

Department of Political Studies and Public Administration (PSPA)

Acting Chairperson:	Geukjian, Ohannes
Professors:	Khashan, Hilal A.
Associate Professors:	Frangie, Samer; Khodr, Hiba; Makdisi, Karim S.; Meho, Lokman I.; Pison-Hindawi, Coralie; Reiche, Danyel
Assistant Professors:	Geha, Carmen; Geukjian, Ohannes; Goodfield, Eric; Haddad, Tania; Kosmatopoulos, Nikolas; Tell, Tariq
Adjunct Professor	Riachi, Roland
Lecturers:	^P Awada, Ghada; ^P El-Zein, Fares; ^P Haddad, Simon; ^P Maalouf, Rabih; ^P Masse, George; ^P Mirza, Zeinab; ^P Mouawad, Jamil; ^P Nahhas, Charbel; ^P Osseiran, Ghia; ^P Shaar, Rima; ^P Smaira, Dima
Instructors:	^P Ajamian, Melissa; ^P Hankir, Samer; ^P Kahil, Angela; Kavran, Olga; ^P Muhanna, Zeina; ^P Yacoubian, Vera

The Department of Political Studies and Public Administration (PSPA) offers three graduate programs: one leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Political Studies (POLS), one leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Public Administration (PUBA), and one leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs (PIIA).

Graduate students in POLS and PUBA are required to complete 24 credit hours of courses (of which no more than 6 credit hours can be taken outside the major) and defend a thesis (worth 6 credits) in front of a thesis committee.

MA in Political Studies

Students majoring in Political Studies are required to take two core courses, which must include PSPA 300 and either PSPA 301, PSPA 310 or PSPA 320. Students are encouraged to complete all core courses by the end of their second term. Other major courses can be taken from the following subfields: Political Theory: PSPA 301 to PSPA 309, International Politics: PSPA 310 to PSPA 319, Comparative Politics: PSPA 320 to PSPA 329, and Environmental Politics: PSPA 341 to PSPA 346. The remaining two elective courses can be taken within the major or any other relevant field (including a foreign language).

^P) Part time

MA in Public Administration

Students majoring in Public Administration are required to take the following core courses which include PSPA 300, PSPA 350, PSPA 351 and PSPA 352. Students are encouraged to complete all core courses by the end of their second term. Three additional graduate courses are required from one of the following sub-disciplines: Public Management: PSPA 363, PSPA 370, PSPA 371, PSPA 372, PSPA 373 and PSPA 374 add PSPA 380; PSPA 382; and Public Policy: PSPA 360, PSPA 361, PSPA 362 and PSPA 381; PSPA 383. The remaining elective can be taken within or outside the major after consultation with the student's advisor.

Course Descriptions

PSPA 300 Methodology and Research Design 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to the philosophy of science and how it influences the choice of research design. Emphasis is on developing skills that are useful for any method (survey, research, comparative historical analysis, game theory). The objective is to provide students with the practical tools they need to successfully complete original research. *Core course. Annually.*

PSPA 301 Political Theory 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course that provides critical examination and analysis of the theoretical bases and perennial issues of political theory and ideologies. *Core course. Annually.*

PSPA 302 The Modern Project 3.0; 3 cr.
 The aim of this course is to explore the various intellectual, academic and political debates around the notion of modernity. Topics covered in this seminar include: modernity; modernization and the modern project; reason and rationalization; religion and secularization; knowledge, post-colonialism and post-modernism; and other related topics. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 303 Islamic Political Thought 3.0; 3 cr.
 An in-depth course on modern Islamic political thought. This course focuses on the historical and intellectual developments that have fueled both revolutionary and conservative trends in Islamic political movements and states. Discussions cover issues such as the relationships between religion and politics, political philosophy and ideology, and political action and revolution. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 304 Theories of Political Economy 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course that surveys various theories and theorists such as Marxism, Polyani, rational choice and the new institutionalism. It introduces students to the study of how the political system and economy interact. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 305 Political Theory in the Arab World 3.0; 3 cr.
 The aim of this course is to explore various intellectual and political debates in the modern Arab world. The course will provide an overview of the development of modern Arab political thought and will present some of the main intellectual and academic debates in this domain. Topics covered in this seminar include: modernity and tradition, orientalism and the West, nationalism, Marxism, liberalism and other related topics. *Alternate years.*

