
Department of Political Science Annual Report 2010-11

In 2010-11, the Department of Political Science conducted 129 classes, generating 9,361 student credit hours, and served 431 political science majors, 94 international relations majors, and a number of minors. The Department continued to work to strengthen the quality of its undergraduate programs, enhance student participation and active learning, and improve self-assessment. Besides dedicating substantial time and energy to teaching, Department faculty also contributed to scholarship and actively participated in professional and institutional endeavors. The following report briefly presents an overview of activities, and lays out plans for the coming academic year. The attached one-page profile summarizes data and serves as the appendix.

Departmental Affairs

- Building on the curriculum revisions of 2010-11, the Department produced new brochures and promotional posters, and officially launched the new minor in Political and Civic Engagement. Promotional activities included mailing materials to local high school counselors, posting announcements around campus, and sending out recruitment letters to all students earning a grade of 'A' in the introductory general education courses inviting them to consider majoring in political science or international relations.
- The Department approved a set of by-laws that in addition to incorporating a number of existing policies, such as the chair's term, created a committee structure to strengthen internal faculty governance, and a workload policy designed to facilitate research. It established three standing committees: Budget, Institutional Effectiveness, and External and Student Relations committees. In addition, the Department formally created and recognized the position of Director of Political and Civic Engagement.

Department Events / Publications (hard copies and on-line)

- Student Handbook (August 2010)
- New student picnic (Sept 15, 2010)
- Internship Forum (Sept 29, 2010)
- Graduate School Workshop (February 15, 2011)
- Career Workshop (March 2, 2011)
- Special showing of Oliver Stone's *South of the Border* (March 22, 2011)
- Public Service Workshop (April 7, 2011)
- Spring Picnic (April 23, 2011)
- Fall and Spring Newsletters

Assessment

- At the start of the year, the Department redesigned its Student Learning Objectives and Assessment Instruments contained in its Institutional Effectiveness Plan (IEP). Copies of

the SLOs were provided to each member of the faculty and conspicuously displayed in the main office. As part of the new Institutional Effectiveness Plan, the Department adopted an Action Plan containing a number of initiatives, including the following:

- Individual faculty developed specific assessment instruments for their classes. For most, this involved designing and administering a survey to students dealing with specific aspects of at least one class. The information provides critical feedback to help faculty make adjustments to the design and conduct of their class. For some, this initiative also entailed a reflective analysis by faculty of how their specific course objectives contribute to the broader student learning outcomes of the Department.
- Working with the Institutional Effectiveness Committee, the Chair developed a rubric to review research papers from students in the Senior Seminar and students majoring in international relations. The review and assessment will take place over the summer.
- The Chair administered surveys to majors in the introductory level courses and the Senior Seminar designed to test attitudes regarding ethnocentrism and theory of mind. Results are pending.
- The Department began to move to a 3-3 teaching load to facilitate research, professional development, and more attention to courses. This move responds in part to the goal of promoting excellence in the classroom and research.
- The Department created a Student Advisory Council which met for the first time in the spring to offer a number of recommendations regarding Departmental matters. Among the suggestions were: more problem-based learning and hands-on activities like student-run court or political science game night, a research forum for students, more connections with criminal justice with field trips to hear court cases, a greater focus on careers, and open discussion boards.
- Dr. Langenbach redesigned the required internship assignments to strengthen the academic rigor of the internships.
- Both the political science and the international relations programs underwent their five-year external review. In both cases, the external reviewers found that the programs satisfied all criteria listed on the THEC checklist. The reviews praised the work of the faculty and outlined a series of recommendations to enhance the overall quality of the programs. These recommendations provide much of the framework for 2011-12.

