Dear Political Science majors and alumni,

Welcome back! This newsletter will provide you with information on new faculty hires, courses, faculty updates, and activities sponsored by the Department.

New Faculty Hires

**Ashley Burns** is finishing her PhD in Public Policy at Duke University. Interested in the intersections between social problems and political action, she currently researches on housing policy, gentrification, and identity politics. She has also served as the program director for Duke Engage in New Orleans for the past 6 years. During the next academic year, she will be teaching courses on Poverty, Ethics of Policy, and Race and Politics.

**Andrew Poe** is currently an assistant professor of political theory in the Department. His research examines transformations in social and political thought, with special emphasis on problems in democratic theory, the history of European political thought, and political affect. Since 2009, he has been a recurring research fellow at the Institut für Sozialforschung in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, conducting a research project on dimensions of fanaticism. Currently, he is completing a manuscript on the genealogy of political enthusiasm.

**Kerry Ratigan** is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her research and teaching interests include state–society relations, Chinese politics, politics of developing countries, and research methods. Her dissertation, titled “Subnational Interventions in Social Policy Provision: Healthcare Reform in Rural China”, examines healthcare reform and subnational variation in social policy implementation in China.
Courses Offered by Visiting Faculty

“This course is an introduction to and survey of the essential figures in The Frankfurt School. We will begin with Marx and the Freudo-Marxist work of Herbert Marcuse, which focuses on man’s relationship to the world in capitalist society. From there, we will move to Horkheimer and Adorno’s critique of “the culture industry,” and then to Adorno’s most philosophical work Minima Moralia: Reflections on a Damaged Life, which provides a poetic interlude before exploring the works of Walter Benjamin, who was often at odds with Adorno, and remains a mysterious and controversial figure. We will end the course with Benjamin’s last work, Theses on the Philosophy of History.”

Professor Hill is teaching “Introduction to the Frankfurt School”

“An intensive investigation of new and emerging problems in international peace and security affairs. We will examine such issues as: international terrorism; global resource competition; the security implications of globalization; international migrations; transboundary environmental problems; illegal trafficking in guns, drugs, and people. Participants in the seminar will be required to choose a particular problem for in-depth investigation, entailing a study of the nature and evolution of the problem, the existing international response to it, and proposals for its solution. Students will prepare a major paper on the topic and give an oral presentation to the class on their findings.”

Professor Klare is teaching “Seminar on International Politics: Global Resource Politics”

“Using comparative case material, this course considers the structural determining contexts of class, ‘race,’ gender, sexuality, and age focusing particularly on the relationship between power (formal and informal) and the regulation of ‘deviance,’ ’crime,’ and ‘conflict.’ Through engaging critical primary research, the course will examine the experiential realities of individuals and communities within their historical, structural and reproductive contexts, with particular attention to the role of state intervention. Key topics include: institutionalized racism and sectarianism; gender, sexuality and violence; prisons and incarceration; marginalization and exclusion of children and young people; the ‘war on terror’ and criminalized communities; justice transition in the North of Ireland and the legacy of conflict.”

Karl Loewenstein Fellow Professor Scraton is teaching “Power, Conflict and Criminalisation”
Humanitarianism:

“This course serves as an introduction to the politics of humanitarianism. We will focus on questions such as: How has humanitarianism developed historically? What explains the increasing appearance of humanitarianism as a moral sentiment around the globe? What are the ethical dilemmas and political effects of humanitarian projects? How is humanitarianism practiced on the ground? In this course, humanitarianism will be examined as a political practice with a focus on different domains of its practice: welfare, development, disaster assistance, NGOs and volunteerism. The primary purpose of this class is to help students understand giving as a political practice by providing them with the necessary theoretical tools to investigate global humanitarianism in its multi-dimensionality.”

Professor Ze-ncirci is teaching “Humanitarianism” & “Political Islam in Turkey and the Muslim World”

Political Islam in Turkey and the Muslim World:

“The goal of this class is to illuminate the complex relationship between secularism, political Islam and democracy through an in-depth case study of Turkey. In the past decade, some scholars have identified Turkey as a model “Muslim democracy” with significance to the larger Muslim world. In this course we will learn about the historical and political features of “Muslim democracy” in Turkey, and then discuss whether the Turkish case can be extended to other countries. The course is divided into three parts: (1) Theoretical investigations concerning the relationship between secularism, Islam and democracy (2) The Turkish case—historical background and current politics—and (3) trajectories of political Islam in Egypt, Iran and Indonesia. Please note that this course will heavily rely on readings.”

