

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Department of

Political Science

Annual Report · 2025–26



Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters



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The Year at a Glance

Academic year 2025–26, mid-August 2025 through mid-August 2026.

432 Majors average headcount	5,905 Course enrollments across 137 sections	Over 120 Degrees awarded BA, MA, and MS
172 Charney Diplomacy participants the department's largest program	20 Students studied abroad	7 Students placed in Washington first cohort of Owls on the Hill
68 Students individually supervised research, independent study, internships	25 Books, articles and chapters published, in press, or accepted	2 New full-time faculty



A Message from the Chair

The past year has been one of transition. The university embarked on its five-year visioning process, culminating in 2031FAU. The college strategic plan (nearly complete) stakes out how we, as a college, will deliver on those goals while serving as the front porch of the university. The department has been busy building toward those goals and will continue to do so throughout the upcoming academic year when the department, too, will finalize its own visioning document.

This was a year of transition for me personally as well. After nearly 10 years at Hofstra University, I joined the faculty at FAU and assumed the role of department chair. Finding myself in an information deficit, I gathered as much data on the department's activities as I could find. What I found was a busy department. Last year, we taught 5,905 course enrollments across 137 sections. More than half of those (3,101 students) enrolled in thirty-five sections of American Federal Government (POS 2041), helping students fulfill their civic literacy requirements.

I also found that our students are quite busy. The Leon Charney Diplomacy Program helped 172 students gain experience outside of the classroom in one of the premier diplomacy programs in the country. Twenty students studied abroad. Four spent the spring in Tallahassee, and seven became the first Florida Atlantic students to spend full semesters in Washington, DC, through the newly-launched Owls on the Hill program. A political science major at FAU can now work in a state capitol, a foreign capital, and on Capitol Hill before graduating — all with major financial support to do so.

Unsurprisingly, our faculty are busy, too. This academic year, political science faculty published twenty-five original pieces of research appearing in books and journals with both national and international reach. Dr. Garcia won a McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship and Dr. LeMoine was on a sabbatical in Fall, both working on finishing their respective manuscripts. As a department, we launched a faculty research symposium where faculty present and receive feedback on a current research project. We also held a department showcase that drew more than eighty students, faculty, alumni, and employers into one room to celebrate our departmental achievements.

The year ahead is an ambitious one for the department. We are renewing our focus on undergraduate and graduate research and experiences, with the department aiming to be a leader in both student research and experiential learning. We will continue to expand our curricular offerings and begin pursuing new programs, such as a planned BA in Public Law.

What follows paints a picture of the department's activities over the course of 2025–26. Specifically, the report details how our work aligns with the university's strategic plan, where our students came from and where they went, the experiential programs that took them there, our faculty's scholarship and public engagement, the events we hosted, our teaching and new courses, and the colleagues who arrived and departed.

All best wishes as we embark on a new academic year,



Craig M. Burnett

Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science

Alignment with 2031FAU: Where Tomorrow Begins

Imperative 1 — Deliver a return on investment for 100% of students

Political science students learn by jumping in feet first, finding unique opportunities in congressional offices, in the state capital, in campaigns, in courtrooms, and in diplomatic simulation. The Leon Charney Diplomacy Program alone reached 172 students this year, and law remains the single most common destination for our graduates.

Activity	Contribution	This year
Owls on the Hill	New this year. Full-time D.C. placements in congressional offices, federal agencies, and policy institutes	7 students: 4 spring, 3 summer
Internship placements	Experiential learning	25 students
Leon Charney Diplomacy Program	Experiential learning in diplomacy and simulation	172 students overall
FAU Florida Legislative Internship Program	Public-sector placement in Tallahassee	4 students, spring 2026
Directed Independent Study	Faculty mentorship at scale	38 students
Undergraduate research	Research as experiential learning	5 students
FAU Campaigning Program	Applied electoral work	26 students
Study abroad	International coursework for credit	20 students
Pre-law pathway	Graduate study as ROI	Law is the top continuing-education destination

Imperative 2 — Discover solutions for healthier, safer, more prosperous communities

The department contributes through research on conflict, security, and governance abroad. Five faculty work on post-conflict violence and reintegration, Middle East security, territorial disputes and separatism, human rights, and international law — questions that sit directly alongside the university's emphasis on national defense and autonomous systems.

University emphasis	Departmental contribution
National defense and autonomous systems	Morton — international law, the United Nations, and NATO Nichols — post-conflict violence, rebel reintegration, and targeted killings in Colombia Rabil — Middle East security, terrorism, and civil-military dynamics in Lebanon and the Levant Roper — international law and organizations, human rights, and comparative constitutional design Shaykhutdinov — national territoriality, separatism, and quasi-states in Eurasia

Imperative 3 — Power the university's rise through strategic and geographic assets

The department's assets are geographic. We place students in Washington, in Tallahassee, and in county and municipal government at the university's doorstep, and its graduates enter South Florida public service in greater numbers than most, if not all, other fields. The PolCom Lab gives the university polling capacity that carries its name regionally and nationally.

