



University of California, Berkeley

Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science

COMMENCEMENT 2026

Monday, May 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Greek Theatre



Congratulations Class of 2026! Each of you has worked hard to be here today. I hope you take time to acknowledge your achievement and to reflect on who you are today compared to who you were when you started at Cal.

Politics in the United States and around the world is more important than ever. Through your classes in Political Science, you have learned how to study politics systematically. You have been challenged to think about contemporary and historical political processes; you have wrestled with places, ideas, and institutions that were both familiar and unfamiliar; you have thought a lot about explanation and how we know what we know. That education will help you understand the world better, stimulate a lifetime of curiosity, and prepare you to be informed and engaged citizens.

As your teachers and mentors, we have been honored and privileged to work with you. We have endeavored to impart a passion for learning and a commitment to knowledge. Today, we could not be more proud of your accomplishments. As each of you goes on to do great things, we hope you will stay in touch and remember your days here fondly.

On behalf of the Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science, I congratulate you and trust that you leave Cal with the tools to make sense of our political moment and to make this complex and challenging world a better place.

Scott Straus

Chair, Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science

History of the Department



Charles and Louise Travers met in 1930 while both were Political Science majors at the University of California. Charles graduated in 1932 and Louise graduated a year later. The couple's mutual love for the University of California, strengthened by their courtship and marriage, prevailed for their six decades of marriage.

Together they were generous and long-time supporters of the University's academic and athletic programs. In 1995, Charles endowed a program in ethics and accountability in government, established two undergraduate scholarships for students in the Travers Ethics Program, and financed construction of a seminar room for the Department of Political Science. He also provided funding for the creation of a program in new security challenges and U.S. foreign policy in the department.

In 2004, stating his desire to "assist the Department of Political Science and its faculty's dedication and commitment to outstanding scholarship," Charles established an endowment to support in perpetuity undergraduate teaching and faculty research in political science. The endowment provides funding for a range of programs, including graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships in political science, and a major annual conference in Public Affairs.

To acknowledge these generous contributions and to honor their long-time commitment to the department, the University officially designated our department to be the Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science.



Program

Processional

Please rise and remain standing during the processional

Opening Remarks

Professor Scott Straus

Chair, Department of Political Science

Departmental Citation and Valedictory Remarks

David Nicholas Eick

Introduction and award presentation by Professor Amanda Clayton

Commencement Address

Jack Citrin, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

PhD Hooding Ceremony

Names and dissertation titles read by Professor Gabriel Lenz

Presentation of BA Candidates

Names read by Professors Anna Stilz and Thad Dunning

(Candidate names are not read in alphabetical order)

Closing Remarks and Conferral of Degrees

Professor Scott Straus

Chair, Department of Political Science

Doctor of Philosophy Candidates, 2025-2026

Alexander Agadjanian

The Politics of Racial Fluidity
Professor Eric Schickler, Chair

Eero Arum

Popular Sovereignty and Political Form, 1250-1651
Professor Kinch Hoekstra, Chair

Lauren Barden-Hair

*Firm Instrumentalization: The Use of Multinational Corporations in
Covert Security Operations*
Professor Susan Hyde, Chair

Jennie Barker

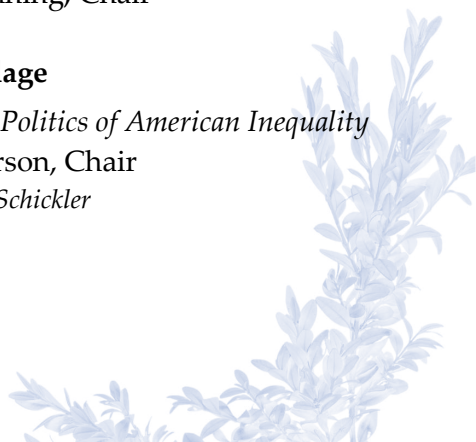
*Standing Up for Democracy? Democracy and Foreign Policy amid
Contestation in International Politics*
Professor Susan Hyde, Chair

