

Graduate Program Information for Prospective Students 2010-11

Graduate Program Advisor:

Dr. Amir Abedi
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360-650-4143

Department Office:

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www.wwu.edu/depts/polsci

The Master of Arts program offers three fields of concentration: American politics and policy, comparative politics, and political theory. Students choose a major and minor field of concentration for their program.

Students also may specialize in the environmental policy program, which is jointly offered with Huxley College of the Environment. This specialization is intended for students interested in developing a cognate program involving one field of study (of the three offered) in political science and a field in environmental policy-making studies.

MASTER OF ARTS - POLITICAL SCIENCE

Admission

Prerequisites

Students who meet the requirements of the Graduate School and show evidence of strong academic performance and scholarly potential are invited to apply. Admission preference is given to students with course work in political science or related social sciences. Entering students should have completed undergraduate course work in American political processes, as well as course work in social science methodology equivalent to Political Science 366 *Research in Politics*. Any deficiencies must be satisfied during the student's first quarter if possible.

Application

Submit all application materials to:

Graduate School Office
Western Washington University
516 High St
Bellingham WA 98225-9037

Completed applications include:

- application and fee – submit on-line at www.wwu.edu/depts/gradschool
- three recent letters of reference
- a two-page statement of purpose explaining why the applicant wishes to pursue graduate work in political science. It should also indicate which track and/or field of concentration the applicant intends to pursue. Prospective applicants are encouraged to review faculty research interests in this document (page 3), or on the department website at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/polsci/index.shtml> before applying
- a writing sample, such as a research paper or a similar paper, demonstrating writing ability
- official GRE general test scores. EXCEPTION: Applicants who have previously earned an advanced degree are not required to submit GRE scores
- two sets of official transcripts (unless you have previously matriculated at WWU).

The deadline date for completed applications is **February 1** for priority consideration for admission for fall quarter, **AND** for teaching assistantships and departmental scholarships. The political science graduate committee approves admissions. Applicants should refer to the Graduate School section in the *University Bulletin*, or visit www.wwu.edu/depts/gradschool, for general information on Graduate School policies and procedures.

Degree Requirements

Basic Requirements

All students are required to declare a major field and a minor field of concentration and take the core course in each. The student must then complete at least two additional 500-level courses in the major field, and one more 500-level course in the minor field, as outlined below.

- PLSC 501 and 502 (a graduate course in another department, as determined by the political science department, may be substituted for 502)
- Two of the following courses, one from the major field and one from the minor field of concentration
 - American Politics and Policy PLSC 503 or PLSC 540
 - Comparative Politics PLSC 505
 - Political Theory PLSC 560
- At least two additional 500-level political science courses in the major field of concentration
- At least one 500-level political science course in the minor field
- PLSC 690 (1-9 credits)
- Oral defense of the thesis proposal and of the completed thesis
- Minimum 45 credits.

Electives

- Courses are selected under advisement from 400- and 500-level courses in political science and supporting disciplines. No more than 10 credits may come from 400-level courses, and no more than 10 credits of PLSC 500 (directed independent study) are recommended. All elective courses must be approved by the student's program committee.

MASTER OF ARTS - POLITICAL SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES)

Curriculum Coordinator: Dr. Sara Singleton
Political Science Department
AH 420
360-650-4880
Sara.Singleton@wwu.edu

The political science/environmental studies curriculum is a joint offering of the Political Science Department and Huxley College of the Environment. The program emphasizes environmental policy and especially the political, economic and social factors which affect environmental policy-making processes.

Admission

Prerequisites

Prerequisites are the same as for the MA program in Political Science with additional consideration given to applicants who have a background in environmental studies, natural science, or a related field.

Application

Same as for the MA program in Political Science. New students will be admitted to this program fall quarter only. Admission decisions normally will be made no later than March 15.

Degree Requirements

Basic Requirements

- PLSC 501, 502 (a graduate course in another department, as determined by the political science department, may be substituted for 502), 524
- The core course from one of the fields of concentration
 - American Politics and Policy PLSC 503 or PLSC 540
 - Comparative Politics PLSC 505
 - Political Theory PLSC 560
- At least one other 500-level course in the same field of concentration

- Interdisciplinary environmental studies field to be constructed by the student in consultation with environmental studies curriculum coordinator; must include three environmental studies courses.
- PLSC 690 or ESTU 690a (9 credits)
- Oral defense of the thesis proposal and of the completed thesis.
- Minimum 45 credits.

Electives

- Courses are selected under advisement from 400- and 500-level courses in political science and supporting disciplines. No more than 10 credits may come from 400-level courses, and no more than 10 credits of PLSC 500 (directed independent study) are recommended. All elective courses must be approved by the student's program committee.

POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE COURSES

Course #	Course Name	Credits
501	Political Science as a Discipline	5
502	Research Techniques in Political Science (a graduate course in another department, as determined by the political science department, may be substituted for 502)	5
503	Public Policy and Administration	5
505	Seminar in Comparative Government and Politics	5
506	Advanced Topic in Comparative Government and Politics	5 (max 10)
521	Seminar in Public Policy Analysis	3
524	Environmental Politics and Policy	3
540	Seminar in the Political Process	5
542	Public Service Internship	1-10
550	Seminar in State and Local Government	3
560	Seminar in Political Theory	5 (max 10)
570	Special Problems in Political Science	1-5 (max 15)
690	Thesis/Thesis Research	1-9

GRADUATE FACULTY

Amir Abedi, Associate Professor. BA, University of Hanover, Germany; MA, PhD, University of British Columbia. Comparative politics, European politics, parties and party systems. [Amir.Abedi@wwu.edu, 360-650-4143]

Donald K. Alper, Professor. BA, MA, California State University, Long Beach; PhD, University of British Columbia. Canadian-American Studies, American politics [Don.Alper@wwu.edu, 360-650-4871]

Bidisha Biswas, Assistant Professor. BA, University of Delhi; MA, PhD, University of Maryland. International relations, ethnic and civic conflicts, terrorism, diaspora politics. [Bidisha.Biswas@wwu.edu, 360-650-6596]

Paul Chen, Associate Professor. BA, University of California, Berkeley; JD, Southwestern University School of Law; MA, Biola University; MA, PhD, University of Southern California. Law and society, legal philosophy, US Supreme Court. [Paul.Chen@wwu.edu, 360-650-4876]

Shirin Deylami, Assistant Professor. BA, Politics and Women's Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz; MA, Political Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; PhD, Political Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Political theory, contemporary Islam, feminism and sexuality, comparative political theory. [Shirin.Deylami@wwu.edu, 360-650-2913]

Todd A. Donovan, Professor. BA, California State University, Sacramento; MA, PhD, University of California, Riverside. American politics, state and local, elections and representation. [Todd.Donovan@wwu.edu, 360-650-3018]

Cynthia Horne, Assistant Professor. BA, Dartmouth College; MS, Georgetown University; PhD, University of Washington. International political economy, comparative political economy, international relations, comparative politics, post-Soviet politics and economics. [Cynthia.Horne@wwu.edu, 360-650-2910]

Vicki Hsueh, Associate Professor. BA, Williams College; MA, PhD, Johns Hopkins University. Political theory, history of political thought, race and ethnicity, colonialism and post-colonialism. [Vicki.Hsueh@wwu.edu, 360-650-2649]

Vernon D. Johnson, Professor. BA, Akron University; MA, PhD, Washington State University. Comparative politics, development, race and public policy. [Vernon.Johnson@wwu.edu, 360-650-4874]

Kristen D. Parris, Associate Professor. BA, MA, PhD, Indiana University. Comparative politics, Chinese politics, East Asian studies. [Kristen.Parris@wwu.edu, 360-650-4873]

Debra J. Salazar, Professor. BS, University of California, Berkeley; MS, PhD, University of Washington. Environmental politics, social movements, methodology. [Debra.Salazar@wwu.edu, 360-650-6845]

Sara Singleton, Associate Professor. BA, MA, PhD, University of Washington. American politics, environmental politics, public policy. [Sara.Singleton@wwu.edu, 360-650-4880]

Sara J. Weir, Associate Professor. BA, MA, Ball State University; PhD, University of Washington. American politics, public policy, gender issues. [Sara.Weir@wwu.edu, 360-650-2912]

FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Several teaching assistantship positions are available. An applicant must have full admission status to the Graduate School (not provisional status) to be eligible. **February 1** is the TA application deadline date for priority consideration for the following academic year. Full-time assistants presently earn \$3,549 per quarter. Currently a partial tuition waiver is in effect for all full-time assistants, and both full- and part-time assistants are eligible for medical benefits. Graduate assistantships may be awarded quarterly or annually. Reappointment is competitive and depends on successful progress in the graduate program and the number of assistantships available to the department. A full-time graduate teaching assistantship requires 20 hours of work per week. Teaching assistants usually must be registered for a minimum of 8 credits during the quarter the appointment is held. Graduate assistants who have registered for, and completed, all courses on their approved graduate plan of study with the exception of their thesis (690) are allowed to register for a minimum of 2 credits each quarter. These credits must be thesis, research, or continuous enrollment. For complete information on graduate assistantships see the *Application for Graduate School Assistantship* http://www.wwu.edu/depts/gradschool/funding/graduate_assistantships.shtml.

