Overview

The Department of Political Science offers a B.A. degree that gives both a strong background in social science and excellent professional preparation. The major offers three distinct paths to completion, the traditional major and options in pre-law and public affairs and administration. The two options offer interdisciplinary pre-professional curricula. The department is strong in every aspect of American government (national, state, and local institutions, public policy, public law, and public administration), as well as Comparative Politics in international relations. Political Science majors learn to be strong writers, public speakers, and researchers. Opportunities are also offered to learn advanced social science methodology and practical political skills, as well as to participate in faculty research. Students receive assistance in finding—and credit for completing—local, state, and national internships. Graduating seniors report very high levels of satisfaction with the major, and the number of Political Science majors continues to grow.

Careers in Political Science

Attorney, Campaign Aide/Manger, Civil Servant, Diplomat, FBI/CIA Agent, Foreign Service Officer, International Relations Specialist, Journalist, Labor Organizer/Union Representative, Law Clerk, Legal Assistant, Legislative Advocate/Lobbyist, Legislative Aide, Paralegal, Police Officer, Politician, Polling Specialist, Private Investigator, Public Information Officer, Research Specialist, Secret Service Agent, Teacher

Scholarships and Awards

J. Malcolm Smith Scholarship (three per year), $500 each

Department of Political Science students frequently win three types of internships:

- Washington Center Internships
- Panetta Congressional Internships
- California State Internships in the governor’s office, legislature, and courts.

Community Outreach

- We participate in Community College visits and prospective student fairs.
- Our Model United Nations program works with community colleges and students participate in the West Coast Model United Nations Conference.
- Faculty appear as experts on radio and television and are interviewed by the press.
- We do speaking engagements, including Scholar-Olli (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).

Recent Student Achievements

- Panetta Congressional Internship
  - Brian Tayahua, Fall 2016
  - Valarie Smith, Fall 2015
  - Shuaib Amiri, Fall 2014
  - Justin Dalrymple, Fall 2013
**Professors**

Kim Geron, Ph.D.
*University of California, Riverside, 1998*
American Public Administration and Policy
(specialties: Asian-American and Latino-American politics, labor and immigration policy)

**Associate Professors**

Elizabeth Bergman, Ph.D.- Chair
*Claremont Graduate School, 2001*
American Politics and Public Policy
(specialties: voting and elections)

Maria Consuelo C. Ortuoste, Ph.D.
*Arizona State University, 2008*
Comparative Government and International Relations (specialties: international security and organizations, Asia-Pacific)

**Assistant Professors**

Jeremiah Garretson, Ph.D.
*Vanderbilt University, 2009*
American Politics and Political Methodology
(specialties: political communication, political psychology, public opinion, prejudice, race and gender, LGBTQ politics, legislative studies)

Danvy Le, Ph.D.
*University of California, Irvine, 2013*
American Government
(specialties: racial and ethnic politics, social networks and context)

**Professor Emeritus**

David Baggins, Ph.D.
*Syracuse University, 1984*
American Public Law

Norman Bowen, Ph.D.
*State University of New York, 1978*
International Relations and Comparative Politics

Sherman Lewis, Ph.D.
*Columbia University, 1969*
Political Science and Government

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**Faculty Achievements**

- Elizabeth Bergman specializes in American Politics and public policy. Her work is focused primarily on access to the instruments of democracy and she has published work on voter access, vote-by-mail, and electoral reform. She is a recognized expert on voter information, especially as relates to young, low income and minority voters, and has consulted with California counties on implementing electronic and interactive versions of ballot pamphlets. Her work has been funded by the US Election Assistance Commission and the Pew Center for the States and has appeared in journals including Legislative Studies Quarterly, the Election Law Journal and the California Journal of Politics and Policy, as well as recent chapters in edited volumes of Latino Politics: How America’s Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation (2014) and Why Don’t Americans Vote? Causes and Consequences (2016).

- Maria Consuelo C. Ortuoste received a Faculty Support Grant for her research, “The Institutional Bases for National and Regional Environmental Governance in Southeast Asia, 1967 to 2007,” during her first year in CSUEB. She has started the Graduate School Workshop to help students interested in post-baccalaureate degrees. She also started the Political Science career series. “The First Talk,” which was organized in cooperation with the Political Science Club, was held on May 5, 2010 with Amb. Edward Kulakowski speaking on, “U.S. Foreign Policy and Careers in Foreign Service.”


**Alumni**


- Tyler P. Berding, 1966, is the founding partner in the Berding and Weil Law Firm, which was established over 25 years ago, with offices in San Francisco, San Jose and other locations.