
Political Science

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

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Lei Guang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
Kristen Hill-Maher, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
Carole Kennedy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
(Graduate Adviser)
Madhavi M. McCall, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science

General Information

The political science graduate program emphasizes global diversity and the interdependence between American society and politics and other nations through its curriculum in the areas of international relations, comparative politics, American politics, and political theory and methods. The department offers courses that contribute to career development in various professions including teaching, research, and consulting. Students from nations throughout the world, students in other disciplines and majors, and students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds enroll in political science graduate courses.

This graduate program provides core courses and programs of study for three distinctive groups of students: (1) Academic career students intending to enter Ph.D. programs and to pursue careers as university or college faculty or as professional researchers. (2) Community career students pursuing a master's degree to obtain or enhance current employment including teaching, work in public agencies, business, military, law enforcement, and holding elected or appointed office. (3) Self-development students, often mature adults, pursuing a master's degree because they enjoy studying political science and politics. These students contribute breadth and sophistication of understanding and a wealth of diverse experience to graduate seminars.

Because of the diversity of student interests, the department offers three specializations in the M. A. program. The general political science specialization provides the fundamental theoretical and analytical skills for students seeking to expand their knowledge of politics as well as those intending to pursue doctoral degrees in political science or placement in an academic setting. The specialization in public policy prepares students for further advanced study in that field and provides the skills necessary for placement in non-academic careers in both the public and private sectors. It covers such areas of American public policy as immigration policy, urban policy, environmental policy, civil rights, and foreign policy. The public policy internship program places students in public and private sector positions that enhance applied and theoretical knowledge. The specialization in international relations/comparative politics supplies expertise to graduate students planning to obtain a Ph.D. degree in this field or intending to seek employment with an overseas focus.

One of the strengths of the advanced degree program in political science is the depth and breadth of resources available to the students. The department actively cooperates with the interdisciplinary degree programs in Latin American Studies and Asian Studies and shares faculty and expertise with the program in International Security and Conflict Resolution (ISCOR). The Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL) provides technical support for students wishing to pursue quantitative or survey research. The department also holds an associate membership in the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) that provides students with ready access to national and international databases. The faculty includes teacher/scholars who are experts in their respective fields of study and who remain professionally active in and out of the classroom. The department is committed to ensuring that financial resources are made available to graduate students in the form of scholarships, research and graduate assistantships, and graduate teaching assistantships.

Admission to Graduate Study

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the University application available at www.csumentor.edu.

All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the University with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, students seeking the Master of Arts degree in political science must attain a satisfactory score on the GRE General Test (minimum of 500 on both the verbal and quantitative portions of the test). The department also requires that applicants submit two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the academic work or potential of the applicant along with a statement of purpose written by the applicant. Students must have completed 30 semester units of coursework in the social sciences, including at least 12 upper division units in political science, as approved by the department. The grade point average required for admission is 3.0 for the last 60 semester units of undergraduate work, a 3.0 grade point average in upper division courses in political science, and a 3.0 grade point average for all work taken in political science. An applicant who is deficient in any of these requirements may be considered for conditional admission. The application deadline for the Fall semester is April 1 for students seeking scholarships or other financial support, and July 1 for all others. Currently, the department accepts applications for admission in the spring semester. The application deadline is December 1.

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to the graduate adviser in the Department of Political Science:

- (1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all undergraduate and graduate institutions;
- (2) GRE scores (official notification);
- (3) Two letters of reference;
- (4) Personal statement.

Mail or deliver your complete admissions package to:

Department of Political Science
(Attention: Graduate Adviser)
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4427

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as stated in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, students must complete the Empirical Theory and Methods sequence by fulfilling one of the following options:

1. Political Science 515 and 516.
2. Political Science 515. Pass an examination in statistics at the graduate level.
3. Political Science 515. Pass a course in statistics equivalent to Political Science 516.
4. Political Science 515. Pass an examination in a language other than one's native language and other than English at a level approved by the department.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 22071)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student will complete a program of study of 30 units of upper division and graduate courses as approved by the departmental graduate adviser. The program must include a minimum of 24 units in political science selected from courses listed below as acceptable on master's degree programs. Political Science 515 and 516 and at least 21 units in 600- and 700-numbered courses, including Political Science 601, are required. Students who have previously completed Political Science 515 or 516, or the equivalent as determined by the graduate adviser, will enroll in such additional courses in political science as approved by the graduate adviser.

Students may choose either Plan A or Plan B as the culminating experience for the degree. Plan A requires the writing of a thesis and enrollment in Political Science 799A, Thesis. Plan B requires the completion of a comprehensive written and oral examination. In consultation with the graduate adviser, a student electing the Plan B option will form an examining committee consisting of a chairperson and two additional members from the political science faculty. The examination committee will prepare, administer, and grade the written examination testing the student's general knowledge in the program of study. The oral portion of the examination will follow the committee's review of the written examination.