Asset	Contribution
Washington, D.C.	Owls on the Hill placed its first 7 students in congressional offices, federal agencies, and national policy institutes
Tallahassee	The FAU Florida Legislative Internship Program placed 4 students in the state capital in spring 2026
Leon Charney Diplomacy Program	172 students. Directed by Jeffrey Morton with Luisa Turbino Torres as associate director
FAU PolCom Lab	Regional and national polling capacity carrying the Florida Atlantic name
Morton Research Forum	Public-facing research programming for the campus and community
Jack Miller Forum on Civic Engagement and Constitution Day	Civic engagement programming, directed by Kevin Wagner
Palm Beach County civic institutions	Robert Rabil serves as board member and senior fellow at the Palm Beach Center for Democracy and Policy Research
Study abroad and international programming	Twenty students studied abroad for political science credit this year, supported by a scholarship program Jeffrey Morton directs — the department's reach past the state and the region
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute	Several faculty teach for OLLI, reaching a community audience the university values and the department does not otherwise meet
South Florida workforce	Graduates enter local and state government, the courts, and law enforcement at higher rates than any other destination

Imperative 4 — Elevate the university's prestige

Faculty published twenty-five books, articles, and chapters this year, with Oxford, Routledge, Palgrave, De Gruyter, Sage, and Academica Press, and placed articles in national and international journals. Several hold editorships and elected positions in the profession's major associations.

Form of recognition	Faculty and detail
University and academic press books and chapters	Burnett — De Gruyter Handbook on United States Voting Behavior Morton — Model United Nations: An Essential Guide, Academica Press Nichols — Final Report of the Colombian Truth Commission, Volume 8, lead translator LeMoine — Oxford Handbook of Ancient Greek Political Thought, Oxford University Press Nichols — Sage Research Methods Perelló — Europa Regional Surveys of the World Prier — Teaching Public Procurement: Bridging Theory and Practice Rabil — Studies in Ottoman, Jewish and Modern Middle Eastern History Turbino Torres — edited volume and chapter, Routledge; chapter forthcoming with Palgrave
National and international journal placement	Burnett — Journal of European Public Policy; State and Local Government Review Perelló — Journal of Democracy; Third World Quarterly; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties Prier — Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management LeMoine — The Political Science Reviewer Rabil — The Journal of Middle East and Africa Wagner — Internet Research; Frontiers in Political Science Roper — Journal of Political Science Education (two articles)
Editorships	Kim — editorial board, Politics, Groups, and Identities LeMoine — co-editor, Bloomsbury Ancient Politics book series; editorial board, The Political Science Reviewer Roper — section editor, Human Rights Review; advisory board, APSA Teaching Library; board member, Human Rights Section, American Political Science Association Shaykhutdinov — guest editor, special issue of Religions Turbino Torres — reviewer boards, Revise and Revista Científica Foz (Brazil)
External funding and recognition	Morton — Morton Research Forum, \$500,000; University Faculty Global Partner of the Year Wagner — Israeli Institute Jewish Studies grant, \$10,000; Osher Lifelong Learning Professorship in Current Affairs, \$5,000; College Researcher of the Year, Full Professor Garcia — McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship, Florida Education Fund, \$15,000 Perelló — contributor, Freedom in the World 2026 country reports on Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, Freedom House. Turbino Torres — APSA Advancing Research Grant for Early Career Scholars, \$2,000

Students: Enrollment and Outcomes

Enrollment

The department averaged 432 majors across academic year 2025–26 and enrolled the equivalent of 654.8 full-time students, delivered across 137 course sections. The department awarded more than 120 degrees at the bachelors and master’s levels.

Measure	AY 2025–26	Note
Majors	432	Average over Fall/Spring
Student FTE	654.8	Average over Fall/Spring
Course sections taught	137	57 fall, 54 spring, 26 summer
Degrees awarded	Over 120	Baccalaureate; excludes summer

Outcomes

Florida Atlantic’s Graduating Student Survey has tracked political science graduates since 2016–17. Over those ten years the department awarded 1,253 baccalaureate degrees and heard back from 1,037 graduates with an average response rate above eighty percent.

