



Political Science Newsletter

Saint Louis University

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What is Political Science?

- Specialists in **comparative politics** analyze power dynamics in domestic politics in communities, states, and regions throughout the world.
- Specialists in **international relations** focus on the power relationships between countries and between citizens and organizations of different countries.
- Specialists in **American Politics** look at the exercise of power domestically, through American institutions and processes ranging from the state to social movements.
- **Political theorists** address fundamental normative and explanatory assumptions, such as the nature and purpose of the state; who should have power and why; and what would constitute a good society.

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Jeffrey Seib

Faculty Editors:
Dr. Chryl Laird
Dr. Ann Wainscott

SLU announces new minor in Middle East Studies

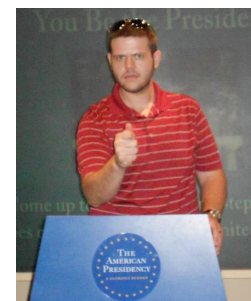
In the above photo, members of the Political Science faculty including Dr. Steven Rogers, Dr. Chryl Laird, Dr. Ann Wainscott, and Dr. Morgan Hazelton celebrate at the reception honoring the new minor in Middle East Studies. Dr. Wainscott was among the faculty who developed the new minor.

The minor, which is housed in the Center for International Studies, allows students to pursue a multi-disciplinary program with courses offered in many departments including Art History, English, History, International Business, International Studies, Political Science, and Theology.

The minor requires at least 16 credits of elective courses, 6 credits of Arabic language courses, and a capstone. Interested students should contact the Director of the minor, Dr. Cathleen Fleck, for more information at: cfleck@slu.edu.



Updates from Study Abroad



Reflections on the Global and Local Social Justice Conference

Photos from the Mentoring Matters sessions and the reception for the new Middle East Studies minor

Reflections from an ABM student

Abroad in Madrid

by Rebecca Brunty, Major in Political Science

Before my own study abroad experience, everyone I talked to that had already been abroad told me what a good experience it was. So, wanting to see for myself what all the hype was about, I studied abroad last semester at Saint Louis University's sister campus in Madrid, Spain. And while I know my opinion will just be another voice in the crowd, I thought maybe my excitement for Spain and love of my experiences there might give you some perspective on what you can expect.

In Madrid, I was living a short walk from Puerta del Sol, the city center, and only a street away from the Congreso de los Diputados, the lower legislature. I was right in the middle of the bustling city for the first time in my life, and I was so close to a bunch of history that I knew next to nothing about. I had enrolled in a Contemporary Spanish Politics class, and I had the opportunity to quickly learn so much about the city and country around me. I was not just learning in

class, but out in the city as well.

Before studying in Spain and immersing myself in the news and culture there, I do not think I fully understood how much there is to know about the complexities of every country and how it operates, both internally and externally. Luckily, I was in Spain during a time when the political climate seemed front-and-center on many people's minds. There has been the recent emergence of a new political party, Podemos, and political activism was rampant while I was there. It could have been because of where I was located in the city, but I have never before seen so many different protests and strikes, and it was wonderful to see such a variety of people that really cared about their country and where it was headed. I think that if I had just visited there for a short time, I would not have fully grasped the intricacies of Spanish government because I would not have known about Spain's history and how it shapes modern Spain. It was amazing to realize that all of the history and politics I know about are just a small fraction of what is out there in the world.

My experience abroad did not solely revolve around the politics of Spain, of course, but it was probably one of my favorite things, and I

would have great conversations with my host mom about the current events and history that I was studying. I know that studying abroad is not possible for everyone, but my advice is that if you can find some way to make it happen, go for it! I am a firm believer that exploring the world and different cultures is the best way to grow and improve oneself.



Rebecca in Toledo

Reflections on the ABM

by Eric Behna, Accelerated BA/MA student

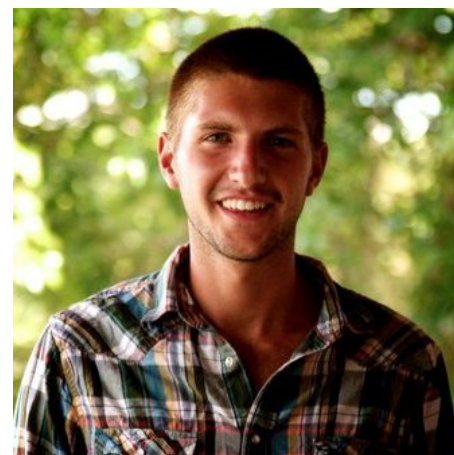
I chose Political Science for my undergraduate major for several reasons. I had always been very interested in politics, both American and International. I absolutely loved the first few classes that I took, and the department had an amazing faculty and a fun, communal atmosphere. Through the political science department I was able to intern for a year with the Obama campaign in St. Louis for credit. The political science major was also flexible enough to allow me to add an economics major and Spanish minor. I was also fortunate enough to be hired by a few professors within the department to gain hands-on experience working as their research assistant. The challenging courses and the compassionate faculty prompted me to apply for the Accelerated BA/MA (ABM) program during my junior year. I will graduate with a Master's in Political Science in May 2015.

