

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER



October 2022

Inside this issue

What's new with PSIS?	2
Study Abroad and Global Studies.....	3
Get Involved.....	4
Faculty and Student Spotlight.....	5
Alumni News.....	6
Guest Column.....	7
Spring Schedule.....	10
Contact Us.....	11



Flurim Aliu, '18, at the White House. See page 6 to learn what he is doing now.

What's New with PSIS?



Did you know we now have a **minor in Spanish** with several new course offerings? Anyone looking to increase their chance for employment should consider this opportunity. Paralegal certification students should especially consider adding this minor. Bilingual paralegals are highly sought after in the legal field.

Spanish for Professionals

As our world continues to shrink and more industries are going global, the need for professionally trained translators is growing. Our new program is an excellent way to add skills to your resume and prepare you for a job in any industry seeking professional translators. For more information, contact Dr. Silvia Choi, professor of Spanish, at mchoi3@ggc.edu.

**PSIS Fall Faculty/Student Mixer -
October 26, 6 - 8 p.m., Student Success Lounge - Bldg. W
(Near Entrance to W Parking Lot)**



This October, PSIS will have its first Faculty/Student Mixer. Interested students and alumni are all welcome to come and mingle with PSIS faculty and other classmates. We will have some great food and entertainment, and will share some news about the department, internship opportunities, and graduate/law school information. We will also have guest speakers – including some of our former students. Come learn how a PSIS degree at GGC led them to their current careers.

Why Study Abroad?

1. Gain new insights and outlooks through new relationships.
2. Take advantage of networking opportunities and enrich your education.
3. Demonstrate your adaptability and make yourself more marketable to employers.
4. See the world and broaden your experience.
5. Learn a language in a country where it is spoken.
6. Explore your heritage.
7. Improve your professional and financial potential.
8. Fight stereotypes by educating others.
9. Dispel your own stereotypes.
10. Discover alternative career/perspective paths.



Visit the [Education Abroad Portal](#) or contact Dr. Federica Goldoni, associate professor of Spanish and chair of Study Abroad, to browse opportunities, learn more about financing your trip with available scholarships and grants, sign up for an info session and more.

Why Global Studies?



Participating in the Global Studies Certification Program demonstrates students' commitment to global learning. Taking courses with an international focus amplifies the global dimension of students' majors. In addition, by engaging in a credit-bearing education abroad experience and enhancing their experience with a second language, students will expand their view of the world and their place in it, as well as their perspectives on their own societies at home.

Admission Requirements

1. Possess a 2.7 cumulative GPA
2. Have completed 24 hours of academic credit, with at least 12 hours completed at GGC
3. Complete/sign the *certification agreement*. This process involves the student, faculty mentor and certification coordinator

Get Involved



Contact: Dr. Richard Rawls, professor of history and advisor, OLAS, rrawls@ggc.edu

Contact: Dr. Luis Mora, assistant professor of Spanish and advisor, HOGAR, lmora@ggc.edu



The Law Society

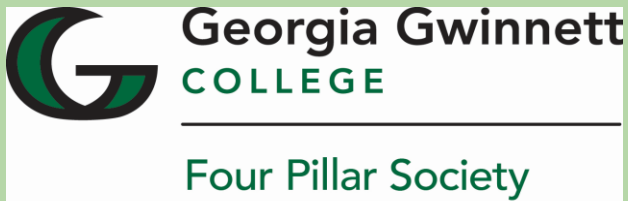


At Georgia Gwinnet College

There are many different careers available in the legal world, and The Law Society is a place for students interested in the legal field to come together! The Law Society holds LSAT study groups, Q&As with admissions representatives from different law schools, Q&As with lawyers in the community, and more! If interested, please email Dr. Scott Boykin, professor of political science and Law Society advisor, at sboykin@ggc.edu or Andrea Bell, Law Society president, at abell29@ggc.edu.

Faculty and Student Spotlight

Kevin Becerra-Cardoza, '23, Political Science – Legal Studies and **Aragson Hassen**, '23, political science – legal studies were inducted into the Four Pillar Society at GGC this year. The Four Pillar Society provides growth opportunities for outstanding, professional and motivated GGC students. In this role, they serve as official hosts and goodwill ambassadors, representing GGC's student body at various on-campus and community events, and greeting and mingling with guests while providing knowledgeable insights about the college and student life. This honor is awarded to only a few students each year. Congratulations to our outstanding PSIS students.



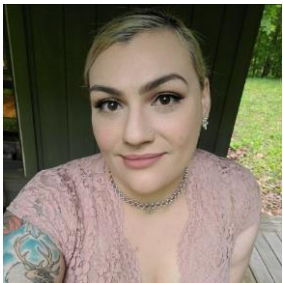
Peyton McGuire will join the PSIS Department in spring 2023 as our newest **Student Ambassador**! Peyton is a junior majoring in political science. He is also taking part in the professional studies minor to gain an area concentration in Asian politics.

