



POLITICAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

PS & IR Student Services Portal

The new PS & IR Student Services Portal at <http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-studentservices/index.php> provides helpful information on: Advising, Academic Help Resources, Career and Jobs, Internship Opportunities, Study Abroad, Research Opportunities, Law Schools, Grad Schools, Getting Involved in the Community, & Getting Involved on Campus.



Department Starts Master's program in International Affairs

This past fall nine students inaugurated the Department's graduate program in International Affairs. The students took 6000 level courses in International Relations with Dr. Tesi, Comparative Politics with Dr. Morris, and Research Methods with Dr. Livingston. Besides taking a core set of four courses, students in the MA program select one of two areas of concentration -- international security and peace or international development and globalization -- and complete a professional practicum or thesis. The program, under the direction of Dr. Tesi, invites applications for the fall 2013 semester. Applicants must have completed their undergraduate degree, have at least 18 hours of undergraduate political science or related coursework, obtain an acceptable score on the GRE, and submit a letter of intent and letters of recommendation.

For more information on the program, visit the web site at: www.mtsu.edu/MAIA

Political Science Scholarships

Don't forget to check out the scholarship page at:
<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/scholarships.shtml>

Applications are taken in late spring for the fall semester.

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Inside this issue:

<i>Upcoming events</i>	2
<i>In the News</i>	3
<i>Students beyond the classroom</i>	4-10
<i>Study abroad</i>	6-7
<i>Advising</i>	11
<i>Retention plan & student research</i>	12
<i>Faculty News</i>	13-14
<i>Alumni News</i>	14
<i>Upcoming Courses</i>	15
<i>Staying informed</i>	16



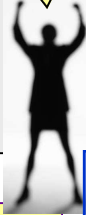
www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/

UPCOMING EVENTS, Spring 13

March 1, 12:30 pm
Room TBA
Political Science/ IR
Career Workshop
& pizza lunch

Information on jobs for OUR MAJORS. Learn about the Career Development Center, tips on the job search, the range of opportunities, etc. AND JOIN US FOR LUNCH.

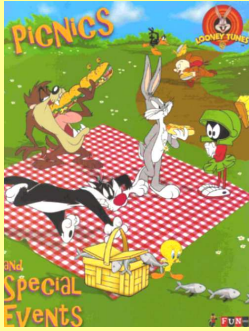
Should I go to graduate school or should I just run for president? Will a degree in political science help me get a job at Starbucks?



DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC

* * *

Saturday,
April 27
Noon to Afternoon
Barfield Crescent
Park,
Pavilion TBA



All PS/IR majors & faculty

February 25

7th Annual Statewide Student Conference on the Death Penalty will be held at Lipscomb University on Saturday, February 23rd from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is free AND includes a conference t-shirt and lunch.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4612570322>

March 21

College of Liberal Arts Alumni Day with former Political Science alum Clay Francis speaking from 9:45-11:15 in Room 205 Peck Hall.
EVERYONE IS INVITED

Tuesday, March 26, 4:15, Rm 206 PH

Political science forum...

**“Global Weirding:
 Designing Law &
 Policy To Stop the
 Climate Crisis?”**



**Presentation by
 Clay Francis**

(Masters in Environmental Law and Policy at Vermont Law School and MTSU Alum)

LSAT Prep Session and Practice Test



with Dr. DiPaolo

Prep Session, Wednesday, March 27,
6:00 pm, Room BAS 330
Practice Test, Saturday, April 6
arrive at 8:30 am, Room BAS 118

Sign up in the main office or
 at stephen.morris@mtsu.edu

Academic Success Series (SP 13)

- **How to Use Your Time Wisely**
 February 4 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
 February 19 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 248
- **How to Study and Prepare for Tests**
 February 5th at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 248
 February 19 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Be a Successful Veteran Student**
 February 12 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Use the Library**
 February 26 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Give a Winning Presentation**
 March 19 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Use Your Academic Advisor**
 March 26 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Think Critically**
 April 2 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Choose the Right Major for You**
 April 9 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Relax & Still be Successful Student**
 April 16 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446
- **How to Prepare for Final Exams**
 April 23 and 30 at 4:30 — Walker Library Room 446

For more information visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/advising/AcademicSuccessSeries.shtml>

In the News

Presentation and Roundtable on Attack Ads in Presidential Campaigns

On October 23, the Department of Political Science and the College of Liberal Arts sponsored a presentation by Dr. John Geer, the Chair of the Dept of Political Science at Vanderbilt "Attack Ads in American Politics: How Much is Too Much," and a Roundtable entitled "Advertising and the 2012 Presidential Campaign: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," moderated by our own Kent Syler and featuring media consultant Bill Fletcher, former congressman Bart Gordon, Dr. Geer, State Senator Jim Tracy, and former congressional candidate Jeff Whorley.



Many students turned out for the **Election Watch Party** in the new Student Center Ballroom this past November. This event was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Mass Communication, and the Department of Political Science.

Department to Hire New Faculty with Expertise in Asian Politics

Again this year the Department has been authorized to hire a new faculty member. The search is underway for someone with a Ph.D. with an area interest in preferably Chinese politics and who can teach in our Master's program and a course in Global Studies. Dr. Petersen is chairing the search committee. Candidates will be brought in for interviews sometimes during the semester.

