

## FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR MICHELE ANGRIST

Dear Political Science Students,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying your fall trimester coursework. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on developments this year involving Political Science faculty.

As some of you learned late last year, the department had to bid farewell to Professor Anthony Dell'Aera, who, after four years at Union, moved this fall to a permanent teaching position at Worcester State University in Worcester, Massachusetts. "Tony D.", as he was affectionately known, was a beloved instructor and mentor here. We were sorry to lose him, but happy that he found the position at Worcester State, and we wish him the very best.

We are very fortunate, however, to be welcoming back Professor Terry Weiner, who is teaching several courses for the department this year in place of Prof. Dell'Aera. Professor Weiner is a veteran teacher – he chaired this department for many, many years in the 2000s before retiring. He can't seem to stay away from the classroom, however, and we are glad he's back. Watch for his popular course on the politics of education in the U.S. in Spring 2017.

You should also know that a number of regular Political Science faculty members have sabbatical leave this year. These leaves are designed to allow faculty additional time for research, writing, and publication – activities that raise Union's profile nationally while enriching the classroom as faculty build their knowledge and expertise. Professors Cidam, Hislope, and Dallas have leaves this year and will be teaching fewer courses as a result.

While we will miss them, faculty leaves also present an opportunity to bring exciting new offerings to the curriculum. This winter we welcome three guest professors into the classroom. Professor Janette Schue will be teaching PSC 272, "The Environment, Energy, and U.S. Politics." She brings valuable expertise to this course: an M.A. in Biology, a J.D. from Stanford Law School, and experience as an environmental lawyer. Professor Ausra Park

from Siena College will be teaching PSC 255, "Russian Foreign Policy." She visited campus last year as a guest speaker in our Pizza & Politics series and gave a lively and informative presentation. Finally, Professor Yeufen Hsieh will be teaching PSC 242, "Democracies and Immigration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." She is wrapping up her Ph.D. at the University of Albany, where she has already proven herself to be a popular and effective teacher. Her research specialty is on this topic -- a particularly timely one given the formidable impact immigration has had on Brexit and the U.S. presidential election. I urge you to strongly consider each of these courses.

### Requirements for Graduating with Honors in Political Science

- GPA of 3.50 or better in PSC, as well as 3.30 cumulatively
  - Completion of a PSC seminar with an A- or better [if you do not attain an A- in the seminar, you may still be eligible for honors if your PSC GPA is 3.70 or higher.] Either way, you must complete a seminar.
  - At least three PSC course grades of A- or better [not including thesis courses].
  - A grade of A- or higher on the senior project.
  - Delivery of an oral (not poster) presentation on your senior project at the Steinmetz symposium.
- \*\*ID majors must meet the requirements for honors in both departments\*\***

### Remember!

The Political Science website has lots of useful information for majors and prospective majors

<http://muse.union.edu/politicalscience/>

## PROFESSOR SOUNDS OFF

### *Travelogue from Kenya and Dubai*

From Professor Michele Angrist

This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya, and to Dubai, one of the seven of the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai is a super-wealthy, outwardly liberal emirate where one can shop in the largest mall in the world, ski down a slope inside of a mall, ascend the tallest building in the world, and take a tram out to the edge of an artificial, palm tree-shaped peninsula and swim with dolphins at Atlantis Dubai. Dubai has built itself into an entrepot city, a true air and sea hub connecting east and west. It is incredibly cosmopolitan: residents of Dubai hail from literally all over the world, and you can find just about any kind of food you'd care to sample. A friend of a friend is a pediatrician there, and she has treated patients from 60+ nationalities and counting this year.

The thing is, when you go to Dubai, you don't tend to encounter Emirati *citizens* so much as foreign workers in shops, restaurants, museums, public transportation, etc. Dubai and many other small Gulf polities juggle a situation in which the number of expatriate residents nears or surpasses that of citizens -- and wide gaps in political and economic opportunity exist between the latter and the former. In the long run, this is a recipe for instability in this authoritarian political setting.

The one place you \*do\* see citizens, however, is when you come through customs at the airport. The young Emirati man who processed me looked at my passport, and then at me, and said, "what is going on in your country?" For this was mid-July, and African-American citizens were dying at the hands of white police officers -- and vice versa.

