



IUP Graduate Handbook

Master in Public Affairs

Department of Political Science

Handbook Updated 2020-21

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Faculty and Staff

Political Science Faculty

DAVID D. CHAMBERS - Ph.D., University of Illinois (Political Science), 1990. Joined IUP Political Science Department in 1988. Teaching and research areas and interests include American Public Policy, Public Administration, The Presidency, Intergovernmental Relations and Research Methods.

TERILYN JOHNSTON HUNTINGTON — Ph.D., University of Kansas (Political Science), 2016. Joined the department in 2019. Teaching and research interests include international relations theory, international security, technology and warfare, and ethics.

STEVEN F. JACKSON - Ph.D., University of Michigan (Comparative Politics and World Politics), 1994. Joined IUP Political Science Department in 1994. Teaching and research areas and interests include Comparative Government, International Relations, and Asia / Pacific Rim Politics.

ALEEA I. PERRY - Ph.D., University of Illinois Chicago (Public Administration), 2016. Joined the department in 2016. Teaching and research interests include public administration, state and local government, metropolitan problems and public sector financial management.

RACHEL STERNFELD - Ph.D., University of Texas (Government), 2014. Joined the department in 2014. Teaching and research areas include middle east politics, international law and organizations, terrorism and comparative government.

GWENDOLYN TORGES - Ph.D., University of Arizona (Political Science), 2004. Joined IUP Political Science Department in 1998. Teaching and research areas and interests include Constitutional Law, Judicial Process, American Government, Federal Indian Law and International studies. Dr. Torges is the University's Pre-Law director and is the co-advisor to the Political Science Student Leadership Committee.

SARAH WHEELER - Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh (Public Affairs and International Affairs), 2001. Began teaching at IUP in the Political Science Department in 2001. Teaching and research areas and interests include Latin American Politics, International Development Strategies and Women in Politics. Dr. Wheeler is the department's Graduate Coordinator and Internship Director.

Admission

You must apply for admission via IUP's online admissions process for graduate programs. If you have questions please contact either the graduate admissions office or Dr. Sarah Wheeler at wheeler@iup.edu

Graduate Admissions www.iup.edu/admissions/graduate/

For more information regarding Admission Classification and Provisional Admission for International Graduate Application, view the Graduate Catalog www.iup.edu/gradcatalog

Financial Assistance

Graduate Assistantships

- www.iup.edu/admissions/graduate/financialaid/assistantships-and-scholarships/
- Office of Financial Aid www.iup.edu/financialaid/

Academic Advisement

Dr. Sarah Wheeler, the MAPA graduate coordinator will be your academic advisor. Please see her before registering for classes every semester. She will ad

Student Registration www.iup.edu/registrar/students/registration

IUP Email

- E. Criminal Justice Administration 15 credits
- Field Core 9 credits
- CRIM 600 Criminological Theory
 - CRIM 610 Legal Issues in Criminology
 - CRIM 632 Organizational Dynamics within the Criminal Justice System
- Electives 6 credits
- CRIM 601 Proseminar
 - CRIM 765 Criminal Justice Planning and Evaluation
 - CRIM 770 Seminar in Contemporary Corrections

- F. International Development Administration 15 credits
- Field Core 6 credits
- PLSC 522 International Law and Organizations
 - PLSC 589 International Development Strategies
- Electives 9 credits
- (at least 3 credits must be at 600 level)
- PLSC 587 Political Studies: Latin America
 - or PLSC 582 Political Studies: Africa
 - or PLSC 583 Political Studies: Asia
 - or PLSC 584 Political Studies: Middle East
 - PLSC 675 International Political Economy
 - ECON 545 International Trade
 - ECON 546 International Payments
 - GEOG 531 Population Geography
 - GEOG 623 Regional Development
 - ELR 621 Labor Relations in the Public Sector
 - SOC 710 Sociology of Human Services
 - SOC 711 Human Services Administration

IV. Directed Research Requirement 3 credits

Students must complete one of the following:

- A. PLSC 795 Thesis
- B. PLSC 699 Independent Study

For non-traditional students and minor professionals, the focus of the independent study will be to create and conduct field research. Only allowed for students who are already employed in a relevant field.

C. PLSC 698 Internship

Practical experience in government and politics. Students individually seek out a cooperating local or state government agency, political party, interest group, or a federal or international agency where arrangements can be made for an internship experience. Students report periodically to the professor in charge, undertake reading assignments and write such reports and papers as the professor may require. Prerequisite: Must have approval of instructor and department chairperson.

Course Descriptions

PLSC 500 Research Methods in Political Science 3 cr.

Provides students with a working knowledge of statistical techniques commonly applied to the study of political phenomena and an understanding of the basic assumptions, limitations, and theoretical foundations of these various techniques. Focuses on measurement principles, research design and data collection, univariate distributions, sampling, and bivariate analysis.

PLSC 504 Women and Politics 3 cr.