MTSU Recognized by Fulbright

MTSU received a special designation as a top producer of Fulbrights. Such a designation reflects the PS/IR Majors in recent years who have received a Fulbright award.



The complete list is provided in the Chronicle of Higher Education at <http://chronicle.com/article/Top-Producers-of-US/135454/>

Department of PS Student Advisory Council

The student advisory council (Whitney Flatt, Denise Monsegue, Jade King, Davis Thompson, Edrell Smith, Preston Johnson) met in November to discuss Department matters and to offer recommendations. Among the recommendations: try to keep activities in Peck Hall to bring more students together; provide more information on Facebook; create on-line advising; bring in speakers during the day rather than at night; talk to students about advising in freshman courses; among others. The students felt that a required internship and required study abroad for IR majors would probably be a good thing.



In Memoriam

Everett Wilford Cunningham, a member of the Department in the 1960s through the 1980s, of Russell Co. Ky, passed away on January 4. Everett was a veteran of the Korean War, and a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He taught political theory.



Students Beyond the classroom

Mock Trial

This spring, MTSU Mock Trial is gearing up to qualify for the 29th American Mock Trial Association National Championship Tournament. Before classes even began, mockers were busy practicing for Vanderbilt's Commodore Classic and Georgia Tech's Ramblin' Wreck invitationals. These were the last two opportunities for the mock trial teams to compete before the Regional Tournament in Jackson, Mississippi in late February. At the Ramblin' Wreck, MTSU finished with a 5-3 record, putting them eighth overall. Two students earned individual achievements: Margaret Noah, a senior psychology major, was awarded an outstanding witness award and Samantha Farish, a senior majoring in political science and psychology, received an outstanding attorney award. Each fall, Mock Trial is offered as a class (PS 2100) to all years and all majors. The team's coaching staff consists of the Dean of the Honors College Dr. John Vile, local attorneys Brandi Snow and Shiva Bozarth, adjunct professor Clay Francis, and grad student Rachel Harmon.



Moot Court

At the Regional tournament in Orlando, one MTSU team composed of Constance Grieves and Kaitlin Beck won the regional championship and a total of four MTSU teams qualified for the national tournament in January.

At the national tournament, the MTSU Moot Court team made it to the Round of 16. Kaitlin Beck and Constance Grieves had the best showing of the four MTSU teams competing. Sam Farish and Clark Palombo also made it to play Moot Court playoffs.

Next season, several students are expected to return and MTSU will begin its attempt to repeat as regional champions. The team is looking for new members. If interested, contact Dr. DiPaolo at amanda.dipaolo@mtsu.edu. A meeting for interested parties will also be held later in the semester.



Exert from a Memo to Dr. Vile on MTSU Moot Court

by Frank Guliuzza
Coach, Patrick Henry College Moot Court & Mock Trial
President, American Collegiate Moot Court Association

I attribute a large part of this success [of Moot Court] to the dedication of your students. I know that MTSU has a heritage of success in forensics activities -- *and I have seen what you've accomplished building one of the premier mock trial programs in America.* Success often breeds success, and I know that your students expect to do well.

But, I want you to know how much I admire the work that Professor DiPaolo has done with the team, and what's she's accomplished with the program. I think that she decided that, if MTSU was going to do this activity, then the program was going to do it right. She seems determined to build one of the best programs in the country, if not *the* best. You can be proud of her as an outstanding coach, and how her students represent the University, and, to the judges and outside observers, the activity of intercollegiate moot court.

MTSU Moot Court Team at Nationals

From left to right: Michael Reed, Davis Thompson, Kaitlin Beck, Constance Grieves, Mark Fyke, Dani Mitchell, Amanda DiPaolo, Jared Norwood, Brooke Borcharding, Julie Murrell, Sam Farish and in front is Clark Palombo.

Students Beyond the classroom

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Model UN team traveled to Washington, D.C., in October to compete at the Georgetown National Collegiate Security Conference.

Students represented Israel in several committees and were able to find some time for a whirlwind walking tour of the D.C. mall. Model U.N. will compete in St. Louis and Atlanta during the Spring 2013 semester. The team is recruiting new members for the fall semester, and will engage in a computer-based simulation of international relations in the Fall semester class (PS2130). Please see Dr. Petersen for details.



Mediation Team

On October 5-6, 2012, members of MTSU's Intercollegiate Mediation Association participated in a regional mediation tournament at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. The regional event featured students from sixteen schools engaged mediating actual disputes. Three members earned top ten awards: Allison Cain, Danielle Horn and Mirah Schiff. Other participants were Chris Crutcher, Foster Heflin, Cris Langley, Andrew Mitchell and Hunter Tjornhom.

TISL



The **Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature** is a forum for the top echelon of the state's campus leaders to exchange ideas, express their opinions and learn how government works. TISL runs a simulation of the state Senate and House of Representatives and meets in the legislative

chambers of the State Capitol each November. The Department offers a 1 credit hour course in the Fall for TISL (PS 2140). Students meet a few times with Dr. Reed to prepare for their participation in the simulation. This is perfect for students considering the Legislative Internship in the Spring. No application necessary. ***Just register for the course.***

Note that this course, like other such simulations, can count toward the **Minor in Political and Civic Engagement** (see page 10).

