New Season, New Look
A revamping of the PoliSci Newsletter. See what the department has been up to:

Our professors examine outrageous political speech in current election cycle -- Tufts Daily

Deborah Schildkraut, Chair of the Political Science Department, Jeffrey Berry, and Consuelo Cruz discussed outrageous political speech with the Tufts Daily, “Outrage is not new,” Berry said. "If you have a free media, people are going to say what they feel — and what they feel is not always nice."

"Social networking allows people to comment on the news in a way that [wasn’t possible before],” Schildkraut said. "One of the charges that you hear sometimes is the declining civility in the comments that people attach when they are forwarding a news story or a link to a news story.”

"Everybody is taking on a theatrical persona, and what drives the drama is the idea that they can give voice to the anger, the anxiety, the fear that people are feeling,” Cruz said. "The political system therefore becomes a kind of echo chamber for outrage."

click the hyperlinks for articles & sources

see what you and your fellow students can accomplish!

check out what events the PoliSci Department has & will participate in
How do we observe political activity?

Professor Natalie Masuoka is offering a brand new course this semester on mapping political and civic engagement in local neighborhoods, business districts, and public spaces across the greater Boston area. **PS118-24: Mapping Politics: Neighborhood Engagement in the 2016 Presidential Election** is the first Political Science course to address this question by utilizing GIS mapping technology and student directed GPS data recording. By having her students create an app, using a program called Survey123 that drops GPS pin locations of specific recorded data, Professor Masuoka is providing her students with the opportunity to expand their understanding of their surrounding communities. By overlaying their collected data with census information using GIS, Geographic Information System, students can find correlations between political/civic engagement indicators and demographic trends.

This course doesn’t require students to be tech savvy, as they are guided along the way in creating their apps and maps by Patrick Florance, GIS Lab Director, and Carolyn Talmadge, TTS GIS Specialist, from Tisch Library’s Data Lab. Class structure shifts from the predictable lecture format to more experimental computer lab workshop sessions run by Carolyn and Patrick. As Professor Masuoka emphasizes to her class, we are in a special time where “technology now should be for everyone.” This course couldn’t have even been available 4 years ago for the last presidential election, because with Survey123 only becoming available this summer, the students would have had to geocode manually. The Survey123 App is a user-friendly template program to get “tech-intimidated” students to explore and engage with communities outside of the university. This course also presents students who mainly reside on Tufts’ campus the challenge of moving past their comfort zone to engage in Tufts’ surrounding neighborhoods and the greater Boston area as a whole.

By taking advantage of this being a hotly contended election season, Professor Masuoka is empowering her students to map their choice of political signage, bumper stickers, graffiti, clothing, displays of the American flag, and indicators of civic engagement and/or protest. She has them going out in pairs, doing fieldwork in Boston and its surrounding areas using MBTA public transportation, and even into New Hampshire for students who have access to a car. The students collect their preselected data that they input into ArcGIS, the online app builder for Survey123, and take note of indications of partisan divide, so they then can compose and compare the findings of their GPS data points with available census data on ArcGIS online.

Professor Masuoka, as an immigration and race scholar, recognizes the importance of understanding politics as influenced by factors of where you live. Spatial demographics and social environments impact individual politics, so it is necessary to contextualize where people are living/who they are interacting with as a missing part of political science research. With the introduction of GIS to university campuses, professors and students can use the technology available to them to assist in spatial and social analyses. Professor Masuoka hopes to help her students, and the Tufts community, broaden their understanding of the relationship between "politics" and "place" through fieldwork and spatial analysis, culminating with the students of her class presenting their own research paper and GIS findings that test their own hypotheses on how neighborhood citizen activity corresponds with racial, class and geographic diversity and the consequences of these relationships on democratic outcomes.

Any student or faculty can sign into ArcGIS using their Tufts Account.

For more information on GIS Mapping and Tisch’s Data Lab, go to [gis.tufts.edu](http://gis.tufts.edu)
New Spring Course Offerings

**Spring 2017**

- **Massachusetts State Government: Learning While Doing**
  - Ben Downing
  - Students will be placed in one of a dozen State House offices—a legislator, committee, in the governor’s office, or an executive branch agency—to serve in a policy-focused internship. These experiences will be supplemented with a class built around discussion of shared experiences, as well as on the interplay between policy and politics. The primary goal is for students to develop real world skills and a deeper understanding of how politics and policy intersect to create law, regulatory programs, and social change.

