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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Politics courses focus on understanding how societies organize themselves to manage conflict and cooperation and how they make and implement public policy. Students learn how others have engaged important political issues, from the classical philosophers whose works shape the Western tradition to the modern theorists and practitioners who shape the discourse, policies and practices that characterize modern national and international political life. We prepare students for careers in governmental and nongovernmental public service, policy analysis, journalism, law and business, as well as for postgraduate work in political science and other social sciences.

### What makes the program distinctive?

At Brandeis we encourage students to investigate important real-world problems. The department prides itself on the quality and extent of interaction between faculty and students. In our seminars, we seek

to develop our students' ability to articulate reasoned arguments in support of their views before an audience of their peers. The department also offers M.A. and Ph.D. programs in political science.

## FAST FACTS

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**Current number of majors and minors:** 221

**Number of faculty:** 14

**Can you minor in this program?** Yes

**Emphasis within the major:** historical and contemporary analytical case study, including comparative case study, of the politics of democratic and democratizing regimes

**Popular second majors:** history, international and global studies

**Website:** [brandeis.edu/departments/politics](http://brandeis.edu/departments/politics)

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## ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

### Diverse faculty interests

Current faculty research topics include the politics of ethnicity, race and gender; nationalism as political force; the role of Islamic organizations in European politics; the challenge of policing a diverse society; the global political economy of trade in cultural production; and U.S. foreign policy and international relations.

### Research Circle on Democracy and Cultural Pluralism

The politics department hosts the Research Circle on Democracy and Cultural Pluralism, which supports teaching and research focused on conflicts rooted in differences of ethnicity, race, gender, culture, and social and economic inequality. The circle has funded student-faculty research, presentations at national and international conferences, senior honors theses and research assistantships for undergraduates.

### Gordon Center for American Public Policy

The Gordon Center for American Public Policy supports research, workshops and courses focused on public policymaking in developed democracies. The center also supports undergraduate assistantships for work on faculty research projects.

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## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### Political activism

Brandeis students are extremely politically active as a group. Student-run clubs on campus include the College Democrats, the Brandeis Republicans, Amnesty International, Democracy for America, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and the Student Peace Alliance.

### Summer program in The Hague

Brandeis students can spend a summer studying international justice in the Netherlands. They will explore firsthand how international courts confront a range of global problems, including ethnic violence, national and regional reconciliation, economic development, environmental policy, social rights and responsive governance.

### Public sector internships

Calliope D. '12 interned at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in Boston in summer 2010. Calliope worked with organizations that serve disenfranchised populations to

conduct presentations about discrimination and individuals' civil rights.

### Study abroad

Politics majors and minors have the chance to spend a summer or semester studying in another country. One popular opportunity is the Hansard Scholars Programme in the United Kingdom, where students study British politics at the London School of Economics and complete an internship with a nongovernmental organization, with a government department or in the Houses of Parliament.

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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### Summer stipends

The politics department offers various funding opportunities for internships and honors research projects funded by the Research Circle on Democracy and Cultural Pluralism, including several \$3,500 undergraduate summer internship grants for full-time internships related to the circle's mission.

### Prolific faculty

The Brandeis Department of Politics was ranked number five in book productivity by a study published in PS Online in December 2002. Recent award-winning works include Professor Daniel Kryder's study of democracy at war and Professor Steven Burg's book, co-written with Paul Shoup, on the war in Bosnia.

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## AFTER BRANDEIS

### Graduate study and employment

Brandeis politics alumni often go on to business school or law school or to pursue an M.A. or Ph.D. in political science. Others enter into public service careers through organizations such as Teach for America and AmeriCorps VISTA.

### Diverse career fields

Politics alumni include Ilan Berman '97, vice president of the American Foreign Policy Council; David Emer '09, policy analyst for the Massachusetts State Healthcare Rate Setting Commission; Alex Goldstein '06, press secretary to the governor of Massachusetts; Nicole Karlebach '04, attorney at Human Rights First; Michael Sandel '75, professor of government at Harvard University; Bill Schneider '66, senior political analyst at CNN; and the late Stephen Solarz '62, U.S. Representative.

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*"Politics at Brandeis provides students with a top-notch education in both the theoretical and the practical. Its faculty members imbue students with a deeper conceptual understanding of the issues that dominate political life both within this country and abroad and enrich students' learning experience by engaging students directly in their research and writing projects. Studying politics at Brandeis is interesting intellectually, but it's also applicable to the real problems faced by citizens of the world every day."*

*Cory Julie '07*

