

SEPTEMBER 2011 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE

This newsletter gets sent monthly to all Behrend political science majors and minors, students who expressed interest in the political science major when applying to Penn State, all Behrend students who taken at least two political science courses, and to some Behrend political science alumni.

THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES:

- 1. Spring 2012 courses**
- 2. Spotlight on Spring courses**
- 3. Political science program welcomes new faculty member**
- 4. Career paths of Behrend political science alumni**
- 5. US Census finds that political science majors make high salaries**
- 6. Career booklets available for political science majors**
- 7. Student political group news**
- 8. Faculty in the news**
- 9. New Behrend certificate programs**
- 10. Forum on America after 9/11 to take place on campus on October 6**
- 11. Local Congressional offices seek interns**

1. Spring 2012 courses

Here is a tentative list of Political Science courses that will be offered at Penn State Behrend in Spring 2012. 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.

Spring 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 123 - Ethnic and Racial Politics (GS, US, IL, American, Comparative)

PL SC 155 - Understanding Tyranny (Theory and Practice)

PL SC 308H - Introduction to Political Research (Theory and Practice)

PL SC 419 - The Bureaucratic State (American, Theory and Practice)

PL SC 433 - Political Foundations of the Early American Republic (American, Theory and Practice)

PL SC 467 - International Relations of the Middle East (International)

PL SC 480W - Congress and the Presidency (W, American)

INTST 400 - Seminar in International Studies** (IL, Comparative, International)

*PL SC 001, PL SC 003 and PL SC 014 will each offer two separate sections in Spring 2012.

**INTST 400 can be used to fulfill requirements in the political science major or minor.

2. Spotlight on Spring courses

PL SC 308H - Introduction to Political Research - Introduction to conceptualization, research design, and measurement in political research. While knowledge of statistics is not required, this is an honors course that will move at a fast pace. In a nutshell, we shall ask "what can Political Science measure." To enroll in the course, students must be in an honors program or have a GPA > 3.5 or receive permission from Dr. Gamble.

PL SC 419 - The Bureaucratic State - Was there a time in American history when cocaine was legal and alcohol was illegal? How were drug laws created and enforced before there was a DEA? Did the FBI or the CIA come first? Do you know the story of how their first powerful leaders shaped the agencies? How were veterans treated before the Veterans Administration (VA) was established? What famous American military hero ordered veterans who were

storming the US Capitol building to be shot? The answers to these and many other interesting questions are answered and discussed in “The Bureaucratic State” (PL SC 419).

By focusing on agencies like the L.C.B. (Liquor Control Board), the class seeks to familiarize students with the modern American bureaucratic state, its history, and how it was developed. In tracking the unprecedented growth of the federal government in the twentieth century, and role of modern regulatory agencies, the course seeks to enable students to understand key concepts of public policy, and to provide an understanding of how public policy is shaped by, and implemented in, the bureaucratic state. Whether discussing large federal bureaucracies like the Department of State, or small, local agencies like the Erie County Board of Health, the course examines the various actors in the policy process, and the influence they have in the evaluation, development and implementation of public policy.

Upon completing the course, students are able to appreciate the huge network of federal, state and local bureaucracies, and recognize the crucial role that politics play in the modern bureaucratic state. By understanding the crucial role that bureaucracies play and in shaping public policy, and becoming familiar with major policy players, the course should provide a skill base for the student who wants to become a participant in the policy development process.

PL SC 433 - Political Foundations of the Early American Republic - Those guys with the big buckles on their shoes go to Philadelphia to start a new country. Do they get Fareed Zakaria's checklist right? Does Colbert have them on speed dial? Stay tuned for more. . .

PL SC 467 - International Relations of the Middle East - This course covers Middle Eastern politics since 1945 and emphasizes both the international and domestic circumstances that account for patterns in politics of the region. The first half of the course examines the changing international agenda in the Middle East, with a focus on US involvement in the region. This section of the course will also cover how regional policies are shaped by international and domestic variables. The second half of the course deals specifically with the current configuration of regional politics and major issues in international relations. Topics will include the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab Spring, Iran and nuclear power, the conflict in the Persian Gulf, the role of energy and economic issues, the foreign policies of major Middle Eastern players, non-state actors in the region and issues such as democratization and human rights.

INTST 400 - Seminar in International Studies - 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. What are the consequences for transportation and the environment as a result of subsidies for synthetic fuels? 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 and banking. Students should expect to write a short paper, two tests, and a final.

3. Political science program welcomes new faculty member

The Penn State Behrend political science program welcomes Dr. Kilic Kanat as its newest faculty member. Dr. Kanat received his doctorate from Syracuse University in 2011 with an area specialization in political leadership and foreign policy making. His teaching and research

interests include comparative foreign policy, leadership studies, foreign policy of Turkey and politics in the Middle East. In addition to Introduction to International Relations, he will teach International Relations of the Middle East and Politics of East Asia.

