



# UAHUNTSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE SUMMER FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER



MORTON HALL 250  
256-824-6192

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



**Dr. Kathy Hawk**

**Registration is now ongoing for summer and fall classes.**

Please don't wait until the last minute to register.

You may find that courses you need are full or sections cancelled due to low enrollments.

If you need your PIN number to register for classes this summer or fall, please contact your advisor in the PSC Department. If you do not know who that is, please ask Cindy, our staff assistant, or me for help. My email is [hawkk@uah.edu](mailto:hawkk@uah.edu).

### Farewell to Dr. Bridgmon!

We would like to wish Dr. Bridgmon the best as she and her family move to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, this summer. Dr. Bridgmon's husband, Phil, has been selected to become Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Northeastern State University, and Dr. Bridgmon will join their Department of Social Sciences as a faculty member. Dr. Bridgmon joined our faculty in 2008 and has taught a wide variety of courses for us since then and directed our internship program. She has been a wonderful colleague and a great instructor for us. We will miss her, but we wish her and her family the best always!



### New Course Offering This Fall!

The Political Science Department is offering our own statistics class this fall. It will be taught by Dr. Summerlin-Long and offered on Monday evenings. The class will be cross-listed for undergraduates (PSC 480) and graduate students (PSC 580), and will be tailored to help students understand basic principles of microeconomics and statistics commonly used by researchers, policy makers, and the media. The goal is to provide students with a foundation to independently analyze publicly available data and to be better consumers of academic research on important political and policy questions. The full course description is in the section on our course offerings.

**Undergraduate students:** You should take this course if you have not yet taken either SOC 303 or PY3 00. This course fulfills the statistics requirement for PSC majors.

**Graduate students:** If you did not take a statistics course as an undergraduate, you should take this course. It serves as a prerequisite for PSC 635 and for a course on Program Evaluation that will be offered this spring.

## PSC DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



### The Public Affairs Program Outstanding Graduate Student in 2012 Megan Fosdyck

Megan was selected by the PSC faculty as our outstanding graduate student this year. She will complete her master's degree in Public Affairs this May and plans to continue her education by pursuing a doctoral degree in International Relations. Megan graduated Magna Cum Laude from Middle Tennessee State University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and currently works for the Aviation and Missile Command on Redstone Arsenal.

### Dr. Bridgmon and Five Southern Politics Students attend conference in South Carolina

**Dr. Shannon Bridgmon** presented research on Alabama's legislative performance at the 18<sup>th</sup> Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics in Charleston, South Carolina. Her paper, "Policy Pledge Fulfillment and the Alabama Realignment" examined the extent to which Alabama Republicans fulfilled the campaign promises that helped to propel them to a new majority status in the Alabama legislature. She also addressed aspects of changes to Alabama's lingering allegiance to the Democratic Party at the local level. The paper was well received, and Dr. Bridgmon will be contributing to an upcoming book about the 2012 presidential elections in the South. The book is expected to be published in 2013.

Five students from the Alabama and Southern Politics class (PSC 416) accompanied Dr. Bridgmon to the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics, held March 1-2 in Charleston, SC. Students attended scholarly panels on aspects of current research in southern politics, as well as meet many of the authors of the works they studied in the course. The Citadel Symposium is the premier scholarly event dedicated to the study of southern politics, attended by the most respected scholars in the field. The student cohort from UAH represented the department and the university well.



(L to R) Jimmy Wacenske, Christina Ninh, Haley Mills, Chad Chavez, Hailey Cox

## PSC DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### The Political Science Department Outstanding Undergraduate Student in 2012 Jen Mellard

The PSC faculty selected Jen as our outstanding undergraduate student this year. She is a double major in Political Science and History and will graduate in December. She plans to attend graduate school and eventually earn her Ph.D. and pursue a career in academia. Jen is originally from Florida but has lived in Skyline, AL for the past ten years.



