

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

About

The Department of Political Science has 18 full-time faculty members. The department offers two graduate programs: Master of Arts in Political Science and Master of Arts in Public Administration. Both programs are offered fully online. Courses are offered summer, fall, and spring.

Chair

Tamara Waggener (POL_TAW@shsu.edu)

Mission

The mission of the Department of Political Science is to provide students with theoretical knowledge and understanding of core concepts and principles in political science and public administration and to help students develop practical experience and skills necessary for professional careers in the 21st century.

Department Contact Information

(936) 294-1457
CHSS Building 490
polsci@shsu.edu

Graduate Director Contact Information

Masters of Political Science
ma_pols@shsu.edu

Masters of Public Administration
mpa@shsu.edu (wukich@shsu.edu)

Website

Department of Political Science (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/political-science>)

Academic Programs

- Master of Arts in Political Science (catalog.shsu.edu/graduate/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/political-science/political-science-ma)
- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) (catalog.shsu.edu/graduate/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/political-science/public-administration-mpa)
- Graduate Certificate in Political Science (catalog.shsu.edu/graduate/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/political-science/political-science-certificate)

The department offers courses in five areas:

- American government and politics
- international relations and foreign policy
- comparative politics
- public administration
- political theory and methodology

Students should consult with their advisor as to what mix of these areas best meets their needs.

Political Science

POLS 5078. Problems/Internships- Pol Sci. 1-3 Hours.

This course is designed for topics in which the subject cuts across two or more areas of concentration. The course may be taken on an individual basis with the permission of the Political Science Department Chair. The course covers the relevant literature and engages students in appropriate research and/or professional practice. May be repeated when topic varies. Students not enrolled in the Master of Political Science program must obtain the Department of Political Science Graduate Director's permission to enroll in this course. Variable Credit (1 to 3).

POLS 5319. Women in Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the role of women in politics, including the origins and implications of gender differences, women as political participants, women as political candidates, and women as political office holders.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5330. American Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the major debates and scholarship in the field of American politics. The course focuses on political institutions and political behavior with topics that may include Congress, the Presidency, the Judiciary, political ideology, attitudes and beliefs, public opinion, voting behavior, political parties, interest groups, and mass movements. Students study the classics in the American politics literature as well as current research. Students engage in research and writing.

POLS 5334. Judicial Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the American judicial system and American judicial politics. They study the function and operation of the judiciary, including the role and operation of the U.S. Supreme Court, the origins and function of judicial power, and methods of judicial selection.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5336. The U.S. Presidency. 3 Hours.

Students examine the structure, powers, and place of the presidency in the American constitutional order. Students study changes in presidential power from the founding to the contemporary era.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5337. The U.S. Congress. 3 Hours.

Students explore the structure, powers, organization, procedures, and operations of the U.S. Congress. Topics may include the selection of legislators; legislative leadership; the influence of lobbyists, political parties, legislative committees, and executives; legislative roles and norms; congressional elections; representation; and policymaking.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5339. American Political Parties. 3 Hours.

Students examine political parties in American politics. Topics may include party formation, ideologies, and party functions in government, elections, and organization.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5340. Political Attitudes & Behavior. 3 Hours.

Students examine individuals' attitudes and behaviors regarding politics. They analyze the determinants, formation, and expression of ideology and partisanship. Students also explore individuals' political participation, particularly voting behavior. The course is research oriented, with an emphasis on pursuing new directions in research.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5360. Seminar in American Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the relevant literature pertaining to a specific topic or debate within the field of American politics. Students may repeat this for credit when the topic differs.

POLS 5362. Seminar in Political Theory. 3 Hours.

Students examine the relevant literature pertaining to a specific topic or debate within the field of political theory. Students may repeat this for credit when the topic differs.

POLS 5364. Media & Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the role and impact of the media on U.S. politics. Students study the impact of the media on campaigns and election outcomes, the media as a source of political information, the agenda setting power of the media, the role of the "free press" in a democracy, and citizens' relationship to the media.

Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Political Science program or departmental approval.

POLS 5367. Smnr in Internationl Relations. 3 Hours.

Students examine the relevant literature pertaining to a specific topic or debate within the field of international relations. Students may repeat this for credit when the topic differs.

POLS 5371. Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the major theories, concepts, and methods of comparative analysis. Topics include the major concepts of comparative politics which may include: political elites, institutions, public policy, development and modernization, elections and political behavior, mass movements, and revolution and political violence.

POLS 5372. Seminar in Comparative Politic. 3 Hours.

Students examine the relevant literature pertaining to a specific topic or debate within the field of international relations. Topics may include political development, sustainability, comparative institutions, comparative public policy, transitions to democracy, and opinions and behavior. The seminar may also focus on one or more regions or individual countries. .Students may repeat this for credit when the topic differs.

POLS 5373. International Relations. 3 Hours.

Students examine the major theories, concepts, and methods of international relations. Specific topics may include conflict and cooperation; the relationship between domestic and international politics; and transnational issues and actors.

POLS 5377. Scope & Mth of Political Sci. 3 Hours.

Students examine the quantitative and qualitative research methods used in modern political science.

POLS 5379. Workshop: Teaching Political Sci. 3 Hours.

