

PSC CHRONICLE

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Poli Sci
Student
Organizations

OMG, an Election Year
Turned Upside Down?
Wayne Steger, PhD

Alumni
Spotlight

From the Department Chair

Dr. Valerie C. Johnson



Faculty and students will recount this moment for years to come. COVID-19 has triggered a new normal that lays bare the vulnerabilities of the American citizenry, particularly of those who are poor and living at the margins of society. To be sure, the virus magnifies the uneasy relationship between the powerful and powerless, and will no doubt have a tsunami effect throughout the body politic. This moment and the manner in which our elected officials respond to it, will likely have repercussions on the 2020 presidential election, House and Senate seats, and the relationship between nation states. We will never be the same.

At this time of uncertainty, the faculty and staff of the Political Science Department offer our students a few constants: a continuing commitment to a stellar curriculum, a quality standard of instruction, and advising and resource support that allow students to matriculate throughout this period of crisis. We will do ALL in our power to support your needs. You can count on it.

Political Science is an invaluable lens to understand the COVID-19 crisis and the myriad challenges that we face across our nation and in the world. During this period, we ask that you be vigilant and stay connected to our social media and virtual networks. We are here. Please reach out to us.

COVID-19 bookends the crisis that began with the impeachment of 2019, during the fall quarter. We are living in momentous times. Please follow us on our social media so that you can stay abreast of timely information:



Political Science
DePaul



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@pscdepaul

Front cover from top left to right: Mohammed Arsalanuddin, Amira Hady, Ivanna Cintrón Torres, Nancy Muhoza, John Travlos, David Taullahu, Ray Kendrick, and Mariana Byker.

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OMG, AN ELECTION YEAR TURNED UPSIDE DOWN?

What Political Science can tell us about the 2020 Presidential Election

by Wayne Steger, PhD



The COVID-19 outbreak has been life-changing in the short term and potentially for the long-term. It certainly introduces a massive shock to the social, economic and political systems, with potential to change the outcome of the 2020 election. Prior to the outbreak, most economic and political science forecasting models would have predicted a very close election, giving a slight advantage to Donald Trump (note that more of these models predicted Trump in 2016). Let's look at some fundamentals.

One reason to believe the election will still be close is that the country continues to be narrowly divided along party lines and most people who will vote, will stick with their party's candidate. What we do not know and do not do a good job of predicting is voter turnout. That said, we can expect party loyalty to be strong in 2020. While Trump's approval ratings have been historically low, they also have been impervious to bad news. That holds true even now with the COVID-19 outbreak, during which Trump's approval

and disapproval ratings should be expected. Further, most people—even if they disapprove of their party's candidate, will return to their party loyalties come election time, when the alternative is a candidate from the even more disliked opposition party. Thus, we can expect few defections from Republicans. Given a closely divided electorate, the distribution of the partisan vote in 2020 should be similar to that of 2016 with the caveat that partisan voter turnout rates could be affected in 2020 in ways that we cannot well predict at this time (or even as the election gets closer because turnout is an important variable that is hard to predict accurately).

A second reason Trump is advantaged is the Electoral College, in which states have delegates equal to their number of Senators and US Representatives, with three additional Electors granted to the District of Columbia. While this constitutional convention compromise sought to balance the interests of large and small

states, the differences between those states was not as large in the 1780s as it is today. Today, that compromise means that voters in sparsely populated states like Vermont, Rhode Island, Wyoming, or North Dakota get more weight per voter in the Electoral College. Since Republicans have a sizeable party advantage in most (but not all) small states, they get more votes in the Electoral College, which offsets Democratic advantages in the large populous states like California, New York and Illinois. The movement we saw in 2018 across states owed mostly to two factors. The first was voter turnout. Republican turnout was high in 2018, but Democratic turnout was higher. Democratic turnout was probably closer to its capacity limit (of partisan voters) while Republican voter turnout in 2018 was not that high and may be expected to reach 2016 levels at least (Trump is more favorably viewed by Republicans today, on average, than he was in 2016). Again, what we cannot know at this time, is how the COVID-19

will affect voter-turnout. I would expect little effect on voter preferences. The effect will potentially be greater on voter turnout, possibly diminishing Republican enthusiasm and turnout.

