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# Political Science

**CHAIR**

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*Associate Professor*  
*Public administration, policy analysis*

**PROFESSORS**

Carol Barner-Barry  
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Louis J. Cantori  
*Emeritus, Comparative politics, Middle East politics, Islamic politics*

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*Public administration, personnel management*

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*Public policy, educational policy, constitutional law*

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**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

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**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**

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*Public law, comparative law and courts, American politics*

Carolyn Forestiere  
*Comparative politics, European politics, research methods*

Brian K. Grodsky  
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*Emeritus, political philosophy, comparative politics, India*

dents take more specialized courses and can, if they wish, concentrate in particular areas of the discipline.

Many specific options are available to students within the study of political science at UMBC. First, in addition to its major, the political science department has other professionally oriented undergraduate programs, open to majors and non-majors. These programs, each coordinated by a faculty member, offer a significant array of career-oriented curriculum options to UMBC students. Second, the political science department runs three internship programs (administrative, legal and legislative), each of which places up to 16 students a year into close professional working relationships with public officials and provides valuable practical experience, job contacts, as well as the opportunity for self-discovery. Third, students with special interests not adequately served by the regular course offerings may do independent study under the supervision of a faculty member. Fourth, qualified students may enroll in the departmental honors program. Finally, qualified undergraduates can take graduate-level courses offered as part of the Department of Public Policy.

## Career and Academic Paths

Typical career options for political science graduates include: government service and diplomacy; politics; law; teaching; journalism; business; and work as lobbyists, public affairs officers and directors of non-profit institutions, interest groups and international organizations. UMBC political science students have gone on to such outstanding law and graduate schools as Yale, the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, as well as all Baltimore and Washington metropolitan-area schools. They have become judges and major partners in law firms, executive officers of major corporations, and some have held prominent administrative positions in the government. Some

have become foreign-service officers or have achieved cabinet-level positions in state and local governments. Some have become tenured faculty members and administrators at colleges and universities. A large percentage of political science majors go on to take advanced degrees, many in law.

## The Faculty

The political science faculty is committed to teaching as well as to research. Faculty members give papers at scholarly conferences throughout the nation, write books and publish articles in the best journals in the profession. But at the same time, faculty members are dedicated teachers. They teach all the courses within the department, from the introductory to the most advanced. They are evaluated and rewarded as much by the quality of their teaching as the quality of their scholarship.

## Academic Advising

The political science and Prelaw advising office, in the Public Policy Building room 357, offers a dedicated staff; access to graduate, law and professional school catalogs; and information about internships available through the political science department and other institutions. Interested students should stop by the office or call 410-455-2063 for further assistance.

## Major Program

To graduate with a major in political science, a student must complete a minimum of 36 credits in political science with a grade of "C" or better. At the lower level (100- and 200-level courses), students must complete a minimum of five three-credit courses.

All students must complete the following two lower-level courses:

POLI 100  
American Government and Politics [3]

POLI 210  
Political Philosophy [3]

*Courses in this program are listed under POLI.*

What is a political problem? Who governs, and what is the nature of power? How can justice be achieved in human society? When is a government legitimate, and what are its proper tasks? Such questions have fascinated men and women for centuries. Political science is the systematic attempt to answer them.

Political science is a liberal arts major that helps students to think more critically and coherently about political matters, to understand better what is going on in the world, to make reasoned value choices about contemporary political issues and to overcome per-

sonal alienation from political life. In addition, a political science major prepares students for a variety of careers. The major in political science is a directed liberal arts program that is at once challenging, yet responsive to the individual student's intellectual and career interests. Its required components cover both long-standing philosophical questions and contemporary social scientific knowledge about political life. Students are exposed to the breadth of the discipline through lower-level survey courses taught by experts in the various sub-fields that define political science. At the upper-level, stu-

Students are required to take three additional courses at the 200 level. Students may choose among the following:

POLI 200  
Introduction to  
Political Science [3]

POLI 220  
The U.S. Constitution [3]

POLI 230  
Introduction to  
Constitutional Law [3]

POLI 233  
Common Law and  
Legal Analysis [3]

POLI 240  
State and Local Politics [3]

POLI 250  
Public Administration [3]

POLI 260  
Comparative Politics [3]

POLI 280  
International Relations [3]

At the upper level (300- and 400-level courses), students are required to take a minimum of 21 credits. All students are required to take one of the following three courses:

POLI 300  
Quantitative Analysis  
in Political Science [4]

POLI 301  
Research Methods  
in Political Science [3]

POLI 302  
Analysis of Political Data [3]

Students are required to take six additional, three-credit, upper-level courses, with at least two of these six courses being 400-level courses.