### PSC ALUMNUS FOCUS: 2011 GRADUATE TOMMY WATTS

I am currently the Southern California Field Organizer for the SAFE California campaign to repeal the Death Penalty in California. SAFE stands for Savings, Accountability and Full enforcement.

I have worked the past two months coordinating volunteers and Community Engagement workers during the signature gathering phase of this campaign. In California, the only way to get things passed is by ballot initiative and that requires signatures from registered voters. I have been all over Southern California to get support for this campaign and recently attended the California Democratic Convention in San Diego.

This campaign is historical because we will be the first state to repeal the death penalty by the vote of the people. I am excited to be a part of this historical campaign and my ability to be successful on this campaign began in Morton Hall. The professors in the political science department taught more than scholarly application but also practical application in the ever changing world of politics.

In addition, as President of the College Democrats of UAH, I had the much needed experience on various campaigns in the state and the second essential criteria having the opportunity to work on this great campaign. Students should get involved and this is the perfect time to gain experience for their resume. Election season is in the air and volunteering on a campaign this election season will give you plenty of experience for the future.

I am thankful for my time at UAH and the professors helped give me the tools for my current job. I am doing what I love to do, that is, I am working to bring about change in this nation. So anyone who is reading this, remember: "Things do not just happen, things are made to happen" -JFK



## **SUMMER 2012—UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSES**

### **Regular Summer Session (05/29/2012-08/01/2012)**

#### **PSC 495-695: Internship in Government TBD**

Students may receive from 1 to 6 hours of academic credit for an internship with local, state, or federal governmental agencies or non-profit organizations. Internships are available in the Huntsville/north Alabama area, Montgomery, and Washington, DC. All students must meet all eligibility requirements and be admitted to the internship program before enrolling for internship credit hours.

### **First Five-Week Term (05/29/2012 – 06/29/2012)**

#### **PSC 101: American Government (MTWR 12:30-2:30pm) Dr. Summerlin-Long**

An introductory examination of American government and politics. The course describes and evaluates the operations of political processes and actors and the values on which they are based. This is a required course for political science majors and minors.

#### **PSC 480/580: Special Topics: Food Policy (MTWR 5:00-7:00pm) Dr. Summerlin-Long**

This course examines current patterns of food consumption and production in the United States. Starting with a basic contrast between what we know people need to eat in order to lead healthy lives and what we know people actually eat, we will examine why the contrast exists, and what role, if any, the government should play in addressing it. While the course will focus largely on the political factors underlying both the problem and its potential solutions, broader cultural and behavioral considerations will also be evaluated. The course will culminate with each student conducting and presenting initial research into a particular aspect of food policy as well as possible suggestions for solving the problem.

### **Second Five-Week Term (7/02/2012 – 7/31/2012)**

#### **PSC 102: Comparative Politics and Foreign Government: (MTWR 10:15-12:15) Dr. Choup**

This course is an introduction to comparative politics and assumes no prior knowledge of political science. In this class, we will explore ways in which we can best compare countries and their political systems. We will apply comparative methods to look at some industrialized democracies in both industrialized settings (Great Britain and France) and in a developing country (India). We will examine the post-World War II democracies of Japan and Germany. We will also cover the Russian, Nigerian, and Mexican governments (questionably) in transition to democracy, and the harder-to-categorize cases of China and Iran. This is a required course for political science majors and minors.

#### **PSC 605:-Public Policy Seminar (MTWR 5:00-7:00pm) Dr. Spitz**

A close examination of fundamental documents relating to the American Founding and their importance in contemporary public policy debates.

## **FALL 2012-UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

### **PSC 101: American Government**

- PSC 101-01 (MW 12:45-2:05PM) Dr. Pottenger**
- PSC 101-02 (MW 2:20-3:40PM) Dr. Reeves**
- PSC 101-03 (TR 9:35-10:55AM) Staff**
- PSC 101-04 (TR 11:10-12:30PM) Dr. Summerlin-Long**

An introductory examination of American government and politics. The course describes and evaluates the operations of political processes and actors and the values on which they are based. This is a required course for political science majors and minors.

