

American Politics

American politics at Notre Dame empirically analyzes mass political behavior, political institutions, and public policies to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of democracy. Graduate students simultaneously specialize in a particular subfield of American politics and develop a broad foundation in the study of American politics as a whole.

Faculty in the American field are particularly motivated by concern for the quality of American democracy. Our faculty provide a fruitful, collegial, and collaborative intellectual community around questions of political equality (Pinderhughes, Davis, Ramirez, Radcliff, Wolbrecht), political behavior and public opinion (Davis, Campbell, Radcliff, Layman, Nickerson, Ramirez), American political development (Arnold, Roos, Wolbrecht), political parties and representation (Layman, Roos, Wolbrecht), and research methods (Davis, Layman, Nickerson, Campbell).

A list of American politics faculty and their major research and teaching interests include:

Faculty	Specialty within American Politics
Peri Arnold	American political development, presidency, public policy, public administration
David Campbell	Political participation, religion and politics, education policy
Darren Davis	Political and social psychology, political behavior, public opinion, research methods, race and politics
Geoffrey Layman	Political parties, public opinion, religion and politics
David Nickerson	Political participation, political behavior, experimental methods, social networks
Dianne Pinderhughes	Race and politics, voting rights, urban politics, women and politics
Benjamin Radcliff	Political participation, social choice theory, democratic theory, theories of the state, the political determinants of quality of life
Ricardo Ramirez	Political participation, voter mobilization, Latino politics, public opinion, diversity
John Roos, Emeritus	Political thought, Congress, religion and politics
Christina Wolbrecht	American political development, political parties, women and politics

The American politics group emphasizes close interaction between faculty and graduate students. In particular, faculty make special efforts to help professionalize students so as to prepare them for future careers through close mentoring and collaborative research projects.

The study of American politics has been especially enriched by the recent establishment of the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy. Directed by Professor David Campbell, the Rooney Center facilitates a vibrant intellectual community by organizing weekly research workshops for faculty and graduate students, sponsoring seminars and lectures by visiting scholars, organizing conferences, and providing research grants for both students and faculty.

Comparative Politics

The Notre Dame Political Science program should be considered as a top option of every student who is contemplating applying to graduate school to specialize in a wide variety of areas in comparative politics. Indeed, our program has considerable geographical as well as thematic breadth.

With 14 full-time faculty members specializing in comparative politics, our group is larger than the comparative faculty in other strong and prestigious political science departments. Five – Scott Mainwaring, Michael Coppedge, Guillermo Trejo, Sarah Zukerman Daly and Timothy Scully – are Latin America specialists. Five – Andrew Gould, Debra Javeline, James McAdams, Sean McGraw, and Monika Nalepa – have expertise in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, or the former Soviet Union. Peter Moody and Victoria Tin-bor Hui add strength on Asia, and Jaimie Bleck, Robert Dowd and Naunihal Singh anchor our efforts on Africa.

Many among our faculty have made important intellectual contributions that transcend the regions in which they specialize. Our department is particularly well known for cross-regional strength in democratization and regime change, as well as political parties and institutions. Michael Coppedge, Scott Mainwaring, and Timothy Scully have published influential research on regimes, political parties and institutions, and democratic governance. We also have several other emerging clusters of thematic strength: George Lopez, Ernesto Verdeja, and Guillermo Trejo bring us recognition in the areas of political conflict/violence and conflict resolution, especially human rights violations/genocide and peace-building. They join Debra Javeline, well known for her work in political protest and contentious politics, and Victoria Tin-bor Hui, for her work on state formation in China and Western Europe. We are also strong in the areas of identity politics, with several faculty members working on religion, ethnicity, and nationalism (Robert Dowd, Andrew Gould, Sean McGraw, Peter Moody, and Timothy Scully). Monika Nalepa and Debra Javeline work on comparative judicial politics and transitional justice. Our faculty also has wide-ranging methodological interests and expertise: Michael Coppedge is known for his writings on multi-method research and chaired an APSA Task Force on Indicators of Democracy and Governance. Debra Javeline has conducted important and innovative original survey research, and Monika Nalepa uses game-theoretic approaches to political science. The breadth of our faculty is one reason that the Organized Section on Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association chose us to publish its official newsletter, *APSA-CP* from 2002 to 2010.

As a group, we are methodologically eclectic, a collegial community of research scholars that is not rigidly divided along methodological lines. We encourage our students to work in whatever methodological tradition that is most appropriate for their projects, whether it is institutional analysis, survey research, historical approaches, class analysis, textual analysis, or game theory.