In Kenya I was part of a team of professors from the NY6 Colleges (Union, Colgate, Skidmore, Hobart William-Smith, St. Lawrence, and Hamilton) participating in a workshop focused on the politics of belonging in Kenya. The course might have been better titled "the politics of *not* belonging" -- as Kenya struggles mightily with building a polity in which citizens from varied ethnic, national, and religious backgrounds can live with dignity, prosperity, and justice in a context of the difficult legacies of British

## The Union Banner

The Banner is Union College's student Political Newsletter. Every other week The Banner publishes five articles to be printed and dispersed throughout campus as well as published online (at [www.muse.union.edu/banner](http://www.muse.union.edu/banner)). The articles are contributed by students, providing a platform to express opinions regarding political theories, current events, and issues.

Email articles to [unionbanner@union.edu](mailto:unionbanner@union.edu) to contribute.

colonialism, and the challenges of living next door to mostly anarchic Somalia, from whence Al-Shabaab Islamist militants are a threat.

We heard from Kenyan professors who told us about the terrible, deadly ethnic election violence that broke out in 2007-2008 when supporters of the losing presidential candidate felt that elections were unjustly administered. We heard from Kenyan citizens of Somali ethnicity, whose marginalization has spanned five decades but has intensified since Somalia's descent into anarchy in 1991 eventually led to the rise of al-Shabaab. And we heard from Muslim Kenyan mothers on the coast who fear (reasonably) that their sons will be extra-judicially executed by state authorities on suspicion of being members or supporters of al-Shabaab.

And it struck me: as far away as Dubai and Nairobi are, as different as their histories and geographical contexts are relative to the United States ... ultimately, the challenges facing those societies are not so different than those facing the United States. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, political systems across the globe face the challenge of building communication, dialogue, trust, and some kind of cohesive and inclusive identity among peoples of different colors, faiths, languages, origins, and dispositions. Doing this will require wise and patient leadership, prodded on and held accountable by grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations, and regular people committed to these goals.

## ALUMNI INTERVIEWS

### LIZA TAYLOR



***What is your current professional title?:*** Political Theory Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts at Loyola Marymount University

***What does the work involve?:*** As a Political Theory Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Bellarmine Society of Fellows at Loyola Marymount University, I teach a variety of political theory courses within LMU's Department of Political Science, including Foundations of Political Thought, Contemporary Political Theory, Modern Political Theory, and special topics seminars in feminist theory. I also regularly participate in the Bellarmine Society of Fellows Seminar, devoted to training and critical reflection on liberal arts and Ignatian pedagogy in addition to research and professional development. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I am working on a number of scholarly articles in the broad areas of contemporary feminist theory and critical race theory. One of these engages in a close rereading of Susan Moller Okin's controversial essay, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" Another presents the concept of coalition coming out of 1980s U.S. women of color feminism as a central one to contemporary political theory. A third article presents "coalitional pedagogy" as an inventive approach to teaching and learning about social justice and critical feminist theory in the 21st century.

***How did your time at Union prepare you for your current position?*** My time at Union has been invaluable to my development as a teacher-scholar and has proven particularly helpful within my current position at a liberal arts college. Not only did I discover my passion for philosophy, political theory, and feminist theory at Union college, but I was encouraged there to see the interdisciplinary connections across my various "home" departments in philosophy, political science, and women's studies. This interdisciplinary focus has informed my entire post-graduate course of study and continues to shape my approach to teaching social and political thought. My time at Union also exposed me to the exciting opportunities engendered through a liberal arts education. My teaching philosophy reflects many of these core principles. The meaningful relationships I developed with my professors at Union have provided models for how to engage with my students at LMU. In many ways, Union taught me how to be both the scholar and the teacher that I am today.

***What is your fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science?*** My fondest memories of majoring in political science almost all center on experiences I had in Lori Marso's various political theory courses. It was in those courses that I not only gained a firm grasp of key canonical thinkers and ideas, but where I also gained the confidence and interest to push back against canonical texts from a feminist perspective. A particularly fond memory on this front would have to be defending my junior research project on Simone de Beauvoir's treatment of narcissism in women against a room full of male philosophy professors and students. Marso's seminar on feminist political theory (out of which the Beauvoir paper first emerged) was pivotal to my development as a scholar. It was also pivotal in shaping my teaching philosophy. Marso modeled the course after a graduate seminar, putting considerable responsibility on the students for leading discussion and unpacking the texts we read together. I realized after that class that if I could figure out a way to live out as much of my life as possible in spaces such as that one I would be a very happy person. It was at that moment that I decided to pursue a Ph.D.

