

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Academic Year

2014-2015

School

School of Humanities and Social Science [School Web site](#)

School Dean

Janet Dizinno, Ph.D. hssdean@stmarytx.edu

Department

Political Science

Department Chair

Arturo Vega, Ph.D. avega2@stmarytx.edu

Description of Program/Major

Aristotle states: "The end and purpose of a polis [a civic community] is the good life, and the institutions of social life are means to that end." Individuals who appreciate politics, who desire to influence society, who enjoy debating ideas, and who like to organize people or events, should consider the political science major.

The Department of Political Science at St. Mary's University is committed to education, to the scholarly life, and to an approach that urges students to serve society. St. Mary's Department of Political Science fosters the building of an engaged community characterized by social justice and civic conscience.

Our goal is for political science graduates to apply the answers they formulate to their private lives and to their careers.

Degree Requirements

Core Curriculum (SMC)

St. Mary's University Core (30 Hours)

All St. Mary's Core SMC13## "Reflection" courses must be completed before registering for SMC23## "Practice" courses. "Reflection" courses can be taken in any order followed by "Practice" courses in any order.

SMC 1301	Foundations of Civilization	3
SMC 1311	Foundations of Reflection: Self	3
SMC 1312	Foundations of Reflection: Nature	3
SMC 1313	Foundations of Reflection: Others	3
SMC 1314	Foundations of Reflection: God	3
SMC 2301	Foundations of Practice: Ethics	3
SMC 2302	Foundations of Practice: Civic Engagement and Social Action	3
SMC 2303	Foundations of Practice: Fine Arts and Creative Process	3
SMC 2304	Foundations of Practice: Literature	3
SMC 4301	Capstone Seminar: Prospects for Community and Civilization	3

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School Specific Core (SSC)

School of Humanities and Social Sciences School Specific Core (30 Hours)

Speech	SE 1321 (for international students), SE 1341, SE 2333, SE 3391	3
Composition and Rhetoric (grade of "C" or better)	EN 1311, EN 1313 (for international students)	3
Mathematics	MT 1301, MT 1302, MT 1303, MT 1305, MT 1306, MT 1411, MT 2412	3
Foreign Languages	Six hours at the sophomore level (2311, 2312) in a Foreign Language previously studied for a minimum of one year; Or, 6 hours of introductory level (1311, 1312) in a Foreign Language not previously studied; Or, 12 hours of CLEP credit for a language previously studied.	6
History	Any HS courses.	3
Science	BL 1301, BL 1302, BL 3311, BL 3312, CH 1303, CH 1304, CH 1401, CH 1402, EG 2300, ES 1300, ES 1303, ES 1304, ES 1373, PY 1300, PY 1310, PY 1401, PY 1402	3
Theology	Advanced Theology 33XX, HU 3303	3
Fine Arts	AR, DM, MU	3
Literature	EN 23XX	3

Four Year Degree Plan

[Sample Degree Plan. \(BA\)](#)

[Sample Degree Plan. \(BA\) with Teacher Certification](#)

Department Courses and Descriptions

PO 1311

American National Government (3)

A study of the formal and informal structures and functions of American National Government. Emphasis is placed on the processes by which public policy is made with pertinent examples of that policy. (GOVT 2305)

PO 1312

Texas State & Local Government (3)

A study of the formal and informal structures of Texas State Government. Emphasis is placed on the processes by which public policy is made with pertinent examples of that policy. This course is required for Texas Teacher Certification. (GOVT 2306)

PO 1314

Understanding Global Politics (3)

A study of basic political concepts, institutions, and behavior. Political organizations and influence are examined in the contexts of contemporary Western and Eastern political systems. Historical and contemporary political ideals are examined as influences on twentieth century political systems and movements.

PO 2310

Political Research Methodology (3)

Introduction to the methods of political research. The focus is on designing research. Students will assess the state of scholarly literature, identify interesting questions, formulate strategies for collecting qualitative and quantitative data for answering those questions. They shall learn how to, and shall conduct a literature review on some substantive question. Successful completion

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of this course fulfills the information literacy proficiency requirements of the core curriculum.