- PSPA 306 Research Methods and Techniques 3.0; 3 cr.**
A course that deals with various methods of data collection and analysis. Specific research methods include both quantitative and qualitative techniques such as experimental, survey, field observation, content analysis, historical/comparative and evaluation. *Occasionally.*
- PSPA 307 Knowledge and Power 3.0; 3 cr.**
The course explores different aspects of the relationship between knowledge and power. It draws on different philosophical and sociological traditions in political theory to shed light on core cognitive, social, and ethical aspects and dilemmas that concern social scientists both as knowledge-producers who reflect onto power as a conceptual and empirical reality, and as social agents who are themselves inscribed in structures and relations of power. *Occasionally.*
- PSPA 309 Special Topics in Political Theory 3.0; 3 cr.**
May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.
- PSPA 310 International Politics 3.0; 3 cr.**
This seminar provides a survey of the discipline of international politics and contemporary research in the field. In addition to covering central theoretical perspectives in international relations theory, the course will introduce students to contemporary debates in international politics and policy with an emphasis on topics and themes relating to the Middle East. Students will develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills through close reading of key texts and writing exercises. *Core course. Annually.*
- PSPA 311 International Politics and the Middle East 3.0; 3 cr.**
This seminar deals with issues and themes relevant to contemporary Middle Eastern politics within the context of international relations. It explores how the politics of the Middle East, US policy in the Middle East, and the Middle East as a regional system have been understood and represented through the lens of international relations theory and scholarship. Topics include: the evolution of the Middle East state system, Arab Nationalism and the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli conflict and US policy towards Israel and the Palestinians, the geopolitics of oil and the Gulf, the Iraq War and its regional consequences, Iran's role in the Arab world, the question of empire and the future of US grand strategy, and Lebanon's position in regional politics. *Annually.*
- PSPA 312 Public International Law 3.0; 3 cr.**
A course that aims to provide an understanding of the principles underlying public international law, which facilitates relations among states, resolves disputes, protects human rights, allocates resources and restricts conduct during war time. Emphasis is placed on subfields of international law most closely connected to international politics such as the legal consequences of very serious violations of international law, the role played by the United Nations or the legal regulation of the use of force. Reflecting upon the kind of role international law plays in the conduct of international relations, this course includes many recent case studies and tackles some of the major debates in the field. *Annually.*

PSPA 313 International Security 3.0; 3 cr.
 Security motives play an essential role in international politics, particularly in the conduct of international relations. This course deals with major issues in international security that may include arms control, disarmament, as well as new types of threats, such as terrorism or environmental degradation. It covers traditional and less traditional perspectives on the field. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 314 The UN and International Politics 3.0; 3 cr.
 This seminar examines the role of the United Nations (UN) within the context of international politics, security and development. It focuses on the UN role in the Global South, particularly the Arab region. The course explores theoretical perspectives on the role of the UN in world politics and traces the evolution of UN institutions, in particular UN peacekeeping, from the Cold War to post-Cold War period including the war on terror. It then considers a series of case studies in depth. The course will include, when possible, guest presentations from UN officials and a field trip to better appreciate the conditions within which UN operations work. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 315 Arab-Israeli Conflict 3.0; 3 cr.
 This seminar examines whether a solution between Palestinians and Jewish Israelis is possible in the historic land of Palestine, and if so how. The course takes a historical approach to trace the root causes of the conflict and understand the main narratives that drive the Palestinian and Jewish national movements, as well as to understand the larger context and structure within which these narratives take place. It also tracks the long history of peace initiatives put forward by the great powers – starting with the UN partition plan and ending with the post Cold War, US-sponsored peace process – and how the shifting international rules and norms that underlie these initiatives have both shaped and reflected the realities on the ground in terms of both power and resistance. *Annually.*

PSPA 316/ ENSC 650 International Environmental Policy 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course that seeks to provide a broad overview of the key concepts, actors and issues related to global environmental policy. This course outlines the evolution of environmental policy in facing global environmental challenges and how such policies have become inherently intertwined with government policy, business practice and international trade. *Annually.*

PSPA 317 International Political Economy 3.0; 3 cr.
 This course provides a critical examination of the politics of international economic relations, global economic development, and transnational economic activity with a special emphasis on the position and experiences of the Middle East states in the global political economy. The course offers a survey of theoretical approaches to international political economy and addresses themes critical to the experience of the Middle East such as state-led industrialization, trade and regionalism, finance, oil, labor migration, MNCs, transnational movements, globalization, neo liberalism, and the politics of development and global governance. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 318 Theories of International Relations 3.0; 3 cr.
 The seminar offers a critical study of readings drawn from the major theoretical traditions (realism, liberalism, constructivism) in international relations theory as well as critical approaches and trends. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 319 **Special Topics in International Politics** **3.0; 3 cr.**
May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.

