

# UAHuntsville Department of Political Science

SUMMER/FALL 2013

Morton Hall 250 | 256-824-6192



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



**Dr. John Pottenger**

### “Our Shared Existence”

The following redacted comments are taken from an e-mail message sent to various members of the Department of Political Science by the late Dr. Roy Meek. A former colleague, who had a profound impact on the department’s development, Dr. Meek’s message succinctly, addresses the topic of the department’s objective.

“Those who dedicate their lives to the study of, and teaching about, politics and governance comprise an intellectual community and a way of life that is unique to the university environment. We have a range of experiences to share, important questions to consider, and intellectual challenges to confront.

“Regardless of major, we invite all students to consider enrolling in one or more of the course offerings in Political Science. Each of the classes contains elements that would enhance the quality of your civic education. For those students who have a serious interest in the study of politics and governance, we invite you to pursue a major or minor in political science. And, for those who have already completed an undergraduate degree, we invite you to consider advanced study in the department’s graduate program in Public Affairs.

“The Political Science department’s objective is to engender students who will leave the university with an improved capacity for continued learning and an emergent understanding of the critical elements of the world in which they live.”

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## Political Science Faculty Members

### *Meet the Newest Member of the PSC Faculty*



Prior to coming to UAH, **Dr. James W. Stoutenborough** was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy within the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. He

has taught courses on graduate quantitative methods, undergraduate research methods, comparative U.S. state politics, and American government. Dr. Stoutenborough has a research agenda that examines individual-level behavior in the public policy making process. This encompasses a broad set of issue areas. His research interests include state politics, public policy, public opinion, political psychology, intergovernmental relations, and interest group behavior with substantive interests in renewable energy policy, environmental policy, and science and technology policy. While numerous, many of these interests coalesce in his research on individual-level problem identification, agenda setting, and policy adoption.

### *New Part-Time Faculty Members*

**Dr. Kellee J. Kirkpatrick** has taught courses on American politics, state politics, public policy, research methods, and women in politics. Her research agenda examines issues of reproductive policy and specifically focuses on



questions that concern how and why governments regulate private, social issues, including state regulation of assisted reproductive technologies; the HPV vaccine and parental rights; and the intersection between morality, public health, and economic interests.



**Dr. Emmanuel E. Obuah** has taught courses on international relations comparative politics,, international political economy, and politics of Africa and the Middle East. His research agenda focuses on numerous issues



related to sub-Saharan politics of Africa, including international trade, Somali piracy, corruption and civil society in Nigeria, the dynamics of Sino-Africa relations, human trafficking, and oil exploration and regional development.

## Student Activities

### *Nu Delta Chapter Pi Sigma Alpha Honorary Society*

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society in Political Science, was founded in 1920 at the University of Texas to promote the study of political science and to recognize the achievements of students excelling in the discipline.

The Nu Delta chapter at UAHuntsville was chartered in 1982. Students of all majors are eligible for lifetime membership in this honor society. Criteria for invitation comprise the following:

- either junior or senior class standing
- ranked in the upper third of the class
- completion of at least ten semester-hours in political science (including at least one upper-division course), with an average grade of B or higher in the political science courses

Pi Sigma Alpha chapters may engage in a variety of different activities, depending on member interest.

Funding opportunities are available from the national offices for interested chapters.



Congratulations to the new members of the Nu Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha for 2013!

- Ghada A. Almahdi
- Charlotte A. Cain
- Caleb S. Duke
- Austin K. Kizer
- Kathleen E. Lange
- Gerri Montoya Minisee
- Jonathan B. Washington

For more information on the National Honor Society in Political Science, please contact Nu Delta faculty advisor Dr. Anne Marie Choup.

## *Political Science Club*

Plato stated, "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."

The mission of the Political Science/Model United Nations Club is to provide a forum for students to actively participate in politics and to further educate students in the field of politics so that they may make educated political decisions.

Some of our signature activities include Model UN, Debate Nights, and Bake Sales. We are currently looking for new members

for the upcoming year and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to a strong and prosperous new school year. Contact us at [polisciclub@uah.edu](mailto:polisciclub@uah.edu) or add us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uah.politicalscienceclub> or follow us on Twitter @UAHPOLISCI CLUB.

Charge On,  
Charlotte "Ashley" Cain  
Political Science Club President '12-'13

## *Model UN Club*

The Model UN Club is currently a subsidiary of the Political Science Club. The club is geared to students who are interested in the United Nations process, of which mock simulations with other universities are conducted nationwide.