Academic year	Degrees awarded	Respondents	Continuing education	Full-time employment
2016–17	122	114	45%	25%
2017–18	126	109	37%	41%
2018–19	104	82	35%	39%
2019–20	141	128	41%	32%
2020–21	157	123	43%	36%
2021–22	126	103	44%	34%
2022–23	119	93	19%	37%
2023–24	126	99	30%	34%
2024–25	122	101	30%	29%
2025–26	110	85	35%	26%

The Decade at a Glance

The clearest thing ten years’ worth of data provide is stability. The department has graduated between 104 and 157 students every year since 2016–17, averaging 125, with no sustained decline in any direction. While political science enrollments have been declining nationally since 2019, demand for the major at Florida Atlantic has held firm.

Outcomes are similarly steady. In most years, roughly a third of graduates go straight into full-time employment and about a third go on to further study. Those proportions have survived a pandemic, two changes in how the survey is administered, and

a decade of turnover in the job market. While any survey with 100 respondents per sample is subject to significant variation — that is, just a few respondents can move the survey several percentage points — the broad takeaways are stable: Over 120 undergraduate degrees a year, roughly a third entering the workforce, and about a third seek graduate or professional degrees.

The 2025–26 cohort

Eighty-five of 109 graduates responded this year, a 78 percent response rate. Sixty-one percent reported full-time employment or continuing education within two weeks of graduation, up from 58 percent the year before.

Law was again the leading destination, accounting for a third of those who indicate they are continuing their education, followed by political science graduate education at 22 percent. The rest spread across business administration, comparative and international relations, criminal justice, criminal law, government, international business, marketing, nursing, public administration, and social work, indicating that political science remains a portable degree to many fields.

- **Where they enrolled.** Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Florida Institute of Technology, Northeastern, Nova Southeastern, Palm Beach State College, Regent University, the University of Miami, and the University of Venice.
- **Where they went to work.** HCA Healthcare, Omnicom Health Group, Kelley Uustal, Jet Aviation, the School District of Palm Beach County, State Farm, JPMorgan Chase, and Zwicker & Associates.
- **Industries.** Legal services and law enforcement led by a wide margin, followed by K–12 education, hotels and accommodation, healthcare, advertising and marketing, aerospace, insurance, and financial services.

Experiential Learning and Career Readiness

NEW THIS YEAR

Owls on the Hill

Florida Atlantic’s national legislative internship program placed its first students in Washington, D.C. this year. Admitted interns relocate to Washington for a full semester and are assigned to a member of Congress, a federal agency, a national policy institute, or a nonprofit — researching policy, analyzing bills, tracking legislation, and handling constituent work as functioning members of an office. The program runs every term and carries course credit.



Tallahassee — legislative interns in the Florida Supreme Court chamber



Japan — Charney Diplomacy students at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial



Washington — the first Owls on the Hill cohort with President Adam Hasner

The Leon Charney Diplomacy Program, directed by Dr. Jeffrey Morton with Dr. Luisa Turbino Torres as associate director, and the Morton Research Forum both continued through the year, alongside the FAU Florida Legislative Internship Program in Tallahassee. With the addition of Owls on the Hill, the department now offers students a placement pathway at every level of

American government — county and municipal, state capital, and federal. Study abroad extends that reach internationally, while Dr. Jeffrey Morton directs a scholarship program that helps make the cost manageable.

Program or form of supervision	Students
Leon Charney Diplomacy Program	172
Directed Independent Study	38
FAU Campaigning Program	26
Internship placements	25
Study abroad	20
Thesis and committee service	19
Owls on the Hill (Washington, D.C.)	7
Undergraduate research	5
FAU Florida Legislative Internship Program (Tallahassee)	4

Faculty Research and Scholarship

Published, in press, and accepted work appearing in academic year 2025–26, listed alphabetically.

Books and edited volumes

- **Morton, Jeffrey S.** *Model United Nations: An Essential Guide for Students Preparing for Simulation Conferences*. Washington, DC: Academica Press, 2025.
- **Nichols, Angela D.**, lead translator, with Andrés Ramírez and a team of Florida Atlantic student translators. *There is a Future if There is Truth: It's Not a Lesser Evil — Children and Adolescents in the Armed Conflict. Volume 8 of the Final Report of the Colombian Truth Commission*. Center for Peace, Justice and Human Rights, Florida Atlantic University, 2024.
- **Turbino Torres, Luisa**, with Susanne Zwingel and Brianna N. Hernandez, eds. *Feminist Responses to Crises and Dehumanization: Transnational Scholar-Activist Perspectives*. London: Routledge, 2025.
- **Turbino Torres, Luisa**. "Occupying the Stadium: Feminist Embodied Resistance and the Politics of Belonging in Bolsonaro's Brazil". In: Wagg, Stephen (ed.). *Sport and Politics in a 'Time of Monsters: Sport, Imperialism and Resistance in the Twenty First Century Volume 1: The Americas*. London: Palgrave, Forthcoming 2027.

