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## WHY AN M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM SF STATE?



The Master of Arts in Political Science is designed for students who wish to proceed to further postgraduate study at the doctoral level, as well as those who seek to terminate their study with the master's degree. An M.A. in Political Science is a good investment in time and money for many college graduates, taking 2 to 3 years to complete depending on whether you are also working and whether you decide to do exams or a thesis as part of your culminating experience. Graduates of our M.A. program teach at community colleges, work in election campaigns and at think tanks, as elected officials, policy analysts, and policy makers. And if you decide to do a PhD, a law degree or more specialized master's program, your M.A. from SF State gives a solid foundation and advantage in admissions. Our recent graduates have gone on to PhD programs in political science and related fields at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz and at the University of Washington, the University of Hawaii, SUNY Stonybrook, and University of Connecticut. Some have gone straight into teaching positions at Santa Rosa Junior College and City College of SF, and here in our own department we have six instructors who received their M.A. with us. Others have gone into local politics working, for instance, for SF Supervisors and others have gone back into the private sector working for such companies as DT Global.

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## WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER?

Areas of Specialization within the program include American Politics, Political Theory and Comparative Politics. In addition, students may study public law, empirical methods, and international relations (the latter with faculty in SF State's Department of International Relations). We offer a wide range of courses within each subfield, covering different regions of the world, topics and methodological approaches. Our political theory offerings are abundant.

At SF State, our political Science faculty are experienced, well-published scholars and teachers specializing in American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Public Law, and Empirical Methods. M.A. students work closely with faculty to learn how political scientists produce knowledge about politics. The faculty encourages students to contribute to that scholarship, and there are opportunities for MA students to work as teaching assistants. Students also have the chance to present their own work at conferences.

Most graduate seminars are offered starting at 4 p.m. and, occasionally, later in the evening, allowing professional students to work and attend class. Seminars usually last 2 hours and 40 minutes and will be online for the upcoming spring 2021 semester.



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## **Funding:**

The department is not able to offer tuition waivers, scholarships or grants to incoming students. We do offer some limited scholarships that can help support your studies in political theory and empirical research methods, in particular. Some limited financial assistance is available in the form of paid teaching assistantships. These are usually not available during the first semester of study. Financial aid information can be found on the SF State Future Students website as well as the Office of Student Financial Aid website.



## **Admission Requirements:**

Most Political Science graduate students have a B.A. in Political Science. While this is recommended, we accept applications from any major. In general, the minimum cumulative grade-point average is 3.25. You will also need to provide unofficial transcripts and two letters of reference, preferably from former professors or academic advisors. Complete the online application for graduate admission at [CAL STATE APPLY](https://calstateapply.com).

## FACULTY:



Professor Ron Hayduk teaching class.

### American Politics

#### **Aaron Belkin, Professor**

PhD, UC Berkeley

Research and Teaching Interests: LGBTQ service members, Military masculinity, U.S. Supreme Court

#### **Ron Hayduk, Professor**

PhD, CUNY

Research and Teaching Interests: Immigration, political participation, inequality

#### **Francis Neely, Associate Professor**

PhD, SUNY Stonybrook

Research and Teaching Interests: political attitudes and behavior, partisanship, and research design

**Jason McDaniel, Associate Professor**

PhD, University of Southern California

Research and Teaching Interests: race and voting in local elections, electoral institutions and voter turnout, how electoral institutions affect representation

**Marcela Garcia-Castañon, Associate Professor**

PhD, University of Washington

Research and Teaching Interests: American politics, Latino politics, immigrant/immigration policy and politics, political communication and methodology

**Rebecca Eissler, Assistant Professor**

PhD, University of Texas, Austin

Research and Teaching Interests: The presidency and Congress, information processing, and research methods

**Amanda Roberti, Assistant Professor**

PhD, Rutgers University

Research and Teaching Interests: Abortion policy, reproductive justice, gender and politics, women and politics

**Public Law:**

**Marty Carcieri, Professor**

PhD, University of California Santa Barbara

JD, UC Hastings

Research and Teaching Interests: Constitutional Law, American Political Theory, John Rawls

**Nicholas Conway, Assistant Professor**

PhD, Texas A&M

JD Indiana University--Maurer School of Law

Research and Teaching Interests: Judicial Politics, Constitutional Litigation, Public Law, Political Methodology

**Comparative Politics:**

**Amita Shastri, Professor**

PhD, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Research and Teaching Interests: democracy and democratization, ethnicity and nationalism, and political economy of development, South Asia

