

BOSTON COLLEGE



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



POLITICAL SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION

The Political Science Department offers a distinctive program which, in keeping with the tradition of Boston College, concentrates on significant questions, practical and theoretical. The master's and doctoral programs are flexible as to fields and courses, and they allow students to study in other departments and at other universities around Boston.

The small size of the program - about five to six students are admitted to the doctoral program each year - allows for personal attention and close contacts with the faculty. Informal colloquia and more formal presentations supplement the regular order of scholarly exchange, and advanced students have an opportunity to teach under faculty supervision.

There are four traditional fields of Political Science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Politics and Political Theory.

Twenty-two full time professors -- both junior and senior faculty -- teach in the department. This results in a considerable diversity of subject matter and of academic approach.

Many of the graduate courses are seminars in which a considerable amount of responsibility is placed upon the student to analyze readings, prepare written and oral presentations to the class, and guide discussions. These are experiences we encourage generally in our courses, but the seminar, with 15 or fewer students, is ideally suited to this purpose. The classes are small, which fosters not only conversation but close associations among students and faculty. The atmosphere is informal and collegial. As an academic community, both graduate students and faculty display an unusual blend of practical and philosophical concerns within a tradition of friendly but serious debate and scholarly exchange.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Doctoral Program

Sixteen courses (48-49 credits) are required for students entering the program with no previous graduate work or a master's degree. Students choose three courses per semester. Of the 16 courses, three may be in independent study and two (not more than one per semester) in non-graduate courses. Generally, graduate students taking non-graduate courses are required to do additional work beyond the requirements set for undergraduates in those courses.

Students entering the program with a master's degree take at least nine courses (27 credits), two of which may be in independent study and two at the undergraduate level. The precise number of courses required of master's degree holders will depend mainly on how well their previous work corresponds to our requirements.

The department's course offerings are organized in four fields: Political Theory, American Politics, International Politics and Comparative Politics. These fields are organized into subfields, as listed to the right. Students choose one field as their major area of concentration, along with two minor fields. A major consists of eight courses in a particular field, with preparation in at least three subfields (four if the major field is Political Theory). A first minor consists of four courses, and a second minor consists of two courses, in fields other than the major field. In both the major and minor fields, considerable discretion will be left to students as to the choice of courses, but students may be held accountable on comprehensive examinations for a core body of knowledge in the field as well as for their own individual coursework. Students are required to take two additional courses; these may be distributed however the student chooses, and may even be taken in another department or an interdepartmental program. Where relevant to his or her studies, a student may use these courses to study a foreign language. In such a case, that language cannot be used to fulfill the department's language requirement.

AMERICAN POLITICS

National Political Institutions
Parties and Elections; Interest Groups; Social Movements
Political Economy, Public Policy and Administration
American Foreign Policy
Constitutional Law
American Political Thought
State and Urban Politics

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Students may choose to specialize in a particular region or to focus on a thematic approach.

They are expected, however, to demonstrate some substantial competence in both approaches to Comparative Politics.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

The International System
International Political Economy
Comparative Foreign Policy

POLITICAL THEORY

Ancient and Medieval Theory
Early Modern Theory: Machiavelli to Montesquieu
Late Modern Theory: Rousseau to Nietzsche
Empirical and Contemporary Theory
American Political Thought

SECOND YEAR REVIEW

Each Ph.D. student, after three semesters of coursework, will submit a "Statement of Academic Interests," which assists in assessing the student's suitability for continued pursuit of the doctorate. Since this assessment involves a comprehensive review of the student's performance in the program, the student will also be asked to meet with the faculty members of the department's graduate committee to review his or her progress in the program.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

All Ph.D. students must demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language. This language requirement must be satisfied prior to the comprehensive examination. The language examination is arranged by the department.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

After completing course and language requirements, Ph.D. students take written comprehensive examinations in their major and minor field.

The comprehensive examinations consist of a six to eight hour written examination in the major field and a four to six hour written examination in the minor fields. An oral examination is given approximately 10 days later.

Students who enter the doctoral program with a master's degree must take the comprehensive examinations by the end of their fifth semester, and those entering without a master's degree must do so by the end of their sixth semester.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Dissertation Committee

After completing the comprehensive examinations, the student is expected to assemble a committee of faculty to direct his or her dissertation, with one of these professors agreeing to chair the committee and thus take on the principal responsibility for directing the dissertation. Dissertation committees vary in size.

Dissertation Proposal

The doctoral student is expected to submit a dissertation proposal to the committee within six months of passing the comprehensive examinations. Proposals vary in length according to the nature of the study. The proposal should state the purpose of the research, its relation to major work done on the subject, the approach or methods that will be used, sources of information or data and any hypotheses to be tested. The proposal must be approved by the dissertation committee before a student may proceed with work on the dissertation.

