

**FEBRUARY 2010 POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER  
PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

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**1. FALL 2010 COURSES**

Here is a planned list of Political Science courses that will be offered at Penn State Behrend in Fall 2010.

Remember that all political science majors must take PL SC 001, PL SC 003, PL SC 014, and PL SC 017 (or PL SC 017W), 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 2010 Courses**

- PL SC 001 - Introduction to American National Government\* (GS)
- PL SC 003 - Introduction to Comparative Politics\* (GS, IL)
- PL SC 007 - Contemporary Political Ideologies (GS, Theory and Practice)
- PL SC 014 - International Relations\* (GS, IL)
- PL SC 017W - Introduction to Political Theory (GS)
- PL SC 020 - Comparative Politics of Western Europe (GS, IL, Comparative)
- PL SC 130 - American Political Campaigns and Elections (GS, US, American)
- PL SC 132 - Politics of International Intolerance (GS, IL, Other Cultures, Comparative, International)

PL SC 431 - Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories (Theory and Practice)

PL SC 442 - American Foreign Policy (American, International)

PL SC 471 - American Constitutional Law (American, Theory and Practice)

PL SC 489 - Public Administration (Theory and Practice)

\*PL SC 001 will offer four separate sections, PL SC 003 will offer three separate sections, including an honors section, and PL SC 014 will offer two separate sections in Fall 2010.

## **2. NEW PL SC FACULTY MEMBERS**

The Political Science program is pleased to announce that we will have two new lecturers teaching courses for us in Fall 2010. We expect that attorneys Don Wagner and Melissa Hayes Shirey, who are teaching for us in Spring 2010, will both be teaching for us again in Spring 2011.

Judge John Trucilla of the Erie County Court of Common Pleas will be teaching PL SC 471 (American Constitutional Law) for us in Fall 2010. Judge Trucilla, who has served in his position since 2002, received his undergraduate degree in political science and his law degree from the University of Dayton. He is a former Erie County Assistant District Attorney, and during the 1990s, he served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania in the US Department of Justice.

American Constitutional Law is an ideal course for students interested in constitutional issues or who are considering law school. Cases involving first amendment rights, due process rights for accused criminals or terrorists, separation of powers between Congress and the president, and the right to privacy will be among those discussed in the class.

Sheila Sterrett, Director of Government Affairs for the Northwest Pennsylvania Manufacturer and Business Association, will be teaching PL SC 489 (Public Administration) for us in Fall 2010. Ms. Sterrett received her Master's of Public Administration degree from Gannon University, is a registered lobbyist for business concerns in Harrisburg and Washington, and is a former legislative assistant for Pennsylvania State Representative Karl Boyes.

Public Administration is an ideal course for students who wish to learn more about the management of government agencies or are seeking a career in public service. Some of the administrative decision case studies that will be discussed in the course involve a 50-year coal mine fire in Pennsylvania, the decision to go to war in Iraq, the space shuttle Columbia disaster, and a Philadelphia mayor dropping a bomb in a residential neighborhood.

## **3. NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

The Political Science Program is also pleased to announce two new members for its Political Science Advisory Board. The Advisory Board formed in 2009 and consists of prominent community leaders and alumni. The Board meets twice a year with faculty and current students to discuss community support

and publicity for political science program teaching and research initiatives and events, career and internship opportunities for political science majors, and public engagement for faculty members and students with the community.

Beth Frederick graduated with a B.A. degree, with Honors and High Distinction, in Political Science from Penn State Behrend in 2002. As a Penn State Behrend undergraduate student, Beth was a Schreyer Scholar and served as vice president of the Young Democrats. In 2007, Beth earned a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School. Beth has worked as a law clerk for the Vermont Department of Labor, Workers' Compensation Division, the Chittenden County State's Attorneys' Office, and for the Hon. John J. Trucilla. Beth is also a trained mediator and former Associate Director of Development for Penn State Behrend. Beth currently resides in Punxsutawney, PA with her husband Troy and their son.

Matt Wiertel received his B.S. degree in Management with minors in Political Science and Economics at Penn State Behrend. He also completed a M.B.A. degree at Penn State Behrend and currently is the Director of Business Development at Velocity Network. In his role at Velocity Network, Matt works on business planning, acquisitions, and technology projects to grow the company's information technology and Internet service offerings in Northwest Pennsylvania. Matt also serves as the president of Young Erie Professionals and is a member of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership's Board of Directors.

Ms. Frederick and Mr. Wiertel join previous Board members Judge John Falcone, Judge John Trucilla, Attorney Barbara Welton, Attorney Troy Frederick, Sr. Joan Chittister, and Christopher Mong. For information about them, see our website at:

<http://www.pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Advisory%20Board.htm>.

#### **4. DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR SUMMER COURSE IN TORONTO IS MARCH 1**

PL SC 299/499 - North American Politics, 3 credits - will take place in downtown Toronto between May 9 and June 5, 2010. The class is an official Penn State Education Abroad course that can be used to fulfill requirements for the political science major or minor at any PSU campus, the international politics major at UP (PL SC 499 only), and requirements in some majors for an Education Abroad component, including the international business major at Penn State Behrend. The course may also meet requirements in other majors and minors.

The course will be co-taught by Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of political science at Penn State Behrend, and by a Ryerson University professor. The class will take place on the Ryerson campus in downtown Toronto and will include students from Penn State and Ryerson in the classroom together. American students from Penn State and Canadian students from Ryerson will participate together in class discussions and on class excursions and will take the same exams. Penn State students will be graded by Dr. Speel.