The summer 2022 Peru study abroad students with Dr. Federica Goldoni, associate professor of Spanish (bottom left).



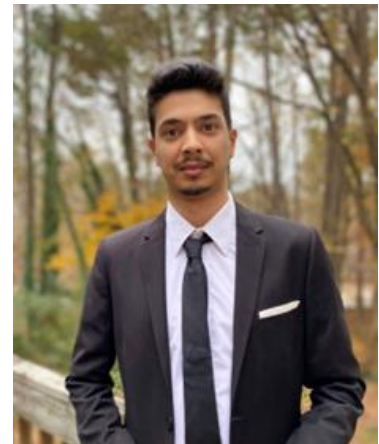
POLS Alumni News

Flurim Aliu graduated in 2018 with a concentration in international relations. He currently serves as a fellow at the Council on Economic Policies at Seoul National University in Switzerland, where he focuses on fiscal policy with a specialization in Europe, East Asia and North America.



Hope Jensen, who graduated in 2018 with a concentration in international relations, works for New American Pathways. This August she visited GGC American government classes to talk about the importance of voting. She also provided information on how to register to vote.

Mahmoud Hassan graduated in 2020 with a concentration in legal studies and a paralegal certification. He is in his second year at Suffolk University Law School in Boston and is a part-time law clerk at an employment law firm. Mahmoud credits the paralegal program and faculty at GGC, like Dr. Laura Young, associate professor of political science, and Hon. Jean Rowe Luciani, former adjunct for the political science paralegal certification program, who helped him realize his interest in the legal field.



These students are great examples of how our political science alumni are using the skills and knowledge they learned at GGC.

GUEST COLUMN

What Can You Do With a Degree in Political Science and International Studies?

So, you are interested in Political Science and International Studies (PSIS), but not sure what career a PSIS degree will get you? Or, maybe you think your only options with a degree in PSIS are politician or lawyer.

Well, good news! That's not true. PSIS students are quite desirable for a variety of employers because of the research, writing and critical analysis skills they gain. In addition, PSIS graduates gain more in-depth knowledge about other cultures and governments around the world not afforded to other majors, which is also attractive to a variety of different employers.

Types of Jobs

There are many government positions available to PSIS majors. The Department of State, for example, employs foreign service officers (FSOs). FSOs represent America abroad and serve at embassies, consulates and other diplomatic posts around the world. These officers hold a variety of jobs ranging from ambassador, an advisor at the White House on the National Security Council, a watch officer who responds to crises around the world by monitoring media reports and events, a press officer who is the spokesperson for an embassy, or even a consular officer that helps Americans who are arrested abroad, just to name a few.

The Peace Corps also hires PSIS majors. Graduates with such degrees are attractive to the Peace Corps because they have taken classes in comparative politics that help them better understand the way different governments function.

In addition, courses in human rights, comparative foreign policy, social movements, and international relations give students greater knowledge about other cultures. Internationalized courses, like those offered by PSIS, have an added benefit of helping students develop a level of knowledge about other cultures that goes deeper than those which do not have this focus, but rather stick to history or basic theories without helping students develop empathy beyond their own borders.

Having the above experience makes applicants with a PSIS degree, especially those who pursue the global studies certificate, minor in Spanish, or study abroad, very attractive to organizations who need these qualities in their representatives.

Candidates with this knowledge are also a good fit for the Peace Corps since the organization focuses on immersing themselves in grassroots efforts around the world, and PSIS graduates are already equipped with knowledge that helps them understand these efforts in more depth than most other majors.



Dr. Laura Young, associate professor of political science and department chair, Political Science and International Studies

PSIS majors also make great legislative assistants and members of political campaign staff. The courses taken by PSIS majors provide knowledge about how the government works, how policies are created, and other issues important to legislators and candidates running for office. The PSIS program offers internship credit to give students experience in these positions which helps increase job prospects after graduations.

PSIS majors also find work as communications coordinators, community affairs coordinators and program coordinators. In fact, a quick Google search reveals a variety of job listings related to these positions; all of which require a degree in PSIS or related field.

GGC's political science public

administration concentration is a perfect choice for those interested in these types of careers. This is because there is emphasis placed on candidates having excellent verbal, written, interpersonal and organizational skills as well as foreign language competence. Each of these qualities are taught to PSIS majors since the training of majors in this field is on creating scientists who can communicate research effectively. These qualities transfer easily to these positions as they also require the ability to effectively transform mere ideas to actual policies while effectively communicating them to the public.

If employment in the government sector is not right for you, the PSIS major offers a teacher certification track for those who are interested in teaching in middle or high school. PSIS students take courses that focus on topics which give them the knowledge they need to pass the certification required to teach. In fact, at the end of the program, they not only have the knowledge needed to pass the test, but because the PSIS program works closely with administrators in our education program, students also take classes that give them the skills needed to be successful when they begin teaching in the classroom.

PSIS majors can also become paralegals. PSIS offers a paralegal certification. This is a great option for those students who are not interested in spending the time and money on law school, but who are still interested in working in the legal profession.

