MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It was good to see so many of you at Professor Buhr’s engaging and informative Beyond the Classroom presentation in February. The quality of your questions concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine was impressive. I’m glad that many of you took advantage of the opportunity to ask good questions of other Political Science and Data Analytics (American Politics Domain) majors during March’s Beyond the Classroom, which focused on student internships. Many thanks to Erick Castellanos, Cora Heinzen, Abby Siebenaler, and Lily Stringer for sharing how their academic career at St. Thomas was enhanced by experiential learning. I appreciate their leadership.

Registration for Fall 2022 is fast approaching. This fall, we’ll be offering POLS 104: Government and Politics, POLS 205: Citizen Participation and Public Policy, POLS 225: World Politics, and POLS 370: Explorations in Political Theory. As always, we have a great selection of 300-level courses, including POLS 301: Political Identity and Participation, POLS 314: Constitutional Rights and Liberties, and POLS 352: Politics of the Developing World. Additionally, Professor Buhr will be teaching POLS 350: Comparative Politics of Europe as an online course while she does research in France.

Important advising tip: In 2022-2023, we will be offering three seminars. POLS 454: Seminar in Comparative Politics will be offered in Fall 2022. In Spring 2023, POLS 404: Seminar in American Politics and POLS 424: Seminar in International Politics will be your options. Remember that seminars are open to juniors and seniors who have taken at least one 300-level course within that particular subfield. Work with your advisor and plan ahead for your seminar.

Another quick reminder: POLS 370: Explorations in Political Theory is offered in the fall, and POLS 240: Political Science Research Methods is offered in the spring.

As always, check in with me as needed throughout the semester.

Professor High-Pippert
ahighpippe@stthomas.edu
Office location: JRC 405
Office hours:
Mondays 10:00-11:30 a.m., Thursdays 1:30-3:00 p.m., and by appointment

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
If you’d like to see something in our next newsletter, please contact POLISCI NEWS editor, Carol Leegard (cleegard@stthomas.edu).
READY TO RUN MINNESOTA

Dr. High-Pippert is program director for Ready to Run Minnesota, a non-partisan campaign training program designed to encourage women to run for political office. The College of Arts and Sciences is a national network partner of Ready to Run, which is part of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers.

In January, Kimberly Peeler-Allen, a national expert on Black women’s political power, led a session focused on strategies for Black women candidates. In February, our “Running as a Young Woman” session highlighted two recent graduates of St. Thomas: Halla Henderson (St. Paul School Board) and Carly Johnson (Oak Park Heights City Council).

We’ve now wrapped up our series of free monthly virtual campaign trainings, and we hope to see many of you when we hold an all-day training on campus in Spring 2023!

UPDATES: AN OPEN LETTER CONCERNING INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND BLACK LIVES MATTER

In our Fall 2020 departmental newsletter, we published our Open Letter Concerning Institutional Racism and Black Lives Matter and outlined our own action steps related to this commitment. In this Spring 2022 newsletter, we share the following updates.

**Dr. Caleb Goltz:** I created a new judicial politics seminar this spring around the theme of miscarriages of justice. Students are currently working on an array of research topics including juvenile interrogation guidelines, the racial composition of juries in cases that lead to later exoneration, and the conditions that may lead to false confessions.

**Dr. High-Pippert:** As we wrote in Fall 2020, we commit to speaking and acting against racism through our teaching, research, and roles within the university. This commitment is sustained with both short-term and long-term approaches and through both large and small actions. I am teaching Feminist Theory this spring, which allows for a focused examination of some of the racist (and heteronormative) language within the first and second waves of the feminist movement. As we read and discuss these significant texts in historical context, my (wonderful) students and I often pause to consider the long-term costs of privileging one kind of equality over another. I am grateful for these discussions. In my work with Ready to Run Minnesota, I’ve been able to include a diversity of women’s voices in our trainings and to have sessions focused on the particular challenges often faced by Black women candidates. I will expand on this commitment as I develop next year’s trainings.

**Dr. Tim Lynch:** Since Fall 2020, I have continued to explore ways to highlight diverse voices and explore equity in the courses I teach. For instance, Spring 2021 saw the addition of article analyses to POLS 240 (Research Methods in Political Science). The articles students analyze focus on issues of descriptive representation and ways research can inform policy choices and institutional arrangements. Additionally, while equity has always been an important policy criterion in POLS 205 (Citizen Participation and Public Policy), this course was designated as a changemaking course for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 based on the evaluation of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at UST. In fact, this semester POLS 205 students are scheduled to meet with UST Vice President for Inclusive Excellence to discuss these issues. We are looking forward to this conversation!