**Sujian Guo, Professor**

PhD, University of Tennessee

Research and Teaching Interests: Chinese/Asian politics, US-China relations, international relations of East Asia, communist and post-communist studies, democratic transitions, and the political economy of East and Southeast Asia

**Nicole Watts, Professor**

PhD, University of Washington

Research and Teaching Interests: Social movements, nationalism, state-society relations, politics of the Middle East and North Africa

**Andrei Tsygankov, Professor**

Phd, University of Southern California

Research and Teaching Interests: Russian/Post-Soviet Politics, International Relations

**Whitney Taylor, Assistant Professor**

PhD, Cornell University

Research and Teaching Interests: Rights, law, and contentious politics

**Political Theory:**

**Joel Kassiola, Professor**

PhD, Princeton University

Research and Teaching Interests: Environmental Political Theory, Confucian Green Theory, Environmental Ethics

**James Martel, Professor**

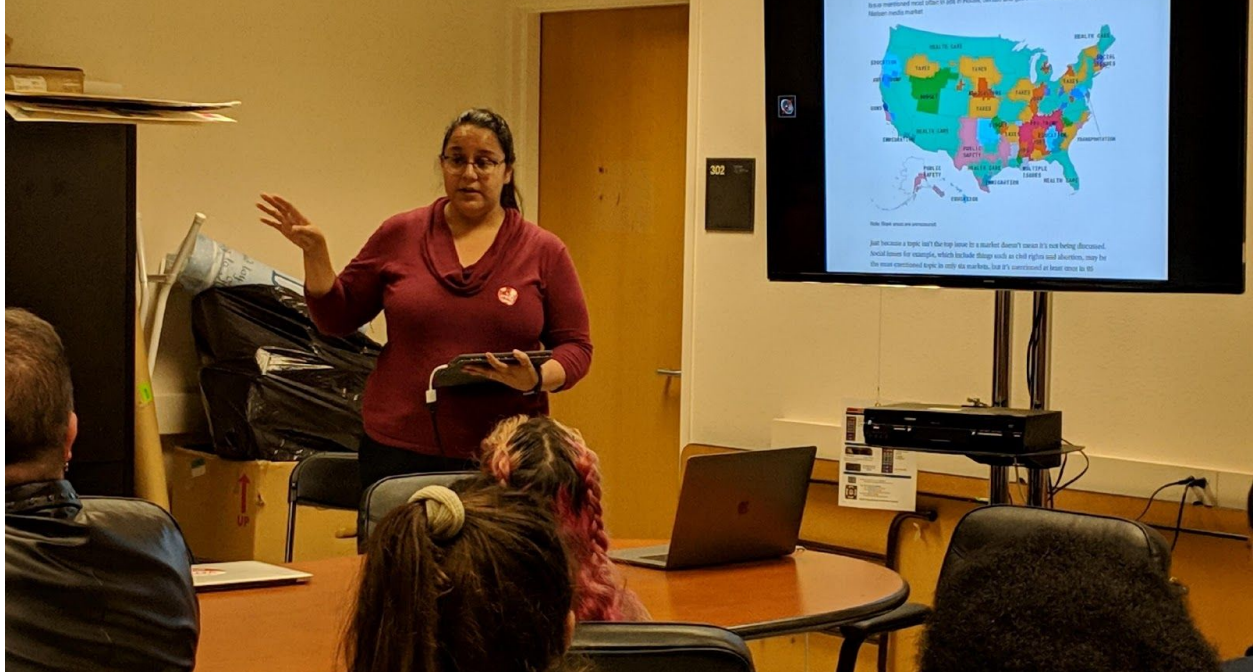
PhD, UC Berkeley

Research and Teaching Interests: Anarchist studies, cultural studies, post-colonial studies

**Katherine A. Gordy, Professor**

PhD, Cornell University

Research and Teaching Interests: Comparative political theory, Latin American political thought, critical theory, post-colonial studies



Professor Marcela Garcia-Castañon leads class. Professor Garcia-Castañon frequently teaches PLSI 700, required for all MA students.

**M.A. Requirements:**

All M.A. students are required to take four core seminars in American politics, comparative politics, political theory and political science methods (PLSI 700) and then may choose from a number of graduate level-electives in political science and related fields. Students will also need to complete a culminating experience either in the form of a thesis or exams in two political science subfields.

Frequently taught graduate electives include:

- Public Opinion, Elections and the Media
- Urban Politics and Power
- Great Theorists: Walter Benjamin
- Political Theory of Franz Kafka
- Latin American Political Theory
- State-Society Relations
- Social Movements of the Islamic World
- Gender, Colonialism, Scientific Racism
- Colonialism and Anti-Colonialism