

Oregon

Winter 2005

Politique

*News and Events from The
University of Oregon's Political
Science Peer Advisors*



by Leonard
Feldman

This is my first year as Undergraduate Advisor, and in that capacity I've had the opportunity to organize the peer advising program. Peer advising is an integral part of advising in the political science department. Peer advisors receive political science credit for their work. Their main duty is staffing the political science peer advising office (PLC 907).

Each peer advisor holds two office hours per week, handling a variety of student concerns. They help students complete change of major forms, review degree audits, help students plan course schedules, offer advice on classes, and provide students with

information about internship and study abroad programs. We also hold occasional meetings to discuss issues that arise and plan special projects... such as this newsletter. Being a peer advisor is a great way to learn more about the major and to pass on

that knowledge to others. If you are interested in being a peer advisor next year, I encourage you to apply. Stay tuned; an email will be sent to all political science majors this spring along with an application form.



(2004-2005 Political Science Peer Advisors: Back row, left to right: Ben Pepper, Jacob L.H. Wilson, Jason Ross, Jacob Daniels, Devin Moore. Front Row: Chelsea Byers, Yuka Murai, Amy Scott, Professor Leonard Feldman)

Earn upper division credits
Gain academic advising experience.
Familiarize yourself with the
Political Science faculty
Be a Peer Advisor

More Information?

Contact Professor Leonard Feldman
lfeldman@uoregon.edu

Wednesday, February 23
10:00am-3:00pm EMU Ballroom



**MBA Graduate school
Information Session**

Tuesday, March 1 from 4:00 to 5:00
pm in Lillis 275,

Andrew Verner, UO MBA
Director will discuss MBA graduate
programs. Did you know top MBA
programs only accept students with
a minimum of 4 years work
experience? Did you know that
economics and political science
majors rank in the top 5 of all majors
in MBA entrance exam scores?

Don't miss this opportunity
to find out more about something
you will likely consider in the future!

Beta Theta

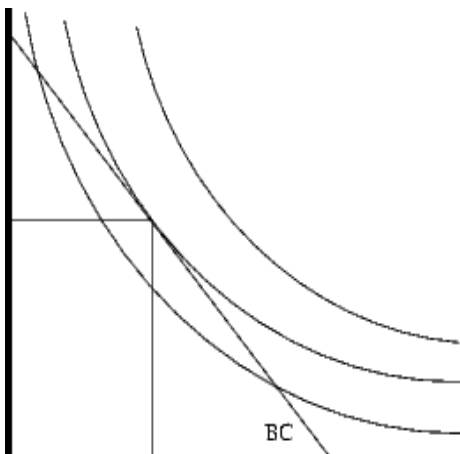
First Information Meeting

Thursday February 24th

EMU Maple Room

5:30 pm

ΠΣΑ Pi Sigma Alpha
The National Political Science Honor Society



Hey international Students!

Political Science Peer Advising offers specific office hours for international students. While all students are welcome to drop by Peer Advising any time, an international student Peer Advisor works the office Thursdays from 12:00-2:00. Our international student specialist is an exchange student herself. So come on by and get advice from someone who's been there!

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Spring Political Science Class Scheduleback cover



Left:
Oregon Capital, 1937

Right: Capital Center,
1927



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Jason Ross
Jacob Daniels
Chelsea Byers
Jacob L.H. Wilson

special thanks

Professor Leonard Feldman
Jason Pyton, *Utility Times*
editor in chief
Mun Li Kong, J School

PS Peer Advisors

2004-2005

Chelsea Byers,
Co-Coordinator
Yuka Murai,
Co-Coordinator
Dan Occhipinti
Jacob Daniels
Amy Scott
Devin Moore
Julia Gilbert
Jason Ross
Jacob L.H. Wilson
Benjamin Pepper

PS Peer Advising Office

PLC 907

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pspeers/>

pspeers@darkwing.uoregon.edu



Beta Theta Chapter Events

by Chelsea Byers

The University of Oregon's Beta Theta Chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor society is now active and seeking applications for new members. Founded in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha has over 550 chapters in the United States and a rich history of supporting academic excellence in the field of political science and related disciplines.

