

FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR MICHELE ANGRIST

To Political Science Majors and Students,

Happy Spring! By the time this newsletter is distributed, I certainly hope it *feels* like spring outside ...

Please take some time to read through this edition of our newsletter. It provides you not only with information about our Fall 2018 course offerings, but also about what the department plans to offer in Winter and Spring 2019 as well – so that you can do some longer-term planning.

You will notice that, for several courses, the faculty member is listed as “Staff.” That is because we are currently in the process of hiring a new professor who will be joining us in the fall. We are not yet able to officially announce who this person is – but s/he will be teaching PSC 112 and a variety of interesting electives in comparative politics and international relations in the coming years, so stay tuned.

As you think about your academic plans for the coming year(s), a couple of important announcements:

First, next year (2018-2019), the Term in Washington, DC will take place in the winter term (historically it has taken place in the spring term). Applications for the Term in Washington are available in the Political Science office (Lippman 117), and will be due on Monday, May 14. If you have questions about the program you may see me during office hours, or you may email Prof. Lobe (who directs the program, and is in Washington this term).

Second, starting with the Class of 2021 (this year’s first-year class), the requirements for the Political Science major will include two elective

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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>

STEINMETZ SYMPOSIUM

The Steinmetz Symposium is Friday, May 11th. 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.

courses at the 300-level (one for ID majors). Speak with your adviser if you have questions.

We wish the very best to our graduating seniors. And we will look forward to welcoming everyone else back to campus in September.

ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Emma Stein

What is your current professional title?

Communications
Assistant at Human
Rights First



What does the work involve?

Working in a small communications department at a national non-profit, I work with the team to spread our message to the public. I help draft and edit press releases, blogs, e-mail blasts, and run

the organization's Facebook and Twitter accounts. In a political world so dominated by what gets covered, and what the President is tweeting about, it's important to develop projects, strategies, and campaigns that really resonate with people. Among other things, I work to develop digital campaigns that cut through the political divide, the contentious politics, and share real stories about people who have been impacted by discriminatory travel bans and harmful immigration policies.

How did my time at Union prepare me?

My time at Union allowed me to explore my passions, develop my writing skills, and develop as a person. In the classroom, I was able to hone my writing skills, and gain a strong foundation in the connection between U.S. and international politics. I was also able to do real-world research, write papers, and gain public speaking skills that helped me in countless interviews, conferences, and staff meetings. Being able to confidently speak up and give presentations is a really undervalued skill, and one that I've taken into the workplace. Union also afforded me tremendous opportunities outside of the classroom: from internships in Albany, to a term abroad, to the term with Professor Lobe here in Washington, D.C. I was able to explore so many different fields and areas of interest, and really hone in on what I was interested in. Without my term here in D.C., I never would've been so sure of my future plans!

What is your fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science?

My fondest memories in poli-sci all surround the people and the professors. I truly enjoyed spending time with Professor Lobe and the students on the D.C. term abroad, becoming close friends with my fellow Model UN students, and working closely with Professor Oxley on my senior thesis. At Union, we are so lucky to have professors who want to see us succeed, and who will do everything they can to push us going forward.

What advice would you have for life after Union?

At Union, make sure to take every opportunity you can; go to conferences, go abroad, volunteer for a campaign, take the internship course. Talk to professors directly about how to apply for conferences, fellowships, or summer internship funding. You never know which experience will lead you to your career path, or will introduce you to people with helpful connections. In a world where many entry-level positions want 1-3 years of experience, internships are such an important way to give yourself a leg-up on other applicants. I know several people who got jobs after graduation directly because of an internship that they had as an undergraduate. Part of the reason that I got the job that I have now is because of skills that I gained during my internship in Albany.

What advice would you have for life after Union?

My advice for life after Union is to take risks. Invite someone you'd like to connect with out to coffee, apply to a job (or jobs!) that you feel like you won't get, take a volunteer position, and don't feel like you need to rush to go back to school if that's not what you want. Take some time to explore what you want to do, and then you can be surer of your path moving forward.

