The Department of Political Science

Tufts University

The Department of Political Science at Tufts University is a leader with the world's foremost political scientists dedicated to excellence in teaching and in research. Our philosophy is the belief that the best way to learn political science is to do political science In addition, The Department also sponsors numerous lectures and seminars contributing to the intellectual life on the Tufts University campus..

Visit http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/news/ to learn more.

Pi Sigma Alpha

The Department of Political Science has established the Rho Omicron Chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

Pi Sigma Alpha is student driven and organizes discussions and guest lectures. For additional information please visit:

http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/contact/

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Department of Political Science

Profile and Philosophy

Deborah Schildkraut
Ph.D. Princeton University
Associate Professor
American Politics &
Political Psychology

A Message from the Chair
Robert Devigne

Ph.D. Columbia University

The Department of Political Science at Tufts University is one of the leading undergraduate political science communities in the country. We are committed to enhancing the understanding of our domestic and international political landscape through the four subfields of American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. We recruit our faculty from the best departments in the world to offer our students a broad range of backgrounds, methodologies, and approaches.

The 21st century is presenting us with new challenges; the energy debate, our economic turmoil, health care, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan just to name a few. The Department of Political Science seeks those students who are committed to enhancing and understanding our domestic and international political landscape and share our commitment to a strong community, education, and research.

We invite you to meet with our faculty and sit in on a class. If you are interested in auditing a class please email the professor directly or call the Department directly and arrange a time.

Excellence in Teaching and Advising

The Department of Political Science at Tufts University teaches the four subfields of **American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory**. Political Science majors are required to take at least one course in each of these subfields. **American Politics and Government** courses cover governmental institutions, political parties, political processes and behavior, public policies, and the political history of the United States. **Comparative Politics** courses cover and compare the political institutions, actors, ideologies, and socioeconomic contexts of different countries and regions of the world. **International Relations** courses explores the study of politics outside and across the boundaries of sovereign states. **Political Theory and Philosophy** courses examines the study of the history of ancient and modern political philosophy and its influence in shaping and understanding the Western political tradition; the analysis of seminal thinkers in that history, such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Nietzsche; the examination of Islamic political thought; the analysis of the relationship between philosophy and politics; the assessment of the character of American political thought; and debate and discussion of concepts such as justice, liberty, sovereignty, citizenship, oppression, tyranny, revolution, war and empire, and the relationship between religion and politics. **Methodologically** focused courses are offered in the four subfields to impart an understanding of the range of approaches to conducting research within each of the four subfields. **Intellectual capstones** are offered through two venues that cover all of the political science subfields: senior thesis and advanced seminars. For additional information regarding our learning objectives and our faculty please visit our website at http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/.

Activities Supporting our Mission

Frank C. Colcord Lecture Series
The Frank C. Colcord Lecture Series draws scholars from around the globe and is made possible by a generous endowment left to Tufts University by beloved friend and former Professor Dr. Frank C. Colcord.

Research and Scholarship
Our professors are actively engaged in research and have been recognized with numerous awards and prizes for their scholarship and outstanding contributions to their discipline.

Study Abroad
More than 40% of our Political Science students participate in our study abroad program. This enriching and rewarding experience complements our goal of helping students become informed and independent thinkers. Students learn new approaches to the study of politics, witness new kinds of political activity, and speak with people who have political beliefs and norms that enrich their perspective.

Civic Engagement ~ Practical Politics
Civic Engagement is one of the University's signature strengths and is built upon an extensive range of resources including Civic Engagement Faculty and Research, Courses in Practical Politics, Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, Tufts University in Washington, and Boston area internships.

Tufts In Washington
Tufts-In-Washington is a program that allows undergraduates to study our national government first-hand. Participating students attend the semester at American University, and may take one of three tracks that comprise the program: American National Politics, American Foreign Policy, or Economic Policy. The cornerstone of this curriculum is a two day per week internship that is selected by the student. In total this program is the equivalent of four courses