For more information on TISL go to: <http://www.tisonline.org/>

UN Student Alliance of MTSU



The **UN Student Alliance** is committed to raising awareness about global, humanitarian issues, as well as fostering a dialogue about current international events. Last semester, the organization raised money

for the World Food Programme and also held an on-campus screening of the Turkish film, *Min Dıt*. Additionally, members participated in several dinner discussions, bringing together students and young professionals to share opinions and ideas about pressing global issues such as the War on Drugs and the changing role of Indonesia in world politics. The spring semester for the UN Student Alliance is shaping up to be just as promising as the former, and members are excited about the events being brought to MTSU.

If you would like more information on the UN Student Alliance and how you can get involved, please contact Tandra Martin at unsa-mtsu@hotmail.com.



Students Beyond the classroom

Studying Abroad in Rwanda

by Kaitlyn Newman

Last semester (Fall 2012), I took part in a study abroad program through the School for International Training (SIT), an independent study abroad organization, and traveled to Rwanda and Uganda for the semester. The program focused on post-genocide restoration and peace-building and was based in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. Through SIT, I was able to take classes on post-genocide development, national and ethnic identity and Kinyarwanda, which is the main language spoken in Rwanda.

SIT takes an “experiential learning” approach to study abroad and throughout the semester I traveled around Rwanda and also spent two weeks in Gulu, which is located in northern Uganda. During my time in Rwanda, I lived with a Rwanda family in Kigali and had nine host siblings (not all of them lived in the same house, however)! During the final month, I completed an independent research project on theories of transitional justice and spent my time conducting interviews to collect information and writing my final paper.

It is impossible to travel to Rwanda and not fall in love. It truly is the “land of 1,000 hills” and has some of the most beautiful landscapes that I have seen. The people and culture are the most fascinating part of Rwanda; despite having suffered one of the most horrific genocides the world has ever seen less than two decades ago, the people that I met in Rwanda were some of the most genuine and peaceful that I have ever met. I am incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity to live in Rwanda for a semester and I hope to go back one day. As General Romeo Dallaire wrote, “Rwanda will never, ever leave me. It's in the pores of my body. My soul is in those hills.”



Basket-weaving in Butare

STUDY ABROAD in ISRAEL this Summer



Contact:

Dr. Karen Petersen
karen.petersen@mtsu.edu

615-494-8662

or

Dr. Mark Byrnes
mark.byrnes@mtsu.edu

615-898-2351

3 credit course

PS4850: The Politics of Being
“Israel” from Abraham to
Modern Democracy

See

[http://www.mtsu.edu/
kpetersen/Israel.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/kpetersen/Israel.php)
for a detailed itinerary.

Summer 2013

July 15-25

Discover Israel with the benefit of
an experienced guide and go
beyond the headlines.

MTSU Faculty-led program
Created by two faculty from the
Department of Political Science
both with experience in Israel.

Estimated Cost: \$4,200 Includes
airfare from Nashville, lodging, all
ground transportation and
excursions, most meals.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Contact Office of
Education Abroad
Peck Hall 207
www.mtsu.edu/~mtabroad

Itinerary includes visits to many of
the major historical sites in Israel
from the Golan Heights to the Dead
Sea and, of course, Jerusalem.

STUDY ABROAD

Civil Resistance and Nonviolent Movements in Panama and Central America

IN PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
WITH MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

DATES: JUNE 16-27, 2013

PRICE: \$2,525 PROGRAM FEE | \$79 TO MTSU FOR STUDY ABROAD FEE & iNext CARD

UNIVERSITY APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2013

What's Included

- Group airport pick-up and drop-off at Tocumen (PTY) airport
- On-site orientation
- Housing in double hotel rooms, including daily breakfast
- Cultural activities and excursions in and around Panama City, including the Panama Canal
- Excursions to Colon City, Gamboa and Anton Valley
- Visits and guest lectures with representatives from organizations involved in civil resistance

Not Included

- International Airfare
- MTSU tuition for the 3 credit hours (25% discount)
- Any applicable entry fees or visas
- Passport
- Individual transportation within the host city (taxis, buses)
- Personal spending money (activities, toiletries, snacks, etc.)

**Information is subject to change.*



Academic Information

» **PS 3780/PS 6250 STUDY ABROAD: THE POLITICS OF CIVIL RESISTANCE AND NONVIOLENT STRATEGIC CONFLICT IN PANAMA AND CENTRAL AMERICA**

The course focuses on civil resistance—primarily through the lens of nonviolent conflict—during President Manuel Noriega's tenure (1983-1989). It also examines the racial and gender dimensions of civil resistance with a specific focus on Afro-Panamanian activism and grassroots politics during the Noriega and post-Noriega years.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY COURSE TAUGHT BY:

Sekou M. Franklin, Ph.D.

Department of Political Science

p: (615) 904-8232 e: sekou.franklin@mtsu.edu

Application

Prior to the program application, students should first submit the online EA Participation Approval Form on the MTSU Education Abroad website.

Office of Education Abroad
Peck Hall 207

e: educationabroad@mtsu.edu
mtsu.edu/~mtabroad

Students Beyond the classroom

The Washington Center Program

Fall 2012 TWC Interns

- **Lema Sbenaty** worked in the toxicology department at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

- **Madeleine Sheinfeld** worked for the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

- **Joey Meyer** worked for the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.