In addition to departmental resources, many of our students apply for and receive travel and research funding from other University sources, including the internationally renowned Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies. These institutes also are vibrant centers of intellectual activity and scholarly exchange. Through their visiting fellows programs and their financial sponsorship of research working groups and external speakers' series, Kellogg, Kroc and Nanovic enrich the intellectual environment for the students in our program by exposing them to distinguished scholars from other universities in the U.S. and around the world.

Constitutional Law and Politics

Political life is more than one-dimensional; it blends the private and the public, the self- and other-serving. From the way political actors actually behave and account for themselves, they see their private interests as aspects of the public interest. Should a particular political position seem to serve nothing but the private interest of its exponents, public policy based on that position is called unreasonable or arbitrary. Political usage thus associates reason and rationality not with self-serving efficiency, but with the intelligent and public-spirited pursuit of the common defense, the general welfare, and other public purposes. A science of how real people actually behave politically – how they act and talk in politically relevant ways – would therefore be committed to the integration of “normative” and “empirical” approaches to political knowledge. Constitutional Studies at Notre Dame strives to be such a discipline.

Pursuant to this aspiration, our field rejects the fact-value dichotomy that remains popular in some academic circles despite its long decline in modern philosophy. Our field conceives constitutional democracy as seeking not merely to aggregate popular preferences but also to refine and enlarge popular preferences toward reasonable conceptions of the common good. Our field assumes a conception of political leadership shared by political thinkers from Aristotle to the authors of *The Federalist* and beyond: leadership that educates the public to its true interest, as opposed to its temporary inclinations. A substantial part of our program is thus devoted to the different conceptions of the public interest that have been debated from the American Founding to the present.

This debate makes up a large part of the literature of constitutional thought and law. This literature also includes debates about the right approach to constitutional interpretation, the correct models of constitutional institutions, and the meaning and scope of constitutional powers and rights. Following the example of the American Founders, students of Constitutional Studies at Notre Dame will examine the experiences of other nations in an attempt to find what institutional arrangements work under what circumstances and might work at home for the benefit of the nation’s people. And from their concern for the material conditions for constitutional success, our students will study judicial behavior and how constitutional institutions interact with each other and with public opinion.

Courses in such topics and student research projects carefully supervised by distinguished senior scholars and conducted in an atmosphere of public-spirited inquiry seek to produce scholars who succeed professionally by addressing important constitutional questions in a manner that is innovative, intellectually rigorous, and socially responsible.

Faculty	Specialty within Constitutional Law and Politics
Sotirios Barber	The American Founding, Federalism, Civil Rights, Constitutional Interpretation, Constitution and Public Policy, Constitutional Leadership
A.J. Bellia	Constitutional Law, Federalism, Legal History, The American Judicial System
Patrick Deneen	American Political Thought, Democratic Theory, Religion and Politics, Constitutional Leadership
Richard Garnett	Freedom of Speech, Church and State, Philosophy of the American Constitution, Legal Research
Mary Keys	Political Theory, Philosophy of Law, Christian Political Thought
Donald Kommers, Emeritus	Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, Law and Religion, The German Constitutional Court
Phillip Muñoz	The American Founding, American Political Thought, Constitutional Leadership, Constitutional Law, Political Philosophy
Emilia Powell	International Law and Organizations, International Courts, Territorial Disputes, Comparative Law, Peaceful Resolution of Interstate Disputes
Michael Zuckert	The American Founding, Political Philosophy, Constitutional Law, Classical and Modern Liberal Theory, Constitutional Leadership

International Relations

Notre Dame has a diverse faculty in International Relations that is growing in national reputation, a number of research centers devoted to international issues, rich library resources, and exceptional funding and research support. Bright students considering graduate studies in international relations should give serious consideration to Notre Dame.

With over 40 faculty, the Department of Political Science is one of Notre Dame's largest and most respected departments. Of these, 11 specialize in international relations and they are complemented by numerous specialists housed in the research institutes and in departments across campus. The size of our IR faculty allows us to combine coverage across international relations theory, international security, and international political economy with a focus in peace and conflict studies. We also encourage our IR students to take advantage of Notre Dame's renowned resources in the complementary field of comparative politics.

Faculty	Specialty within International Relations
Michael Desch	Security studies, theory of international politics, US foreign policy
Amitava Dutt	International political economy, globalization, political economy of war & peace
Gary Goertz	Causes of peace, Interstate rivalry and conflict management, International institutions and regional governance, Methodology
Alexandra Guisinger	Crisis diplomacy, international political economy, globalization
Robert Johansen, Emeritus	United Nations, global governance, peace studies
Dan Lindley	Security studies, ethnic conflict, peacekeeping, U.S. foreign policy
George Lopez	Economic sanctions, peace research, human rights
Daniel Philpott	Religion and global politics, transitional justice, ethics and international relations
Emilia Powell	International law, international courts, dispute resolution
Patrick Reagan	Civil wars, Conflict management, External interventions
Sebastian Rosato	International relations theory, security studies

We are a question-driven field and we encourage our students to conduct their research in the way most appropriate to those questions. The department has in-house methods consultants, and we provide funding for graduate students to receive specialized quantitative training at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan and qualitative training at the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University.