4. Career paths of Behrend political science alumni

Every other year, the political science program does a study of the career paths of our alumni who completed political science degrees at Penn State Behrend. The most recent study was just completed this month, September 2011.

The first Penn State Erie student to graduate with a political science major completed his degree in 1977. Of 372 Behrend students to complete a Penn State degree with a political science major since then, we have been able to determine the current or most recent careers of 282 of those alumni.

Most of those alumni have pursued careers in one of four general fields, with 25% pursuing legal careers, 22% pursuing professional careers in business, 19% with careers in government service, and 15% pursuing careers in education.

It should be noted that seven alumni who work as government attorneys are counted in two of those previous categories.

The 71 alumni who are pursuing legal careers include 43 private attorneys for large and small law firms, seven attorneys for government agencies, eleven students currently in law school, and nine working as legal assistants or paralegals. The private attorneys work at law firms all over the country including in Erie, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, Dallas, and San Diego,

The government attorneys work for:

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
JAG Corps, US Navy
US Customs and Border Protection
US Department of Labor
New York City Department of Education
Erie County (PA) District Attorney's Office

Of the 61 alumni with professional careers in business, nine work in insurance, eight work in sales administration, eight own small businesses, seven work in banking, six work in finance, and five work in marketing or advertising.

Among the positions held by Behrend political science alumni in business fields are:

Commercial Underwriter, Erie Insurance
Strategic Analyst, Bank of America
International Policy Strategy Manager, Toyota Motors, Washington DC

Account Executive, Edelman Public Relations, Washington DC
Securities Trader and Analyst, San Diego
Senior Loan Officer, H&R Block

The 53 alumni working in government service include eight serving as officers in all branches of the US military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard), 22 working for other federal government agencies, 14 who work for state government agencies, and nine who work for local government agencies. Among those working for various government agencies are four alumni working as police officers.

Among the government positions held by Behrend political science alumni are:

Senior Inspector, United States Marshals Service
State Trooper, Pennsylvania State Police
Revenue Officer, Internal Revenue Service
CIA Agent
Legislative Assistant, State Senator Jane Earll
Federal Law Enforcement Officer, US Capitol Police
US Border Patrol
Program Analyst, US Department of Justice Inspector General
Deputy Director of Community Development, Commonwealth of Virginia
Supervisory Evaluator, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

Of the 41 students pursuing careers in education, eleven are secondary school social studies teachers, ten are college administrators, two are college professors, and nine are currently in graduate school, mostly with an intent to teach in the future.

Some of the education positions held by our alumni include:

Social Studies Teacher, Millcreek Township
Social Studies Teacher, City of Erie
Director of Multicultural Affairs, private school in North Carolina
Professor of Public Administration and Public Policy, Florida State University
Internship Advisor, American University, Washington DC
Student Affairs Officer, UCLA
Social Studies Teacher, Manassas Park, VA
Assistant Professor of Marketing, Clemson University

Some alumni have pursued careers in fields other than business, law, government, or education. This includes eight alumni who work in the entertainment industry, seven alumni who work for non-profit social service agencies, six alumni who work as policy consultants, and five alumni who work in the information technology industry.

The Behrend political science alumni in these other fields are working at jobs such as:

Producer, San Diego PBS radio station

Public Sector Management Consultant, Australia
Community Impact Manager, United Way of Erie County
Manager, Minor League Baseball Team, Texas
Program Assistant, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC
Political Organizer, Service Employees International Union, Maryland
Senior Games Manager, Marvel Entertainment

Across all fields, at least twenty recent alumni are currently in graduate or law school.

Recent alumni in the past ten years are currently attending or completed degrees at graduate or law schools at the following institutions:

University of Pennsylvania
The Johns Hopkins University
Cornell University
University of Buffalo
Syracuse University
Duquesne University
University of Pittsburgh
The George Washington University
University of Maryland
Case Western Reserve University
Michigan State University
University of Connecticut
The Ohio State University
Georgetown University
Louisiana State University
Fudan University (Shanghai, China)
University of Windsor (Ontario, Canada)
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland)

5. US Census finds that political science majors make high salaries

In 2009, the United States Census surveyed over a half million Americans with bachelor's degrees to ask about their majors and their salaries. In May 2011, three Georgetown University researchers analyzed the census results and issued a report that can be found here:

<http://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth/>

According to the Census data, among Americans who achieved an undergraduate degree but not a graduate degree, political science majors are among the highest paid of all liberal arts/H&SS majors, and political science majors earn as much as management and marketing majors. Among Americans who obtained graduate degrees, undergraduate political science majors (many

of whom go to law school) are among the highest paid of all the liberal arts/H&SS and business majors.