A third factor advantaging Trump was the economy. No matter how Democrats spin it, the economy prior to the COVID 19 pandemic was favorable to Trump (with a caveat, see below). Prior to the outbreak, the United States experienced growing GDP, rising wages, declining unemployment, increasing jobs, positive consumer confidence, and slightly positive business expectations. That helped Trump, but not as much as might be expected. A favorable economy helps the party of the incumbent president, however, not as much as an unfavorable or bad economy hurts the president. The reason is largely a function of agenda-setting. When the economy is good, more people pay attention to other issues and concerns, so fewer people overall will think about the economy when evaluating the president. When the economy declines, the proportion of people thinking about the economy grows a lot, and this is bad for the president because more people evaluate him on that basis. Given that the economy is in the process of a historic decline, likely rivaling or even exceeding that of the Great Depression (depending on how long this lasts), the forecasting prediction just went from slightly favorable to the president to bad. Even then, however, the intensity of

political polarization means that the decline in the Trump vote will probably not be as bad as it would have been 20 or 30 years ago. Republicans will largely discount the economy, noting that Trump got a bad deal, and continue approving of his efforts. Democrats will be apoplectic, if they even needed another source of rage to be motivated to vote against Trump.

One caveat about the economy that is worth mentioning is that even before the pandemic, economic inequality increased during the Trump years much to the aggravation of Democrats. Importantly, however, the increase in economic inequality won't likely change the electoral outcome by an appreciable degree. Economic inequality is a concern mostly shared by Democrats and not by Republicans.

"Economic inequality is a concern mostly shared by Democrats and not by Republicans."

The reason is mainly that economic inequality is vastly greater in large urban and metropolitan areas where rich people tend to live, and in which Democratic voters are concentrated. The gap between rich and poor in rural areas is much smaller—not because there are fewer poor people, but because there are fewer rich people and because what is considered rich in rural and small city America is not nearly

as great as what exists in metropolitan areas. So, in this sense, growing inequality adds to geo-political polarization as the two parties disagree more, but it does not change the voting calculus of people on either side, except to deepen party differences.

This brings us to a back-of-the-napkin prediction rather than a formal statistical forecast. This is going to be a close election, but Trump is now in trouble whereas previously he would have been slightly advantaged in the Electoral College. Adding all of this together and what do we have. This election was expected to come down to a small number of battle ground states in which the outcome is expected to be so close. Prior to the outbreak, the most commonly identified "battle ground" states were Arizona, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and may be North Carolina (and the second congressional district of Nebraska). Some prior battle ground states have tilted toward Republicans, like Iowa, Florida, and Ohio, while Minnesota, Colorado, Michigan, and Virginia have tilted Democratic. The outbreak potentially changes that configuration. Most notably, Florida is likely to get hit hard by the epidemic, and that may well move Florida from leaning Republican to a battle ground or even leaning Democratic. If Texas is hit really hard by this epidemic (and I expect it will be given Texans' cultural antipathy toward government regulations) that the state also could move from leans-Republican to battle ground (it is hard to think of

Texas as moving far enough as to classify it as lean-Democratic). If this hits other states with big metropolitan areas, like Georgia, there may be even more states that move to battle ground status. Some may move from battle ground to lean Democratic.

That means is that a close election with a slight, advantage to Trump has become an election in which Trump is going to have to have everything fall his way in an even larger number of states to win in 2020. He got all of the battle grounds in 2016. It is doubtful he repeats that in 2020. My bell weather this year is Florida. If Florida goes Democratic, it is exceedingly hard to see a path to 270 for Trump. Coincidentally, Florida is the one state in the country where the choice of Democratic nominee probably matters more than anywhere else. Bernie Sanders would not have a realistic chance of winning Florida—even with a big increase in the epidemic in that state. Joe Biden may now have a decent chance to win that state. That said, the academic caveat is that there are a lot of unknowns and instability (aka, variability) which mean greater margin for error in predictions including this one. But, the range of error runs from a close election in which Trump squeaks by to a landslide for Biden. If this goes in landslide territory, Democrats also could gain control of the Senate because there will be almost no split-ticket voting.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SARA MAHONEY & GARRETT SANBORN



