



Political Science

SPRING 2014

Morton Hall 250 | 256-824-6192

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



Dr. John Pottenger

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We live in a world of rampant cynicism, gloom of war, and hubris of technology, often punctuated loudly by egotistical politics, corruption, and violence. And yet, throughout this muddled world of mere shadows on the wall, voices of compassion with calls for a deeper understanding of the human condition and tolerance of diversity still manage to find their way to the light of reason and alternative ideas for local, national and international progress.

To encourage enlightened views of the value of a civil society, students in political science classes learn the value and techniques of rational discourse and critical thinking, and participants in a number of political clubs on campus energetically provide opportunities for themselves and the broader Huntsville community to increase their understanding of the world.

As you read this newsletter, you will encounter a variety of vignettes and other accounts of student political and academic activities as well as new initiatives of the Department of Political Science.

During the past few months, the Political Science Club, the College Democrats, and the College Republicans have brought lively political exploration and debate to shed light on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, policy debates among members of the United Nations, concerns regarding the promise and limits of the Alabama constitution, and more!

To enhance the course offerings and provide opportunities for more of our students who desire greater academic challenges to understand the world and contribute to informed discussions of contemporary policy issues, the department has instituted the Joint Undergraduate Master’s Program (JUMP). The first such program in the College of Liberal Arts, the JUMP program allows qualified students to take graduate courses while completing their undergraduate degree program.

In fact, the department’s Master of Arts in Public Affairs is enhancing the quality of its offerings as faculty members develop new tracks and related courses with regard to energy and environmental policy, national security management, and quantitative methods, among others.

So, don’t let this muddled world get you down! Read this newsletter and see what others are doing to become effective change agents! And, learn about opportunities that lie ahead for your own academic growth! You’ll be glad you did!

Do you want to “JUMP” into our M.A. program?

Through the Joint Undergraduate Master’s Program (JUMP), undergraduate students may take up to 12 hours of approved courses at the graduate level, while completing their B.A. degrees. These courses can essentially “double-count” toward both the B.A. and M.A. degrees at UAH, allowing students to earn their M.A. in Public Affairs degree more rapidly and save money in the process!

However, students have to apply and be accepted into the program before they may take coursework that will count toward both degrees. Students who normally apply should meet the following criteria:

- Have advanced sophomore or junior standing
- Have a GPA of 3.25 or better
- Have completed at least nine hours of PSC coursework at UAH, with at least six hours at the 300 level or above

Students admitted to the PSC JUMP program continue to pay undergraduate tuition for the graduate courses they take as part of the program, do not have to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and do not have to pay a Graduate School application fee.

However, since we recently secured approval for the program, if you are a senior, meet the criteria, and are interested in the program, please contact Dr. Kathy Hawk to discuss your situation.



Political Science Club

Hello everyone and welcome back to another semester at UAH!

The Political Science Club is looking forward to an amazing semester filled with tons of activities for students to participate in and plenty of opportunities with which Political Science students may get involved.

This semester we will have Political Debate Nights twice a month. At these debate nights we encourage students to use information from current events and critical thinking skills developed in class in order to

provide a broader view of what trends are occurring today.

Every Tuesday the Political Science Club will host bake



Nathan Hilburn and Caleb Duke

sales in the foyer of Morton Hall; come join us and indulge in some sweet treats!

The Political Science Club will also be participating in Halloween activities, so keep an eye out for advertised events.

Finally, the Political Science Club will be sending a group of students to the Southern Regional Model United Nations in November.

Don’t forget that you may contact the Political Science Club at polisciclub@uah.edu or add us on Facebook at facebook.com/uah.politicalscienceclub.

Charlotte Ashley Cain,
Political Science Club President

PSC Alumni News

As a new graduate student at the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, Russia, I find myself in a new environment that presents its own set of challenges.

