

Politicus

Fall 2016



From the Desk of Dr. William Hudson, Chair of the Political Science Department:

Teaching political science always is a blast during a presidential election year. This truly exceptional election has made the experience even more exciting and, despite the ugliness of the campaign, rewarding. I have been pleased with how engaged and interested our political science students have been in this election. Kudos to Pi Sigma Alpha, Young Republicans, and Young Democrats for organizing several election related events already this semester. Election night on Tuesday November 8 ought to be a rousing finale to this extraordinary campaign. Please show up at the Pi Sigma Alpha Election eve party in McPhail's to cheer on your candidate favorites. Also, see Christian Balasco's nice voter guide in this issue showing issue differences between Trump and Clinton.

After the election, on Thursday November 17, Professor Kathy Dolan of University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee will provide her analysis of the election and the historic candidacy of Hillary Clinton. Dr. Dolan is a 1985 political science graduate of Providence College. Come see a PC political science major who has become a distinguished political scientist.

We are pleased this semester to welcome Dr. Paul Herron to the political science faculty. All students should feel free to stop by his office (Howley 310) and say hello. As you will see in this issue, Professor Herron wants to get to know students and mentor them. Those of you interested in law school, especially, should get to know him as he will be serving as the political science department pre-law advisor. Along with his Ph.D. from Brandeis University, Dr. Herron earned a J.D. from Northeastern University and has experience practicing law. Check out also the three law related courses he will be teaching in the spring semester.

Thanks once again to Mrs. Emerald Ortiz for her fine work in supervising the production of this issue and to her editorial assistant, Christian Balasco.



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Political Science Online

- Check out the latest news online at: <http://www.providence.edu/polisci>
- Like Us on Facebook: Providence College Political Science Department
- Follow PC Political Science on Twitter: @PC_Polisci

Congratulations Professor Doug Blum !!

Dr. Blum's new book: *The Social Process of Globalization: Return Migration and Cultural Change in Kazakhstan* has been named a finalist for the 2016 Central Eurasian Studies Society Book Award.

His is among seven finalists for the award that will be presented at the CESS Annual Meeting November 3-4 in Princeton, N.J.

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

November 8: Pi Sigma Alpha Election Watch Party and Discussion

This event will be held in McPhail's to watch the results roll in. The theme, naturally, is America and students can enjoy hot dogs and burgers while Political Science majors and professors provide commentary on the electoral results. Be sure to swing by and witness the election come to a close and a new president be elected! (more information to come!)

November 10: Pre-registration Day

All students who have signed up for pre-registration for PSC 101, 102 and 489 will be pre-registered on this day.

November 17: "Hillary Clinton, Gender Politics, and the 2016 Election Campaign"

This talk by Kathy Dolan, a Professor in and Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will take place at 4:00 pm in Ruane 105. Dolan is a nationally recognized expert on women political candidates and has published widely on the topic. Dolan is also a 1985 political science graduate of Providence College.

December 9: Department Holiday Party

Come join your favorite professors and fellow majors and minors and help spread good cheer this holiday season. Pi Sigma Alpha will be hosting the annual pie baking contest at the party. Test your culinary skills and possibly win a prize for best pie! Contact John Hindley at jhindley@friars.providence.edu by Friday, December 2, 2016.

Pi Sigma Alpha's Events Leading Up to the Presidential Election

By: Danielle Lorizio, '17, President, Pi Sigma Alpha

It is truly an incredible time to be a Political Science major at Providence College. With a polarizing election only a few weeks away, it is seemingly impossible to escape the constant commentary from the news and late night shows. That being said, Providence College's Epsilon Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is excited to join the conversation and lead several events and discussions about the election.

On November 8th, an election watch party will be held in McPhails to watch the results roll in. The theme, naturally, is America and students can enjoy hot dogs and burgers while Political Science majors and professors provide commentary on the electoral results. Be sure to swing by and witness the election come to a close and a new president be elected!

