

Department of Political Science

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty

Sean Evans (2000). Associate Professor of Political Science and Department Chair. B.A., David Lipscomb University; M.A., University of Alabama; Ph.D., University of Colorado.

Ed Bryant (2004). Lecturer in Political Science and Special Assistant to the President. B.A. and J.D., University of Mississippi.

Kevin J. Cooney (2004). Associate Professor of Political Science. B.A., Oral Roberts University; M.A., Lancaster University, England; Ph.D., Arizona State University.

Micah Watson (2007). Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for Religion and Politics. B.A., University of California at Davis; M.A., Baylor University; Ph.D., Princeton University.

Mission Statement

The Department of Political Science seeks to create active, informed citizens and leaders who use their analytical, research, and communication skills to improve their community.

Curriculum

Called the "queen of the sciences" by Aristotle because of its impact on law, society, philosophy, ethics, economics, and religion, political science is more than the study of government, political attitudes and behavior, and public policy. It is the study of people, their motives, their values, their relations with others, and the best way for individuals and groups to achieve their goals while improving society. Moreover, as Christians, the study of politics increases our understanding of God by learning how He wants us to live with others and how our faith leads us to be good stewards of our local, national, and global community.

Consequently, the Department seeks to (1) create an active, informed citizenry capable of influencing government; (2) prepare students for a changing world by developing and refining their analytical, communication, and research skills; (3) foster the understanding of the role of Christians in the public square and the most effective means to renew society; (4) prepare students for graduate and professional opportunities in politics, law, public service in the U.S. and abroad, business, teaching, and other endeavors; and (5) develop students who can be leaders in political, social, and religious institutions.

To this end, the Department offers a broad range of courses that focus on how individuals and groups interact with governmental and global systems while preparing students to exercise leadership in our changing domestic and global worlds. Each student begins by orienting themselves to the discipline by taking classes in each of the subfields of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Research Methods). Then students take six hours of both American and Global politics courses to ensure a balance in their studies while having nine additional hours to pursue their specific interests. Moreover, the Department encourages both practical and theoretical learning through internships and study abroad experiences which provide a broader understanding of other cultures and worldviews. Finally, the capstone experience provides students the opportunity to synthesize their knowledge in writing their senior thesis.

I. Political Science Major Requirements—42 hours

- A. Required: PSC 111, 211, 214, 245, 322, 323, 498.
- B. Upper-level American Politics—6 hours
- C. Upper-level International Relations/Comparative Politics—6 hours
- D. Elective PSC—9 hours

II. Teacher Licensure for Government (Grades 7-12)

- A. Major requirements for PSC as shown above to include 313 and 332.
- B. Additional requirements for licensure: GEO 112; 215 or 216; HIS 211 and 212, 101, 102.
- C. Professional Education: EDU 150, 250, 326, 425, 433; PSY 213, 318; SE 225.
- D. Completion of applicable portions of the Praxis II.
- E. For additional information, see the Assistant Dean for Teacher Education and Accreditation.

III. Political Science Minor—21 hours

- A. Required courses: PSC 111, 211.
- B. PSC Electives including a minimum of 6 upper-level hours—15 hours

IV. Pre-Law Advising Program

Dr. Sean Evans serves as Union University's pre-law advisor. Students planning to attend law school should

consult with him for information and assistance.

Assessment of Majors

Political science majors culminate their studies by taking Senior Seminar (PSC 498) in which they will demonstrate the ability to write a quality, in-depth political science research paper using the methods of the discipline. The student will present his/her paper to fellow seminar members and political science faculty. All senior political science majors must take the Major Field Achievement Test in Political Science.

Student Organizations

Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Honor Society in Political Science. Eligible students are juniors who have completed ten semester hours of work in political science including at least one upper-division course, with an average grade of B or higher in those courses. They must also have achieved an overall GPA placing them in the top one-third of their whole class (i.e., junior or senior class). They need NOT be political science majors or minors to qualify for membership.

The **Political Science Club** exists for the purpose of promoting an interest in politics, policy, and political participation on the part of Union University students. The Political Science club is open to majors, minors, and any Union University community member interested in politics.

The **Union Pre-Law Society** is open to all students regardless of major who are interested in attending law school. The purpose is to promote a greater understanding of law and the legal profession and to prepare students for law school.

Student Awards

Departmental Awards are given to graduating seniors for outstanding work in fulfilling a departmental major or minor.

The **John W. Burgess Award** is granted to a graduating senior for meritorious work in political science.

Political Science Research Awards are presented for the best original research papers presented as part of the requirements for any political science course.