These range from finding my way around campus (all of the signs are in Russian), to figuring out a new academic and course structure, to trying to adjust to a different culture. I find myself trying to acclimate to a culture that is distinctly different from the one that is found in Huntsville. The food, the way that people interact, modes of transportation, and how you shop, are all very different from Alabama. I am, however, up to the challenge.

As a UAH alumnus, I feel that I am adequately prepared to take on this new challenge. I am a 2012 graduate of UAH, with a BA in History, and a minor in Political Science. I am studying for an MA in International Relations here at FEFU, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region and the role that Russia plays in this region. I am a recipient of a scholarship from the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, and as such my tuition is covered, and I receive a monthly stipend to cover living expenses. I can't wait to see where this new path leads, and I am excited to see where it takes me.

As I embark on this new adventure, I owe a lot of gratitude to several professors that I had at UAH, but the two that had the largest impacts on me were Dr. Andrew Dunar in the History department, and Dr. Kathy Hawk in the Political Science department. Both taught courses pertaining to International Relations and Foreign Policy, and they piqued my interest in these fields of study.



Jesse Thomas, Vladivostok, Russia

Dr. Dunar, as head of the History department during my time at UAH, also encouraged me along the way and offered general advice and help whenever I needed it. I also owe a lot of thanks to Dr. John Pottenger and to Anita Rathz, who both helped open my eyes to accepting and embracing cultures different from my own. This has helped me tremendously in my new environment. With these acknowledgements, I wish everyone at UAH good luck with their studies this Fall.

— Jesse Thomas

Conflicting Sides: Israeli-Palestine Conflict

During the month of September the UAH Political Science Club, UAH Democrats, and UAH Republicans hosted a two-part Conflicting Sides presentation on the Israeli-Palestine conflict.



On September 13th Dr. Anis Salib presented the Palestinian perspective as well as his interpretation of future trends in the Israeli-Palestine conflict. On September 20th Dr.

Max Rosenthal presented the Israeli perspective on the current relations and turmoil between Israel and Palestine. The Political Science Club, UAH Democrats, and UAH Republicans would like to thank Dr. Salib and Dr. Rosenthal for their time and enlightening perspective on the Israeli-Palestine conflict.



Dr. Anis Salib

The video from these talks are online at the following links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=uD4venP6tA0 and http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=H4EzgYp8k34



Keep an eye out for additional Conflicting Sides presentations in the future!

Dr. Max Rosenthal

Homecoming Week

Homecoming is the week of October 14-18 this year and we are excited to show off our school spirit and compete for the homecoming trophy this year! There are several ways to get involved, from donating canned goods for the can creation competition to helping decorate the float for the homecoming parade.

In addition, the Political Science Club is proud to announce that Vice President Caleb Duke has been nominated as part of this year's homecoming court. We are very proud and would like to wish him good luck in the run for Homecoming King!

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States.

The Nu Delta chapter at UAH is in the process of becoming more active. We are planning to have more activities for members in the spring!



We will also be having an initiation ceremony for new members in the spring. Criteria for invitation are:

- Junior or Senior class standing
- Ranked in upper third of class
- Completion of at least ten semester hours in political science (including at least one upper-division course)
- An average of B or higher in Political Science courses

For more information see Dr. Anne Marie Choup.

Cassandra Smith
Nu Delta President

“Information and education are powerful forces in support of peace. Just as war begins in the minds of men, so does peace.”

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

Model United Nations

This November the Political Science Club will send more than a dozen delegates to the Southern Regional Model United Nations in Atlanta, GA.

This will be the second Model United Nations that the Political Science Club has participated in and the first traditional Model United Nations for the Political Science Club.



A traditional Model United Nations allows delegates to participate in parliamentary procedures and teaches delegates proper decorum and skills used in the real United Nations.

The Southern Regional Model United Nations is a well-known institution and the Political Science Club is so excited for its delegates to take part in such a wonderful program!

