

In This Newsletter:

PSC Welcomes Drs. Gapa, Myers, and Stevens	2
Student Studies at Duke for Summer	3
Reflections from Spring Semester Abroad	4
PC Hosts Middle East Teach-in	5
New Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees	6
Spring 2015 Subfield Courses	7
Spring 2015 Course Listings	8

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Second, a new initiative to connect the department to social media has begun. We now have a presence on both Facebook and Twitter, thanks to the efforts of our new social media guru, Averi Lee '17. Also, our department web master, Taylor Gibson '17, has been working to improve the look, content, and interactive ease of the departmental website. This increase in the department's connectivity with electronic media will allow you to find out more efficiently what you need to know about department resources and activities. Please follow us on our Facebook page, Providence College Political Science Department and Twitter @PC_Polisci and keep abreast of new developments on our web site at providence.edu/polisci/Pages/default.aspx. Third, the department has begun a comprehensive review of our departmental curriculum, including requirements for political science majors and minors. A departmental committee including student representatives Matt Pavia, Tom Andrikopoulos, and Mercedz Austin, is in the process of looking at major requirements at other schools and soon will be surveying students and faculty regarding possible changes to our own. If you have ideas for improving our curriculum, be sure to contact Matt, Tom, or Mercedz. What's new this semester creates opportunities for political science students: Stop by and say hello to our new professors (and maybe take their courses), check out our new media connectivity, and give us your ideas on our curriculum!

Thanks to Politicus editor Tom Andrikopoulos and Mrs. Emerald Ortiz, Administrative Assistant, for their excellent work putting together this issue.

- William E. Hudson, Chair

Politicus

Fall 2014

What's new? Quite a lot in the Political Science Department this semester. First, we welcome three new faculty members (see profiles of all on p. 2-3). Professor Adam Myers succeeds retired Professor Emeritus Mark Hyde as our political parties and state government specialist. We also are fortunate to have with us two visiting professors: Dr. Casey Stevens and Dr. Angela Gapa. Having visiting faculty on board is a great opportunity for our department. Visiting professors bring areas of expertise not represented among the regular faculty – allowing them to teach courses that are not routinely offered. Next semester, Professor Stevens will offer PSC 310 American Foreign Policy and PSC 369 International Law and Organization. Professor Gapa will teach PSC 334 African Politics and PSC 481 Seminar on Comparative Politics, the latter based on her research on Botswana. Consider taking advantage of our visiting professors and sign up for the courses they are offering. It may be some time before these courses will be offered again.



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Political Science Department Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

By: Courtney Buohl

Angela Gapa earned her Ph.D. in international relations from Florida International University. Her doctoral research covered the resource curse phenomenon, which is the observation that countries that export nonrenewable resources have experienced negative rates of economic growth, are prone to violent conflicts, and are more authoritarian than their resource poor counterparts. “My dissertation looked at the very peculiar case of Botswana, which has escaped the resource curse,” Gapa said. “I bridged the two sets of literature: on the resource curse as well as on political development in developing and emerging states.”

As a Zimbabwean-American with interests in resource politics, African politics, and comparative politics, Gapa feels that she can provide a “new voice” for the Department of Political Science. “There are plenty of perspectives out there that are under-represented, and I think I can add to that,” she said. Next semester she is excited to teach African Politics as well as a special topics seminar in comparative politics. This seminar will focus on “resources and how they affect democratization and development around the world,” Gapa said. Gapa is interested in security issues, particularly security issues that do not fit the traditional understanding of security. She cited the Ebola threat as an example; militaries are mobilized to go to Africa and fight Ebola because of its status as a security threat.

Gapa said that her class is “very different from all classes they’re going to take here because it’s from a very different point of view.” The classes will use discussion, videos, and primary sources to work their way through the issues. Her seminar will be unique because it is within a field that lacks much established literature at this point; students will study new threats covered in the media that have not been studied empirically so far.

“We’re trying to create knowledge, we’re trying to create linkages that haven’t necessarily been studied before,” Gapa said.

Adam Myers, a professor of American politics, received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, finishing his dissertation in 2013. He has a background in survey research and worked for a survey research firm in California during the 2012 elections. Most recently, he was a visiting professor at Saint Louis University. Myers has lived all over the country; he grew up in the Midwest, attended college in California, and has also lived in Kentucky and Washington, D.C. So far Myers has enjoyed his time at Providence College. “The faculty have been really welcoming and the students have been super too, really engaged, really respectful,” Myers said.

