Political Science (PLSC)

Faculty
Patrick J. Conge, Associate Professor
Andrew J. Dowdle, Associate Professor
Pearl Karen Dowe, Assistant Professor
John Gaber, Professor
Najib Ghadbian, Associate Professor
Donald R. Kelley, Professor
Brinck Kerr III, Professor
Angie Maxwell, Assistant Professor, Diane D. Blair Professor of Southern Studies
Joshua Lee Mitchell, Assistant Professor
Janine A. Parry, Professor
Margaret F. Reid, Professor
Jeffrey J. Ryan, Associate Professor
William D. Schreckhise, Associate Professor
Todd G. Shields, Professor
Geoboo Song, Assistant Professor
Patrick A. Stewart, Associate Professor
Ka Zeng, Professor
Margaret F. Reid
Department Chair
428 Old Main
479-575-3356
E-mail: mreid@uark.edu

Andrew J. Dowdle
Graduate Coordinator and Vice Chair
428 Old Main
479-575-3356
E-mail: adowdle@uark.edu

http://plsc.uark.edu/7115.php

Degrees Conferred:
M.A. (PLSC)
M.P.A. in Public Administration (PADM)
J.D./M.A. (Dual Degree)
J.D./M.P.A. (Dual Degree)

Graduate Certificates Offered (non-degree):
Cross-Sector Alliances. See http://grad.uark.edu/crosssectoralliance

M.A. Areas of Study: American politics and political theory, comparative politics and international relations, and public administration.

Primary Areas of Faculty Research: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, public administration.

Political Science (PLSC)
The M.A. degree in Political Science is designed to give students further training in selected areas of concentration within the discipline and to prepare them for careers in academe or public service.

Admission Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree Program:
Applicants for graduate study in political science must be admitted to the Graduate School and also meet the following requirements: 1) satisfactory GRE scores, 2) submission of a written essay, and 3) three letters of recommendation from persons competent to judge the applicant’s potential for graduate studies. Students from all academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Students who have had few political science courses at the undergraduate level may be required to enroll in undergraduate courses to begin their graduate studies.

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree: The M.A. degree is a 36-semester hour program. Completion of the program is contingent upon passing a comprehensive examination or writing and defending a thesis. Courses at the 4000 level may be taken with the adviser’s consent. Under special circumstances students may arrange to take graduate-level directed readings or independent research courses. Such courses require an application that must be approved by the student’s graduate adviser in concert with the professor from whom the course is to be taken. The student must apply for such a course before the semester in which the course is to be taken.

Courses are offered in three areas of study: American politics and political theory, comparative politics and international relations, and public administration. From these offerings, students must select a primary area of study. A secondary field of no less than six hours will complement the choices in the primary field. Selection of the areas of concentration should be commensurate with the professional or career goals of the student. A minimum of 21 hours must be fulfilled by seminars (5000-level classes) in the student’s chosen areas. All M.A. students are required to take PLSC 5913 Research Methods. Ph.D.-bound students are advised to take at least one additional methods or quantitative analysis course. Students must take a minimum of 24 of their 36 course hours in the Department of Political Science. The remaining hours may be taken in other departments.

Thesis Option: Students must take 30 hours of coursework and six hours of thesis credit. Under this option, the student’s comprehensive examination will be a defense of the thesis. All M.A. candidates in this option are required to develop a prospectus for their thesis. They must then write and orally defend an acceptable thesis.

Non-thesis Option: Students must take 36 semester hours of coursework. Under this option, students must take a comprehensive examination in their primary field of study.

J.D./M.A. Program
Degrees Conferred:
J.D./M.A. (Dual Degree)

http://plsc.uark.edu/7151.php

The Department of Political Science, the Graduate School, and the School of Law cooperate in offering a dual degree program that allows a student to pursue the M.A. in Political Science and the J.D. degrees concurrently.

The program described below requires 36 hours as follows: the student selects a) courses from comparative politics or international relations seminars in political science or equivalent courses in other departments approved by the graduate adviser in political science (total of 18 hours: 3 hours methods and 15 hours from a combination of international relations and comparative politics seminars); b) six additional hours of PLSC classes approved by the program’s graduate director or six hours of thesis credit; and c) twelve hours of elective courses taken in the law school in an area of concentration approved by the director of the M.A. program.

Students must be admitted to the M.A. program and the School of Law. If a student seeks to enter the dual degree program after enrolling in either
the law school or the M.A. program, he or she must obtain admission to the other degree program during the first year of study.

The School of Law accepts nine (9) semester hours of M.A. courses to satisfy requirements for the J.D. degree: PLSC 5503 Comparative Political Analysis (Fa), PLSC 5803 Seminar in International Politics (Fa), PLSC 5833 Seminar in Contemporary Problems (Fa), PLSC 4833 International Political Economy (Fa); and ECON 4633 International Trade (Sp, Fa) are highly recommended to be part of the student’s preparation.

Students admitted to the dual degree program may commence their studies in either the law school or the M.A. program but must complete first year course requirements before taking courses in the other degree program. If they do not maintain the academic or ethical standards of either degree program, students may be terminated from the dual degree program. Students in good standing in one degree program but not in the other may be allowed to continue in the other program in which they have good standing and must meet the degree requirements of that program. If for any reason a student admitted to the dual degree program does not complete the M.A. degree, he or she cannot count nine hours of M.A. courses toward the J.D. degree. Likewise, M.A. students may not be able to count certain law courses if they decide to discontinue their studies in the law school. The J.D. will be awarded upon completion of all degree requirements; the M.A. will be awarded upon completion of the comprehensive examination and all required coursework, as well as the successful defense of a master’s thesis, if applicable.

Mandatory Comprehensive Exam: All students will be required to take a written comprehensive examination covering their M.A. program or a six-hour thesis. The comprehensive exam will be graded by at least a three-person faculty committee selected by the M.A. Program Director. Students pursuing the thesis option are not required to take a written examination. Successful defense of their thesis satisfies this requirement. In addition to the successful completion of all course requirements and a passing grade on the written comprehensive examination (if taken), each student must present a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00.

Thesis Option: Students pursuing the thesis option should consult the graduate coordinator of the political science department. The thesis committee must be composed of faculty members from both the School of Law and the Department of Political Science. Thesis credit is 6 hours.

Internship Option: Students may pursue an internship. Internship credit is variable and depends on the number of hours worked. Students in this option must consult with their J.D. and M.A. advisers. An internship work plan and expected academic work products will be developed.