Spring 2013 TWC Interns

- **Constance Grieves** is working with a law firm, Kohn & Colapinto, that specializes in whistleblower law.

- **Whitney Flatt** is working for the Center for Strategic and International Studies on global food security issues.

- **Kaitlyn Huppmann** is working in the military/security area.

Legislative Interns Spring 2013

<u>Student</u>	<u>Internship assignment</u>
Mahmud Brifkani	House Health Committee
Sameera Durani	Rep. Joe Carr
Samantha Farish	Rep. Dawn White
Michael Maren	Senate Education Committee
Hannah McCann	Tennessee Board of Regents
Nissi Monsegue	Rep. Pat Marsh
Alex Nahimana	Rep. Charles Sargent
Ashley North	Rep. Mike Sparks
Leonard Rowan	House Calendar / Rules Committee
Nicole Shaffer	Sen. Jim Tracy
Davis Thompson	Sen. Bill Ketron
Arielle Woodmore	House Finance, Ways and Means Com



Washington Center Program Report from Joey Meyer

During my time with The Washington Center in the Fall 2012 semester, I interned with the Near East Center South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAS). NESAS is a part of the National Defense University that works on the development of regional relationships through Track II diplomacy. Diplomats and government officials from North Africa across the Middle East to South Asia are invited to NESAS each month to take part in conferences and seminars. During my internship, I assisted in the coordination of seminars concerning a broad range of topics, including whole of government operations and measures for counterterrorism. I had the opportunity to interact with dozens of foreign officials and diplomats from several countries, including Tunisia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and the United Arab Emirates. I was able to visit several embassies and consulates, and also attended meetings on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon. The Washington Center provided many professional development seminars, including speakers from USAID and the State Department. Perhaps the most important experience I will take away from the Washington Center is the development of a better understanding of how Washington, D.C. works. The Washington Center provides a truly unique window into the complicated world of D.C. business and politics.



Joey Meyer (right) and other Fall Interns at Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies National Defense University

Students Beyond the classroom

Current PS 4270 and 4290 Internships, Spring 2013

- Jacob Morphis**
-- Nashville Chamber of Commerce
- Timecia Terry**
--TN Board of Probation and Parole
- Broniesha Sims**
--Providence Community Corrections
- Tyler Jacobs**
-- Rep. Scott DesJarlais
- Chelsea Jones and Elizabeth Whittle**
-- Rep Scott DesJarlais
- Alexander Ford**
Judge Don Ash, Rutherford County
- Blake Taylor**
--Eric Stewart for Congress
- Brian Crawford**
-- The Journey Home (nonprofit outreach to homeless)
- Ryan Canady and Josh Nipper**
--CAPE -Challenged Athletes Playing Equally
- Kellean Travillion**
--Sen Rodney Ellis (TX legislative internship program)
- Drost Kokoye**
-- TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
- Garrett Crowell**
--Read to Succeed
- David Bonilla and Carly Roberto**
--SOCM Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment
- Trenton Deese**
-- Smyrna Town Council candidate

Internships: Build Your Resume!

Many employers say they cannot find experienced people to fill openings. Others claim that too many new graduates are without needed workplace skills. While you are working on your degree, why not help build your resume with an internship or two? Doing an internship will help you build your work history, gain real world work experience, and learn vital workplace skills. In addition, you can try out a career and see if it is something you may wish to do.



The Political Science Department offers several different internships to suit various needs and interests. All internships count as PS major and PS minor credit and give you upper division hours. We offer PS 4040 Pre-law Internship, 4270 Political Campaign Internship, and PS 4290 Public Service Internship. PS 4040 Pre-law Internship is for those who wish to work in a private attorney's office and see how that career operates. PS 4270 Political Campaign Internship is more widely focused and covers not just political campaigns for elected office, but also work for political parties and work for interest groups which are engaged in public policy creation or alteration, as well as work for non-profits. PS 4290 Public Service Internships work for a government. Any agency or department of the federal government, any state, or local government qualifies for this internship, which is a requirement of the Public Administration major.

In recent months we have had PS 4290 students interning with Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, Representative Bart Gordon and Marsha Blackburn, with city and town and county officials all over the state. We have had interns work for judges, the courts, the probation offices, public defenders, prosecutors, and juvenile justice. We have had students work for city sanitation roads, planning and zoning, human resources, and social services. We have had students work for state and federal homeland security, TSA, and TBI. We have had students work for departments of agriculture, education and finance. You name it, if it is an agency of any level of government—you can work there! And get credit!

During the election season, we have had PS 4270 students work for a wide variety of political campaign for those running for president and US Senator, to those running for US House and for state house and state senate as well as local races. Pretty much any serious campaign makes a good internship. In addition, PS 4270 interns have worked for interest groups and non-profits such as CASA, immigrant and refugee services, AIDS awareness and health services, child development centers, World Relief, World Vision, Catholic Charities, and the Islamic Center. Our interns have also worked for La Raza, Amnesty International, and Greenpeace, and the list goes on!

How many credits can you get? What does it cost?