Peer-reviewed articles

- **Burnett, Craig**, with Alexandra Filindra. "Racial Populism, Partisan Spillover, and Americans' Quest for Citizen Education Policy Control: Implications for European Democracies." *Journal of European Public Policy* 33(1): 189-217, 2026.
- **Burnett, Craig**, with Sara Bornstein. "Machine Monopoly Politics in Nassau County, NY." *State and Local Government Review* 58(3): 247-262, 2026.
- **LeMoine, Rebecca**. "Revisiting *Plato's Caves*: An Opportunity for Self-Examination in Turbulent Times." *The Political Science Reviewer* 50(1): 31-40, 2026.
- **Perelló, Lucas**. "Elite-driven polarisation and abrupt party system change: evidence from Honduras and El Salvador." *Third World Quarterly*, 2026, in press.
- **Perelló, Lucas**, with Rachel A. Schwartz. "Honduras's Missed Opportunity." *Journal of Democracy* 37(2): 149-160, 2026.

- **Perelló, Lucas**, with Natalie Chaudhuri. "Voting for incumbents in the Caribbean: a test of three hypotheses." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 2025, in press.
- **Perelló, Lucas**, with Pablo Argote and Patricio Navia. "Shade-Grown Authoritarianism? Revisiting Coffee as a Curse in Latin America and the Caribbean." *Democratization*, 2025, 1–25.
- **Prier, Eric**, with E. Boykin, C. McCue and C. Atkinson. "Understanding Factors Associated with the Decision Not to Bid." *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management* 37(5): 676–695, 2025.
- **Rabil, Robert**. "Re-evaluating Israel-Lebanon Relations within the Context of Christian-Israeli Relations: 1920-1985." *The Journal of Middle East and Africa*, 2026, in press.
- **Roper, Steven**. "Designing a State Capital Internship Program: Lessons Learned in a New Program." *Journal of Political Science Education*, in press.
- **Roper, Steven**. "Developing Critical Thinking Skills in a Comparative Politics Course: The Choice of Constitutional Design." *Journal of Political Science Education*, in press.
- **Wagner, Kevin**, with Richard Kornrumpf, Jason Gainous, and Tricia J. Gray. "Facebook vs. Twitter: The Differential Relationship with Mass Attitudes about Democracy in Latin America." *Internet Research* 36(1): 189–207, 2026.
- **Wagner, Kevin**, with Jason Gainous, Tricia J. Gray, and Richard Kornrumpf. "Digital versus State Media in Cuba: Counter-flows and Support for Normalizing U.S. Relations." *Frontiers in Political Science* 8: 1-12, 2026.

Book chapters

- **Burnett, Craig**. "Direct Democracy in the United States." In the *De Gruyter Handbook on United States Voting Behavior*. In press.
- **LeMoine, Rebecca**. "Questions of Ethnicity and Race in Greek Political Thought and Its Scholarship." In the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Greek Political Thought*. Oxford University Press, in press.
- **Nichols, Angela D.** "Insights from Fieldwork with Former Rebels in Colombia." In *Inclusive Research Methodologies*. Sage, in press.
- **Perelló, Lucas, with Michael E. Allison**. "Guatemala: History." In *Europa Regional Surveys of the World: South America, Central America and the Caribbean*, 2026.
- **Perelló, Lucas**. "Politics and Society in Central America." In Mark P. Jones, ed., *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. New York: Oxford Academic, 2026. Peer-reviewed reference article.
- **Prier, Eric**. "Transparency and Accountability in Public Procurement." In *Teaching Public Procurement: Bridging Theory and Practice*. Accepted.
- **Rabil, Robert**. "Mount Lebanon in the Crosshair of the Great War, 1914–1918." In *Studies in Ottoman, Jewish and Modern Middle Eastern History*. Accepted.
- **Turbino Torres, Luisa**. "Shifting the Game: Soccer Feminist Fandom Activism as a Catalyst for Sporting Innovation in Brazil." In *Soccer, Globalization and Innovation*, 57–71. London: Routledge, 2025.

External funding and academic recognition

- **Garcia, Luzmarina** — McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship, Florida Education Fund, \$15,000, awarded for 2025–26.
- **Morton, Jeffrey** — Morton Research Forum, \$500,000, 2025.
- **Morton, Jeffrey** — University Faculty Global Partner of the Year, Florida Atlantic University, 2025.
- **Turbino Torres, Luisa** — Advancing Research Grant for Early Career Scholars, American Political Science Association, \$2,000 awarded in 2026.
- **Wagner, Kevin** — principal investigator, Israeli Institute Jewish Studies grant, \$10,000, awarded in 2026.
- **Wagner, Kevin** — Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Professorship in Current Affairs, \$5,000, awarded for 2025–26.
- **Wagner, Kevin** — College of Arts and Letters Researcher of the Year, Full Professor Category, 2025–26.