- **Courts and Social Policy**
  - Gabrielle Clark
  - In 1991, political scientist Gerald Rosenberg published *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* By drawing upon three cases of political activism in the courts, civil rights, abortion, and women’s rights, Rosenberg drew an astonishing conclusion: court decisions on their own don’t do very much. This course first examines the role of the judiciary in the American political system, particularly the relationship between courts and social change in the postwar era. We then study contemporary rights-based movements to re-examine the possibilities and limits of law as a tool for social change today, and finally move to examine the comparative and global role of courts in relationship to social change.

- **Seminar in American Racial Politics**
  - Natalie Masuoka
  - This seminar will address the state of racial politics in the U.S. by discussing the unique identities, ideologies and approaches to government found within Asian American, black and Latino communities. Content will primarily cover contemporary American politics from 1964 to current.

- **Islam and Democracy in the Modern Middle East**
  - Andrew March
  - Looking at the development of both theocratic and democratic ideals in modern Islamic political thought, this course looks at the origins of the problem of state sovereignty, religious vs. positive law and the relationship between Islam and constitutionalism in 19th century state modernization processes in the Ottoman Empire (including partially independent territories like Egypt and Tunisia) and Iran. It looks at debates around the abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate from the 1920s, followed by the birth of “political Islam” in the Muslim Brotherhood and Jamaat-i-Islami and expressed ideologies of Mawdudi, Qutb and Khomeini. The course will also look at social science literature on Islamist party behavior and elections under authoritarian regimes and at the ideological developments in Islamist movements that attempted to reconcile democratic and Islamist ideals.

- **Origins of Modern Republicanism**
  - Vickie Sullivan
  - Increasing frustration with a classical liberal outlook that fosters individualism, social inequalities, and materialism has led to a renewed scholarly interest in republicanism as a salutary alternative, where the people play an active role in the civic life of the state. This course will examine the seminal works of modern republicanism: Machiavelli’s *Discourses on Livy* and Rousseau’s *Social Contract*, both of which propose to bring forward elements of the ancient Roman republic as a model for modern times. In studying these, the course will pursue such questions as: How do Machiavelli and Rousseau define the domestic and international problems to which each responds? To what extent does civic engagement engage a martial ethos?; What role can the people as a body play in determining a state’s political fate?; How has the advent of Christianity altered the possibilities of political life?; What does Rousseau’s social contract owe to Machiavelli’s thought?; To what extent is republicanism a viable alternative to liberalism.

- **Cybersecurity and Cyberwar**
  - Jeff Taliaferro and Ming Chow (CompSci)
  - Interdisciplinary analysis of cybersecurity in the United States and other countries, intended to introduce engineering students to policymaking and intelligence aspects of cybersecurity and liberal arts students to the technical constraints of computer networks and software. Hands-on activities including packet analysis, exploiting a vulnerable system, password cracking, social engineering, reconnaissance, and malware analysis. Examination of state and non-state actors engaged in cyber-espionage, counterintelligence, deterrence, and offensive cyber operations. Guest speakers from private sector, civil liberties groups, and intelligence community. Prerequisites: PS 61: Introduction to International Relations (for PS and IR majors) or COMP 15: Data Structures (for CS majors in A&S or SoE).
Professors in the Media

**Jeff Berry**

- **On Donald Trump and the Presidential Race**
  - *Wallet Hub*, "Other than respecting tradition, there's no reason for Iowa to always go first in the nomination process. Tradition can be dangerous in politics as events & voting trends can easily race past our formal processes."
  - *The Guardian*, "It's part of the presentation of self – that he wants it to appear that he is his own person telling it like it is with no advisers coralling him to do this or that."
  - *DW Global*, "He truly believes he will be a great president."

- **On Governor Charlie Baker**
  - *Boston Globe*, "He's much different than he was in 2010. He was biting and dismissive of Democrats and very critical of the incumbent governor... He has distanced himself [from the national Republican party] with a deftness that is impressive, and he's getting away with it."
  - *Boston Globe*, "If the Democrats are to run a credible race [for governor] in 2018, they really need to start developing a counter narrative to the success of the Baker administration... It's never too soon to start it."
  - *Boston Globe*, "Even though there's not a well-articulated agenda, I think the public is convinced that he is a do-something governor rather than a do-nothing governor ... I think there's an appreciation that he's trying to solve problems."