You can get internships of 3, 6, 9 or 12 credits. For every 120 hours worked you earn 3 credits. Internship credits cost the same as any MTSU course. Remember, these credits count as upper division and also for Political Science major and minor. It is a good idea to talk with your advisor first to determine how many credits you might need and where they'd count on your particular upper division form.

Contact Prof. Langenbach at lisa.langenbach@mtsu.edu for more information on how to set up an internship and how to register.

Students Beyond the classroom

Report on The Minor in Political and Civic Engagement

by Patrick Morrison

When I learned that the department had created a new minor, I was automatically interested. As an International Relations major, I was looking for a second minor in addition to a foreign language. After looking into several programs, I chose the newly developed minor in Civic Engagement. This minor allowed me to tailor courses and internship experiences to my interests and long-term goals. Additionally, the course Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy broadened perspectives and provided knowledge on how to conduct field research, as well as, resources utilized in other areas of my education at MTSU. I had the opportunity to participate in two rewarding internships (one with the Tennessee Democratic Party and the other with CISV USA, formerly known as Children's International Summer Villages) that fit my overall educational focus. Overall, I am extremely pleased in my decision to pursue this minor, and I strongly encourage others to do so because this minor can easily be tailored to fit your drive to better your community.

Reporting on the Court in Joint Political Science/Journalism Project

Alexander Harris is participating in a special 12 credit hour project sponsored by the Seigenthaler Center that combines work in journalism with political science. As part of this project, students report on the activities of the courts. If you are interested in this project, see Dr. Willis.

Mr Harris has published a number of articles in the *The Tennessean*, including:

□ [Couple get prison for OxyContin sales](#)

Oct 5, 2012 | By **Alex Harris** | The Tennessean ... A husband and wife team was sentenced to federal prison Thursday for conspiracy to distribute OxyContin, which they had stolen from a pharmacy. Both pleaded guilty to the charges earlier ...

□ [Court sets hearing on contraception mandate](#)

Oct 3, 2012 | By **Alex Harris** | The Tennessean ... A hearing of the Catholic Diocese of Nashville's case against the federal government's contraception mandate in the Affordable Care Act has tentatively been set for...

□ [Man deported twice this year gets jail, another deportation](#)

Sep 29, 2012 | By **Alex Harris** | The Tennessean ... A Mexican man who had previously been deported from the U.S. three times was sentenced Friday to six months in federal prison and then deportation for illegally entering the ...

□ [Nashville-area inmate pleads guilty to sexual threats against daughter](#)

Sep 26, 2012 | By **Alex Harris** | The Tennessean ... A Nashville-area federal prison inmate serving time on drug-trafficking charges pleaded guilty Monday to charges of using interstate commerce to transmit violent sexual threats against his daughter while ...

Minor in Political and Civic Engagement

The minor in Political and Civic Engagement provides students with an active, experiential program focused on gaining practical knowledge in different areas. Beyond foundation courses, students devote most of their time to participation in simulation, internships, study abroad, and community-based projects. The Minor can also help students obtain EXL Designation.

For more information contact the Department of Political Science or Dr. John Maynor.

Requirements:

- PS 1005 American Government and Politics
- PS 3550 Democratic Participation & Civic Advocacy
- 12 credit hours from among the following courses with no more than 6 from skilled/ practicum courses:

Skills/practicum courses

- EXL 2030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1-3 cr)
 - EXL 3030 Civic Engagement Practicum (1-3cr)
 - PS 2100: Legal Courtroom Procedure (1 cr)
 - PS 2110: Moot Court (1 cr)
 - PS 2120: Mediation Procedure (1 cr)
 - PS 2130: Model United Nations (1 cr)
 - PS 2140: TISL (1 cr)
- (these courses may be repeated for credit)

Internships

- PS 4040: Pre-Law Internship (3cr)
 - PS 4270: Political Campaign Internship (1-6 cr)
 - PS 4280: The Washington Experience (12 cr)*
 - PS 4290: Public Service Internship (1-12 cr)*
 - PS 4360: Legislative Internship (12cr)*
- (*maximum of 6 hours can be counted to minor)

Study abroad

- PS 3780: Study Abroad (3-6 cr)

Research/practicum

- PS 4950: Community-Based Research (1-6 cr)



Advising Advice

Advising and Mentoring...

Though they may happen at the same time, academic advising and mentoring are different. Both are important. **Academic advising** focuses on **degree requirements**. While students are responsible for knowing what specific courses they need to take in order to graduate, your academic advisor can help you identify those requirements, check to make sure you are making progress toward that end, and verify that the courses you plan on taking are part of your program. The academic advisor can also help orient you as to when you should take certain classes because of prerequisites or schedules. **Mentoring** focuses more on your professional goals and advice on how best to pursue those goals. A mentor can help you think about career goals and ways to prepare. A mentor can help you think about ways to enhance your marketability or preparation. A mentor can help you think through graduate school opportunities and options.

Think outside the Box

What can you do to distinguish yourself from the many others here and across the country obtaining an undergraduate degree in political science or international relations?