Financial Aid

For information on financial aid availability and application procedures, contact Student Financial Resources, 360-650-3470, or visit www.finaid.wwu.edu.

Graduate Work-Study

The Student Financial Resources office, the Center for Work Experience and the Graduate School work cooperatively to refer graduate work-study students to serve as graduate research assistants to faculty involved in research projects. The typical award amount for work-study is currently equivalent to approximately 15 hours of work per week at \$16.55 per hour. **Only students who are eligible for financial aid may receive work-study awards.** If you need information, please contact one of the following offices:

Questions about	Contact	Phone
Financial Aid Eligibility	Clara Capron Student Financial Resources	360-650-3470
Work Study	Kathleen Nolan or Caryn Regimbal Student Employment Center	360-650-3158
The Referral Process	Michael Barr Graduate School	360-650-3569

Scholarships

Following is a list of some institutional scholarships available for qualified graduate students. Private scholarships are also available. For help in searching for private scholarships, contact the Scholarship Center, 360-650-3471, or visit the scholarship web site www.finaid.wvu.edu/scholarships.

Political Science Department

The Political Science Department has a number of scholarships available each year for political science graduate students. See the attached scholarship page for complete information or go to the Scholarship Center web site. The application deadline date is February 1.

Non-Departmental

The university offers a number of scholarship programs that are not restricted to a specific major or department. For more information contact the Scholarship Center.

Diversity

The university offers scholarship opportunities to a diverse group of students who demonstrate strong academic promise, talent and community service activity. For more information contact the Scholarship Center. The application deadline date is April 2nd.

Graduate Tuition Fee Waiver Scholarship

A limited number of Graduate Tuition Fee Waiver Scholarships are available. The awards are generally \$1000 per quarter for one to three quarters. The graduate advisor recommends students for the awards based on scholarship and financial need. Contact the Graduate School, 360-650-3170, <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/gradschool> for information. The deadline date for recommendations for the following academic year is April 15.

Other Funding

Fund for the Enhancement of Graduate Research

This fund awards research support in amounts up to \$1,000 to students currently enrolled in graduate programs at WWU. Students may apply in the spring for funding the following year. Awards are designed to assist students in accomplishing their thesis work (equipment, computer software, consumable items, travel, etc). Contact the Research Sponsored Programs office, 360-650-3220, <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/rsp/index.html> for deadline date and application information.

Ross Travel Funds

This fund was established to support travel for graduate students to present papers at professional meetings and conferences. Funding is awarded before travel occurs (retroactive requests are not considered). Applications are considered 4 times each year. Deadline dates for submission to the Graduate School are October 1, November 15, March 15 and May 15. Applications and guidelines are available in the political science office, or you may contact the Graduate School office, 360-650-3170.

Political Science Department Graduate Research Support

Graduate student research awards are designed to assist students in accomplishing their thesis work. Requests should be confined to activities that are central to the student's thesis work and which are not available to the applicant through the University. Contact the Political Science Department Manager for more information, 360-650-3469.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship application is available on-line at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/polsci/index.shtml>. The department's graduate scholarship application deadline is February 1.

C. W. "Bill" McDonald Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship honors C. W. "Bill" McDonald who coached basketball beginning in 1945, taught physical education, served as Dean of Men and later as Vice President of Student Affairs until his retirement in 1977. One scholarship is available for a full-time graduate student in political science with preference given to those emphasizing public policy.

Clement Family Scholarship

This scholarship was established in honor of Bill Clement. One scholarship is awarded to a full-time student in political science in the public policy field, preferably at the graduate level, but not necessarily limited to graduate students. Financial need will also be a consideration. Applicants are required to submit a one-page essay answering the following: *"What are your career goals? What are your interests in public policy and human (community) services, and how do you see these working together towards meeting your professional goals?"*

David Clarke Graduate Fellowship

This scholarship honors Professor David Clarke who came to Western in 1966 as a member of the Political Science faculty. He served as chair of the department from 1968 to 1971 and in 1974 he accepted a joint appointment in Political Science and Huxley College of Environmental Studies. He officially retired in 1990, but remained active and continued to teach environmental ethics courses. Professor Clarke was instrumental in establishing the joint graduate program with environmental studies. One scholarship is available for a political science graduate student with preference given to students in the political science/environmental studies program.

Political Science Department Public Affairs Research Fund Scholarship

A number of scholarships are awarded to full-time returning graduate students on the basis of meritorious scholarship and financial need (as indicated by the financial aid application).