

Politicus

Spring 2020



Your Guide to the Providence College Political Science Department

A Message from the Chair

Dr. Joseph Cammarano

Greetings From Howley Hall. There is a lot to report to you. First, please welcome our new administrative assistant Jacob Mailloux, who comes to us from Roger Williams University, where he majored in Marketing and captained their track team. We are all excited that Jacob has joined us!

In this issue you will find a lot of useful items. Most relevant for juniors are two things: our explanation of a Forand Research Grant opportunity for those of you interested in doing independent research of relevance to the New England region next year; and, the description of the senior research seminars being offered next academic year. For all majors and minors, course offerings for Fall 2020 are listed on page 13.

There are also many events and activities included in this issue, including descriptions of our annual Fr. Edward Cleary Lecture, announcements of our honor society induction dinner, and the date and time of our senior reception during graduation week.

I also encourage you to read the profiles of two of our faculty members: Dr. Mary Bellhouse, who has taught with us since 1977, and Dr. Thea Riofrancos, a renowned expert on the Green New Deal and international environmental policy and politics.

And finally, I encourage you all to listen to our department's podcast, "Beyond the News Feed." Dr. William Hudson hosts and directs conversations with faculty members who dig deeper than what you might find on television, cable, or social media. This podcast is produced by our students.



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In This Issue:

	Page
Important Events	2
Forand Grant	3
Pi Sigma Alpha	4
Dr. Bellhouse	5
Dr. Riofrancos	6
Capstone Discription	7-9
Pre-Registration Info	10
Public Admin/Pre-Law	11
Field Requirements	12
Course Offerings FA20	13

Mark your Calendars! Important Events in Political Science

Political Science Pre-Registration - Pre-Registration will be held from **March 18th to March 27th**. This gives Political Science Students a chance to get priority registration in the courses of their choosing to ensure a seat. To receive your Pre-Registration forms, please see your advisor.

Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony - The Pi Sigma Alpha Ceremony will be on **Saturday April 4th from 1pm-4pm in Aquinas Lounge**. This annual ceremony is invite only. The event will include presentations of awards, induction of new members, presentation of medallions and chords to graduating seniors. Invitations have been mailed to invitees and should **RSVP by March 20th** to ensure your spot in the ceremony.

7th Annual Fr. Ed Cleary O.P Lecture Series - This year for the Cleary Lecture on **Monday April 27th**, we are bringing to campus *Professor Liria Evangelista* (Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook), an area specialist on Latin America, in particular Argentina. She also has extensive work in political science and human rights.

Political Science Senior Reception - The Senior Reception will be held on **Friday May 15th from 2pm to 4pm in Ruane Great Room**. This event is open to all Class of 2020 Political Science Majors and Minors, as well as graduating Public Administration candidates. This event is an opportunity for the department to honor all graduation seniors, especially those with outstanding academic performance. Students are welcome to invite their families. Please RSVP by **May 1st** to Jacob Mailloux via email, jmaillo2@providence.edu.

Opportunity for Junior Political Science Majors: Apply for a Forand Grant!

Each year, the Political Science Department awards up to **six** Forand Research Scholarships to Junior Majors to conduct an independent research project during their senior year. The Scholarship is supported by the Aime J. and Gertrude B. Forand Scholarship Fund. Recipients receive a stipend of \$1000 and up to \$500 in funds to reimburse any research expenses.

The Forand Research Scholars Program is aimed at rising seniors who want to conduct research on a public policy issue, with a view to contributing to community improvement in the region. Your research project thus needs to have policy relevance for Rhode Island and/or Southern New England, but beyond that your choice of topic is wide open. In the last several years we have funded many Forand Research Scholars, some of whom have parlayed their Forand research experience into post-college internships, jobs, and graduate programs.

Juniors and Seniors -- Consider a Fall 2020 Political Science Internship

Students can earn Political Science Credit for politics and government related internships by enrolling in **PSC 450: Political Science Internship**. Professor Tony Affigne will be supervising internships this coming fall. You may enroll in the course whether or not you currently have an internship lined up for the fall. We can assist you in finding an internship through the RI State Internship Program or offer you suggestions for applying for an internship on your own. One terrific internship possibility would be to volunteer internship with a fall political campaign. Both RI members of Congress will be running for re-election and there may be opportunities in the local organizations for the Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns. An internship in a state or local government office or as a campaign volunteer would be perfect for a Political Science major.

