POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS
(2019 – 2020)

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Why Choose Political Science as a Major?

More than 75 years ago, Dr. Harold Lasswell, a prominent Political Science professor, wrote a fascinating book entitled *Politics: Who Gets What, When, How?* His book inspired other political scientists to ask another profoundly important question, namely: *Why?* Over the years, these questions have remained critically important. If you’re interested in exploring them in depth, then Political Science is the major for you.

Studying politics involves examining the making of both conflict and consensus; learning what the stakes are; explaining why some groups gain access to the debate while others are left out; and how society as a whole is affected by political actions and inactions. Studying politics enables you to understand how consensus is reached on difficult questions; what can upset that consensus; and how new public debates get generated. Investigating politics involves addressing vexing questions that confront people in countries all over the world these days. For example:

- Why are some governments stable and others unstable?
- How do formal government institutions and informal political resources affect the ability of leaders to govern effectively?
- What factors cause wars or contribute to a peaceful resolution of conflicts?
- How do public policies affect citizens’ lives and how can citizens affect those policies?
- In what ways do differences in the socio-economic characteristics of people, such as their race, religion, gender, ethnic background, income or education level, affect their political attitudes and behavior?
- What political factors facilitate or impede the realization of social justice and equality?
• And most important, who gets to decide who will decide these and other matters when conflicts over them arise?

The goal of the Political Science major is to equip you with analytical concepts, theories, relevant information, and tools for investigation that will enable you to develop your own answers to these questions and to other important questions that are likely to arise in the future.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
(Also see the worksheet at the end of this Handbook.)

The requirements for the major are designed to give you a broad introduction to the study of politics as well as the opportunity to gain depth in a subfield of particular interest to you. You get to choose one of three subfields as your specialization within the Political Science major:

American Politics and Public Policy
Comparative Politics
International Relations

Students must take a minimum of thirteen (13) courses for the major. Although the number of required courses is fixed, there is considerable leeway to choose the specific courses you take. Eleven (11) of the courses are in the Political Science Department; two (2) courses are from other disciplines. The non-Political Science courses are intended to complement the study of politics with other perspectives and to acquaint you with significant relationships that exist between politics and other societal sectors, such as the economy.

The thirteen courses required for the Political Science major are divided into two categories:

1. Subfield Specialization Requirements
2. General Requirements
**SUBFIELD SPECIALIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

You will take five courses in your chosen subfield and one History course related to it.

1. The subfield introductory course: PSCI 050 Intro to American Government, PSCI 070 Intro to Comparative Politics, or PSCI 069 Intro to International Relations. *Students are strongly encouraged to take this course in their first or second year.*

2 - 3 - 4. Three additional Political Science courses in your chosen subfield. *One of these must be at the 200 level.*

5. One junior/senior Capstone Seminar in your chosen subfield. *Note: The Subfield Introductory Course (or Permission of Instructor) is a prerequisite for the subfield Capstone Seminar.*

6. One History course that is related to your subfield. *Note: You should select the related History course to take in consultation with your Political Science faculty advisor.*

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

You will take seven courses to fulfill the general requirements for our major:

7. One introductory course outside the subfield you choose for your specialization: PSCI 050 Intro to American Government, PSCI 070 Intro to Comparative Politics, or PSCI 069 Intro to International Relations. *Students are strongly encouraged to take this course in their first or second year.*

8. One course on political science research methods and skills: PSCI 107 Research Methods in Politics (PSCI 107 also fulfills the University’s “FA” requirement). *Students are strongly encouraged to take this course in their second year. It will help you acquire research skills you can use in your other Political Science courses.*
9. One course in normative political theory: e.g., PSCI 155, PSCI 203, PSCI 206, PSCI 207, PSCI 260, or PSCI 265.

10. Economics 010: Economics and the World Economy
Students are strongly encouraged to take this course in their first or second year.

11 – 12 – 13. Three Political Science courses outside your subfield specialization. One of these three must be a 200 level course. One must be in the 3rd subfield—either the Introduction to that subfield or any other course in it. For example, if your subfield specialization is International Relations and you’ve also taken the Introduction to Comparative Politics course, you will need to take either the Introduction to American Government course or some other course in the American Politics and Public Policy subfield. One of these three courses may be an additional normative political theory course beyond the one that is required for all Political Science majors.

In summary, a total of thirteen courses must be taken to fulfill the requirements for the Political Science major:

- eleven in Political Science
- one in Economics
- one in History

A minimum of three of the Political Science courses you take (including the Capstone Seminar) must be at the 200 level.