Myers’s areas of interest include state politics, political parties, and political geography. His research has focused on “geographical differences within states, the way different places within states have citizens that vote differently.” He has used precinct data to determine if neighborhoods “are becoming more Republican or Democratic over time,” i.e. if Republican neighborhoods are becoming more Republican and if Democratic neighborhoods are becoming more Democratic.

Myers teaches Comparative State Politics, Political Parties and Interest Groups, Empirical Political Analysis, and Political Geography. Myers says his classes are “pretty involved.” “I like to keep students on the edge, I like to throw questions at them and make them think. I try to expose students to perspectives and points of view they aren’t familiar with,” he said. Myers also noted that his classes would be fun for students.

“I think my biggest goal as a teacher is to open the eyes of students and make them see things in a slightly different way,” Myers said.



Picture Credit: C Christophersen/UNU

Casey Stevens's interests in politics were heavily influenced by his upbringing in the border region of New Mexico. He was particularly interested in "environmental politics and the space between the countries," citing how pollution from the U.S. affects Mexico with little to no international governance. Stevens received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, where he studied biodiversity loss. His dissertation explored the idea that normally, "we're supposed to have strong international law that leads to significant domestic action," when in reality the governance of biodiversity is much stronger within states than it is between nations. Stevens has done field work in Central America and the Caribbean and completed a postdoc fellowship at the United Nations University in Tokyo. For the past year and a half he has focused on sustainable development.

Next semester Stevens will teach Politics, International Law, and American Foreign Policy. The question he tries to address in the introductory politics course is, "How do we get together and coordinate key issues?" International Law will not only focus on environmental law, but also on human rights law and nonproliferation law, as Stevens and students will "take apart legal texts and focus on the core issues of political science as well as law," he said. In American Foreign Policy, the class will explore "what we as American citizens can do to make the world a more just place," Stevens said. He wants students to leave the class "with some idea of what they can do to change U.S. policies in ways that they want," stressing that students should not see U.S. foreign policy as a "black box" we have no way of accessing. Right now Stevens enjoys teaching his Latin American Politics course because, he said, "It's a great mix of people with a passion, interest, and background in Latin America and students who see it as one of the many regions of the world. The students are very willing to discuss the issues from their different positions."

Stevens is particularly looking forward to attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris next year, saying, "If anyone really wants to focus on changing the world, Paris next year will be one point where they can totally change the way the world works."

Mercedz Austin '15 Studies at Duke as Bunche Scholar



My experience at the APSA Ralph Bunche Summer Institute was definitely a memorable one. I spent the entire month of June as a Blue Devil at Duke University. My time at Duke flourished with opportunity and required an enormous amount of self-determination and perseverance. As I reflect on my experience, I can honestly say that the Bunche Institute made me a better student, as well as an improved individual as a whole. My time at the institute was instrumental for gaining the skills and experience with research necessary to elevate my knowledge as a political science scholar. Not only did the institute provide me with resources to improve my qualitative skills, the institute

also afforded me the opportunity to improve my statistical and data analysis skills. Moreover, my favorite part about the institute was being surrounded by passionate political science students from all over the country. I was able to engage in meaningful conversation, often turning into fired up debates, concerning controversial issues, with students just like me. There was never a day where I went without being challenged by my peers and professors. It is fair to say that Bunche kept me on my toes, but I liked it. In addition, the institute afforded me the ability to be taught by respected political scientists, such as Dr. Paula McClain. Her most recent articles have appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, and *The DuBois Review: Social Science Research on Race*. Finally, I cannot forget about the beautiful city of Durham, NC and the Duke University campus. Prior to the institute, I have never spent time on a large campus infused with grand architecture. Overall, the one thing I took away from the Bunche Institute was that perseverance and personal pride is the key to success.