Pi Sigma Alpha

Providence College's Award-Winning Student Political Science Honor Society

Pi Sigma Alpha at Providence College is the local branch of the political science discipline's national honor society. Membership is by invitation and is reserved for Providence College's most accomplished political science students (both majors and minors). Student members elect their own officers and manage chapter activities. During the year, Pi Sigma Alpha sponsors academic and informational events bringing well-known academic speakers, journalists, and politicians to campus. The chapter also hosts informal meetings with faculty job candidates, to actively engage students in the hiring process for new political science professors.

Our Pi Sigma Alpha chapter has been honored for its accomplishments, most recently in 2018-2019 when it was recognized by the national Pi Sigma Alpha office as the "Best Chapter" in the country among Providence College's peer institutions.

Each spring, the Pi Sigma Alpha induction banquet welcomes parents, honors new members and hosts a guest speaker. This year's banquet is on ***Saturday April 4th from 1pm-4pm in Aquinas Lounge***. Please RSVP by March 20th.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for membership, a student must be a junior or senior, pursuing a major or minor in political science, with at least 6 completed political science courses. In addition, the student must have maintained a high GPA in political science—3.4 for seniors, 3.5 for juniors. Students who meet these criteria are invited to join the organization.

Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Board 2019-2020

President: Regan Wind
Treasurer: Cierra Duclos

Vice President: Jacqueline Kelley
Secretary: Morgan Lewis

Dr. Mary Bellhouse - Reflecting on her Commitment to Educational Values

As part of the Spring 2020 issue of *Politicus*, the Political Science Department felt it appropriate to take the time to reflect on one of Providence College's most cherished faculty members, Dr. Mary Bellhouse. She began at PC in 1977 and is now the department's in-house expert on various topics including Political Theory, Politics and Culture, and Feminist Theory.

Throughout her time at PC, Dr. Bellhouse has challenged and enlightened students in courses such as "Politics and Culture: The 1960s in America", "Modern Political Theory", "Culture, Power, and 'Race'", and "Gender, Sexuality, and Representation". Dr. Bellhouse is regarded as one of the most intellectually motivated and inspiring professors at PC. One of Dr. Bellhouse's close colleagues, Dr. Richard Battistoni, had this to say about Dr. Bellhouse's engaging lessons:

"The use of film and other visual sources is a powerful pedagogy that Professor Bellhouse brings to many of her courses, including the 60s course she is offering this Spring. There is nothing like still and moving pictures to evoke meaning, and meaning-making, and Bellhouse deploys visuals better than anyone I know, in both her teaching and her scholarship."

In addition, Dr. Battistoni offered a reflection on Dr. Bellhouse's outstanding character:

"As a fellow political theorist who believes in the power of words and ideas to move citizens to action, what I most appreciate and admire about Professor Bellhouse is her fierce dedication to helping students understand and critically analyze what a writer is saying in an important text, and why it matters. She has the patience, and the intellectual ability, to walk students slowly through important passages in often dense theoretical works. She makes sure that students not only discuss a text's meaning, but do so in a way that they are able to apply their heightened understanding to key political questions, and to contemporary political issues and events."

Another one of Dr. Bellhouse's esteemed colleagues, Dr. Matthew Guardino, extended his sincere gratitude for Dr. Bellhouse's commitment to personal and academic virtue:

"Dr. Bellhouse has been an awesome colleague and friend who has helped me grow as a professor and a person. Always generous with her time and ideas, Dr. Bellhouse has a way of speaking her mind without forcing her ideas on others; in the end, she prompts you to reflect on your own thoughts, plans and aspirations in new and sharper ways. Several years ago she offered to read the proposal for what became my 2019 book. Dr. Bellhouse said she really liked my project, but was most interested in my ideas about something the proposal only touched on: What caused news outlets to produce the patterns of coverage my analysis revealed? I wrote the book that best reflected what I knew and cared about because Dr. Bellhouse nudged me to clarify my goals and do my best work. For that and so many other things, I am deeply thankful."

