 1995. Competition for these scholarships is fierce; students should begin planning their application process early.

Duquesne offers a number of opportunities for students whose interest in politics extends outside the classroom. There have been both Young Democrats and College Republican clubs. The United Nations Council is Duquesne's student forum for lectures and programs that examine a wide variety of contemporary political issues. Each year, the UNC sponsors a model United Nations for area high school students and participates in the National Model UN.

The University Pre-Law Program is directed in the Department, as is the Mu Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science honor society.

Each spring the Department bestows the Harold Webb, Jr., Award for Excellence in Political Science on an outstanding senior. The names of the honored seniors are added to a plaque which hangs in the Department office. Most years the Department nominates a student for the College General Excellence Award. The Student so honored gives an address at commencement. Students may work with faculty for the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Academic Advisement and Mentoring**

All majors are assigned to a full-time faculty member who acts as their mentor. Mentoring means discussing with students not only their progress in course work, but also their academic goals, the nature of the discipline of Political Science, their plans after graduation (graduate school, law school, or employment), and whatever other subjects majors wish to discuss. Majors should see their mentors at least once a semester.

Academic advisors working out of the College Office advise students about which courses to take, try to make sure that students are meeting all the requirements, and sign registration forms for
students. The following advice will help students get the most out of their visits with their advisors and mentors:

Students should be aware, first of all, that they bear the primary responsibility for making sure that all requirements for graduation are met. The advisor may serve as a check, or to clear up questions about these requirements, but students must be the first monitors of their academic programs and progress. Students should have in their possession the Undergraduate Catalog http://www.duq.edu/academics/university-catalogs and the Student Academic Handbook, http://www.duq.edu/life-at-duquesne/student-services/student-handbook both available online.

Next, students should view the advising period as the final step of the process by which course and program decisions are made, not the beginning. An advisor should not be asked to choose courses for you; the advisor is there to oversee the course of study you develop for yourself. Thus, you should be prepared with options of your own as the basis for discussion between you and the advisor about your academic program. While it is not necessary for all courses in a given semester to be chosen before meeting with your advisor, at least the core of the work you are proposing should be clear in your mind.

Practically speaking, then, you should come to your advisor with the proper forms, and a draft schedule of the courses you propose to take. You should expect to spend some time talking not only about what you want to do, but also about what you have been doing, and to verify with the advisor where you stand in progress towards graduation.

Students who are curious about the content of a particular course are encouraged to visit the Department office; the administrative assistant will be happy to show you a copy of the last syllabus used in a course.

**Getting the Most Out of Your Studies**

The University and the College devote significant resources to programs that can help students develop and improve their study and learning skills. The Counseling and Testing Center provides academic, personal and vocational counseling. The Learning Skills Center is primarily concerned with the intellectual development of students, providing diagnostic and developmental programs in reading, writing, mathematics and science. It also provides students with competent tutors in numerous subject areas. The Writing Center on the second floor of College Hall has personnel who can help students with improving their capacities for written expression.

Students who are having trouble with a course or students who wish to pursue issues raised in class, should remember that the first person to go to for help should be the faculty member involved. The faculty maintain office hours in order to give students extra opportunities for raising questions, and solving problems—so do not hesitate to consult with a faculty member outside of the classroom period. Office hours are always posted on the individual faculty member's door.

For more general guidance, students may wish to consult *Politics: A Handbook for Students* by Robert Weissberg. This book, which can be found in the Duquesne library, covers topics such as "Getting the Most Out of Your Classes," "Finding Information in the Library," "Writing Term Papers," and "Doing Well on Examinations."
Policies of Note

For a complete presentation of the College and University policies governing academic life, students should consult the Student Handbook and Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, Conduct and the latest Undergraduate Catalog. However, a few of these policies are worth noting here.

Plagiarism strikes at the heart of the integrity of the academic enterprise, and students should make all efforts to avoid even the appearance of wrongdoing in this area. Questions about the precise way in which the work of others is to be properly credited may be referred to your instructor. The Student Handbook defines plagiarism as including "but not limited to: the use, whether by summary, paraphrase, or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work or specific ideas of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It includes the use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." You should be familiar with the University Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found online at http://www.duq.edu/Documents/academic-affairs/_pdf/academic-integrity-5-1-12.pdf

The University now accommodates a variety of joint degrees, that is, degrees from two different schools. For example, the McAnulty College has a joint BA/MBA program with the School of Business. Be advised, however, that if you intend to graduate in four years, you must plan your schedule very carefully in order to pursue such degrees.

