

The Truman Political Science Newsletter

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Important Changes For Political Science Courses Go Into Effect Beginning Fall 2008

Many important changes and additions to Political Science courses take place beginning with the Fall of 2008.

Pols 161 American National Government will now fulfill the Social Science Mode of Inquiry for minors and for nonmajors. However, political science majors will still have to apply the class to fill the major requirement and not as an option in the LSP. Regardless of how students use the course, it still fills the Missouri Statute Requirement.

Pols 250 International Relations will also meet the LSP Social Science Mode of Inquiry and fulfill the Intercultural Mode of the LSP. Again, since the course is required for majors, they will not have the option of applying it to the Social Science Mode, but minors and nonmajors will now have this flexibility in completing the curriculum. The class will meet the Intercultural Requirement for both majors and nonmajors alike.

The Department has been offering **Women, Gender and Politics** as a special topics course for several years now. This class now has been added as a permanent feature to the catalogue. **Pols 252 Women, Gender and Politics** now also meets the LSP Social Science Mode of Inquiry for minors and nonmajors. Majors may choose to use it as a political science elective or to meet the Social Science Mode.

Pols 251 Peace and Security Studies is a new addition to the curriculum. The course also meets the Social Science Mode of Inquiry. Again, majors may choose instead to use it as a political science elective.

Departmental Honors for Political Science Graduates Established

Effective Spring 2008, graduates may qualify for Departmental Honors in Political Science. Students who qualify for this award will be recognized in the Commencement Program and notion of this honor will be recorded on the student's permanent transcript.

To qualify, a Political Science Major must have:

- An overall Truman GPA of 3.65
- A GPA in the major of 3.75
- Leadership and pursuit of knowledge out of the classroom demonstrated by evidence in at least two of the following three categories
 - a. Presentation of research at an organized conference, such as Truman's Student Research Conference, a regional political science conference, or Truman's Women's Conference.
 - b. A significant off-campus learning experience, such as a study abroad or university sanctioned internship (generally this will be an experience of at least one semester/ 12 hours).
 - c. Demonstrated excellence in a university activity, such as forensics or athletics, or in a university or community organization or activity.
- Approval by the political science faculty. Eligible seniors will be contacted soon. If you feel that you qualify and do not receive an application by late February, contact any political science faculty member

Call For Student Research Papers

Need a Scholarship Job?

Dr. Paul Parker is seeking a scholarship worker for the spring semester. To set up an appointment call Dr. Parker at 785-4505 or email him at parker@truman.edu

Opportunity For Paid Washington D.C. Internship For A Truman Political Science Student

Trent Ross, an alum of this program, is looking for a paid summer intern in Washington D.C. The internship pays \$13 an hour. Interested students should visit and apply at the website listed below. Trent sent the following information:

"Ipsos Public Affairs, headquartered in Washington D.C., is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research company made up of campaign and political polling veterans as well as seasoned research professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research. We have offices in Washington DC, Chicago, San Francisco, and New York City, with affiliates around the world. Ipsos Public Affairs conducts national and international public opinion polling on behalf of The Associated Press, the world's oldest and largest news organization. Ipsos Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, a leading global survey-based market research company; we provide boutique-style customer service and work closely with our clients, while often also undertaking research on a global scale. For more details see: <http://www.ipsos.com/>

Student Qualifications and Interests: Interested applicants should have experience with statistics and research methods, as well as an interest in the fields of politics and communications.

Intern responsibilities: Conduct background research for projects and proposals, pulling data from crosstabs, creating PowerPoint presentations, contribute to questionnaire design, report writing, and assist with other tasks as needed.

Compensation: \$13 per hour."

The department recently received the following request for submissions for papers to a student political science conference. Those who have completed research projects as a class assignment or for other purposes may wish to consider this opportunity.

The Sixteenth Annual ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Conference website (and paper submission page): <http://www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/current/conferences/>

Bone Student Center
Normal, Illinois
April 4, 2008

Draft paper deadline: February 17, 2008
Final Papers due: March 17, 2008

All undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit papers for the sixteenth annual Illinois Conference for Students of Political Science. We welcome papers on any topic related to government and/or politics. All subfields and political perspectives are welcome.

Panelists at the previous conferences included 750 students attending 100 colleges and universities.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting event, please complete the online proposal submission form or submit a cover letter, containing your contact information (including email address), your school, and the name of the faculty member with whom you are working, and a draft copy of your paper (or the actual paper) by February 17, 2008 to:

Dr. Gary Klass and Dr. George Kiser
4600 Department of Politics and Government
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-4600.

Conference website (and submission page): <http://www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/current/conferences/>

If you would like to serve as a discussant on a panel, please send a letter stating your interest and main areas of scholarly knowledge. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email: gmklass@ilstu.edu or call us at (309) 438-8638.