In addition to setting the preceding formal requirements, the political science faculty makes the following recommendations to its majors:

1. Majors are strongly urged to take one or more courses in English composition beyond ENGL 100.

2. Majors are urged to take additional courses in mathematics, computer science, principles of economics, American history, philosophy and other social sciences.

3. Majors planning to enter graduate or professional study are especially urged to take STAT 121 or a more advanced statistics course.

### Honors Program

An honors program is available for qualified majors. This program is especially recommended for students intending to go on to graduate or professional school or for those who wish to demonstrate specific skills and experience. Students interested in completing the honors program must have a 3.25 GPA overall and a 3.5 GPA in political science courses. Honors candidates also must write an honors thesis under the supervision of two faculty advisors. A complete description of the honors program and its requirements is available from the department office or honors advisor.

### Five-Year B.A. and Master's in Public Policy Program

The political science department and the public policy department cooperate in offering qualified students a joint program leading to both a B.A. in Political Science and a master's degree in Public Policy. Students in the joint program can earn the two degrees in 150 credits and five years; if pursued separately, they would require 156 credits and probably six years.

Students with a GPA of at least 3.2 can be provisionally admitted into the program after completing 75 credits. During their senior year, admitted students can take graduate-level political science and public policy courses. Full admission into the graduate program will take place after the B.A. has been granted, provided satisfactory grades and GRE scores have been attained.

Graduate-level POLI courses can count toward the 36 POLI credits required for the B.A. The graduate methods sequence can be used to satisfy the undergraduate methodology requirement; alternatively, POLI 400 can substitute for one graduate methods course.

A complete description of the M.P.P. program may be found in the Graduate Catalog. Further information on the joint program is available from the Department of Public Policy.

### Minor Programs

**Note:** No grade lower than a "C" in any course may count toward any minor.

#### Political Science Minor

Political science is an important component of a liberal arts education. An understanding of government and politics is essential to be an engaged citizen and an effective contributor to one's community. The political science minor is designed to permit students to pursue a specialization within political science not covered by the department's other minor programs or to gain a broad understanding of political science concepts and theories. The minor is available only to those who are not majoring in political science.

#### A. Required Courses

POLI 100  
American Government  
and Politics

POLI 210  
Political Philosophy

#### B. Elective Courses (minimum of 12 credits)

Four POLI courses, one of which must be at the 400-level

#### International Affairs

*Total credits for minor:*  
21, plus a language

This minor is designed for students in any major who want to concentrate in the study of international affairs. Students are required to acquire a sig-

nificant language capability and an in-depth knowledge of one region of the world or of a policy area. Each student will be assigned a faculty minor advisor. The concentration provides a good foundation for further graduate study and careers in international affairs (e.g., international business, intelligence analysis, U.S. State Department, international development, international organizations, international private voluntary organizations, etc.).

#### A. Required Courses (12 credits)

POLI 260  
Comparative Politics

POLI 280  
International Relations

POLI 360  
Comparative Political  
Analysis

POLI 487  
International Political  
Economy

#### B. Language Requirements

Courses or proficiency through the 302 level in one language other than the student's native language.

#### C. Electives (9 credits)

To be chosen in terms of a particular regional interest of the student (e.g., Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, Middle East) or a policy area, such as the environment, public health, international economics or national security/foreign policy. For students pursuing a regional specialization, their elective credits should include a course on the politics of the region, unless this requirement is waived by the student's advisor.

Three elective credits may be in an independent study course, the topic and content to be worked out with an advisor.

Students also are encouraged to take an administrative internship in an international-related agency.

