



Political Science

SUMMER/FALL 2015

Morton Hall 250

256-824-6192

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



Dr. John Pottenger

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Political Science News.....2
 Pi Sigma Alpha.....3
 PSC Student Activities.....4
 Summer Undergraduate/
 Graduate Courses.....5
 Fall Undergraduate Courses.....6-7
 Fall Graduate Courses.....8
 Summer/Fall Deadlines.....9

Greetings!

You may find this interesting: The Department of Political Science is being reviewed by the university this spring semester (the last review took place 10 years ago!). In preparation, the department completed a self-study report that included a survey of political science (BA) and public affairs (MA) student alumni, to ascertain their perception of the department’s quality of academic instruction with regard to one of the department’s mission goals:

to enable students to develop critical thinking skills by engaging in empirical research and ethical critique of current events and competing explanations of those events, and high level communicative skills through class presentations and challenging writing assignments.

To assess this goal, the alumni students were asked to respond to the question: “To what extent did your experience as a Political Science major/minor or Public Affairs graduate student contribute to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in each of the following [nine] areas?” The nine areas were critical thinking, effective writing, effective speaking and listening, the ability to conduct effective research, the ability to make informed and persuasive arguments and to analyze the arguments of others, capacity for and commitment to lifelong learning, understanding of U.S. politics and public affairs, understanding of international affairs and global issues, and understanding of diversity and diverse perspectives on politics and public affairs.

So, how well did we do? The data from the survey suggests that faculty instruction contributed significantly to the alumni’s thinking skill levels, with an average of 66.7% in the highest category of “considerably” and an average of 20.8% in the next category of “moderately,” for a combined average of 87.5% in the two top categories.

The findings strongly support our own belief that we have dedicated faculty members who strive in every way to provide you with the best academic experience possible!

We’re here to help you develop your academic potential!

-John R. Pottenger, Ph.D.
 Professor and Chair

POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWS

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Toby Davis is currently a general law supervisory attorney with the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal as well as a military attorney with the U.S. Army Reserves. He holds a BA degree and a JD degree from Louisiana State University, and just completed his Master of Arts degree in Public Affairs. Toby has been conferred several recognition awards during his career; some of the awards include Army Material Command Attorney of the Year, Superior Civilian Service Award, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. In the Public Affairs program, Toby brought invaluable insights and experience from his legal career to the classroom and engaged in outstanding academic research for his instructors. We are pleased to acknowledge Toby Davis as our outstanding Graduate Student for this academic year.



Dr. Pottenger recognizes Toby Davis and Jenna Tischler at the College of Liberal Arts Honors Day Convocation.

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Jenna Tischler transferred to the University of Alabama in Huntsville in Spring 2013, and began her undergraduate studies within the political science department that fall. Since joining the university, she's been active on campus, serving as an SGA senator her sophomore year and holding various positions within campus organizations. Jenna was a member of the winning team in the Spring 2014 SAIC Case Study Scholarship Competition. In Fall 2014, she spent a semester studying ASEAN politics and the Thai language in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In her final semester, she has worked as a policy intern for the Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy, researching the viability of energy efficiency policies within the state of Alabama. Jenna is also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha honor society and the department's JUMP program. We are pleased to acknowledge Jenna Tischler as our outstanding Undergraduate Student for this academic year.



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 has been recognizing UAH's most distinguished political science students since 1982.



Criteria for induction include the following:

- 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

The initiation ceremony was held Tuesday, April 7. New inductees for 2015 are Haley Boggs, Sacred Huff, Julia Kelly, Michelle Packard, and Jenna Tischler. We offer them our heartfelt congratulations on this achievement!



PI SIGMA ALPHA INDUCTION LUNCHEON



Dr. Kathy Hawk and Dr. Anne Marie Choup welcome (top row left to right) Isabel Montoya-Minisee, Sacred Huff, (bottom row left to right) Michelle Packard, and Jenna Tischler to the Nu Delta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honorary society for Political Science.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

COMMENTARY BY JECTONE OOOYO

On August 2014, President Obama hosted the first ever U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit with the main aim of engaging African leaders differently on matters of mutual interest. This was seen in Africa as a paradigm shift in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy in relation to Africa, which had long been viewed as based on lectures on democracy and good governance. Reaction in Africa regarding these efforts by the president have been largely positive. However, others are of the opinion that these efforts are a knee-jerk reaction to the Chinese government's aggressive trade engagement with Africa and that it is worth noting that China has projected a non-interventionist approach with regard to African politics, instead choosing to trade with all as long as their interests are served. This begs the question: Is the U.S. changing strategy in reaction to this, or is Africa once again being subjected to power games between two world powers?



