POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY

Chair: Kenneth Mitchell, Department of Political Science and Sociology
Sociology Program Director: Johanna Foster

Mission Statement

Through a study of government, law, public policy, international relations, and area studies, our mission is to prepare students with knowledge and skills for a number of career possibilities, and to instill civic responsibility and leadership.

Faculty

Rekha Datta, Professor and Freed Endowed Chair in the Humanities (Graduate Faculty).
Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. B.A., M.A., Presidency College, University of Calcutta, India; Ph.D., University of Connecticut. Specialization in political theory, international relations, comparative politics of South Asia, East Asia, the United Nations, and women and the world. Research interests focus on issues of gender and development, traditional and human security issues, and child labor. In 2003 Dr. Datta received the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award, the highest recognition for teaching at Monmouth University. She served on the county board of the American Association for University Women as Vice President for Public Policy until 2013. Since 2013, she has served on the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth and Middlesex Counties. Founder of Women and Girls’ Education (WAGE) International, a New Jersey-based 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization. Member of the Committee on Status of Representation and Diversity, International Studies Association. Author of: Beyond Realism: Human Security in India and Pakistan in the Twenty-First Century (2008, 2010); Why Alliances Endure: The United States-Pakistan Alliance, 1954-1971 (1994); co-editor, with Judith Kornberg, Women in Developing Countries: Assessing Strategies for Empowerment (2002). Advisor of Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Honor Society. Founder of the Institute for Global Understanding.
rdatta@monmouth.edu

Kevin Dooley, Associate Professor (Graduate Faculty). B.A., Monmouth University; M.A., Ph.D., Rutgers University. Research interests focus on globalization, comparative public policy, the politics of language, and comparative European governments. In addition to a wide array of scholarly articles, he is the author/co-author of two books, Politics Still Matter: Globalization, Governance, and the Revival of Regional Minorities (2008) and Why Politics Matter: An Introduction to Political Science (2012).
ndooley@monmouth.edu

Kathryn Kloby, Associate Professor (Graduate Faculty).
Vice Provost for Transformative Learning. B.A., Marywood College; M.S., Montclair State University; Ph.D., Rutgers University. Specialities are public sector accounting, performance measurement and reporting, citizen participation, public policy, and research methods. Her most current research focuses on accountability in public education.
klooby@monmouth.edu

Nancy J Mezey, Professor (Graduate Faculty).
Dean, Honors School. B.A., Vassar College; M.A., Ph.D., Michigan State University. Specializes in family sociology, race-class-gender studies, gender studies, and the sociology of sexualities. Her research and publications focus on how and why diverse family forms develop out of particular social, cultural, historical, and political contexts. Outside of Monmouth University, Dr. Mezey serves as the 2014-2015 Vice President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). She also served as a volunteer in Mali, West Africa, for the Peace Corps from 1988-1990. In 2010, she received the Monmouth University Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.
nmezey@monmouth.edu

Kenneth Mitchell, Associate Professor and Chair (Graduate Faculty).
B.A., University of California; M.S., London School of Economics; D.Phi., Oxford University, United Kingdom. Specializes in Latin-American and Caribbean politics and policy (public sector reform, democratization, and state-society relations); and international political economy (capacity building in public sector, community development, and politics of market-based reform). Authored: State-Society Relations in Mexico (2001); “Don’t Cry for Argentina, They Will Survive This” (2014); “Models of Clientelism and Policy Change: the Case of conditional Cash Transfer Programmes in Mexico and Brazil” (co-authored with Aaron Ansell, 2011); “An Institutional Anomaly. Longevity and Competition in the Dominican Party System” (2009); “Bridging the Convergence-Divergence Policy Diffusion Divide, Mid-range Theorizing and Devolving Food Aid in Mexico and the Dominican Republic” (2007); “Building State Capacity: Reforming Mexican State Food Aid Programs in the 1990’s” (2005). In 2015, he received the Monmouth University Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.
kmitchel@monmouth.edu