PSPA 320 **Theories of Comparative Politics** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 A survey of various paradigms in comparative politics, focusing on behavioralist, institutional, development and radical approaches. Themes such as structure of power, state-society relations, political development, political culture and political economy are emphasized. *Core course. Annually.*

PSPA 321 **Contemporary Politics in Middle Eastern States** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 A course that analyzes contemporary politics in selected Middle Eastern states. This course emphasizes the problems of political participation, effective governance and socio-economic development. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 322 **Contemporary Politics in Non-Middle Eastern States** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 A course that examines political institutions, processes and problems facing governments in selected countries outside the Middle East. This course focuses on topics such as authoritarian systems, relations between the public and private sector, and politics of collective identity. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 323 **Communalism in the Middle East** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 A course that deals with the emergence of ethnic and religious issues in the Middle East, with emphasis on post World War I developments. This course addresses the situation of minority groups, the nature of their demands and their prospects of achieving them. In addition, this course assesses the impact of localism on the nation-state in the region. *Annually.*

PSPA 324 **Government and Politics in Lebanon** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 A course that examines the evolution of the political system and the different approaches to the study of government institutions in Lebanon. This course focuses on patterns of change involving state and society from the founding of the state in the early 1920s to the present. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 325 **Political Trends in the Middle East** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 This course examines the genesis and evolution of major political trends that have been impacting the Middle East and North Africa since the latter part of the nineteenth century, especially colonialism, nationalism and nation-building, transnational political conflict, religious extremism, the politics of oil and security issues. *Occasionally.*

PSPA 329 **Special Topics in Comparative Politics** **3.0; 3 cr.**
May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.

PSPA 330 **Graduate Tutorial in Political Science** **3.0; 3 cr.**
 A graduate seminar in which selected topics are arranged on an individual basis where existing courses do not offer the required subject matter. *May be repeated for credit. Annually.*

**PSPA 341/
ENSC 657** **Environmental Regulation and Legislation** **3.0; 3 cr.**

An introduction to contemporary legislative approaches to environmental protection, the rationales for their embodiment in policies, and their effectiveness in achieving prescribed goals and alleviating environmental degradation. This course also examines the emergence of environmental initiatives in developing countries with a focus on the latest developments in Lebanon. *Occasionally.*

**PSPA 343/
ENSC 658** **Environmental Conflict Resolution** **3.0; 3 cr.**

An introduction to contemporary approaches to global environmental negotiation and conflict resolution, including the efforts of international organizations at risk communication, mediation and facilitation. This course focuses on procedures to manage negotiations of environmental conflicts and disputes between governments, corporations, ecologists, the media and the general population. Information is also provided on environmental dispute cases successfully resolved. *Alternate years.*

PSPA 345 **Special Topics in Environmental Policy and Politics** **3.0; 3 cr.**
May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.

PSPA 346 **Special Topics in Natural Resource Policy and Politics** **3.0; 3 cr.**
May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.

PSPA 350 **Foundations of Organization Theory** **3.0; 3 cr.**

This seminar is an advanced study and analysis of the development of organization theory, from its foundations and origins up to the present. It takes an interdisciplinary approach that reviews the key critical readings and debates with their different levels of abstraction and analysis as well as their lasting contributions. It also discusses the contemporary research activities and findings in the field of organization theory. *Core course. Annually.*

PSPA 351 **Foundations of Public Administration** **3.0; 3 cr.**

This seminar is an advanced study and analysis of the field of public administration, from its foundations and origins up to the present. It covers topics such as: historical public administration, the traditional model of public administration, new public management and collaborative public administration. The course will also review contemporary research activities and findings related to public administration. *Core course. Annually.*

PSPA 352 **Foundations of Public Policy** **3.0; 3 cr.**

This seminar covers topics related to the substance, methods and frameworks of public policy in a variety of disciplines including: welfare economics, political science, political economy and organization theory. Emphasizing the role of theory in empirical policy research, the course illuminates the various policies and policy challenges in the following substantive areas: economics, education, the environment, national security and immigration. *Core course. Annually.*