***What advice would you have for current majors for life after Union?*** For current political science majors, I would encourage all of you to revel in your liberal arts education. Unless you plan to be an engineer or a doctor, there is absolutely no reason why you shouldn't take every class that catches your interest (and indeed even still if you do plan to be an engineer or doctor!). Step outside of your comfort zone and explore as much as you can both within and outside of the major. Get to know your professors! They will likely be some of the best mentors you will ever encounter. As you get ready to leave Union, explore the various ways in which you can take your interests and passions and turn them into a career path. Have frank discussions with your mentors at Union about how to navigate those waters. Do internships in the summers or internship programs during the academic year. I was considering both law school and graduate school when I was a senior. It was in honest conversations with Lori Marso that I was able to think through what both paths might look like for me. The mentoring at your fingertips at a school like Union is something that should not go unused. Coming out of Union, you are all well prepared for life after college. Know that, and now spend time thinking about the variety of ways you can pursue a meaningful and happy life.

## **SEAN MULKERNE**



***What is your current professional title?*** Senior Associate in Research, Monitoring and Evaluation at Palladium International Development

***What does the work involve?*** I advise international development projects funded by developed nations on how they define and measure their successes and failures. My work is intended help teams use data to debate and refine their approaches to helping those in poverty. I work closely with implementation teams, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, to shape the design and theory of the programme, develop a framework of indicators tracking success, establish a system of data collection and reporting, and set an agenda for research, learning and programme improvement. Most of the projects I support are funded by the British government and are intended to support government reform and civil society participation. I am typically abroad about one-third of the year, most frequently visiting countries including Tanzania, Rwanda and Bangladesh.

***How did your time at Union prepare you for your current position?*** My experience in the Political Science department, even as a freshman, inspired me to focus on international politics as a central professional interest. I found the subject matter extremely engaging, and Union gave me the opportunity to apply it through an internship at a human rights organisation in Washington, DC, in my junior year, and again with Model United Nations as a senior. My professors at Union were also very encouraging of my decision to pursue graduate study in international relations, and pointed me in the direction of the London School of Economics, which I later attended. I also think that Union inspired the interest I now have in the politics of development – how political arrangements affect the lives of poor people positively and negatively.

***What is your fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science?*** I really enjoyed Model United Nations, particularly the final conference in New York. It was a really fantastic experience meeting students from across the

country who were knowledgeable and passionate about the subject, debating real problems from different perspectives. Similarly, Union sponsored my attendance at the Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point, where I discussed and wrote about terrorism with very bright students and professors. I was a great fan of the Pizza and Politics sessions held in the department classrooms and Minerva Houses (which I hope still continues!). Of course, I also really enjoyed discussions in my seminars in the advanced courses, and handing in my thesis.

**What advice would you have for current majors for life after Union?** Networking is extremely important – nearly every significant career move I have made since I finished my studies has been the result of forming a strong connection with someone who later offered me an opportunity. Those connections are developed as a result of diligence and confidence, so producing high quality work in professional situations is very important. Developing both “hard” and “soft” skills for the job you want – even through an employer outside of your field of interest – is also critical. For example, those interested in working in international relations would likely benefit significantly from learning a second language. They may also wish to learn about specific tools and approaches used in the specific organisations they are interested in joining, in order to convey interest and capability to potential employers. New graduates should also seek out opportunities for public speaking and presenting their work, as being able to convey ideas clearly and effectively is a valuable skill.

Finally, many roles in international relations will require a graduate degree of some kind, but given the costs involved, I would recommend trying to build work experience for a year or two beforehand. Professional experience of all kinds will shape your career interests and goals, and it is worthwhile to explore different career options before focusing in on a particular field.

### **PSC Major Foreign Experience Requirement**

All PSC majors, including ID-PSC majors, need to fulfill the foreign experience requirement. There are two primary ways to fulfill this requirement:

1. Complete a three-course language sequence (only two courses are required if the sequence is begun beyond the first introductory course in the language). “Sequence” means that the courses must all be in the same language.
2. Complete a full-length term abroad (miniterms do not qualify).

The department has added a third, student-proposed alternative for cases in which students cannot complete one of the above two requirements in a straightforward manner. See the departmental website for more information.

Please plan carefully to fulfill this requirement: for many languages, the introductory course is only offered in the Fall Term, so you cannot necessarily begin your language study any time in the year.

### **PSC Major Research Requirement**

All PSC majors are required to take two research-focused courses:

- An R course (the R indicates that the course is research-intensive)
- Either a 2<sup>nd</sup> R course, a seminar, or a research methods course (PSC 220, 222 or 223)

[Note: Normally, students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 to gain entrance into a seminar.]