Conference Participation

September 11–14, 2025	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting <i>Vancouver, Canada</i> Kim · LeMoine · Perelló · Roper
November 1–3, 2025	Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa <i>Washington, District of Columbia</i> Rabil
January 14–17, 2026	Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting <i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i> LeMoine · Shaykhutdinov · Wagner
February 13, 2026	Present Tense/Future Possibilities Conference: The 4th Annual WGSS Interdisciplinary Conference <i>Tampa, Florida</i> Turbino Torres
March 22–25, 2026	International Studies Association Annual Convention <i>Columbus, Ohio</i> Turbino Torres
April 2–4, 2026	Western Political Science Association Annual Conference <i>San Diego, California</i> Turbino Torres
April 23–26, 2026	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (83rd) <i>Chicago, Illinois</i> Kim · Perelló · Prier · Shaykhutdinov · Wagner
May 26–27, 2026	Contested Societies in the Middle East: War, Politics and Religion <i>Ariel University and the Middle East and Central Asia Research Center, Herzliya, Israel</i> Rabil (Keynote Speaker)
May 26–30, 2026	Latin American Studies Association Congress <i>Paris, France</i> Perelló
June 4–6, 2026	State Politics and Policy Conference <i>Chicago, Illinois</i> Burnett
June 11–18, 2026	American Political Science Association's Teaching and Learning Symposium: Teaching Sports and Politics <i>Virtual Conference</i> Turbino Torres
June 15–16, 2026	Southern Political Science Association Virtual Conference <i>Virtual Conference</i> LeMoine
July 9–11, 2026	European Political Science Association Conference <i>Prague, Czechia</i> Garcia
August 4–7, 2026	LASA Central America Regional Symposium <i>San José, Costa Rica</i> Perelló

Department Events

The department helped and supported several public events this year. Two of the formats below — the Faculty Research Symposium and the Department Showcase — were launched in 2025–26.

October 24, 2025

Faculty Research Symposium — Luisa Turbino Torres

“Understanding the Role of Regional International Organizations in Implementing Women’s Rights: The Case of Domestic Violence in Brazil”

Inaugural session of the department’s new research series

March 19, 2026

John O’Sullivan Memorial Lecture

Supported by the Department of Political Science

March 19, 2026

Faculty Research Symposium — Lucas Perelló

“Democratic Experience and Mass Partisanship: Evidence from Latin America”

March 27, 2026

Department of Political Science Showcase

Career Center, Student Support Services Building (SU-80), Room 220 · 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Inaugural event. Graduate and undergraduate programs, student and faculty research, alumni connections, and experiential learning



The department showcase, March 27 at the Career Center — more than eighty students, faculty, alumni, and employers attended.

The Department Showcase

New this year. Held on March 27 at the Career Center, the showcase brought the department’s full offering into one room: the M.A. in Political Science and the M.S. in Data Science, the B.A. with its pre-law and global governance concentrations, student and faculty research, alumni, and experiential learning placements. More than eighty people attended.

The Chastain Johnston Middle Eastern Lecture Series

Administered by Dr. Robert Rabil, the Chastain Johnston fund supports a continuing series of public lectures and webinars on Middle Eastern politics.

The Future of Arab-Israeli Conflict — Joseph Olmert

October 23, 2025 · Former director of Israel's Government Press Office and advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir; member of the Israeli delegation to the Madrid peace talks.

The Future of Arab-Israeli Conflict — Ghaith al-Omari

November 6, 2025 · Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute and former executive director of the American Task Force on Palestine; advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team, 1999-2001.

The Wars Over Words and Deeds — Asaf Romirowsky

February 25, 2026 · Historian and executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East and of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa.

Israel at Crossroads

March 24, 2026 · Osher Lifelong Learning pop-up lecture, with Stephen Sussman of Barry University, Irving Berkowitz, and Eyal Lewin of Ariel University.

Public Engagement

Faculty carried the department's work well beyond the classroom this year by serving as public intellectuals in a variety of formats and settings.

Broadcast and news commentary

- Craig Burnett — commentary and analysis on state and local politics and direct democracy for The Bradenton Herald, The New Republic, Newsday, Spectrum News, WPTV 5, TC Palm, Media LAB FAU, and FAU University Press
- Robert Rabil served as a media expert on U.S. foreign policy, the Arab-Israeli conflict, terrorism, and contemporary Middle East politics for outlets on four continents, including the BBC, Al-Jazeera, France 24, Sky News Arabia, i24 News, Newsmax, Fox, Al-Arabiya, Egypt's Al Nile, Tunisia's Al-Mustakillah, and Al-Taghyir. He has served as an FAU Media Relations representative since 2014.
- Lucas Perelló — invited guest on Latin News, a podcast and video series, discussing Honduras's presidential election
- Kevin Wagner — continued writing "The Civics Project," a public-facing series explaining American government, constitutional law, elections, and contemporary political controversies. During the 2025–26 reporting period, he supplied 33 original or substantially updated columns to the *Palm Beach Post*. The columns addressed presidential and congressional power, voting and election administration, redistricting, federalism, the courts, health-care policy, and the approaching 250th anniversary of the United States. Published columns appeared in the *Palm Beach Post* and were frequently syndicated across the USA Today/Gannett network and republished by other national platforms.