Dissertation Seminar

Students in the writing stage, and in residence, are expected to participate in the Dissertation Seminar (1 credit). The seminar provides students with an opportunity to present work at various stages of completion.

Dissertation Defense

After the dissertation has been completed and approved by the dissertation committee for presentation, the candidate will present a public defense. This consists of a lecture, not to exceed one half-hour in length, in which the candidate states the chief findings of the dissertation. This is followed by questions from the dissertation committee and from other members of the University community who are present.

Master's Degree Program

Students are required to take 10 courses (30 credits), with at least one course taken in three of the four fields of Political Science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Politics and Political Theory). Students choose three courses per semester. A student is allowed to take two, or, with permission, three courses in other departments. The passing of written comprehensive examinations completes the requirements of the program. If a student chooses to write a thesis, eight courses of study are required and the written comprehensive examination is waived. This is a two-year program.

ADMISSION

An undergraduate major in political science is preferred but not required. Applicants must demonstrate both past performance of exceptional quality in their academic work and promise of sustained excellence in the future.

At the time of application, we ask that application forms, three letters of recommendation, transcripts, Graduate Record Examination results (general exam), a statement of purpose, and a sample of scholarly work (a term paper) be submitted. International students must also submit official TOEFL exam report scores. Deadline for all applications is January 2nd.

For more information about how to apply and to submit the application form online, please visit the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website, www.bc.edu/gsas.

For more information, visit the department's home page at: www.bc.edu/politicalscience/. The graduate program administrative assistant may also be contacted by e-mail from that site.

Financial Assistance

We are usually able to provide financial support to our doctoral candidates for a period of four or five years, although the department's initial commitment typically is only for two years, with additional years of funding contingent on the student's performance. Our regular grants carry a living stipend and full tuition remission. In return, we require twelve to fifteen hours per week of research assistance to members of the faculty or teaching assistance in undergraduate courses.

Each year the department also awards the Thomas P. O'Neill Fellowship to an incoming student in American Politics. This fellowship carries a larger stipend in addition to full tuition remission. The grant entails some assistance to the O'Neill Professor or other activity related to the O'Neill program. This endowed chair was established in 1981 to honor the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. (Boston College, 1936). The O'Neill Professor teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, and occupants have come from both the academy and government service. Recent chairholders have included Professor Samuel H. Beer, Department of Government Emeritus at Harvard University; Jody Powell, White House Press Secretary in the Carter Administration; Eleanor Holmes Norton, former Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and William Schneider, one of the nation's most widely respected election analysts, who taught courses on voting, public opinion and the American Party System. R. Shep Melnick is the current Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Professor of American Politics.

The graduate department also has Earhart fellowships that carry a stipend and tuition remission. These are awarded annually, usually to students in the second or succeeding year of doctoral study who have particularly distinguished records.

Master's candidates are not normally funded through the department, but can apply for graduate financial aid through the University.

FACULTY PROFILES

ALI BANUAZIZI

Professor; B.S., New School for Social Research; M.A., University of Michigan; Ph.D., Yale University

Comparative Politics; Political Culture and Democratization in the Middle East; Social Movements and Political Change; U.S. Policy in the Middle East; Religion and Politics in Europe

NASSER BEHNEGAR

Associate Professor; B.A., Economics, University of Chicago; M.A., Economics; Ph.D., University of Chicago

Modern Political Philosophy; American Political Thought

CHRISTOPHER BRUELL

Professor; B.A., Cornell University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Classical Political Philosophy

KATHLEEN BAILEY CARLISLE

Adjunct Associate Professor; B.A., Boston College; M.A., Tufts University; Ph.D., Boston College

Comparative Politics; Central Asia, Middle East

PAUL CHRISTENSEN

Adjunct Associate Professor; M.A., Princeton University; Ph.D., Princeton University

International/Comparative Politics; Russia, Central Asia, and Globalization

TIMOTHY W. CRAWFORD

Associate Professor; B.A., San Diego State University; M.A., University of San Diego; Ph.D., Columbia University

International Relations; Security Studies; U.S. Foreign Policy

DAVID A. DEESE

Professor; B.A., Dartmouth College; M.A., M.A.L.D.; Ph.D., Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

International Politics; International Political Economy; U.S. Foreign Policy; International Institutions, Public and Private

GERALD M. EASTER

Associate Professor; B.A., Boston College; M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University

Comparative Politics; Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe

ROBERT FAULKNER

Professor; B.A., Dartmouth College; B.A., Oxford University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Early Modern Political Theory, Liberalism

DONALD HAFNER

Professor; B.A., Kalamazoo College; Ph.D., University of Chicago

International Politics; American Foreign Policy; National Security Policy

DENNIS HALE

Associate Professor; B.A., Oberlin College; Ph.D., CUNY

American Politics; American Political Thought; Public Administration; State and Local Politics

