

FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR MICHELE ANGRIST

Dear Political Science Majors, ID Majors, and Minors,

Consider an Internship Next Year!

As many of you already know, you can enroll in PSC 277 and get course credit for interning in an office or agency that is involved in politics or public policy in the Capital District. You work 120 hours over ten weeks, and you write several associated papers under the direction of the faculty member who directs the course. For the past five years, Professor Hislope has ably served as faculty director for this course. Next fall, Professor Brown will be taking over.

There are many reasons to consider adding PSC 277, which you can take in any term, to your Union experience. First, you'll have an opportunity to apply your Political Science knowledge acquired in the classroom – while learning many more things you can't learn in the classroom. Second, internship experience will help you build your resume and your professional network for possible employment opportunities after graduation. Third and finally, doing an internship gets you out into the "real world" and away from the Union bubble.

Last fall, the department surveyed every Union alum who graduated with a Political Science major in the past ten years. We asked them to judge the department's strengths and weaknesses in light of their time away from Union. Respondents' answers to survey questions targeted at PSC 277 strongly reflected the value of the course. Those who had taken PSC 277 valued the experience, and many of those who didn't take it, wish they had – primarily to have gained real world experience during their college years.

In December the department hired a consultant to broaden the department's pool of contacts in the Capital District's politics and public policy community. Our goal was to be able to offer students a larger "menu" of attractive

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



To keep up to date on all events, talks, requirements, deadlines, etc., please "like" our new Facebook Page, which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/UnionCPoliticalScience>

internship options. The consultant generated a list of 20+ offices around the Capital District that are willing to host interns from Union College in the context of PSC 277. The department is also collaborating with Albany Law School on internship opportunities for our students.

If you would like to learn more, please consider coming to an evening information session the department is offering regarding **PSC 277 internships on Tuesday May 5 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in Lippman 016**. I will be presenting more information about the course, and I will be joined by 4 important guests. The first is Nicholas Parrella, Director of Student Programs for the New York State Senate. He will be talking about opportunities to intern in the Albany legislature – as well as about the value of internships in general. We will also be joined by three students currently enrolled in PSC 277, who will share their experiences with you. Food will be served! So spread the word and bring a friend.

STEINMETZ SYMPOSIUM

The Steinmetz Symposium is Friday, May 8th. Many, many Political Science majors are presenting that day. Juniors especially: **attend a panel or two**. Support your peers and get a stronger sense of what you can achieve with your Senior Thesis or Senior Project next year.

Professors Sound Off

***BRIC by BRIC: A Shift in Global Power?* By Professor Mark Dallas**

There has been much talk in the media and academia alike about the shift in political-economic power from the small club of advanced, post-industrial economies, largely centered around the Triad (USA, Europe and Japan), to large emerging economies, like Brazil, India and China, which are key members of the now famous acronym, the “BRICS.” For some, the BRICS symbolize a breakthrough for developing countries (the “Rise of the Rest”), or even more dramatically, they reflect the developing world throwing off the shackles of a global economic system built by their former colonial masters to perpetuate a system of domination in a de-colonized world. For others, particularly in this country, it perhaps symbolizes a fearful decline of American power and influence, particularly after two post-Cold War decades of American hegemony.

Regardless of one’s perspective, however, it is often assumed that this particular grouping of countries is significant and meaningful. Perhaps because of its repeated usage, the underlying assumption is that there is a *unity* that binds this grouping of countries today. But, is there? And if so, what?

The origin of the term is insightful. The “BRIC” label (excluding South Africa, or “S”) was first coined by Jim O’Neill, an asset manager at Goldman Sachs. As such, it partly reflects the interests of global business and investors in seeking out the newest and hottest “growth” markets. This has been particularly true in more recent years when the countries of the Triad have struggled to achieve growth of even 1-2% per year. This alone does not invalidate the concept, of course, but there are other good reasons to question the meaningfulness of the concept, given the many deep divisions between them. Politically, they are split between democracy and authoritarianism, including the many shades of gray in between. India and China also have

significant and unresolved disputes over territory, in which parts of China under Chinese control are claimed by India, and parts of India under Indian control are claimed by China. There are regular border clashes, and much blustering and nationalist fervor surrounding these land disputes.

However, the primary focus of the grouping is more economic in focus. In spite of a general belief in the power of *doux commerce* – that economics and trade provide “mutual benefits,” such that cooperation can overcome political tensions – even here there are serious divisions. At first glance, it seems like perfect pairings: China and India, as manufacturing centers, will require evermore sources of energy and raw materials, which they can acquire from Russia, Brazil and South Africa. Thus, a neat international division of labor is possible. However, China’s manufacturing juggernaut and its potential to de-industrialize much of the developing and industrializing world has sparked much consternation and backlash in India, Brazil and Africa, more broadly. Will the energy and raw material producers resist the division of labor and push back against what might otherwise appear to be a straightforward economic logic? Will India and China increasingly become manufacturing rivals? (Thus far, this has been relatively muted).