Course Offerings in Political Science (PSC)

() Hours Credit; F—Fall, W—Winter; S—Spring; Su—Summer

111. Introduction to Political Science (3) F

An introduction to the concepts and concerns of political science: the power relationships among men, between men and the state, and among nations.

211. Politics and Government of the United States (3) F, S

A study of the development, structure, and operation of our national government.

214. World Politics (3) S

A study of the basic concepts of international politics, national power, diplomacy and warfare, and other vital interests of nations.

245. Research Methodology (3) S

Research methodologies utilized in political science.

300. Politics and Film (3) F—Even Years

The impact of film on the politics and thinking of American society towards concepts such as war, peace, race, regions of the world and political ideas.

313. Political Parties in the United States (3) F—Even Years

A study of the nature, development, and functioning of political parties in the United States. Attention is given to leaders, issues, and problems of our party system.

315. History and Government of Tennessee (3) S

Reciprocal Credit: HIS 315. See HIS 315 for course description.

322. Western Political Thought I (3) F—Even Years

Great political thinkers in the Western tradition from the Greeks to the 17th Century.

323. Western Political Thought II (3) S—Odd Years

Great political thinkers in the Western tradition from the 17th century to the present.

324. Contemporary Global Issues (3) S—Odd Years

Current affairs focusing on events and attitudes within the world community with an assessment of their impact on domestic and foreign policy decisions in the U.S. and abroad.

325. Politics and Governments of Asia (3) S—Odd Years

A study of Asia in modern times with emphasis on China, Japan, and one additional state selected on the basis of political conditions in Asia at the time of the course.

330. Public Administration and Policy Making (3) S—Even Years

A study of the “fourth branch” of government of the United States with a focus on the development of public policy and its administration. The relationship among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches is also emphasized.

332. Comparative Political Systems (3) F—Even Years

An analysis of the primary political systems that form the basis of modern nation-states, namely, liberal democratic systems, communist and post-communist systems, and the developing systems of the post-colonial international community. This course does not deal with particular governmental structures.

333. International Organizations and Law (3) F—Odd Years

International organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, as they interact with international community. International law and its development are examined.

340. The Judicial Process (3) F—Even Years

The nature of law, the principal actors in the legal system—police, lawyers, and judges—and their roles in the system as well as the ability of courts to make social policy.

342. The United States Congress (3) F—Odd Years

The role of Congress in American government, including congressional elections, representation, the organization of Congress, and policy-making and its interaction with others such as the president, interest groups, the media, and political parties.

344. The American Presidency (3) S—Odd Years

A study of the constitutional, institutional and historical development of the presidency with special attention to the selection, roles, and powers of the president and his interaction with other political actors.

355. Politics of the Developing States (3) S—Odd Years

Developing states referred to as the Third (Fourth) World, including Bangladesh, most of Africa, and parts of SE Asia, beginning with the end of the colonial period.

360. Politics of Islam (3) S—Even Years

The politics of Islamic beliefs such as traditionalism, reformism, and secularism, and their political influence on governments throughout the Islamic world and their relationship with Israel.

365. International Security (3) F—Odd Years

Strategic theory, terrorism, counterterrorism, military intervention, and intelligence in the contemporary world.

400. Democratization and Human Rights (3) S—Even Years

A study of the theoretical underpinnings of democracy and the origins and development of human rights in the world today.

411. American Foreign Policy (3) F—Odd Years

Prerequisite: HIS 211 or 212. Reciprocal credit: HIS 411. See HIS 411 for description.

414. International Relations Theory (3) F—Odd Years

Traditional and modern international relations theories such as realism, idealism, and postmodernism.

415. Constitutional Law I (3) F—Odd Years

A study of the constitutional structure of government as developed by the U.S. Supreme Court relating to federalism, the separation of powers, the jurisdiction of the courts, the taxing power, the war power, and the commerce power.

416. Constitutional Law II (3) S—Even Years

A study of the constitutional doctrines relating to civil rights and civil liberties such as First Amendment freedoms, equal protection, privacy, and rights of the accused.

425. Politics and Religion (3) S—Even Years

An examination of the interaction between politics and religion in domestic and international politics.

431. Political Science Internship (repeatable up to 6) As Needed

Individually designed study which permits the upper-level student to learn through participation in actual government settings, either domestic or international. Close consultation with the department in the design of this study will be necessary to conform to University standards regarding internships.

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) On Demand

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

498-9. Seminar (1-3) As Needed

To be used at the discretion of the department.