You may want to pursue your education even further. Students

with a master's or PhD degree in PSIS have even more opportunities. Individuals with advanced degrees in this field typically become lobbyists, data analysts for agencies like the Department of Homeland Security or global corporations, media and public affairs specialists, urban planners, professors, or work for non-governmental organizations in a variety of roles.

Enhancing Your Marketability

Like many majors, getting a degree in PSIS is often not enough to land your dream job. It not only requires dedication to your studies, but you must also find ways to enhance your resume to make yourself stand out from other candidates. You can do this by getting involved in student organizations or other opportunities that help you gain experience in the career area you desire. Fortunately, GGC offers a variety of options for students seeking to enhance their resume.

Student organizations, for example, are a great way to show your ability to work in a team environment. If you hold a position, like president or treasurer in one of these organizations, for example, it can also give you leadership experience. In addition, most student organizations hold events each semester. Helping plan these events can also enhance your resume since it shows your organizational skills and ability to communicate with others effectively.

GGC also offers a variety of professional development activities. The CREATE Symposium held every semester is a place where students can present their

original research. This experience demonstrates to potential employers that you not only have the ability to conduct research, but that you can also present that research effectively.

Internships are also available on and off campus. The PSIS department not only helps students gain legislative internships, but there are often opportunities to work with professors on your own research or through programs like the Community Innovations Project.

GGC also offers a Peace Corps Preparation Program. This program is a formal cooperative agreement with the college and the Peace Corps. This program provides participants with four core competencies. These are training and experience in the work sector, as well as foreign language skills which are particularly important since Peace Corps members are stationed all over the world. The program also helps build professional and leadership development as well as intercultural competence – all important qualities successful applications to the Peace Corps possess.

In short, there are many opportunities to explore a variety of career opportunities with a PSIS degree. GGC also offers supplemental programs which can help enhance your resume giving you an even greater chance of success at landing the job of your dreams! If any of this sounds interesting to you, join the PSIS program today!

[Questions about the program?](#)
[Contact Dr. Laura Young, chair, PSIS.](#)

SPRING 2023 PSIS UPPER LEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS

Name	CRN	Time	Day	Professor
Intro to Pol Science	20104	Asynchronous	Online	Bourland
Current Global Issues	20669	Asynchronous	Online	Azarvan
Current Global Issues	TBD	Asynchronous	Online	Jones
Research Methods	20105	2:00 - 3:15	MW	Boykin
Environmental Law	21053	Asynchronous	Online	Boykin
Comparative Politics	20989	6:30 - 9:00	T	Quinones
US Foreign Policy	20809	Asynchronous	Online	Young
International Relations	20810	6:30 - 9:00	R	Azarvan
Modern Political Theory	20811	12:00 - 12:50	MW	Jones
Public Administration	21271	Asynchronous	Online	Thornton
Civil Litigation II	21211	3:30 - 4:45	MW	Thornton
Georgia Politics	21504	TBD	W (Online - Synchronous)	Grant
Congress	20609	6:30 - 9:00	M	Bourland
ST: Immigration Migration	21238	12:30 - 13:45	TR (Online - Synchronous)	Quinones
ST: Interest Groups & Political Parties	TBD	11:00 - 12:15	TR	Lewkowicz
Legal Writing & Research	21213	5:00 - 6:15	MW	Thornton
Political Negotiation		1:00 - 1:50	MW	Quinones
Senior Seminar	20990	3:30 - 4:45	TR	Young
Internship	20951	N/A	N/A	Boykin
Spanish Conversation	TBD	2:00 - 3:15	W (hybrid)	Mora

Important Dates - Fall 2022

Activity	Date
PSIS Fall Student/Faculty Mixer	Oct. 26
Classes end (full session)	Nov. 14
Final exams (full session)	Nov. 15-21
Grades due (full session)	Nov. 29, 9 a.m.
Commencement	Dec. 1
Grades available in Grizzly Den within Banner	Dec. 5

**CAN'T GET ENOUGH PSIS NEWS AND INFORMATION?
FOLLOW US**



Instagram
[psisggc](#)

LinkedIn
[PSIS - Political Science and
International Studies at GGC](#)

Contact Information

Dr. Laura Young, Associate Professor of Political Science
Chair, Department of Political Science and International Studies
lyoung6@ggc.edu

Dr. Scott Boykin, Associate Professor of Political Science
Director, Paralegal Certification Program
PSIS Internship Coordinator
sboykin@ggc.edu

Dr. Clemente Quinones, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Advisor, Latin American Studies
cquinone@ggc.edu

Dr. Silvia Choi, Professor of Spanish
Advisor, Spanish for Professionals
mchoi3@ggc.edu

Dr. Federica Goldoni, Associate Professor of Spanish
Advisor, Study Abroad
fgoldoni@ggc.edu

Dr. Todd Lindley, Associate Professor of Geography
Advisor, Global Studies
tlindley1@ggc.edu