

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

This newsletter goes to all Penn State Behrend students who are political science majors or minors or expressed interest in the political science major when applying to Penn State or have taken at least two political science courses.

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### **1. SPRING 2011 COURSES**

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

### **Spring 2011 Courses**

- PL SC 001 - Introduction to American National Government\* (GS)
- PL SC 002 - American Public Policy (American, Theory and Practice)

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 110 - Rights in America (GS, US, American, Theory and Practice)  
PL SC 177 - Politics and Government in Washington DC\*\* (GS, American, International)  
PL SC 197B - Organized Crime, Law, and Politics (American, Theory and Practice)  
PL SC 428 - Gender and Politics (US, IL, Theory and Practice)  
PL SC 432 - Modern and Contemporary Political Theories (Theory and Practice)  
PL SC 454 - Government and Politics of Africa (IL, Other Cultures, Comparative)  
PL SC 484W - The Foreign Policy of Soviet Successor States (W, International)  
PL SC 487 - International Law and Organizations (International, Theory and Practice)  
INTST 400 - Seminar in International Studies\*\*\* (IL, International)

\*PL SC 001 will offer three separate sections, including an honors section, and PL SC 003 and PL SC 014 will each offer two separate sections in Spring 2011.

\*\*PL SC 177 will offer three-credit and one-credit versions. The course includes a Spring Break trip to Washington DC.

\*\*\*INTST 400 will be taught by Dr. Elena Corbett, assistant professor of history, in Spring 2011. INTST 400 can be used to fulfill requirements in the political science major or minor.

## **2. STUDENT GROUP NEWS**

Penn State Behrend has three politically oriented student organizations - the Political Science Society, College Democrats, and College Republicans.

The Political Science Society sponsors non-partisan political events on campus and programs oriented toward political science majors and minors. This year, the Political Science Society will be involved with No Labels, a national organization that is attempting to bridge the gaps between Democrats and Republicans and liberals and conservatives. They will be electing a fundraising chair at an upcoming meeting and organizing a Pulakos candy fundraiser. They will be bringing speakers on political subjects to campus and organizing a career-oriented event to have a speaker discuss how to prepare for law and graduate school applications and how to prepare resumes. In the past, the group has sponsored Harborcreek candidate forums and a Constitution Day forum.

College Democrats will be hosting candidates for office on campus and working on local campaigns. In the recent past, College Democrats have sponsored visits to campus by President Obama, former President Clinton, and Representative Kathy Dahlkemper.

College Republicans will also be hosting candidates for office on campus and working on local campaigns. In the recent past, College Republicans have sponsored visits to campus by Sarah Palin and former Representative Phil English.

All three groups plan to be sponsoring a voter registration drive on campus in the next two weeks.

The Political Science Society meets every Monday evening at 6 PM, usually in Reed 150. For details contact President Adam Fracassi at [als5589@psu.edu](mailto:als5589@psu.edu).

College Democrats meets every Wednesday at 5 PM. This upcoming weekend, they plan to work for the Dahlkemper campaign. For details, contact President Samantha Wilcox at [skw5062@psu.edu](mailto:skw5062@psu.edu).

College Republicans has been working for the Kelly campaign for House of Representatives. For details and to find out about meetings, contact President Sal Messina at [sum209@psu.edu](mailto:sum209@psu.edu).

### 3. FACULTY IN THE NEWS

The Behrend political science faculty had a busy Summer.

**Dr. Christopher Cook** published two articles:

Cook, Christopher R. "The Power of International Institutions: An Examination of U.S. Policy towards East Timor and Kosovo in 1999." *Journal of Politics and Law* 3.2 (2010).

Cook, Christopher R. "East Timor and the Power of International Commitments in the American Decision Making Process." *Asian Pacific: Perspectives* 9.2 (2010): 43–54.

<[http://www.pacificrim.usfca.edu/research/perspectives/app\\_v9n2\\_cook.pdf](http://www.pacificrim.usfca.edu/research/perspectives/app_v9n2_cook.pdf)>.

He had a third article accepted for publication:

(Forthcoming) Cook, Christopher R. "American Policymaking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo 1996–1999: the Anti-Kabila Bias and the Crushing Neutrality of the Lusaka Accords." *African and Asian Studies* 10.2 (2011).

In addition, Dr. Cook has been named the Associate Editor for online content at the African Peace and Conflict Network.

**Dr. John Gamble** attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Law Association (ILA) held in Den Haag, The Netherlands, August 15-19, 2010. The ILA organizes itself by Committees. Dr. Gamble, who has been rapporteur of the Committee on the Teaching of International Law since it was founded in 1999, wrote the report presented at the conference. The chair of the committee, Prof. Neville Botha (University of South Africa), wrote the following:

*"The one individual who has remained totally dedicated to the work undertaken by the Committee from its inception, and who has throughout been a driving force, is Professor John King Gamble, the Committee rapporteur, to whom I, as Chair, together with the Committee owe a deep and sincere debt of gratitude."*

Dr. Gamble's Comprehensive Statistical Database of Multilateral Treaties (CSDMT) is up and running for this year and continues to attract some of Behrend's best students. There always is room for more student researchers, but it is demanding, detail-oriented work.