Learning Outcomes

- The 2009-10 results on the major field test were disappointing. Average scores for both IR and PS majors fell below the 500 funding threshold. The average for IR majors was 499 and for PS majors 459.
- The average LSAT score for the 14 majors reported in October 2010 was 152. This was up from 149 in 2009.
- On the 2009-10 California Critical Thinking Skills Test (General Education Test) the overall mean score and scores in each category tested for IR majors (n=18) remained steady and above the college average. Scores for IR majors improved in the areas of evaluation and induction compared to the prior year, but fell in the areas of deduction and

inference. For political science majors (n=78), however, the scores were near or slightly below the college averages and declined in all substantive areas tested.

- MTSU students (mostly political science majors) taking the Government/Political Science Praxis exam over the period from September 2009 to August 2010 performed well. The 14 MTSU students garnered a mean score of 715 (800 highest possible score), surpassing the average of 700 by all examinees (n=402). In addition, 13 of the 14 MTSU students achieved a passing mark compared to 14% of the entire group.
- A review of student evaluations from fall semester 2010 courses showed overall average department scores exceeding the college and university average in every area examined (presentation ability; organization and clarity; assignments and grading; intellectual and scholarly approach; incorporation of student interaction; motivating students; and effectiveness and worth). The department enjoyed its highest rating on the factors of assignments and grading, and intellectual and scholarly approach. At the individual level, six of the 15 full-time faculty enjoyed an increase in their weighted average compared to the Fall 2009, and six registered no change. Among the three faculty with the lowest ratings in Fall 2009, two of the three registered improvements in 2010. Evaluations of Adjuncts were also strong, with scores above the college and university averages.

Curriculum

- The Department offered 68 distinct courses in 129 sections or classes (Fall/Spring), including 10 on-line sections, and 5 special honors sections, and 66 internships, generating a total of 9,361 student credit hours.
- The Department launched a new minor in Political and Civic Engagement.
- Two new courses were taught for the first time this year. Dr. DiPaolo offered a section of PS 4850 Advanced Studies in Comparative Politics on Canadian Politics, and Dr. Franklin taught PS 3550 Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy. In addition, the previous PS 4000 course was redesigned and renumbered as PS 3001 Research Methods in Political Science.
- The Department created and gained approval of a new courses: PS 4970 Undergraduate Research.
- PS 2010 American Government and Politics was renumbered to PS 1005 beginning in the fall 2011.

Student-Centered Learning

The Department continued to provide students with substantial learning opportunities outside the formal classroom. These included:

- 66 students participated in formal **internships** during the summer/fall/spring semesters generating 395 credit hours. The students worked in political campaigns, law offices, and community-based organizations. Six students participated in the **Washington Center program**, spending a full semester in an internship in Washington D.C., and four participated in the **Legislative Internship program** in Nashville. The internships were coordinated by Dr. Langenbach (public service and political campaign internships), Dr. Willis (pre-law internships), Dr. Carlton (Washington Center), and Dr. Byrnes (Legislative internship).

- Numerous students participated in the Department's **Student Organizations** and competed in regional and national competitions. In many cases, the students earned individual and team awards and recognition.

Model United Nations

- Georgetown University, Washington, DC, Oct 28-31, 2010, 6 students
- UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 7-11, 2011, 6 students

Moot Court

- Regional Competition, Little Rock, AR, November 11-13, 2010, 14 students
- National Competition, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, January 13-16, 2011, 7 students

Mediation

- Mediation Tournament sponsored by Brenau University, Gainesville, GA, September 30-October 2, 2010, 11 students
- Mediation Tournament sponsored by Drake University, Des Moines, IA, November 4-7, 2010, 10 students

Mock Trial

- Classic Invitational Tournament sponsored by University of Georgia, Athens, TN, Oct 23-24, 2010, 7 students
- Invitational Tournament sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University, Lexington, KY, Oct 29-31, 2010, 9 students
- *Host:* MTSU Mock Trial Invitational Tournament, Murfreesboro, TN, Nov 12-13, 2010, included 66 teams from all over the US competed. Still the largest invitational in the nation. 26 MTSU students.
- Commodore Classic Invitational Tournament, sponsored by Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, Jan 22-23, 2011, 15 students
- Ramblin' Wreck Invitational Tournament sponsored by Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA, Jan 29-30, 2011, 8 students
- Regional Championship sponsored by Mississippi College School of Law, Jackson, MS, Feb 19-20, 2011, 16 students
- Opening Round Championship, Memphis, TN, March 25-27, 2011, 13 students
- Mock Trial Diversity Tournament, sponsored by John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, April 7-9, 2011, 4 students