**Kelly Greenhill**

- **Open Arms Behind Barred Doors: Fear, Hipocrisy and Policy Schizophrenia in the European Migration Crisis** -- *European Law Journal*
  - "During 2015, more than one million refugees and migrants arrived in Europe, about half of whom were fleeing the civil war in Syria and about one third of whom were seeking political asylum. The question of who should bear responsibility for the new arrivals and how those responsibilities should be shared generated very different, sometimes schizophrenic, policy responses among European Union (EU) member states, with many states prioritizing national interests over European solidarity."

- **Demographic Bombing: People as Weapons in Syria and Beyond** -- *Foreign Affairs*
  - "This strategy of seizure and appropriation through forced migration, too, has a long and rather sordid history. But the weaponization of displaced people is not limited to conflict zones; migrants and refugees may also be used for influence far from the battlefield."

- **Europe Must Deal with the Breeding of Terrorism Within Its Borders** -- *NYT Opinion Pages: Room for Debate*
  - "Barring the door to refugees would be akin to sticking a finger in a leaking dike while water threatens to pour over the top."

**Dennis Rasmussen**

- **The Problem With Inequality, According to Adam Smith** -- *The Atlantic*
  - "The allure of extreme wealth can contort human sympathies, causing the public to admire the wealthy and shun the poor."
  - "Adam Smith, the purported founding father of laissez-faire capitalism... What has received little attention, even by those who approach Smith’s thought from the contemporary left, is that he also identified some deep problems with economic inequality."
  - "Those who encounter Smith’s writings for the first time are usually surprised to learn that he insisted that money can’t buy happiness."

**Jeff Taliaferro**

- **Neoclassical Realist Theory of International Politics**
  - "Rejecting the artificial distinction that Kenneth N. Waltz draws between theories of international politics and theories of foreign policy, [Jeff Taliaferro and his co-authors] make the case that neoclassical realism can offer explanatory and predictive theories of phenomena ranging from short-term crisis behavior, to foreign policy, to patterns of grand strategic adjustment by individual states up to long-term patterns of international outcomes and structural change."
  - Presented at the *Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*
Kumar Ramanathan

• 2016 Belfer and Elliott Award winner, and winner of the Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarships from Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society

• In retrospect, my time at Tufts can look quite haphazard—I switched majors several times, and early on found myself more invested in journalism and activism than in my academic work. People who only knew me as a freshman are sometimes surprised to find out that I'm now in a PhD program, driving headfirst towards a life in academia. I owe my career path and academic success to my faculty mentors, who saw my potential and connected all of my different interests and activities as part of my intellectual development. In the political science department, I first found my academic voice in Professor Cruz's Political Culture course, and continued to find mentorship and inspiration while doing research for Professors Masuoka and Remick. In all of these spaces, instead of pointing me down a set path, they allowed me to bring in my experiences, identity, and non-academic skills into academia. Importantly, they both encouraged my passion and instructed me in pragmatism. Tufts can be a very isolating place, and it often was for me, but I was fortunate to find kinder and more rigorous mentorship here than I could have envisioned.

• I'm currently a graduate student at Northwestern University's political science PhD program, where I study the politics of race and immigration. I take the lessons I learned from my professors with me in graduate school now, and I hope to pay it forward as a teacher and researcher myself down the line.

Sophie Laing

• 2016 Belfer Award winner, for the Best Political Science Thesis of the academic year, and runner-up for the 2016 Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award from Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society

• My thesis, "Flip-Flopping Politicians: How Voters Punish and Reward Changing Opinion," was made up of three parts: a literature review, and then a qualitative section and quantitative section. The qualitative section was four case studies of politicians flip-flopping (I focused on John Kerry in 2004, Kristen Gillibrand, Mitt Romney in 2012, and Hillary Clinton going into 2016), and the quantitative section was the results of an experimental survey I designed to see how we, as voters, feel about politicians who flip-flop, and how gender and rationale for flip-flopping may affect those reactions. Having both sections to my thesis was a really valuable combination; each part helped me understand the other part better and made me ask better questions.

• Professor Schildkraut was such a huge part of the process - she initially suggested doing a thesis after a final paper I wrote during my sophomore year for her seminar, PS114: Political Representation in the US, and then worked with me during summer schools and the following year. Along the way, the PoliSci/IR thesis class and thesis exchange were really great places to get direction and motivation. I liked writing a thesis because it was great to get to spend so much time on one topic and really understand it, rather than diving into something for a couple weeks and then never coming back to it. And I like how many layers and reactions there are to the question of flip-flopping. The issue reveals what sort of representation we think/act like we value from our representatives, and can reveal how important certain attributes (gender, explanations for voting behavior, character traits) are to us when it comes to evaluating politicians. So, while flip-flopping is a catchy term, and an insult that's always thrown around at opposing candidates, I think it actually has a lot of nuanced, complicated and interesting implications for understanding political behavior and voting.

