

# Political Science

IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

**OFFICE:** Nasatir Hall 126

**TELEPHONE:** 619-594-6244 / **FAX:** 619-594-7302

**WEBSITE:** <http://politicalscience.sdsu.edu>

## Faculty

**Farid Abdel-Nour**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science,  
Chair of Department

**Brian E. Adams**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Mikhail A. Alexseev**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**David V. Carruthers**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Jonathan M. Graubart**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Lei Guang**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Ronald F. King**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Emeritus

**Ahmet T. Kuru**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Madhavi M. McCall**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science,

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters

**Emanuele G. Saccarelli**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Ronnee D. Schreiber**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science,

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters

**Latha Varadarajan**, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science

**Kimberley Fletcher**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science

**Carole L. Kennedy**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science

**Kristen H. Maher**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science

(Graduate Adviser)

**Cheryl M. O'Brien**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science

**Kimberly A. Twist**, 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 careers in both the public and private sectors. It covers such areas of American public policy as immigration policy, urban policy, environmental policy, or civil rights. 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 associateships.

## Admission to Graduate Study

All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Admission and Registration. In addition, students seeking the Master of Arts degree in political science must attain a satisfactory score on the GRE General Test (minimum of 153 on the verbal portion of the test and a minimum of 153 on the quantitative portion). 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 should 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 March 1.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply> along with the application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Department of Political Science.

## Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

### Graduate Admissions

Enrollment Services  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

1. Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

### NOTE:

- Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
  - Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
2. GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682);
  3. English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682).

**Department of Political Science**

The following admissions materials must be submitted electronically:

1. Two letters of reference;
2. Statement of purpose;
3. Writing sample (optional).

For information regarding the admissions process, visit the department website at <http://politicalscience.sdsu.edu>.

**Advancement to Candidacy**

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as stated in Requirements for Master's Degrees. In addition, students must complete the Empirical Theory and Methods sequence by fulfilling one of the following options:

1. POL S 516 and 615.
2. POL S 615. Pass an examination in statistics at the graduate level.
3. POL S 615. Pass a course in statistics equivalent to POL S 516.
4. POL S 615. 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) (SIMS Code: 115501)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Requirements for Master's Degrees, 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 for master's degree programs. Political Science 516 and 615 and at least 18 units in 600- and 700-numbered courses, including Political Science 601, are required. Students who have previously completed Political Science 516 or 615, 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 (SIMS Code: 115501) are:**

1. POL S 516 Statistics for Political Scientists .....3  
(or equivalent)
- AND**
- POL S 615 Seminar in Research Design and Analysis in Political Science .....3
2. POL S 601 Seminar in the Scope and Methods of Political Science .....3
3. Four graduate seminars chosen from among the following:
  - POL S 603 Seminar in Foundations of Public Policy .....3
  - POL S 605 Seminar in Political Theory .....3
  - POL S 620 Seminar in American National Government .....3
  - POL S 630 Seminar in Politics .....3
  - POL S 635 Seminar in Politics of Public Policy .....3
  - POL S 655 Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems .....3
  - POL S 658 Seminar in Post-Communist Political Systems .....3

- POL S 661 Seminar in the Political Systems of the Developing Nations .....3
- POL S 667 Seminar in Latin American Political Systems .....3
- POL S 675 Seminar in International Relations .....3
- POL S 696 Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science .....3

(with permission of the graduate adviser)

4. **Plan A:** Political Science 799A, Thesis, and six 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 six 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 (SIMS Code: 115560) are:**

1. POL S 516 Statistics for Political Scientists .....3  
(or equivalent)

**AND**

- POL S 615 Seminar in Research Design and Analysis in Political Science .....3
- 2. POL S 601 Seminar in the Scope and Methods of Political Science .....3
- 3. POL S 603 Seminar in Foundations of Public Policy .....3
- 4. POL S 796 Internship in Public Policy .....3
- 5. Two graduate seminars chosen from among the following:
  - POL S 620 Seminar in American National Government .....3
  - POL S 630 Seminar in Politics .....3
  - POL S 635 Seminar in Politics of Public Policy .....3
  - POL S 655 Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems .....3
  - POL S 696 Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science .....3

(with permission of the graduate adviser)

6. **Plan A:** Political Science 799A, Thesis, and six 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 six 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 (SIMS Code: 115551) are:**

1. POL S 516 Statistics for Political Scientists .....3  
(or equivalent)

**AND**

- POL S 615 Seminar in Research Design and Analysis in Political Science .....3
- 2. POL S 601 Seminar in the Scope and Method of Political Science .....3
- 3. POL S 655 Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems .....3
- 4. POL S 675 Seminar in International Relations .....3
- 5. Two graduate seminars chosen from among the following:
  - POL S 658 Seminar in Post-Communist Political Systems .....3
  - POL S 661 Seminar in the Political Systems of the Developing Nations .....3
  - POL S 667 Seminar in Latin American Political Systems .....3
  - POL S 696 Seminar in Selected Topics in Political Science .....3

(with permission of the graduate adviser)

6. **Plan A:** Political Science 799A, Thesis, and six 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 six 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 for Master's Degree Program in Political Science (POL S)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs* sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

### Field I: Political Theory

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### **POL S 507. Marx and Marxism (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units in political theory.