Awards/ Scholarships

- The Department awarded over \$12,000 in **Department Scholarships** to students during the year.
- In the spring ceremony, the Department awarded the Norman L. Parks Award to Jenni Bewley, the C.C. Sims Award to Alison Carden, the John W. Burgess Award to Nathaniel Greene, the Jack Justin Turner Award to Nick Mackie, and Meritorious Service Awards to Nick Mackie, Lee Whitwell, Eric Bisby, Sam Keen, Charlie Burns, and Shaun Guffey.
- Kim Yarborough and Patrick Pratt (both IR majors) received **Fulbright Scholarships**. Ms Yarborough will be teaching in Spain, while Mr. Pratt will conduct research in Tanzania.

- Nick Mackie (IR major) received the 2011 **Provost's Award**. During his tenure at MTSU, Mr. Mackie's completed the McNair Scholars Program, and received a Critical Language Scholarship, the Gilman Scholarship, the Clinton Scholarship, the Dell Scholarship from the Susan and Michael Dell Foundation, and the MTSU Presidential Scholarship.

Alumni/Donations

- The Department sponsored a get-together of alumni at Homecoming and conducted a mass mailing to alumni updating them on Departmental matters and soliciting donations.
- From July 1, 2010 to May 20, 2011, the Department received \$3,000.75 in donations to Department scholarship accounts and the Political Science Enrichment Fund.

Faculty

Department faculty had an amazingly productive year. In addition to offering 68 courses in 129 classes (Fall/Spring), including 10 on-line sections, and 5 honor's sections, and 66 internships, and despite a heavy teaching and advising over 500 students, the 14 full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty devoted substantial time and energy to course improvements, scholarship, grant writing, and service to the Department, the institution, the profession, and the community. Among the accomplishments during the year:

Awards

Dr. Petersen received an Undergraduate Fellowship Office Exemplary Faculty Award from the Honor's college, and **Dr. Willis** was recognized as Outstanding Advisor by the College of Liberal Arts.

Grants

Dr. DiPaolo obtained an Access and Diversity Grant; **Dr. Livingston** acquired a Creative Activity Grant, a TBR Diversity Grant, and an Academic Fellowship from the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies; **Dr. Maynor** was awarded a grant from the President's Commission on the Status of Women; and **Dr. Petersen** received an Access and Diversity Grant, a Creative Activity Grant, and a Instructional Evaluation and Development Grant.

Publications

During the year, Department faculty published one edited book, seven peer-reviewed articles, and numerous book chapters and other publications. They include:

- *The State of Blacks in Middle Tennessee* (Urban League of Middle Tennessee in partnership with the Urban EpiCenter and the Center for Community College) (**Dr. Franklin**, edited).
- "Ne Tol'ko Poteria..." ("Not Only the Loss...") *Strategiia Rossii (Russia's Strategy* 12 (84), December 2010, 37-39 (**Dr. Korobkov**)
- "Uzhe Sama Ideya Skolkovo dayet Nadezhdu" ("Skolkovo Concept Offers Some Hope") in the *Tribuna Obshestvennoi Palaty (Public Chamber Tribune)*. 2010. (**Dr. Korobkov**)