Membership in an honor society distinguishes the dedicated student from the rest. Joining Pi Sigma Alpha includes many more potential benefits:

- Providing students with a competitive edge in today's job market
- Annual academic scholarships offered by the national organization
- Paper and thesis awards at the graduate and undergraduate levels
- Opportunities to publish papers and other academic work
- Networking with other exceptional students in your field and meeting other students in the Political science department
- The ability to apply for Federal government positions listed at a *higher entry-level grade* than non-member candidates.

And...wearing a Pi Sigma Alpha medallion and honor cord at graduation!

Starting during the Winter 2005 term, the Political Science

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department is looking to expand its robust undergraduate community with an active group of Pi Sigma Alpha students. We encourage you to apply. Applicants must have both University of Oregon and Political Science department GPAs of at least 3.0, and must have completed at least 16 credits in political science.

Applications are available outside the Peer Advising office door, 907 PLC.

Contact your Pi Sigma Alpha coordinators
oregonpisigmaalpha@hotmail.com
 346-4875

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

The Oregon Advocate Now Accepting Submissions

by Ben Pepper

The *Oregon Advocate*, UO's undergraduate journal of law and public policy, is now accepting student submissions for both the Winter and Spring issues. It is one of few such publications in the country, and strives to give undergraduate students at UO a voice in the legal and academic communities regarding the issues most important to them. Students with work published will be paid a 50 dollar honorarium per article (multiple submissions are acceptable) in addition to copies of the issue in which their work appears.

Writing Guidelines:

The *Advocate* publishes opinion as well as original legal news/interpretation. There is no length limit, though as a general rule articles

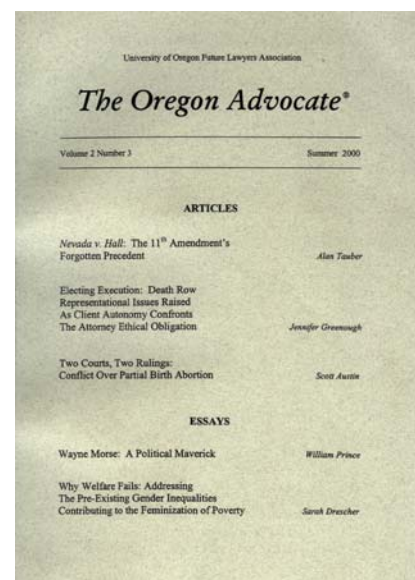
should be at least 4 pages long to be considered. Footnote format is required (please email submissions as attachments). Students may write about anything they choose relating to US or international law/policy. Past topics have included international law and human rights, urban housing codes, intellectual property, drug-related legislation, and legal history. We select articles based solely on quality and do not discriminate based on the views or beliefs expressed by the writer. We will edit only for punctuation and formatting.

Papers written previously for classes at the University of Oregon are perfectly acceptable, provided they can stand alone as articles. We welcome, and often publish, law-related class papers.

Our goal is not only to publish a quality journal, but to give all students at the University of Oregon an opportunity to express their ideas.

Submit to us.

Completed articles and questions may be sent to
uofla@gladstone.uoregon.edu



Looking For An Internship, Eh?

by Jacob Daniels

Are you tired of learning about politics in an isolated classroom? An exciting opportunity to boost your resume is to take part in one of many political internships. Regardless of your area of interest, there is a perfect internship for you.

For those who crave the excitement of national politics, the White House offers a limited amount of positions for college students. Information regarding the White House intern program is available at www.whitehouse.gov. Additionally, all members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives offer student

internships to their constituents. Information on these opportunities can be found at any representative's official website.

If your area of expertise is elections, Project Vote Smart offers an exciting educational program. Project Vote Smart interns get to spend ten weeks during the fall, spring, or summer in beautiful Philipsburg, Montana. At the research center, interns can specialize in tracking public officials, building media relations, campaign finance, or many other areas of election politics. Project Vote Smart is a bipartisan effort to give people adequate information pertaining to

candidates and representatives. Information regarding Project Vote Smart can be found at www.vote-smart.org.

For those students who don't want to stray too far from home, many members of the Oregon State Legislature offer internship opportunities, which can be further researched at www.leg.state.or.us/capinfo/intern.html.

As an additional incentive, the University of Oregon will offer academic credit if the prospective intern arranges their internship with the Political Science Department.



International Studies

Undergraduate Advising

Looking for a **Second Major** that will complement your BA in PS?

Considered **International Studies**?