PSPA 360 **Public Policy Research and Analysis** **3.0; 3 cr.**

This seminar provides an introduction to policy analysis typologies, policy tools and the factors that shape the utilization of policy analysis. It is designed to give students the theoretical and practical exposure to the process of analyzing public policy as well as to its relevant qualitative, survey and mixed method approaches and techniques. *Annually.*

- PSPA 361 Public and Non-Profit Program Evaluation 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar introduces students to the theoretical and practical foundations underlying the use of program evaluation in the public and non-profit sectors. Based in large part on the logic-model process of program evaluation, it reviews the quantitative and qualitative techniques used by managers to analyze program processes, outputs and outcomes. It also considers issues such as client management, data collection, data presentation and research ethics. *Annually.*
- PSPA 362 Public Policy and Administration 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar covers topics and frameworks related to the substance and approaches of public policy as they relate to public administration. Students will engage in a serious analysis of the economic, social and cultural assumptions that underpin government and its relationship to the polity. The course is also designed to give students an organized opportunity to investigate their own interests within a specific key policy area. *Annually.*
- PSPA 363 Public Financial Management 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar examines the theory, practice, concepts and problems related to the administrative and political management of public financial resources and public sector budgeting. It reviews how economic, political, social and institutional factors, and resources are transformed into budgetary policy. It analyzes the organizational, structural, managerial and legal aspects of the public budget, as well as the most important problems in the phases of the public budget cycle. *Annually.*
- PSPA 370 Human Resource Management and Development 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar explores theories and models of human resource management, including the policies and processes that relate to governmental personnel. It acquaints students with the authority, responsibility, functions and problems of the human resource management in areas such as staffing, human resource development, performance appraisal, teamwork and compensation. The seminar examines personal and professional issues related to modern Human Resource Management (HRM) from recruitment to termination. The emphasis is on developing familiarity with the real world applications required of employers and managers. *Annually.*
- PSPA 371 Public Management 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar investigates the conceptual and practical boundaries of public management reform initiatives from a comparative perspective. Moving beyond the foundations of traditional public administration, topics covered include performance and personnel management, privatization, e-government and accountability. The limits of public management will also be considered. *Annually.*
- PSPA 372 Leadership and Management of Public Organizations 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar examines the distinction between leadership and management from theoretical and applied perspectives. It also analyzes the major theories of leadership and assesses their impact on group and individual behavior in light of personality differences and cross-cultural management. *Alternate years.*
- PSPA 373 The Ethics of Public Administration 3.0; 3 cr.**
 This seminar covers contemporary perspectives on ethics and ethical behavior in government. It focuses on the interactions between government and society and analyzes the political, legal, economic and social environments of societal organizations. Some of the contemporary issues addressed are: transparency, accountability and responsiveness, corruptive practices in public administration, administrative discretion and social justice. *Alternate years.*

PSPA 374	Non-Profit Management	3.0; 3 cr.
A course that examines the development and characteristics of non-profit management systems, managerial challenges, and the application of theories and mechanisms relevant to non-profit management. This course covers topics such as organizational structure, financial management, board-executive relations and public-private cooperation. <i>Alternate years.</i>		
PSPA 380	Special Topics in Public Administration	3.0; 3 cr.
<i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>		
PSPA 381	Special Topics in Public Policy	3.0; 3 cr.
<i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>		
PSPA 382	Graduate Tutorial in Public Administration	3.0; 3 cr.
A tutorial in which selected topics are arranged on an individual basis where existing courses do not offer the required subject matter. <i>May not be repeated for credit. Annually.</i>		
PSPA 383	Graduate Tutorial in Public Policy	3.0; 3 cr.
A tutorial in which selected topics are arranged on an individual basis where existing courses do not offer the required subject matter. <i>May not be repeated for credit. Annually.</i>		
PSPA 395A/395B	Comprehensive Exam	0 cr.
<i>Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.</i>		
PSPA 399	MA Thesis	6 cr.

MA in Public Policy and International Affairs

Program Goals and Learning Outcomes

Students who earn a Master's degree in Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) will be able to participate in and analyze the policy process in the Arab region within the global context. The PPIA program is a professionally-oriented, terminal degree that seeks to expose students to perspectives and approaches from practitioners in public policy and international affairs.