Opinion and public writing

- **Perelló, Lucas.** "Costa Rica's Democracy Faces a New Test, But It Will Endure." *Americas Quarterly*.
- **Perelló, Lucas.** "Honduras's Election Set to Test Its Democracy." *Americas Quarterly*.
- **Perelló, Lucas.** "Next Steps in Honduras's Close Election." *Americas Quarterly*.
- **Perelló, Lucas.** "What Does a Chaotic Vote Count Mean for Honduras?" *The Latin America Advisor*, Inter-American Dialogue.
- **Rabil, Robert.** "Confronting the Truth about Hamas and Genocidal Intent." *The Jerusalem Post*, December 2025.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and other public engagements

- Maha Alrehaili — public presentations at the City of Delray Beach library on artificial intelligence and social media
- Burt Atkins — OLLI presenter, spring 2026
- Craig Burnett — OLLI presenter, spring 2026
- Jeffrey Morton — a regular and frequent OLLI lecturer on international affairs
- Robert Rabil — OLLI presenter, spring 2026; in May 2026, Rabil visited the Israeli/Gaza border with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and members of the Board of Peace; Palm Beach Center for Democracy and Policy Research Webinar “The Current Negotiations in the Middle East and Its Implications,” July 23, 2026
- Kristin Shockley — OLLI presenter, spring 2026
- Kevin Wagner — Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Professorship in Current Affairs, 2025–26.

Community and civic partnership

- Jeffrey Morton — director, Morton Research Forum; Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Association
- Angela Nichols — director, Peace, Justice and Human Rights program
- Robert Rabil — board member and senior fellow, Palm Beach Center for Democracy and Policy Research
- Steven Roper — social media coordinator, Human Rights Section, American Political Science Association
- Luisa Turbino Torres — volunteer, South Florida Center for Percussive Arts
- Kevin Wagner — executive director of the Political Communication Laboratory; director of the Jack Miller Forum on Civic Engagement
- The PolCom Lab designed and conducted three private polls for internal and external clients



Teaching and Curriculum

The department taught 137 course sections across academic year 2025–26 — 57 in fall, 54 in spring, and 26 in summer — carrying 5,905 total enrollments. These figures count organized classes only; directed independent study, internship placements, and thesis supervision are reported separately under experiential learning.

Course offerings spanned the full curriculum: American government and public opinion, constitutional law and the judicial process, comparative politics and Latin American politics, international relations and war and peace, public administration and procurement, political theory, research methods, and gender and politics.

Civic literacy

The department carries POS 2041, American Federal Government. It is one of the courses through which undergraduates satisfy the civic literacy graduation requirement under s. 1007.25, Florida Statutes. Students enrolled in POS 2041 account for more than half of everything the department taught this year, delivered by six instructors across thirty-five sections at ninety-seven percent capacity. It is the largest single service the department provides to the university.

Measure	AY 2025–26	Note
Sections offered	35	13 fall, 11 spring, 11 summer
Students enrolled	3,101	More than half of all departmental enrollments
Seats offered	3,190	
Mean enrollment per section	89	
Fill rate	97%	Demand effectively exhausts supply

New course offerings

Six new courses came online in 2025–26. Three are directly related to faculty research programs; three extend the department’s public law offerings.

Course	Title	Term	Faculty
CPO 4932	Democracy and Authoritarianism	Fall 2025	Perelló
CPO 4932	Women, War and Peace	Fall 2025	Nichols
INR 4932	Gender and Human Rights	Fall 2025	Turbino Torres
POS 4931	Tort Law	Fall 2025	Friedman
POS 4931	Contract Law	Spring 2026	Friedman
POS 4931	Issues in Public Law	Spring 2026	Van de Bogart

