POLITICAL SCIENCE (M.A.)

Academic Year

2011-2012

School

Graduate School School Web site

School Dean

Henry Flores, Ph.D. hflores@stmarytx.edu

Department

Political Science

Program Director

Sonja Garcia, Ph.D. sgarcia@stmarytx.edu

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission into St. Mary's University Graduate School, you will need to submit the following (along with application):

- (2) Letters of Recommendation
- (2) Official Transcripts reflecting your degree earned.
- Official GRE/GMAT/MAT
- Official TOEFL (80 Computer based) (international students only)
- Financial Guarantee (international students only)

Program Specific Admission Requirements

Admission is granted only to those with high promise for success in graduate study. Potential may be demonstrated by previous schooling, test scores on the GRE, letters of recommendation, work experience, and leadership experience.

If the student chooses to submit GRE scores, then the student must achieve the minimum Academic Index required for regular admission. The Index score is based on the following:

GPA x Average GRE Score [(Verbal + Quantitative)/2] = 1350 AND a minimum of 4.0 on Analytical Writing.

If the student chooses not to take the GRE, the student must submit a writing sample. The required writing sample consists of a persuasive essay on "Why Politics Matter," and should

be 500 words in length. The essay will be scored using criteria of *completeness, coherence and analytic ability.* Each criterion is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with a 5 being the highest score. A minimally acceptable score for admission is 10 points out of a total of 15 possible. Scores below 10 points are unacceptable.

An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or above (final two years) and a 3.0 in the undergraduate major are required, as are letters of recommendation. St. Mary's undergraduates are not required to submit letters of recommendation. Students applying who already possess a Master Degree from another institution are not required to submit GRE scores or a writing sample. Only an official transcript with the degree appended, and letters of recommendation from faculty are needed for students who possess a Masters Degree.

Conditional status may be considered for those with less than the minimum index score, provided letters of recommendation, work experience, and leadership experience are favorable.

Degree Requirements

Political Science (30hrs)

Course #	Course Title	Hours
Core Curriculum (24hrs):		
PO6300	Scope of Political Science	3
PO6307	Civil Rights & the Law	3
PO6316	Political Philosophy & Community	3
PO6362	Political Leadership	3
Electives (18hrs):		
PO6301	Public Administration & Policy	3
PO6302	Public Policy & Process*	3
PO6303	Urban Political Institutions & Processes*	3
PO6304	Topics in American & State Governments	3
PO6305	Civil & Political Engagement *	3
PO6306	Topics in Public Law	3
PO6308	Topics In Political Theory	3
PO6314	Topics in Political & Community Leadership	3
PO6319	Topics in Non-Profits Management	3
PO6345	Business, Government & the Public	3
PO6352	US Latino/Latina Politics*	3

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Course #	Course Title	Hours
PO6354	Campaign & Advocacy	3
PO6358	Gender Politics*	3
PO6364	Public Policy Conflict Resolution*	3
PO7300	Directed Readings	3
PO7302	Leadership & Organizational Culture*	3
PO7303	Ethics & Public Sector*	3
PO7306	Urban Economics Development	3
PO7307	Local Politics & Public Conflict Resolution	3
PO9301	Internship	3
CM7311	Media Script Writing	3
CM7332	Public Relations Writing & Campaigns	3
EN7332	Persuasive Writing	3
EN7344	Discoursive Analysis: Words & Actions	3
PS7367	Survey Methods	3
*Highly recommended		
	Total hours	**30**

Department Courses and Descriptions

PO 6300 **Scope of Political Science (Replaces PO Research Methods)** (3)
This course addresses the various approaches that political scientists use to study and discuss political life. In addition, one of the aims of the course is to make the student a more sophisticated designer and consumer of political research methods, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

PO 6301 **Public Administration and Policy (same as PA 6301)** (3)
A survey of the field or public administration and public policy including politics and the policy process, organization theory, management principles, human resources management, fiscal policy, program design and evaluation, and ethics.

PO 6302 **Public Policy and Processes (same as PA 6302)** (3)
A survey of the field of public administration and public policy including politics and the policy process, organization theory, management principles, human resources management, fiscal policy, program design and evaluation, and ethics.

PO 6303 **Urban Political Institutions and Processes (same as PA 6301)** (3)
A study of power, conflict, and consensus in the urban political arena. Includes a survey of the research sources and methods of research in urban politics. Trends in urban political representation,

decision-making, and service delivery.

PO 6304 **Topics in American and State Governments** (3)
Study of one of a broad range of topics including political parties & interest groups, and local, regional and state political systems.

PO 6305 **Civic & Political Engagement (Replaces American Political Institutions)** (3)
This course focuses on one of the most critical components in a democracy: public participation. The seminar reviews the range of participatory opportunities and activities available in American society. The course also explores the root causal individual, social and institutional forces that encourage some and discourage others from participating in some forms of American politics.

PO 6306 **Topics in Public Law** (3)

PO 6307 **Civil Rights & the Law (Replaces Public and Constitutional Law)** (3)
This course examines and analyzes the central issues and case law dealing with civil rights in American politics. Throughout the course, the concepts of equality, as well as legal and social justice, will be addressed.