### **PSC 102: Comparative Politics & Foreign Governments**

- PSC 102-01 (MWF 9:10-10:05AM) Dr. Choup**
- PSC 102-02 (TR 9:35-10:55AM) Dr. Choup**

This course explores ways in which to best compare countries and their political systems. We will apply comparative methods to look at some established democracies and some systems in transition, in both industrialized and developing countries. By the end of the course, each student will have a solid understanding of basic points of comparison for countries, as well as empirical information on the political systems and contemporary issues of our case study countries. This is a required course for political science majors and minors.

### **PSC 260: Introduction to International Relations (MWF 10:20-11:15AM) Staff**

This course is designed to introduce the student to ways in which countries interact and how they seek to achieve their interests in the world. The course will focus on issues such as why wars occur, notions of sovereignty, the role of international organizations, and the nature of the globalizing world economy. The course will also give the students a broad understanding of many of the current issues in international relations. This is a required course for Political Science majors.

### **PSC 302: American Congress (MW 12:45-2:05PM) Dr. Reeves**

This class undertakes a comprehensive examination of the institution of Congress and of the legislative process. The basic purpose of the course is to explain why Congress looks and acts the way it does. We will review the major aspects of the subject and some of the principal approaches to studying it. Most of the focus is on the U.S. Congress, although some comparisons will be drawn between Congress and other legislatures. Topics to be discussed include: the development of the modern Congress, congressional elections, representation, "home styles," the committee system, rules and procedures, legislative parties, congressional leadership, congressional roll call votes, Congress and the executive branch, Congress and interest groups, and Congress and the policy making process.

### **PSC 330: Classical Political Philosophy (MW 3:55-5:15PM) Dr. Pottenger**

Careful analysis of the roots of political inquiry in selected works of ancient and medieval political philosophers, such as Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, al-Farabi, and Aquinas. Major themes include the search for the just social order, the proper relationship between the citizen and the state, and other fundamental concepts of western political institutions. Prerequisite: 9 hours of PSC, PHL and/or HY. (Same as PHL 330.)

### **PSC 341: Latin America (MWF 11:30-12:25PM) Dr. Choup**

This course focuses on contemporary politics in Latin America. We will consider the role of various actors in politics, including the military, civil society, and the poor. We will also examine the legacy of historic events and eras (including colonialism, dictatorship, and war with illustrate how these legacies impact politics today.

## Fall 2010—UNDERGRADUATE COURSES (con't)

### **PSC 452: Constitutional Law (TR 12:45-2:05PM) Dr. Summerlin-Long**

This course examines the development of Constitutional Law in the United States through the lenses of political science and public policy. Starting with the drafting and adoption of the Constitution itself, we will proceed to an examination of the major judicial decisions interpreting its provisions within the context of the political, social, and economic circumstances in which they were made, focusing on the broad impact they have on the shape of our government and public policy.

### **PSC 468: National Security Policy (TR 11:10-12:30PM) Dr. Hawk**

This course is designed to help students understand the challenges and threats to U.S. national security and the policies the U.S. government has devised to confront them. The course will briefly cover the historical evolution of the U.S. national security policy, discuss the roles the different agencies play in developing security policies, and then examine current policies today.

### **PSC 480: Statistics and Economics in Political Analysis. (M 5:30-8:20PM) Dr. Summerlin-Long**

Researchers and policy makers often use basic principles of microeconomics and statistics to answer important questions. What accounts for who votes and their choice of candidate? Does cutting taxes boost the economy? Do undocumented immigrants take the jobs of American citizens? How does the provision of public welfare affect recipients' incentives to see work? The validity of their conclusions, however, depends upon the underlying assumptions and correct application of these methods. This course will introduce some of the basic principles of microeconomics and statistics commonly used by researchers, policy makers, and the media. The goal is to provide students with a foundation to independently analyze publicly available data and to be better consumers of academic research on important political and policy questions.