- **Internship.** This provides practical knowledge and will help establish contacts. The former provides relevant experience (which may be more important than a part time job in an unrelated area); the latter is helpful in identifying job opportunities.
- **Public service work.** This too helps you gain experience working in the world while also showing a commitment and dedication to working with the community.
- **Study Abroad.** Whether taking classes or doing an internship abroad, foreign experience shows maturity, adaptability, and experience working in a different culture.
- **Unique minors.** While there may be many political science majors, few may pursue the minors you are pursuing. Sometimes a unique combination of skills can set you apart. You can use the minor to acquire a set of marketable skills.
- **Research Experience.** Many jobs require an ability to conduct basic research and effectively communicate the findings. Beyond the research done in regular classes, you can do independent research projects, including community-based research projects. Presenting your work at Scholars Week or a similar type of forum will help highlight your skills and confidence as a researcher.
- **Graduate or Professional School.** Further education can also help you distinguish yourself and indeed many professions may now require some graduate-level training.

Key points (decisions) in academic advising

- **B.A. vs B.S.** (Political Science only; IR majors can only do a B.S.)
> **what's the difference?** BS requires 2 minors; the BA requires 1 minor from a specific list, and 12 hours of a foreign language.
- **Which program?**
> Political Science with a: *General Focus, Pre-Law Concentration, Public Administration Concentration, OR Teaching Licensure ??*
OR
> *International Relations*
- **What will be your Minors?** (most minors require 18 credit hours)
– For the specific requirements for a particular minor look in the Catalog or on that department's web site.

Follow along...



Use the appropriate **UPPER DIVISION FORM** as a checksheet. You can check off the courses you have taken toward the degree and see which ones are left to take. (available on web site)

Utilize the **GENERATE DEGREE EVALUTION** function on Pipeline. The computer can check what you have taken against what is required.

!! And SEE YOUR ADVISOR !!

Exerts from the Department's Retention Plan

The Department of Political Science believes that improved retention and success centers largely on more effectively engaging students from the beginning of their college career.

New and innovative strategies to increase the retention and graduation rates:

A. Enhance communications

- Create a new Student Services Web Page (see page 1)
- Let students know what to take to follow up on their interests.

B. Get More Students to Talk to their Advisors and Improve Advising.

- Craft a faculty advisor "quick reference guide"
- Conduct a faculty advisor workshop within the Department each year to exchange ideas and best practices.

C. Get More Students Engaged in various activities.

- Advise students of the benefits of adopting the civic engagement minor as one of their minors, of the benefits of the EXL program, of the benefits of including internship, study abroad, public service, and research into their program.
- Seek to incorporate attendance at special events on campus as part of class assignments.
- Encourage faculty to incorporate active learning assignments into their courses.

D. Try and Build Community and Identity Among Majors.

- Revisit the idea of creating "major only" sections of PS 1005 and PS 1010.
- Try to have offer more events in Peck Hall to get students to interact.
- Try to secure more common space for students to congregate and meet.

E. Get more current and former students involved in helping other students.

- Develop a tutoring program.
- Connect current students with former students.

F. Improve teaching

- Explore means of offering special incentives for faculty to attend LT&ITC workshops on teaching.
- Explore means of offering special compensation for faculty incorporating active learning assignments into revisions of their courses.
- Create a forum for faculty to share best practices in the classroom

Student Research

Political Science and International Relations majors are strongly encouraged to engage in undergraduate student research, and to take advantage of the opportunities to secure funding in order to present their research. Faculty are available to work with students through independent research courses to help develop research skills and projects. Students might also consider presenting research done as part of an upper-division course.

The Department currently offers students **two independent research options for credit:**

- PS 4950: Community-Based Research Practicum (1-6 credit hours). In this class, students work with a community-based organization on a practical research project designed, in part, by the organization.
- PS 4970 Undergraduate Research (1-6 credit hours). Students pursue their own topics and fields of concentration under the supervision of a political science faculty member. Working with the faculty member, the student will design and conduct independent research, with the final paper presented at a conference or a public forum on campus.

Scholars Day

MTSU's annual celebration of research, scholarship, and other creative activity, in your plans for Spring 2013. Scholars Week is scheduled during April 1 – April 5. The week will culminate in a university-wide student poster and multimedia exposition on Friday, April 5, from 12:40 pm - 2:45 pm. The abstract deadline for the university event is February 26th and the link is now open at <http://mtsu.edu/research/scholarsWeek/index.php>

Other events include: Keynote Speaker: Dr. Amanda Foreman "A World on Fire"; Liberal Arts Talks and Performances; Basic and Applied Sciences hands-on demonstrations; Business posters.

Faculty Updates/News

Many faculty were recognized during the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society induction ceremony last November. Mahmud Brifkani recognized **Drs. Petersen** and **DiPaolo** as influential faculty. Lorel Holsinger also recognized **Dr. Petersen**. Tamara Mezera recognized **Drs. McDaniel, Willis,** and **DiPaolo**. Allison R. Crain recognized **Drs. Langenbach** and **Willis**.

In the fall, **Dr. DiPaolo** organized and conducted the first **Department LSAT Preparation and Practice Test Workshop**. The workshop took place on two Saturdays and helped dozens of students prepare for the December LSAT.

Dr. McDaniel turned his Honors series lecture from last spring into a book chapter for a book by Philip Phillips. The title is "Lilburne's Liberty in Chains: 'Free-Born John,' the Star Chamber, and the English Origins of American Liberty."

Dr. Franklin participated in the Empowerment Congress Leadership Institute in Los Angeles on January 14- 20. The event brought together academic, activists, and elected leaders from a number of cities across the country (see next page).