This year, the club has chosen to attend the debut of the Model UN at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, in April 2013. There will be seven delegates representing a diverse background from the Liberal Arts College of UAH.

This Model UN conference is unique in its structure: instead of the delegates participating on a single committee, which is typical at other Model UN conferences, they will be acting out roles based on options provided by the Model UN Secretary-General. We will be active on five of their six committee options.

The Model UN Club is very excited to have this opportunity, and has been diligent in its efforts to participate in this conference. The delegates have been active with contributions to the Political Science Club's weekly bake sales. The club will represent will represent UAH, while learning about the Model UN process. Be sure to read about the club's adventures in the next issue of the PSC newsletter!



**Ghada Almahdi  
Myriam Brasseur  
Dan Khazanov**

## Partisan Political Clubs



People often ask why I identify as a College Democrat, and I think the answer has become easier as time goes on. Whether you came to political maturation during Clinton's tenure, the Bush years or just in time for Obama's rise, the Democrats have stood for people whom the Republican Party has cast aside.

In his second inaugural address, President Obama promised to fight for groups of nearly every constituency, swearing not only to protect traditional interests by protecting Social Security and Medicare, but also to work for parts of his coalition that haven't always been protected in this country. He is the first president to openly embrace LGBT rights, to fight for immigration reform to help families stuck somewhere in between two countries, and to make sure that blue-collar workers still have access to a livable wage through education and investment in future technologies.

The Democratic Party championed Pell Grants and access to subsidized student loans that make attending college possible for many of my friends and me, recognizing that it benefits not only the individual, but the nation, when we are an educated people. For many families, the American Dream is achieved through education, and I am grateful that there is a party that continues to fight for the greatest possible access to it.

So, the short answer to why I'm a Democrat is easy: the Democratic Party has fought for my support earned it. So long as they continue to work for all Americans against an opposition who would deny people basic rights and opportunities, I will continue to work to see as many of them elected as I can. - Chad Chavez, UAHuntsville Democrat



The UAHuntsville College Republicans is a group committed to the advancement of the conservative principles of the Republican Party on the UAHuntsville campus. As a member of the College Republican Federation of Alabama, we are also committed to working with our colleagues across the state to provide conservative options for the college students of Alabama.

With approximately 60% of voters under the age of thirty voting for President Obama in 2012, it is obvious that the College Republicans need to improve in delivering the conservative message to college campuses.

We believe the voice of the conservative college student has been stifled by Obama's rhetoric toward the under thirty demographic, but that there are conservative students with the desire to be heard. This assertion is supported by the fact that our group has more than tripled its membership over the past two months.

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the UAHuntsville College Republicans can email us at [uahRepublicans@gmail.com](mailto:uahRepublicans@gmail.com). We hope to hear from you soon!

Caleb Duke  
Chairman, UAHuntsville College Republicans



**Goddess of Freedom  
U.S. Capitol Building**

## SUMMER 2013 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSES

### **PSC 480/580 (First Five Weeks): U.S. Food Policy and Politics: MTWR 12:30-2:30**

**Room: MH-304 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. Specific topics will include how the Farm Bill affects nutrition in the U.S., how particular policies seek to improve the consumption of healthy foods (such as the “soda ban”), and how government may decrease inequalities in access to healthy foods across populations. The course will culminate with each student conducting and presenting research into a particular aspect of food policy as well as possible suggestions for solving the problem.

### **PSC 101 (First Five Weeks): American Government: MTWR 12:30-2:30 Room: MH-204 Dr. Reeves**

Introductory examination of American government and politics.

### **PSC 102-01 (Second Five Weeks): Comparative Governments and Foreign Politics: MTWR 10:15-12:15 Room: MH-126 Ms. Loggins**

This course will examine a variety of states in the international system, comparing their political systems, examining the impacts of history as well. We will discuss the relationships between the political and economic systems as well. We will study states that are classified as developed and developing. This will include presidential, parliamentary, and mixed political systems. We will analyze the ability of different types of states to accommodate diversity with respect to populations and their ideas as well as compare how different types of states perform the requisite duties of statehood.

### **PSC 615-01 (Second Five Weeks): ST: ANTI-FED DEBATE & PUB POL: MTWR 5:30-7:30 Room: MH-203 Dr. Spitz**

This course will consider several aspects of the Federalist-Anti-Federalist debate at the time of the American Founding and examine their relevance to contemporary public policy issues. This course is open to students with previous credit in Political Science 615.