Jectone Ooyo is a public affairs graduate student at UAH.



Jesse Thomas, 2012 UAH graduate, has been appointed Secretary General of Model United Nations of the Russian Far East (MUNRFE) Conference.

PSC ALUMNI NEWS

Jesse Thomas was appointed to oversee all aspects of the implementation of the conference MUNRFE – Model United Nations of the Russian Far East. Jesse began an M.A. program in International Relations at Far Eastern Federal University called “Russia in the Asia-Pacific: Politics, Economics, and Security.”

The conference will simulate the work of the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council. Also, it will bring together students from the Far East to discuss current pressing issues in international affairs. The event is highly professional and maintains strict decorum at all times. Jesse is gaining invaluable experience working with such a diverse group as well as giving students the opportunity to work with someone whose style is uniquely different from their own.

2015 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSES

► Course content, instructor, date, and time are subject to change ◄

PSC 101-01: (First Five Weeks): American Government (MTWR 12:30-2:30; MH 238) Dr. Reeves

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 480-01/580-01 (First Five Weeks): Special Topics: Food Policy (MTWR 5:30-7:30; MH 240) Dr. Reeves

This course examines current patterns of food consumption and production in the United States. Starting with a basic contrast between what we know people 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 102-01 (Second Five Weeks) Comparative Politics and Foreign Governments (MTWR 10:15-12:15; MH 126) 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. This is a required course for political science majors and minors.

PSC 440-01/540-01 (Second Five Weeks) Regional Studies: Russia and Post-Communist Europe (MTWR 5:30-7:30; MH 240) Ms. Kingsbury

Russian politics have been in the headlines recently, frequently supplying contradictory and oversimplified views on Russia’s economic and political developments. As the international community struggles to fend off the latest crisis in post-communist Europe, a balanced analysis of Russian history, culture, and post-communist evolution is essential to understanding the developments throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The first part of the course will offer a survey of the economic and political developments leading to the break-down of the Soviet Union. We will then examine Yeltsin’s presidency, focusing on economic reforms and the emergence of the Russian party system. A third part of the course will discuss Putin’s presidency and his economic and social welfare reform initiatives, foreign policy, and the “vertical of power” political structure. The analysis of the political party formation and socio-economic developments of Russia will be put in a comparative perspective with other countries of post-communist Europe.

PSC 495-01, 02/695-01, 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.

FALL 2015 UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

- ▶ Course content, instructor, date, and time are subject to change ◀
- ▶ All courses are three-hour courses unless otherwise indicated ◀

PSC 101-01: American Government (MW 12:45-2:05; MH 122) Dr. Summerlin-Long

PSC 101-02: American Government (TR 12:45-2:05; MH 122) Dr. Summerlin-Long

PSC 101-03: American Government (TR 9:35-10:55; MH 122) Dr. Reeves

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: Comparative Politics and Foreign Governments (MWF 9:10-10:05; MH 124) Dr. Choup

PSC 102-02: Comparative Politics and Foreign Governments (MWF 10:20-11:15; 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. This is a required course for all political science majors and minors.

PSC 260-01: Introduction to International Relations (TR 11:10-12:30; MH 122) Dr. Hawk

This course is designed to give students a broad introduction to the field of international relations. We will combine the study of the basic theories and concepts of international relations and then apply them to real world situations. Throughout the course, we focus on the issue of international conflict. Why does it occur? Is it possible to prevent it? How have the end of the Cold War and 9/11 changed conflict? In the latter part of the course, we will look at the issue of globalization and whether or not it has changed the nature and prevalence of conflict.

PSC 302-01 The American Congress (TR 12:45-2:05; MH 310) Dr. Reeves

Why does Congress look and act the way it does? This course undertakes a comprehensive examination of the roles and functions of the U.S. Congress, the institution, and the legislative process. We will review major aspects of the subject, as well as some of the principal approaches to studying it. Topics to be discussed include the development of the modern Congress, congressional elections, representation, the committee system, rules and procedures, legislative parties, leadership, congressional roll call votes, and the institution's role in the policymaking process. We will also delve into Congress' relationships with the executive branch and with interest groups.