Sara Mahoney and Garrett Sanborn received their bachelors in Political Science with minors in Economics in June and November of 2015, respectively. After graduation, Garrett commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps on May 16, 2016 while Sara enrolled in her first year of law school. The next three years would be spent long-distance as Sara pursued her J.D. at Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C. and Garrett underwent training to earn his wings of gold as a United States Naval Aviator. Sara completed her J.D. in May, 2019 from Georgetown Law with a Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies, with Garrett subsequently earning his designation as a Naval Aviator in June. The couple became engaged that same month. Garrett accepted orders to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 362 (VMM-362), where he flies the MV-22B Osprey. Sara currently works as a Judicial Law Clerk through the Department of Justice Honors Program for the Executive Office of Immigration Review in New York City.

Reflecting on our time at DePaul University, the courses and guidance offered by the Political Science Department and faculty contributed greatly to our career choices. Having met in a class about Political Islam and American Foreign Policy, we both realized we had mutual passions for learning about the world and trying to shape it for the better.

Sara spent her final year at DePaul as a Student Representative, where she was able to engage in important discussions about the direction of the Political Science department. Additionally, she participated as the director of the human rights brigade to Panama for Global Brigades DePaul. Garrett was heavily involved in the DePaul Democrats, a student political group focused on community service and engagement on a variety of political issues.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our mentors at the department, both for providing us with a foundation of academic knowledge and holding us to standards that contributed to our future success.

P.S. We currently reside in quarantine with our dog-child, Nietzsche.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

EIRA L. CORRAL SEPÚLVEDA



Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda ('07) is a municipal leader with 10 years of experience in local government, environmentalism, and engaging voters. She is a millennial mom and proud of her working-class Mexican immigrant family background. Elected at 23 as Clerk for the Village of Hanover Park, she highlights good governance, transparency, and active community engagement with residents and businesses as her public service motto.

As a three-term elected board member, Corral Sepúlveda has strengthened Hanover Park's legacy in environmentalism as a Tree City USA and Arbor Day initiatives that emphasize diversity inclusion and global impact. She is a board member of the Greater Elgin Family Care Center and also appointed to the Illinois Census Commission. She has served in several regional municipal government organizations, such as, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Human Relations Committee, Metro Mayors Conference (MMC) Diversity Taskforce, and Northwest Municipal Conference.

Previously, she worked as Media Relations and Field Coordinator for the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI), a national organization focused on civic engagement and leadership development. Her efforts attracted civic participation from high school and college students, professionals, and elected officials throughout the country. Corral Sepúlveda's leadership successfully engaged youth leaders to register over 20,000 Latino voters before the historic 2008 election of President Barack Obama.

As a recently elected Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioner, she is committed to engaging diverse communities in meeting MWRD's mission to treat wastewater and provide stormwater management because the future environmental, social, and economic stability of our region depends on our access to clean water.



RYAN M. WELZIUS

Ryan M. Welzius is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance (NCGG) at Princeton University for academic year 2019-2020 and will join the Department of Political Science at Villanova University as an Assistant Professor in August 2020. His research interests lie in

international and comparative political economy, focusing on the distributional consequences of economic integration and the resulting constraints it places on the political policies of states. His book project, *The Chains That Bind: Global Value Chain Integration and Currency Conflict*, argues that global production decisions over the previous 25 years have undercut the benefits of running a depreciated exchange rate. The book provides a political explanation for the recent disappearance of currency manipulation as viable strategy for export-led growth.

Ryan received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, M.Sc. in Economics from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, M.A. in Politics from New York University, and B.A. in Political Science from DePaul University. In 2013, he interned at the World Trade Organization in Geneva where he was a contributor to the 2014 World Trade Report. In 2018-19, he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis.

Jill Dunlap, PhD is the Director for Research, Policy, and Civic Engagement at NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. She has taught undergraduate courses for the past 10 years, including Congress and the Presidency, Introduction to Public Administration, and Introduction to Public Policy, among others. She also teaches a doctoral course on Higher Education Policy. Her research is centered on campus sexual assault and equity and inclusion issues and it has been featured in several publications, including two book chapters.

Prior to her current position at NASPA, Jill worked in student affairs at three different campuses where she focused on gender equity and supporting survivors of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking.

