

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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More Information: <https://politicalscience.case.edu>

The study of politics is primarily concerned with political power, governance, and the state, broadly understood. Our department offers courses that explore political behavior, institutions of government, international relations, political economy, policy-making, social movements and protest, revolution, political violence, and much more. Our faculty employ a range of research methods and approaches, including game theory, elite interviewing, survey research, field and archival research, text analysis, and comparative case study.

Faculty expertise in the Department of Political Science includes political institutions, elections, and political parties in the United States and abroad; legislative politics; interest groups and social movements; international relations, law, and organization; political economy; the development and decline of nation-states; the politics of gender, inequality, guns, climate change, immigration, finance, and the environment; constitutional law; public policy and public organizations; research methods; and comparative politics, with regional concentrations including Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe. The department offers degree programs leading to the BA, MA, and PhD.

The study of politics can build a foundation for many types of future employment. Political science majors go on to graduate programs or law, medical, or business school. Others pursue careers in journalism, healthcare, education, consulting, the nonprofit sector, public policy, government, finance, and business.

Washington Study Program

The Washington Study Program provides students with the opportunity to complete a full-time, research-intensive internship in Washington, D.C. By participating in a semester-length program during the fall or spring (WASH 2A), students earn 9 credit hours; for a summer internship (WASH 2D), they earn 3 credit hours. In addition, students earn 3 credit hours by developing a portfolio based on their internship experiences (WASH 2C). The credits earned can be counted as general electives or applied to a student's major or minor, with the prior consent of the individual department(s). Finally, as part of the Washington Study Program, students participate in a seminar and attend a weekly lecture/discussion group (WASH 2B).

To be eligible for the program, a student is expected to be a junior or senior and have at least a 3.0 GPA. The program director, the student's major advisor, and the appropriate dean must approve each application. Students must ensure that their participation will not prevent them from meeting on-campus residency or other university requirements.

Department Faculty

Elliot Posner, PhD
(University of California, Berkeley)
Professor and Chair
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/posner/>
International relations; political economy; politics of finance, electricity systems and regulation; international organizations and law; European Union; Transatlantic relations

Karen Beckwith, PhD
(Syracuse University)
Flora Stone Mather Professor
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/beckwith/>
Comparative politics of gender; comparative political movements; political parties and elections; the politics of electoral systems; democracy and representation

Justin Buchler, PhD
(University of California, Berkeley)
Associate Professor
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/buchler/>
Congress; redistricting; political strategy; parties and elections

Matthew Lacombe, PhD
(Northwestern University)
Alexander P. Lamis Associate Professor in U.S. Politics
<https://artscidirectory.case.edu/faculty/matthew-lacombe/>
American politics; interest groups and parties; gun politics; political identity, ideology, and behavior; inequality and representation; and American political development.

Kathryn C. Lavelle, PhD
(Northwestern University)
Ellen and Dixon Long Professor in World Affairs
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/lavelle/>
International relations; U.S. foreign policy; Multilateralism; Congress in world politics; Arctic governance

Kelly M. McMann, PhD
(University of Michigan)
Professor
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/mcmann/>
Comparative politics; democracy; democratization; corruption; local politics; post-Soviet countries

Peter W. Moore, PhD
(McGill University)
M. A. Hanna Professor of Political Science; Associate Professor
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/moore/>
Comparative politics and political economy of the Middle East and Africa

Laura Y. Tartakoff, JD, MA
(Case Western Reserve University School of Law; The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy)
Senior Instructor
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/tartakoff/>
Constitutional law; civil liberties; comparative constitutionalism

Joseph White, PhD
(University of California, Berkeley)
Luxenberg Family Professor in Public Policy; Director, Center for Policy Studies and Public Policy Program; Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Medicine
<http://politicalscience.case.edu/faculty/white/>
American government; Congress; public policy; health and welfare policy; comparative politics of rich democracies

Visiting Faculty

Matthew Hodgetts, PhD
(Brown University)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Climate change politics and policy; environmental justice; contemporary political theory

Girma Parris, PhD
(Johns Hopkins University)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Politics of race, ethnic relations, issues of race and immigration in education, and comparative immigrant integration

Secondary Faculty

Juscelino Colares, JD, PhD
(Cornell Law School)
Professor, School of Law
<http://law.case.edu/Our-School/Faculty-Staff/Meet-Our-Faculty/Faculty-Detail/id/993>
International law; civil procedure

Adjunct Faculty

Karl Kaltenthaler, PhD
(Washington University)
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Comparative politics, political behavior/public opinion, political extremism and violence, political economy, Europe

Andrew M. Lucker, PhD
(Case Western Reserve University)
Adjunct Assistant Professor
American government; state politics and government; history of political science

Howard Maier, MS
(Case Western Reserve University)
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Michael Wager, JD
(New York University)
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Aysegul Keskin Zeren, PhD
(Kent State University)
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Conflict resolution; peace building; transitional justice

Programs

- International Studies, BA
- Political Science, BA
- Political Science, MA
- Political Science, Minor
- Political Science, PhD
- Public Policy, Minor

Dual Degrees

- Political Science, MA/Law, JD
- Programs toward Graduate or Professional Degrees