Finally, I myself have had the honor and privilege of getting to know Dr. Bellhouse over my four years here at PC as my faculty advisor, professor of Modern Political Theory, and mentor. She has met both my academic and extracurricular interests with unwavering support and has always been an exemplary model for scholarly excellence, passion, and instruction. I am forever grateful for the compassion and dedication she has generously given to each one of her students.

Written by: Regan Wind '20

Interview with Dr. Thea Riofrancos - Talking about *The New Green Deal*, Global Research

Thea Riofrancos, Assistant Professor of Political Science, spent four months in Chile during the Spring 2019 semester. Throughout these four months, she researched the global implications of an energy transition in the United States.

“Many of those consequences are good,” she said, since the U.S. is a major consumer and producer and exporter of oil and natural gas, and has the highest per capita emissions in the world. “Anything that reduces the carbon footprint of the U.S. is good for global emissions.”

Riofrancos’ research, however, deals with the more complicated side of a large-scale transition to renewable energy. What new forms of resource extraction, with their own environmental and social impacts, would be required by a renewable energy transition?

“Technologies like wind turbines, solar panels, electric vehicles, and batteries that help us store energy, are each produced through these global supply chains that at various nodes of the supply chains have environmental impacts, social impacts, and exploitation of cheapened labor,” she said. In particular, lithium – which is mainly extracted in Chile – would be required in massive amounts in order to power the rechargeable batteries required in electric cars. Lithium is extracted in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile, one of the driest ecosystems in the world, and this extraction causes disruption in the water supply.

Politically, how can these supply chains be structured in ways that are more socially just? What models of resource use and consumption would involve more justice, democracy, and ecosystem integrity at each of these sites? What type of climate policy could we construct in the U.S. that is not just going to aggressively reduce emissions, but also reduce pressure on these places elsewhere in the world? These are the types of questions posed by Riofrancos’ research.

In 2019, Riofrancos published a book, along with co-authors Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battistoni, and Daniel Aldana Cohen. The book, titled *A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal*, argues for the necessity of a radical green new deal. “A radical green new deal is actually a pragmatic one,” Riofrancos said, “which seems counterintuitive – but at certain moments in history, the only pragmatic thing to do is to actually call for comprehensive change.”

At Providence College, Riofrancos teaches Latin American Politics, Comparative Politics, Research Methods, Model Organization of American States, and Politics of Energy, which had previously been named Politics of Oil.

“One immediate result of my research on renewable energy and the book on the Green New Deal is that I very substantially changed a course that used to be Politics of Oil, and now is called Politics of Energy.” This course begins with a history of fossil fuel extraction and use starting in the Industrial Revolution, and then moves to the history of oil and its relationship with imperialism, and democracy. A new section has been added to the course, focusing on the transition to renewable energy – including the political and logistical challenges of such a transition, both locally and globally.

“I’ve revised this course in a way that reflects my current research and political interest, but will also be an opportunity for me to learn more,” Riofrancos said. “I’ve assigned some works I haven’t read before, and am reading some books and articles for the first time. It’s made a big impact in my teaching.”