Jill is proud of her national level policy experience, including serving as a non-federal negotiator representing four-year, public institutions on the

Violence Against Women Act negotiated rulemaking committee. She has also served as a grant program reviewer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Research Grants for Preventing Violence and Violence Related Injury. Additionally, she provided consultant services as a subject matter expert to national organizations, including the National Organization for Victim Assistance, the National Victim Rights Law Center, and the Department of Defense.

New Faculty Spotlight



Jill Dunlap, PhD

Jill enjoys teaching because she learns as much from her students, if not more, than they do from her. She gets REALLY excited about voting, and civic engagement, and activism and voting. When she's not working, Jill is likely out running with her dog, Cocoa Bean, or eating cupcakes.



MOCK TRIAL TEAM

The DePaul Political Science Mock Trial Team is a competitive trial simulation. Every year a new closed universe legal case is released by the collegiate mock trial association. Students spend approximately seven months learning the case, developing their trial strategy, crafting their case themes and theories, and getting ready for competition. At competitions, teams present various aspects of a real trial - Pretrial, Opening Statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, Closing Arguments, and making and arguing objections. Each competition weekend, our students will participate in four mock trials - 2 times as the prosecution or plaintiff and 2 times as the defense. One never quite knows what to expect in any mock trial and our students have to be quick on their feet, adapt to new situations, solve problems that arise, and effectively argue their case to the panel of judges who are scoring their presentation. It is hard work. Our students dedicate a lot of time, energy, and effort to the DePaul Mock Trial Team.

When the mock trial season is complete, students have gained precious knowledge and practical skills. Students are able to make effective oral presentations, demonstrate strategic thinking, and present logical arguments based on varying fact patterns. Students are able to withstand challenges to their arguments through rigorous preparation. And students are able to work as a member of a highly effective team.

Benjamin Franklin stated, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Through mock trial, students are involved in learning trial techniques and presentation skills.

This year, the DePaul Mock Trial Team successfully competed in six tournaments throughout Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana. At four of those tournaments, our students were recognized as outstanding in their roles:

Dairyland Classic in Kenosha, Wisconsin:

Hui Tey - Outstanding Attorney
Hui Tey - Outstanding Witness
Kathryn McGinn - Outstanding Witness

Racheter Invitational at Central College:

Hui Tey - Outstanding Attorney
Porsche Nwokeuku - Outstanding Witness

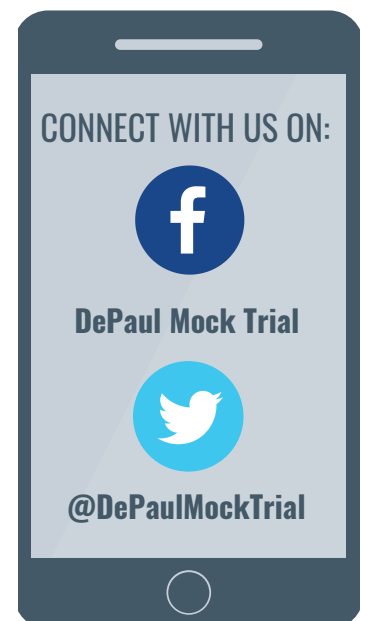
National Invitational at Loras College:

Hui Tey - Outstanding Attorney
Kathryn McGinn - Outstanding Witness

Regional Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana:

Samuel Rahman - Outstanding Witness
Porsche Nwokeuku - Outstanding Witness

These students, along with each student who competed in the 2019-2020 tournament season, should be proud of their success.



PI SIGMA ALPHA

ΠΣΑ

PSC students and members of the Honor Society Pi Sigma Alpha Muhammad Khan ('20) and Elizabeth Baughman presented at the Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference on February 15, 2020 at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Muhammad Khan presented "Battling the Contagion: The Salafi -Jihadist Threat & Countering the Ideology." Here is what he had to say about the experience:

The 2020 Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference in Washington, DC has been one of the most memorable moments of my undergraduate studies. Aside from the many benefits of being a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, attending the National Research Conference each year provides numerous opportunities for those interested. It is a national platform for students to showcase their scholarship in a professional setting. I was fortunate to present my research on the ideology of Salafi-Jihadism and its threat to U.S National Security.



