

PSC Newsletter

Fall 2009

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD'S DESK

This year is already shaping up to be an exciting one, both in the Department of Political Science and in the wider world of politics. This newsletter allows us to stay in touch with both majors and non-majors and inform interested students of deadlines and events in the department. Please take the time to read it, and contact faculty or staff in the department if you need more information on some topic.

I strongly encourage all of our majors to take advantage of the many opportunities to get involved and learn outside your regular classes. Have a successful and rewarding semester.

Ruth H. DeHoog
Department Head

DATES TO REMEMBER

FallFest—September 25

Fall Break—October 9-13

Spring Semester Advising—October 22-November 20

*Spring 2010 Registration—November 2-22
for Continuing Students*

Last Day of Class—December 7

Reading Day—December 8

Final Exams—December 9-16

December Commencement—December 17



Spring Semester Registration

Advising for spring semester begins October 22. Political Science majors should plan to meet with your faculty advisor and discuss your plans, even if you are fairly sure what you want to take next semester. Your advisor will also have your advising code. Check out descriptions of the political science courses for next semester on the wall outside the departmental office and on our bulletin board. If you have any questions about a course, please contact the instructor for more information.

NOTE: *You should keep up with your graduation requirements for GEC, and print out your audit before seeing your advisor. For your degree audit, go to:*

<http://web.uncg.edu/adv/degreeaudits>

Political Science majors who have not completed PSC 100, the 200-level political science core courses (240 and 260) and PSC 301 should complete these core courses early in your major, rather than after you have taken several 300-level courses. PSC 100 (American Politics) should be taken during your first year and the 200-level courses should be completed by the end of your sophomore year.

We are offering 16 different 300-level courses next semester, apart from PSC 301. Four of them are writing intensive, which should make it fairly easy for most students to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences WI requirement. Three are Speaking Intensive (SI) courses, PSC 302 (Applied Policy Evaluation), PSC 352 (Nationalism and Ethnic Politics), and PSC 399 (Public Affairs Internship).

New Course

Chancellor Linda Brady will teach PSC 300—Seminar in International Negotiation, on Wednesday, 9:00-11:50 a.m.

Political Science Handbook

The Department handbook for majors (and anyone else who is interested) is available on the wall outside the Department office. Pick one up. Also, Stop by and pick up a copy of *Careers and the Study of Political Science*, sixth ed., American Political Science Association.

Internships

PSC 399, our internship course, will be offered this spring. Students who enroll in PSC 399 will be expected to secure an acceptable internship in local government or a non-profit agency prior to the beginning of classes in the spring. Faculty in the department will provide information and assist students in finding an internship opportunity, but it will be the responsibility of the student to make the Internship arrangements. For those who view public service as a potential career option, an internship should be a valuable experience. It may help you decide on a career, obtain a relevant work recommendation, and increase your marketability after graduation. You must see Professor Takashi Tsukamoto, 234 Graham, for more information before registering for this course.

Students interested in an internship in the nation's capital should consider the Washington Center's programs, or the Washington Internship Institute (WII). They have internship opportunities for fall, spring, or summer semesters. Most of their internships are not paid, but they are worthwhile experiences. You may be able to earn 9-12 hours of credit while being an intern. See Professor Charles Prysby for more information, or check with Career Planning and Placement, which has the program information and applications.

Model United Nations Club

Model UN is offered as a one-credit course each fall. The course focuses on preparation for the Southern Regional Model UN in Atlanta in November. Participants play the role of diplomats from their assigned countries and debate important international issues in simulations of UN committees and affiliated agencies. For the fall 2009 semester UNCG is representing Burkina Faso, Jordan, Uruguay, and Finland. Interested students should sign up for PSC 250 in the fall. For more information, contact *Professor Griffiths*.

PAC (The Political Awareness Club)

The Political Awareness Club (PAC) has begun meeting to plan fall semester events. PAC is a nonpartisan student group; its mission is to encourage lively debate and discussion concerning the important political issues of the day.

Be on the lookout for information regarding upcoming PAC events including Pizza & Politics and Roundtable discussions. For more information about PAC, speak to one of our officers: Nicole Gonshorowski and Jenaye Reyes, co-presidents; Stephanie Northcott, vice president; Shanna Cassetta, secretary; Brittany White, treasurer; and Letitia Jones, PR officer. If you would like to be added to PAC's email distribution list, contact Professor David Holian, PAC's faculty advisor.

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society

The department has an active chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, one of the oldest academic honor societies in America. Seniors and juniors are eligible for full membership if they have the required GPA and have completed 15 hours in political science at UNCG. Students at all levels, except freshmen, are eligible for associate membership if they have the required GPA but have not yet met the hours requirement for full membership. The GPA requirements are currently under review, but will be determined by the beginning of the fall membership drive. If you are eligible or want more information, please contact Mr. Jeff Colbert or Professor Charles Prysby, the Pi Sigma Alpha faculty advisors. *The fall membership drive will be from September 17-October 9.*

Legal Professions Club

The purpose of the Legal Professions Association is to promote academic ideals for students wishing to pursue careers in law related professions throughout the semester. The Association invites speakers such as judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials to talk about their careers. It also provides valuable resources to those seeking assistance in taking the LSAT and admission to law school. For more information on the LPA, contact Dr. Kimberlianne Podlas in Broadcasting and Cinema Department, 334-5360, or Professor Susan Johnson in the Political Science Department, 256-0512.

NCPSA Paper Competition

The wonderful research paper that you are writing for one of your political science classes this semester could have a bigger payoff than you thought. It can be entered in the North Carolina Political Science Association's undergraduate student paper competition. Any paper written by an undergraduate student for a political science course during 2009 (fall or spring semester) is eligible. Three prizes are awarded, each with a cash award. Papers are submitted by the department, so talk to your professor if you believe that you have a winning entry.