## FALL 2013 UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

### **PSC 101 American Government**

**PSC 101-01: MW 12:45-2:05 Room: MH-122 Dr. Reeves.**

**PSC 101-02: MW 2:20-3:40 Room: MH-122 Dr. Reeves**

**PSC 101-03: TR 9:35-10:55 Room: MH-122 Dr. Summerlin-Long**

**PSC 101-04: TR 12:45-2:05 Room: MH-124 Dr. Summerlin-Long**

Introductory examination of American government and politics

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

**PSC 102-01: MWF 9:10-10:05 Room: MH-122 Ms. Loggins**

**PSC 102-02: MWF 10:20-11:15 Room: MH-122 Ms. Loggins**

This course will examine a variety of states in the international system, comparing their political systems, examining the impacts of history as well. We will discuss the relationships between the political and economic systems as well. We will study states that are classified as developed and developing. This will include presidential, parliamentary, and mixed political systems. We will analyze the ability of different types of states to accommodate diversity with respect to populations and their ideas as well as compare how different types of states perform the requisite duties of statehood.

### **PSC 260-01: Introduction to International Relations: TR 12:45-2:05 Room: MH-122 Dr. Obuah**

Examination of the basic factors underlying the conduct of international relations, focusing on the forces affecting the change and direction of the present state system. Special attention is given to the forces affecting war and peace. Prerequisite: PSC 101.

### **PSC 330-01: Classical Political Philosophy: MW 3:55-5:15 Room: MH-238 Dr. Pottenger**

Careful analysis of the roots of political inquiry in selected works of ancient and medieval political philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine 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 420-01: Federalism & Intergovernmental Relations: T 5:30-8:20 Room: MH-122 Dr. Reeves**

Examination of the theory and practice of American federalism with emphasis on the constitutional framework, intergovernmental relations, and the changing roles of state and local governments.

### **PSC 454-01: Civil Liberties: MW 12:45-2:05 Room: TBA Dr. Summerlin-Long**

Judicial interpretations of contemporary questions involving rights of individuals and limits of freedom of action in American society. Prerequisite: PSC 101; 351 and/or HY 318 recommended.

### **PSC 480-01 ST: Media & Politics: MWF 11:30-12:15 Room: MH-304 Dr. Kirkpatrick**

Nearly everything the public “knows” about politics comes from the media, making media a key component of American politics. This course will explore the relationship between media, the public, and government actors and institutions. In doing so, students will assess the media’s impact on policy making, the election process, public opinion, and democratic deliberation. Special attention will be given to the impact of new forms of media including blogs, social-networking, and citizen journalism. (Same as CM 340)

**PSC 480-02 ST: Global Trends: TR 11:10-12:30 Room: MH-200 Dr. Hawk**

The course is intended to stimulate thinking about the rapid and vast geopolitical changes characterizing the world today and possible global trajectories over the next 15 to 20 years. The course will look at overarching trends (the empowerment of individuals, the diffusion of power, demographic shifts, and growing resource demands for food, water, and energy, among others) and how potential "game changers" (such as a global economic crisis, the advent of new technologies, the potential for regional instability in the Middle East or Asia, etc.) can either positively or negatively shape our futures. The course will be interdisciplinary and has no prerequisites.

**PSC 480-03 ST: Reproductive Rights & Policy: TR 2:20-3:40 Room: MH-318 Dr. Kirkpatrick**

Reproductive policy is a highly politicized issue and draws the attention of politicians and the public. This course will critically investigate the history, development, implementation, and impacts of various reproductive policies in the United States. Students will develop an understanding of how these policies impact the provision of services and how they create disparities in reproductive health care. The class will examine issues such as family planning, assisted reproductive technologies, prenatal care, genetic manipulation, HIV/AIDS, and abortion. While the primary focus of this course will be on policies in the United States, this course will examine how policies in the U.S. compare to those in various other countries around the world.

**PSC 480-04 ST: Stats for PSC Majors: R 5:30-8:20 Room: LIB-211 Dr. Stoutenborough**

This course is an introduction to statistics and research design for undergraduate political science majors and graduate students in the public policy program. Statistical topics include basic descriptive statistics, probability, estimation and hypothesis testing, correlation, and regression. Research design topics include hypothesis development, empirical thinking, developing a research paper, and an emphasis on theoretical development. Students will understand how to write an empirical, research paper and how to complete basic statistical analyses. Skills developed included empirical/critical thinking, causal reasoning, data management, and data analysis and interpretation.