During the conference, discussants observe and critique various aspects of your presentation while the audience may also ask further questions about your research. The discussants were amazing in giving me strong critiques and suggesting more ways to expand my knowledge on the subject. It instilled within me a sense of fulfillment in my efforts to convey my knowledge on this subject. The conference gave me the chance to present research I intend to develop throughout my professional career. Also, it is another way to boost your resume and display your expertise on a specific subject.

"The conference gave me the chance to present research I intend to develop throughout my professional career."

While the ability to present your research is a huge plus, the national conference is also a way to connect with your peers across the country, as well as with graduate students with extensive knowledge on topics of interest to you. The conference offers a full three days to network and get to know each other. I was fortunate to meet others interested in related topics because it made the experience even more exciting and fulfilling. Students can also attend the Sunday professional panels that give insight into certain employment opportunities within the government sector and additional advice on graduate and law school. It is another fantastic way to gain more information students may want to pursue.



My advice to anyone interested in attending the Pi Sigma Alpha National Conference: sign up! This is a great way to showcase your hard work within your field and an incredible time to make new friends and gain experiences that will last well beyond your undergraduate studies. You will leave the conference a stronger presenter, a better student, and with the realization that your words can make a difference.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Students who are interested in international politics and diplomacy have the opportunity to participate in the Model United Nations student organization and can earn JYEL credit by enrolling in PSC 281 (Model UN).

Model UN gives students the chance to prepare for and participate in conferences in which they act as delegates from a UN member state. In November 2019, six PSC 281 students represented Finland at the National Model United Nations conference in Washington, DC, earning a Distinguished Delegation award for their efforts. Students report that participating in Model UN is a great way to develop knowledge and skills. Meg Harris comments, "Model UN challenged me to think strategically and dive deeper" than she did in her courses, and AJ Reinhardt says that Model UN "has helped me gain confidence as a public speaker" while developing her knowledge about a range of political topics. In addition, DePaul has recently established a campus chapter of the United Nations Association, which focuses on promoting awareness and involvement on topics affecting the international community. Interested students can contact Prof. Erik Tillman at etillman@depaul.edu



PAST EVENTS



Erin Connelly



Marty Castro

ALUMNI CAREER PANEL

On October 3rd, 2019, the Department of Political Science welcomed four PSC Alumni for a career panel. Marty Castro ('85), Erin Connelly ('06 JD '11), Eric Tamerlani ('12), and Natalia Cárdenas ('18) shared their experiences in the working world. The event drew a crowd of over thirty inquisitive PSC undergraduate students eager to learn about career paths and opportunities after graduation.



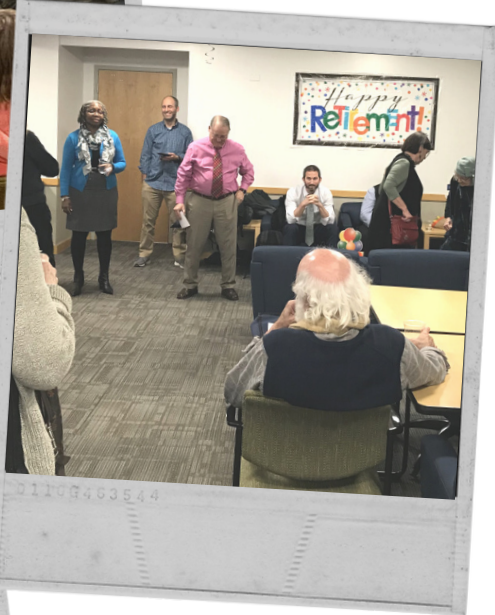
Eric Tamerlani



Natalia Cárdenas

Jim Block's Retirement Party

On November 14, 2020, PSC hosted a retirement party for Professor Emeritus James Block to honor him and his contribution to the department. The celebration gathered over 50 guests. Among them, many colleagues, friends, and students expressed their gratitude for Jim's mentorship, collegiality, and friendship. Jim's words of wisdom, delivered with characteristic aplomb and panache, resonated with the crowd who stuck around to listen to him once more. Despite Jim's decision to retire from his full-time position, he is back at work as a newly minted adjunct faculty member.



Impeachment: What Next?