Students examine a variety of topics useful to teaching political science or government courses. Topics may include Texas politics, constitutional issues, current elections, and using technology in the class classroom. Students may repeat the course when topic varies.

POLS 5382. Smnr in Public Administration. 3 Hours.

Students examine the relevant literature pertaining to a specific topic or debate within the field of public administration. Students may repeat this for credit when the topic differs.

POLS 5385. Public Policy. 3 Hours.

Students examine the process of public policy formulation, governmental planning, and administrative decision-making, giving special attention to the public administrator as a policy-maker and as one responsible for policy implementation.

POLS 5395. Intrnshp & Wrk Exp-Public Serv. 3 Hours.

Students complete a 6 hour, 12 month internship. The internship is required for the MPA degree and fulfils a requirement by its accrediting agency NASPAA, the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. Enrollment is by permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.

POLS 6098. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.

Students will make use of appropriate literature and research techniques in the development of the thesis. Variable Credit (1-3).

POLS 6099. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.

Students will make use of appropriate literature and research techniques in the development of the thesis. Variable Credit (1-3).

POLS 7330. Public Policy & School District. 3 Hours.

Students examines school districts as systems of governance in American communities and the problems associated with governance, with particular emphasis upon educational issues. Topics may include democratic theory, local political systems, intergovernmental relations, relationships with citizens, and political accountability.

Public Administration

PADM 5381. Dynamics of Public Administrtrn. 3 Hours.

Students examine the history and theoretical basis of public administration and the basic issues that confront it, including administrative responsibility and ethics, and the formulation and implementation of public policy.

PADM 5383. Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.

Students examine techniques for the collection, manipulation, interpretation, and presentation of data and information in public policy/management processes, and demonstrates application of the techniques using computer technology. The course covers the relevant literature and engages students in appropriate research and/or professional practice.

PADM 5384. Organizational Theory & Behavr. 3 Hours.

Students examine the major topics, issues, and contributions in the literature on organizations, their structures and functions, and the behavior of people in them, with emphasis on applications to government and nonprofit organizations. Students explore examples of organizations at federal, state, and local levels of government and a variety of nonprofit organizations, such as hospitals, social service agencies, and faith-based/non-governmental organizations.

PADM 5386. Human Resource Management. 3 Hours.

Students examine the evolution and context of human resource management. Specific topics include: human resources planning, recruitment and selection, performance evaluation, compensation, promotion and benefits, staff development, labor relations, discipline, and control structures.

PADM 5387. Public Budgeting and Finance. 3 Hours.

Students examine the public budgetary process and related financial management techniques.

PADM 5388. Ethics in Government. 3 Hours.

Students examine the classical and contemporary literature on the role and practice of ethics in public administration. Students study contemporary empirical research, case studies, and ethical problem solving around questions of right action and good conduct in public organizations and public policy making.

PADM 5389. Public Management. 3 Hours.

Students examine and evaluate current public management techniques and theories with a specific focus on organizations in the public and nonprofit sectors. Topics may include theories related to the field of public management, the political context of public management, contracting out, networking, strategic management and planning, performance management, and public participation.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in MPA program or departmental approval.

PADM 5390. Global Disaster Politics. 3 Hours.

Students examine the politics that underpin the phases of disaster management. Using a comparative analytical approach, students draw inferences and lessons about the effects of politics on different localities and contexts around the world.

Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Public Administration program or departmental approval.

PADM 5391. Emergency Management. 3 Hours.

Students examine the system of emergency management in the U.S, applying public administration frameworks of budgeting, human resources, intergovernmental relations, and decision making to analyze and evaluate emergency management responses.

Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Public Administration program or departmental approval.

PADM 5392. Decision Making in Pub Adm. 3 Hours.

Students examine theories and practical applications of administrative decisions. In public administration, decisions are often made under conditions of uncertainty. Students evaluate strategies used by public and nonprofit managers to reduce risk, and they create their own strategies through a series of simulation exercises.

Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Public Administration program or departmental approval.

PADM 5393. Disaster Resilience. 3 Hours.

Students examine theories and conceptual frameworks of disaster resilience. Students evaluate approaches to the measurement of resilience and apply these to create a disaster resilience assessment of a community.

Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Public Administration program or departmental approval.

Faculty

Director/Chair: **Tamara A. Waggener**

Robin M Bittick, PHD (rmb004@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science*, PHD, Claremont Mckenna College; MPA, California St Un-Dominguez Hil; BS, California St Un-Dominguez Hil

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Heather Kristen Evans, PHD (hke002@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science*, PHD, Indiana University; MA, Indiana University; BA, Berea College

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Masoud Kazemzadeh, PHD (mxk002@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science*, PHD, Univ of Southern California; MA, Univ of Southern California; BA, Univ of Minnesota-Twin Cities

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Stacy Gwenn Ulbig, PHD (sgu001@shsu.edu), *Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science*, PHD, Rice University; MA, Rice University; BA, Univ of St Thomas

Tamara A. Waggener, PHD (pol_taw@shsu.edu), *Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science, Department of Political Science*, PHD, Univ of Texas At Austin; BA, Cal Poly St-Pomona

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Lu-Chung Weng, PHD (lwx027@shsu.edu), *Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science*, PHD, Univ of Texas At Dallas; MA, Univ of Texas At Dallas; MA, Tamkang College; BBA, Tamkang College