Faculty and Staff

Faculty	Title	Areas of focus	Education
Maha Alrehaili	Instructor	Comparative politics; Middle East	Florida Atlantic University
Burt Atkins	Instructor	American politics	University of Kentucky
Nathan Barron	Assistant Professor	American politics; Congress; research methodology	University of Oklahoma
Craig Burnett	Professor and Chair	Political behavior; direct democracy; state, urban and public policy	University of California, San Diego
Alexia D'Arco	Visiting Instructor	U.S. foreign policy; terrorism; public diplomacy	MA, Georgetown University
Luzmarina Garcia	Assistant Professor	Judicial politics; political behavior; identity politics	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Dukhong Kim	Associate Professor; Director of Graduate Studies	American politics; minority politics; public opinion	Northwestern University
Orin Kirshner	University Instructor	American government; public policy	The New School
Rebecca LeMoine	Associate Professor; Director of Undergraduate Studies	Political theory	University of Wisconsin–Madison
Jeffrey Morton	Pierrepont Comfort Chair; Founding Director, Leon Charney Diplomacy Program	International law; U.S. foreign policy	University of South Carolina
Angela Nichols	Associate Professor; Director, Center for Peace, Justice and Human Rights	Comparative politics and international relations; human rights and conflict	University of North Texas
Lucas Perelló	Assistant Professor	Democracy; electoral behavior; Latin America and the Caribbean	The New School
Eric Prier	Professor	American politics and public policy	Florida State University
Robert Rabil	Professor	Comparative politics; Middle East	Brandeis University
Steven D. Roper	Professor	International law and organizations; human rights; comparative constitutional design	University of Missouri–Columbia
Renat Shaykhtudinov	Associate Professor	Comparative politics and international relations	Texas A&M University
Kristin Shockley	Senior Instructor	International relations	ABD, Emory University
Luisa Turbino Torres	Assistant Professor; Associate Director, Leon Charney Diplomacy Program	Comparative politics (Latin America); political theory; women, gender and sexuality studies	University of Delaware
Kevin Wagner	Professor and Associate Dean	American politics; political behavior; judicial politics	University of Florida

Staff	Title
Jackie Nichols*	Program Assistant
Lauren Castillo	Student Worker

*Winner of the 2025–26 Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Staff Excellence Award.

New full-time faculty



Nathan Barron

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Dr. Nathan Barron earned his PhD in political science from the University of Oklahoma, where he was a graduate research fellow at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center. His work centers on the United States Congress, particularly agenda setting and legislative–executive relations.

His published research, which has appeared in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* and *Political Behavior*, examines how constituents view their representatives’ legislative work and electoral positioning. He also specializes in research methodology, with a focus on computational experiments and quantitative text analysis.



Alexia D’Arco

Visiting Instructor of Political Science

Alexia D’Arco brings a career in foreign policy and international security that spans government, think tanks, and the nonprofit sector, and has taken her to Germany, Pakistan, Japan, Singapore, and Italy. In government she served as a Strategic Planning Advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, as a Political–Military Affairs Officer with the State Department’s Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and as a Presidential Management Fellow.

She has been executive director of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, a consultant to the TOMODACHI Initiative, and executive assistant to the president of the Atlantic Council. A 2005 Fulbright Scholar at Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, she holds an MA in Security Studies from Georgetown and a BA in German Studies from Dartmouth. She teaches terrorism, U.S. foreign policy, modern warfare, and public diplomacy.



Edward W. Schwerin

Professor Emeritus of Political Science · Faculty 1990–2025

Dr. Edward Schwerin retired in May 2025 after thirty-five years on the Florida Atlantic faculty, and was awarded emeritus status in fall 2025. He arrived as an assistant professor in 1990, was tenured in 1996, and served the department and the college in nearly every capacity available to him including serving as director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program from 1996 to 2003 and chair of this department from 2003 to 2008.

His scholarship began in democratic theory and conflict resolution. *Mediation, Citizen Empowerment, and Transformational Politics* (Praeger, 1995) won the American Political Science Association’s award for the best book in transformational politics, and he followed it with an edited volume, *Transformational Politics: Theory, Study, and Practice* (SUNY Press, 1998). In the second half of his career he turned to sustainable development and public procurement policy, building a long collaboration with Eric Prier and Clifford McCue that produced work in the *Journal of Public Procurement and Environmental Practice* and took him to conferences in Buenos Aires, Brisbane, Dublin, Helsinki, Poznań, Arusha, Bali, Seoul, and Tokyo.

In the classroom he taught international political economy, global environmental politics, comparative politics, public policy, Asian politics, and war and peace — a range that let the department meet needs well outside his own field for three decades. In retirement, Dr. Schwerin has been working on a book about environmental politics and traveling.

Student Awards and Scholarships

The department awarded six named scholarships and awards in 2025–26.