Applications available in the International Studies Program Office in **175 PLC** and are due Monday of the fourth week of spring term.

Contact ISP Undergraduate Advising in **PLC 306** to discuss the program

346-3122

ispuga@gladstone.uoregon.edu



History Repeats Itself.

Fortunately, there's help.

University of Oregon History Department Peer Advising Program

Come visit the History Department Peer Advising Office. We can give you a student's perspective on becoming a major or minor, fit your interests with classes, see that you are meeting requirements and much more.

We are also on the look out for more advisors next year. If you are interested, stop in and find out how you can get credit to help your peers!

340A McKenzie Hall

(Office hours posted on door)

346-4815

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~history/>

Shaping a Legal Mind

by Jason Ross

Many of us pursuing an undergraduate degree in political science have an interest in continuing our education in the field of law. At some point we have all heard, “why political science – you do know law schools don’t care what major you are, right?” While this is true, such statements miss the importance of thinking, reading, and above all, writing critically as essential skills – not only for law school, but more importantly, for putting that degree to use after graduation.

The University of Oregon offers a series of classes designed not only to teach the basics of law, but also to force students to think like lawyers. Four core classes make up this series. Constitutional Law (PS 470) and its prerequisite, Legal Process (PS 275), offer the most law school-like environments and course material. Students learn

at these classes. Jack Bennett is Academic Advisor for Pre-Law. He is an excellent resource for anyone applying to law school (3rd floor Oregon Hall). He says that law schools look for “a liberally, deeply educated transcript that shows students can research, think analytically, and write well.”

Students should seek out chances to read and write critically. It is essential to look for classes and professors who will work with students to produce more than one draft of a paper. Many of the upper-

‘Students should seek out chances to read and write critically.’

level political theory courses provide this, and students should seriously consider writing a senior honors

thesis for the unique experience. You can find a list of all past political science syllabi at <http://polisci.uoregon.edu/syllarch.html>

Or visit the Peer Advising office (PLC 907) and look through the archives with a fellow political science student.

Whatever you do, do not think that because no specific degree is *required* for law school application, law schools don’t care about your education. Rather, education right now is critical, but flexible. No one path is laid down. Shape your undergraduate degree to become a better thinker.

“why political science – you do know law schools don’t care what major you are, right?”

conditions of jurisprudence, write case briefs, and argue on legal statutes. Two other courses may be of interest to budding legal minds: United States Supreme Court (PS 484) and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (PS 485).

The University has done an excellent job of providing courses directly applicable to legal careers. However, those of us planning law school application should not stop

Political Science Calender

February 24.....Introductory Pi Sigma Alpha Meeting.

All interested Political Science majors are welcome!

March 23.....Registration Deadline for Foreign Service Exam.....

March 28.....Classes Begin

April 4.....Last Day to Drop Classes Without a “W”

April 6.....Last Day to Add/Drop Classes

May 15.....Last Day to Withdraw from Classes

June 11.....Commencement

Socially Insecure

by Jacob L.H. Wilson

When you think of the future, what do you envision? Flying cars? Light-speed computers? When asked, most college-aged people will not think about Social Security. It is a far-removed topic from the minds of most members of my generation. However, we are the generation that most needs to worry about it. Many of us are about to join the workforce, and will have to pay into Social Security for several decades.

President Bush, in his last State of the Union address, warned of an impending crisis, saying the system would be bankrupt by 2042. He then outlined a plan that would allow workers to invest in personal retirement accounts, instead of the Social Security fund. Under his plan, workers would be able to invest four percent of their wages, up to \$1000 per year.

Bush claims his plan will save Social Security because if younger workers finance their retirements personally, the system will not be obligated to them. He also claims that investing money in the stock and bond markets will give a better average rate of return than is seen on Social Security debt.

Bush's plan creates more problems than it solves. According to the White House's own estimations, Bush's proposal would cost approximately \$4.5 trillion over

the next twenty years. This is because the system would pay out to retirees, while far fewer people would be paying in. Eventually, the gains made by such a plan would balance out the initial costs incurred, but according to the same White House projections, that would not

Bush claims his plan will save Social Security...

happen for about 75 years.

Another problem that the administration has not addressed is what would happen to those whose investments do poorly. Some kind of safety net could be set up for such cases, but that would create an incentive for workers to put less effort into making wise financial decisions. Further, during recessions and depressions returns on market investments decline. Those drawing on their retirement stocks at these times will face cutbacks in benefits as a function of market activity.