Faculty from the Political Science Department facilitated a panel discussion on the impeachment process. Professors Wayne Steger and David Williams and Assistant Professor Joe Tafoya participated. Associate Professor and Chair Valerie Johnson moderated. "Impeachment: What Next?" took place October 2, 2020, 4:30-6:00pm in the Schmidt Academic Center (SAC), 154. DePaul's student-run weekly newspaper The DePaulia covered the event and published an in-depth feature.

The DEPAULIA

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'Organic process' of impeachment discussed at DePaul event

Veronica Schoonover, Contributing Writer | October 3, 2019



Amy Do / The DePaulia
From left to right: Wayne Steger, Joe R. Tafoya, David Williams and Valerie C. Johnson took part in the impeachment discussion on Oct. 2.



Since Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi **announced the official impeachment inquiry** into President Donald Trump, there has been a surge of questions about what may happen next.

To facilitate open conversation on the subject, DePaul's **political science department** held a panel discussion event in the Schmitt Academic Center on Wednesday, Oct. 2 to discuss the ongoing impeachment process of Trump. The event was moderated by Valerie Johnson, associate professor and chair of the political science department. The panel included political science professors Wayne Steger, Joe Tafoya and David Williams.

Tafoya said that the discussion panel is beneficial for both students and professors to understand the views that peers have in such an important political event.

"It's an organic process where dialogue happens," Tafoya said.

DATA ANALYSIS

Students and Faculty Feedback on Remote Learning and Instruction

With COVID-19 Pandemic, remote working and online classes is a new necessity. A survey was conducted by the Political Science department at DePaul with the aim to make teachers and students aware about what they felt during this transition. In the student survey, 53% reported feeling anxious, whereas 13% were scared. Furthermore, for the second question, which was how the online platform would impact their studies, 75% of the students responded that online studies were difficult, and that it will impact their studies. However, when asked what expectations they have from their teachers, the majority (65%) said they expect teachers to be generous with grading.

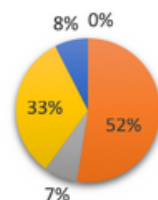
For the survey conducted among faculty, 54% of them reported anxiety as the dominant feeling, whereas 46% responded that online teaching would be time consuming and difficult. When asked what they expect from their students, 54% anticipate students to be more understanding about this transition.

The idea behind this survey was to make both faculty and students aware of the concerns each side has at this challenging time. The majority of students are deeply concerned about the transition and they expect teachers to be more understanding and to help them feel that DePaul is prepared to rise to the challenge. Simultaneously, it is important for students to understand that this is unprecedented, but that faculty and staff are committed to provide them with the education and the services that has always been part of DePaul's promise.

STUDENTS

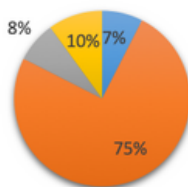
How do you feel about transition to online classes during Coronavirus Pandemic at DePaul University?

■ Excited ■ Anxious ■ Confused ■ Scared ■ No feelings



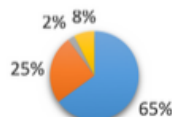
How do you think online classes would impact your studies at DePaul?

■ Online studies are easy ■ Online studies are difficult
■ Online studies are invaluable ■ Not concerned



What do you expect from your teachers during this transition?

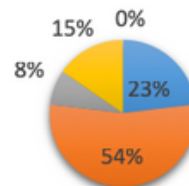
■ Be generous on grading
■ Be lenient in the class
■ Give easy assignment
■ Have more office hours on Zoom or on call for students



FACULTY

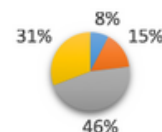
How do you feel about transition to online classes during Coronavirus Pandemic at DePaul University?

■ Excited ■ Anxious ■ Confused ■ Scared ■ No feelings



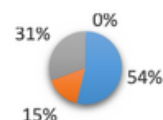
How do you think online classes would impact your teaching skills at DePaul?

■ Online teaching is easy
■ Online teaching requires great amount of technological awareness
■ Online teaching is more time consuming and difficult
■ Not concerned



What do you expect from your students during this transition?