**Minor in Political Thought***Total credits: 18*

The political thought minor allows students to acquire expertise on philosophical issues and themes that may have important implications for their major course of study. Those who undertake the program in political thought will complete a survey of the history of political philosophy and engage in a careful examination of various thinkers on a common theme. A course of independent study is required in which students combine topics from their majors with those of political philosophy. The intention of the minor program is to give students the ability to apply political-philosophical theories to topics in their major course of study and to prepare them for ethical debate in their area of expertise.

The political thought minor is open to political science majors who elect to complete the major through either the dual-concentration option or the single-concentration option in areas other than political philosophy.

**A. Required Courses****Core (9 credits)**

POLI 210  
Political Philosophy

POLI 310  
Political Philosophy  
Before 1600

POLI 315  
Political Philosophy  
After 1600

Individual Study (3 credits)  
POLI 401 or POLI 402

**Individual Study**

Students will fulfill this requirement by writing a research paper that bridges their major course of study and one of the themes explored in the political thought minor. Students will submit a proposal for the paper during the semester prior to taking POLI 401 or 402.

**B. Elective Courses**

Six credits. Two courses from the following list:

POLI 319\*  
Selected Topics  
in Political Philosophy

POLI 320  
American Political Thought

POLI 410\*  
Seminar  
in Political Philosophy

POLI 412  
Ethics and Public Policy

POLI 419\*  
Selected Topics  
in Political Theory

PHIL 150  
Introduction to Ethics

PHIL 355  
Political Philosophy

PHIL 356  
Philosophy of Law

Other courses may be used with permission of the director of the program.

\*May be repeated

**Minor Program in Applied Politics***Total credits: 23*

The program in applied politics is designed for students in any major who are interested in careers in government and politics that do not fall within the traditional rubric of public administration. In particular, the program will provide a strong foundation for students interested in careers as legislative aides, lobbyists, party and campaign professionals, political affairs specialists and analysts for such agencies as the Congressional Research Service. The program also provides a solid background for graduate study in American politics.

**A. Required Courses**

POLI 100  
American Government  
and Politics [3]

POLI 300  
Quantitative Analysis  
in Political Science [4]

POLI 428  
Politics Internship [4]

**B. Elective Courses**

Additional courses from the following to total 23 credits:

POLI 323  
The Presidency

POLI 324  
The Congress

POLI 325  
Political Parties  
and Elections

POLI 327  
Interest Groups  
and Lobbyists

POLI 401  
Independent Study  
(as approved by advisor)

POLI 402  
Honors Research (as  
approved by advisor)

POLI 423  
Presidential Elections

POLI 425  
Campaigns and Elections

POLI 426  
Electoral Systems  
and Representation

POLI 427  
African American Politics

POLI 440  
Urban Politics

POLI 610\*  
American Political  
Institutions and Public Policy

POLI 615\*  
American Political Arena

POLI 620\*  
Community and Politics

\*Graduate courses open to qualified undergraduates under conditions specified in Academic Regulations

**Minor Program in Legal Policy***Total credits for minor: 21*

The program in legal policy is offered to students who wish to gain an understanding of law as an adjunct to their primary interests. Many fields, ranging from engineering to the arts, require an understanding of law and legal issues is necessary to understand contemporary social issues and to be an effective advocate in the policy debates related to these issues. The legal policy minor will provide especially useful experiences and credentials for students in all majors who plan to attend law school. Core courses in the minor introduce students to the fundamentals of the study of American law, while the elective courses permit specialization appropriate to a student's intellectual interests or professional goals.