Nixon For Governor Campaign Seeks Interns

Ellie Glenn, a December 2007 graduate of our program, is working as a regional field organizer for the Nixon campaign. She is seeking interns who would like experience working on a gubernatorial election effort. Those interested should contact Ellie at eglenn@missouridems.org or call the campaign office at (314) 993-8686.

Law School Prep Information

The Department is pleased to announce that once again it will conduct a Law School Admissions Test Preparation Workshop at the end of the Spring semester. The Workshop will run from May 12-16 and be taught by Professor Emeritus Stuart Vorkink. There is a flat \$300 free for this non credit experience. Many workshop participants from the past commented that the course helped them significantly on the LSAT, and all juniors and seniors considering Law School are encouraged to sign up.

LSAC PLUS Program

SUMMER 2008 PRE-LAW INSTITUTE

The LSAC PLUS program at the University of Nebraska College of Law provides students with a month long introduction to law school, the legal profession and to the process of applying and financing a law school education.

The Institute will take place from June 14 to July 12, 2008, and preference will be given to those starting their sophomore or junior years of college in this fall. The program seeks a diverse group of students based on race, geography and socio-economics.

The Nebraska College of Law will cover most attendance costs for those selected to the program, including round trip travel, room and board. Participants will also receive a \$1000 stipend to cover incidental expenses. Priority applications must meet the March 1, 2008 deadline.

For more information, visit the Institute's website at:

<http://law.unl.edu/admissions/prelawinstitute>

Florida State Law

Summer For Undergraduates Program

Florida State Law is now accepting applications to its Summer for Undergraduates Program, which provides 60 selected students with an inside look at law school and the legal profession. The Summer 2008 program will run from May 19 through June 13. Applications must be postmarked by March 28th.

Participants will be instructed by Florida State Law School professors regarding the legal profession, improving their writing and other communication skills, and the Law School Admissions Test.

The program provides participants with room and board, course materials, and a \$500 living stipend. The program does not charge tuition, but participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses.

For more information visit the program's website at:

http://www.law.fsu.edu/summer_undergraduate_s/index.html

Oxfam America's Change Program

Some of you may be interested in the following notice that we received:

" Oxfam America, an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice, is currently accepting applications for the CHANGE Initiative, their national student leadership program. CHANGE offers college students, at US based campuses, entering their sophomore or junior year the opportunity to become effective social change agents.

Applications are due on April 1st, 2008. Selected students are required to participate in week long training in Boston, July 19-25, 2008, which is organized and paid for by Oxfam. Students must also implement an Oxfam campaign on their campus and communicate regularly with Oxfam staff about the work they are undertaking during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Apply on line and watch our CHANGE video at: <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/change>. If you have any questions please call 1-800-77-OXFAM ext. 2464 or email CHANGE@oxfamamerica.org."

Model U.N. Students Again Compete In Annual Tournament

The Truman State University Model United Nations team recently returned from its annual conference, held Nov. 17-20 in Chicago. Students attending were:

Elizabeth Bonanno
Cassie Branstetter
Caitlin Clark
Andrea Cosgrove
Barbara Gillard
Gregory Goodwin
Ira King
Alexander Koenen
Andrew Meyer
Monica Morrey
Lucas Pendry

Brooke Ratteree
Alexander Reid
Danielle Schallom
Benjamin Sells
Jeremey Smith
Kendall Smith
Bradley Sova
Jacob Thomeczek
Joyce Wong
Justin Zhan

Model U.N. is a simulation program where students role-play diplomats representing the states that are members of the U.N. Truman students represented Canada and Montenegro at the 2007 conference. Participants draft resolutions on various international topics now confronting the organization, which are then put to a vote of the delegations present. Resolutions that pass are forwarded to U.N.'s headquarters in New York for consideration there. Delegations may also receive recognition for outstanding representation of their assigned states during conference simulations. Truman's delegation received recognition for its issue position papers presented at the conference.

Truman will represent Romania, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe at the 2008 conference.

Deadline for Student Research Conference Submissions Approaching

Many of you have completed research papers in political science courses, like Methodology and Public Policy, to name a few. Others of you have worked on research projects in other disciplines or outside of class. Please consider presenting these at Truman's Student Research Conference on Thursday, April 3rd. This is a good academic experience and makes an important addition to your resumes.

Contact a faculty member who is willing to serve as your mentor on the project. You also must submit an abstract of your project online at <http://src.truman.edu> by February 8th.

NEWS AND NOTABLES

Faculty Notes

Marijke Breuning's text, *Foreign Policy Analysis: A Comparative Introduction* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in November 2007.

Together with Bertjan Verbeek of the Radboud University Nijmegen, **Marijke Breuning** serves as series editor for *Studies in Foreign Policy Analysis*, a book series to be published by Brill/Martinus Nijhoff based in the Netherlands.