Written by: Maura Campbell ‘22

2020-2021 Senior Capstone Descriptions

Fall 2020 Capstone Seminars

PSC 488-001: Southern Politics

Professor Paul Herron - Thursdays 2:30-5:00pm

The peculiar and brutal racial hierarchy of the South, along with white southerners' opposition to national authority, generated some of the greatest domestic political dramas in American history. Together we will investigate southern politics, considering both historical development and current controversies. While the South lost the Civil War, it seems to be winning American politics through the rise of conservative political ideals. The eleven states called Dixie (with reverence by some and scorn by others) have played a formative and ongoing role in our national political development – particularly in the struggle with slavery and its legacies. The course explores this fascinating, often frustrating, and sometimes infuriating region and its place in American politics. We will consider southern political development by studying the national government, state governments, citizens, and intellectuals, beginning with the Founding and then moving through slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, disfranchisement, the Progressive and New Deal Eras, the Civil Rights Movement, the rise of the Republican Party, and on to current events, including the Confederate flag debate. The course considers events and controversies from the perspective of both black and white southerners. The idea is to give voice to all of those who have made this distinctive region distinctive. Race will be an ever-present element in our readings and discussions, as it relates to democratic and anti-democratic movements and ideas. We will focus on how racial subjugation, law/constitutionalism, religion, American political thought, secession, war, Reconstruction, and social movements have shaped the exceptional politics of the region below the Potomac River. We will examine Southern Politics through the lens of American Political Development (or APD), which is a dynamic and growing subfield in Political Science that seeks to identify historical patterns and explain change over time. Scholars use a variety of methodological tools, but qualitative comparative historical analysis is often a primary feature of work in APD. This approach helps account for the winding path of American politics, and it is particularly useful for tracing the long-term development of key institutions and ideologies.

PSC 488-003: Cultural Politics of Capitalism

Professor Gizem Zencirci - Tuesdays 2:30-5:00pm

This capstone is perfect for students who want to learn more about contemporary culture and late capitalism. The guiding question for this course is: how does neoliberal capitalism, with its ideological features and technological components, change our identity, subjectivity, and socio-cultural experiences? Our primary focus will be on the politics of consumption both within American culture as well as globally. We will begin the semester by reading classical work on cultural studies by thinkers such as Theodor Adorno, Louis Althusser, Raymond Williams and Michel Foucault (among others). These thinkers provide the theoretical foundation for our analysis of power, identity, ideology, and cultural production. The rest of the course will focus on cultural spaces, products, and experiences of late capitalism. We will learn about how shopping malls, self-tracking practices, finance cultures, social media, reality shows, and music streaming services change our perceptions of selfhood, economy, and morality. Upon completing this course, students will develop a critical yet nuanced perspective about the cultural politics of late capitalism.

Fall 2020 Capstone Seminars Cont.

PSC 488-002: Political Economics of Globalization

Professor Ruth Ben-Artzi - Mondays 2:30-5:00pm

Globalization is the new buzzword. Since the end of the Cold War, the pace of global integration appears to be quickening. What is globalization, and why is it important? These are the basic questions we will explore in this class. We will focus on three dimensions of globalization -- political, economic and cultural. In political terms, globalization suggests that the nation-state is becoming obsolete and that democracy is the only viable form of political organization. In economic terms, globalization involves a tighter integration of markets, and even implies that economics drives political decisions. In cultural terms, increased communication and trading of ideas has fostered more frequent contact across cultures. Some go so far as to say a new global culture is merging. In addition to the realities of globalization, the concept has its promoters and detractors. Promoters point to the prospects for world peace and prosperity as the benefits of unrestrained globalization. Detractors lament the demise of cultural differences and seek to carve a space where different cultures and traditions can survive. As a capstone seminar in Political Science, globalization offers a topic that cuts across all world regions. For example, globalization and its backlash in Europe is best represented by the success of the European Union -- and by more recent tumultuous political developments that lead to Brexit. The objectives of this seminar are to help students, make sense of globalization and understand how it has affected world regions, whether it is inevitable that globalization will persist, and whether states have the wherewithal to resist it.

Spring 2021 Capstone Seminars

PSC 489-001: Mass Media, Political Economy, and Political Power

Professor Matthew Guardino - Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:45pm

We know that the mass media affect our ability to act as informed, responsible and critical participants in democratic politics. But the political-economic structures and power relations that shape how the media operate are often overlooked or oversimplified, even by many scholars and activists. This seminar takes up that challenge with a close study of the interactions among governments, corporations and the media in industrialized capitalist democracies. How have nations in different times and places organized and structured their media? How do the political debates and historical residues that shape media systems affect the character and quality of democracy? We will begin by exploring theoretical perspectives on media political economy and its relationship to democracy; surveying the historical roots of media systems in North America and Western Europe; and comparing media structures in contemporary nations. We will spend the second part of the semester on case studies of key government policies that have shaped U.S. media, and end with critical discussion of big-picture concerns about information, communication, power and democracy.

Spring 2021 Capstone Seminars Cont.