Upon successful completion of this interdisciplinary course of study, students will be able to:

- explain fundamental theories and processes of public policy and international affairs,
- apply techniques and methodologies in public and international policy research,
- critically analyze key policy and international affairs issues,
- demonstrate oral and written communication skills in public and international policy arenas,
- formulate domestic and international public policy alternatives and arguments, and critically appraise the validity and limitations of domestic and international public policy theories and arguments.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements to the program will follow FAS admissions policies. Admission to the MA in PPIA is restricted to the fall term. Applicants are expected to have a BA degree in a social science field (broadly defined) relevant to public policy and/or international affairs, or else professional experience in public policy and/or international affairs as it relates to the Arab region. In all cases, a minimum of one-year work/policy experience is strongly recommended and more is encouraged.

Applicants must have a strong academic record, two letters of recommendation (at least one must assess academic rather than professional abilities), and a statement of purpose that clearly outlines applicant's background and goals. In addition, applicants are recommended to submit a relevant writing sample of no longer than 5,000 words.

Degree Requirements

The program permits full-time or part-time enrollments. To obtain a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy and International Affairs, the student must complete a minimum of 24 credits of graduate coursework and a thesis (6 cr.) or a final project (3 cr.) plus an internship (3 cr.). Course work must include the three core courses (PPIA 301, PPIA 302, PPIA 308) and two additional PPIA courses plus any three courses in PPIA, PSPA, or other program relevant to the student's program of study.

Credit Summary

Required core courses (3)	9 cr.
Additional PPIA courses (2)	6 cr.
Open Elective courses (3)	9 cr.
Thesis (6 cr.) or (Internship (3 cr.) + Project (3 cr.))	6 cr.
Credits required for graduation	30 cr.

Required Core Courses	9 cr.
PPIA 301 Public Policy and Practice	3
PPIA 302 International Affairs and Policy	3
PPIA 308 Research Methods	3

Thesis and Project Tracks

Thesis Track (6 cr.): To follow the thesis track, students must first gain approval of a thesis proposal by a thesis committee that includes members of the PPIA program faculty and then defend the completed Master's thesis.

Project Track

Students are expected to complete an internship (3 cr.) plus a project (3 cr.).

This option for a final project allows students to investigate an issue of relevance to public policy or international affairs in line with their personal research interests. Each student is assigned a committee consisting of an advisor (first reader) and a second reader who jointly supervise and guide the student throughout. It is the responsibility of the student to select a topic and submit a project proposal to be approved by her/his readers and then by the FAS Graduate Studies Committee. While

the projects can be presented in diverse forms, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, scientific rigor and professional relevance while presenting their findings. All accepted projects should be deposited at the library. A student who is unable to finish the project within the allotted time period can petition to be allowed an additional semester subject to consent of his committee.

Internship

All project track students are required to complete an internship. Internships offer an exploration of public policy and international affairs through work experience in governmental, non-governmental, or private sector organizations. Students are responsible for securing their internships and having the PPIA program confirm that they meet AUB guidelines. Internships for credit require about 45 contact hours with about 90 hours of work beyond this (total 135 hours or about 10 hr/wk for 3 months). To register for internship the student must have his/her supervisor confirm to the PPIA program in writing at the beginning of the internships that the internships meet these guidelines. At the end of the internship, the supervisor must confirm in writing that these guidelines have been met. Upon completion, the student will write up a short report about the internship that will form a PPIA internship database.

Research Methods

Upon approval of the PPIA director, a student may substitute a relevant methods course for PPIA 308 Research Methods.

Course Descriptions

PPIA 301 Public Policy and Practice 3.0; 3 cr.
The course covers topics related to the formation, development and evolution of frameworks of public policy. It compares theories and models of policy-making and decision-making to illustrate the special requirements of the country's context and environment. It examines the roles of various participants in the policy process: legislators, political parties, interest groups, civil society groups, media, administrative structures, citizens and the judiciary. Using a comparative perspective, the course discusses how public policy is formulated, and how and why it changes. The course also examines the role of formal and informal institutions, actors, structures and networks including challenges. The course provides students with an increased understanding of theories of public policy, and the ability to critically analyze and compare public policy. *Annually.*

PPIA 302 International Affairs and Policy 3.0, 3 cr.
The seminar provides a survey of international affairs and policy. In addition to covering central theoretical perspectives, the course will introduce students to contemporary political, economic, social, and/or environmental issues as well as relevant actors and institutions with a special focus on those relevant to Lebanon and the Arab world. Students will develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills through close reading of key texts and writing exercises. Student engagement will include activities such as class presentations and participation in policy simulations. *Annually.*