Fall 2018 POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

Introductory

PSC 111: Introduction to American Politics
(Plencner) MWF 9:15-10:20AM

PSC 112: Introduction to Global Politics
(Staff) MWF 8:00-9:05AM

PSC 113: Introduction to Political Theory
(Cidam) TTH 9:00-10:45AM

Political Theory

PSC 233: Human Rights and Political Theory
(Cidam) TTH 1:55-3:40PM

PSC 234R: Women Political Theorists
(Marso) MW 3:05-4:45PM

Comparative Politics

PSC 216: Politics in Africa
(Angrist) MWF 1:50-2:55PM

PSC 248R: Politics of a New Europe
(Hislope) MWF 9:15-10:20AM

International Politics

PSC 253: International Relations of East Asia
(Dallas) TTH 10:55-12:40PM

PSC 351: Global Organized Crime
(Hislope) MWF 11:45AM-12:50

PSC 359: Seminar in International Relations
(Brown) TTH 1:55-3:40PM

U.S. Politics

PSC 265: Mass Incarceration
(Plencner) MW 3:05-4:45PM

PSC 270: CIA and the Art of Intelligence
(Lobe) MW 7:00-8:45PM

PSC 287: The Contemporary Presidency
(Brown) TTH 10:55AM-12:40PM

Internships

PSC 277: Capital Region Political Internships
(Angrist)

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).
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. In addition, there is now a third, student-proposed option for fulfilling this requirement. See the PSC website for details.

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 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.

UPPER-LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR SPRING TERM

PSC 216: African Politics

This course is designed to introduce students to the essential political history and political dynamics of contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa. By the end of the term, students will have developed an understanding of the process through which the states of contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa emerged; the types of political systems that have evolved in these states; ethnicity and ethnic conflict in Africa; inter and intra-state wars on the continent and their impact; the challenges of economic development and securing prosperity for Africa; and gender and politics, religion and politics, and the politics of terrorism in Africa.

PSC 233: Human Rights and Political Theory

We are living in an age of human rights. Today, there is hardly any disagreement that we, as human beings, are entitled to a certain set of rights by the mere fact of being human. This almost universal acceptance of human rights has changed the world we live in dramatic ways. Following the aftermath of World War II, we have seen the emergence of innumerable international and nongovernmental organizations that are specifically devoted to the protection of human rights. And yet, despite all these developments, human rights abuses, in different guises, rage on all over the world, including the developed countries of the West. During the course of the term, rather than covering the usual terrain by focusing on the outrageous and blatant human rights abuses undertaken by dictatorial regimes, we will turn our gaze to our own world and critically engage with the human rights issues that plague Western democracies, especially since the beginning of the “global war on terror” following the 9/11 terror attacks. Given how central human rights are to the identity of the democratic West, it is particularly disconcerting to observe increasing number of human rights abuses in countries such as the United States, UK, and various members of the European Union. What can account for

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 8th, in the Political Science office (Lippman 117) by 12:00 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 Political Science office. The college administration requires that we collect these evaluations.

this unsettling fact? Are the ongoing human rights abuses a result of an implementation problem bringing to light the inadequacies of the current international human rights regime(s) or are they symptomatic of a deeper problem that goes to the heart of the notion of human rights itself? Do the unprecedented developments in human rights law announce the coming of a new and better world where all people, regardless of their race, gender and citizenship status will benefit from legal protection or is the idea of expanding human rights to whole humanity a utopian dream that runs the risk of becoming an ideology used by the Western powers to legitimize their new colonial adventures?

PSC 234R: Women Political Theorists

Where are all the women in the history of political thought? Some thinkers we explore throughout history include Mary Astell, Mary Wollstonecraft, Harriet Taylor Mill, and Emma Goldman. Their work will prepare us to discuss the political and social thought of three prominent women thinkers of the 20th century: Simone de Beauvoir, Iris Murdoch, and Hannah

Arendt. We investigate questions concerning freedom and contingency, responsibility, the nature of self in relation to others, and the limits and scope of ethical action in the work of these theorists. Women political theorists often write novels, short stories, and autobiography/biography (rather than philosophical texts) to explore political and philosophical themes. Consequently, we will be reading novels and autobiography along with political philosophy to think about the relationship between philosophy, politics, and literature. We will also be interested in considering how living their lives as women might have influenced the way these philosophers viewed major political and intellectual issues of the day.