PSC Interdepartmental (ID) majors must take one R course to fulfill the research requirement. Students are strongly recommended to complete this requirement before the end of their junior year, as preparation for their senior thesis.

## Winter 2017 POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

### Introductory

- PSC 111: Introduction to American Politics  
(Hays) MWF 8:00 - 9:05AM
- PSC 112: Introduction to Global Politics  
(Brown) TTH 1:55 - 3:40PM
- PSC 113: Introduction to Political Theory  
(Marso) MWF 11:45AM - 12:50PM

### Political Theory

- PSC 231: Theories of Peace and War  
(Seri) MWF 10:30 - 11:35AM

### Research Methods

- PSC 220: Social Data Analysis  
(Oxley) MWF 9:15 - 10:20AM

### Comparative Politics

- PSC 242: Democracies and Immigration in the 21st Century  
(Hsieh) MWF 1:50 - 2:55PM
- PSC 342R: Challenges of Democratization in Latin America  
(Seri) MW 3:05 - 4:45PM

### International Politics

- PSC 255: Russian Foreign Policy  
(Park) TTH 10:55AM - 12:40PM
- PSC 256: Model United Nations  
(Angrist) TH 1:55 - 4:45PM
- PSC 359 International Relations Seminar  
(Lobe) TTH 9:00 - 10:45AM

### U.S. Politics

- PSC 261: Public Opinion  
(Oxley) MW 3:05 - 4:45PM
- PSC 272: The Environment, Energy, and US Politics  
(Schue) MWF 11:45AM - 12:50PM
- PSC 288R: American Constitutional Theory  
(Hays) TTH 9:00 - 10:45AM

### Internships

- PSC 277: Capital Region Political Internships  
(Brown)

## UPPER-LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR WINTER TERM

### **PSC 220: Social Data Analysis**

Introduction to the research process in political science with an emphasis on the analysis of social science data. Focus on the utility of quantitative data and statistical techniques to answer research questions about the political world. Prerequisite(s): Any introductory social science course; a background in math is not necessary.

### **PSC 231: Theories of Peace and War**

Do aggression and violence arise from individuals or groups, from nations, global forces, or from entire civilizations? Is warfare an eliminable pathology or just part of the human condition? Any answer to these questions ultimately involves ontological claims on how things are, key in shaping the ways in which we imagine and inhabit our world. This course revisits arguments on peace, war, and violence central in the tradition of Western political thought. By exploring works of classical, modern, and contemporary political thinkers, contextualized in reference to key cases, we will identify and critically assess contentious explanations and philosophical justifications.

### **PSC 242: Democracies & Immigration in the 21st Century**

Immigration shook recent European politics at the local, national and EU levels. In March 2014, the National Front swept to victory in 12 French cities as a champion of anti-immigration messages. Two months later, the National Front secured another electoral victory in the European Parliament Election. Chancellor Angela Merkel's handling of the refugee issue contributed to her Christian Democrat Party's serious setback in the March 2016 regional elections. In retrospect, many British voters seemed to have expressed their unease about immigration through casting ballots in the 2016 Brexit referendum.

The increasing polarization on immigration shocked many, because not long ago, politicians in many liberal democracies were able to weave immigration into the narratives of national self-understanding like a consensus. Former President Woodrow Wilson once said, "We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of men, to make them see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite." On the contrary, many politicians in the post-WWII Federal Republic of Germany had for a long time insisted, "Germany is not a country of immigration" (Wir sind kein Einwanderungsland).

How does such national self-understanding influence today's immigration politics? To what extent do various discourses in the debates reflect immigration history and the trajectories of immigration policies? Amidst the climate of immigration debates during recent primary and general elections, how many Americans still pride themselves of the ethos of America being a "country of immigration" that harbors "the tired and the poor?" Inspired by these questions, this course discusses immigration politics from the perspective of citizenship ideas and national self-understanding. We focus on past and present immigration politics in selected liberal democracies, including France, Germany, Israel and the US. We pay special attention to labor migration, family reunification and international displacement.

### **PSC 255: Russian Foreign Policy**

This course introduces students to Russian foreign policy, placing our analysis within an historical context. The course will consider the geographical and historical context of Russian foreign policy before the Bolshevik Revolution. Then we will examine Soviet foreign policy up to and including the collapse of the USSR in late 1991 and proceed with a focus on Russian foreign policy developments since the collapse. We will also address all vectors of Russian foreign policy toward different parts of the world, particularly the US, the EU, the "near abroad", and the Middle East. Finally, we will examine the role and use of petroleum products in Russia's foreign policy.