Focuses on the role of women in political life, and policies that especially affect women in both developing and developed countries.

PLSC 522 International Law and Organizations 3 cr.

A survey of the main concepts and history of international law and an analysis of the major international organizations such as United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization of American States. Knowledge of how such organizations operate is essential to understanding international relations.

PLSC 550 The Presidency 3 cr.

Examines the office of President with attention to Constitutional foundations, evolution, structure, powers, and functions. Comparisons are made between presidential and parliamentary systems and between offices of President and governor.

PLSC 551 The Legislative Process 3 cr.

Legislative process in the U.S. with emphasis on Congress. Focus on organization and function of legislative bodies, with American legislative institutions compared with those of other nations.

PLSC 554 Metropolitan Problems 3 cr.

Analyzes multiplicity of problems facing our metropolitan areas, such as urban renewal, shrinking tax base, federal aid to cities, subsidized mass transit, municipal authorities, and political consolidation.

PLSC 555 Intergovernmental Relations 3 cr.

Explores the characteristics of federal systems of government with emphasis on theories, origins, institutions, and problems in intergovernmental relations in the U.S.; federal systems in other nations; and trends.

PLSC 558 Judicial Process 3 cr.

Explores nature and limits of judicial power, courts as policymaking bodies, selection of judges, decision

process, external forces impinging on the conduct of Supreme Court in its relationship with Congress, the Presidency, and federalism.

PLSC 559 Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties 3 cr.

Study of civil liberties and civil rights issues through leading Supreme Court decisions. Topics include First Amendment rights, procedural due process, the Bill of Rights and equal protection problems.

PLSC 560 Classical Political Thought 3 cr.

Evolution of Western political tradition of Constitutionalism from Plato and Aristotle to Locke and Montesquieu; religious and rational foundations; medieval theories of authority and representation; early modern theories of state and sovereignty. Concepts of natural rights, liberty, equality, and justice are treated in detail.

PLSC 561 Modern Political Thought 3 cr.

Development of Western political thought since the mid-sixteenth century; classic liberalism; conservative thought; modern irrational ideologies such as fascism and national socialism; socialist thought; contemporary collectivist liberalism.

PLSC 562 American Political Thought 3 cr.

Develops an understanding of American political ideas from the Puritans through the current Afro-American writers. Political phenomena are examined in light of past writings, and inferences are made for future political behavior.

PLSC 565 Intelligence Process and Policy 3 cr.

Demystifies intelligence and focuses on the thinking and intellectual skills the process of intelligence requires to provide government, private and non-profit decision makers with useful information upon which to base sound decisions. Critical thinking, analyzing, and providing data to those decision makers. Students will also examine the structure and role of the intelligence community in formulating U.S. national security policy.

PLSC 570 The Practice of Public Administration 3 cr.

Examines the environment and structure of public organizations, organizational theory, organizational culture, intergovernmental and organizational relations, leadership and ethics, the planning, management and evaluation of programs and services, the administration of human resources, budgeting and finance, and management information systems. Emphasizes the integration of theory and practice through case studies and projects.

PLSC 571 Issues in Public Administration 3 cr.

An intensive study of the role of federal agencies and administrators in determining and developing public policies. Public administration in practice emphasized by using case studies, third-person teaching, problem-based exercises, and debates.

PLSC 581 Special Topics 1-3 cr.

In-depth study of a specific problem or topic regularly treated in courses. May be repeated.

PLSC 583 Political Studies: Asia 3 cr.

Comparative study of government and politics of Asia.

PLSC 584 Political Studies: Middle East 3 cr.
Comparative study of government and politics of the Middle East.

PLSC 587 Political Studies: Latin America 3 cr.
Comparative study of government and politics of Latin America

PLSC 588 Dimensions of National Security 3 cr.
Deals with national security problems, including decision-making and budgeting levels of strategy, the utility of force, and the impact of the military on American society.

PLSC 589 International Development Strategies 3 cr.
Deals with the political characteristics of emerging nations; the impact of economic and social change upon political structure; evolving patterns of political development; and techniques of nation-building.

PLSC 631 Human Resource Management in Public Sector 3 cr.
In-depth study of human resources management systems with special focus on public sector organizations. Emphasizes the development of an understanding of traditional functional systems as well as skills necessary to manage such systems successfully.

PLSC 666 Public Policy Analysis 3 cr.
Examines public policy using analytical tools and models. Considered within this framework are values and resources, the cultural-political environment, the policymaking process, and evaluation methods and their application to major policy areas.

PLSC 668 Public Sector Financial Administration 3 cr.
Concerned with the administration of fiscal and financial processes of government on all three levels. Included are topics related to revenue and expenditure; how the former are calculated and provided for, and how the latter are prioritized and allocated in the budgetary process; control systems that are concerned with recordkeeping; and the monitoring of the flow of revenues.