Thus, the concept of the BRICS is fraught with many potential divisions, which are not frequently addressed in media or academia. It raises questions about what exactly undergirds their perceived unity. That said, there is a way in which the grouping increasingly does make sense – namely, the multilateral institutions which are now in their infancy. It is no coincidence that the BRIC countries began to meet formally in summits in 2009, soon after the global financial crisis, when their vulnerabilities were highest and they sought collective solutions. Since then, they have explored ways of cooperating and exerting more influence in global affairs. Of course, the New Development Bank, or the BRICS Bank, is currently the most formal institutionalization of their on-going cooperation, which appears to be

aiming to adopt similar functions of both the World Bank and IMF within one institution. While the BRICS Bank has most often been framed through the lens of “rivalry,” there is actually much potential for complementarity, especially with the World Bank. (The IMF’s power is substantially derived from there being no other “lender of last resort,” so complementarity is perhaps less likely). Nevertheless, one big question going forward is whether the process of institutionalization itself will allow the BRICS countries to overcome the many ways they can fracture and divide. Will a unity between them be built BRIC by BRIC?

Echoes from the Research Front: “Why Music Is Targeted for Repression” By Professor Robert Hislope

Below is a condensation of a recent chapter I’ve completed on music and politics. Please send criticisms and thoughts to hisloper@union.edu. Thanks and peace. Robert

Below are 5 general reasons that music is subject to political repression.

1. Music is political.

The first reason that musical expression draws the attention of political authorities is that often the message conveyed by the artist – either lyrically or rhythmically -- is explicitly political and is meant to criticize, satirize, or expose the problems created by politicians and/or the political system. American folk music of the 1950s and gangsta rap of the 1980s-early 1990s are two examples of historical moments when musical genres were heavily politicized and were greeted by the heavy hand of the censor, the police, and the judge.

2. Music-based subcultures disrupt social conventions.

A second reason music may be subjected to political repression is that new musical styles often flourish on the basis of subcultures that form around the music. Music is a powerful source of identity formation, and those with common identities often coalesce into subcultures

PSC Major Foreign Experience Requirement

All PSC majors, including ID-PSC majors, need to fulfill the foreign experience requirement. There are two 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).
2. Complete a full-length term abroad (miniterms do not qualify).

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.

marked by unique sartorial signs, a jargon, and a distinct lifestyle, all of which serve to distinguish outsiders from insiders. Think, for a moment, of the sartorial choices of 1970s punks, 1960s hippies, 1950s rockers, and 1940s beboppers, not to mention 1920s flappers. The political significance of subcultures is that they promote values contrary to the status quo and therefore may be subject to repression.

3. Music shapes behavior.

Does it? This is an important, vital question, for the repressing agents always assert this relationship, and if they are correct, then cannot state authorities justly claim *raison d’état* when they ban songs, cancel public performances, and arrest artists? The imagery of those who assert that music shapes behavior in personally harmful and socially destructive ways is that of a hypodermic needle injecting a toxin of morally degenerate values into the arms of unsuspecting, impressionable, defenseless youth. Is such imagery supported by scientific research? In a word, no, it is not; but as Rumsfeld once said, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. In short, repressors bent on repressing will rarely be stopped by the facts.

4. Musical genres are associated with the relative status of competing groups.

Music is linked in important and varied ways to individual identities and therefore to comparative group worth. It comes within the purview of politics when groups (ethnic, interest, party, professional, etc.) feel their interests are threatened by new musical styles. For example, behind the societal backlash against rhythm & blues in mid-1950s America was an unsettling truth for conservative, Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture to digest – namely, minority music [R&B] was becoming majority music. In such cases, the drama over music is part of a larger conflict over the relative status and power of groups.

5. Music does not (always) enjoy the presumption of fiction.

A final reason that music is often repressed is that as an art form it simply does not enjoy that same latitude as other artistic expressions. Movies, TV shows, poetry, and literature routinely portray the whole catalogue of despicable human acts but no one (normally) assumes that the writers, producers, directors, and actors are engaged in advocacy. Fiction is assumed. Music is not so privileged. Today in America, hip-hop artists charged with crimes routinely have their lyrics introduced into court as evidence of their guilt. However, there should be no presumption that lyrics indicate normative advocacy as opposed to some other intention, such as realist description, or fantasy-fiction.