College Republicans

Last weekend College Republicans from all over the state gathered together in Auburn, Alabama, for the College Republicans Federation of Alabama convention.

Students gathered to hear speakers from across the state and country. The weekend included a forum about getting your first paid job in politics, a forum of Republican women leaders around the state, and a discussion on Common Core Education standards.

Mary Scott Hunter, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice, and Cameron Smith with the Alabama Policy Institute led the Common Core discussion. This was the first time that the two sides of the Common Core curriculum were brought together for a

public discussion of these education standards.

We also had two guests from the College Republican National Committee who gave a College Republican's report, "The Grand Ole Party, a Brand New Generation." CRNC Co-Chair Skot Covert and Executive Director Matthew Donnellan discussed how the GOP can win over the youth vote and spent the weekend getting to know Alabama College Republicans.

The day was full of lively discussion about the issues facing our state and our country, as well as the future of the College Republicans of Alabama. The Federation passed a new constitution this weekend, and it was a great kick-off to an important upcoming election year. This time next year election season will be well into full swing across our great state.



The College Republicans are an active voice on campuses across the state to educate students and are foot soldiers of the Republican Party to help get the strongest candidates elected.

The Executive Board of the College Republicans is looking forward to an exciting and important year.

If anyone is interested in joining the UAHuntsville College Republicans please email us at uahRepublicans@gmail.com.

SPRING 2014 UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

PSC 101-01: American Government (TR 9:35-10:55; MH 122) Dr. Summerlin-Long

PSC 101-02: American Government (TR 11:10-12:30; MH 122) 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 102-01: Comp Politics and Foreign Governments (MWF 9:35-10:55; MH 324) Dr. Choup

PSC 102-02: Comp Politics and Foreign Governments (MWF 11:10-12:30; MH 122) 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 use the case study approach to look at democracies in both industrialized and developing settings, countries in transition to democracy, and non-democracies. By the end of the course, each student will have a solid understanding of basic points of comparison for countries and their usefulness, as well as empirical information on the political systems and contemporary issues of our case study countries. Students will also sharpen their critical thinking skills through discussion and analysis of news throughout the semester.

PSC 103-01: State and Local Government (MW 3:55-5:15; MH 122) Dr. Reeves

Examination of state and local politics in America with attention given to the politics of state governments, including the roles of the legislatures, governors, courts and political parties, and to urban problems, governmental forms, power structures, and policy outputs.

PSC 260-01: Introduction to International Relations (TR 12:45-2:05; MH 122) Dr. Hawk

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 the role of military force, national 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 309-01: Political Parties and Interest Groups (MW 2:20-3:40; MH 122) Dr. Reeves

Survey of the American presidency – the role of the president in the U.S. political system, the electoral process, the origins and development of the office, the individuals who have filled the office, the political demands of presidential leadership, and the managerial challenges of presidential administration. Special emphasis on internal functioning of executive branch of government through analysis of structure and techniques of the national administration.

PSC 332-01: Modern Political Philosophy (MW 3:55-5:15; MH 324) Dr. Pottenger

Critical examination of the philosophical foundation of modern politics that emerged from the 15th through the 19th centuries. Major themes and theorists include the concepts of individual rights, property, representation, majority rule, limited government, and revolution discussed in selected writings of Luther, Calvin, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, J.S. Mill, and Marx. Prerequisite: 9 hours of PSC, PHL and/or HY. (Same as PHL 332)



PSC 399-01: Current Issues (W 11:30-12:25; MH 326) Dr. Hawk

This is a one-credit hour course that will examine current national and international issues. There are no prerequisites for the course, and it will be an opportunity to engage in lively discussions about current affairs. No formal text will be used, but students will be expected to sign up for a subscription to *Time* magazine, and read articles from different newspaper sites for each class. Contact Dr. Hawk for information on how to subscribe to *Time*. (The course may be repeated up to three times.)