In my time at SLU, I also became involved in SLU College Democrats eventually becoming president for two years. Other organizations

that I was a part of include Habitat for Humanity and SLU Club Rowing. By the end of my time at SLU I will have completed two theses – one assessing the impact of voter registration drive restrictions on youth voter turnout (undergraduate), and another examining youth representation in Congress on student loan and college affordability legislation (Masters). Last May, I was fortunate enough to receive the James D. Collins Outstanding Undergraduate in Political Science Award and was just awarded the Steve Puro Outstanding Master's Student Award. After graduating, I hope to travel to Europe and then I intend to move to Washington D.C. to work for a policy group or on a congressional staff.

Choosing to study political science at SLU had a positive impact on both my college experience and my life in general. Right away, I knew I had found an engaging, supportive home at SLU in the department. Furthermore, the degree is extremely customizable. In addition to a comprehensive core, you can tailor your coursework and research your particular interests. Through the Political Science major you gain superior writing, research, and communication skills that will set you apart in whatever field you choose to go into. Additionally, our department is one of the most welcoming departments on campus.

The faculty members are incredibly knowledgeable but also genuinely care about students. My mentor not only supported me academically by helping me with research and course planning, but also socially through pizza nights and end of semester barbecues. He and the entire department continue to support me as I head out into the professional world by giving advice and helping me network. I would highly recommend the SLU political science major and the ABM program to anyone interested in politics, government, public policy, or international issues.



Contributor Eric Behna

My Semester in Morocco

by Emma Sikora Paulus, Major in Political Science

There was never really a sense of “choice” for me about whether or not to study abroad; I always knew it was something I wanted to do. I have been fortunate in the sense that my parents were continually supportive and encouraging of this decision, though they were slightly apprehensive about sending me off to a country so far away, and especially one which they knew little about. Despite all of their apprehensions and the more difficult process of applying to a non-SLU approved study abroad program, when I was accepted into SIT/World Learning’s “Morocco: Field Studies in Journalism and New Media” program I was very eager, and my friends and family were excited for me to embark upon the independent journey as well.

While in Rabat, Morocco, and during excursions to other places in the country—including the Sahara Desert and Atlas Mountains—I learned to appreciate the validity of another way of life. Although I had some degree of historical and cultural knowledge of Morocco prior to arrival, I was not fully capable of grasping what it meant to live in a completely different part of the world. Living in a different country—not as a tourist, but as a student—entails being a representative of your home country and city, as well as being a correspondent between the culture you experience abroad, and the culture you practice at home. Being in the Maghreb (Northwest of Africa) has given me first hand experience of how common the exoticism of a different country and culture is, and just how detrimental such misperceptions can be.

Morocco is just another piece of the puzzle that fits into the jigsaw of globalization, and as such, it requires global citizens to serve as go-betweens with the other countries of the world. I consider myself very privileged to have been able to visit this country, and also to have been able to better understand a way of life that is different from my own, but also just as valid as my own. Studying abroad in Morocco has helped me to better understand the flaws of my own country, as well as the benefits of it. I would encourage all students who are given the chance to study abroad to do so, especially in an area not as commonly thought of for studies, because the change to one’s perception is not only beneficial, but crucial to becoming a global citizen.



Emma puts on a turban in Sahara Desert-Merzouga, Morocco.

Student reflects on Global and Local Social Justice Conference Experience

by F. Wolfgang Arterberry

When I was first asked if I would like to present a paper I wrote for Dr. Wynne Moskop’s seminar on Contemporary Political Ideologies I was hesitant to say yes. Like many students standing in front of a group of my professors and peers, while opening up my study for criticism, was a daunting proposition. This trepidation was increased by the topic of my paper, which was an audacious attempt to examine the prospects for liberal democratic ideology formation in China. However, I had been told by several former classmates about the many benefits that come from presenting in this type of forum, so I chose to present and I couldn’t be happier that I did.

In the end it wasn’t nearly as nerve-racking as I thought that it would be. Having the opportunity to explain the interesting things that I learned from my study, and their possible implications, made me more comfortable with my academic

work. It also served a very important purpose by providing experience in presenting at a conference but in a small and focused forum. This made it easier to present, and since the presenters were separated by the topics of their studies, I was able to receive very worthwhile questions and critiques. Another great aspect of the conference was having a moderator that was so helpful and encouraging, who knew exactly what we first-time presenters were going through.

The Global and Local Social Justice Conference provides a unique opportunity for students at SLU to gain valuable and marketable experience. Besides looking good on a résumé, it prepares you for the professional world where you will be expected to present in much more intimidating formats. For these many reasons I highly recommend all students, especially graduate students, take advantage of this excellent chance to improve your skillset and prepare yourselves for the world outside of SLU.



