



Political Science

GRADUATE STUDIES AT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED (Ph.D.)

The Political Science Graduate Group at UC Merced offers innovative Ph.D. training that emphasizes a rigorous, theoretical, and quantitative approach to the study of politics.

EMPHASIS AREAS

Political Cognition and Behavior

- › Public opinion
- › Political psychology
- › Voting behavior
- › Biology and politics
- › Experimental methods
- › Political participation

Political Institutions and Political Economy

- › Legislatures
- › International institutions
- › Human rights and state repression
- › Electoral institutions and representation
- › Authoritarian politics
- › Courts
- › Local government

CONTACT

For additional details, please visit our website,
polisci.ucmerced.edu or contact:

TOM HANSFORD
Program Chair

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COURTENAY CONRAD
Program Vice Chair and Admissions Chair
EMAIL: cconrad2@ucmerced.edu



STUDENT CENTERED: Graduate training hinges on a student's access to and engagement with faculty. The small size of our program guarantees that your seminar classes will be small and you will have unparalleled one-on-one faculty mentoring with respect to research, training and professional development.

RESEARCH INTENSIVE: At UC Merced your graduate education will not be limited to the traditional classroom setting. You will apply and sharpen your research skills by directly working with faculty and their projects. With guidance, you will then develop your own research agenda while continuing collaborative projects with the faculty.

INNOVATIVE: Our program is designed to push beyond disciplinary subfields and boundaries. Our students regularly interact with a mix of Cognitive Scientists, Economists, Psychologists and Sociologists during their training. Many of our current students entered our program with degrees in these fields.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Our graduate students are offered funding in the form of teaching or research assistantships. The low cost of living in Merced means that funding stretches further than at many other campuses. We have also been able to offer annual research grants to our students, which has assisted with their ability to acquire skills, conduct research and present work at professional conferences.



Faculty

POLITICAL SCIENCE

**COURTENAY CONRAD**

International relations and comparative politics

- › International institutions, human rights and government repression

ADI DASGUPTA

Comparative politics

- › Political economy of development, democratization, political organizations

DANIEL DE KADT

Comparative politics

- › Voting behavior, developing democracies, Southern Africa

ELAINE DENNY

American politics

- › Political behavior, inequality, social movements, political violence

THOMAS HANSFORD

American politics

- › Judicial politics, public opinion, elections and voting behavior

MATTHEW HIBBING

American politics

- › Political psychology, political behavior, biology and politics

HAIFENG HUANG

Comparative politics and political economy

- › Authoritarian politics, news media, public opinion and game theory

BRAD LEVECK

Political behavior and behavioral game theory

- › Strategic choice and development of collective wisdom in democracies

NATHAN MONROE

American politics

- › Legislative institutions and Congress

STEPHEN NICHOLSON

American politics

- › Mass political behavior, political psychology and direct democracy

EMILY HENCKEN RITTER

International relations and comparative politics

- › International institutions, government repression and domestic conflict

MELISSA SANDS

American politics

- › Political behavior, inequality, field experiments, geo-spatial analysis

ALEXANDER THEODORIDIS

American politics

- › Political behavior, political psychology, electoral institutions and experiments

JESSICA TROUNSTINE

American politics

- › Local politics and political representation

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