Award	Recipient
Justin Flippen Scholarship	Alexandra Breton
Herman D. and Jacqueline L. Becker Award in Political Science	Dominique Blandon-Iandoli
Rae Raskin Memorial Scholarship in Political Science	Ian Rowe
Rafael Ampuero Memorial Scholarship	Josiah Morris
Gatlin Political Science Scholarship	Isabella Cohen
Percy and Pauline Greenberg Memorial Endowment Award	Kayla Barlow

Alumni Spotlight



Anna Alexopoulos Farrar

B.A. Political Science and Social Science, 2007 · Vice President, Strategic Communications and Policy, Space Florida

Anna Alexopoulos Farrar graduated from Florida Atlantic in 2007 with a B.A. in Political Science and Social Science, and went on to earn an M.S. in Communications from Purdue. She is now Vice President for Strategic Communications and Policy at Space Florida, the state's aerospace finance and development authority. Anna recently served as the commencement speaker for our 2026 summer graduates.

Anna is political science in practice. She advances federal and state legislation — including the Securing U.S. Leadership in Space Act and statutory expansion of Florida's spaceport territory — and works with the Florida Legislature, Florida's congressional delegation, and agency leadership teams to build coalitions behind a \$6 billion statewide aerospace pipeline.

Before Space Florida she led global communications for PureCycle Technologies, a publicly traded company, and served as Deputy Chief Financial Officer at the Florida Department of Financial Services, advising a statewide elected official on legislative strategy and policy priorities.

Stay Connected

The department is building a standing conversation with its graduates and current students. If you studied political science at Florida Atlantic, we would like to hear from you. If you are currently with us, please connect!

Find us



Department

fau.edu/artsandletters/politicalscience



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FAU PolCom Lab

faupolling.com



Email the chair

burnettc@fau.edu

Alumni updates

Send us your news — a new position, a degree, an election won, a case argued. We will feature graduates in future reports and across our channels. Write to the department chair at burnettc@fau.edu or reach us through any channel above.



Investing in Political Science

Political science at Florida Atlantic is well positioned to educate the students of today and the future. We find ourselves in a tumultuous time with the world changing on numerous fronts. Power shifts across the globe as conflicts at home and abroad reshape our politics. Artificial intelligence has us asking what is valuable while creating immense value at the same time. In this uncertain moment, political science continues to develop the critical thought leaders of today and tomorrow.

To achieve that vision we need help, and philanthropic giving is precisely where partners can make a decisive difference.

Research showcase support

On December 9, 2026, the department hosts *Entertaining Democracy: An Exploration of Popular Music’s Dynamic Relationship to Government, Politics, and Society in the Americas*. Undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty will present original research on the role popular music has played in political communication, identity formation, and social movements across the Americas, alongside live performances by students from the Department of Music. The keynote is Jeff Coffin, current saxophonist with the Dave Matthews Band and a three-time Grammy winner who previously worked with Béla Fleck and the Flecktones.

This event could not happen without external support, and we would like to make events showcasing student research an annual occurrence. We are seeking \$30,000 a year to underwrite the series; endowment opportunities are also available. That level of funding allows us to bring a keynote of genuine stature every year, turning a smaller departmental event into a university event the wider community attends. *A gift at this level carries naming privileges for the series.*

The Problem Solving Lab

The Problem Solving Lab is a semester-length, client-facing research studio. Small teams of undergraduates work with local partners — nonprofits, local governments, citizen groups — to answer real policy questions using modern analytic tools, including AI models, and the resources of the FAU PolCom Lab. Each team pairs a faculty advisor and a graduate student lead with ten to fifteen undergraduates, and delivers a white paper, an executive brief, a reproducible methods appendix, and a public briefing to the partner.

Partners receive actionable, nonpartisan analysis they could not otherwise commission. Students graduate with portfolio-ready work and applied experience — the difference between studying and practicing policymaking. It is also the clearest expression of what the university’s strategic plan calls for: a return on investment for every student, experiential learning at the center of the curriculum, and research that produces solutions for the communities in which we reside.

The Lab needs two things. The first is operational support — graduate student team leads, faculty support, software and data access, and the partner engagement that maintains a pipeline of real clients. The second is the lab itself: a dedicated, state-of-the-art collaborative research space, which the Problem Solving Lab, the PolCom Lab, and our growing undergraduate and graduate research programs all require. Configurable work areas for student teams. Display and conferencing capacity for partner briefings and remote stakeholders. Computing that can handle real analysis. A place where faculty, graduate students, an undergraduate team, and community stakeholders can work together free of spatial restrictions.

Departments are made of people, but they are held together by the spaces we occupy. A named lab and research space would provide this department a physical hub.

Opportunity	Level	Recognition
Research showcase series	\$30,000 annually	Naming privileges for the series
Problem Solving Lab — establish and build	\$275,000	Naming privileges for the Lab
Problem Solving Lab — annual operation	\$25,000 annually	

These are two potential philanthropic endeavors among several. I would welcome the chance to talk about either of them, about any other opportunity, or simply to share what we have been doing in the department.



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