Note: It may be possible to fulfill a requirement for your Political Science major with a for-credit internship, an independent reading or research project (supervised by a faculty member), or a course (or courses) you take as part of a study abroad program. If you plan to do an internship or participate in a Study Abroad program, you should make sure to discuss your plans with your Political Science faculty advisor before you apply in order to find out which, if any, requirement(s) it may fulfill for your major. You may count PSCI 294 (Peer Learning Assistantship) toward your 32-credit graduation requirement, but not toward the major.
**GENERAL COURSES:**

107  Research Methods
155  Roots of Political Thought
203  Political Theorists and Their Theories
206  Recent Political Theory
207  International Relations Theory
207  International Relations Theory
210  Democratic Theory
265  Black Political Thought

**SUBFIELD SPECIALIZATIONS**

I. AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
The American Politics and Public Policy subfield is wide-ranging. It includes the study of basic political and governmental institutions, such as the presidency and political parties; major political processes, such as the legislative process and decision making by the courts; and important patterns of political behavior, such as citizen participation, interest group lobbying, campaigning and voting.

If you choose American Politics and Public Policy as your subfield, you will become familiar with each of these broad areas. You will also learn about the inter relationships among them in order to understand not just how the American political system operates, but why it emphasizes particular values and allocates certain resources to different groups and individuals. The central questions you will address as you explore the various facets of American politics are: Who benefits and who is disadvantaged?

The federal structure of American government and the diversity of the population also make it essential for you to recognize significant variations in government institutions, political processes, and political behavior within the United States. Such variations are considered in courses on, for example, urban and suburban politics; lawyers, judges, and politics; African American politics; and women and politics.
The policies that result from (or are stymied by) the complex interplay of forces in the American political system are also of increasing concern to many students of American politics as well as to many members of the American public. Hence, courses that focus on specific policy areas, such as the environment and the economy, are also exciting areas to explore in the American Politics subfield.

The Political Science Department offers the following courses in American Politics and Public Policy (see the Clark Catalogue for full descriptions):

- 050  Introduction to American Government
- 091  First-year Seminar: Politics of Food
- 099  First-year Seminar: Public Opinion and American Democracy
- 105  Race and Ethnic Politics in the U.S.
- 108  American Political Development
- 121  State Government and Politics
- 154  Introduction to Public Policy in the United States
- 157  The Politics of U.S. Environmental Issues
- 158  African American Politics
- 159  Political Participation in the U.S.
- 161  Women, Politics and Public Policy
- 170  American Political Thought and Behavior
- 171  Urban Politics: People, Power and Conflict in U.S. Cities
- 175  Women and U.S. Politics
- 204  The American Presidency
- 205  U.S. Campaigns & Elections
- 209  Minority Political Behavior
- 213  Policy Analysis
- 217  Latino Politics in the U.S.
- 218  Punishment and Crime
- 220  Legislative Redistricting: The Geography of Politics
- 235  Money and U.S. Politics
- 241  Special Topics in American Politics
- 252  U.S. Political Parties and Interest Groups
- 253  U.S. Judicial Politics
- 255  The Politics of the U.S. Congress
II. COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Comparative Politics has two intertwined meanings at Clark: 1) in-depth study of politics in two or more countries outside the United States; for example, Canada, Mexico, the former Soviet Union, Vietnam, Great Britain, France, Jordan, Israel, Brazil or South Africa, and 2) systematic comparisons of important aspects of politics, such as social movements or policy-making processes, in two or more countries. Comparative Politics subfield specialists are given the opportunity to delve into politics as experienced by elites and by ordinary people in other countries. The Political Science Department offers two kinds of Comparative Politics courses: 1) courses that focus on the politics of particular countries or groups of countries, for example: Asian Politics, Chinese Politics, Middle East Politics, Russian Politics, Latin American Politics, Politics of Western Europe, and 2) courses that focus on particular puzzles, which are best explored on a trans-national basis, for example: Revolution and Political Violence, Mass Murder and Genocide under Communism, Women and Militarization, Comparative Gender Politics, Transitions to Democracy, Comparative Environmental Politics, and Globalization and Democracy.
Both of these types of courses are Comparative Politics courses. While the U.S. is deliberately kept off center stage in these courses, most of them raise specific questions about American politics - its policies, experiences, assumptions - as they are seen from the vantage point of people in other countries.

We see Comparative Politics as an approach that opens up new questions and suggests fresh answers to old questions. It alerts us to the varieties—and also the often surprising similarities—in how public power is gained, justified, and wielded in different countries.

Puzzles you may find yourself tackling as a Comparative Politics specialist include: Why and how do revolutions happen? How can a dictatorship become a democracy, and vice versa? Why are some countries more successful than others in developing and implementing effective environmental policy? How do societal understandings of sex, masculinity, femininity, and power shape our lives? What is the relationship between a country’s social and economic conditions and its political system?