PSC 436-01 Political Ideologies (TR 11:10-12:30; MH 124) Dr. Pottenger

This course introduces students to political ideologies of the modern era that have influenced citizens, change agents, and policymakers as they participate in the dynamics of contemporary societies, economics, and politics. The following primary ideological arguments will be considered: modern liberalism (Western-style democracy and capitalism), neoliberalism, fascism, Nazism, and Marxism as well as the role of religion as it interfaces with ideology and inspires efforts at reform, revolution, and terrorism.

PSC 440-01 Regional Studies: Middle East (W 5:30-8:20; MH 328) Dr. Hawk

Although the Middle East has frequently been in the news, few Americans know much about the region, and much of what they think they do know is often not accurate. As the United States struggles to deal with the Arab Spring movements – and the repressive responses from embattled governments – it is important that students understand the history, culture, and attitudes of the people that live in the region. In the first part of the semester, the course will provide a general historical, cultural, and economic overview of the region, including a discussion on the basic tenets of Islam. After laying this foundation, the course will then turn to examining the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Finally, we will examine a number of key countries in the region and look at their histories and political systems in more detail.



PSC 480-01: ST: Environmental Policy (M 5:30-8:20; MH 306) Dr. Stoutenborough

The environmental policy course applies policy theory to answer many of the big questions about environmental politics. For instance, why is public policy often inconsistent with scientific evidence or expert opinion? What role do experts play in this process? Are environmental and natural phenomena too complex for policymakers and politicians to translate into clear policy objectives? How do policymakers determine when to take action on environmental issues? How does the political system evaluate the risk associated with an environmental impact? How does the public enable or constrain the actions of policymakers? This course provides a critical analysis of the relationship between policymaking and environmental issues. It draws from a range of theories, allowing students to develop the skills to evaluate and understand how complex issues in environmental science such as risk, complexity, evidence, expertise, technology, and institutions shape and are shaped by the policymaking process. The course will be valuable for any students interested in developing an understanding of policymaking relating to science, technology, and the environment.

PSC 480-02: ST: Stats for PSC Majors (TR 2:20-3:40; LIB 210) 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 480-03: ST: U.S Immigration Policy (TR 3:55-5:15; MH 122) Dr. Summerlin-Long

Politicians from across the spectrum seem to agree that the U.S. immigration system is broken, yet comprehensive reform of the system has thus far eluded them. This class asks why. Starting with the goals of our immigration policy as they have developed through history, we will examine how well our policies are achieving those goals and whether or not the goals need to change yet again. We will study who we let in and who we keep out, how we treat immigrants once they arrive, and what the potential role of state governments may be in filling the void of national immigration policy. The course will culminate with a legislative simulation in which the class develops its own comprehensive immigration reform bill.



PSC 480-04: ST: Literature and Politics (R 2:20-5:15; MH 306) Dr. Spitz

This course will explore the close relationship between literature and politics in the United States and a number of foreign settings. The course may be taken for credit by students who have previously taken Senior Seminar with Dr. Spitz. Assignments will be adjusted to accommodate students with or without such experience.

PSC 484-01: Senior Seminar (MW 12:45-2:05; MH 124) Dr. Choup

Students in this seminar will consider what they have learned from their previous classes in political science, and will review various approaches and subfields of the discipline through assigned readings and writing exercises. They will conduct research on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students will give oral reports on progress made throughout the term, and at the end of the semester will write a final paper. Students will also prepare for life after UAH by writing resumes and statements of purpose.

PSC 495-01, 02: Internship in Government (TBA) Dr. Reeves

Student internships are available for undergraduate students for up 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. Minimum eligibility requirements include at least eighteen (18) semester hours in political science courses. A minimum overall GPA of 2.5 or better is required, with 2.8 or better in political science courses. Students who are interested in an internship for Spring 2014 should contact Dr. Reeves ASAP for an application and to discuss options.