■ Be understanding about the transition
■ Be willing to maintain the decorum of the class
■ Be prepared for plethora of online home work
■ Be prepared for strict grading



Data collection and analysis by Loyala Kanwal, March 23-27, 2020



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

ALLISON MOSER

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLASS OF 2020



My time at DePaul has been nothing short of amazing. I chose to major in Political Science because I was passionate about politics, law, and human rights coming into college. This by far was one of the best decisions I made because this department is incredibly unique and intentional. What I mean by this is that my professors in the Political Science department consistently invited me to their office to get to know me and became invested in my own academic career while also just wanting to be a friend to me. Throughout my entire time at DePaul, I have felt like my professors, advisors, and others have genuinely taken the time to get to know me while also pushing me to grow, not because they had to, but because they actually wanted. There were countless times when my comfort zone was tested and that is when I learned not only more about myself, but also about the others around me. In all of this, I was shown an abundance of grace, kindness, authenticity, and genuine human connection.

One of the biggest challenges I took upon myself during my DePaul years was enrolling in a study abroad in Ireland through the Dublin Parliamentary Internship program. While there, my host

family became a second family to me, and I have every intention of going back to visit. Additionally, the politician for whom I worked, Anne Rabbitte, deeply impacted my life and taught me a lot that I brought back to DePaul with me. She showed me how to remain confident when walking into a room full of politicians while also practicing the importance of listening. She taught me how to write policies that reflect the needs of those she served. And I watched her form real relationships with her constituents and prioritize her time around having the difficult conversations so that she could better help others. This is exactly what I want to do throughout the rest of my life, and I feel prepared for what is to come because of my time at DePaul and all the opportunities I have been blessed with while here.

Some of my favorite memories at DePaul are the times I went on retreats with Cru or Vincentians in Action because I was given the space and time to create new friendships while also looking inward to reflect on my relationship with myself. Time and again, I was brought back to the question we hear all the time, "What must be done?" When I first started at DePaul, I was overwhelmed by the weight

of this question and always told myself that I can't really do anything until I graduate or become "successful." However, I quickly learned through various professors and friends that there is a lot of value in the small moments and things to be done in life; therefore, I wanted to highlight that while overall I have grown tremendously in my knowledge and understanding of subjects such as Immigration Law, International Politics, and so on, this growth only came from appreciating the small moments for what they are which led to the overall big moment of graduating and feeling confident in who I have become.

As for what comes next after DePaul, I am not entirely sure but, truthfully, that doesn't scare me because professors like Dr. Valerie Johnson or Dr. Kathleen Arnold (and many more) have poured into me and pushed me to become more socially active and aware of my role in the world today. I feel ready and excited for law school someday so that I can continue to answer the question of what must be done. From day one at DePaul, I have been shown what it means to be a Vincentian in action while also critically analyzing today's politics and injustices. In the end, I wouldn't trade my time here for anything else because it has contributed to who I am today and the ways in which I will continue to grow.

FACULTY NEWS



Christina Rivers, PhD

When Christina Rivers, associate professor of political science, was asked in 2013 to teach a course on law and politics at the Stateville Correctional Center, a maximum-security men's prison in Crest Hill, Ill, she responded to the challenge because the chance to teach inside a correctional facility provided her with the opportunity to study closer felony disenfranchisement, an issue that had interested her recently. Nearly more than half a decade later, in August 2019, she witnessed Illinois Governor JB Pritzker sign into law HB 2541, the Re-Entering Citizens Civics Education Act, which funds voter education for detainees in Illinois allowing the incarcerated community members access to knowledge about civics and voting rights. For Rivers this is a well-earned victory towards equality: "The issue here is about procedural fairness and recognizing the racial unfairness and disproportionality that's just baked into our criminal legal system. They just want fairness and they want to be heard. The vote is a way for them to be heard."

During the past year, Professor David Lay Williams who teaches courses in political theory has published several op-eds and presented his scholarship at different national venues. In May 2019, he was also awarded the "Distinguished Alumnus" award by the Political Science Department at Texas Christian University. Most recently, Williams' op-ed "The Founders worry that a republic would fail without 'Virtue.' Today we don't." appeared in the January 28, 2020 edition of The Washington Post. Three additional publications appeared in Public Seminar, "Lao-Tzu, Plato, and 'Parasite'" (February 28, 2020), "David Brooks & Economic Inequality" (January 23, 2020) and "Impeachment and Rousseau's General Will" (January 15, 2020).