The two primary research centers of interest to IR scholars are the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. The Kroc Institute brings together faculty from many Notre Dame departments, visiting scholars and fellows, and Masters and Ph.D. students from around the world to study issues ranging from peace and conflict to justice, human rights, globalization, and global governance. The Kellogg Institute performs a similar function in comparative politics, with a special focus on Latin America, development, democratization, and social movements. These centers sponsor speaker's series, conferences, and publications. Both are sources of funding, research support, and cross-disciplinary intellectual engagement. Other IR-related centers at Notre Dame include the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the law school, the Erasmus Institute (which focuses on religion, philosophy, and the social sciences), the Keough Center for Irish Studies, the Medieval Institute, the Institute for Latino Studies, and the Center for Social Concerns.

Political Theory

At Notre Dame we have 9 faculty members who regularly teach political theory at the graduate level. We are thus able to offer courses in the entire history of political thought: ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary. We also have strong offerings in politics and literature. We encourage our students to do course work in related disciplines, including Philosophy, Theology, Economics, History, and English. Theory students have access to the faculty and fellows associated with special centers located on campus including the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, the Center for the Study of Philosophy of Religion, the Center for Ethics and Culture, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, the Medieval Institute, the Nanovic Center for European Studies, and the Institute for Human Rights in the Law School. Students often draw from the faculty in these centers for readers of their dissertations.

Faculty	Specialties within Political Theory
Ruth Abbey	Friedrich Nietzsche; Charles Taylor; contemporary feminism; contemporary liberalism.
Eileen Hunt Botting	Author of <i>Family Feuds: Wollstonecraft, Burke, and Rousseau on the Transformation of the Family</i> and teaches seminars on early modern thought and on gender and human development.
Vittorio Hösle	Author of twelve books on such varied topics as Greek tragedy, Vico, Hegel, environmental ethics and political morality, and teaches a range of seminars including Kant, Hegel and Vico.
Mary Keys	Medieval and Christian political thought; virtue and law in the history of political philosophy; Augustine; Thomas Aquinas; early modern political thought.
John Roos, Emeritus	Political theory and American politics, ranging from Aquinas to the short stories of Flannery O'Connor and Congressional politics; teaches seminars on Medieval political thought and on religion and politics.
Ernesto Verdeja	Political violence; transitional justice and reconciliation; contemporary critical and democratic theory.
Dana Villa	Hannah Arendt and teaches seminars in continental and critical political thought.
Catherine Zuckert	Author of <i>Plato's Philosophers</i> , currently working on Machiavelli and his modern legacy. Also teaches politics and literature.
Michael Zuckert	Liberal political theory, including American political thought. Author of <i>The Natural Rights Republic</i> ; currently working particularly on the theory and design of constitutional government.

In recent years we have attracted graduate students from a variety of institutions, including Yale, Princeton, Carleton College, Duke, Georgetown, Boston College, Holy Cross, Kenyon, St. John's College in Annapolis, Marquette, Middlebury, as well as University College Dublin, London School of Economics, the University of Leyden, the University of Calgary, the University of Winnipeg, and Carleton University in Canada. Our students have written dissertations on a diverse range of topics such as friendship in political thought; ethical integrity and democratic citizenship; patriotism in a cosmopolitan age; Rousseau on commerce and mores; love and the passions in Augustine's political thought; the life of the mind in Hannah Arendt; natural law, natural right, and the problem of natural justice; Montesquieu on law and morals; theories of immigration; the family in political life; and Plato's *Cratylus*, *Republic*, *Laws*, and *Statesman*. Our graduates have done well in the exceptionally challenging job market in political theory. In recent years political theory PhD's from Notre Dame have won tenure-track appointments at Pepperdine University, University of Richmond, University of Houston, Catholic University of America, Villanova University, University of Lethbridge (Alberta), Western Michigan University, and California State University at Sacramento; term appointments at American University, Northern Illinois University, the University of Louisville, Valparaiso University, Wake Forest University, and the Free University (Amsterdam). Postdoctoral fellowships have recently been won by our PhD's at Princeton, Duke, Emory, Georgetown, and Villanova. Graduate students in our program have published in top journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, and *History of Political Thought*.