The Political Science Department offers the following courses in Comparative Politics (see the Clark Catalog for full descriptions):

070 Introduction to Comparative Politics
094 First-year Seminar: Dictators and Revolutionaries in Latin America
102 First-year Seminar: Political Science Fiction
103 Africa and the World
104 The Politics of Ethnicity and Identity
WGS 110 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
117 Revolutions and Political Violence
136 Sub-Saharan Africa: Issues and Problems
173 Latin American Politics
174 Middle East Politics
177 Transitions to Democracy
178 South Africa: History and Contemporary Politics
179 Asian Politics
208 Comparative Politics of Women
III. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

International Relations (IR) is the study of nation-states and their interactions with other states. More than just the study of state-to-state relations, IR examines the role that non-state actors, such as intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations (MNCs), and individuals, play in global politics. Human rights, social movements, development, women’s rights, the environment, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, religion, gender, and economics are among the many topics encompassed in the study of international relations. To explain these complex phenomena students engage in rigorous investigations of competing theoretical and analytical traditions. By exploring diverse intellectual approaches to ongoing problems of world order and stability it becomes possible to make sense of the day-to-day politics comprising global affairs.

The survey course, PSCI 069, Introduction to International Relations, provides you with an overview of the field and the diversity of the
discipline (security, economic, and social/cultural issues). In it you learn that the precise domain studied depends on the dynamics of the particular issues involved, such as boundary disputes between states, the economic integration of Europe, poverty, climate change, and militarization. You will also find that there are interactions that cross the state-to-state, regional and global domains.

The Political Science Department offers the following International Relations courses (see the Clark Catalogue for full descriptions):

010  Difficult Dialogues: Israel, Palestine and the U.S.
069  Introduction to International Relations
079  Model United Nations I *
080  Model United Nations II *
092  First-year Seminar: Women and War
093  First-year Seminar: International Human Rights
095  First-year Seminar: Transnationalism
096  First-year Seminar: Just and Unjust Wars
097  First-year Seminar: The International Relations of Sports
106  Introduction to Ethnic Studies from an IR Perspective
144  Religion and International Relations
146  The U.N. and International Politics
147  World Order and Globalization
169  Comparative Foreign Policy
180  International Organizations
182  International Security
190  Political Economy of South Asia
192  Asian Political Economy
193  International Relations of Asia
207  International Relations Theory
211  International Cooperation
226  International Political Economy
229  Arab-Israeli Conflict

*Note: Taking both 079 and 080 provides one full course credit (not two) towards the IR subfield courses. If you take only 079 or 080, that earns half a course credit towards the IR requirement.
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**Grading for the Major**

1. The **lowest acceptable grade** for all Political Science major courses (including the two taken outside Political Science) is a C-. **Exception:** You may count one course in which you have received a D or D+.

2. **Pass/No Record (P/NR)**

   All of your Political Science major courses should be taken for a grade. You may take a for-credit Internship (PSCI 298) on a CR/NC basis, since this is the policy of the University. **Note:** If you want to take an Internship for a letter grade, you can submit a petition to the Dean of the College for approval.

**SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (formerly COPACE) COURSES**

Generally, only one School of Professional Studies course may be used to fulfill one of your 13 Political Science major course requirements. However, with the approval of your faculty advisor, you may take more
than one School of Professional Studies course to satisfy requirements for the major.

**HOW TO DECLARE YOUR MAJOR**

Once you have chosen Political Science as your major, you should:

1. Obtain a Major Declaration Form from the Student Records Office or from the Political Science Department Office. The form is available online at: http://www2.clarku.edu/offices/registrar/forms/declaration-form.pdf

2. Decide which subfield you want to make your specialization: i.e., American Politics and Public Policy, Comparative Politics, or International Relations.

3. Ask a Political Science Department faculty member who teaches courses in that subfield to be your faculty advisor. Your advisor will sign your Major Declaration form and will help you choose courses each semester that are of interest to you and fulfill requirements for the major. In the spring of your junior year, your advisor will sign your Senior Clearance Form, which certifies for the Student Records Office that you have completed, or are in the process of completing, all the requirements for the Political Science major.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATIONS**

Clark offers a number of interdisciplinary concentrations that can be taken in addition to your major. (See the Clark catalogue for descriptions of all the concentrations that are offered.) Some concentrations complement the Political Science major especially well, for example, Law and Society, Women’s and Gender Studies, Urban Development and Social Change, Latin American and Latino Studies, Comparative Race, and Ethnic Studies, and Ethics and Public Policy. Certain concentration requirements may also fulfill Political Science major requirements. Generally only two courses taken for a concentration can also count for the Political Science major. Check with your faculty advisor about the rules for double-counting courses.
Opportunities for Internships, Semester in Washington, D.C., and Study Abroad