- “Russian Brain Drain: Myths and Reality” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* (forthcoming) (**Dr. Korobkov**).
- “Tennessee Imports, A First Look,” “Can Tennessee Double its Exports?,” “Tennessee and FTAs,” and “Significant Links to the Middle East” in *Global Commerce*. (**Dr. Livingston**).
- “Fighting back against domination: republican citizenship and unbounded reciprocity.” *Diacrítica* 24 (20), 2010: 73-90. (**Dr. Maynor**).
- “Continuity and Change in Mexican Politics: The Legacies of the Mexican Revolution.” *The Latin Americanist* 54 (4), 2010: 183-199. (**Dr. Morris**).
- “Corruption and Trust: Theoretical Considerations and Evidence from Mexico.” *Comparative Political Studies*, 43 (10), 2010: 1258-1285. (**Dr. Morris** with Joseph Klesner)
- “Mexico’s Political Culture, the Unrule of Law, and Corruption as a Form of Resistance.” *Mexican Law Review* 3 (2), 2011: 327-342. (**Dr. Morris**)
- “Conflict Escalation in Dyads with a History of Territorial Disputes,” *International Journal of Conflict Management*. (**Dr. Petersen**).
- “Africans in Middle Tennessee” in *Blacks in Middle Tennessee*. (**Dr. Tesi**).

Conference Presentations

Department faculty presented a total of 14 papers at major conferences and scholarly meetings including those sponsored by the American Political Science Association, the International Council for Central and East European Studies, the International Studies Association, the Midwestern Political Science Association, the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, and the Russian International Studies Association, among others.

Service

Beyond their service to the Department, faculty provided extensive service to the institution, the profession, and the community during the year. Among the multiple contributions: **Dr. Carleton** was appointed by the TBR as the CLA liaison on the College of Education for the Ready-2-Teach initiative, served on the TSU Teacher Education Council, the Distinguished Lecture Fund, and the Advisory Board to the MTSU American Democracy Project, and as President of the non-profit Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform. **Dr. DiPaolo** served on the EXL committee and the Athletics Committee. **Dr. Franklin** coordinated the Urban Studies minor, offered numerous presentations to local organizations including the HBCU Wellness Project at Meharry Medical College, the Urban League of Middle Tennessee, and the Tennessee NAACP, served on the Nonviolent Resistance Movement and Social Justice Committee (NRMSJC), and the Green-Collar Jobs Task Force of Nashville-Davidson County, chaired the Board of the Urban EpiCenter, and was appointed to the *Tennessean* (Newspaper) Reader Advisory Board. **Dr. Korobkov** coordinated the minor in Russian Studies and Democracy in Other Lands as part of the American Democracy Project, served on the International Education and Exchanges Committee, the Veterans’ Memorial Committee, and the MTSU Holocaust Committee, and on the board of the Research Institute for European and American Studies and Russian-American Center Advisory Board. **Dr. Langenbach** served as MTSU representative on the TBR Articulation Committee for political science, and on

the search Committee for Dean of College of Liberal Arts. She also continued to assist with the RODP program. **Dr. Livingston** edited the journal *Global Commerce*, and served on the Liberal Arts Tenure and Promotion Committee, the MTSU Statistician Network, and the MTSU Normandy Exchange Committee, and as Site Director of the MTSU General Education Program in France. **Dr. Maynor** served on the Faculty Senate, the EXL Scholars Program Advisory Board, and as Associate Editor (North America) of the journal *Contemporary Political Theory*. He also presented a workshop on Civic Engagement and Service Learning at the LT& ITC. **Dr. McDaniel** chaired the Veterans Memorial Committee, and delivered a talk on “Civility in Public Discourse” for the Murfreesboro League of Women Voters. **Dr. Morris** served on the editorial board of *The Latin Americanist* and participated in “Mexico’s Future Trajectory: A Strategic Game” at SAIC. **Dr. Perez-Reiley** prepared a history of the Department as part of the Centennial celebration. **Dr. Petersen** coordinated assessment efforts for the college, presided as president of the Tennessee Political Science Association, and served on the APSA mentoring program, Student Fulbright Interview committee, and the Grade Appeals Committee. She also assisted in planning the conference on Gangs with the Forensic Institute for Research and Education, and delivered the Buchanan Challenge speech the fall. **Dr. Tesi** coordinated the African Studies minor, and served on the CLA’s Diversity Research Grant Award Committee, the University Search Committee for Vice Provost for International Education, as Editor of the *Journal of African Policy Studies*, and as a member of the Fulbright Review Committee for the Council of the International Exchange of Scholars in Washington, D.C. **Dr. Vernardakis** was elected to join the board of the Section in Comparative Administration (SICA) of the American Society for Public Administration. **Dr. Willis** chaired the Academic Appeals Committee for the College of Liberal Arts, serves on the Board of Directors for the American Intercollegiate Mediation Association and is Director Emeritus on the board of directors of the American Mock Trial Association.