Saliba Sarsar, Professor (Graduate Faculty). B.A., Monmouth University (Monmouth College); Ph.D., Rutgers University. Specialities are international relations, comparative government (Middle East), and American foreign policy. He is the co-author of two books: Ideology, Values, and Technology in Political Life (1994) and World Politics: An Interdisciplinary Perspective (1995); the editor of two books: Education for Leadership and Social Responsibility (1996) and Palestine and the Quest for Peace (2009); and the co-editor of three books: Principles and Pragmatism – Key Documents from the American Task Force on Palestine (2006), Patriarch Michel Sabbah – Faithful Witness: On Reconciliation and Peace in the Holy Land (2009), and Democracy in Africa: Political Changes and Challenges (2012). He guest edited a special issue of the International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society (2004), focusing on Palestinian-Israeli relations. Dr. Sarsar’s articles have appeared in Peace and Conflict Studies; Holy Land Studies; Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics; Economics and Culture; This Week in Palestine; Columbia University Middle East Studies Internet Resources; Clio’s Psyche; Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice; Middle East Quarterly; Jerusalem Quarterly File; Scandinavian Journal of Development Alternatives and Area Studies; Journal of South Asian and Middle East Studies; International Journal of Leadership; Journal of Leadership Studies; and Leadership and Organization Development Journal. Dr. Sarsar also has two published books of poetry: Crosswinds (1999) and Seven Gates of Jerusalem (2010). A third book of poetry, Portraits: Poems of the Holy Land, is awaiting publication.
sarsar@monmouth.edu
Courses

PS-CPE  Public Policy Comprehensive Exam  Credits: None
Prerequisite(s): PS-510, PS-515, PS-516, and PS-518
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Public Policy Comprehensive Exam. This is a pass/fail course.

PS-510  Policy Analysis  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): TPS
An overview of the field of public policy studies with particular attention paid to the role of the policy analyst in the field of public policy. This course provides a solid foundation for the study of public policy analysis by concentrating on the five stages of the policy process, including agenda setting, policy formulation, budgeting, policy implementation, and policy evaluation.

PS-514  Public Opinion and Polling  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Students are taught how to use social science research methods to critique and create polling surveys. Particular attention is paid to the data collection and sample design, survey research methods, questionnaire development, and data collection and analysis. Students are taught how to evaluate the quality of survey research methods. Students will also be expected to design, implement, and analyze an original polling survey.

PS-515  Public Policy Research Design  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Introduces students to the different research techniques widely practiced in the field of public policy. Students will learn about the research process, from conceptualization to operationalization and measurement. Students examine the importance of writing the literature review and articulating the research question; explore various research designs such as experiments, survey research, and other methods for collecting data. Other issues such as sampling, validity, and reliability are addressed. Class discussions, exercises, readings, and other materials will equip students with the skills to design a piece of policy research to, for example, assess policy proposals, and programs.

PS-516  Research Methods  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Introduces students to widely used analytical and data presentation techniques in the field of public policy. Students will explore descriptive and inferential statistics. Using Excel and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, students learn how to build a data set, how to acquire secondary data, and how to clean and analyze data. Students will learn about distributions and how to interpret findings. Determining whether research findings are capable of making inferences is examined through regression analysis. Data presentation techniques are addressed to strengthen the skills of students to translate quantitative information to a broad audience.

PS-518  Theory, Policy, Ethics  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Seeks to enable students to develop a critical understanding of the moral and political values that come into play in public policy. Topics include the tensions between ethics and politics in the tradition of political theory as well as how they feature in contemporary public policy debates in American and global politics. Students gain an understanding of the role of ethics as a matter of social justice as well as ethical issues and dilemmas in professional ethics.

PS-522  History of Urbanization in America  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Provides an interdisciplinary study of the history of urbanization and industrialization in the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Using the themes of community, technology, public policy, and immigration, students will examine the development and changes in the social, physical, political, and economic urban landscape. Also listed as HS-522.

PS-524  Public Opinion and the Media  Credits: 3
Term Offered: Summer Term
Course Type(s): None
An examination of the shifting nature of public opinion, the agenda-setting role of mass media, and the survey methods that are employed to determine public opinion. The practices, values, and traditions of journalism that impact public opinion. Experience with the conduct of a survey and analysis of case studies.