**PSC 484-01: Senior Seminar: R 2:20-5:15PM Room: MH-240 Dr. Spitz**

An intensive examination of literature with political themes, with emphasis 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.

## FALL 2013 GRADUATE COURSES

**PSC 520-01: Federalism & Intergovernmental Relations: T 5:30-8:20 Room: MH-122 Dr. Reeves**

Examination of the theory and practice of American federalism with emphasis on the constitutional framework, intergovernmental relations and the changing roles of state and local governments.

**PSC 580-01 ST: Reproductive Rights & Policy: TR 2:20-3:40 Room: MH-318 Dr. Kirkpatrick**

Reproductive policy is a highly politicized issue and draws the attention of politicians and the public. This course will critically investigate the history, development, implementation, and impacts of various reproductive policies in the United States. Students will develop an understanding of how these policies impact the provision of services and how they create disparities in reproductive health care. The class will examine issues such as family planning, assisted reproductive technologies, prenatal care, genetic manipulation, HIV/AIDS, and abortion. While the primary focus of this course will be on policies in the United States, this course will examine how policies in the U.S. compare to those in various other countries around the world.



**PSC 580-02 ST: Stats for PSC Majors: R 5:30-8:20 Room: LIB-211 Dr. Stoutenborough**

This course is an introduction to statistics and research design for undergraduate political science majors and graduate students in the public policy program. Statistical topics include basic descriptive statistics, probability, estimation and hypothesis testing, correlation, and regression. Research design topics include hypothesis development, empirical thinking, developing a research paper, and an emphasis on theoretical development. Students will understand how to write an empirical, research paper and how to complete basic statistical analyses. Skills developed included empirical/critical thinking, causal reasoning, data management, and data analysis and interpretation.

**PSC 580-03 ST: INTL SEC: GLOBAL TRENDS: W 5:30-8:20 Room: MH-318 Dr. Hawk**

The course is intended to stimulate thinking about the rapid and vast geopolitical changes characterizing the world today and the possible global trajectories over the next 15 to 20 years. The course will look at overarching trends (the empowerment of individuals, the diffusion of power, demographic shifts, and growing resource demands for food, water, and energy, among others) and how potential "game changers" (such as a global economic crisis, the advent of new technologies, the potential for regional instability in the Middle East or Asia, etc.) can either positively or negatively shape our futures. The course will be interdisciplinary and has no prerequisites

**PSC 600-01: The American Polity: T 5:30-8:20 Room: MH-326 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 635-01: Methodological Issues & Public Policy: M 5:30-8:20 Room: LIB 207 Dr. Stoutenborough**

This course expands upon the basic statistical techniques from PSC 580, and will familiarize students with the analytical tools used to understand public policy issues. Issues include advanced research design, advanced regression, maximum likelihood estimators (logit, ordered logit, poisson, negative binomial), and overviews of additional statistical approaches (e.g. time series, factor analysis). Upon completion of this course, students will have the tools necessary to conduct research that could be published in a peer-reviewed, academic journal. Prerequisites: SOC 333 or PY 300 or permission of chair.

**PSC 695 Internship in Government**

**PSC 695-01: TBA Room: TBA Staff**

**PSC 695-02: TBA Room: TBA Staff**

Graduate students may receive from one to six hours of academic credit for an internship with local, state, or federal governmental agencies. Students must attend internship seminars, keep a log of activities, and submit a report on their internship.



*The Librarian*, 1566  
Giuseppe Arcimboldo

## FALL GRADUATION DEADLINES

Planning to graduate this fall? Deadlines are fast approaching, so apply now. All applications must be submitted to Charger Central.

### Undergraduate Student Deadlines and Fees

On time	June 3, 2013	\$50
Up to 10 days late	June 4-17, 2013	\$75
More than 10 days late	June 18, 2013	\$100

### Graduate Student Deadlines and Fees

On time	September 2, 2014	\$50
Up to 10 days late	September 2-16, 2014	\$75
More than 10 days late	September 17, 2014	\$100

For more information, call Charger Central at 256.824.7777

Or visit <http://www.uah.edu/registrar/charger-central/welcome>