KENJI HAYAO

Associate Professor; B.A., Dartmouth College; Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Japanese Politics; Comparative Politics

CHRISTOPHER KELLY

Professor; B.A., Yale University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Toronto

Modern Political Theory; Enlightenment

KEN I. KERSCH

Associate Professor; B.A., Williams College; J.D., Northwestern University; M.A., Cornell University; Ph.D., Cornell University

American; Constitutional Law, American Political Development

MARC LANDY

Professor; B.A., Oberlin College; Ph.D., Harvard University

Presidency; Political Economy; Environmental Regulation

JONATHAN LAURENCE

Assistant Professor; B.A., Cornell University; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University

R. SHEP MELNICK

O'Neill Professor; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University

American Politics; Courts; Bureaucracy; Regulation; Social Welfare Policy

JENNIE PURNELL

Associate Professor; B.A., Dartmouth College; Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Comparative Politics; Latin American Politics

ROBERT S. ROSS

Professor; B.A., Tufts University; M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University

Chinese Security Policy; Chinese-U.S. Relations

KAY SCHLOZMAN

Moakley Professor; B.A., Wellesley College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago

Citizen Politics; Parties and Elections; Interest Groups

SUSAN SHELL

Chair and Professor; B.A., Cornell University; Ph.D., Harvard University

Modern Political Theory; Contemporary Political Theory; German Idealism

PETER SKERRY

Professor; B.A., Tufts University; Ed. M., M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University

American Politics; Politics and Ethnicity

ALAN WOLFE

Professor; B.A., Temple University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

American Politics; Public Policy; Director, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life

SELECTED CURRENT COURSES

Graduate Courses

PO 803 Comparative Politics Graduate Field Seminar

(Fall: 3)

Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

This seminar aims at training graduate students in asking and answering the broadest and deepest questions of comparative politics, which seeks to understand similarities and differences in political culture and political institutions, with differing individualist and sociological emphases in methodology.

Gerald Easter

PO 806 Political Cultures of the Middle East

(Fall: 3)

This seminar explores the influence of cultural norms, religious traditions, and values on political behavior and institutional patterns in the Middle East. The political spheres to be explored include: conceptions of political leadership and legitimacy; different responses—from embrace to adaptation to outright rejection—to the West, modernity, and secularism; Islamic revival and rise of fundamentalism; relationship between the individual and the political community with special reference to notions of rights vs. obligations, citizenship, and human rights; role of women in private and public life; and patterns of associational life, civil society, and the prospects for democratic governance.

Ali Banuazizi

PO 825 Security Studies

(Spring: 3)

This seminar covers major concepts, theories, and research programs in the field of security studies: the concepts of national security and interests, strategy, and grand strategy; morality and war; civil-military relations; the security dilemma and offense-defense theory; alliance politics and collective security; arms races and arms control; nuclear strategy; coercive diplomacy; proliferation and counter-proliferation; and terrorism and counter-terrorism. In addition to reviewing key theoretical works on these subjects, we will examine important empirical cases from the Cold War and recent international crises.

Timothy Crawford

PO 863 Institutions in International Politics

(Fall: 3)

Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

This graduate seminar probes the nature and limits of cooperation in world politics. It begins by examining the fundamentals of power, conflict, and cooperation at international and global levels. It focuses on the sources, evolution, and prospects for cooperation, including competing theoretical understandings. Key questions include the importance of regions and regionalism, the effects of democracies and democratization, and the role of both balancing and leadership at the global level. Weekly papers, oral presentations, and a major research project are required.

David A. Deese

PO 906 Burke and Revolution

(Spring: 3)

A study of key works, including Reflections on the "Revolution in France," "The Sublime and Beautiful," and "Vindication of Natural Society."

Robert K. Faulkner

PO 928 Montesquieu's Fiction

(Spring: 3)

Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

This course will involve a close reading of Montesquieu's Persian Letters and some of his shorter fiction in relation to the major themes of his political thought.

Christopher Kelly

PO 937 Rousseau's Emile

(Spring: 3)

A careful reading of Rousseau's Emile with special attention to such themes as the conflict between virtue and happiness, and the proper ordering of the relations between men and women.

Christopher Kelly

PO 962 Kant

(Fall: 3)

Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

A careful reading of one or more of Kant's seminal texts.

Susan Shell

PO 974 Political Ambition

(Spring: 3)

Open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

Readings will be Plato's two Alcibiades, Xenophon's Hiero, and certain short texts of Bacon and Kant.

Robert Faulkner

PO 982 Seminar: The Political Philosophy of John Locke

(Fall: 3)

This course will focus on Locke's epistemological reflections in order to gain clarity about theoretical and moral foundations of modern liberalism.

Nasser Behnegar



BOSTON COLLEGE

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

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