PO 2311

Applied Research Methods (3)

The second course of a two-course sequence on research methods in political science. The focus is on conducting and evaluating political science research. Students will assess the state of scholarly literature, identify interesting questions, formulate strategies for collecting qualitative and quantitative data for answering them, further hone methodological tools with which to conduct research, and learn how to write up publishable results. Substantive examples will be drawn from American politics, international relations, comparative politics, and public administration, which all rely on empirical evidence. Prerequisites: PO 2310 or permission of the Instructor.

PO 3100

Topics in American/State/Local Politics (1)

Study of one of the broad range of topics in federal, state, and local politics, including structures and functions of various institutions.

PO 3110

Topics in Political Behavior (1)

Study of one of a broad range of topics in political behavior, including socialization, political participation, ethnic politics, and religion.

PO 3120

Topics in Public Policy (1)

Study of one of a broad range of topics in public policy or public administration, including civil rights, immigration, school finance, social welfare, etc.

PO 3140

Topics in Political Thought (1)

Problems, values, and uses of selected normative and empirical political thinkers. Topics vary.

PO 3160

Topics in International/Comparative Politics (1)

Study of any one of the broad range of topics in International or Comparative Politics. To include such topics as peaceful resolution of international conflict, international human rights, and comparative institutions.

PO 3200

Topics in American/State/Local Politics (2)

Study of one of the broad range of topics in federal, state, and local politics, including structures and functions of various institutions.

PO 3210

Topics in Political Behavior (2)

Study of one of a broad range of topics in political behavior, including socialization, political participation, ethnic politics, and religion.

PO 3220

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Topics in Public Policy (2)

Study of one of a broad range of topics in public policy or public administration, including civil rights, immigration, school finance, social welfare, etc.

PO 3240

Topics in Political Thought (2)

Problems, values, and uses of selected normative and empirical political thinkers. Topics vary.

PO 3260

Topics in International/Comparative Politics (2)

Study of any one of the broad range of topics in International or Comparative Politics. To include such topics as peaceful resolution of international conflict, international human rights, and comparative institutions.

PO 3300

Topics in American/State/Local Politics (3)

Study of one of the broad range of topics in federal, state, and local politics, including structures and functions of various institutions.

PO 3301

The National Executive (3)

Office and powers of the presidency, individual backgrounds, evolution of the office, elections are explored. The President's part in the formulation and implementation of domestic and foreign policy are highlighted.

PO 3302

The Legislative Process (3)

Every aspect of how our national legislature functions and what external and internal variables affect that function is the focus of this class. Both institutional arrangements and interpersonal relationships endemic to the Congress are explored. Consequently, the committee, seniority, party, and leadership systems are thoroughly discussed, together with the role the Congress plays in the overall national governmental scheme.

PO 3303

American Political Parties & Interest Groups (3)

Analysis of the development of American political parties; growth and influence of interest groups; voting, elections and presidential campaigns; research in governmental and political events.

PO 3304

State and Local Politics (3)

Study of American states, including structures and functions of state government, problems in federalism, political processes, elections, and public policy.

PO 3310

Topics in Political Behavior (3)

Study of one of a broad range of topics in political behavior, including socialization, political participation, ethnic politics, and religion.

PO 3311

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Political Behavior (3)

A survey of the bases of political behavior: psychology, socialization, and participation.

PO 3312

US Latino Politics (3)

This course will offer a political history of the diverse Latino populations in the United States. Topics to be covered will include racism, civil rights, political participation, and others.

PO 3313

Ethnicity, Race, and Class (3)

The relationship between American society's class, race, and gender cleavage and public policies, at all governmental levels, is explored. Consequently, this course treats this relationship as a "two-way interaction".

PO 3314

Religion and Politics (3)

The study of the impact of religion on politics; in particular, the emphasis is on the influence of religious institutions, attitudes and behaviors.

PO 3315

Political Communication, Media & Elections (3)

Study of trends in American voting behavior; relationship of political communication and media campaigns, elections and voters' choices; analysis of media in conveying political information; finance and elections; use of survey research in analysis of voting behavior and campaigns; election simulation.

PO 3316

Gender Politics (3)

This course examines and assesses the role and participation of women in American political life. Topics include: women and men as voters, candidates and office holders, the Women's Movement, civil rights, grass roots participation, and key policy issues that have particular relevance to women.