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Plans for 2011-12

The forgoing point to many of the priorities and tasks for the upcoming year. Among these are:

- Discuss and act on the recommendations offered by the external reviewers. These include: strengthening efforts to promote public service and active learning among students, including study abroad; designing programs and initiatives focused specifically on the international relations major; reviewing the international relations curriculum; adding a new faculty line; and improving advising.
- Enhance student research by promoting greater involvement in Scholars Week events and related activities.
- Continue efforts to improve our engagement with students outside the classroom and get students more involved. Building on the Student Advisory Council, this might include the creation of a political science and international relations club that can meet periodically to discuss issues of interest. The Department will also continue to organize

workshops, sponsor guest speakers, films, and social events to help strengthen the sense of community.

- Improve external relations among friends, supporters and alumni with the creation of an External Advisory Board.
- Promote faculty research through reduced teaching load, internal and external funding, and by encouraging faculty/student collaborative research.
- Continue to improve assessment by expanding the individual course assessment program.
- Work with the Administration to add at least one faculty line, create the position of Program Coordinator and Advisor to improve advising, and add clerical support.
- Promote public service and the new minor in political and civic engagement.

Appendix Department Profile

<p><u>Majors</u> (Fall 2010): 525 General Focus 120 Pre-Law 229 Inter. Relations 94 Public Adm. 19 Teaching Licensure 35</p>	<p><u>Graduates</u> (2010-21): 101 22 (BS in International Relations) 11 (BA in Political Science) 68 (BS Political Science)</p>																																																
<p><u>Classes Taught</u> (2010-11): 129</p> <p><u>Student Credit Hours:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Semester</th> <th style="text-align: right;">LD</th> <th style="text-align: right;">UD</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Grad.</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fall 10:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,167</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,334</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,528</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring 11:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,932</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,901</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,833</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Internships:</u> 2010-11: 66 (395 credit hours) 2009-10: 42 (318 credit hours)</p>	Semester	LD	UD	Grad.	Total	Fall 10:	2,167	2,334	9	4,528	Spring 11:	1,932	2,901	-	4,833	<p><u>Major Field Test</u> 2010-11: IR: 499; PS: 459 2009-10: IR: 507; PS 452</p> <p><u>By areas</u> (combined IR/PS scores)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">American</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Comp/IR</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Public Adm.</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Meth/Theory</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">511</td> <td style="text-align: center;">475</td> <td style="text-align: center;">437</td> <td style="text-align: center;">423</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	American	Comp/IR	Public Adm.	Meth/Theory	511	475	437	423																									
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<p><u>Enrollment</u> (Fall 2010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS 1010: 276 students in 11 sections (average 25.1 per section) • PS 2010: 284 students in 12 sections (average 23.6 per section) • Other courses (excluding internships, directed studies): 959 students in 49 courses (average 19.6 per course) 	<p><u>Faculty</u> (2010-11): 14 Full Professors: 5 Associate Professors: 8 Assistant Professors: 1 FTT: 1 [Adjuncts: 14]</p> <p><u>Donations to Scholarship and Enrichment Funds</u> (7/1/10 to 5/20/11) \$3,000.75</p>																																																
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