### **PSC 256: Model United Nations**

This course prepares students to participate in the National Model United Nations (NMUN), the largest UN simulation in the world. The NMUN program provides students a better understanding of the inner working of the United Nations. Course goals are to develop research, writing, public speaking, and diplomatic skills amongst students as they confront a myriad of global public policy challenges. At the simulation, students and faculty from five continents work feverishly to propose resolutions addressing regional conflicts, peacekeeping, human rights, women and children, economic and social development, and the environment. Students are permitted to take PSC 256 multiple times for credit, but this course can only count once toward a PSC major, ID major or minor. PSC 256 cannot be taken pass/fail.

**PSC 261: Public Opinion**

An overview of public opinion in the United States. Topics include the content of citizens' opinions toward a wide range of political topics, the sources of people's opinions, and an evaluation of whether the opinions of the public matter (for policy, for governance, and for democracy). The course material is structured around important normative questions, such as: What is the role of citizens in a democratic society? Are citizens pliable? Do citizens organize their political thinking? Do citizens demonstrate and endorse democratic basics?

**PSC 272: The Environment, Energy, and US Politics**

Examination of how politics and policymaking affect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on. This course will explore key U.S. environmental issues and their scientific underpinnings as well as the connections between these issues and our collective use of natural resources. The course will review major pieces of federal environmental law in the United States and address the policy considerations, justifications, and regulatory frameworks underlying them, as well as the effectiveness of these laws in achieving a healthier environment. The course will also examine the respective roles of Congress, the executive agencies, and the courts in determining environmental policy.

**PSC 277: Capital Region Political Internships**

This class enables students to become politically active and/or gain political experience by working for elected officials, government agencies, election campaigns, interest groups, non-profit organizations, lobby firms, etc. Students draw on their internship experience and related academic work to reach a better understanding of the complexities and dynamics of politics at the state or local level. Students are permitted to enroll in this course twice, although the course will count toward the Political Science major only once.

**PSC 288R: American Constitutional Theory**

This course is concerned with the theoretical foundations of American constitutionalism. American constitutional theory is a broad topic, inclusive of the nature of constitutions, interpretive methodologies, institutional design, institutional function, and political development. While this course will touch on each of these, the central animating question is: Who shall interpret the Constitution? Twenty-first century constitutionalism has been marked by interpretive pluralism and the interpretations offered by different departments of government bear their distinct imprimatur. As such, understanding which institution does and ought to interpret the Constitution is among the most important political questions of our time.

**PSC 342R: Challenges of Democratization in Latin America**

Democracies in Latin America confront a number of challenges, obstacles, and dilemmas that frequently put their continuity at risk. With the format of a research seminar, this course will explore five thematic clusters. Social indicators on rights and inequality, political identities and citizenship, political and legal institutions, life and economic growth after Neoliberalism, and public safety, crime, and state violence. A preoccupation with some of the most urgent challenges faced by democratization in the region will also lead us to assess actual and potential alternatives.

**PSC 359: International Relations Seminar: Israel's Engagement with the Middle East and the West**

Israel is at the center of many key currents and crises in international affairs, including the forever conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the rise of non-state actors within and beyond Israel ( Hamas and Hizbullah are two of many), the ever-complex Syrian civil war, ISIS and Iran, to name only the most embittering issues. At the same time Israel is central the shifting alliances and diplomatic efforts in Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, but also Russia, China, and of course, the EU and the US.

The seminar begins with a review of key concepts and moments in Israel's history: Zionism, settlement, the kibbutz, the war of liberation/nakba, state and nation building, from socialism to capitalism, wealth gap, Ashkenazi, Mizrahi, Sephardic, Jewish fundamentalism, settler movement, 1956 War, 1967 War, and 1973 War, various peace accords, and issues of democracy.

Most of the seminar looks at Israel's international position in the world, and the choices it has made and is making. How does Israel maintain its security in a dangerous and hostile area? Who have been and now are its adversaries? Who are its allies? The seminar focuses on Israel's relations with the Arab world, the Islamic world (and its Sunni-Shia divide), the periphery, and those that Israel can trade with. US government support for and aid to Israel is analyzed. The interplay between economic and globalization issues (Israel as a start-up nation) with military aid and political support is a central issue. And we'll deal with two central popular movements: foreign Jews and their allies that identify with Israeli strategic interests and lend support, and those opposed to Israel's policies (such as various parts of the BDS movement in Europe and the US) and devise programs that publicize Israeli abuses or put pressure on Israel's political processes.