New Courses for 2013-2014

Fall 2013:
POSC 117: Transformative Ideas (Professor Dumm)
POSC 206: Race & American Politics (Professor Burns)
POSC 208: Power and Politics in Contemporary China (Professor Ratigan)
POSC 308: Democratic Theory (Professor Poe)
POSC 309: Collective Action and the Politics of Resistance (Professor Ratigan)

Spring 2014:
POSC 111: Leviathan (Professor Poe)
POSC 209: China in the International System (Professor Ratigan)
POSC 210: Local Politics in a Globalized World (Professor Ratigan)
POSC 306: Policy Choice as Value Conflict (Professor Burns)
POSC 406: Politics of Place: Poverty, Policy and Housing (Professor Burns)
Faculty Updates

Bertrand Snell Professor of Political Science Emeritus Professor Taubman is teaching “Personality and Politics” this semester.

“I joined the Department as a twenty-five year old instructor in the fall of 1967. Over the years, I specialized in courses on Russian politics and foreign policy, while also teaching a wider array of subjects like personality and political leadership, national identity, revolution, war, totalitarianism, etc. Although I formally retired at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year, I am continuing to teach one course a year, currently a seminar on “Personality and International Politics: Gorbachev, the end of the Cold War, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union.” I am also writing a biography of the first and last Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev. I previously wrote a biography of Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, which won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2004.”

Joseph B. Eastman ’04 Professor of Political Science Professor Tiersky is on phased retirement and on leave this semester.

“Retiring from Amherst can be conceived of as retiring entirely from a professional career to cultivate one’s garden, as Voltaire said, or to fish, as Confucius wanted. Otherwise, you might think of it, as I do, as just a matter of moving on—to new things, different things, or just more of what you’d been doing all along. In my case this means writing on foreign policy, European politics, political leadership. I’m also blogging on the Huffington Post about education—talking mainly about teaching, contributing some conclusions and and a few suggestions after several decades as a liberal arts teacher. I’ll be living in NYC. Phased retirement is a good way to make way for younger colleagues while keeping in touch with students and doing what one can to mentor. I’ll be teaching the fall semester for the next two years.”
Professor Arkes participated in a debate/conversation with Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Federal Circuit before the Lawyers’ Meeting of the Federalist Society on November 17th in Washington. The subject was the natural law, or the way in which the natural right may rightly bear on our constitutional law and the work of judges. The Lawyers’ Meeting, held every year, brings together judges, lawyers, and students in the schools of law. Arkes and Kozinski came together in the Rosenkranz debate, held at lunch on Saturday. The lawyers and judges drawn to the Federalist Society have not exactly been keen on the matter of natural law, and that is what made the warmth of their response both surprising—and gratifying. The video recording of the debate has been making the rounds on Youtube and other sources, and it can be found at this link for Amherst.

Arkes will be spending the spring semesters, for the next three years, in Washington, to put in place a new Center for the Jurisprudence of Natural Law. As part of this new project he has been organizing a James Wilson Seminar, bringing together federal judges, along with professors who have written for many years on the natural law. They’ve been joined also by lawyers, younger and older, former clerks to federal judges, and men and women in legal practice, mainly in Washington. They have added to their company at times by inviting in certain students from the leading law schools, including former students of Professor Arkes. The next meeting of the James Wilson Seminar is scheduled for April 26/27 at the University Club in Washington.

But earlier than that, on March 14, Professor Arkes will be launching a series of lectures, following up on the interest generated by the Rosenkranz debate. In that first session, he will be dealing with the concerns raised about the “contours” of the natural law—whether the natural law offers clear enough boundaries or border to limit the reach of judges. He will be joined in that session by Judge Thomas Griffith of the Federal Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit, and by Misha Tseytlin (Amherst ’03), who had clerked for Justice Anthony Kennedy. Misha is at the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Washington.

As he pursues the project in natural law, Professor Arkes has a schedule of lectures set up at the law schools at Georgetown, NYU, William & Mary, the University of Minnesota, and at chapters of the Federalist Society in different cities. He had made an initial run last year,

Edward N. Ney Professor in American Institutions **Professor Arkes** is on phased retirement and on leave this semester.
Arkes spoke at the law school at Duke University on January 22, on the subject of “Natural Law and the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade.” That talk too has been recorded and has made the rounds. It can be found with this link.