PLSC 670 Foreign Policy Studies 3 cr.
Considers selected problems in international affairs with emphasis on those problems and conflicts which have evolved in the postwar era, particularly as they relate to position of the United States in world affairs. Specific problems are approached both in terms of countries involved and the existing balance in world economic, ideological, and power structure.

PLSC 671 Seminar in Public Administration 3 cr.
Intensive study of role of agencies and their administration in determining and developing public policy. Public administration in practice is emphasized by utilizing case studies.

PLSC 674 Analytical Techniques 3 cr.
Exposes the student to approaches, methods, tools, and boundary lines of political science study. As a research methods course in graduate political science, it should be scheduled early in the program.

PLSC 675 International Political Economy 3 cr.

Examines the interaction between governments and economic issues. This examination will occur comparatively both within countries and between nations. Acquaints students with the theoretical issues, trends, and findings of some of the major studies on and subfields within international political economy. Assumes a basic familiarity with foreign, comparative politics, and economics. Focus is on both international political economy as a subject and a field of study.

PLSC 678 The Ethical Dimensions of Leadership 3 cr.

Focuses on the ethical dimensions of leadership and strategies to integrate ethical considerations into organizational, administrative, decision-making, and policy processes. To facilitate discussion and the application of ethics to professional practices, each speaker examines the relationship between ethics and leadership within varying contexts. Classes, videos, and exercises link theory and practice. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to each class to facilitate their active participation in all discussions. A literature review project provides students with the opportunity to pursue individualized interests related to leadership and ethics.

PLSC 698 Political Science Internship 3-6 cr.

Practical experience in government and politics. Students are individually assigned to a cooperating local or state government agency, political party, or group or to a federal or international agency when arrangements can be made. Students report periodically to the professor in charge and undertake reading assignments and write such reports and papers as the professor may require. Prerequisite: Must have approval of instructor and department chairperson.

PLSC 699 Independent Study 1-3 cr.

Readings and written assignments on a specific topic determined by student and instructor in charge. May be repeated.

PLSC 744/CRIM 744

An in-depth study of the legal and international issues that the U.S. faces in response to combating international terrorism. Emphasis is placed on identifying causes of terrorism and the most plausible threats; terrorist networks, their commonalities, differences, and the difficulty in countering; and determining appropriate responses, to include political, legal implications, threat analysis, physical security, and target hardening. Prerequisite: 3 credits in CRIM or PLSC graduate program, or permission of instructor.

PLSC 795 Thesis 3 cr

Evaluation of Students

For information regarding School of Graduate Studies and Research policies on grading, view the Graduate Catalog www.iup.edu/gradcatalog

Degree Completion

Does the student provide an understanding the research in terms of its significance, and how it fits into a larger context?

Does the student support the background information, ideas, and hypotheses with citations of the appropriate sources?

Does the student clearly state the questions being answered/hypotheses being tested?

II. [Methods](#)

Is the research method used appropriate to the specific focus of the research?

Is the method described in sufficient detail for another researcher to be able to repeat the research using other data?

III. [Results](#)

Are results/conclusions clearly described and presented in an appropriate format?

Are the figures and tables, if used, of appropriate and well labeled? Are figure legends concise and informative? Are the figures and tables appropriately referred to and described in the text of the thesis?

Were the appropriate statistical analyses employed (if used)?

Are thesis conclusions supported by the data?

Are the data presented adequate support of thesis arguments?

IV. [Discussion](#)

Does the discussion provide a thoughtful summary of the research and draw appropriate conclusions?

Does the student show clearly that the questions at the beginning of the study have been addressed/answered? and

Does the student address the adequacy of obtained information in addressing thesis questions?

Does the student discuss how her/his findings contribute to our understanding of the area of study?

Does the student cite relevant literature sources?

Does the student identify questions that remain unanswered and suggest possible follow-up research?

V. [References](#)

Does the student use a sufficient number of primary and secondary, peer-reviewed literature sources?

Are all citations in a uniform, accepted reference format?

Does the thesis show any evidence of deliberate or unintentional plagiarism, i.e. done with the conscious goal of "passing off" someone else's work as that of the student?

University Policies and Procedures

University policy is the baseline policy. Programs may have policy that is more stringent than the University baseline policy; however, not less stringent than the University baseline policy. For questions regarding this statement, please contact [Program Coordinator] or the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Academic Calendar

View the IUP Academic Calendar www.iup.edu/news-events/d.0006-in-0-12-6

Transfer of Credits Policy
www.iup.edu/gradcatalog

Research

www.iup.edu/gradcatalog
www.iup.edu/research/

Signature Page

My signature below indicates that I am responsible for reading and understanding the information provided and referenced in this department/program student handbook.

_____ [please initial] I understand my program could may share this document with the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Submit to Dr. Sarah Wheeler upon receipt of this handbook during the first semester of your studies.

The Political Science Department will keep this signed document on file.