Dr. Korobkov participated in a roundtable on migration in Eurasia at the Woodrow Wilson Center in DC in September and a roundtable on Modern Migration at the annual Rhodes Forum in Greece in October; he presented papers at the Russian International Studies Association meeting in Moscow in September; and offered min-courses in August for the Temple University-



Korobkov in Siberia

Carnegie Foundation program in Kichkine, Crimea, Ukraine in August and at Irkutsk State University in December (pic below from Siberia taken at 40 below). Dr. Korobkov also received a Russian Ministry of Education and Science Research Grant for project on migration in Siberia at the Irkutsk State University for 2012-13.

Dr. Morris delivered a series of talks on citizen involvement in anti-corruption in Honduras in October under a State Department U.S. Speaker Grant titled: "Corruption versus Democracy." He also gave a talk on the return to power of the PRI party in Mexico at the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida in November.



Dr. Karen Petersen is part of a Faculty Learning community: a research project exploring student and faculty perceptions of online versus traditional learning environments. She is also engaged in two research projects: "The Despot's Dilemma: A Cross-National Examination of Judicial Independence in Non-democratic Regimes" (with Rodelio Manacsa) and "Conflict Behavior of Illiberal Democracies: Implications for the Middle East and North Africa."

Kent Syler, the Department's expert on political campaigns and elections, was all over the news during the 2012 election, providing analysis, insight and predications. Mr. Syler also moderated the Roundtable discussion "Advertising and the 2012 Presidential Campaign: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" in October sponsored by the Department in October.



Faculty News , continued...

Dr. Franklin Attends Empowerment Congress

Dr. Franklin was invited to join the "Music City Nashville Team" at the Empowerment Congress Leadership Institute. The Empowerment Congress is an innovative approach to civic engagement. It was started 21 years ago by then City Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas (standing third from left in the picture). Since 1992, Ridley-Thomas has served as State Assemblyman and State Senator, and now serves on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. He represents a diverse district of 2 million people, including South Los Angeles, and is the first Afri-



can-American male to be elected to the Board of Supervisor in the history of Los Angeles County. The Leadership Institute was established two years ago (and funded by the Kellogg Foundation) and specifically designed to teach local elected officials, community activists, and business leaders the instruments of participatory democracy. Delegations from eight cities were chosen to participate in the 2013 Institute: Oakland, CA; Denver, CO; Baltimore, MD; Newark, NJ; Atlanta, GA; Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; and Doña Ana, New Mexico. I was asked to join the Institute by Council Lady Erica Gilmore (standing third from right in the picture), the District 19 Council Member of the Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson Council Government because of my work with her on bringing a Bus Rapid Transit system to North Nashville.

Alumni Updates/News

Report from Aaron Carlton, Foreign Service Officer

(B.A. 2005, IR/Spanish Double Major)

– Basra Mohamed started in the fall at University of New Hampshire's School of Law

I finished my first assignment as a Political/Economic Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda in August 2012 where I worked primarily on human rights issues. I drafted the Department of State's annual reports on human rights, human trafficking, child labor, and religious freedom. My Ugandan colleagues and I were able to assist the Ugandan government in establishing their Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Office and Taskforce. This office now helps to coordinate efforts between the police, military, legislature, and judiciary to prevent cases of human trafficking in the country and region.

From September 2012-December 2012, I worked as a Reporting Officer and Adviser at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City. I helped our Mission to follow high level meetings and event during the UN General Assembly. I worked on the UN's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs Committee which passes many important human rights related resolutions. I also had the opportunity to negotiate resolutions on behalf of the U.S. government multilaterally with numerous countries. This was a great opportunity to see how multilateral diplomacy works at the highest levels.

I am currently training at the George P. Schultz Foreign Affairs Institute in Arlington, Virginia and preparing for my next assignment abroad. In May, I will begin working as a Consular Officer in Caracas, Venezuela where I will adjudicate visa applications to the U.S. and provide services to American citizens in Venezuela. It is also a two year assignment. I do not yet know where my third assignment will be.



Aaron (left) and colleagues with Ambassador Susan Rice at her Christmas reception for U.S. Mission employees.

COURSES for the SUMMER**MAYMESTER (S1)**

PS 3200 British Govt and Films (Vernardakis)
 PS 3770 Constitutional Law I (DiPaolo)
 PS 4850 Adv. Studies in Comparative: Eastern Europe
 (Korbkov)

June 10 –July 12 (S2)

PS 3530 Legal Writing & Research (Willis)
 PS 4070 Political Violence & Terrorism (Carleton)

July 15- Aug 16 (S3)

PS 3210 International Relations (Tesi)
 PS 3500 International Law (Korbkov)
 PS 4190 Middle East Politics (Tesi)
 PS 4700 American Pol. Thought (McDaniel)

June 10-Aug 16 (S4)

PS 3001 Research Methods (Morris)

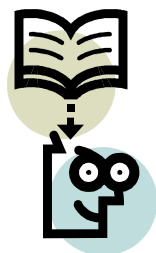
ONLINE

PS 2020 State and Local Govt (Carleton)
 PS 3060 US Congress (Livingston)
 PS 3350 Interest Groups and Social Change
 (Langenbach)
 PS 4230 Classical Political Theory (Maynor)
 PS 4240 American Foreign Policy (Livingston)
 PS 4800 Senior Seminar (Maynor)

