

**NOVEMBER 2011 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER
PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

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1. NEW LEGAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Starting next semester, Penn State Behrend will be offering a Legal Studies certificate program.

The Legal Studies certificate is intended for students who want to learn about some of the cases and legal processes they will study in law school. It is also intended for students who might wish to work as legal assistants or paralegals and wish to get some background in law and legal processes without attending law school.

The certificate requires that students take three political science courses (nine credits) about law or the legal process and two more political science courses (six credits) in which court cases or legal processes are a significant component of course materials.

This certificate is for students who are interested in legal careers. Students who are interested in criminal justice careers, such as police officers, probation or parole officers, correctional officers, border patrol, security officials, or work with delinquents should consider Penn State Behrend's Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy certificate as an alternative.

Completion of certificates gets noted on Penn State transcripts. Students who have completed certificate requirements must turn in a form available at the Registrar's office or on the Registrar's website in order to get that completion noted on transcripts.

Certificate Requirements:

Behrend Legal Studies (LEGST) certificate

LEGST (15 credits)

Take 9 credits in core courses from a program-approved list:

PL SC 471 - American Constitutional Law
PL SC 472 - The American Legal Process
PL SC 473 - American Judicial Behavior
PL SC 487 - International Law and Organizations

Take 6 credits in supplementary courses from a program approved list*:

PL SC 110 - Rights in America
PL SC 123 - Ethnic and Racial Politics
PL SC 480W - Congress and the Presidency
PL SC 482 - American State and Urban Politics
PL SC 197A - Organized Crime, Law, and Politics
PL SC 419 - The Bureaucratic State

*Students can also take 12 credits from the core courses and 3 credits from the list of supplementary courses

Students who have already taken some of the courses listed above must take at least one course starting next semester in order to be eligible to get the Legal Studies certificate. Certificates will not be awarded to students who took all 15 required credits in the past.

The next core course will be offered in Fall 2012, when PL SC 472 is tentatively scheduled.

Students who want advice about law school should contact the College's pre-law advisor, Dr. John Gamble.

Students with specific questions about the Legal Studies certificate can contact certificate coordinator Dr. Robert Speel.

2. NEW SPANISH MINOR AT BEHREND

Starting next year, Penn State Behrend will be offering courses to allow students to complete the university's Spanish minor. The requirements for the minor can be found here:

<http://bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/minors.cfm?letter=S&program=spanmin.htm>

Students with questions about the Spanish minor should contact Dr. Juan Fernandez Jimenez

3. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Earlier this week, **Dr. Kilic Kanat** moderated a panel titled "The Future of Syria: Political Turmoil and Prospects of Democracy," at the Foundation for Political, Economic, and Social Research (the SETA Foundation, using the Turkish acronym), in Washington DC. Dr. Kanat also published a full-page op-ed column last month titled "The New US Strategy in Asia and Its Impacts on Turkish Foreign Policy," in the daily Zaman newspaper, which has the highest circulation of any newspaper in Turkey.

Earlier this month, **Dr. Zachary Irwin** attended the annual meeting for the Advancement of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Washington DC. where he presented a paper titled "Serbian Politics Since Milosevic" on a panel called "Serbia Since Milosevic." His paper concerned the course of Serbian political life after the defeat of Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. The paper was part of a panel that included discussion of the media in Serbia and the impact of the war crimes tribunal on the country's political life. The panel was organized by Dr. Sabrina Ramet of the National Norwegian Technical University in Trondheim. About 50 members of the audience listened to the panel in the Ambassador Ballroom of the Omni Shoreham in Washington DC. Two discussants, from Kings College, Cambridge, and from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, discussed the presentations. Dr. Irwin's presentation argued that Post- Milosevic Serbia shared certain features with defeated fascist regimes, and had evolved a "constructivist" political culture consistent with the requirements of democratic "conditionality" for joining the European Union. The paper used a theory of fascism developed by Barrington Moore in the 1960's.

Dr. Robert Roecklein attended the Northeast Political Science Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia earlier this month, where he presented a paper titled "Plato on Eleatic Atomism in the Parmenides," for a panel on Platonic Philosophy. The meeting took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia.

Dr. Robert Speel was interviewed and quoted in the *Erie Times-News* this month for two articles, one about same-sex marriage laws and proposed laws in New York and Pennsylvania, and one with a preview of the 2012 elections.

4. STUDENT GROUP NEWS

The Political Science Society will continue to meet Thursdays at 5 PM in Reed 114 for the last two weeks of the semester. They will be discussing an upcoming candy bar fundraiser and plans for next semester, including a law school admissions speaker event. For more details, contact President Adam Fracassi at als5589@psu.edu.

The College Republicans will hold its final meeting of the semester on Wednesday, December 7, at 6:30 PM in Bruno's near the television set in back. At this meeting, the group will determine meeting times and plans for next semester, including a possible debate with College Democrats and a t-shirt sale. For more details, contact President David Kazimierczak at dak5183@psu.edu.

For details about **The College Democrats**, contact President Ayodele Osibodu at aqo5025@psu.edu.

5. FILM AND DISCUSSION OF GERRYMANDERING AT MERCYHURST

The Center for Applied Politics Public Affairs Program will present a showing of the documentary "Gerrymandering" followed by a panel discussion with former U.S. Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper and Mercyhurst College professor Dr. Michael Federici. The film presents a nonpartisan exploration of the realities of congressional redistricting.

The event will take place Tuesday, December 6, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Taylor Little Theatre of Mercyhurst College. The event is free and open to the public. Both students and the public are invited to attend and participate in the follow-up discussion.

6. NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER AND COURSE IN TORONTO

The December newsletter and final newsletter of this semester will be sent out next week. That newsletter will contain details about next Summer's North American Politics course (PL SC 299/PL SC 499) about comparative politics and policies of Canada and the United States and Canadian-American relations, to be offered in downtown Toronto next May and June. The course is taught to Penn State students and Ryerson University students from Toronto in the same classroom to allow exchanges of ideas and viewpoints. Grants, donations, and scholarships subsidize much of the costs to students.