Students can earn academic credit for internships they do off-campus as part of their educational program. An internship for credit must be supervised by a carefully selected agency sponsor in conjunction with an appropriate Clark faculty member. Examples of past internship placements in Worcester include: the Mayor’s Office, City Councilors’ Offices, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Main South Community Development Corporation, the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, the Office of the Public Defender, and various law firms. Examples of internship placements Clark students have had in other locations include the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the U.S. Department of State, the Office of U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern, and CNN and ABC News in Washington, D.C. If you would like to pursue an internship, you should discuss options with your faculty advisor or with a staff member in the Office of Career Services.

Clark also offers students the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, D.C., either in a program at American University or at the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. Information about these programs can be obtained from Professor Mark Miller or from Clark’s Study Abroad/Study Away Office.

Clark students can study abroad in a wide range of countries, including Australia, Chile, China, France, Israel, Japan, Namibia, Netherlands, Spain, and the UK. Information about all the programs available can be obtained at Clark’s Study Abroad/Study Away Office. If you plan to participate in a Study Abroad program, be sure to confer with your faculty advisor to find out whether you will be able to fulfill requirements for the Political Science major (or minor) with courses that are part of the program you’re most interested in pursuing.
HONORS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Juniors with a strong academic record (a 3.5 GPA in their Political Science major courses) may apply to the Honors Thesis Program, which expands research and writing skills through an in-depth systematic analysis of a topic of particular interest to the student. You can achieve honors by successfully completing the Honors Thesis Program, which involves researching, writing, and defending a senior thesis. Writing a senior honors thesis gives you the opportunity to engage in original research and to work closely with a professor on an individual basis. Honors theses have been written on a wide range of topics. You can see the titles of past honors theses at: https://www2.clarku.edu/departments/politicalscience/pdfs/HonorsGuidelines.pdf.

If you are interested in doing a senior honors thesis, you should obtain a copy of the Political Science Department’s Guidelines for the Honors Program, which is available in the Department Office and online at: https://www2.clarku.edu/departments/politicalscience/pdfs/HonorsGuidelines.pdf. You should then contact your advisor, no later than the Fall semester of your junior year, to discuss with him or her whether you have the academic background and skills necessary to complete the program. If you decide to pursue honors in Political Science, you should complete the following steps during your last three semesters at Clark:

1. Find a thesis advisor. During the spring semester of your junior year, you should ask a Political Science faculty member to serve as your thesis advisor and discuss potential research topics with him or her. Choose your thesis advisor carefully because you will be working closely with this faculty member for two to three semesters.

2. Select a topic. Many senior honors thesis topics grow out of course or seminar papers written during a student’s junior year. Others grow out of topics covered in course work that a student would like to pursue further. In any case, you should consider a broad range of topics before selecting one. Your thesis advisor will give you some guidance in narrowing your interests and in identifying suitable methodologies and sources.
3. Submit an application to the Political Science Department Honors Committee by April 1st of your junior year. This application should consist of:
   • a transcript,
   • a 5 – 7 page proposal,
   • an email from a Political Science Department faculty member to the honors committee stating that he or she is willing to serve as your thesis advisor.

In writing the proposal, you should refer to the Political Science Department’s Honors Program Guidelines and seek help from your thesis advisor and the Writing Center. The Guidelines contain specific requirements for the content of the proposal. The recommendation (which the thesis advisor should send directly to the Honors Committee) should assess the student’s demonstrated abilities and potential for undertaking successful thesis research as well as the merits of the research proposal. The Honors Committee will let students know within approximately two weeks whether their applications have been approved or denied. In some cases, the Committee may suggest that an applicant revise the proposal and re-submit it.

4. Register for Political Science 297. If you are accepted into the Honors Thesis Program, you will register for Senior Honors Thesis (PSCI 297) during the Fall and Spring semesters of your senior year. This counts for one (1.00) credit each semester for a total of two (2.00) credits. You will receive a grade of IP (“in progress”) for the Fall semester and will receive letter grades for both semesters in May of your senior year. During the Fall semester, most of the research should be completed, with periodic reviews of data sources and bibliographic materials by your thesis advisor. During this semester, you are also required to participate in the Honors Thesis Colloquium which consists of all students writing honors theses that year. The purpose of the colloquium, which is run by the chair of the Honors Committee, is to provide you with the intellectual support and feedback of your fellow students. Each student must present a draft of his or her first chapter for written and oral comment by colloquium members. By December 1, a revised draft chapter and a detailed outline of the entire thesis must be submitted to your advisor. During the Spring semester, you should
present chapters or sections of your thesis to your advisor according to a schedule worked out between you and your advisor. By March 11, a first draft of your entire thesis must be completed and submitted to your advisor. You are expected to act upon the recommendations of your advisor regarding revisions or additional research for your thesis.