Clara Bicalho Maia Correia

Essays in Comparative Politics and Methodology
Professor Thad Dunning, Chair

Matt Brundage

Essays on Federalism, Localism and the Politics of American Inequality
Professor Paul Pierson, Chair
Hooding by: Eric Schickler





Doctor of Philosophy Candidates, 2025-2026

Julia Christensen

*The Political Consequences of Media Gatekeeping and
Elite News Consumption*

Professor Gabriel Lenz, Chair

Anna Closas i Casasampera

*Playing the Asylum Game: A Rule-of-Law Account of
Noncitizen Rights*

Professors Anna Stilz & Mark Bevir, Co-Chairs

Jacqueline Colao

Voter Knowledge and Voting Behavior in US House Primaries

Professor Gabriel Lenz, Chair

Rachel Fisher

Negotiating Boundaries: Women, Pluralism, and Political Power

Professors Leo Arriola & Cecilia Mo, Co-Chairs

Pranav Gupta

*How Ideas Spread: Intermediate Elites and Ideological
Movements in India*

Professor Pradeep Chhibber, Chair

Alyssa Heinze

*Captured Democracy: The Origins, Durability, and Unraveling
of Elite Political Control*

Professor Thad Dunning, Chair

Doctor of Philosophy Candidates, 2025-2026



Rebekah Jones

Essays on the Political Economy of Crime Policy

Professors Gabriel Lenz & Paul Pierson, Co-Chairs

Margaret Kenney

*GLoBE-alization: The Political Causes and Consequences
of the Global Minimum Tax*

Professors Vinod Aggarwal & Ryan Brutger, Co-Chairs

Lily Medina Jara

Legal Militias: The Case of Convivir groups in Colombia

Professors Alison Post & Scott Strauss, Co-Chairs

Johanna Reyes Ortega

Promises and Perils: Women's Empowerment After Revolution

Professors Leonardo Arriola & Thad Dunning, Co-Chairs

Gio Maria Tessarolo

The Politics of Vice

Professor Kinch Hoekstra, Chair

Kamya Yadav

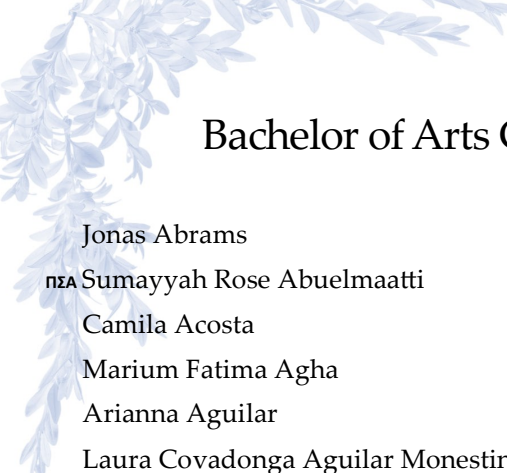
*From the Wings to the Electoral Stage: Women, Parties, and Political
Representation in India*