Marxism examined as an important tradition of political thought and as a political movement. Theoretical and political debates in the development of Marxism, including works by Marx, Engels, Luxemburg, Lenin, and Trotsky. Contemporary significance of Marxism.

##### **POL S 510. Contemporary Political Thought (3)**

Prerequisite: Political Science 301B or 302 or 305 or 406.

Contemporary political questions and theoretical attempts to address them. Debates about justice, citizenship, and multiculturalism; as well as controversies over nature and scope of politics.

### Field II: American Politics

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### **POL S 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.

##### **POL S 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.

##### **POL S 533. Democracy in America (3)**

Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or 320.

Quality and quantity of democratic experience in contemporary America. Construction of American regime, arrangement of power within that regime, expansion and contraction of citizen participation, and principles that Americans generally espouse.

##### **POL S 535. Gender and Politics (3)**

Prerequisites: Political Science 101 and 102.

How gender matters in understanding key political science concepts including democracy, public/private participation and representation. Women involved in political institutions as elected officials, activists, and policy makers from U.S. and comparative perspectives.

##### **POL S 541. Special Problems in Public Law (3)**

Prerequisite: Three units selected from Political Science 346, 347A, 347B, or 348.

Issues of contemporary relevance in field of public law, examining legal, moral, and political implications.

### Field III: Comparative Politics

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### **POL S 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.

##### **POL S 560. Comparative Public Policy (3)**

Prerequisite: Political Science 103 or 335.

How political, social, and economic forces shape public policy in selected countries. Focus on policies related to minority and immigrant populations, environment, or poverty.

##### **POL S 562. Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective (3)**

Prerequisite: Political Science 103.

Various types of relationships between contemporary states and religious institutions. Concepts and theories on religion and politics. Cases of state-religion interaction.

##### **POL S 564. Political Ecology of Latin America (3)**

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Ecology and politics of Latin America and the Caribbean. Environmental politics with related policy challenges of economic growth, equity, and social justice.

##### **POL S 565. Nations and Nationalism (3)**

Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.

Debates surrounding origins, meaning and future of nationalism, and its most common embodiment, the nation-state form. Theoretical analyses of phenomenon and empirical case studies.

##### **POL S 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.

##### **POL S 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.

### Field IV: International Politics

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### **POL S 575. International Relations of the Pacific Rim (3)**

Prerequisite: Political Science 362 or 375.

Dynamics of conflict and cooperation among nations of the Pacific Rim. Stress on political and economics factors that shape interstate relations.

##### **POL S 577. Politics of International Law (3)**

Relationship of international law to politics. Fundamental principles of international law and normative theories of international law and politics. Historical and contemporary issues.

#### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

##### **POL S 516. Statistics for Political Scientists (3)**

Prerequisite: Political Science 201.

Does not fulfill undergraduate capstone major requirement. Basic concepts, theories, and methods that are utilized by political and other social scientists using statistics and microcomputers. Intermediate level introduction to statistical methods in political science.

##### **POL S 596. Topics in Political Science (1-3)**

Prerequisites: 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. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

GRADUATE COURSES

**POL S 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.

**POL S 603. Seminar in Foundations of Public Policy (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Theory and practice of the policy making process. Policy design, agenda setting, policy tools, and implementation. Examination of different methods used for policy analysis.

**POL S 605. Seminar in Political Theory (3)**

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

**POL S 615. Seminar in Research Design and Analysis in Political Science (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing

Modeling and design of research projects. Theoretical understanding and logic of social science analysis. Hypothesis specification. Data collection, measurement, testing. (Formerly numbered Political Science 515.)

**POL S 616. Tools for Quantitative Analysis (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Answer quantitative research questions. Goals of quantitative research using statistical models as evidence. Analysis of real world data. (Formerly numbered Political Science 516.)

**POL S 620. Seminar in American National Government (3)**

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

**POL S 630. Seminar in Politics (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

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.

**POL S 635. Seminar in Politics of Public Policy (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

How processes and outcomes of public policy relate to quality of democracy and distribution of power and resources. Debates about policy within frame of theories of justice. Focus on policy issues such as welfare, environment, housing, privatization, or others.

**POL S 655. Seminar in General Comparative Political Systems (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

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.

**POL S 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.

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

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

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.

**POL S 667. Seminar in Latin American Political Systems (3)**

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

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

**POL S 675. Seminar in International Relations (3)**

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

**POL S 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. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

**POL S 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.

**POL S 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.

**POL S 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.

**POL S 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.

**POL S 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.

**POL S 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.

**POL S 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.

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**Portuguese**

Refer to "Spanish" in this section of the bulletin.