5. Oral defense of the thesis. A final draft of the thesis must be completed by April 1. Once the thesis has been reviewed and approved by your advisor, it is submitted to the Thesis Committee. This committee is composed of three members: the thesis advisor, one other member of the Political Science Department, and a third member either from the Political Science Department or from a department that is particularly relevant to your thesis topic. The committee may grant honors, high honors or highest honors, or may decide not to award honors. Students who are accepted into the Honors Program but whose work does not ultimately meet the criteria for an Honors designation will still be eligible for credit either for a semester of Independent Study (PSCI 299) or for a senior thesis without honors, depending upon the level of progress. There are also special junctures at which the student may elect to withdraw from the program during the senior year.

6. Resources available. The Political Science Department makes resources from our Harrington Fund for Public Affairs available to students whose thesis proposals are approved by the Thesis Committee. Up to $500.00 of support may be provided for your research and thesis preparation expenses. To apply, you must submit a brief cover letter requesting support. You must agree to either hold your thesis defense as an open, public event to which fellow students, friends, and other faculty will be invited, or to give a talk or present a poster about your thesis research at Academic Spree Day.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

HARRINGTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIPS
The Harrington Public Affairs Fellowships are designed to encourage and support undergraduates to pursue original research on politics and public policy as well as community service projects. The fellowships
were made possible by a generous gift to our department from Francis A. Harrington in 1963. In addition to supporting these fellowships, the Harrington Fund enables us to offer special lectures, seminars, field trips, and other programs on public affairs each year.

Approximately five Harrington Fellowships ranging from $500-$2500 are awarded to Political Science majors each year. There are two rounds of applications: Fall and Spring. A student who is granted a Harrington Fellowship in the Fall application round can use the Fellowship over the Winter Break and/or during the following Spring semester. A student who is granted a Harrington Fellowship in the Spring application round can use the Fellowship during the following Summer and/or in the Fall semester. The Harrington Fellows share highlights of their projects with the wider Clark community by participating in Fall Fest or Academic Spree Day.

Applications for fellowships to support Spring Semester projects are due by noon on November 15. Applications for Fellowships to support Summer or Fall Semester projects are due by noon on April 16. Application forms are available in the Political Science Department office, Jefferson Academic Center, Room 302, and can also be downloaded from the department’s website https://www2.clarku.edu/departments/politicalscience/research/harrington.cfm

Please use this link www.clarku.edu/opportunity-funding to access the Survey and apply for the Fellowship.

(Please note that graduating seniors are not eligible for this Award.)

THE JUNE PATRON ’65 ENDOWED INTERNSHIP AWARD

The June Patron ’65 Endowed Internship Award ($500) is given annually by the Political Science Department to a student who has secured an unpaid summer internship in Washington, DC with an office in any branch of the US national government (executive, legislative, or judicial) or with an organization that interacts with the government,
such as a lobbying group or “Think tank.” Interested students should submit the following:

1-2 page statement describing the internship, your reason for pursuing it, and how it connects to your Clark education thus far
-a proposed budget (the costs involved, such as travel, housing, etc.)
-your resume
-a copy of your unofficial transcript.

Applications are due by May 15. Internships must be secured before the May 15 deadline. Applications for internships that are pending will not be accepted.

Please use this link [www.clarku.edu/opportunity-funding](http://www.clarku.edu/opportunity-funding) to access the Survey and apply for the Internship.

*(Please note that graduating seniors are not eligible for this Award.)*

**THE ZENOVIA SOCHOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This annual award was established by alumni, friends, and colleagues of Zenovia Sochor to honor her memory. Professor Sochor taught in our department for almost two decades before her untimely death in 1998. The scholarship provides funds to help a Political Science major or minor who is studying abroad on a Clark Program pay for some of the expenses involved in studying abroad.

To be considered for this award, students must:
- have an overall GPA of 3.4 or higher
- be a declared Political Science major or minor
- study abroad during the spring semester of second or third year, preferably in an Eastern European country; other programs such as London Internship, Namibia, etc. are also acceptable.

Interested students must submit a 1-2 page typed essay that describes:
- your reasons and goals for studying abroad
-when and where you have been accepted to study abroad
Include your name, box number, email address, and local phone
number on the cover page and attach an unofficial transcript.