This problem leaves politicians with several unpalatable choices. Raising taxes or the retirement age would solve the issue, but both of those ideas are seen as political third rails. Proposing a reduction of benefits is equally unpopular. Privatization is more politically acceptable, but the start-up costs of such a solution are prohibitively expensive. My fix for

this situation alters Social Security benefits and taxes as several related factors change. The difference between revenues and payments should be split between those being taxed and those collecting.

If benefits were to be reduced below the poverty line, even as taxes were being raised proportionally to that reduction, the tax cap (the level at which one does not contribute to or receive payments from Social Security) would be lifted as much as necessary from the current figure of \$90,000. Also, as the average life expectancy goes up, the retirement age would be adjusted to give each generation the same relative amount of retired years. This solution is bound to be unpopular with almost everyone involved, but it is the most equitable and sustainable proposal for current and future generations.

Got something to say?

Interested in getting involved?

Contact *Oregon Politique*

pspeers@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Spring 2005 Class Schedule

Ask your PS Peer Advisor about a class that interests you.

	CRN	Time	Day	Location	Instructor
PS 101	37036	1200-1250	mwf	221 ALL	Smith C.
PS 104	37042	1300-1350	mwf	115 LA	Bloom J.
PS 201	37048	tba		WEB	Bloom J.
	38273	1000-1050	mwf	221 ALL	Lowndes J.
PS 204	37049	tba		WEB	Bloom J.
	37050	1500-1550	mwf	229 MCK	Durbar L.
PS 205	38280	1400-1520	th	105 ESL	Staines L.
PS 208	38284	0900-0950	mwf	105 ESL	Diggles M.
PS 297	37064	1400-1450	mwf	176 ED	Mosley C.
PS 301	38290	1200-1320	m w	129 MCK	Tanenbaum J.
PS 321	37067	1000-1120	m w	242 GER	Harwig J.
PS 346	38292	1000-1120	m w	229 MCK	Cramer J.
PS 347	37069	1200-1320	th	240C MCK	Bennett D.
PS 349	38294	1600-1750	m w	207 CHA	Madler J.
PS 386	37071	1600-1720	th	207 CHA	DeBevoise K.
PS 399 China Env Crisis	38298	1200-1320	th	112 LIL	Suttnaire P.
PS 399 Film & Politics	38297	1700-2050	w	240A MCK	Taylor E.
PS 399 Racial Pol in US	37073	1400-1520	m w	105 ESL	Lowndes J.
PS 401	37075	tba	tba	tba	STAFF
PS 403	37076	tba	tba	tba	STAFF
PS 405	37077	tba	tba	tba	STAFF
PS 406	37078	tba	tba	tba	STAFF
PS 409 Peer Advising	37081	tba	tba	tba	Feldman L.
PS 409 Practicum	37082	tba	tba	tba	STAFF
PS 410 Adv Poli Theo.	38313	1400-1650	w	605 PLC	Feldman L.
PS 410 Judai Ecolo.	38301	1200-1320	m w	300 VIL	Diamond I.
PS 410 Yugos.	37085	1600-1720	m w	240C MCK	DeBevoise K.
PS 410 Trade/Finance	38316	1400-1650	w	905 PLC	Baker G.
PS 410 Pol EU	38307	1000-1120	th	110 WIL	Parsons C.
PS 410 Pub. Opi	37084	1400-1650	h	605 PLC	Mc Ghee E.
PS 420	38320	1200-1320	th	105 ESL	Mitchell R.
PS 422	38322	1600-1720	th	221 MCK	Peters-Van Eesen K.
PS 426	38324	1400-1520	th	129 MCK	Baugh W.
PS 433	38327	1000-1120	th	182 LIL	Baumgold D.
PS 446	37093	1000-1120	m w	905 PLC	Baker G.
PS 459	38329	1400-1650	u	627 PLC	Suttnaire P.
PS 468	38331	1000-1120	th	125 MCK	Mc Ghee E.
PS 479	38333	1400-1650	m	905 PLC	Cramer J.
PS 480	38335	1400-1520	m w	216 ALL	Myagkov M.
PS 484	38482	1200-1320	m w	128 CHI	Davidson J.