### **PSC 484: Senior Seminar (R 2:20—5:15PM) Dr. Spitz**

An intensive examination of literature with political themes. Emphasis will be on oral presentations individually and as team members. Course will include books by a number of American and international authors covering various political cultures and time periods.



**UAH COLLEGE REPUBLICANS** and the Madison County Young Republicans will co-host “The 2012 Madison County Republican Run-Off Forum” on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at the UAH Chan Auditorium.

The Meet & Greet begins at 5:30 PM, and the Forum starts at 6 PM. The following candidates are confirmed:

Joey Parker.....Madison County Commission District 3  
 Eddie Sisk.....Madison County Commission District 3  
 Patty Demos.....Madison County Probate Judge  
 Amanda Gentle.....Madison County Probate Judge  
 Linda Coats.....Madison County District Court Judge  
 Chris Messervy.....Madison County District Court Judge  
 Chip Brown.....Public Service Commission President  
 Twinkle Cavanaugh.....Public Service Commission President

The event is FREE and open to the public. The UAH College Republicans believe this evening will be a great opportunity for each candidate to clearly distinguish himself or herself as best fit to serve the residents of Madison County. For more information, contact Clay Mills at [clm0041@uah.edu](mailto:clm0041@uah.edu).

## Fall 2012—GRADUATE COURSES

### **PSC 568: National Security Policy (W 5:30-8:20) Dr. Hawk**

This course is designed to help students understand the challenges and threats to U.S. national security and the policies the U.S. government has devised to confront them. The course will briefly cover the historical evolution of the U.S. national security policy; discuss the roles the different agencies play in developing security policies, and then examine current policies today.

### **PSC 580: Statistics and Economics in Political Analysis. (M 5:30-8:20PM) Dr. Summerlin-Long**

Researchers and policy makers often use basic principles of microeconomics and statistics to answer important questions. What accounts for who votes and their choice of candidate? Does cutting taxes boost the economy? Do undocumented immigrants take the jobs of American citizens? How does the provision of public welfare affect recipients' incentives to see work? The validity of their conclusions, however, depends upon the underlying assumptions and correct application of these methods. This course will introduce some of the basic principles of microeconomics and statistics commonly used by researchers, policy makers, and the media. The goal is to provide students with a foundation to independently analyze publicly available data and to be better consumers of academic research on important political and policy questions. Graduate students will be expected to conduct a short research project applying the methods covered in class to a publicly available data set of their choice. (Graduate students who have taken an undergraduate course in statistics are not required to take this course, but may do so if they wish.)

### **PSC 600: The American Polity (R 5:30-8:20) Dr. Pottenger**

A comprehensive and intensive review of the philosophical foundations, formal institutions, and political dynamics of the American polity and the relationship of these elements to the making of public policy. This is a required course for students in the Public Affairs program.

### **PSC 635: Methodological Issues and Public Policy (T 5:30-8:20) Dr. Reeves**

This course is designed to provide students the tools necessary to become knowledgeable, informed users and consumers of social science research. Toward this end, the course surveys the major issues relevant to the application of quantitative data to problems of public policy and administration. Issues dealt with include research design, measurement, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of research findings. In addition, students will study problems in public opinion research. The course emphasizes the practical elements of research on issues of policy formation, implementation, and evaluation. This is a required course for students in the Public Affairs program.

### **PSC 695: Internship in Government—TBA**

Students may receive from one to six hours of academic credit for an internship with local, state, or federal governmental agencies. Internships are available in Huntsville, Montgomery, and Washington, D.C. Consent of the department is required before enrolling.



The **UAHuntsville Charger Democrats** provide an opportunity for progressively-minded students to get active in the political process and promote Democratic ideals throughout the UAHuntsville community. This Spring, the Charger Dems will be coordinating with Organizing for America to generate support for President Obama in addition to sponsoring events and service projects on campus. If you would like to get involved, please contact Steven Lewallen at [steven.lewallen@uah.edu](mailto:steven.lewallen@uah.edu) or join the Facebook group, UAH College Democrats.