**Dr. Zachary Irwin** spent several weeks in May and June holding interviews with academics and government officials in Skopje, the capital of the Republic of Macedonia. The interviews concerned the present governing coalition and the attitude of Macedonia's large Albanian minority. The interviews are part of research on Macedonia's evolving party system that is supported by a grant from the H&SS School's Research and Scholarly Activities Fund. The purpose of the research is to complete a book on political change in Macedonia since 1990.

**Dr. Robert Roecklein** will have his book, *Plato versus Parmenides: The Debate Over Coming-Into-Being in Greek Philosophy*, published by Lexington books in late November

**Dr. Robert Speel** was interviewed and quoted seven times for articles in the Erie Times-News on the campaigns for governor and US Senate in Pennsylvania, the US House race in the third district, the appointment of a local US government attorney, and Erie garbage fees. He was also interviewed and quoted for an article about the US Senate race in Pennsylvania for the Greenwire news service and for an article about the Pennsylvania governor's race for the Bloomberg news service.

#### **4. NEW GLOBAL AWARENESS CERTIFICATE**

Behrend College has approved a new Global Awareness Certificate program. Students will have completion of the certificate noted on their Penn State transcripts. The certificate requires students to take 12 credits from the following courses:

PL SC 003 or PL SC 014 (3 credits)

HIST 011 (3 credits)

Two additional courses whose foci are outside the USA (6 credits)

Credits applied toward a major can also be applied toward the certificate.

For more details about the certificate, please see Dr. Gamble.

#### **5. OTHER CERTIFICATES AND MINORS OF INTEREST TO POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS**

**International Studies Minor** - expanded version of the Global Awareness certificate, requires PL SC 014, INTST 400, third semester proficiency in a foreign language and 12 other credits from a list of approved courses. For more details, go to: <http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/is/index.htm>. Political science majors can apply PL SC courses toward the minor.

**Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate** - requires 15 credits, with 3 credits in each of 5 categories, from a list of approved courses in political science, psychology, and sociology. Political science majors can apply up to 9 credits in PL SC toward the certificate. Certificate completion gets noted on Penn State transcripts and can demonstrate a concentration of courses

related to the field of criminal justice. For more details, go to: <http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/crimbc/index.htm>.

**Civic and Community Engagement Minor** - requires CIVCM 211 and 15 additional credits, of which 9 credits can be in your major field. For more details, go to: <http://psbehrend.psu.edu/intercollege-minors/civic-community-engagement-minor>.

## 6. POLITICAL INTERNSHIPS

All local congressional offices and state legislative offices accept interns, as do many current campaigns, the governor's regional office, the mayor's office, and the Erie city police. In recent months, Senator Casey's office in downtown Erie and the Sestak for Senate campaign in Erie have contacted us to seek Penn State Behrend student interns. For information about these internships or about how to seek other internships, you can contact Dr. Speel.

Internships can be pursued for academic credits or just for the valuable experience they offer. It is too late at this point to seek academic credits for an internship this semester (though it is still possible to gain the valuable experience from an intern position). To find out what is involved with obtaining academic credits for an internship in a future semester, read this website: [http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Student\\_Internships.htm](http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/Student_Internships.htm).

## 7. UPCOMING SPEAKER EVENTS

**Monday, October 11, 7 PM, Reed 117** - Dr. Sabrina Ramet, professor of political science at Norwegian University of Science and Technology will speak on, "Italian Fascism and German Nazism Compared, with Special Attention to Cultural Policy," sponsored by the political science and history programs, the international studies minor, and the Political Science Society

**Wednesday, October 27, 7:30 PM, Kochel 059** - Attorney Joe Conti, former Erie County District Attorney, will speak about the jury selection process from both the prosecution and defense perspective, sponsored by the Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy Certificate Program

## 8. OCTOBER CAREER FAIR ON CAMPUS

Penn State Behrend will hold its annual Career and Internship Fair on Wednesday, October 6, noon - 4 PM in the Junker Center.

Details can be found here:

<http://psbehrend.psu.edu/Academics/academic-services/acpc/acpc-events-1/career-fairs-and-workshops/career-and-internship-fair-2010-2>

The Fall fair tends to attract a lot of employers who are interested in business and engineering majors, but several employers who will be at the fair have expressed interest in many types of majors. This includes government agencies such as the Erie City Police, the Social Security Administration, the US Department of Labor, the VA Medical Center, The Pennsylvania State

Civil Service Commission, and all branches of the military. Some business organizations at the fair also include political science majors among their students of interest.

One employer who will be present, Pax Christi, a Catholic peace organization headquartered in Erie, specified only political science majors as students of interest. For political science students interested in such a career, it is highly recommend that you attend the fair.

The week prior to the fair is Behrend Career Week, which will include some programs of specific interest to political science majors and minors, such as a session about applying for federal government jobs and a session about internships led by a public affairs specialist at the Social Security Administration.