**Dr. Arijit Mazumdar:** In line with the POLS department’s open letter on Institutional Racism and Black Lives Matter, in my POLS 104: Government and Politics course we examine historical and current barriers to voting for minorities in the US, particularly African Americans.
BRIDGE ST. THOMAS
Bridge St. Thomas recently organized a large debate on whether critical race theory should be taught in public schools. The debate, designed to foster civil engagement on controversial issues, featured the University of St. Thomas College Democrats and the UST College Republicans. Over fifty students attended and engaged in meaningful dialogue on the topic. Bridge will continue creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue this semester on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 P.M. in ASC 202. All are invited!

PI SIGMA ALPHA
The Chi Theta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, will be inducting eight new members at its annual member initiation banquet, tentatively scheduled for late-April/early-May 2022. The inductees are: Chasidy Bustamante, Nick Caropreso, Zekriah Chaudhry, Anna Check, Brynn Kimel, Noah Patterson, Alexis Studniski, and Elyse Zeswitz.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLUB
The Foreign Affairs Club has been meeting weekly to discuss events in the world. Needless to say, there has been a lot to cover. The Model UN team will be representing Turkey in next year’s American Model United Nations (AMUN) International Conference in Chicago in November 2022. If you are interested, reach out to the club leaders – Megan Smith, Kate Ostaffe, and George Sugrue.

MOCK TRIAL
The St. Thomas Mock Trial Team concluded another strong season this year by winning the Spirit of the American Mock Trial Association Award at the Regional Tournament. This award is given to a team that displays civility, sporting values, and friendliness throughout the tournament. Congratulations to the team on a good season!

PRE-LAW SOCIETY
This spring Pre-Law Society has a number of upcoming events including their annual Attorney Networking Event on April 25th, and an LSAT practice test on May 2nd. For more information, or to get involved, join them on TommieLink! See below for more Pre-Law information.

Pre-Law: For students considering applying to law school in the fall, now is a great time to be making plans to take the LSAT. Upcoming LSAT dates are June 10th and 11th, August 12th, and September 9th. If you have questions about the LSAT or the application process, talk to Dr. Goltz!
ALUMNI PROFILE: MICHAEL TAYLOR

Following graduation in 2017, I moved to Bismarck, North Dakota to take a position with the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party, where I had interned during the summer of 2016. In my four years with the party, I was fortunate enough to have various roles and responsibilities. I served as Operation Director, which included finance and HR duties, and helping to plan the 2018 State Convention that then Vice President Biden attended as the keynote speaker. I also served as Caucus Director for all state house and senate campaigns during the 2018 election, Legislative Assistant to the House Minority Leader during the 2019 Legislative Session, and as Executive Director from 2020 – fall 2021.

After my tenure in North Dakota, I moved back to the Twin Cities. Following some time off to rediscover the metro area and reconnect with old friends and Tommies, I began a position with the DFL as the Candidate Services Director for the House Caucus. My time spent with the DFL, although formative, with some of the best staff in the country, turned out to be brief. In March I started the position of Campaign Gift Officer with University Advancement here at the University of St. Thomas. The role is focused on donor outreach and helping St. Thomas reach current and future funding priorities and goals. I couldn’t be more excited to see firsthand the future growth and positive impact of the University!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our 2022-2023 G.W.C. Ross Scholarship Recipients

Chasidy Bustamante, Nick Caropreso, Alex Douglas, Abby Kielty, Blake Koski, Noah Patterson, Casey Staum, Lily Stringer, Alexis Studniski, Olivia Tschida, and Elyse Zeswitz.

G.W.C. Ross Scholarships are awarded to Political Science majors with demonstrated academic excellence. These scholarships are made possible by an endowed fund named after the late G. W. C. Ross, a long-time department faculty member, and are awarded in the major’s junior year. The scholarship amount is deducted from University of St. Thomas tuition charges during senior year.

Congratulations to Political Science majors:

Alli Preece: Fulbright Semi-Finalist for English Teaching Assistantship (Colombia).

Ryan Celski: Awarded scholarship and research assistantship to attend American University’s School of International Service.

Lillee Couture: Awarded Director’s Scholarship to attend the Penn State School of International Affairs.