"Saint Louis University Political Science Department"

Top Left: Dr. Hazelton, Dr. Bowen, and Dr. Rogers sit at the Middle East Studies Minor reception

Top Right: Dr. Wainscott and Kaitlin Carpenter listen to a presentation during the Middle East Studies Minor reception

Bottom Left: Dr. Strikwerda helps lead a discussion during the first Mentoring Matters session

Bottom Right: The second Mentoring Matters session



The role of the enlisted in policy debates

by Peter Lucier, an undergraduate student with a triple major in Political Science, Economics and Business Administration

How can enlisted and former enlisted members of the armed services contribute to policy conversations?

In his introduction to the publication of Allen Ginsberg's poem *Howl*, poet William Carlos Williams said "We are blind and live our blind lives out in blindness. Poets are damned but they are not blind, they see with the eyes of the angels. This poet sees through and all around the horrors he partakes of in the very intimate details of his poem. He avoids nothing but experiences it to the hilt. He contains it."

Policy makers must be in some ways blind to the human cost of their decisions, for how else could they send young men and women to kill and to die? Civilians are blind to the wars we fight by choice or indifference. Enlisted persons, warfighters, are damned, but we are not blind. Enlisted members' role is to not see the whole picture, but to see what comes into their field of view wholly, wholly in its horrors, wholly in its triumphs. The enlisted person's field of view can be as eerily narrow and magnified as a rifle scope set to 12x. It can shrink to the size of the chest of a child on whom the crosshairs are

centered. It can be filled wholly with the back of a teenage Pakistani boy, shredded from shrapnel of 30mm rounds, fired from an A-10, flying a thousand feet above the fertile soil of the Helmand river valley. Wholly, wholly, and like Ginsberg or Whitman, the things we see wholly become holy, holy, holy, holy. The rifle and bullets, and the dirt, and the cold, and the heat, and the fear, and the hate, and the love, holy.

In Plato's Republic, Plato's Socrates rightly looks to the story tellers and poets of society. Socrates knows the power of these in crafting a just person, or a just society. Our strategists and policy makers are story tellers, novelists. They write long form narrative, from the third person omniscient view. They see the whole story, unfolding each part in turn, from a detached perspective with an eye always fixed to the ending, the conclusion.

Enlisted men and women are poets. Our poems are whirlwind gut punches, raw flooding deluges, that hit and twist and fill the stomach in an instant, then are gone, unfiltered, unprocessed. Like the great Tim O'Brien said, a soldier's story must make the

stomach believe, believe in a place that has no capacity for language, to which a listener can only reply, "Huh" or "Oh".

To make just policy, successful policy, that ends well, that has a good conclusion, the story must be written by policy makers, by strategists, whose view, like the A-10 speedily flying over the land, is from above. But for the story, the policy, to be true, to conform to reality, it must be informed by the poets. That is the role of the enlisted: to be damned, to be truth tellers, to be like Dante, a traveler who goes down to hell, to be the ones who leave Plato's cave, and come back, to wrench those who make predictions about the shadows projected on the wall, and show them not only the fire that makes those shadows, and but also the sun, the true fire. Enlisted are not and cannot be kings, but it is their job and duty to inform the king when the king thinks he is dressed resplendently, but in fact is naked.

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Recent Faculty Accomplishments:

Dr. Jason Windett (PI) and Dr. Steven Rogers (co-PI) were awarded a President's Research Fund. Their study, titled, "The Determinants of Gubernatorial Vetoes: Spatial Proximity Models versus High Veto Configurations" will be based on data on characteristics of bills that go before the governor's desk and the legislature's response to vetoed legislation. These data permit a comprehensive test of spatial models versus high veto configurations.

Dr. Kenneth Warren was awarded a President's Research Fund grant as part of an interdisciplinary research team. Their project, titled "Municipal Courts: Role as Revenue Source and Discriminatory Impact" will analyze the importance of fines and fees to municipal budgets.

Dr. J.D. Bowen was awarded a President's Research Fund (PI) and a Fulbright Scholar grant to Colombia! Dr. Bowen's research will focus on how Colombian political and business leaders are adjusting to the end of the commodities "boom" of the past decade and what this means for long-term, sustainable economic development in Colombia and the rest of Latin America.

Dr. Amber Knight had an article accepted at *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. Dr. Knight's article, titled "Democratizing Disability: Achieving Inclusion (without Assimilation) through 'Participatory Parity'" is forthcoming in the journal.

A number of faculty gave public lectures. Dr. Ellen Carnaghan, Dr. Bob Cropf, Dr. Chryl Laird, Dr. Michelle Lorenzini, Dr. Steven Rogers, Dr. Robert Strikwerda, Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka and Dr. Ann Wainscott have all given public lectures in the last few months.

In Memoriam

Katherine Dubis '14, a major in communications with a minor in political science, died in February due to injuries suffered from a car accident.

Katherine graduated from Saint Louis University in December 2014. Katherine planned to earn her master's degree and pursue a career in marketing or advertising. Katherine was also very passionate about caring for animals and volunteered at the Missouri Humane Society of St. Louis.

We are deeply saddened by the news of Katherine's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Students who desire to speak with a counselor should call **(314) 977-TALK (8255)** to be connected to the University Counseling Center.

- Photo from Dubis' LinkedIn account

