

THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES:

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1. FALL 2011 PL SC COURSES

Here is a tentative list of Political Science courses that will be offered at Penn State Behrend in Fall 2011. This list is subject to change, but it is what we plan to offer at the time this newsletter is sent.

Remember that all political science majors must take PL SC 001, PL SC 003, PL SC 014, and PL SC 017, as well as 24 other credits (usually 8 other courses) in PL SC. Of those other 24 credits, at least 12 (4 courses) must be at the 400 level, and at least 3 credits (one course) must be taken in each of the subfield requirements (American Government, Comparative Politics, International Politics, Government in Theory and Practice). Some courses can be used to fulfill either of two subfield requirements, but you cannot use the same course on your degree audit to meet both of those subfield requirements.

If you need help with scheduling or understanding the requirements of the major, please make an appointment to see your advisor.

Political Science minors must take PL SC 001, PL SC 003, and 12 other credits (4 courses), including 6 credits at the 400-level.

Fall 2011 Courses

PL SC 001 - Introduction to American National Government* (GS)

PL SC 003 - Introduction to Comparative Politics* (GS, IL)

PL SC 014 - International Relations* (GS, IL)

PL SC 017 - Introduction to Political Theory (GS)

PL SC 022 - Politics of the Developing Areas* (GS, IL, Other Cultures, Comparative)

PL SC 430 - Selected Works in the History of Political Theory (Theory and Practice)

PL SC 437 - War in World Politics (International)

PL SC 473 - American Judicial Behavior (American, Theory and Practice)

PL SC 481 - Global Political Economy (International)

PL SC 482 - American State and Urban Politics (American)

PL SC 488 - Comparative Public Policy (Comparative, Theory and Practice)

*PL SC 001 will offer four separate sections, PL SC 014 and PL SC 022 will each offer two sections, and PL SC 003 will offer an attached honors section in Fall 2011.

2. FALL 2011 400-LEVEL COURSES

PL SC 430 -

will examine three philosophers: Aristotle (*The Nichomachean Ethics*); Jean Jacques Rousseau (*Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*); and David Hume (*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*). All three texts are concerned with the origin of moral or practical reasoning, which is the decisive category for political thought. The presentation of Aristotle on the one side, and Rousseau/Hume on the other, will illuminate two competing theories of virtue. These debates on virtue helped shape the point of view of Publius, the authors of the *Federalist Papers*. The course is highly recommended for students interested in the deeper foundations of American political thought.

PL SC 437

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Do you know a war from a conflict? A skirmish from an insurgency? A police action from an uprising? Come to PL SC 437 in Fall '11 and find out what makes war good or bad, preventable or probable, hot or cold. The ancients did it during daylight hours, the medievals did it with elephants, the moderns do it with robots. Join us where the signs are auspicious for a clash of forces: an open mind and the history of War in World Politics. See you there. Shields optional.

PL SC 473

- This course will discuss the evolution of Constitutional principles, judicial activism, sources of law, selection processes for judges, US Supreme Court decision making and influence, and the influence of the media, current events, and politics on the judicial process. This course can be used to fulfill the

"Crime and Law" requirement for the Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate.

PL SC 481

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Changes in the international system in the 1970s led to increased interest on the part of students of international relations in the political economic processes underlying change. Important debates among scholars in both mainstream theoretical traditions and in critical theory gave rise to International Political Economy as an increasingly visible sub-field in International Relations. This course examines states, markets, power, production, and the relations between the various transnational agents who act in these areas.

PL SC 482

- The limits placed on state and local governments by our federal system and the opportunities that arise will be a key theme of the course. State legislatures, state constitutions, governors, and the Pennsylvania state court system will be discussed, along with the reasons why many cities struggle to thrive and compete against frequent suburban antagonism. State and local sources of revenue, economic development, education, criminal justice, marriage, immigration, gun, and alcohol policies will be covered. This course can be used to fulfill the "Crime and Public Policy" requirement of the Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy certificate. The course also includes discussion of a large number of legal cases related to the topic of federalism that students will encounter if they go to law school. This course should also be taken by all students who plan to pursue secondary education teaching certification in social studies - the course is required for students seeking social studies teacher certification at Edinboro University.

PL SC 488

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examines what governments attempt to do on behalf of their citizens in developed democratic states. Some of the areas include education, health care, income support, and taxation. More specifically, the course seeks to answer such questions as why the United States can spend more on health care than other countries while affording less coverage and poorer results.

Similarly how do countries deal with fiscal deficits that are no less greater than those amassed by Washington? Students should also expect to learn

about the ways different countries evaluate their policies in the context of claims of accountability and transparency. Finally one particular aspect of the course will be to examine the history of governments in the creation of money.

3. GOVERNMENT, NON-PROFIT, AND CREATIVE CAREERS FAIR

The GNCC Fair will take place on Thursday, April 7, from 11 AM - 3 PM in the McGarvey Commons, Reed Building. The GNCC Fair is specially organized to bring employers to campus who are interested in hiring political science majors and other humanities, social science, and science majors. Some employers will also be offering internships, and some graduate school programs will be present at the fair.