Senior Thesis Submission Information

Seniors: If you are working on a Winter-Spring thesis, your finished work is due on the last day of classes, Friday June 5, in the Political Science office (Lippman 117) by 4:00 pm. Do not submit your thesis directly to your advisor – it must be submitted to the departmental office. You need to submit one hard copy, and it must be bound in some *secure* way (any type of binding is fine other than a staple or paper clip). If you are working on an ID thesis and have two advisors, you should submit one copy to each department. No special cover page is necessary. When you turn in your thesis, Ms. Fortsch will require you to fill out an evaluation of the senior thesis experience as a condition of your submission, so be sure to allow 10-15 minutes to complete this in the PS office. The college administration requires that we collect these evaluations.

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). 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 to contribute.

Fall 2015 POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

Introductory

- PSC111: Introduction to American Politics
(Oxley) MWF 8:00AM - 9:05AM
- PSC 112: Introduction to Global Politics
(Lobe) MWF 11:45AM - 12:50PM
- PSC 113: Introduction to Political Theory
(Cidam) MWF 9:15AM - 10:20AM
- PSC 113: Introduction to Political Theory
(Cidam) MWF 10:30 - 11:35AM

Political Theory

- PSC 234R: Women Political Theorists
(Marso) MWF 11:45AM - 12:50PM
- PSC 235: African American Political Thought
(Marso) MWF 1:50PM - 2:55PM
- PSC 237: Music and Politics
(Hislope) MW 3:05PM-4:45PM

Comparative Politics

- PSC 340: Politics and Film
(Lobe) MW 3:05PM - 4:45PM
- PSC 343: Women & Politics in the Muslim World
(Angrist) TTh 9:00AM - 10:45AM
- PSC 349: Seminar in Comparative Politics
(Dallas) TTh 1:55PM - 3:40PM

International Politics

- PSC 253: International Politics in East Asia
(Dallas) TTh 10:55AM - 12:40PM
- PSC 350: Theories of International Politics
(Brown) MW 7:00PM - 8:45PM

U.S. Politics

- PSC 264: Congressional Politics
(Dell'Aera) TTh 10:55AM - 12:40PM
- PSC 282R: Health Politics and Policy
(Dell'Aera) TTh 1:55PM - 3:40PM
- PSC 371: Civil Rights Civil Liberties
(Hays) TTh 9:00AM - 10:45PM

Internships

- PSC 277: Capital Region Political Internships
(Brown) TBD

UPPER-LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FALL TERM

PSC 234R. Women Political Theorists - Marso

Where are all the women in the canon of western political thought? Feminist interpreters of the canon show the variety of ways that political theory, and even the meaning of what counts as political, are shaped by gender, racial and other hierarchies. By studying several texts by neglected female authors (such as Emma Goldman, Ida B. Wells, Simone de Beauvoir, Hannah Arendt) as well as feminist critics (Iris Marion Young, Luce Irigaray, Angela Davis), we will explore the impact of multiply gendered discourses on the ways we understand and experience politics. This is an "R" course (which means students will produce a 15 page paper on one of the themes or thinkers from the course) and will be conducted as a seminar (discussion based, driven by the readings).

PSC 235. African American Political Thought - Marso

"As is the inevitable result of things unsaid, we find ourselves until today oppressed with a dangerous and reverberating silence" James Baldwin, *Many Thousands Gone*.

Seeing race as a fiction whose material effects are all too evident, James Baldwin tries to uncover some clues about the possibilities for democracy in our country where race figures so prominently, usually so silently, but has erupted in protests against police violence in several instances this past year. In this course, we will explore how African Americans have been at the heart of the American experience both as critics and visionaries. Through our readings and discussions, we will assess the claims that black Americans have made upon the polity, how they have defined themselves, and how they have sought to redefine the basic terms of American public life. Among the themes that we will explore are the relationship between slavery and democracy, the role of historical memory in political life, the political significance of culture,

the connections between “race” and “nation,” and the tensions between claims for black autonomy and claims for integration, as well as the meaning of such core political concepts as citizenship, freedom, equality, progress, and justice. We will also explore the complex ways in which the concept of race has been constructed and deployed in its interrelationship with other elements of identity such as gender, sexuality, class, and religion.

PSC 237. Music and Politics - Hislope

This class explores the multiple relationships between music and politics with a specific focus on the following dimensions: (1) the use of music as a lens to perceive the world, to frame injustices, to inform political discourse, to raise consciousness, and to mobilize public opinion; (2) the political context in which critically significant music is produced; (3) biographical details of artists that bring understanding to the art they produce; (4) the impact of class, race, ethnicity, and gender on music; (5) the interpretation of political messages found in music; and (6) the intentional and unintentional political consequences of popular music.

PSC 253. International Politics in East Asia - Dallas

This course surveys the main currents of international politics in East Asia since World War Two, with an emphasis on events since the end of the Cold War. It considers the sequential rise of the economies of Japan, the four East Asian tigers, and finally Southeast Asia and China, and how regional integration across East Asian countries differs from other regions in the world. Furthermore, it examines the foreign policies of the main players in this area, including the important role of the United States, and it explores the evolution of international institutions and norms pertinent to East Asia.