After the election, Pi Sigma Alpha plans to continue the discussion of the impact of elections, with a panel discussion of alumni who have worked on campaigns and have been elected to public office. Given that so many majors have aspirations to run for public office, this event will serve to help students understand the path to take to have a successful career in campaigning. The panel will be held on November 21, 2016 6:00-8:30 in Slavin 112 (Fishbowl). (More information to come.)

We hope you will be able to join us in discussing many of the issues that have been brought up during this election season. Pi Sigma Alpha is committed to bringing commentary to majors and minors to better inform on these issues and present potential career paths.



Get to Know Professor Paul Herron

Interview By Joseph Clancy '18



Let's start off with learning something fun about you:

Well I am the oldest of 5. I have four younger sisters. I also have 4 nieces. Everyone was amazed when I had a son (including me!). Henry is now two years old.

Is there anything about your background that you want the Providence College community to know?: I am originally from Tennessee, though I have been in New England for thirteen years now. I finally started feeling like a local when I married my wife, Lisa, who is from Boston; she helped me break into the sometimes insular circle of Red Sox fans. When I'm not working I'm an avid chess player. I've been playing since I was a child, and I even wrote my senior thesis about the chess scene in Washington DC's DuPont Circle. My wife and I also enjoy traveling. I think our favorite trips were probably Istanbul, Israel, Croatia, and Tanzania.

Has there been anything you have had difficulty with since you have been at Providence College?: There really have not been any difficulties. I love the city, and my students have been amazing! Not to mention, the Political Science Department at PC is a wonderful and welcoming group of scholars. Everyone has helped make it a smooth transition.

What are your hopes for the school year?: I want to start building mentoring relationships with my students. I love advising students on law school, grad school, and career plans. I wouldn't be where I am today without the help of some of my old professors. My other goals are to learn more about the school, the community and the city.

Cubs or Indians?: Cubs obviously.

Dr. Herron will be teaching the following classes in the Spring: PSC 312 Civil Liberties, PSC 300 Law and Society, and a PSC 470 Special Topics course on the American Supreme Court.

Election 2016: Divided Visions for the American Future

By. Christian Balasco '18



The 2016 Presidential Election has brought with it new levels of disagreement, polarization, and political discord. The candidates from the two major political parties – Republican Donald Trump, and Democrat Hillary Clinton – offer two distinct visions for the American future. I have taken a set of **six** issues which are important in this election, and have delved into the candidate's platforms on said issues. Below I offer you each of those platforms, and thus, a means for comparison between Donald and Hillary's visions for America.