STUDY ABROAD

PS 3780 Civil Resistance and Non-violent Movements in
 Panama and Central America (Franklin) (in Panama)
 PS 4850 Adv. Studies in Comparative: The Politics of
 Being Israel (Petersen) (in Israel)

Plus various sections of PS 1005 and 1010

**COURSES for the Fall**

PS 2140	Tenn State Legislature (TISL)	T	1800	Reed
PS 2440	Law and the Legal System	MW	1240	Willis
PS 2440	Law and the Legal System	M	1800	Miller
PS 2440	Law and the Legal System	TR	800	Willis
PS 3001	Research Methods in PS	TR	1120	Livingston
PS 3001	Research Methods in PS	TR	940	Livingston
PS 3010	Women and the Law	TR	1300	Robertson
PS 3050	The U.S. Presidency	TR	940	Franklin
PS 3100	Politics and Film	M	1440	Byrnes
PS 3200	British Govt & Films	W	1440	Vernardakis
PS 3210	International Relations	MW	1240	Lefler
PS 3210	International Relations	TR	1120	Lefler
PS 3220	Comparative Politics	MWF	910	New Staff
PS 3220	Comparative Politics	TR	800	Morris
PS 3250	Public Administration	TR	940	Vernardakis
PS 3250	Public Administration	TR	1300	Vernardakis
PS 3330	Political Parties	MWF	1130	Langenbach
PS 3330	Political Parties	online		Langenbach
PS 3340	Pol Campaign Management	TR	1620	Syler
PS 3370	Amn. Constitutional Law	TR	1440	DiPaolo
PS 3370	Amn. Constitutional Law	W	1440	DiPaolo
PS 3400	Municipal Government	TR	1620	Reed
PS 3490	Alternative Dispute Resolut	TR	1300	Willis
PS 3500	International Law	MW	1420	Lefler
PS 3530	Legal Writing / Research	W	1800	Huff
PS 3530	Legal Writing / Research	R	1800	Colston
PS 4040	Pre Law Internship			Willis
PS 4070	Pol Violence & Terrorism	MWF	910	Carleton
PS 4230	(H) Classical Pol. Theory	MW	1420	McDaniel
PS 4240	American Foreign Policy	MW	1240	Korbkov
PS 4240	American Foreign Policy	TR	1300	Korbkov
PS 4270	Pol Campaign Internship			Langenbach
PS 4280	The Washington Experience			Carleton
PS 4290	Public Service Internship			Langenbach
PS 4300	Comparative European Govt	TR	1440	Perez-Reilly
PS 4310	Comparative Asian Govt	MWF	1130	New Staff
PS 4630	Personnel Management	MW	1420	Wilde
PS 4690	Middle East Int. Relations	TR	940	Tesi
PS 4770	Russian Politics	TR	1120	Korbkov
PS 4800	Senior Seminar	MWF	1020	McDaniel
PS 4800	Senior Seminar	MW	1240	Maynor
PS 4820	Adv Studies Amn. Politics	W	1800	DiPaolo
PS 4820	Adv Studies Amn. Politics	T	1800	Syler
PS 4900	Latin American Politics	MWF	1020	Morris
PS 4930	Intro Contemp Pol. Phil	M	1630	Maynor
PS 4930	Intro Contemp Pol. Phil	MW	1420	Maynor

Master in International Affairs

PS 6100	Seminar in Int. Relations	TR	1620	Petersen
PS 6220	International Development	W	1630	Tesi
PS 6500	Research Methods in IA	M	1800	Livingston

Plus cross-listed 4000/5000 classes



Department of Political Science



Stay Informed and Stay Connected

Students who are the most successful—in their courses, graduating on time, finding jobs and developing careers in the field, getting into law school and graduate school, and just getting the most out of their college years—are those that stay informed about all of the opportunities and events they can take advantage of, and stay connected to the Department and other students.

Please use these resources to both stay informed and stay connected—and succeed.

MTSU Political Science Facebook Page

We use Facebook to notify our students of upcoming events and opportunities for PS and IR majors and minors.

Please “like” the page so you are always in the loop.



(search for MTSU political science)

Department of Political Science Web Page

This is a huge resource of information on majors, minors, program requirements, faculty contacts, the Student Handbook, Newsletters, and much more.

Please bookmark the site and check it often and whenever you have questions.

<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/>

PS / IR Student Services Page

This site provides easy access to info on advising, law school, grad school, careers and job search, study abroad, internships, and much more to help you succeed.

Please bookmark the site and really use it to get the most out of your time in the Department.

<http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-student-services>

Low-Tech, Physical Communication

Much of this information—program requirements, Student Handbook, Newsletters, upcoming events, and so on—are available on the racks and bulletin board outside the Departmental Office in Peck 209.

And always check your MTSU email

Middle Tennessee State University

Department of Political Science
Peck Hall 209
Box 29
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Phone: 615-898-2708
Fax: 615-898-5460
E-mail: sdmorris@mtsu.edu



<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/PoliticalScienceNewsletter, Spring 2013>

Newsletter produced by Dr. Morris with the assistance of Pam Davis. Send comments or suggestions (kind ones only) to : stephen.morris@mtsu.edu