Incompletes (an "I" grade) are awarded if a student for significant reasons missed a part of the course or an examination. Students must have completed 80% of the work for a course in order for an "I" grade to be assigned. "Unless a cogent explanation of extenuating circumstances, acceptable to the instructor, is presented and the missed examination or required assignment is made up by the date specified in the academic calendar, the incomplete will become a permanent 'F' grade."

Political Science and Life After Duquesne

Like any other liberal arts major, Political Science provides students with skills in thinking, writing, reading, study, and self-discipline. These skills not only prepare students for a lifetime of enriched experience, but also are increasingly recognized as the most valuable kind of vocational preparation. When the question, "What can I do with a Political Science major?" comes up, the first answer must be "Anything that you are motivated to do."

Nevertheless, there are also specific kinds of career opportunities which majors might look forward to. A substantial number of our graduates enter law school. They have been accepted into some of the most prestigious law schools in the country, including some in the top twenty. Former graduates have become leading attorneys, U.S. and state court judges, and corporate counsels.

Many of our graduates pursue careers in public or private administration. These include positions with bureaus and agencies of the federal, state and municipal governments, staff positions in state legislatures and with Congress, and positions with private research agencies in Washington. Students interested in such careers should consider a Department internship. Other majors have entered administrative positions with private foundations, charities, and interest groups, as well as college and university administration.

Private industry has an increasing need for well-educated Political Science majors, given the
importance of government regulation. Each year corporations hire our majors for government affairs positions and related areas. These employers realize the advantage students with a thorough familiarity with government practices are likely to have over majors in business. Students interested in such careers might consider a business internship through Career Services.

Take advantage of the services offered by Career Services. This is not a job placement office, but it can be very useful to you in a number of ways: finding internships; improving your resume-writing skills; workshops on how to work a job fair; helping you figure out what kind of career you would like to pursue; teaching you job search skills; and much more. If you haven't already logged in to set up your profile, do so now.

The Department has had a number of graduates enter leading M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Political Science, public affairs, and international relations. The M.A. is now the minimum requirement for teaching in community colleges, while the Ph.D. is normally necessary for college and university teaching.

If you plan to take either the LSAT or the GRE exam, it is important that you prepare properly. Few students will do well if they take these exams cold. Do a prep course, or self-study. There are plenty of self-study guides available in bookstores. You will be competing with students who are well prepared. Part of what you are being tested on is your willingness to prepare properly. Our most successful majors are students who have invested the necessary time in preparation. You are encouraged to discuss your preparation with your faculty mentor.

The Political Science Department participates along with the Sociology Department in Duquesne's Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy, which leads to a Masters in Public Policy. This interdisciplinary program in public policy stresses moral and value aspects of policy problems.

Helpful Tools

Students thinking about career or graduate study opportunities should keep an eye on the bulletin boards in and around the Political Science department office. They may also wish to consult the following sources, some of which are available in the department's office: *Careers and the Study of Political Science, Guide to Careers in World Affairs, Foreign Services Careers, Graduate Faculty and Programs in Political Science*. The following can be found in the Career Placement and Planning Center: *Federal Career Guide, Liberal Arts Power! How to Sell It on Your Resume, Career Patterns of Liberal Arts Graduates, Federal Job Winners Tips, Reference Manual to Career Opportunities in the Central Intelligence Agency, Storming Washington: An Intern 3’ Guide to the National Government*. You are encouraged to make use of Career Services as early as you can.

Information on internship and employment opportunities are posted as well. Items change frequently, so browse these bulletin boards on a regular basis.

Letters of Recommendation

A common step towards advanced study will be requesting letters of recommendation from your professors. Here, a few points of common sense and courtesy can greatly aid the process.

First, always check first with the faculty member about how many letters he or she is willing
to write, and in what space of time. Do not come at the last minute and presume to ask that six letters
be mailed in the course of one week; be reasonable in the scope of the request you are making.

Second, be prepared to talk about the programs you are applying to, and how the work done
with the professor may relate to your future studies. It may help to have on hand examples of work
you did in that professor's class.

Third, if a form is required with the letter, be sure to fill out any part of the form that it is
your responsibility to fill out. In particular, be sure you have given thought to whether you are going
to waive your right to see the letter.

Fourth, be sure that the proper postage is on any letter that the faculty member is to mail
directly to the admissions committee or employer.