Anna Erickson: Recognized with Western Collegiate Hockey Association All-Academic status. She and five of her teammates were the first women’s hockey players to earn this honor since the university’s move to Division I athletics.
POLS 350: Comparative Politics of Europe
Online some synchronous, Dr. Buhr
Dr. Buhr will be teaching POLS 350: Comparative Politics of Europe next fall. The course will be held online (with synchronous and asynchronous elements) from Bordeaux, France, where Dr. Buhr will be doing research on the 2022 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The course will cover key problems faced by the EU and democracies – East and West – in Europe today. We’ll learn about the EU’s history and evolution, the rise of populism and exclusive nationalism, economic challenges, immigration/asylum issues, and Russian meddling. Dr. Buhr will incorporate local guest speakers and local sights in Bordeaux into the course. Required pre-requisites: POLS 104 and 225.

POLS 352: Politics of Developing World
MWF 10:55 am, Dr. Mazumdar
This course is a survey of government and politics of the countries of the developing world. Specifically, it will look at countries in five geographical regions: East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa (together formerly known as the Third World). It focuses on themes like colonialism, democratization, human rights, gender inequality, overpopulation, hunger, poverty, environmental degradation, economic development, foreign aid/assistance and ‘North-South’ relations. Old Core Requirements met: Human Diversity; 2020 Core Requirements met: Global Perspective.
Pre-requisites: POLS 104, POLS 225, or permission of instructor.

Fall 2022: 200-400 level courses at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days and Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cit. Participation &amp; Pub Pol - 40935 - POLS 205 - L01</td>
<td>Timothy R. Lynch (P)</td>
<td>Mon--Wed---- 15:25 to 17:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Politics - 40936 - POLS 225 - 01</td>
<td>Arijit Mazumdar (P)</td>
<td>Mon--Wed--Fri-- 12:15 to 13:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol. Identity &amp; Participation - 42307 - POLS 301 - 01</td>
<td>Timothy P Collins (P)</td>
<td>Tue--Thu--- 08:00 to 09:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constit Rights &amp; Liberties - 43182 - POLS 314 - 01</td>
<td>Caleb Timothy Goltz (P)</td>
<td>Tue--Thu--- 15:25 to 17:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Politics of Europe - 43183 - POLS 350 - 01</td>
<td>Renee L. Buhr (P)</td>
<td>Online M/W 12:15-13:20; F asynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics of Developing World - 41441 - POLS 352 - 01</td>
<td>Arijit Mazumdar (P)</td>
<td>Mon--Wed--Fri-- 10:55 to 12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploration in Poli Theory - 41678 - POLS 370 - 01</td>
<td>Caleb Timothy Goltz (P)</td>
<td>Mon--Wed---- 13:35 to 15:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sem in Comparative Politics - 40211 - POLS 454 - D01</td>
<td>Arijit Mazumdar (P)</td>
<td>Tue--Thu--- 13:30 to 15:10</td>
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Dr. Buhr will be presenting a paper on “Immigrants, ‘Vulnerable’ Groups, and ‘European Values’: French Right-Wing Parties’ Use of ‘Protection’ Narratives in the 2017 and 2022 Elections” at the Midwest Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL in early April 2022. The paper examines right-wing and far-right-wing political parties’ campaign promises to “protect” French Jews – a puzzling claim given the history of these parties’ treatment of French Jews, anti-Semitic sentiments among the party rank and file, and the spike in far-right-wing anti-Semitic violence in recent years.

Dr. Buhr spoke with a number of media outlets regarding the war in Ukraine, including Fox 9, WCCO (radio and television), KSTP and KARE 11. She has also presented information on Ukraine and Russia’s history and current political/security situation on campus through the POLS Beyond the Classroom Series, a university-wide webinar, the Center for the Common Good, and the Air Force ROTC detachment. Ask Dr. Buhr if you’d like to know more.

Links to media appearances:


Dr. Goltz spent March 10th-13th at the Western Political Science Association Conference in Portland, Oregon presenting a paper titled Pollinator Tort Reform on ways that our civil liability standards could be tweaked to create environmental stability for pollinators. He continues to work on a book about the legal aspects of Colony Collapse Disorder in honeybees.

Dr. High-Pippert will be participating in a “Public Engagement: Mixing Academics and Politics” panel at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago in April. Her presentation focuses on the development of Ready to Run Minnesota.

Dr. Lynch gave a lecture titled “In the Shadow of National Politics: Subnational Elections & Issues” for the Selim Center for Lifelong Learning. This lecture focused on the nationalization of elections in Minnesota and reflected research for a manuscript he plans to submit for publication in an academic journal.

Dr. Mazumdar is working on a paper on India-Japan relations in the twenty-first century. He plans to present this paper at a conference and later submit it for publication in an academic journal.