• I am currently working part time at a bakery and part time as a Research Assistant with the Access to Justice Lab that a Professor at Harvard Law started a couple months ago, doing rigorous evaluation of legal services programs, to figure out what's working and how to best improve access to justice in the legal system. Since I'm thinking about law school, but also research in general, it's kind of the perfect place for me to be right now!
Student Showcase Cont.

Will Freeman

- 2016 Belfer and 2016 Elliott Award winner, for the Best Paper written for a Political Science assignment in the academic year, and runner up for the 2016 Best Paper Award from Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.
- Summing up what made me study politics at Tufts and what I got out of it is a bit tough, but at least I can easily identify a starting place: taking Western Political Thought I with Professor Evrigenis during my first semester at Tufts. I recall that pretty early on in the semester we read Plato's Republic and I was struck by the analogy Plato creates between the just order of the political community and the just order of the soul. I think that as a freshman, maybe in part as a result of growing up in American culture and the way college is marketed, I had always been under the impression college was a place where you freely "explore" to "find yourself." So the idea Plato presented—that you impose discipline over your drives in order to create a better self—struck me as absolutely foreign and very compelling. There was a more personal side to my motivation as well. My grandfather, who I unfortunately never got to meet, was a legal theorist who engaged a lot with political theory in his writing. I became intent on studying theory both because it allowed me to engage in a sort of conversation with great thinkers throughout history, but also because it allowed me to gain the background necessary to converse with my grandfather through reading his books. I am proud of having the chance to work as a writing fellow during my senior year for a freshman seminar on The Republic, taught by Professor Evrigenis, because my exposure to political theory started with Plato. It was rewarding to come full circle and help first year students gain a grasp over his ideas and improve on formulating their thoughts in writing.
- During my senior year I completed an independent study in comparative politics with Professor Cruz, titled "Explaining the Emergence of Populism: Political Parties, the State, and the Crises of Representation in Venezuela and Chile," focused on explaining the divergent paths of political development Venezuela and Chile took during the 1980s and ‘90s. I wanted to account for how Hugo Chávez and his brand of populist politics did away with liberal democracy in Venezuela, while a similar style of politics failed to capture much support and pose a serious threat to liberal democratic institutions in Chile, despite the two countries sharing a number of similarities. More broadly, the IS allowed me to gain a better understanding of populist politics, which seem to me to be on the rise in almost every part of the world.
- I am currently on a Fulbright fellowship to Hungary for the year. I teach English and academic writing classes and help Hungarians apply for study and research opportunities in the U.S., but I am also taking courses in political theory at Central European University: a social sciences grad school here in Budapest. I wanted to spend time in Hungary because, after studying Latin American leftist populism, I wanted to see what similarities I could identify in right wing populist governments like the one that currently rules Hungary. Similarities are present, but mostly of the unsettling variety. It's a good reminder not to take American political institutions and the freedoms they afford us for granted, and also a good opportunity to talk to supporters of the government here and gain a better sense of why people reject liberalism and pluralism in favor of other alternatives. In the future, I plan to pursue a PhD in political science with a focus on theory.

Finally, I just want to give a big thanks to my professors for teaching me so much.

PoliSci Student Awards:

James Vance Elliot Award

The James Vance Elliott Award is awarded in the senior year to students majoring in Political Science whose achievements best combine academic excellence with active participation and effective leadership in campus and civic affairs. The award recognizes the distinguished career of, former Chair (1956) and Professor of Political Science, James Vance Elliott.

Peter Belfer Award

The Peter Belfer Award is given annually for the outstanding piece of written work done in a political science course or independently by a political science major. This award was established in 1973 by Mrs. Ann Belfer Goldstein in memory of her late husband, Peter Belfer, A'67.