PSC 489-002: Coronavirus, Climate Change, and the Politics of Disaster in China

Professor Susan McCarthy - Tuesdays 2:30-5:00pm

This seminar explores the politics of disaster in contemporary China (and elsewhere). In it, we examine major disasters—both “natural” and man-made—for what they reveal about the politics of 20th and 21st century China, the world’s most populous country and its second-largest economy. Among the topics considered are the impact of disasters on regime legitimacy; state-society relations and disaster response; the emergence and functioning of disaster “regimes”; the political uses of disaster and crisis rhetoric; catastrophe in the political imagination; how ideology shapes perceptions of and responses to disasters, from earthquakes to famine and epidemics; the politics of blame and scapegoating; disaster as catalyst for activism, resistance, and reform; transparency, censorship, and government accountability; and the politics of disaster denial. Although the course focuses mainly on China, it also examines disaster politics in the US and elsewhere, and students may analyze cases besides China in their research papers. Readings and topics draw on empirical, ethnographic, comparative, and political-theoretical approaches to analyzing politics. No prior knowledge of Chinese politics is required.

PSC 489-003: The President as an Elected Monarch

Professor Joseph Cammarano - Monday/Thursday 10:00-11:30am

This course examines the founding debate over the scope and power of the presidency and its progression to its current state. Examining the two perspectives embraced by Hamilton and Jefferson, we then trace the development of the presidency into the modern and postmodern periods, when the president has emerged as essentially an elected monarch. All of this occurred without any amendments to Article II of the Constitution. We also examine questions of whether the individual president, the institutional development of the presidential office, or historical time best explains success and failure of an individual presidency. Special attention will be given to Stephen Skowronek’s theory of presidents in political time, and to the debate over the cyclical versus the evolutionary understanding of the presidency.

Fall 2020 Pre-Registration Information for Political Science Majors and Minors

This semester all Political Science Majors and Minors will be pre-registered into Political Science courses as a means to ensure all majors and minors are able to secure a seat in the Political Science courses of their choice

All majors (including double majors) must meet with their advisors to receive their ALT PIN and complete the pre-registration form with their advisor.

Advisors will be emailing students to schedule advising appointments.

Pre-registration forms must be completed and delivered to Jacob Mailloux in Howley Hall 318, ***no later than 4:00pm, on March 23rd.***

All Class of 2021 students who have been assigned into Fall '20 and Spring '21 Capstone courses will be pre-registered and emailed a reminder of which course they will be pre-registered in. (See Capstone Information email)

Pre-registration into Fall 2020 courses will be prioritized by class year, as well as by order of submission. Early submission of your pre-registration form will increase your chances of obtaining your first choice.

All Minors will need to stop by Howley 318 to complete a pre-registration form.

Public Administration Certificate

The Public Administration Program is a special certificate program with the purpose of assisting students contemplating a career in government service. The required courses, from a variety of disciplines, introduce skills and knowledge to prepare students for graduate degree programs in public sector fields, such as the Masters in Public Administration (MPA) or the Masters in Public Policy (MPP).

The Public Administration Program consists of four (4) core courses and four (4) additional courses.

Public Administration Core

PSC 211: Public Administration
PSC 318: American Public Policy
PSC 419: Public Program Evaluation
PSC 450: Political Science Internship

Additional Courses

PSC 201: American Government
and Politics
ACC 203: Financial Accounting
PHL 301: Ethics, Moral Leadership,
and the Public Good

***For more information on the
Public Administration Program,
visit Dr. Battistoni in Howley 312***

ECN 101: Microeconomics
-or-
ECN 102: Macroeconomics

Pre-Law Advising Program

The Pre-Law Advising Program at Providence College provides information and guidance to students who might be interested in attending law school. The program provides individual advising, career counseling, and guidance throughout the application process. This program is not an academic major, minor, or set of courses. Instead, it's a resource for students of all interest levels – from those who are just curious about the law school option to students who are already sure they want to be an attorney.

One of the main goals of the Pre-Law Advising Program is to organize a community of undergraduates interested in pursuing a career in the law. We do not associate with any particular academic department, and our events and workshops are open to all. The program simply seeks to help students make the decision that is best for them. *See Dr. Herron in Howley 310 for more details.*

Political Science Major Field Requirements: Fall 2020

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 in Fall 2020. Taking any of these courses listed under a particular field will satisfy the Major Requirements.