Specific requirements for students selecting the general political science specialization are:

1. Political Science 515. Research Design and Analysis in Political Science (3)

AND

Political Science 516. Statistics for Political Scientists (3), or its equivalent.
2. Political Science 601. Seminar in the Scope and Methods of Political Science (3)
3. Five graduate seminars chosen from among the following:
Political Science 603. Seminar in Theory and Method of Public Policy Analysis (3)
Political Science 605. Seminar in Political Theory (3)
Political Science 620. Seminar in American National Government (3)
Political Science 625. Seminar in Political Behavior (3)
Political Science 630. Seminar in Politics (3)
Political Science 635. Seminar in Politics of Public Policy (3)

Political Science 655. Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems (3)

Political Science 658. Seminar in Post-Communist Political Systems (3)

Political Science 661. Seminar in the Political Systems of the Developing Nations (3)

Political Science 667. Seminar in Latin American Political Systems (3)

Political Science 675. Seminar in International Relations (3)

Political Science 676. Seminar in International Political Economy (3)

Political Science 696. Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science (3), with permission of the graduate adviser.

4. Plan A: Political Science 799A, Thesis, and three additional units of coursework at the 500 level or above that may include transfer courses or courses outside the department, with permission of the graduate adviser.

OR

5. Plan B: Comprehensive written and oral examination. One additional seminar chosen from those listed in item 3 above and three additional units coursework at the 500-level or above that may include transfer units or courses outside of the department, with permission of the graduate adviser.

Specific requirements for students selecting the specialization in public policy are:

1. Political Science 515. Research Design and Analysis in Political Science (3)

AND

Political Science 516. Statistics for Political Scientists (3), or its equivalent.

2. Political Science 601. Seminar in the Scope and Method of Political Science (3)
3. Political Science 603. Seminar in Theory and Method of Public Policy Analysis (3)
4. Political Science 796. Internship in Public Policy (3)
5. Three graduate seminars chosen from among the following:

Political Science 620. Seminar in American National Government (3)

Political Science 625. Seminar in Political Behavior (3)

Political Science 630. Seminar in Politics (3)

Political Science 635. Seminar in Politics of Public Policy (3)

Political Science 655. Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems (3)

Political Science 676. Seminar in International Political Economy (3)

Political Science 696. Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science (3), with permission of the graduate adviser.

6. Plan A: Political Science 799A, Thesis, and three additional units of coursework at the 500 level or above that may include transfer courses or courses outside the department, with permission of the graduate adviser.

OR

7. Plan B: Comprehensive written and oral examination. One additional seminar chosen from those listed in item 5 above and three additional units coursework at the 500-level or above that may include transfer units or courses outside of the department, with permission of the graduate adviser.

Specific requirements for students selecting the international relations/comparative politics specialization are:

1. Political Science 515. Research Design and Analysis in Political Science (3)

AND

 Political Science 516. Statistics for Political Scientists (3), or its equivalent.
2. Political Science 601. Seminar in the Scope and Method of Political Science (3)
3. Political Science 655. Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems (3)
4. Political Science 675. Seminar in International Relations (3)
5. Three graduate seminars chosen from among the following:
 - Political Science 658. Seminar in Post-Communist Political Systems (3)
 - Political Science 661. Seminar in the Political Systems of the Developing Nations (3)
 - Political Science 667. Seminar in Latin American Political Systems (3)
 - Political Science 676. Seminar in International Political Economy (3)
 - Political Science 696. Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science (3), with permission of the graduate adviser.
6. Plan A: Political Science 799A, Thesis, and three additional units of coursework at the 500 level or above that may include transfer courses or courses outside the department, with permission of the graduate adviser.

OR
7. Plan B: Comprehensive written and oral examination. One additional seminar chosen from those listed in item 5 above and three additional units coursework at the 500-level or above that may include transfer units or courses outside of the department, with permission of the graduate adviser.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Political Science (POL S)