**A. Required Courses**

Twelve credits. Each student must complete:

POLI 230  
Introduction to  
Constitutional Law

POLI 233  
Common Law and  
Legal Analysis

Each student also must complete two of the following four courses:

POLI 337  
Comparative Justice

POLI 432  
Civil Rights

POLI 433  
First Amendment Freedoms

POLI 435  
Legal Reasoning

**B. Elective Courses:**

Nine credits (at least three courses). POLI courses not taken as a core requirement may be taken as electives. Additional elective options:

ECAD 360  
Business Law

AFST 275  
Criminal Justice Process  
and Black Americans

AFST 371  
The Female Offender

HIST 447  
History of Civil Rights  
Since the Civil War

PHIL 356  
Philosophy of Law

SOCY 371  
Criminology and Penology

SOCY 372  
Juvenile Delinquency

POLI 334  
Judicial Process

POLI 338  
Women and Law

POLI 339  
Legal Advocacy  
(no more than 3 credits)

POLI 352  
Administrative Law

POLI 436  
Health Law

POLI 438  
Legal Internship  
(**Highly recommended**)

POLI 439  
Selected Topics  
in Public Law

POLI 445  
Law, Politics and  
American Educational Policy

**Minor in Public  
Administration/Certificate  
in Public Administration  
and Policy**

*Total credits for minor: 18  
Total credits for certificate: 36*

Students interested in pursuing a career in public administration or other government service should consider completing the requirements for the minor in public administration or, if qualified, the Certificate in Public Administration and Policy, in addition to completing the requirements for their chosen major.

See the section on Administrative and Managerial Sciences for a full description of the requirements for the certificate. The requirements for the minor are as follows:

**Required Courses**

POLI 250  
Introduction to  
Public Administration

POLI 350  
The Policy-making Process

POLI 352  
Administrative Law

POLI 353  
Government Budgeting  
and Financial Administration

POLI 354  
Public Management  
and Personnel Systems

**ANY** course in the  
POLI 440-459 range

Non-political science majors may substitute for POLI 350 a policy-related course from their majors, subject to approval of the minor coordinator.

**Legal Studies**

*Prelaw Advisors:*

- ▶ Carol Barner-Barry
- ▶ Jeffrey Davis
- ▶ George R. LaNoue

The political science department offers a strong preparation for students interested in law school or employment in law-related areas that do not require law school (e.g., regulatory agencies, judicial administration, etc.).

Courses on legal subjects also may be useful to political science students who have other goals and to students in history, economics, American studies, Africana studies and other majors. Several levels of courses exist. For students interested only in introductory course overviews in the legal area, the department offers POLI 230: Introduction to Constitutional Law and POLI 233: Common Law and Legal Analysis. For Prelaw students, or those who wish to build a solid background in law for graduate school or employment, the department offers the legal policy minor, as well as focused work in basic legal areas: POLI 334: Judicial Process, POLI 432: Civil Rights, POLI 433: First Amendment Freedoms.

In addition, specialized courses (POLI 352, 435, 439, 445 and, with permission, POLI 438, 621 and 626) provide students with rich opportunities to develop legal skills and knowledge.

The department maintains a Prelaw advising office in the Public Policy Building (PUP) 357, the resources of which are available to all UMBC students and through which appointments with Prelaw faculty advisors may be scheduled.

**Special Opportunities**

The department's internship programs in law, public administration and politics allow students to gain practical experience within an academic framework and to test their career aspirations.

The legal internship program, POLI 438, places selected interns with trial and appellate judges and with private and government attorneys.

The administrative internship program, POLI 458, places selected interns with public officials at the local, state and federal levels.

The politics/legislative internship program, POLI 428, places selected interns with state legislators, members of Congress, political parties and interest groups.

In addition to their work with these officials, interns participate in a program of directed reading, research and seminars. Some students have used contacts made during these internships to find permanent positions after graduation.

**Student Organizations**

**Council of Majors;  
Prelaw Society;  
National Honors Society**

The political science department has a council of majors; a Prelaw society; and a national honors society, Pi Sigma Alpha. Among other activities, these organizations sponsor forums with graduate and law school admissions officers and have social events for students and faculty.

**UMBC Model United Nations**

UMBC also sponsors a Model United Nations program whose members attend national conferences. Recently, the UMBC Model United Nations group joined Berkeley, Georgetown, West Point and Chicago in earning "Outstanding Delegation" honors at a Model U.N. conference.

**Political Science  
Department Home page**

Students and others are encouraged to visit the department's Home page to learn more about political science faculty members and selected courses and to connect with a large number of politically relevant links to government and political data and career information. The department's home page may be reached from UMBC's home page, [www.umbc.edu](http://www.umbc.edu).