PS-525  Political Communication  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
The study of traditional and contemporary theories of rhetoric as applied in research and analysis of political campaigns. The rhetorical creation, maintenance, application, and legitimization of symbolic power. A survey of analytic models of political communication and application of the models to case studies. The role of the political communication specialist. Practicum in political communication strategies and techniques. Also listed as CO-525.

PS-530  Environmental Policy  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
A survey of the process by which environmental politics, planning, and public policy is conducted in the United States and around the world. We will examine the nature and scope of environmental, energy, and natural resource problems; contrasting perspectives on their severity and policy implications; the goals and strategies of the environmental movement and public opinion on the environment; scientific, economic, political, and institutional forces that shape policymaking and implementation; approaches to environmental policy analysis; and selected issues in environmental policy in the global community. In addition to the covering of certain ecological science terms, the interplay between international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and traditional states and the ways in which these actors seek diplomatic solutions to environmental problems is also covered.

PS-533  The History of Public Policy in the United States  Credits: 3
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): HSUS
The objective is to survey major issues in domestic public policy. The emphasis is on changes in the process of policy formation in both the public and private sectors. Also listed as HS-533.
PS-553 Gender, Family, and Policy
Term Offered: Spring Term
Course Type(s): None
Examines how policies affect a diverse spectrum of families based on class, race, gender, sexuality, age, and nationality. It begins with a historical perspective on how families have developed because of historical factors such as changing economy and technology. It also examines how social structures such as race, class, gender, and sexuality have shaped families. It then focuses on current issues facing families and the policies that regulate those issues, such as the balance between work and family, welfare, reproductive issues, violence, healthcare, and educational issues. A comparative approach will be taken to examine policies both in the U.S. and within other countries. Also discussed will be family activism aimed at affecting policy in the U.S.

PS-556 Comparative Public Policy
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
In the world in which terrorism and chaos threaten to upset the policy-making capabilities of state governments, it is vital that we understand the different ways that nations formulate and implement public policy. Through an extensive investigation of policy analysis across a broad spectrum of states, the student will be able to better understand the reasons for policy decisions around the world. Democratic governments will be compared and contrasted to non-democratic governments in an attempt to provide greater insight and answer questions of health, economic, environmental, and foreign policies.

PS-558 American Foreign Policy
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Examines, analyzes, and evaluates the many dimensions and issues of American foreign policy since 1945. It provides an interpretative framework within which the sources of American action abroad may be understood. Combines descriptive and explanatory material with empirical evidence and makes a serious effort to distinguish facts from inferences, hypotheses, and opinions. The post-Cold War and post-9/11 worlds are assessed, with a focus on American goals, capabilities, and relationships around the world.

PS-597 Portfolio
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Enables students to complete their portfolios for the Master of Arts in Public Policy (MAPP). The portfolio displays academic and professional development and learning gained from the MAPP program and related experiences. The portfolio contains collections of academic and professional goal statements, term papers, reflective essays and artifacts gathered in various classes and colloquia and connected work.

PS-599 Special Topics/Special Projects
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
Offered occasionally to match the interest of the students’ and the professor teaching the course. The instruction will follow classroom lectures and discussions on the topic. The exact nature of the topic covered in any given semester is indicated on the student’s transcript. Permission of the program director is required to take this course.

PS-618 Social Work Administration
Term Offered: Fall Term
Course Type(s): TPS
Designed to deepen the student’s knowledge of the information and skills needed to organize and manage a modern human service not-for-profit organization. Except for those in private practice, most social workers function within an organization or agency environment - very often in the not-for-profit sector. Within five years, many holding MSW degrees will hold management positions in those organizations. Allows students to gain some preparation for this future possibility, while at the same time providing them with the tools to understand administrative processes in their organizations. Also listed as SW-618.

PS-692 Public Policy Master's Thesis
Prerequisite(s): PS-515 and PS-516
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
An independent research study based on relevant research and the writing of a substantial paper designed and executed by the student in consultation with a supervising professor. The subject matter should cover public policy and related areas. Prior permission of the directing professor and department chair is required to take this course.

SO-505 Critical Issues in Crime and Delinquency
Term Offered: All Terms
Course Type(s): None
An overview of some of the major problems confronting criminology and the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Current criminological literature and research will be evaluated in terms of its ability to suggest solutions to these problems.