PSC 264. Congressional Politics - Dell'Aera

An examination of the U.S. Congress's structure and politics. This course studies the relationship between members of Congress and their constituents, the organization and operation of Congress, the relationship between legislative

behavior and electoral goals, and the interaction between Congress and other political institutions and actors.

PSC 277. Capital Region Political Internships - Brown

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. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing and permission of the instructor.

PSC 282R. Health Politics and Policy - Dell'Aera

This course will examine the subject of health care policy in the American political system. Students will learn about the roles and functions of key actors, institutions, concepts, and principles as part of a broad overview of American health politics. From this foundation, we will develop a theoretical and practical framework to ground our analysis of current health policy issues and debates. Topics will include finance, insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka “Obamacare”), prescription drug regulation, private markets, the public interest, ethics, and the role of government.

PSC 340. Politics and Film - Lobe

This course explores political themes through the rigorous viewing of feature films and documentaries from the United States and abroad. Films present differing perspectives on the subject. Themes include war, revolution, counter-revolution, role of the individual in social conflict, and US intervention in foreign lands. Class requires critical analysis of the films, supplementary readings, and six conceptual-analytical papers.

PSC 343. Women & Politics in the Muslim World - Angrist

In this course we will study how politics and women intersect across the Muslim world, including the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia. Empirically, we will investigate the varied paths women's rights have taken in different national settings while examining similarities and differences in the degree to which women wield social, economic, and political power in their respective countries. We will seek theoretical explanation for women's status in the region, which varies significantly from country to country. Sample topics for discussion include the Koran and women, debates about the veil, honor killings, the impacts of oil, war, and foreign intervention on women's status, and Muslim female prime ministers and presidents.

PSC 349. Seminar in Comparative Politics – Varieties of Capitalism - Dallas

Capitalism is currently the dominant economic system, however, it varies widely in different parts of the world. This course examines the many ways in which capitalism is embedded within social and political institutions, and across a wide range of national settings, looking both at history and contemporary issues. It also considers the equally diverse ways in which social thinkers conceptualized capitalism at different historical periods. Topics may include: classic and contemporary theories of capitalism and markets, the history of development and industrialization, the varieties of capitalism in contemporary advanced industrialized countries, the Newly Industrializing Economies of Latin America and East Asia, the problems of development, and the transition from communism to market economies in Eastern Europe and China. No prior knowledge of economics is assumed.

PSC 350. Theories of International Politics - Brown

In-depth investigation and evaluation of the major perspectives on world politics. Mainstream theories will be compared and contrasted to critical/alternative paradigms. Special attention is given to modes of theory evaluation.

PSC 371. Civil Rights Civil Liberties - Hays

Considers the protections afforded to individual rights and liberties by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Topics include freedom of speech and assembly, the right to privacy, religious freedom, equal protection and discrimination, and the due process rights of those accused of crimes. The course proceeds mainly through close examination of Supreme Court cases, considered in their political, historical and legal context.

**Political Internships (for Credit)
Information Meeting**

Tuesday May 5th
5:30-6:30 pm
Lippman 016

Come hear from Professor Angrist, New York State Senate Student Programs Director Nicholas Parrella, and three students currently doing internships. Food will be served.

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 2nd 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.

***Tentative* Plan for WINTER and SPRING Terms, 2016**

WINTER 2016		SPRING 2016	
Course # PSC	Prof	Course # PSC	Prof
111 Intro to U.S. Politics	Dell'Aera	111 Intro to US Politics	Hays
112 Intro to Global Politics	Hislope	112 Intro to Global Politics	Dallas
112 Intro to Global Politics	Hislope	113 Intro to Political Theory	Brown
113 Intro to Political Theory	Seri	236 Police, Security, Biopower	Seri
159 Presidential Nomination Politics	Brown/Oxley	240R Comparative Ethnic & Racial Politics	Hislope
249 Middle East Politics	Lobe	243 Latin American Politics	Seri
256 Model United Nations	Angrist	251T American Foreign Policy (Term in DC)	Lobe
266 Women and Politics	Oxley	275 Law and Film	Hays
273 Supreme Court and Judicial Politics	Hays	277 Capital Region Political Internships	Brown
277 Capital Region Political Internships	Brown	280T Internship (Term in DC)	Lobe
334 Contemporary Continental Theory	Cidam	291 Urban Politics	Dell'Aera
339 Seminar in Political Theory	Marso	23x Human Rights and Political Theory	Cidam
353R Terrorism and Torture	Angrist	355 Defense Policy	Brown
3xxR Unlawful Governance in Democracies	Seri	358R Wealth & Power Among Nations	Dallas
		369 Seminar in American Politics: Presidency	Dell'Aera