Reflections from Abroad: Hannah Donovan '15 Spends Spring Semester in Denmark

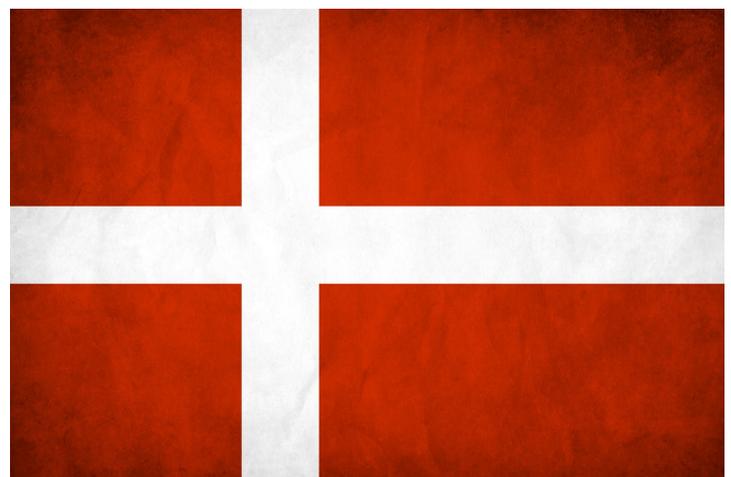
This past spring, I spent the semester studying at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (“DIS”) in Copenhagen as a student in the European Politics (“EP”) Program.

A key attraction for me in deciding on DIS for study abroad were the study tours in which I got to travel with my EP class of 34 students. The first “short” study tour was early in the semester during what DIS calls “Core Course Week.” Instead of attending regular classes, my European Politics class traveled for three days to southern Denmark and northern Germany for a short study tour combined with a two-day seminar in Copenhagen which included a visit to the Danish Parliament. The focus during Core Course Week was to provide an overview of how the EU works, complete with field studies and guest lectures. The experience was amazing and a preview of more to come.

Later in the semester, my class and I traveled for a week long study tour which took us on a trip that began in Brussels, the ‘capital of Europe’ and continued on to The Hague, the international criminal court capital. As promised by DIS, I got to “experience first-hand the political institutions” I learned about in class and gained “an understanding of EU decision-making.” This proved beneficial to me as I completed my final project in the EP program which was a Negotiation Simulation Game. Students took on the role of members in the European Council negotiating an issue currently on the EU Agenda, which for the Spring 2014 students was Climate Change and Climate Action. The goal of the game was to garner an understanding of how to negotiate and compromise on national interests. Following the format of the Council, I, along with a student from Johns Hopkins University, represented the Netherlands and finished as one of three winners having researched, presented and effectively argued The Netherlands’ position. In addition, I was proud to represent Providence College in being recognized with an award of Academic Excellence which every academic program at DIS presents to one outstanding student from each program per semester.

The core program was just one of the many wonderful courses I studied at DIS, including Political Activism and Human Trafficking in a Global Context. In addition, while in Europe I was fortunate to visit six countries and make friends with students from all over the United States. Of course one of the most memorable things I have taken from my experience in Denmark is the relationship I formed with a wonderful family who welcomed me into their home and hearts.

By: Hannah Donovan '15



A Teach-in on the Israeli-Gaza War: Three Perspectives



By: Tom Andrikopoulos '16



Pi Sigma Alpha recently hosted a “teach-in” on this summer’s Israeli-Gaza war. The event was co-sponsored by the departments of History, Political Science, and ROTC. The three-professor panel featured Dr. Nina Tannenwald and Dr. Sa’ed Adel Atshan of Brown University and Dr. Ruth Ben-Artzi of Providence College’s political science department.

So, what were the take-aways of this teach-in?

Dr. Nina Tannenwald discussed the state of human rights and the implications that human rights and civil rights will have in any solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She highlighted the centrality of these rights to the stability of the region, arguing that there can be no peace without properly addressing grievances of injustice. Dr. Tannenwald then discussed the violations of international law and human rights committed by both sides of the conflict. Israel, she argued, obstructed the basic humanitarian needs of Palestinian non-combatants by damaging the sole power plant supplying energy to Gaza as a part of its larger blockade of the entire Gaza Strip. On the other hand, Dr. Tannenwald argued that Hamas has endangered its own people by placing its missiles in densely populated civilian areas. In conclusion, she emphasized that both sides were wrong to justify their departure from human rights and international law, saying that conflict is not a contract. That is, a violation by one party does not entitle the other to violate human rights. Each side has a responsibility to ensure that its actions are in self-defense, and that these actions are proportionate counter-attacks and discriminate between combatants and civilians.