PSC 330-01: Classical Political Philosophy (MW 3:55-5:15; MH 232J) Dr. Pottenger

Careful analysis of the roots of political inquiry in selected works of ancient and medieval political philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Sophocles, 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. (Same as PHL 330; double counts when applied to the double major in Political Science and Philosophy.)

PSC 399-01: Current Affairs (W 11:30-12:25; MH 310) Dr. Choup

An examination of current national and international issues. This is a one-hour course that may be repeated up to three times.

PSC 454-01: Civil Liberties (MW 2:20-3:40; MH 310) Dr. Summerlin-Long

This course examines the development of constitutional law in the United States with regard to civil liberties and civil rights. The emphasis is on the relationship between the individual and the government; topics will include freedom of speech, equality, the civil rights movement, and the rights of criminal defendants, among others. Materials will include decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court as well as multimedia portrayals of social, economic, and political changes that accompanied legal developments.

FALL 2015 UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

PSC 466-01: National Security Strategy and Policy (W 5:30-8:20; MH 204) Dr. Hawk

An examination of current U.S. national security strategy and policy. The course will review overarching strategy and policy documents, examine specific responses to the variety of threats facing the United States, and then evaluate whether those policies are effective at achieving their goals. Prerequisite: PSC 101.

PSC 480-01: Advanced Topics in PSC (TR 9:35-10:55; MH 124) Staff

Selected topics in local, state, national or world politics.

PSC 484-01: Senior Seminar (MW 12:45-2:05; MH 203) Dr. Choup

Students in this seminar will review and analyze various approaches and debates in the subfields of political science. Through assigned readings, discussions, and writing exercises, senior seminar students will connect lessons learned from past political science coursework with current discussions in the discipline. Students will also engage in professional development exercises as preparation for their various post-graduate career options.

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 Fall 2015 should contact Dr. Reeves ASAP for an application and to discuss options.



FALL 2015 GRADUATE COURSES

▶ Course content, instructor, date, and time are subject to change ◀

PSC 566-01: National Security Strategy & Policy (W 5:30-8:20; MH 204) Dr. Hawk

A graduate-level examination of current U.S. national security strategy and policy. The course will review overarching strategy and policy documents, examine specific responses to the variety of threats facing the United States, and then evaluate whether those policies are achieving their goals.

PSC 580-01: Special Topics in Political Science (TR 9:35-10:55; MH 124) Staff

Selected topics in local, state, national or world politics.

PSC 600-01: The American Polity (T 5:30-8:20; MH 343) Dr. Pottenger

Comprehensive and intensive review of the foundations, institutions, and dynamics of the American polity and the relationship of these forces to the making of public policy. This is a required course for students in the public affairs program.

PSC 635-01: Methodological Issues and Public Policy (R 5:30-8:20; MH 203) Staff

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 690-01 Capstone (M 5:30-8:20; MH 337) Dr. Reeves

The Capstone course will assist students in developing a research topic on broader issues covered in the public affairs program. Required for graduate students in their last year.

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 Fall 2015 should contact Dr. Reeves ASAP for an application and to discuss options.



SUMMER AND FALL 2015 GRADUATION DEADLINES

Planning to graduate soon? Some deadlines have passed; others are fast approaching, so apply now. All applications must be submitted to Charger Central in University Center 118.

Undergraduate Student Deadlines and Fees

| | Summer | Fall | Fees |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------|
| On time | February 1, 2015 | June 1, 2015 | \$50 |
| Up to 10 days late | February 2-10, 2015 | June 2-10, 2015 | \$75 |
| More than 10 days late | February 11-20, 2015 | June 11-20, 2015 | \$100 |

Graduate Student Deadlines and Fees

| | Spring | Fall | Fees |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| On time | June 1, 2015 | September 1, 2015 | \$50 |
| Up to 10 days late | June 2-10, 2015 | September 2-10, 2015 | \$75 |
| More than 10 days late | June 11-20, 2015 | September 11-20, 2015 | \$100 |

For more information, call Charger Central at 256.824.7777

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