Donald's America	The Issues	Hillary's America
<p>Donald Trump is committed to preserving, if not strengthening, the conservative presence on the Supreme Court. With some consultation from conservative groups like the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation, Trump has released a list of 11 conservative judges which he will use as a resource for picking his Supreme Court appointee(s). Trump wants to appoint judges who will interpret the Constitution from an Originalist perspective.</p>	<p>*The Supreme Court* With a current vacancy on the Supreme Court, and the potential for several more seats to open up over the next Presidential term, the future of the Supreme Court hinges on the results of this election.</p>	<p>While Hillary has not released a list of possible nominees to the Supreme Court, she has said she wants to appoint judges who will uphold the decision in cases like <i>Roe v. Wade</i>, and come out against the decision in the <i>Citizens United</i> case. In other words, she wants these judges to have shown a clear commitment to the liberal ideology which she aligns with. Hillary is a proponent of interpreting the Constitution as a living document.</p>
<p>Donald Trump is a Pro-Life candidate who believes abortion should be illegal except in cases of rape, incest, and when the mother's health is at risk. Trump supports a ban on abortion after 20 weeks, and supports defunding Planned Parenthood unless they stop performing abortions. Trump supports the overturning of <i>Roe v. Wade</i>, and wants to appoint judges to the Supreme Court who will follow through on that measure. He says that if the decision in the case is overturned, the issue of abortion will become an issue which the states alone must handle.</p>	<p>*Abortion* Each election, abortion returns as a central moral issue in the election. The American people want to know – are the candidates Pro-Life or Pro-Choice? Do they grant exceptions? Do they support the Supreme Court's decision in <i>Roe v. Wade</i>?</p>	<p>Hillary Clinton is a Pro-Choice candidate, and believes that safe and legal abortions must be an essential part of the reproductive health-care benefits afforded to women. She believes that abortion is a part of a women's right to choose, and fully supports the decision in <i>Roe v. Wade</i>. For Hillary, a woman must have the right to terminate her own pregnancy, most especially when it threatens her own health, even in the final term of pregnancy. She opposes a ban on abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, and hopes to see a full repeal of the Hyde Amendment which bans federal funding for abortions.</p>
<p>Donald Trump has proposed a tax plan which offers three tax brackets for tax rates on ordinary income: 12%, 25%, and 33%. Trump's plan looks to eliminate the surtax on net investment income from capital gains and dividends. Further, Trump wants to lower the corporate tax rate to 15%. Finally, Trump wants to eliminate the estate tax.</p>	<p>*Taxes* Tax plans differ from candidate to candidate, year to year, and are often hard to understand. Voters often wonder, under these plans, what will my tax rate be? What will corporations be paying in taxes? Will my investment income be heavily taxed as well?</p>	<p>Hillary Clinton has pledged to increase taxes for the upper-class by adding a 4% surtax on regular income which exceeds \$5 million dollars. Hillary also plans to add a 4% surtax on investment income over \$5 million dollars, while raising tax rates for capital gains from investments held for less than six years to between 24% and 39.6%. Hillary has offered no specific proposal for the corporate tax rate, but has pledged to increase the top estate tax to 45% while lowering the estate tax exclusion to \$3.5 million dollars.</p>

Election 2016: Divided Visions for the American Future

Donald's America	The Issues	Hillary's America
<p>Donald Trump is a strong critic of Common Core, and does not believe that there should be any form of National standards for education. He supports an end to Common Core, and believes there should be a focus on state-level education standards. With regards to higher education, Trump has not set forth any substantive plans outlining how to deal with either the rising cost of college or crippling student loan debts. He has, however, been openly critical of the government using student loans as a way of reaping profits.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">*Education*</p> <p>Education is another issue which recurs election after election. Voters want to know where their candidates stand on issues like Common Core educational standards and the rising costs of higher education. Do they want to repeal Common Core? Do support free college educations?</p>	<p>Hillary Clinton is also critical of Common Core, but is still a proponent of some form of national education standards which can be used effectively to measure progress in education. Unlike Trump, Secretary Clinton has offered a substantive plan which includes free education at public colleges and universities for those students whose families' income comes in below \$125,000 annually. This plan is rather expensive, and would count on tax increases to account for its \$500 billion bill. The goal of such a plan is to foster an educational environment in which more students graduate without debt.</p>
<p>Donald Trump has proposed a wall along the Mexican border which would be paid for by the Mexican government. As a way of leveraging Mexico into paying for the wall Trump has posited he will create new wire transfer laws, increase trade tariffs, and increase visa/border crossing fees. Aside from the wall, Trump wants to stop grant money from flowing to sanctuary cities. He also wants to use an E-Verify system for immigration, as well as ending birthright citizenship.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">*Immigration*</p> <p>Donald Trump has repeatedly laid claim to making immigration a major issue in this election cycle. What exactly is Donald Trump's immigration plan? How does Hillary's plan differ? Will there really be a wall, and will Mexico actually pay for it?</p>	<p>Hillary Clinton is a proponent of comprehensive immigration reform in form of new legislation which would create a path to citizenship. She also believes that we should remove the time limits which immigrants who leave the country as a part of their process towards legalization are subject to follow before returning legally. Most simply, Clinton wants to make it easier to become a U.S. citizen by issuing more fee waivers, and creating a national Office of Immigrant Affairs to handle such issues.</p>
<p>Donald Trump is a huge proponent of giving veterans the choice to seek care at either the VA or a private medical service provider. At the same time, he wants to work on instituting major reforms for the VA so that those veterans choosing to use VA services are not subject to excessive red-tape, long waits, and other inconveniences which may negatively affect their health and well-being. He wants to modernize the VA by hiring and empowering new doctors and nurses who are sure to give top-notch care to veterans, while firing the many VA executives who have failed to do so in recent years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">*Veterans Affairs*</p> <p>A fact which both candidates agree on, at least generally, is that our veterans must be treated better. What, then, do the two candidates propose for veteran affairs reforms? How do they pledge to handle the bureaucratic red-tape which has defined the VA's practices in recent years?</p>	<p>Hillary Clinton has pledged to do many things for veterans starting with major reforms for veterans' health care. She wants to ensure both timely and high quality health care for all veterans. She also wants to cut away all the bureaucratic red-tap associated with the VA by making the VHA a more seamless, well-matched partner in healthcare. Additionally, Hillary is committed to making sure that the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill is a lasting part of the contract our country gives to those who serve by expanding tax credits for veterans' employment and creating career oriented programs.</p>