PO 3317

American Thought and Culture (3)

A study of American ideas and how those ideas are expressed in literature, art and architecture.

PO 3320

Topics in Public Policy (3)

Study of one of a broad range of topics in public policy or public administration, including civil rights, immigration, school finance, social welfare, etc.

PO 3321

Public Administration (3)

An examination of administration and politics, administrative legislative relationships, budgetary processes, personnel administration, administrative rule-making, organization, and policy development.

PO 3322

Public Policy Analysis (3)

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Exploration of various methods used by public agencies to evaluate the economy, efficiency, and/or effectiveness of their operations, with applications to contemporary public policies. PO 2310 preferred but not required as prerequisite.

PO 3323

Urban Politics (3)

Concentration on the origins, evolutionary processes, and dynamics of cities and their attendant political institutions and processes. Investigation of the externalities resulting from the decisions and non-decisions of the political and bureaucratic processes of urban governments.

PO 3324

The Post Modern City (3)

PO 3325

Intro to Organizational Leader (3)

An introduction to organizational life and the development of the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective leader.

PO 3326

Violence Against Children & Public Policy (3)

The course covers identification of types of child abuse and their consequences, prevention and intervention strategies and options, and paths to healing and recovery. Students will identify and utilize resources available regarding knowledge of, intervention in, prevention of, healing and recovery from abuse so as to be better prepared to respond to child abuse if and when it is encountered in students' professional lives.

PO 3330

Topics in Law (3)

Study of a broad range of topics in law, including race, gender, behavior, civil rights, international law, and comparative judicial systems.

PO 3331

Judicial Process (3)

The study of the development of the U.S. Supreme Court. Analysis of the American court system including the structure and function of the judicial process.

PO 3340

Topics in Political Thought (3)

Problems, values, and uses of selected normative and empirical political thinkers. Topics vary.

PO 3341

Classical Political Thought (3)

Development of political thinking from the ancient Greeks to the medieval period. Critical analysis and evaluation of original sources.

PO 3342

Early Modern Political Thought (3)

Development of political thinking from Machiavelli to Marx. Critical analysis and evaluation of original sources.

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PO 3343

20th Century Political Thought (3)

Basic issues and questions of value in political thought with emphasis upon Lenin, Marx, fascism, existentialism, and contemporary political thought.

PO 3344

American Political Thought (3)

Basic issues and questions of value in American thought from colonial times to the present; relevance of political thought for contemporary prospects and problems.

PO 3360

Topics in International/Comparative Politics (3)

Study of any one of the broad range of topics in International or Comparative Politics. To include such topics as peaceful resolution of international conflict, international human rights, and comparative institutions.

PO 3361

International Relations (3)

The course examines the themes of international relations, power, order, justice, war and peace, in the context of theory and of contemporary world politics.

PO 3362

European Politics (3)

This course will focus on the comparative analysis of the political systems of Europe. The discussion and analysis will focus on the governmental institutions, political cultures, interest groups, and political parties of these countries. The impact of these factors, along with domestic and foreign policy problems, on political stability and instability will be the major focus of research and writing in the course.

PO 3363

Latin American Politics (3)

This course provides a general overview of the political problems associated with the quest for greater socio-economic development in Latin America. Among the problems and perspectives examined are colonial legacies, governmental systems, political cultures, interest groups and political parties, and contemporary problems. In addition to these themes there will be a brief analysis of contemporary events and political environments in the major countries of this region

PO 3364

Middle Eastern Politics (3)

The political systems of the Middle East, the Maghreb, and the Horn of Africa. Islamic culture, the politics of oil, international relations, and analysis of contemporary issues are discussed.

PO 3365

Third World Politics (3)

The political systems of Third World states in the post-colonial and post-Cold War world, with emphasis on the effects of culture and socio-economic development upon political formation.

PO 3366

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Asian Politics (3)

A comparative analysis of the political systems of Asia with focus on government, current domestic and foreign policies, political cultures, interest groups. Depending on the topic, the course will deal with East Asia (Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan), South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal) or South East Asia (the ASEAN countries). The topic will be indicated on the student's transcript.