Dr. Sa’ed Adel Atshan focused on the plight of refugees and media coverage of the conflict. His “Ghosts of Gaza” presentation was a powerful reminder of the human tragedy of the war and brought life to the ubiquitous reports of casualties cited in the media. His presentation reminded the audience that the Palestinians as a whole are a diverse group, featuring various Orthodox and Catholic Christians, in addition to the larger Muslim population. He put forth the UN’s assessment that Israel’s blockade and strict control of goods that may enter the Gaza Strip, in conjunction with measures to control the population, will make the Gaza Strip uninhabitable by the year 2020. Dr. Adel Atshan also focused on the “othering” of Palestinians in the news media. For example, one major U.S. newspaper ran a front-page headline detailing the deaths of Israeli soldiers, while merely listing the Palestinian casualties as “others”. In another instance, a news source showed film clips of an Israeli attack, while reporting that the footage was from an attack by Hamas. This “othering”, Adel Atshan argued, served to dehumanize and delegitimize the Palestinian suffering in the U.S.

Dr. Ruth Ben-Artzi began her segment discussing the Israeli political situation. She noted that Israel is faced with three main concerns, namely, maintaining democracy, its character as a Jewish state, and its security. Dr. Ben-Artzi argued that these concerns are rarely easy to balance, and that Israel often focuses on one concern to the detriment of the others. For example, Israel must maintain a Jewish majority to remain a Jewish state. As a result, as is the case in East Jerusalem, this may mean that Jews have the right to vote, while a Palestinian neighbor may not. Likewise, Dr. Ben-Artzi mentioned that Palestinians in the West Bank do not have the right to vote. As a Jewish state, the Rabbinical Council has the authority to regulate certain aspects of life, like the operation of restaurants on Shabbat Saturday, for example. Again, this creates conflicts for the twenty percent of the Israeli population who are not Jewish. Regarding the conflict, Dr. Ben-Artzi reminded the audience that Gaza has no recognition as a state, so that the conflict really centers on a struggle between the occupied and the occupiers.

Pi Sigma Alpha Welcomes Fall 2014 Candidates for Induction



By: Leah Towe '15

On behalf of Providence College's Epsilon Chi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, I would like to officially congratulate the Fall 2014 candidates for induction. These superior students have demonstrated academic excellence through their studies in the major of political science. To be inducted into this prestigious society, a student must have completed a minimum of six political science courses while maintaining at least a 3.5 GPA. Membership in Pi Sigma Alpha is greatly valued within the academic and professional community, and it also provides numerous opportunities for future internships and scholarships. I would also like to formally welcome Dr. Affigne as Pi Sigma Alpha's new advisor. We are very thankful to have him with us this year.

While there are countless personal benefits of Pi Sigma Alpha membership, the inductees also become a part of an active organization dedicated to increasing awareness and interest in political science within the entire PC community. Our first event of the year was a "Middle East Teach-In" conducted by PC's very own Dr. Ben-Artzi, accompanied by her colleagues Dr. Atshan and Dr. Tannenwald from Brown University. This presentation explored the complicated conflict between Israel and Palestine, provided some background to what happened this summer, and offered some insight of what can and might be done in the future. The intriguing teach-in was followed by a lively question and answer session, making for a very successful event and promising start to the year. An article highlighting the teach-in can be found on page 5.

On November 17th, Pi Sigma Alpha will be hosting a presentation by Dr. Barak Mendelsohn of Haverford College on ISIS and Al Qaeda relations. Dr. Mendelsohn is a political science professor who focuses on Islamist groups. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. In addition to Dr. Mendelsohn's presentation, there will be one or two speakers from the Military Science department who will share with us their personal experiences in Iraq. Pi Sigma Alpha will also host its annual Christmas party in December and its annual Best Paper Contest in the spring. Our chapter is really looking forward to our upcoming events, as we appreciate the opportunity to share our passion in political science with the rest of our colleagues and faculty here at Providence College.

This fall invitations to join Pi Sigma Alpha were sent via friar box and email to the following students:

Class of 2015 majors: Elyse Butterworth, Kevin Donovan, Kelly Ann Girandola, Lizeth Gonzalez, Mark Hamilton, Aubrey Moore, Matthew Pavia, Emily Reers, Nicholas Rossini, Kevin Sullivan and Nicholas Willey

Class of 2016 majors: Thomas Andrikopoulos, Jessica James, Kimberly Lynch, Alexander Nunnely, Harper Rhodes, Mary Elizabeth Smith, Katelyn Sudlik, Daniel Tosiano and Jamie Wilson.