PO 6308 **Topics in Political Theory** (3)

PO 6314 **Topics in Political & Community Leadership (Replaces Topics in Political Behavior)** (3)
Study of one of a broad range of topics including grassroots organizing, community organizations, race relations, and ethics.

PO 6316 **Political Philosophy & Community (Replaces Great Political Thinkers)** (3)
A purpose of this course is to inquire into a variety of visions of what constitutes the "good life" and how the "good life" can be constructed. This inquiry includes an examination of the roles of the common good by political philosophers. An important aspect of each vision is the role assigned to men and women in society. This seminar will cover most of the primary philosophers of Western political thought.

PO 6319 **Non-Profit Leadership & Social Entrepreneurship (same as PA 6319)** (3)
A survey of the main body of literature in the non-profit field. Topics may include mission design, budgeting, fiscal management, organizational design, human resource policies, legal issues, and ethics.

PO 6345 **Business, Government and the Public (same as PA 6345)** (3)
A study of business as a political actor and its relationship with governmental and other non-governmental political actors. Specific policy areas to be analyzed may include work place safety and health, economic and industrial, environmental, consumer affairs, taxing and banking. A consideration of Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. economy may be included.

PO 6352 **U.S. Latino/Latina Politics** (3)
Examination of the central issues arising in U.S. cities with significant Latino populations, as well as urbanization issues of the U.S.-Mexican border.

PO 6354 **Campaigns & Advocacy (Replaces Campaign Management)** (3)
This course presents an overview of the functioning of a political campaign, including the campaign organization, use of the media, fundraising, and field operations. The course also addresses the skills and tools necessary for effective advocacy and lobbying of various public policies in the political arena.

PO 6358 **Gender Politics** (3)
This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the relationship between gender and politics. Topics include:the role of women in politics, women as candidates, officeholders and voters, gender differences in attitudes and beliefs, and issues that have particular relevance to women, i.e. gender discrimination and equal rights.

PO 6362 **Political Leadership (New Course)** (3)
This course examines leadership theories, models, and practices as they relate to effective and meaningful leadership in the political arena.

PO 6364 **Public Policy Conflict Resolution (New Course)** (3)
This course examines the sources of public policy conflicts, ways of resolving and transforming conflict into constructive change, and the leadership competencies, skills and tools associated with effectively meeting this challenge.

PO 7300 **Directed Readings** (3)

PO 7302 **Leadership and Organizational Culture (same as PA 7302)** (3)
This is a course that offers a comprehensive study of organizations and how different types of organizations affect the nature and style of leadership. The environment, structure and culture of public, non-profit and private sector organizations and leadership will be compared and contrasted. The purpose of this course is to give the future public leader insight and understanding into the differences and similarities of the organizations that comprise public life and affect public policy.

PO 7303 **Ethics and Public Service (same as PA 7303)** (3)
This course engages the student in thinking systematically about morals and conduct and making judgments about right and wrong as a public official. Three primary questions are addressed:1) What counts? 2) What is at stake? 3) How can public officials ensure professional success and ethical survival?

PO 7306 **Urban Economic Development (same as PA 7306)** (3)
This course is designed to introduce the student to the rationale behind the development and growth of cities. This course will begin with a discussion of the origins of cities and what function they play in society and culminate with an explanation of the intricacies of the politics underlying why cities take the physical form that they do.

PO 9301 **Internship in Political and Community Leadership** (3)
Credit is awarded for work with an elected or appointed official at the national, state, or local level, or with a political and/or community-based political organization. The Director and the student coordinate the internship. The Intern is expected to keep a weekly log of his or her activities (20 hours per week) and

prepares at least one research paper based upon special projects assigned during the internship. The course may be repeated for a total of 6 hours.

CM 7311 **Media Script Writing** (3)
Explores various approaches and conventions of film, television, motion picture and audio visual script writing, with special emphasis on narrative and documentary production.

CM 7332 **Public Relations Writing and Campaigns** (3)
The study, analysis and application of principles of and formats used in public relations communication to consumers. Participants learn how to collect, prepare and distribute information through the mass media, reports , and other forms of public information campaigns. Additionally, the course offers experience in the preparation and execution of campaign strategies, presentation of position papers, and scenarios to work out realistic and efficient solutions to communication and public relations problems.

EN 7332 **Persuasive Writing** (3)
Based on the analysis of classic and contemporary approaches to persuasive writing, the student will learn to develop strong and convincing arguments. Writing intensive course.

EN 7344 **Discourse Analysis: Words and Actions** (3)
This course introduces students to the exploration of key theories and methods of discourse analysis in regard to both spoken discourse (talk) and written discourse (text). This course familiarizes students with the ways in which language helps communicate personal, social, and cultural meanings in a wide variety of texts and talk. The course has a particular focus on the relationship between the work words do and the power relationship inherent in communicative relationships.

PS 7367 **Survey Development** (3)
This course covers theories, methods and procedures for conducting survey research in business. Topics include designing a survey instrument, planning a survey research study, and basic survey analysis techniques. Sampling issues will be addressed. Prerequisites: PS 6381, PS 6385

Department Faculty

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