Information about the application and selection criteria for this
scholarship can be obtained from the Political Science Department
Office or the Study Abroad Office.

After studying abroad, the recipient must prepare a 2-3 page report
based on his or her experiences.

The deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m., October 30, 2019.

Please use this link www.clarku.edu/opportunity-funding to access the
Survey and apply for the Scholarship.

OTHER HONORS, AWARDS, AND PRIZES FOR STUDENTS

PI SIGMA ALPHA NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
Outstanding seniors majoring in Political Science may be invited to
join Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.
Eligibility is based on a combination of overall grade point average and
the grades earned in courses in the Political Science major. There is no
application process. Eligible students will receive an invitation to join
the Clark chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha from the Chair of the Political
Science Department soon after the start of the Spring Semester.

THE IRVING AND EDITH WILNER PRIZE
This prize is awarded annually to the student who has written the best
research paper for a course in the American Politics subfield during the
academic year.
THE MORRIS H. COHEN PRIZE
This award was established to honor Professor Morris H. Cohen, who joined the Clark faculty in the 1940s and became one of the founders of our department. The Cohen Prize is awarded annually to the outstanding Political Science major entering his/her senior year whose subfield specialization is American Politics.

THE SALLIE R. HOLTHAUSEN PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
This prize is awarded each year to the top graduating senior Political Science major whose subfield specialization is International Relations.

THE CHAIR’S PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS
This prize is given annually to an outstanding Political Science student for excellence in the subfield of Comparative Politics.

POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE SCHOOL ADVICE
Students interested in attending graduate school in political science or related fields should seek advice from their faculty advisor as early on as possible. If you’re thinking about going to graduate school, you should also contact the schools you’re interested in attending to find out which undergraduate courses they recommend or require as prerequisites for their program. Some graduate programs, for example, require undergraduate courses in statistics and/or other quantitative methods.
Robert G. Boatright, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department Political Science

Professor Boatright teaches courses on American political behavior, political parties, campaigns and elections, interest groups, political participation, and political theory. His research focuses on the effects of campaign and election laws on the behavior of politicians and interest groups, with a particular focus on primary elections and campaign finance laws and practices. He is the author or editor of eight books, including The Deregulatory Moment? A Comparative Perspective on Changing Campaign Finance Laws (2016); Getting Primaried: The Causes and Consequences of Congressional Primary Challenges (2013); and Interest Groups and Campaign Finance Reform in the United States and Canada (2011). In 2016 he was appointed Research Network Director at the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD), a nonpartisan organization affiliated with the University of Arizona and dedicated to improving the quality of political discourse in U.S. politics.
Michael J. Butler, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science
B.A., University of Connecticut, 1994; M.P.M., Public Policy, University of Maryland, 1996; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Connecticut, 2004

MARK C. MILLER, J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Political Science
B.A., Ohio Northern University, 1980; J.D., George Washington University, 1983; M.A., Ohio State University, 1989; Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1990.

Professor Miller teaches courses on U.S. constitutional law, U.S. judicial politics, comparative courts and law, the U.S. Congress, and lawyers and American politics. His current research interests include the interactions between Congress and the courts; constitutional law issues involving the powers of Congress; and comparisons of judicial politics in North America and Western Europe. In 1995 he served as a Congressional Fellow, and during the 1999-2000 academic year he was a Judicial Fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States. He also serves as chair of Clark’s pre-law advisory committee and the university’s pre-law advisor. In Spring semester 2008, Professor Miller held the Thomas Jefferson Distinguished Fulbright Chair in the American Studies Program at Leiden University in the Netherlands. His latest book, Judicial Politics in the United States, was published by Westview Press in 2014. During the 2014-15 academic year, he held the Distinguished Fulbright Bicentennial Chair in the North American Studies Program at the University of Helsinki in Finland.
P A U L  W. P O S N E R, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science
B.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1984; MA., The
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1992; Ph.D., The
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; 1999.

Professor Posner teaches courses on Latin American politics, U.S. –
Latin American relations, comparative environmental politics, and
democratic theory. His current research focuses on labor politics, the
politics of social welfare resource distribution, the New Left and
populism in Latin America, with specific focus on Chile, Ecuador and
Venezuela. He has published in the Journal of Interamerican Studies
and World Affairs, Democratization, Latin American Politics and
Society, Political Power and Social Theory, the International Journal
of Urban and Regional Research and New Political Economy. His
book, State, Market and Democracy in Chile: The Constraint of
Popular Participation, assesses the impact neoliberal reform on the
ability of Chile’s urban poor to organize and represent their interests in
the political arena. His co-authored book, Labor Politics in Latin
America: Democracy and Worker Organization in the Neoliberal Era,
addresses contemporary labor politics in Argentina, Brazil, Chile,
Mexico and Venezuela.
SUZANNE E. SCOGGINS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
B.A. University of Georgia, 2002; M.I.P.A. University of Hong Kong, 2003; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2016.