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

- 515. Research Design and Analysis in Political Science (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 201.
 Conceptual analysis, measurement, and scaling. Elementary statistical analysis of behavioral data using computers and data processing using one of the major statistical packages. (Formerly numbered Political Science 515A.)
- 516. Statistics for Political Scientists (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 201.
 Basic concepts, theories, and methods that are utilized by political and other social scientists using statistics and microcomputers. Serves as an intermediate level introduction to statistical methods in political science. (Formerly numbered Political Science 515B.)
- 530. Political Parties (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or 320.
 The political party as a part of the process of government; party organization and activities; nominating and campaign methods; theories and functions of the party system; party responsibility. The functioning of political parties in the American political system. May include a substantial amount of material about foreign political systems.
- 531. Interest Groups and Political Movements (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 101 or 102.
 Pressure group activity, lobbies, mass movements; factors which explain origins and motivations of group behavior; votes, money, information, protest as political resources; theories of pluralism, power elite and mass society; class and ethnic politics. May include a substantial amount of material about foreign political systems.
- 555. Comparative Political Systems (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 103.
 An examination of selected political and governmental systems for purposes of comparative study and analysis to determine similarities, differences and general patterns and universals among political systems.
- 560. Comparative Public Policy (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 103 or 335.
 Ways that political and social factors shape policy choices, implementation strategies, and policy outcomes in selected countries, emphasis on industrialized nations. Policy areas chosen from: education, health, nutrition, crime, transportation, housing, energy, population control, poverty, unemployment, inflation.
- 563. Government and Politics of Asian Countries (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 103 or 362 or Asian Studies 107 or History 566 or 567.
 Domestic politics and foreign policies of select Asian countries such as China, India, South Korea, and Taiwan; to include political institutions and change, development politics and external relations in these countries. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.
- 566. Political Change in Latin America (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 101 or 103.
 General pattern of politics and political development in Latin America with an emphasis on those features which condition domestic and foreign policy making.
- 567. Political Systems of Latin America (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 566.
 Domestic and international politics of selected Latin American states.
- 568. Mexican Politics (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 101 or 103.
 Principal factors in Mexican governmental decision making. Ideology, political groups, tactics of leaders and governmental structure.
- 575. International Relations of the Pacific Rim (3)**
 Prerequisite: Political Science 362 or 375 or 481.
 Dynamics of conflict and cooperation among nations of the Pacific Rim. Stress on political and economics factors that shape interstate relations.
- 577. Principles of International Law (3)**
 The function of law in the international community. The historical development of the ideas and rules of international law and their place in the modern diplomatic and legal structure.
- 596. Topics in Political Science (1-3)**
 Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.
 Selected topics in political science. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596. Maximum credit of three units of 596 applicable to a master's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

GRADUATE COURSES

601. Seminar in the Scope and Methods of Political Science (3)

The discipline of political science and systematic training in its methodology. Required of all applicants for advanced degrees in political science.

603. Seminar in Theory and Method of Public Policy Analysis (3)

Prerequisites: Political Science 601 and admission to the specialization in public policy.

Theoretical approaches used to explain and evaluate public policy performance. Focus on quantitative and qualitative methods of appraising the validity of theories.

605. Seminar in Political Theory (3)

Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

620. Seminar in American National Government (3)

Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

625. Seminar in Political Behavior (3)

Prerequisite: Political Science 601.

Political science literature focusing on major areas of political behavior including study of political attitudes, voting, and political communication.

630. Seminar in Politics (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in political science, three units of which must come from political science courses 320 through 335; 422 through 436; 531.

Process by which individuals and groups make demands upon political decision makers; emphasis on the styles, structures, channels and consequences of interest articulation. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

635. Seminar in Politics of Public Policy (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Examination of public policies, e.g., energy, environment, protection, taxation, income maintenance, population, health care, education, housing. Use of research findings to analyze policy process, to estimate probable consequences of alternative decisions, and to appraise governmental programs.

651. Seminar in Migration and Border Politics (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Migration and border politics within a global perspective. Transformations of sovereignty, territory, identity, and rights in an era of mass migration. May focus on U.S.-Mexican border region or other migration contexts internationally. May be repeated with different content.

655. Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems (3)

Prerequisites: Political Science 555, and three additional upper division units in political science.

The field of comparative politics, including historical developments, major theoretical approaches, substantive concerns, uses and limitations of the comparative method, methodological innovations in study of foreign political systems.

658. Seminar in Post-Communist Political Systems (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Nature of Communist political systems and processes of transition to post-communist forms of government. Possibilities for development of democratic institutions examined theoretically and empirically.

661. Seminar in the Political Systems of the Developing Nations (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in political science.

Theoretical analysis of political development, modernization and industrialization in the emerging nations. Search for valid generalizations about the non-Western political process. Political trends and developments in the developing nations.

667. Seminar in Latin American Political Systems (3)

Prerequisite: Political Science 555 or 566.

Political developments in selected Latin American nations. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

675. Seminar in International Relations (3)

Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

676. Seminar in International Political Economy (3)

Prerequisite: Six upper division political science units in international relations.

Major theoretical approaches applied to various interstate issues of the world economy.

696. Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Selected topics in political science. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

790. Practicum in the Teaching of Political Science (3)

Prerequisites: Political Science 601, six additional units of political science graduate seminars, and consent of instructor.

Instruction in the teaching of political science, including conduct of discussion sections, presentation of lectures, preparation of syllabi, evaluation of students' performance, and use of computers and audiovisual materials. Not applicable to the master's degree.

795. Problem Analysis (3)

Analytical treatment of selected problems in political science. Review of methods for investigation and reporting of data. Consideration of problems in preparation of project or thesis.

796. Internship in Public Policy (3)

Prerequisites: Political Science 601, 603, and eighteen units on official program for M.A. degree in political science with a specialization in public policy.

A 160-hour internship approved by instructor in public or private agency. Grade based on instructor's evaluation of supervisor's report, student consultation with instructor reviewing experience and required readings, and extensive paper relating internship experience to theories of public policy.

797. Research in Political Science (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of the department chair.

Research in political theory, political parties, comparative government, international relations, public law or American government.

798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.