And finally, keep the faculty member informed as to where you are accepted and rejected. By
agreeing to write a letter, the faculty member is expressing an interest in your future. The feedback
also helps the letter writer know how to write a better letter for a given program.
Department Faculty

Clifford Bob, J.D. (NYU) Ph.D. (MIT)
Professor and Pre-Law Advisor
Dr. Bob's research interests include social movements, ethnic politics, globalization, and human rights with a special interest in the developing world. He teaches courses on these topics, as well as introductory and advanced courses in comparative politics. Dr. Bob has worked as a corporate litigator in a New York City law firm, taught law at the National University of Singapore, and received research support from the Social Science Research Council, the Albert Einstein Institution, and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Pat Dunham, Ph.D. (Miami of Ohio)
Associate Professor and Chair
Dr. Dunham teaches courses in American politics and research methods. As an undergraduate, Dr. Dunham double-majored in Political Science and Journalism, and her interest in these fields is reflected in her undergraduate course, The Mass Media and Politics. Professor Dunham also is interested in the study of electoral politics, and published *Electoral Behavior in the United States* in 1991.

Mark L. Haas, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Professor
Dr. Haas's research interests include international relations theory, ideological and psychological sources of foreign policy, and security studies. He teaches classes on these topics as well as introductory classes in international relations and current international problems. Dr. Haas has received research support from the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, both at Harvard University, the Institute for the Study of World Politics, and the Earhart Foundation.

John I. Hanley, Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley)
Assistant Professor
Dr. Hanley’s research interests include American politics, public opinion, and immigration. He teaches courses on state and local politics and constitutional law, as well as the introductory class in American politics. In particular, he is interested in how institutions interact with one another and the public, and has produced three publications looking at how the Supreme Court affects and may be affected by public opinion. His present research examines congressional investigations of the executive branch and other governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Lewis Irwin, Ph.D. (Yale University)
Professor
Dr. Irwin's research interests include education policy and other public policies, as well as the budgeting and appropriating processes. Prior to coming to Duquesne Dr. Irwin served for 14 years on active duty in the United States Army, during which time he served in a variety of command and staff positions around the world. Dr. Irwin received his doctorate in political science from Yale University and served on the political science faculty at the United States Military Academy, West Point, for three years. Dr. Irwin's courses focus on the dynamics of the policymaking process and the substance of domestic public policies.
Charles T. Rubin, Ph.D. (Boston College)
Associate Professor

Dr. Rubin teaches courses about normative aspects of policy making, thus employing his original specializations in political philosophy and American politics. His research and Publications have focused on the political theory of environmentalism, contemporary thinking about technology, and moral and political education in a liberal democracy. To further this work he has been awarded fellowships or grants from the Earhart Foundation, Institute for Educational Affairs, John M. Olin Foundation, Carthage Foundation, and the National Association of Scholars. He is author of The Green Crusade and the editor of Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy and reviewer for numerous other journals and publishers.

Leslie G. Rubin, Ph.D. (Boston College)
Assistant Professor

Having studied political philosophy and American politics, Dr. Rubin has taught a range of offerings at Duquesne, but now concentrates on American National Government (105), Constitutional Law (326W & 327W) and American Political Thought (290W) in the undergraduate curriculum and American Politics and Policy for the Center for Social and Public Policy, which is also offered for undergraduates (426). She has written on Aristotle’s Politics, Xenophon’s Education of Cyrus, and Flannery O’Connor’s Everything That Rises Must Converge.

Fr. John Sawicki, Ph.D. (Tufts University)
Assistant Professor

Fr. Sawicki received his Ph.D. in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, writing on the Islamist Coup in Trinidad of 1990 and Regional Security among Caribbean Microstates. He also teaches at the Marshal Center for European Security in Germany. At Duquesne courses which he has taught are International Relations (245), Current Problems in World Politics (110), SPE (Core 141), American Defense Policy (422W) and War & Peace in the Nuclear Age (295).

Jennie L. Schulze, Ph.D. (The George Washington University)
Assistant Professor

Dr. Schulze’s research interests include democratization and nationalism in Eastern Europe, the influence of European institutions and kin-states on minority integration and minority rights in Eastern Europe, as well as the influence of cultural, structural, and social variables on minority integration. She teaches courses on these topics as well as introductory courses in international relations and comparative politics. Dr. Schulze has received research support from EU Marie Curie, the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (The George Washington University), the Association for Women in Science, the European Union Studies Association, the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, and the American Consortium on EU Studies. Recently, she has published on the following topics: the influence of EU conditionality and Russia’s activism on elite attitudes toward minority integration in Estonia; interethnic relations in Estonia; minority conceptions of integration in Estonia; and the relationship between integration dimensions among second generation Russians in Estonia.