Professor Scoggins teaches courses on Chinese politics, research methods, comparative politics, and Asian Politics. Her research interests include policing, protest management, state legitimacy, rights consciousness, and authoritarian control in reform era China. Her book manuscript, Policing in the Shadow of Protest, looks at the police bureaucracy in China and explores how different patterns of bureaucratic control over local police affect law enforcement personnel and local state security. Her work has been published in Comparative Politics, The China Quarterly, Asian Survey, and PS: Political Science and Politics.

HEATHER SILBER MOHAMED, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science
Professor Silber Mohamed teaches courses on immigration politics, Latino politics in the U.S., women and politics, research methods, American politics, and the politics of food and drink. Her research interests center around Latino politics, immigration policy, immigrant socialization and participation, and identity politics in the U.S, with a particular focus on the intersection of race, class, and gender. She is the author of *The New Americans? Immigration, Protest, and the Politics of Latino Identity* (University Press of Kansas, 2017), which analyzes how protest and the immigration debate influence Latinos' sense of belonging in the U.S. Her book was named the best book of 2017 by the American Political Science Association's Latino Caucus, and in 2019, she received the Early Career Award from the Midwest Political Science Association's Latina/o Caucus. She is the Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. At Clark, she is affiliated with the Latin American and Latino Studies concentration and the program in Women's and Gender Studies. Prior to completing her Ph.D., Professor Silber Mohamed spent six years working as a legislative aide in the U.S. Congress.

**Srinivasan Sitaraman, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of Political Science

*B.A., University of Madras, Chennai, India, 1987; M.A., University of Madras, Chennai, India, 1989; M.A., Ohio University, 1993; Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2003.*
Srini Sitaraman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, and a Program Faculty for the Asian Studies Program and Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. Sitaraman is also a Research Associate with the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. He teaches courses on International Relations, International Political Economy, International Law, Human Rights, Transnational Justice, Asian Politics, Global Governance, and Research Methods. His work has appeared in the Asian Journal of Peacebuilding, Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs, Journal of South Asian and Middle East Studies, Human Rights and Human Welfare, Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy, The Diplomat, Foreign Policy in Focus, East Asia Forum, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, and Amsterdam Law Forum. He recently contributed chapters to Politics in Asia’s Contested Waters: Territorial Disputes in South China Sea and Imagining India as a Global Power. His book State Participation in International Treaty Regimes was published in 2009. Currently he is working on a book on the Dynamics of South Asian Security. Sitaraman also directs the award winning Clark University Model United Nations Program that is ranked in the top-15 in North America.

Valerie Sperling, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science  
B.A., Yale University, 1987; M.A. Georgetown University, Russian Area Studies Program, 1991; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1997.

Professor Sperling teaches a variety of courses in comparative politics, including Russian politics; revolution and political violence; mass
murder and genocide under communism; transitions to democracy; globalization and democracy; and introduction to women’s and gender studies. Her research interests include Russian politics, gender studies, globalization and accountability, social movements, patriotism and militarism, and the use of international courts to promote human rights. She is the author of *Organizing Women in Contemporary Russia* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), *Altered States: The Globalization of Accountability* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), and *Sex, Politics, and Putin: Political Legitimacy in Russia* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Her most recent book, *Courting Gender Justice: Russia, Turkey, and the European Court of Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2019), explores the obstacles and opportunities that activists and lawyers face when they bring gender discrimination cases to domestic and international courts.

**ORA B. SZEKELY, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of Political Science.  
*B.A. Cornell University, 1999; M.A. University of Chicago, 2004; Ph.D. McGill University, 2011.*

Professor Szekely teaches courses on comparative politics, including introduction to comparative politics; the politics of the Middle East; the politics of ethnicity and identity; the Arab-Israeli conflict; and capstones seminars on civil war and refugees. Her research focuses on nonstate military actors in the Middle East, as well as the gender dynamics of armed conflict. Her work has been published in *the Journal of Global Security Studies, the Journal of Peace Research, Middle East Policy, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Foreign Policy Analysis,* and elsewhere. She is the author of *The Politics of Militant Group Survival in the Middle East: Resources, Relationships, and*
Resistance (2016) and Insurgent Women (2019, co-authored with Jessica Trisko Darden and Alexis Henshaw. Her current research is focused on the Syrian civil war. Her work is based on fieldwork conducted across the Middle East.