Professors Leonardo Arriola & Amanda Clayton, Co-Chairs

Alan Yan

Three Essays on Labor in American Politics

Eric Schickler, Chair



Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026

Jonas Abrams

ΠΣΑ Sumayyah Rose Abuelmaatti

Camila Acosta

Marium Fatima Agha

Arianna Aguilar

Laura Covadonga Aguilar Monestina

Shaina Ahmed

Δ ΠΣΑ Zara Ahsan

Nicole Ali Martinez

Richard Alrachid

Danielle Amador

Joaquin Min Antonio

Δ Chelsie Arreola Ruiz

Shanzé Reza Asghar

Shea Anne Atherstone Davison

Tatiana Avalos Hanks

Alexiah Azad

Ava Babby

Aayna Bahulkar

Yahaira Balderas

Beatrix Inna Tan Balmonte

Anessa Ciara Baptista

ΠΣΑ Ryan Vilefort Barbosa

Celeste Ruth Greenwood Basken

Colton Beardsley

Rebekah Becerra

Leif Benson

Δ ΠΣΑ Khushi Bhalla

Ajay Sai Bhavan

Kameron Bidar

Audrey Dalila-Jan Blackston

Δ Zoë Boul

Emily Josselyn Brownlow

Δ Celina Lourdes Garcia Buncayo

Christopher Calder

Brennan Charles Richard Calderon

Suzette Camacho

ΠΣΑ Khalil Katigbak Canlas

Δ ΠΣΑ Anthony Rene Carrillo

Kayla Alexandra Castro

Isaiah Angelo Catubig

Denyse Chan

Megan Kim Chan

Casey Chang

ΠΣΑ Oishika Chattopadhyay

Crystal Chavez Barragan

Tenzin Choezom

Luca Cifoelli

Kelvin Clarkson

Shelby Coleman

Nicole Colin

Abiodun Abraham Collins

Brie Louise Cornejo-Perez

Nefereth Cortinas

Δ Departmental Honors

Θ Departmental Citation Finalist

ΠΣΑ Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society

Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026

Lucy Brina Cox

Luka Crawford

Michelle Nicole Croteau

Olivia Rachel D'Anna

Aiko David Dabu

Harrison Reza Dargahi

Leo Davtyan

Leoni Day

Δ Carisma Angel De Anda

Δ Maya De Ganyar

Philippe Andrei Plata De Jesus

Andrés Antonio De La Cruz

Jan De Leon

Joshua De Miguel

Danielle De Silva

Tyrel De Veyra

Alex DeFraga

Faviola Delgado

Jash Desai

Madison DeVries

Liam Dew

Christian Dieguez

Day DiMichele

Aisha Diop

Julian Dixon

Evan Dooley

ΠΣΑ Ava Lillian Dunville

Maha Ursh Durrani

Δ Sophia Edelin

Camille Edwards

Θ Δ David Nicholas Eick

Elen Enfiajyan

Jackson Englar-Carlson

ΠΣΑ Jeannie Eom

Isabelle Escobar

Kaylie Escobar-Islas

Marjorie Espinosa

Garry Faison

Sara Faiyaz

Mark David Farge

Ethan Farhami

Matthew Fehr

Irene Fernandez

Damaris Figueroa

Karissima Kathaleen Filorio

Ammanuel Fisseha

Alexander William Flores

Angeline Fong

Annie Foo

Jonathan Franco

Sandra Camila Fuerte

Makaela Elle Fujimoto

Nathaniel Gallardo

Alexia Gallon

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Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026

Shruthi Medha Ganesh

Daniela Garcia

Saigeldeep Ghotra

Anthony Gibson

Olivia Grace Golden

Jose Manuel Gomez

ΠΣΑ Marlene Gomez-Sarate

Kylee Gong

Shaye Lucky Gonor

Cibelle Gonzalez

ΠΣΑ Julia Goudey

ΠΣΑ Della L. Grant

Kelley Grant

Sydney Grundland Lanuza

Δ Yuliang Gu

Pintack Gualotuna

Δ ΠΣΑ Jack Guan

Adolfo Daniel Guzmán

Yuning Han

Jack Hanel

Shahbano Haroon Malik

Arman Haroutunian

ΠΣΑ Caiden Alexan Injejikian Hart

Henry Michael Hayes

Josie Lynn Hays

Neida Heikkila

Jessica L. Hernandez

Θ Δ Skyler Holmgren-Lee

Δ Erin Hong

Mikki Horiguchi

David Hsueh

Michael Patrick James Hudson

Bryce Hulett

Δ ΠΣΑ Jennifer Nichole Hull

Alejandro Hurtado Mendo

Abdullah Hussaan

Tori Hwang

Jailyn Ximena Jaimes Villegas

Meili Jamal Afghan

Ella Nicole Jaravata

Ryan Javier

Vanessa Jensen

Zachary Jessner

Benjamin Jimenez

Shiloh Johnston

Δ Kenyon Jolley

Griffin Joseph

Cole Steven Junge

Kan Hui To (Totti)

Henry "Yao Chung" Kao

Katya Karas

Harleen Kaur

Jasmine Kaur Dhaliwal

Navjot Kaur

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Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026