### **BEHREND CAREER WEEK EVENTS**

<b>Applying for Federal Jobs</b> ~ Jessica Lakari, HR Specialist, Erie Veterans Administration	<b>9/27</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>	<b>Reed 114</b>
<b>The Recruiting Process From The Employer Side,</b> ~ Denise Fabian Corporate Recruiter I, Employment Department, Erie Insurance	<b>9/28</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>	<b>REDC 236</b>
<b>The Elevator Pitch: Your Career Fair WOW! Factor</b> ~ Doug McKinney, CPC is CEO of Exclusive Search, Inc. and has 25 years of experience in the Staffing and Employment industry	<b>9/29</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>	<b>REDC 236</b>
<b>What Employers Expect At Your First Internship</b> ~ John Johnston Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration	<b>9/30</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>	<b>Reed 150</b>
<b>ACPC Presentation, Interviewing and Career Fair Preparation</b>	<b>9/27</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>4:30-5:30</b>	<b>Hamm. 143</b>
	<b>9/28</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>4:00-5:00</b>	<b>REDC 176</b>
	<b>9/30</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<b>Nick 156</b>
<b>ACPC Presentation, Resumes and Nittany Lion Career Network</b>	<b>9/28</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<b>REDC 176</b>
	<b>9/29</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>4:30-5:30</b>	<b>REDC 176</b>
	<b>9/30</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>4:00-5:00</b>	<b>Hamm. 143</b>

The next Government, Non-Profit, and Creative Careers (GNCC) Fair, which will include a large number of employers of specific interest to political science majors and other humanities and social sciences majors, will be held on April 7, 2011. Details will be in upcoming newsletters.

### **9. 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. For those of you who were not here last year, here are the results from the last study, completed in September 2009:

The first Penn State Erie student to graduate with a political science major completed his degree in 1977. Of 328 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 245 of those alumni.

**Most of those alumni have pursued careers in one of four general fields, with 25% pursuing careers in business, 24% pursuing legal careers, 18% with careers in government service, and 14% pursuing careers in education.**

It should be noted that a small number of alumni, such as government attorneys, are counted in more than one of those previous categories.

Of the 62 alumni with careers in business, nine work in insurance, eight work in finance, six work in banking, six work in marketing or advertising, and six work in sales.

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

Commercial Underwriter, Erie Insurance  
Strategic Analyst, Bank of America  
International Policy Specialist, Toyota Motors, Washington DC  
Account Executive, Edelman Public Relations, Washington DC  
Securities Trader and Analyst, San Diego

The 60 alumni who are pursuing legal careers include 37 private attorneys for large and small law firms, seven attorneys for government agencies, two attorneys for non-profit agencies, nine students currently in law school, and five 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  
Ohio Attorney General's Office  
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

The 44 alumni working in government service include twelve serving as officers in all branches of the US military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard), eleven working for other federal government agencies, three who work for the Pennsylvania General Assembly, twelve who work for state government agencies, and six who work for local government agencies. Among those working for various government agencies are seven 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  
Deputy Secretary for Administration, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Legislative Assistant, State Senator Jane Earll  
Federal Law Enforcement Officer, US Capitol Police  
US Border Patrol  
Program Analyst, US Department of Justice Inspector General

Of the 35 students pursuing careers in education, twelve are secondary school social studies teachers, two are elementary school teachers, eleven are college administrators, two are college professors, five are currently pursuing PhDs, and three work in a variety of other educational settings.

**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, Kent State University

Some alumni have pursued careers in fields other than business, law, government, or education. This includes eleven alumni who work as political or policy consultants, ten alumni who work in some aspect of the media and publishing, eight alumni who work for non-profit agencies, and five alumni who work in the health care field

**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, Kentucky  
Research Associate, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC  
Political Organizer, Service Employees International Union, Maryland

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)

## **10. FREE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE TO 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*

## **11. POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM FACEBOOK PAGE**

The Penn State Behrend Political Science Program has a Facebook Page for current students, alumni, professors, and friends to keep in touch. It can be found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=136435296929>

Feel free to post a message or a notice of an upcoming event of interest to political science students.

## **12. DETAILS OF SPRING BREAK TRIP TO DC TO BE IN OCTOBER NEWSLETTER**

PL SC 177, to be offered in Spring 2011, includes a one-week Spring Break trip to Washington DC, where we meet members of Congress, agency officials, political party and interest group leaders, and diplomatic and international organization officials, and tour various government buildings. Full details about the trip and course will be in the October newsletter. To see

highlights from the last trip in 2009,

see: <http://behrend.psu.edu/academic/hss/degrees/polsc/WashingtonDCTrip2009.htm>.

### **13. VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

Pennsylvania voter registration forms can be downloaded and printed at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

Student groups may also soon be setting up voter registration tables around campus. College students have the constitutional right to register and vote at the campus or off-campus address where they are living on Election Day (November 2, 2010). Voting where you live on Election Day avoids missing a series of deadlines required to obtain absentee ballots. The deadline to register to vote or to change your address in Pennsylvania in time to vote in this year's election is October 4.