Invitations to employers have gone out recently, and so far the US Border Patrol, the US Navy, the Pennsylvania State Department of Welfare, and Environment Erie have said they will be present at the fair, along with a large number of local social service agencies. In the March newsletter, we will have a more complete list of employers who will be participating this year.

The Academic and Career Planning Center will also be scheduling workshops in the week leading up to the fair on how to dress for interviews, how to prepare resumes, and how to apply for government jobs. This website will contain more details as the event gets closer:

<http://psbehrend.psu.edu/Academics/academic-services/acpc/acpc-events-1/career-fairs-and-workshops/government-non-profit-and-creative-careers-fair>

All political science majors and all students who will be seeking employment after they graduate should be attending this April fair.

4. PI SIGMA ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY

Behrend is forming a new chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Pi Sigma Alpha is the national honor society for political science students. Its website can be found here: <http://www.apsanet.org/~psa/>

The criteria for induction into the Penn State Behrend chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha will be as follows:

1. Behrend political science major
2. Junior or Senior status (5th semester or higher)

3. Completed at least 10 credits in PL SC courses
4. Completed at least one 400-level course
5. At least one full year at Penn State
6. Minimum overall GPA of 3.3
7. Minimum GPA in all PL SC courses of 3.3

Eligible students have been notified with an invitation to become a charter member of Behrend's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. An induction ceremony will be scheduled in April.

5. SPRING BREAK IN WASHINGTON

Nineteen Penn State Behrend students are preparing to spend Spring Break in Washington as part of the PL SC 177 course. They will be joined by Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of political science, Dr. Dawn Blasko, associate professor of psychology, her husband and Behrend alumnus Michael Drabik, Behrend political science alumna and Erie attorney Barbara Welton, and two Ryerson University political science students from Toronto, who have taken a course with Behrend students on the Ryerson campus.

The trip will include:

Tours of the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms, the US Capitol, and the Library of Congress

Meetings with Representative Mike Kelly, Senator Pat Toomey, a legislative correspondent for Senator Bob Casey, and former Congressman Phil English

Briefings at the Canadian, Romanian, and Indonesian Embassies

Briefings at the World Bank and Organization of American States headquarters

Meetings at the Department of Justice, a top Democratic consulting firm, and a top public relations firm with alumni who work there

Meetings with two advocacy groups

Lecture in the US Supreme Court chamber

Visit and tour of C-SPAN with Steve Scully, senior executive producer and native of Erie

Visit to the House and Senate Galleries

Visits to all the major monuments and memorials of Washington

Visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the National Archives, Ford's Theatre, the Ronald Reagan Building, and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts

During free times in the evening and on weekends, group members will be able to visit the Smithsonian and other museums, or go to concerts, shopping, restaurants, or NHL or NBA games.

6. LAW SCHOOL SPEAKER SERIES

The Political Science Society is organizing a series of speakers from Law School admissions offices this semester. Each speaker will discuss what prospective law school applicants should know about the law school admissions process in general and about how to prepare successful applications. All interested students are invited to each event. Pizza and refreshments will be available.

Wednesday, March 2 - 6 PM, Reed 150 - a representative from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Monday, March 21 - 6 PM, room to be announced (probably Reed 150), a representative from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law

For more details about the events, contact PSS President Adam Fracassi at als5589@psu.edu.

7. APRIL SPEAKER EVENT ABOUT LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Dr. Teresa Bergman, Associate Professor of Communication at the University of the Pacific, in Stockton, CA, will be lecturing on "Chasing Patriotism: The Lincoln Memorial's Lessons in Symbolism" on Friday, April 15, 12:30-1:30 PM in the Smith Chapel. The event will be part of that weekend's annual Penn State Behrend Gender Conference and will be co-sponsored by the political science program.

8. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Dr. Christopher Cook presented a paper on the use of Hollywood films in an African Politics class at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference this month.

Dr. John King Gamble has been named chair of the International Law Association's new Teaching of International Law Interest Group.

The ILA was founded in Brussels in 1873 to study, clarify and develop public and private international law, and to further understanding for and respect of international law. The 3,700-member organization, now headquartered in London, has consultative status for a number of specialized agencies within the United Nations.

For the past ten years, Dr. Gamble has served as rapporteur, or vice chair, of the ILA's Committee on the Teaching of International Law. He is a past vice president of the American Society of International Law, the ILA's U.S. branch organization.

Dr. Robert Speel was interviewed by the Erie Times-News earlier this month for an article about the use of social networks in politics. On Presidents Day, the Erie Times-News included a front page feature with five questions and answers from Dr. Speel about American presidents. That feature can be found here:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011302219976>

On February 22, the Harrisburg Patriot-News printed a column by Dr. Speel about a proposal for school vouchers in Pennsylvania. That column can be found here:

http://www.pennlive.com/editorials/index.ssf/2011/02/education_vouchers_would_viola.htm
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