PO 3367

African Politics (3)

A survey of the political systems of sub-Saharan Africa: government structures, leadership, the role of the military, party systems, international relations, and movements toward democratization.

PO 3370

Government Leadership (3)

This course compares and contrasts the different styles required for effective government leadership within each of four types of government organizations: legislative leadership, executive leadership, bureaucratic leadership and judicial leadership.

PO 3375

Social & Civic Leadership (3)

This course begins with an examination of the role of social and civic organizations in democratic society and proceeds to more specific study of how to lead nonprofit organizations, the mission-driven vehicles of social and civic work. Topics include social ecology, mission development, structure and organizational design, fundraising, board recruitment and governance, volunteer motivation, strategic planning, executive leadership and social entrepreneurship.

PO 4325

Business, Government & Public (3)

A study of how businesses, workers, public interest groups, consumers and government agencies interact and shape public policies and how those interactions and public policies affect society.

PO 4332

Constitutional Law I (3)

Analysis of the American constitutional system, including its institutional aspects such as judicial review, federalism, and the presidency. In addition, a study of fundamental rights such as voting rights and a right to privacy will be examined. Constitutional Law II is not required.

PO 4333

Constitutional Law II (3)

Analysis of the constitutional system, including political and civil rights such as speech, press, assembly, religion, race discrimination, gender discrimination, and affirmative action. PO 4332 is not a prerequisite.

PO 4368

International Political Economy (3)

The examination of various value assessments and ideological perspectives about the structure and political problems of contemporary international economic issues. The course also analyzes the interplay of domestic and international forces in deciding on and implementing economic policies in both advanced and less developed societies.

PO 4369

World Security Problems (3)

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A general overview of the theories, causes, and strategies of contemporary international security problems and policies. This course will include the consideration of such topics as nuclear proliferation, conventional weapons and their transfers, terrorism, and security issues. This course also examines various security agreements, proposals, and prospects for international peace and cooperation.

PO 4370

United States Foreign Policy (3)

The focus of this course is on the relationship between U.S. foreign policy making and implementation and vital national and global interests. Among the perspectives examined are the roles of values, images, and institutions in shaping U.S. foreign policy. The course also considers specific U.S. policies vis-à-vis other countries and regions of the world, as well as important general international issues.

PO 5199

Directed Readings and Research (1)

Special studies designed for selected undergraduate students with permission of instructor and chair person. Prerequisite: Senior standing .

PO 5299

Directed Readings and Research (2)

Special studies designed for selected undergraduate students with permission of instructor and chair person. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

PO 5300

Internship Political Science (3)

Experience-based education in the context of an acceptable pre-professional and/or political activity, to include work under the supervision of an elected, administrative and/or judicial official or in some other political context approved by the department. Ordinarily junior or senior status preferred. Credit of 3, 6 semester hours upon recommendation of Internship coordinator. To obtain 3 or 6 semester hours, it is generally recommended that one must spend 10 hours per week to obtain 3 hours credit and 20 hours per week to obtain 6 hours credit. A research paper is required. A reflection paper or weekly log may also be required.

PO 5301

Senior Seminar in Political Science (3)

A required capstone course for senior political science majors. Synthesized theories, research, and ethical issues in the field of political science and clarifies the connections between the different sub-fields of the discipline. Prepares students for graduate studies, law school, or careers appropriate for political science majors by emphasizing critical reading, writing, and oral communication skills. Writing intensive course.

PO 5399

Directed Readings and Research (3)

Special studies designed for selected undergraduate students with permission of instructor and chair person. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

PO 5600

Internship Political Science (6)

Experience-based education in the context of an acceptable pre-professional and/or political activity, to include work under the supervision of an elected, administrative and/or judicial official or in some other political context approved by the department. Ordinarily junior or senior status preferred. Credit of 3, 6 semester hours upon recommendation of Internship

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coordinator. To obtain 3 or 6 semester hours, it is generally recommended that one must spend 10 hours per week to obtain 3 hours credit and 20 hours per week to obtain 6 hours credit. A research paper is required. A reflection paper or weekly log may also be required.

Department Faculty

[Political Science Faculty Website](#)

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