For more information about how to interpret the Census data, or for more details about the Census data, or if you need to convince parents or relatives of the value of a political science major, please talk to any political science professor.

6. Career booklets available for political science majors

The political science program has three free publications available, all of them lengthy booklets filled with substantive information. Students can pick up any of the booklets by stopping by the office of Dr. Speel (159 Kochel) or by emailing him to ask him to leave a booklet somewhere else where it can be picked up.

The free booklets include:

Careers and the Study of Political Science

Studying in Washington: A Guide to Academic Internships in the Nation's Capital

Earning a PhD in Political Science

7. Student political group news

The Political Science Society meets every Thursday at 5 PM in Reed 114. The PSS is currently working on organizing a Harborcreek candidate forum to occur in October. Students who live on campus or in University Gates and register to vote locally are all eligible to vote in Harborcreek local elections in November. The PSS is also organizing events to help students learn how to apply to law school and to invite law school admissions officers from regional law schools to speak to Behrend students. For more details, contact President Adam Fracassi at als5589@psu.edu.

The College Republicans meet every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Bruno's near the television set in back. On October 5, the regional coordinator for Ron Paul's presidential campaign will be attending the meeting to discuss volunteer efforts for Ron Paul and to distribute Ron Paul campaign souvenirs. The group has also created a Facebook page for Penn State Erie College Republicans. For more details, contact President David Kazimierczak at dak5183@psu.edu

The College Democrats meet every Tuesday at 6:00 PM in Reed 112. The group will be working with the College Republicans to sponsor voter registration tables on campus during the first week in October. College Democrats will also be participating in the Cardboard City event on campus on October 24. For more details, contact President Ayodele Osibodu at aqo5025@psu.edu.

8. Faculty in the news

Donald Wagner, a local attorney and Penn State Behrend political science alumnus who teaches one course for us each semester, was recently involved in a prominent local case. Attorney Wagner is a solicitor for the Erie Zoning Board. The Zoning Board was taken to court by an attorney for three local tattoo parlors who were told that they were operating in sections of the city not zoned for such businesses and would therefore be fined if they did not cease operations.

The attorney for the tattoo parlors argued that it was a free speech issue and cited a recent federal appellate court decision from California as a precedent. Attorney Wagner successfully argued that the conditions in Erie differed from those in the California case, particularly since Erie does allow tattoo parlors in some parts of the city. In addition, the Erie City Council responded by rezoning another section of the city to allow tattoo parlors

Dr. Zachary Irwin will attend the annual meeting for the Advancement of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Washington DC on November 17-19, where he will present a paper titled "Serbian Politics Since Milosevic" on a panel called "Serbia Since Milosevic."

Dr. Robert Speel had his column that recommended abolishing the electoral college published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Erie Times-News, and the Centre Daily Times (State College, PA). The column can be found online here: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11262/1175733-109-0.stm>.

Dr. John Gamble is recruiting students to work on his Comprehensive Statistical Database of Multilateral Treaties (CSDMT). Over the years, this project has provided excellent research experience, especially for students wishing to attend law school or graduate school. Contact Dr. Gamble (jkq2@psu.edu) for more information.

9. New Behrend certificate programs

Earlier this year, Penn State Behrend approved new certificate programs in **Asian Studies** and in **Middle Eastern Studies**. These join certificates that already existed in **Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy**, and in **Global Awareness**.

Certificates require students to complete 12-15 credits in a concentration of courses in a given area. Completion of certificates gets noted on Penn State transcripts.

PL SC 467 next semester can be used to complete certificate requirements in Middle Eastern Studies. PL SC 123 and PL SC 419 next semester can be used to complete some of the certificate requirements in Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy. And any course about politics and government outside the United States can be used to complete the Global Awareness certificate.

For more details about any of the certificate programs, visit the H&SS School website at: <http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/>

Click the academic programs link, and look for the certificate programs.

10. Forum on America after 9/11 to take place on campus on October 6

On October 6, the Protestant Campus Ministry will present a forum in Smith Chapel at 7:00 PM for the campus and the wider community titled "**From out of the Dust: America After 9/11.**" The forum will include students and faculty and clergy. Panel participants include John Rossi, associate professor of history, and Kilic Kanat, assistant professor of political science, as well as Rev Timothy Solomon of Emmanuel United Church of Christ in Meadville. Students are especially urged to bring questions and comments.

11. Local Congressional offices seek interns

US Representative Mike Kelly, US Senator Bob Casey, and US Senator Pat Toomey all welcome applications for internships in their Erie offices. Before applying for an internship or before seeking academic credit, you must read the internship programs and policies found at: [http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Student Internships.htm](http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Student_Internships.htm)

To contact one of the congressional offices about an internship application, contact Dr. Robert Speel at rws15@psu.edu. In your email, specify which congressional office interests you (do not list all three).