The course focuses on the comparative politics of the United States and Canada and on international

relations between the two countries. Among the topics to be discussed will be a comparison of the development of separate political cultures in the two countries, comparisons of government institutions, election systems, federalism, and regionalism, and comparisons of each country's policy approaches toward the economy, health care, gun control, same-sex marriage, language, free speech, abortion, and the role of religion in public life. Issues important in international relations between the two countries will also be discussed - this includes trade, border security, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and control of the Arctic. Class excursions will visit the Ontario Parliament Buildings and Fort York, site of an important battle in the War of 1812.

The grade for PL SC 299 will be determined by exams and class participation. An additional research paper will be assigned for students who enroll in PL SC 499 - the paper will be due a few weeks after the course is over.

The class begins the week after final exams at Penn State Behrend, and the class ends the week before Behrend's seven-week summer session begins, so students who wish to take any other summer classes on the Behrend campus will be able to do so. The class will meet four days a week, Mondays-Thursdays, between 2-5 PM for fourteen days over four weeks, with a final exam on Friday, June 4. Students will have the option of staying in the Ryerson University residence an additional few days until June 8. Weekends will be free for students to explore Toronto on their own.

For details about the Ryerson University residence, how to apply for the program, and costs, see previous emails or the website at:

<http://www.pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Torontocourse.htm>

## **5. CAREER FAIR ON CAMPUS ON APRIL 8 FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS**

On April 8, from 11 AM until 3 PM, in the Reed Building, there will be a Government, Non-Profit, and Creative Careers Jobs Fair, or "Jobs for the Rest of Us." This jobs fair is specifically intended for students with majors such as political science. It is being organized by the Academic and Career Planning Center, the political science program, the Political Science Society student organization, and faculty members from a few other majors.

We expect several dozen employers from the government and non-profit sector to be present to offer information about careers to political science majors and minors and others - some of the employers may offer interviews. There will also be seminars on how to apply for federal government jobs, how to apply for state and local government jobs, and careers in health care and in social services. Approximately 18 percent of Behrend political science alumni work in public service positions for federal, state, or local government offices. Another 14 percent of alumni work as political or policy consultants, in media careers, in health care careers, or for non-profit agencies.

So far representatives of the Social Security Administration, the US Mine Safety and Health Administration, the US Department of Labor, the Erie Veterans Administration Medical Center, the

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Erie County Department of Human Services, the American Red Cross, the Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania, and many other local employers have confirmed that they will be attending. Look for more confirmed employer representatives in next month's newsletter.

## **6. FACULTY IN THE NEWS**

February 2010 has been a big month for the city of New Orleans. The month began with a celebration of the Saints' victory in the Super Bowl. Then came the annual Mardi Gras celebrations. And last week, the city hosted this year's annual International Studies Association conference. Dr. John Gamble, distinguished professor of political science and international law, planned, organized and participated in a roundtable discussion at the conference entitled "Empirical Approaches to International Law: Common Understandings?" Dr. Gamble discussed some of his research based on the Comprehensive Statistical Database of Multilateral Treaties that he has compiled.

Dr. Robert Speel, associate professor of political science, has received Penn State University's Undergraduate Program Leadership Award for 2010. He will be attending a Faculty/Staff Awards ceremony on April 12 in University Park to receive his award from President Spanier. Dr. Speel was also interviewed for an article in the February 21 *Erie Times-News* about this year's US Senate race in Pennsylvania.

## **7. STUDENT GROUP NEWS**

The next meeting of the Political Science Society will be 7 PM, Wednesday, February 24, in Reed 112. The group will discuss the Government/Non-Profit/Creative Career Fair with the ACPC, Capital Day, Petitions for the High-Speed Rail, and Aquarius Drive. They'll make some decisions about what projects to focus on and how to get people involved in whatever way they are able. For more information, contact PSS President Zack Goncz at zag102@psu.edu.

## **8. YORK MAYOR TO SPEAK IN ERIE ON MARCH 4**

The Nonprofit Partnership and United Way of Erie County invite you to join them for "Building Community Through Diversity: Leadership for Change in Pennsylvania's Challenged Cities," with honored guest Kim Bracey, Mayor of York, PA. Mayor Bracey served as Director of Community Development and in other community leadership roles before being elected as York's first African-American mayor. The event will take place on Thursday, March 4, 2010, 5-7 PM, at the Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. Admission is free - complimentary appetizers will be served.

Behrend students are invited, but please RSVP if you plan to attend at 454-8800 or tnp@thenonprofitpartnership.org.

## **9. SUMMER COURSE IN HARRISBURG ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

The Penn State Harrisburg campus is offering a Summer course (May 17 - June 25) on Environmental Policy (PUBPL 481). The course is taught by Nadezda Ivanova, originally from Russia, who received her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and will soon receive her PhD in public administration. The course will explore key areas of environmental policy, such as water and land resource monitoring, disposal of toxic and hazardous waste, climate change policies, and energy policies.

All PUBPL (Public Policy) courses taken at Penn State Harrisburg can be used to meet requirements toward the political science major or minor at Penn State Behrend.

#### **10. GRE PREPARATION SESSIONS**

The Learning Resource Center is offering weekly preparation sessions for the GRE exam. The GRE prep seminars are Mondays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. in the Kochel Studio, Room 69. On Wednesday, March 17, and Wednesday, March 31, the sessions must be held in Nick 168 because the Studio is not available. Sessions held in the same week are identical, so students can come to just one.