Political Theory

PSC 341: Classical Political Theory
PSC 343: Contemporary Political Theory
PSC 348: American Political Theory

Comparative Politics

PSC 205: Comparative Politics
PSC 324: Gov't and Politics of Russia
and Fmr. Sov. Union
PSC 325: Comparative Revolutions
PSC 327: Electoral & Campaign
Communication
PSC 416: Race & Politics in the
Americas

American Politics

PSC 201: American Government
and Politics
PSC 211: Public Administration
PSC 305: American Congress
PSC 311: Constitutional Law
PSC 319: Political Attitudes,
Public Opinion
PSC 416: Race & Politics in the
Americas

International Relations

PSC 207: International Relations

*To Complete a Political Science Minor, you must complete
the following courses:*

*PSC 101: Politics
Two (2) 300 or 400 level Courses
Three (3) Other Political Science Courses*

Fall 2020 Course Offerings in Political Science

Check CyberFriar for most up-to-date course listings

		Fall 2020		
CRN	Course Number	Course Title (limit 30 characters)	Series	Instructor
2098	PSC 101 001	Politics	E	Susan McCarthy
2099	PSC 101 002	Politics	O	Susan McCarthy
2100	PSC 101 003	Politics	F	Gizem Zencirci
2114	PSC 101 004	Politics	G	Gizem Zencirci
2116	PSC 101 005	Politics	K	Doug Blum
2117	PSC 101 006	Politics	L	Doug Blum
2118	PSC 101 007	Politics	E	Casey Stevens
2119	PSC 101 008	Politics	A	Casey Stevens
2141	PSC 201 001	American Government and Politics	H	William Hudson
2142	PSC 201 002	American Government and Politics	J	William Hudson
2143	PSC 205 001	Comparative Politics	I	STAFF
2144	PSC 205 002	Comparative Politics	J	STAFF
2145	PSC 207 001	International Relations	H	Ruth Ben-Artzi
2146	PSC 207 002	International Relations	I	Ruth Ben-Artzi
2147	PSC 211 001	Public Administration	C	Joseph Cammarano
2418	PSC 217 001	Environmental Politics	L	Anthony Affigne
2149	PSC 302 001	Research Methods	K	Matthew Guardino
2150	PSC 302 002	Research Methods	K	Casey Stevens
2445	PSC 305 001	The American Congress (Crosslist AMS & HIS)	F	Joseph Cammarano
2151	PSC 311 002	Constitutional Law (Crosslist AMS & HIS)	A	Paul Herron
2152	PSC 319 001	Political Attitudes, Public Opinion	U	Matthew Guardino
2157	PSC 324 001	Gov't and Politics of Russia and Fmr. Sov. Union	U	Doug Blum
2160	PSC 325 001	Comparative Revolutions	L	Susan McCarthy
2446	PSC 341 001	Classical Political Theory	L	Mary Bellhouse
2162	PSC 348 001	American Political Theory (Crosslist AMS)	N	Mary Bellhouse
2163	PSC 369 001	International Law and Organization	O	Casey Stevens
2502	PSC 370 001	ST: Federalist Papers & Constitution	P	STAFF
	PSC 370 002	Electoral & Campaign Communication (Crosslist AMS)	E	Matthew Guardino
2165	PSC 416 001	Race & Politics in the Americas (Crosslist AMS & HIS)	K	Anthony Affigne
2166	PSC 450 000	Political Science Internship	Q	Anthony Affigne
2169	PSC 479 001	ST: Politics of Philanthropy (Crosslist MGT & PSP)	V	Rick Battistoni
2171	PSC 488 001	Capstone: Southern Politics	R	Paul Herron
2172	PSC 488 002	Capstone: Political Economics of Globalization	P	Ruth Ben-Artzi
2173	PSC 488 003	Capstone: Cultural Politics of Capitalism	Q	Gizem Zencirci
	LAW 201 001	General Law	T	STAFF
	LAW 201 002	General Law	W	STAFF