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha seeks to promote excellence in the study of political science through a variety of programs providing awards, scholarships, and lecture funding. The Department of Political Science established the Rho Omicron Chapter to acknowledge excellence in the Political Science and IR fields at Tufts.
Calendar of Upcoming PoliSci Events:

17 Oct.

Marathon of MAJORS
• Academic Quad 11:30 - 1:30pm

TISCH COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES 2016
• A Year Like No Other: Politics & The Press in 2016
  • With Panelists: Patrick Healy from the NYT, Asma Khalid from NPR, 
    & Jake Horowitz from Mic. Moderated by Tisch College's David Gregory
  • Distler Auditorium 7pm

Voting Together: Intergenerational Politics and Civic Engagement Among Hmong Americans
• Come hear Dr. Carolyn Wong, Research Associate, Asian American Studies Institute at UMass-Boston, give a talk on her research and forthcoming book.
  • Start House 7pm


The Fletcher Conference on Religion, Law & Diplomacy
• The conference highlights the complex relationship between religion and state across communities and nations. This year’s theme, human security, underlines the demand for a greater understanding of religion and religious organizations.
  • With keynote speaker: Ambassador Marriet Schuurman, NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security
  • ASEAN Auditorium 9am - 5pm

2nd: Building a Wall or Digging a Hole?
• Donald Trump and the Latinx Electorate
  • Tony Affigne, Professor of PoliSci at Providence College, asks whether Trump’s historically high negative ratings among Latino/a voters signals a generational realignment in partisan demographics -- or a setback for GOP outreach plans.
  • Barnum 008 7 – 8:30pm

8th: Election Night EXTRAVAGANZA
• Watch the returns live! With Political Experts, skits, games and food!
  • Hotung Café 7pm

14th: Spring Course Registration Begins

Dec.

12 Fall Classes End

15 Final Exams Begin

22 Enjoy your Winter Break!
In Case You Missed It:

Calendar of Past Events

PRESIDENTIAL Debate Watch PARTY 9/26

“Debate Watch Party draws full house,” as reported on by Tufts Daily, with students and staff alike piling into Cohen Auditorium once the doors opened, after grabbing a slice of pizza on the patio outside, to hear the pre-debate panel featuring Jim Glaser (PS), Jeff Berry (PS), Sarah Sobieraj (Sociology) and former “Meet the Press” host David Gregory. Moderated by Deborah Schildkraut, Chair of the Political Science Department.

As quoted by the Daily, one Tufts sophomore remarked:

“I think it’s great for students to come together and watch the debate ... because it provides a feeling of community, that there are other people who are also interested in the issues being talked about,” she said. “I really enjoyed that we all got to feel that community last night.”

In Honor of Constitution Day 9/19

THE PERPETUAL CRISIS OF AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND THE “REAL WORLD” OF AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

A lecture by Virginia Sapiro, Professor of Political Science at Boston University

VoteFest 9/23

A free music and food, voting registration even on the Academic Quad with:

Aüva // The Novel Ideas // Pale Hands
Asoh Black

& food trucks:

Taco Party // Rhythm ‘n Wraps // Frozen Hoagies

Registering over 150 Tufts students to vote in the upcoming election!!

VP Debate Watch Party 10/4

A full Hotung Café listened and engaged with panelists: Natalie Mausoka (PS), Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg (Tisch/CIRCLE), and Richard Eichenberg (PS).
Moderated by Deborah Schildkraut, Chair of the PoliSci Department.

“Vote” Cupcakes were enjoyed, thanks to the Tisch College, as the VP Debate was broadcasted on TV screens around the café.
Contact

PACKARD HALL

4 The Green
Medford, MA 02155
  o  Academic Quad, in front of Dowling

Website:
as.tufts.edu/politicalscience

Phone: 617.627.3465
Fax: 617.627.3660

For general inquiries, email: politicalscience@tufts.edu

Facebook:
facebook.com/tuftspoliticalscience/

Twitter:
twitter.com/TuftsPoliSci

PEOPLE

Still looking for a Major Advisor?
Meet with one of our Professors:

Full-Time Faculty
  o  Deborah Schildkraut
    o  Chair of the PoliSci Department
  o  David Art
  o  Michael Beckley
  o  Jeff Berry
  o  Consuelo Cruz
  o  Robert Devigne
  o  Richard Eichenberg
  o  Ioannis Evrigenis
  o  James Glaser
    o  Dean of Arts & Sciences
  o  Kelly Greenhill
  o  Natalie Masuoka
  o  Nimah Mazaheri
  o  Malik Mufti
  o  Dennis Rasmussen
  o  Elizabeth Remick
  o  Pearl Robinson
  o  Oxana Shevel
  o  Vickie Sullivan
  o  Jeff Taliaferro

Declaration of Major/Minor Form

Have ideas for the newsletter? Send us an email!

Thanks for reading! -Kels Hoffman, Political Science Department