

FIELDS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

PSC Undergraduate Programs

American Politics is:

- The precedent-setting 2008 Presidential race
- Landmark Supreme Court decisions like 1954's Brown v. Board of Education, which ended racial segregation in the public schools
- The impact of the "Tea Party" movement
- Balancing the budget and reducing the national debt
- Lobbying for interests as disparate as the Sierra Club or a corporate titan running for president of the fifth-grade class
- Managing the campaign of a candidate for U.S. Congress or state legislature

Public Policy is:

- Striving to eliminate U.S. dependence on foreign oil and reduce the effects of climate change
- Attempting to improve the accessibility and delivery of health care
- Working to obtain a quality education for all children
- Wrestling with the given of crime in a free society
- Struggling with the issues of Medicare and Social Security to ensure their fiscal integrity for generations to come
- Trying to extend the opportunity for a better life to every citizen
- Creating, evaluating, and implementing programs in civil rights, criminal justice, national defense, health and welfare, education, taxation, budgeting and spending, and environmental protection
- Working in state legislatures and in Congress to balance individual rights with the collective good of the nation

Public Administration is:

- Administering the vast system of bureaucracies that conducts the business of governments, small and large, from the State Department to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
- Managing the municipal government of a small city like Norman
- Governors across the nation guiding states through the worst financial crisis since the 1930s
- Improving the relationship between management and labor
- Working to understand how to improve communication, hiring practices, and workplace inequities in the modern public organization

Comparative Politics is:

- The mutated communism of China, with its superimposed dynamic free enterprise system
- The gradually changing Cuban regime - an anachronism in a postmodern world swept away by the "Third Wave" of democracy
- Russia-from Commissars to Oligarchs
- The dilemma of Mexico as it tries to cope with narco-politics
- A Middle East with a young population demanding political and economic change
- The changing European landscape in the wake of the "Union" and the "Euro"

International Relations is:

- The Iraq and Afghanistan Wars - necessary interventions or tragic foreign policy mistakes
- The global threat of terrorist attacks
- NAFTA and immigration policy
- The G2 concept of a special relationship between the United States and China
- The United Nations grappling with refugee problems more desperate than any since WWII
- Sub-Saharan Africa, unraveling from civil war in Congo, genocide in Darfur, and chaos in the failed state of Somalia
- The United States still a superpower, but economically challenged by a rising Southeast Asia

Political Theory is:

- The skeleton on which to hang the skin and bones of the discipline
- The ideal "republic" as envisioned by the seminal thinkers of classical Greece
- Machiavelli's prince and the "realpolitik" of today
- The exploration of concepts as varied as Just War Theory, Game Theory, Feminist Legal Theory
- The source of American exceptionalism, through the ideas of the Founding Fathers