PSC 248R: Politics of a New Europe

A survey of contemporary European politics including topics such as the emerging European Union, the rise of right-wing movements, growing regional and sectional conflict, patterns of immigration, and debate about the very meaning of "Europe."

PSC 253: International Relations of East Asia

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. CC: LCC

PSC 265: Mass Incarceration

This course asks students to consider the rise of mass incarceration in the United States from political, policy, legal, social movement, and political-cultural perspectives. "Mass

incarceration" is a term many have heard, yet is frequently misunderstood. Addressing the development of mass incarceration historically, we will consider not only what mass incarceration means today, but how and why it arrived. This lens will allow us to gather a nuanced understanding of mass incarceration, but it will also encourage us to consider how related phenomena—such as the institutions Carceral State—can be pushed toward equitable and just reform. We will learn how, just as mass incarceration and the institutions of the Carceral State and rise over time, so too can alternative visions of justice take root and reshape our collective futures

PSC 270: CIA and the Art of Intelligence

Provides an historical background to intelligence and espionage, and offers perspectives on present day secret intelligence operations of world powers in support of their national security objectives. Discussions on intelligence analysis, evaluation, human and technical intelligence, cryptography, counter-intelligence, moles, various kinds of overt operations, US foreign policy issues and goals.

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. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing and permission of the instructor. Note: This course does not count towards the PSC portion of an ID major.

PSC 287: The Contemporary Presidency

The rapidly-changing Trump-era presidency in contemporary and historical context: recent

developments in the institutional and narrative-based presidency, with a background examination of the administrations from Reagan through Trump.

PSC 351: Global Organized Crime

This course will focus on the emergence of new transnational criminal networks in the age of globalization, and the sources and patterns of political corruption in a comparative perspective. Specific issues to be explored include: trafficking zones, weak states, economic underdevelopment, the western consumer demand for illegal commodities, international anti-corruption discourse, US drug policy, comparative analysis of mafia organizations, and how private money corrupts democracies.

PSC 359: Seminar in International Relations

This seminar will focus on the foreign and defense policies of the Trump Administration in a world of transition. We will examine the policy-making process in the Trump White House (and its revolving-door cast of characters); regional concerns (such as Korea, the Middle East, the crisis in the European Union; and larger important policy issues such as China's emergence as the world's largest economy and Asia's new hegemon, Russian aggressiveness in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, cyber warfare and attacks on national sovereignty, nuclear proliferation, immigration, the reshaping of globalization, and the new nationalisms (including Trump's).

***Tentative* Plan for WINTER and SPRING 2019**

Winter 2019
PSC 111 Intro to American Politics (Hays)
PSC 112 Intro to Global Politics (Staff)
PSC 113 Intro to Political Theory (Seri)
PSC 277 Capital Region Political Internships (Oxley)
PSC 232 Violence and Politics (Cidam)
PSC 434 Feminist Film (Marso)
PSC 256 Model United Nations (Seri)
PSC 252R Global Value Chains (Dallas)
PSC 365 Law, Society and the Wire (Hays)
PSC xxxR American Political Development (Plencner)
PSC xxx Asian Development (Dallas)
PSC xxx Comparative Politics Elective (Staff)
PSC 349 Seminar in Comparative Politics (Hislope)
PSC 220 Social Data Analysis (Oxley)

Spring 2019
PSC 111 Intro to American Politics (Plencner)
PSC 112 Intro to Global Politics (Staff)
PSC 113 Intro to Political Theory (Marso)
PSC 277 Capital Region Political Internships (Oxley)
PSC 236 Police Security BioPower (Seri)
PSC 230R Ancient Political Thought (Cidam)
PSC xxx International Relations Elective (Staff)
PSC 254 Politics of Arab-Israeli Conflict (Lobe)
PSC 262 Race and US Politics (Plencner)
PSC 282 Health Care Policy (Weiner)
PSC xxx US Politics Elective (Staff)
PSC xxx Comparative Politics Elective (Staff)
PSC 240R Comparative Ethnic and Racial Politics (Hislope)
PSC 339 Seminar in Political Theory (Seri)