PSC Course to Consider for Spring 2017

Spring Course that meet the Diversity Proficiency:

- *PSC 321 Chinese Politics— Dr. McCarthy
- *PSC 416 Race and Politics in the Americas— Dr. Affigne

Consider a Special Topics Course:

- *PSC 470-001 ST: The Supreme Court— Dr. Herron
- *PSC 470-002 ST: Political Thought in Science Fiction— Dr. Affigne
- *PSC 479-001 ST: The Politics of Philanthropy— Dr. Battistoni

**Note: Special topics courses count as political science electives just like any other upper level*

PSC 342 Modern Political Theory

Reminder: PSC 342 Modern Political Theory now meets the core curriculum Philosophy requirement as well as the PSC Political Theory field requirement.

PSC 342, Modern Political Theory, introduces you to the subfield of ‘political theory’ and, more specifically, to modern Western political theory. We consider some of the enduring questions of political theory, questions first raised by the ancient Greeks and answered in new ways by modern theorists. Here are some important examples: What is human nature? What is human freedom? How useful is the (modern) concept of *human rights* for understanding human social and political relations? Why have government at all, and why should we obey government? What is the ‘proper’ purpose of government? What is the best *form* of government? If democracy is the best form, then what kind of democracy is best? What is—and what should be--the relationship among economic arrangements (including capitalism), state sovereignty, and true human freedom?

Political theorists define ‘modern’ in the phrase ‘modern political theory’ in a way that might surprise you. Political theorists generally take ‘modern’ here to mean from the 1600s to the late 1800s! We want to go slowly enough in this course for you to learn how to read original texts written by great political theorists. Therefore, instead of covering many theorists, we will focus mainly on four thinkers: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx. We begin with Hobbes and his great text *Leviathan*(1651), considered by many to be the greatest book ever written in the English language on politics. Hobbes offers an unrivaled account of human beings as *individuals*—that is, human beings understood as egotists with insatiable desires, who do all voluntary actions out of *self-interest*. This view of human nature continues to be widely accepted in the United States and in American Political Science. Locke, our second theorist, adopts Hobbes’ view of human nature and develops the theory of classical liberalism (now ‘individualist conservatism’) in which government exists to protect life, liberty, and the right of the rich to do what they want with their own wealth. Rousseau argues against Hobbes and Locke. Rousseau makes a brilliant argument that human nature changes in the course of history, and he claims that the best form of government is *participatory democracy*. Marx adopts Rousseau’s insight that human nature changes in the course of history and focuses on understanding and critiquing capitalism. Marx asks, how can we 1) inherit and enjoy the wealth produced by capitalism *and*, at the same time, 2) end the oppression and exploitation that characterizes capitalism?