Class of 2015 minors: Cayla Barbour, Emily Morin and Clare Plassche

Student Guide to Meeting Major Field Requirements: Spring 2015

Political Science majors are required to take at least one course from each of the traditional fields of the discipline: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations. Students have a choice among multiple courses to meet these requirements. Listed below are the courses offered Spring semester 2015 that meet the various field requirements. Taking any of the courses listed under the particular field will satisfy the requirement.

Political Theory

PSC 344 Ancients and Moderns

Comparative Politics

PSC 324 Government and Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union

PSC 334 African Politics

PSC 416 Race and Politics in the Americas (Note: this course meets both comparative and American requirement but can only be applied to one.)

PSC 481 Seminar in Comparative Politics: Africa

International Relations

PSC 207 International Relations

PSC 369 International Law and Organization

American Politics

PSC 201 American Government and Politics

PSC 303 Urban Politics

PSC306 American Presidency

PSC 310 American Foreign Policy

PSC 312 Civil Liberties

PSC 317 Comparative State Politics

PSC 318 American Public Policy

PSC 319 Political Attitudes and Public Opinion

PSC 416 Race and Politics in the Americas (Note: this course meets both comparative and American require-

Spring 2015 Course Offerings in Political Science

****Check Cyberfriar for the most up-to-date course listings****

Course Number	Course Title (limit 30 characters)	Series	Limit	Instructor
PSC 101 001	Politics	I	18	Neil Romans
PSC 101 002	Politics	J	18	Neil Romans
PSC 101 003	Politics	H	18	Casey Stevens
PSC 101 004	Politics	J	18	Casey Stevens
PSC 101 005	Politics	K	18	Angela Gapa
PSC 101 006	Politics	O	18	Angela Gapa
PSC 102 001	Empirical Analysis	J	20	Adam Myers
PSC 102 002	Empirical Analysis	M	20	Adam Myers
PSC 201 001	American Govt & Politics	I	25	Matt Guardino
PSC 207 001	International Relations	K	25	Doug Blum
PSC 207 002	International Relations	L	25	Doug Blum
PSC 303 001	Urban Politics in the U.S.	L	17	Tony Affigne
PSC 306 001	The American Presidency	A	20	Joe Cammarano
PSC 310 001	American Foreign Policy	N	20	Casey Stevens
PSC 312 001	Civil Liberties	H	20	Neil Romans
PSC 317 001	Comparative State Politics	G	20	Adam Myers
PSC 318 001	American Public Policy	F	20	Bill Hudson
PSC 319 001	Political Attitudes and Public Opinion	E	20	Matt Guardino
PSC 324 001	Gov't & Pol of Russia & Fmr Svt Un	U	20	Doug Blum
PSC 334 001	African Politics	E	20	Angela Gapa
PSC 344 001	Ancients and Moderns	E	20	Rick Battistoni
PSC 369 001	International Law and Organization	L	20	Casey Stevens
PSC 416 001	Race & Politics in the Americas	K	17	Tony Affigne
PSC 450 001	Poli Sci Internship	T	20	Bill Hudson
PSC 456 001	Model OAS (by instructor permission only)	U	20	Robert Trudeau
PSC 481 001	Seminar on Comparative Politics	Q	12	Angela Gapa
PSC 489 001	Cap: Comparative Welfare Politics and Change	T	12	Gizem Zencirci
PSC 489 002	Cap: Politics of Climate Change	Q	12	Tony Affigne
PSC 490 001	Independent Study: RI Educational Policy		1	Rick Battistoni
PSC 490 002	Independent Study: Program Evaluation		2	Adam Myers
PSC 490 003	Independent Study: Public Administration		1	Joe Cammarano
PSC 499 001	Honors Thesis		1	Doug Blum

Law Course Offerings

LAW 201 001	General Law	T	25	Patricia McLaughlin
LAW 305 001	Civil Litigation	4:30-6:50pm Thurs.	25	Susan McGuirl
LAW 310 001	Persuasive Writing in Law	K	25	Illisabeth Bornstein