**IF YOU DON'T HAVE A
PROGRAM OF STUDY
(POS) COMPLETED,
PLEASE
CONTACT CINDY,
THE PSC STAFF
ASSISTANT at
cas0001@uah.edu.**

SPRING 2014 GRADUATE COURSES

PSC 540-01: Regional Studies: The Middle East (W 5:30-8:20; MH 328) Dr. Hawk

Although the Middle East has frequently been in the news, few Americans know much about the region, and much of what they think they do know is often not accurate. As the United States struggles to deal with the Arab Spring movements – and the repressive responses from embattled governments – it is important that students understand the history, culture, and attitudes of the people that live in the region. In the first part of the semester, the course will provide a general historical, cultural, and economic overview of the region, including a discussion on the basic tenets of the Islamic. After laying this foundation, the course will then turn to examining the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Finally, we will examine a number of key countries in the region and look at their histories and political systems in more detail. All of this will provide a foundation upon which we will place our discussion of U.S. policy towards the Middle East.

PSC580-01: ST: Environmental Policy (M 5:30-8:20; MH 306) Dr. Stoutenborough

The environmental policy course applies policy theory to answer many of the big questions about environmental politics. For instance, why is public policy often inconsistent with scientific evidence or expert opinion? What role do experts play in this process? Are environmental and natural phenomena too complex for policymakers and politicians to translate into clear policy objectives? How do policymakers determine when to take action on environmental issues? How does the political system evaluate the risk associated with an environmental impact? How does the public enable or constrain the actions of policymakers? This course provides a critical analysis of the relationship between policymaking and environmental issues. It draws from a range of theories, allowing students to develop the skills to evaluate and understand how complex issues in environmental science such as risk, complexity, evidence, expertise, technology, and institutions shape and are shaped by the policymaking process. The course will be valuable for any students interested in developing an understanding of policymaking relating to science, technology, and the environment.



PSC 580-02: ST: Stats for PSC Majors (TR 2:20-3:40; LIB 210) Dr. Stoutenborough

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PSC 580-03: ST: U.S Immigration Policy (TR 3:55-5:15; MH 122) Dr. Summerlin-Long

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PSC 601-01: The Public Policy Process (R 5:30-8:20; MH 238) Dr. Stoutenborough

The Public Policy Process course provides an analytical framework for critical thinking about public policy processes in government. With a focus on the theories of the policymaking process, this is a foundational course for all other public policy courses. An emphasis will be placed on understanding how the policy process works, why policies are, or are not, adopted, and whether adopted policies are likely to be successful. Discussion will address the various political, economic, social and institutional factors that influence policymaking processes and the impacts of policy decisions by national, state, and local levels of governments. The purpose of the class is to provide a broad overview of the policy process and to facilitate empirical application of major theories.

PSC 615-01: ST: Capstone (T 5:30-8:20; MH 338) Dr. Reeves

The Capstone course will assist students in developing a research topic on broader issues covered in the Public Affairs program.

PSC 695-01, 02: Internship in Government (TBA) Dr. Reeves

Student internships are available for graduate students for up 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, D.C. All students must meet all eligibility requirements and be admitted to the internship program before enrolling for internship credit hours. Minimum eligibility requirements include at least eighteen (18) semester hours in political science courses. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 is required. Students who are interested in an internship for Spring 2014 should contact Dr. Reeves ASAP for an application and to discuss options.

SPRING 2014 GRADUATION DEADLINES

Planning to graduate this spring? Some deadlines have passed; others are fast approaching, so apply now. All applications must be submitted to Charger Central.

Undergraduate Student Deadlines and Fees

On time	October 1, 2013	\$50
Up to 10 days late	October 2, 2013	\$75
More than 10 days late	October 16, 2013	\$100

Graduate Student Deadlines and fees

On time	February 1, 2014	\$75
Up to 10 days late	February 2, 2014	\$50
More than 10 days late	February 18, 2014	\$100

For more information, call Charger Central at 256.824.7777

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