What about contemporary criticisms of modern political theory? Often, in modern Western political theory, *the universal rhetoric of rights—all men are equal, etc. — refers not to all human beings, but only to white men of property*. For example, where are the mothers in Hobbes’ masterpiece *Leviathan*? Is the ‘social contract’, as imagined by thinkers like Locke, *a racial contract among whites only*? How do exclusion, oppression, and hierarchical inequality combine with the rhetoric of equality in modern political theory? From time to time, we will sample recent philosophical writings that highlight and critique classed, racialized, and gendered assumptions that run through modern Western political theory.

Spring 2016 Course Offerings in Political Science

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

Reminder: PSC 342 Modern Political Theory now meets the core curriculum Philosophy requirement as well as the PSC Political Theory field requirement .

Course Number	Course Title (limit 30 characters)	Series	Limit	Instructor
PSC 101 002	Politics	E	18	Susan McCarthy
PSC 101 003	Politics	L	18	Joe Cammarano
PSC 101 004	Politics	O	18	Susan McCarthy
PSC 102 001	Empirical Analysis	H	20	Matt Guardino
PSC 102 002	Empirical Analysis	I	20	Matt Guardino
PSC 201 001	American Government and Politics	F	25	Adam Myers
PSC 201 002	American Government and Politics	G	25	Adam Myers
PSC 207 001	International Relations	K	25	Doug Blum
PSC 207 002	International Relations	L	25	Doug Blum
PSC 300 001	Law and Society	J	20	Paul Herron
PSC 312 001	Civil Liberties	H	20	Paul Herron
PSC 318 001	American Public Policy	I	20	Bill Hudson
PSC 321 001	Chinese Politics	K	20	Susan McCarthy
PSC 324 001	Government/Politics of Russia & the Former Soviet Union	U	20	Doug Blum
PSC 336 001	Latin American Politics	K	20	Thea Riofrancos
PSC 342 001	Modern Political Theory	L	20	Mary Bellhouse
PSC 342 002	Modern Political Theory	N	20	Mary Bellhouse
PSC 361 001	International Politics of the Middle East	J	20	Ruth Ben-Artzi
PSC 416 001	Race & Politics in the Americas (crosslist BLS)	L	17	Tony Affigne
PSC 430 001	International Political Economy (crosslist GST)	S	15	Ruth Ben-Artzi
PSC 450 001	Political Science Internship	Q	20	Joe Cammarano
PSC 456 001	MOAS	W	10	Thea Riofrancos
PSC 470 001	ST: The American Supreme Court (crosslist AMS)	M	15	Paul Herron
PSC 470 002	ST: Political Thought in Science Fiction	K	20	Tony Affigne
PSC 479 001	ST: Politics of Philanthropy (crosslist PSP 361 MGMT 370)	W	9	Rick Battistoni
PSC 489 001	Capstone: Visual Politics	P	12	Mary Bellhouse
PSC 489 002	Capstone: Politics of Climate Change	Q	12	Tony Affigne
PSC 489 003	Capstone: American Political Dysfunction	R	12	Adam Myers

Spring 2016 Law Department Course Offerings

LAW 201 001	General Law	T	25	Patricia McLaughlin
LAW 305 001	Legal Studies: Topics in Civil Litigation	W	25	Susan McGuirl
LAW 310 001	Persuasive Writing in Law	I	18	Ilisabeth Bornstein

REMINDER: GO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8th!



**If anyone has not registered to vote, there is still time.
If you want to vote in Providence, you can go to the
Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence on the day of
the election and actually register and vote on a
Limited Ballot, with just the Presidential race as an
option, right then and there.**

**For more information, visit the Rhode Island Board of Elections
webpage at the following link:
<http://www.elections.state.ri.us/voting/limited.php>**

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**