Arkes continues to organize the meetings of the Amherst Committee for the American Founding, a group of former students and alumni that came together a dozen years ago for the purpose of preserving at Amherst the teachings of the American Founders and Abraham Lincoln on “natural right.” The spring meeting of the Committee will be held this year in Washington, at the University Club (on Sixteenth Street) on April 12/13. As Professor Arkes gradually phases out of his teaching at Amherst over the next three years, the Amherst Committee will also be shifting some of its work to Washington, including seminars and lectures, and internships for students from Amherst.

In the meantime, Professor Arkes continues to write for different publications, including the new website for his center for natural law, Rightreason.org. He continues also with his column, every two weeks, for the web journal The Catholic Thing (drawn from G.K. Chesterton—Catholicism: The Thing).

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**Department Sponsored Events Fall 2012**

“The Hybrid State: Crime, Citizenship and Neoliberal Governance in Kingston, Jamaica” by Dr. Rivke Jaffe (September 19)

“Colloquium on the American Founding” featuring Jeff Bell, Diana Schaub, James Taranto, and Jay Cost (September 28 & 29)

Live Streamings of the Presidential Debates (October 3, 16, 22)

“President Obama and America’s Political Future” by Theda Skocpol (October 9)

“Obama and Foreign Policy: Soft Power in a Hard World” by Bret Stephens (October 17)

“What Obama isn’t Telling You about Obamacare” by James Capretta (October 23)

“Lost Decades: the Debt Crisis in Europe and the US in the Latin American Mirror” by Jeffery Frieden (October 25)

“The 2012 Venezuelan Election” by Francisco Monaldi (November 28)
Department New Facebook Page

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Amherst College Department of Political Science
40 likes - 2 talking about this

Education
Welcome to the Department of Political Science at Amherst College.

About Photos Likes Events

Upcoming Deadlines (Attention: Class of 2014)

Honors/Thesis Applications are due March 1st.
Please refer to the following links for more information:
https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/honorsthesis
https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/honorsthesis/honorsapplication

Latham Summer Internships: These stipends are awarded each year to Amherst students who are seeking to spend the summer working as interns in Washington, D.C., in offices of the federal government, or in other positions in the public service. Applications are due April 1.
Please refer to the following links for more information:
https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/careers/students/jobs/internships/funding/Latham
New Major Requirements (Starting Class of 2015)

Majors in Political Science must complete 10 courses for rite or 12 for honors in courses offered or approved by the Department, including at least one introductory course numbered in the 100’s and at least one advanced seminar. In addition they must fulfill a distribution requirement and complete a core concentration within Political Science.

**Introductory courses.** Courses numbered 100s are introductory courses. Because these courses are designed to introduce students to the study of politics, the department recommends that they be taken in the first and second year. Students may count a maximum of two introductory courses toward their major.

**Advanced Seminars.** These courses are generally numbered in the 300s AND 400s. They have prerequisites, limited enrollment, and a substantial writing requirement.

**Distribution Requirement Starting with the Class of 2015.** To fulfill the distribution requirement, majors must take one course in each of the following areas: Institutions and Law: States, institutions, parties, political economy, the law and public policy [IL]; Society and Culture: Civil society, social movements, rights and identities, cultural politics [SC]; Global: War, peace, diplomacy, foreign policy and globalization studies [G]; Political Theory: Power, norms, and justice [PT].

**Core Concentration.** Political Science majors shall also designate a core concentration within the major. The core concentration will consist of a minimum of four courses organized around a theme chosen by the student in consultation with the advisor. Students may count up to two courses from outside the Political Science Department to fulfill the core requirement. These courses will count for the completion of the major. Ordinarily students shall designate a core concentration by the end of the sophomore year or at the time they declare the major. Advisors will certify that graduating students have completed their core concentration requirement.

Please refer to the following link for more information: [https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/majorinpolisci](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/majorinpolisci)

Useful Links/Information

**Faculty Office Hours:**
[https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/faculty-office-hours](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/faculty-office-hours)

**Winter 2013 Colloquium on the Constitution and the Imagining of America** (Feb. 22-23, 2013): “Privacy: Twenty-First Century Possibilities and Challenges”
Please email Megan Estes for more information: mlestes@amherst.edu

**Connect with Political Science Alumni:**
[https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/poliscialumni](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/political_science/poliscialumni)