K\textsc{risten} P. Williams, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles, 1986; M.A., California State University, Long Beach, 1990; M.A. University of California, Los Angeles, 1992; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1998.

Professor Williams teaches courses on international relations, including introduction to international relations; U.S. foreign policy and national security; peace and war; gender, war and peace; religion and international relations; popular culture and international relations. Her primary research addresses the connection between international relations theory, nationalism and ethnic conflict, and gender. Her publications include: Despite Nationalist Conflicts: Theory and Practice of Maintaining World Peace (2001); Identity and Institutions: Conflict Reduction in Divided Societies (2005) and Ethnic Conflict (2011) (co-authored with Neal G. Jesse); Women, the State and War: A Comparative Perspective on Citizenship and Nationalism (2007), Women and War: Gender Identity and Activism in Times of Conflict (2010), and Women at War, Women Building Peace: Challenging Gender Norms (co-authored with Joyce P. Kaufman); and Beyond Great Powers and Hegemons: Why Secondary States Support, Follow or Challenge (2012) (co-edited with Neal G. Jesse and Steven Lobell). Her most recent book is a co-edited volume with Joyce P. Kaufman:

Emeriti:

**JOHN C. BLYDENBURGH, Ph.D.**
**SHARON KREFETZ, Ph.D.**

Research Professor:

**CYNTHIA H. ENLOE, Ph.D.**

Adjunct Faculty:

**DOUGLAS J. LITTLE, Ph.D.**
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR WORKSHEET

Subfield ________________________________________________

SUBFIELD REQUIREMENTS

One subfield introductory course (PSCI 050 – Introduction to American Government; PSCI 069 – Introduction to International Relations; or PSCI 070 – Introduction to Comparative Politics):

Course                        Semester                      Dept. Waiver
1. __________________________* ________________________

Three additional Political Science department courses in your chosen subfield: (One of these MUST be at the 200 level):

2. __________________________ ________________________
3. __________________________ ________________________
4. __________________________ ________________________

At least one junior/senior Capstone Seminar in your chosen subfield:

5. __________________________** ________________________

Note: The corresponding subfield introductory course (PSCI 050, PSCI 069 and PSCI 070) and PSCI 107 are prerequisites for subfield junior/senior Capstone Seminars. In certain cases, exceptions may be made with permission from the instructor.

One History course related to your subfield

6. ______________________________________________________
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

One introductory course outside your subfield specialization (PSCI 050 – Introduction to American Government, PSCI 069 – Introduction to International Relations, or PSCI 070 – Introduction to Comparative Politics):

7. ________________* ________________ ________________

PSCI 107 Research Methods in Politics:

8. ________________* ________________ ________________

One course in normative political theory (e.g., PSCI 155, PSCI 203, PSCI 206, PSCI 207, PSCI 260, or PSCI 265):

9. ________________ ________________ ________________

Economics 010 (or Economics 100):

10. ________________* ________________ ________________

Three Political Science Department courses from outside your subfield:
(One of these MUST be at the 200 level and one MUST be in the 3rd subfield—either the Introduction to that subfield or any other course in that subfield. Note that capstone seminars count as 200-level courses.)

11. ________________ ________________ ________________

12. ________________ ________________ ________________

13. ________________ ________________ ________________

* Students are strongly encouraged to take these courses in their first or second year.
** Research Methods should be taken in the sophomore year. It is a prerequisite for the subfield junior/senior Capstone Seminars.
UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION (32 CREDITS TOTAL)

Program of Liberal Studies courses:
Critical Thinking: ________FA ________VE Perspectives:
_________AP ________GCP ________HP ________LCP
__________SP ________VP

The six Perspective courses must come from six different Departments.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

The Political Science minor requires a minimum of six courses within the department. One must be an introductory course (PSCI 050, 069, or 070); one must be either in political theory (PSCI 155, 203, 206, 207, 260 or 265) or research methods (PSCI 107); and four others can be in any combination of subfield areas. Two of these courses must be at the 200 level. Note that capstone seminars count as 200-level courses. An internship supervised by a Political Science faculty member and approved political science courses taken as part of a Study Abroad program may count toward the minor.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR WORKSHEET

Introductory Course (PSCI 050, PSCI 069 or PSCI 070)

Course Semester Dept. Waiver
1. _______________ _______________ _______________

Political Theory (PSCI 155, PSCI 203, PSCI 206, PSCI 207, PSCI 260 or PSCI 265) OR Research Methods (PSCI 107)

2. _______________ _______________ _______________
Four Additional Courses (including two at the 200 level)

3. ___________  ___________  ___________

4. ___________  ___________  ___________

5. ___________  ___________  ___________

6. ___________  ___________  ___________
NOTES