Are You Thinking About Graduate School?

Are you graduating soon and are not quite sure what you want to do with your degree? Maybe UNCG's Masters of Public Affairs program is the answer for you. The MPA program offers an exciting professional degree opportunity for students considering careers in public service in nonprofit organizations or government agencies. This 43-hour program has been designed to provide students with relevant educational experiences to prepare them for a variety of challenging careers within the public and private sectors. These positions can range from management to policy evaluation to program analysis.

Recent UNCG MPA graduates have secured these positions upon graduation:

- Program Assistant, Housing and Community Development, City of Greensboro
- Housing Counselor, Greensboro Housing Coalition
- Ph.D. Student, Public Administration, North Carolina State University
- Housing Data Specialist, Greensboro Housing Authority
- Budget Analyst, City of Alexandria, VA
- Staff Assistant, Robertson Scholars Program, Duke University/UNC-Chapel Hill
- Deputy City Clerk, City of Charlotte, NC
- Community Development Coordinator, City of Lexington, NC
- Operational Supervisor, Smart Choice Program, Greensboro Housing Authority
- Director of Training, Welfare Reform Liaison Project, Greensboro, NC
- Planning Director, Yadkin County, NC
- Executive Director, Advocacy for the Poor, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC
- Stormwater Outreach and Education Coordinator, Piedmont Triad Council of Governments
- Community Resource Coordinator, NC Rural Communities Assistance Project, Inc., Pittsboro, NC

While the degree allows students a great deal of flexibility in choosing electives, the MPA program currently offers three concentrations for those who wish to specialize—*the nonprofit management concentration, community and economic development, and local government management.*

If you are not quite ready to commit to a full degree program, the MPA program also offers a 15-hour certificate program in *Nonprofit Management*. This program is designed to give students a general overview of the nonprofit sector while developing specific skills and program knowledge necessary to meet a variety of nonprofit agency needs.

The MPA program also offers an 18-hour certificate program jointly with the Department of Geography in *Urban and Economic Development*. This program is designed to provide a general overview of urban planning and development. Students completing this certificate will be prepared to deal with a variety of urban and community development issues.

If any of these options sounds like this may be the match for you, contact Dr. Kenneth Klase, the graduate director, at 256-0510 to schedule an appointment. We wish you luck in your future endeavors and hope that you will choose UNCG for your graduate education.

Career Services Center

If you are interested in a job after graduation, check with Career Services well in advance of Commencement. Their staff can assist you with your resume and interviews, as well as help you in your job search. One upcoming event is their semi-annual **Networking Event**, which will teach you how to network AND will bring you together with alumni professionals from the work world from a range of industries. They will share their do's and don'ts and help lead you to the contacts that you need to get the job you want. The Career Services Center has two important events coming up towards the end of September:

Mock Interviews

Elliott University Center
September 22-24
8:00 -5:00 p.m.

Career Fair

Cone Ballroom
September 30
12:30 -4:00 p.m.

Student Research Assistants

We have students who are working as a research assistant for faculty:

Cianne Wallin is working for the Center for Legislative Studies on the Fall 2009 lecture series.

FallFest 2009—September 25

A new and exciting event has been planned for PSC majors during FallFest. On the Friday evening of FallFest (September 25), a networking event will be hosted for juniors and senior political science majors. We have invited UNCG PSC alumni, literally from around the nation, to come and meet with our current upper-class majors. We have confirmed alumni coming from as far away as Washington, DC, Nashville, TN, and from all over North Carolina. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. on

the patio behind 2nd floor Graham Building with refreshments and informal conversation. From 7:00-8:00 p.m., a more formal networking activity will occur, where current students will have an opportunity to interact with our alumni. Then, from 8:00-8:30 p.m., more informal interaction (and more food!) will take place. You **MUST** register to attend this event and professional attire is **REQUIRED**. Contact Jeff Colbert (256-0522/mjcolber@uncg.edu) for more information or to register.

Political Science On-Line

Join the Political Science listserve! The Political Science email distribution list lets students know about fun and exciting (and informative) events on campus and internship opportunities in the area. If you don't receive messages from the department and would like to, contact Professor David Holian, Graham 229, or email him at dbholian@uncg.edu. Check out the department's web page at <http://www.uncg.edu/psc>. Look at the "Internships and Careers" section for links to employment and internship opportunities in government at the state, local, and federal level.

Letters of Recommendations

Faculty members are happy to write recommendations for their best students. You should ask a faculty member who knows you well and will be able to provide a letter with some detail about your abilities and accomplishments. Whenever possible, please give the faculty member a copy of your Statement of Purpose (or whatever explains your goals) and plenty of time to prepare the letter before the deadline. Please understand that a well-written letter of recommendation takes time.

Inquiries and Information

Ruth H. DeHoog
rhdehoag@uncg.edu

If you need an answer to a general question about the department, our administrative secretary, Maggie Davis, generally has the answer, or at least knows where you should go to get the answer.

Your faculty advisor is another good person to talk to, especially about your course of study here, your career plans when you leave, and other matters that relate to your college education. The professors in the courses you are taking also can help you, but only if you take the time to talk to them.

If you have any concerns about the department, please stop by and see me. If I am not available at the time, an appointment can be scheduled.

CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

Fall 2009 Lecture Series

Theme:

"Obama in the Oval Office: Successes, Failures, and Open Questions"

"Obama and Congress"

Andrew Taylor

NC State University

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

"Obama and the Media"

David Holian

UNC Greensboro

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

"Obama and the Courts"

Katy Harriger

Wake Forest University

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18

Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium

A light reception will follow each presentation

For more information please call
334-5989

Co-sponsors:

Department of Political Science
Political Awareness Club