Dr. Breuning also has published the following articles this academic year:

2007- "Undergraduate International Students: A Resource for the Intercultural Education of American Peers?" *College Student Journal*. 41(4):1114-1122. (article)

2007- "Flemish Ethnopolitical Parties in an Integrating Europe." In *Nationalism in Contemporary Europe*, eds. Ireneusz Pawel Karolewski and Andrzej Marcin Suszycki. New York: Continuum Press. (book chapter)

2007- Review of: Lebow, Richard Ned, Wulf Kansteiner, and Claudio Fogu, Eds. 2006. *The Politics of Memory in Postwar Europe*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, in *Political Psychology*. 28(6):801-804. (book review)

Along with **John Ishiyama**, Professor Breuning also presented "The Politics of Intercountry Adoption: Explaining Variation in the Legal Requirements of Sub-Saharan African Countries" at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association/Midwest, November 2-4, 2007, in St. Louis, MO.

John Ishiyama, Professor of Political Science and Director of the McNair Program, has been elected for a two year term to the Advisory Board for the Minorities at Risk (MAR) project, housed at the University of Maryland- College Park. The MAR project is the largest and most widely used database on Ethnic politics and Ethnic conflict in the world.

Dr. Paul Parker, along with senior political major **Ben Coate** and **Ryan Lewis**, a 2007 graduate of our program, published "Miscarriages of Justice: Eye of the Beholder," in the November 2007 *Journal of the Institute of Justice and International Studies*. Coate and Parker will present additional findings at a conference this spring.

Dr. Candy Young developed and taught the department's first on-line course last summer, Principles of Public Administration. Students reported that they learned a lot and found the on-line course permitted maximum flexibility to integrate taking a summer course with other summer commitments. She will be offering this course again this summer. In February, Dr. Young will be present a paper titled, "Program Evaluation and Assessment:: Integrating Methods, Process, and Culture" at the APSA Annual Conference

on Teaching and Learning in San Jose, California. In addition she is working with twenty full-time interns in the state capitol. This year's interns are getting to participate in a session that is even more interesting than usual given the Governor's surprise decision to not run for Governor and other election year dynamics. On campus, Dr. Young is busy as chair of Undergraduate Council, chair of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, and a member of the Assessment Committee. Away from campus, Dr. Young serves as the government liaison for the Missouri Association of Faculty Senates and the Secretary for the Board of the Missouri Contemporary Ballet.

Student Notables

Sam Hodge was elected National Political Director of the College Democrats of America and interned at the Human Rights Campaign in Washington D.C. last summer. Sam also was a featured blogger on the Huffington Post for 3 days this summer for a piece that he wrote on the Housing and Urban Development Secretary.

Luke Pendry is currently working as an intern in Jefferson City for Secretary of State Robin Carnahan. Luke reports that he has been given a great opportunity to gain real-life work experience in a field that he is very interested in as well as to learn the intricacies of creating policy for the people of Missouri, while expanding his knowledge beyond the classroom.

Stephanie Vandas is interning this semester in Jefferson City for Senator Joan Bray of St. Louis County. Stephanie's primary responsibilities are responding to constituent letters regarding legislation and providing the Senator with background research for pending projects. Stephanie also has the opportunity to attend committee hearings and watch floor debate that deepens her knowledge of Missouri's legislative process. Stephanie is currently a Political Science major and intends to graduate in May 2009.

Emily Kiddoo is spending the semester interning in the Missouri Senate for President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons. She is primarily responsible for correspondence, but also attends the Senate committees on education, commerce, and agriculture. Emily will graduate in May and plans to attend law school in the fall.

Sylwia Dabrowska is interning for Representative Rachel Storch in Jefferson City.

Hanna Bursch interned for Senator Obama over the break for the Iowa caucus. She reports that the experience was particularly gratifying given Senator Obama's victory.

Maria Spilker is attending and thoroughly enjoying the I/O PhD program at UMSL. Besides her 14 hours a course load, she is also taking two courses and working with Dr. Stephanie Merritt (a Truman grad) on gender and leadership research. This semester she will start work on her thesis.

Amanda Kliethermes's American National Government class with Dr. Young was assigned a lot of exciting and challenging projects. Early in the year they developed political commercials promoting the democratic candidates for president! Her group chose Hillary Clinton.

Amanda reports that it was an exciting way to meet other students, learn about politics in our everyday life, and to try her hand at promoting political ideals. In another assignment, the class wrote arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution. The class was divided between federalists and anti-federalists and held a low pressure but high-spirited debate. That helped to connect with the thinking of the founding fathers and understand the reasoning behind our constitution as it is today. Perhaps the most challenging assignment that the class was given was to write a political ideology paper which forced them to examine their lives to uncover the instances and influences that shape their values and beliefs today. Amanda reports that it was an amazing class to take freshman year. She learned a lot about herself as a college student, as a political science enthusiast, and as a person.