Additional Scholarship:

Book Review: Reading Machiavelli: Scandalous Books, Suspect Engagements, and the Virtue of Populist Politics, John P. McCormick. Perspectives on Politics, vol. 17, no. 3 (September 2019): 863-865.



David Lay Williams, PhD

Presentations:

"Combatting 'too much abundance in one or a few private men': Hobbes on Inequality and the Concentration of Wealth," Notre Dame Political Theory Colloquium. September 20, 2019. "Lessons from the Federalist for Our Times," Manchester University, Constitutional Day event, September 19, 2019. "A Defense of the Liberal Arts – What We Can Learn from Plato," presented at Texas Christian University, Department of Political Science, May 1, 2019.

PSC faculty lent their expertise to discuss the pressing socioeconomic and political issues of today: the elections and COVID-19.

Associate Professor Ben Epstein was a guest on Beyond the Beltway with Bruce DuMont with guest/host Paul Lisnek for the 2019 Year End Review and published "Wait, Haven't We Been Here Before? A Method for Using History to Help Political Communication Scholarship" in Political Communication, 2020. Most recently, he was a guest on Social Media and Politics Podcast with host Michael Bossetta, discussing his book, "The Only Constant is Change."

Vincent DePaul Professor of Political Science Kathryn Ibata-Arens published "Medicine in the Age of Pandemics: why our innovation system for new drug discovery is failing and how to fix it" in the March 16, 2020 issue of EconVue.

Professor Wayne Steger had several media appearances; most recently, he stopped by ABC7 Newsviews to discuss the Illinois Primary election.

SPRING COURSES

PSC 220: The American Presidency

This course explores different aspects of the presidency and how the office is being changed even as we study it. We look at the presidential job duties, as envisioned by those who drafted the Constitution, at the president's power relative to the other branches of government, and the role the president plays in setting the agenda in both domestic politics and the global political context. We also explore the ways how presidential politics typically play out in contrast to how the current president has completely shaken things up.

Jill Dunlap, PhD
Spring 2020
Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:15 p.m.



PSC 321: Mass Media and American Politics

The rise, fall, and manipulation of public opinion and voting behavior, with special attention given to the mass media. This course is cross listed with JOU 541/MLS 451.

Ben Epstein, PhD Spring 2020 T/TH 2:40-4:10 PM



PSC 359, INT 319, AND LST 358: LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN FILM COMING SPRING 2020 | MW 1:00 - 2:30 PM

This course incorporates award-winning films and innovative texts to explore iconic revolutionary movements in Latin America. We analyze how these movements emerged, what led to their victories and defeats, and the challenges they faced as they attempted to bring about political and social transformation. The course includes discussion of revolutions and counterrevolutions in Cuba, Central America, southern Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Chile.



Rose Spalding, PhD



PSC 249, SEC 301: INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING

This course is devoted to a systematic examination of the nature and causes of conflict in human societies, the meaning and conditions for peace, and the institutions and agencies for human cooperation and peacebuilding within and across societies. Students will examine explanations of war, conflict and peace from psychologists, scientists, theologians, military strategists, philosophers, social scientists and ethicists, such as Margaret Mead, Carl von Clausewitz, Ibn Khaldun, Vladimir Lenin, Mahatma Gandhi, Hannah Arendt and Desmond Tutu. Cross-listed with PAX 210.

Clement Adibe, PhD | Spring 2020 | T/Th 11:20 - 12:50 PM

PSC 242: American Foreign Policy

This course will focus on the historical context and basis of American foreign policy, the process of making foreign policy, and the international issues facing American decision-makers. We will examine the forces that shape the broad outlines of United States foreign policy, including historical background, and the effects of social forces and governmental structures. The challenges, opportunities and constraints presented by the international environment are also considered.

Spring 2020

MW 2:40 - 4:10 PM



Will Denton, PhD

PSC 229: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE SUPREME COURT

This course examines the development of American constitutional law, conceptions, and practices over the course of American history. We will examine how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution over time, but we will also be interested in how constitutions are written and amended and how political practices that give shape to our constitutional system evolve. Furthermore, we will explore how the Constitution serves as an instrument of popular power and a symbol of political ideals, as well as how it serves as a fundamental law constraining government action.

GIUSEPPE CUMELLA, PhD

SPRING 2020 | M/W 1:00 - 2:30 PM



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