Navneet Kaur

Ashton Matthew Keehmer

Iman Alisha Khan

Alexandra Khanin

Caitlyn Kim

Chris Kim

Δ ΠΣΑ Minyoung Kim

Seongheun Kim

ΠΣΑ Yeheun Kim

Acomeveer Singh Kingera

Isaac Jude Klein

Sharon Esther Knafelman

Owen Knapper, Jr

Δ Elisabeth Eileen Kokorin

Maxwell Jason Kwan

Marjan Hesham Labib

Itzel Enid Landeros Nuñez

Δ Ivan Lazarenko

Kaleena Le

Δ ΠΣΑ Christopher Yoonjae Lee

Δ ΠΣΑ John Samuel Leeper

Sofia Lehmann Rodriguez

ΠΣΑ Haley Rae Leipzig

ΠΣΑ Phoebe Lemon

Δ ΠΣΑ Mary Tsz Nga Leung

Jennifer Alejandra Zavaleta Lico

Anna Lieggi

ΠΣΑ Andrew Lin

Christopher Blu Lopez

Δ William Lopez Martin

Jocelyn Sarahy Lopez Morga

Emily J. Lui

Emily Luis

Δ Yik Suen Lung

ΠΣΑ Shunyata Lysenko

Tracy Z. Magaña

ΠΣΑ Lucas Maldonado

Hussam Ahmad Malik

Jason Marmol Cedillos

Lisa Zoe Louise Martel

Mariana Martinez-Bautista

Devin Mason

Allen De Vera Mata

Ashley Yasuko Mauldin

Eddie Ray Maxwell Jr.

Sean Michael McGrory

Crystal Melendez

Zareh Melik-Abramians

ΠΣΑ Erick Jose Mendes

Emilio Menotti

Auden Meyer

Stephanie Juliette Meza

Matthew Miller

Zachary Milligan

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Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026

Anna Mkoyan

⊗ Δ Helia Moeini

Giavanna Molinari

Dhrti Laxmi Molukutla

Anthony Mondragon

Shasta Monecke

Amelia Monsour

Leandro Felipe Montoya

Daisy Judith Morales

Fatima Michell Morales

Krista Dominique Espinosa Morales

Camila Morales-Ellis

Δ Christina Mueller

Tanni Nandi

πΣΑ Mohammad Mustafa Nasrat

πΣΑ Jonathan Patrick Ngai

Jennie Nguyen

Isabelle Nunes

Sergio Nunez

πΣΑ Aidan Daniel O'Herin

Vannessa Olague De La Cruz

Leslie Anai Olivares Yepez

Daniela Olmedo

Jack Openshaw

πΣΑ Lynda Esmeralda Otero

Alexa Padilla Cortes

Maribel Stefany Pagnan

Namod Pallek Kankanamge

Charlotte Palmer

Hannah Park

Oleana Park

Sarah Park

Δ Valeria Pasillas

Ethan Paulson

Rebeca Rose Payés

πΣΑ Breanna Pearlman

Brandon Peluffo

Xuan Pham

πΣΑ Darren Phan

Omer Porat

Isabel Prasad

Yarden Pri-Noy

Aryanna Pulido

Juliana Andrea Ramirez Mora

Olivia Ramos

πΣΑ Raghav Singh Ranawat

Δ Tariq Ravasia

Ayden Reading

Tyler Jade Remillo

πΣΑ Margaret Restifo

Δ Carlo Reyes

Rafaela Reyes Andrade

Allison Rios

Diego Izel Rios

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Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026

David Rivera

Yasmine Rizk

ΠΣΑ Max Rodman

Alexandra Lauren Rojas

ΠΣΑ Mira Alexandria Rubio

ΠΣΑ William Rumelhart

Punit Kaur Sahota

Angel Saldivar Acevedo

Melanie Gisel Salgado

Soliana Samson

Denise Jessica Sanchez-Valadez

Fatima Sofia Sanchez

Jennifer Santanero

Rand Santos

Mursal Sarwar

ΠΣΑ Samuel Saslow

Δ Hugh Saulsbury

Ezra Schaffer

Abbigail Schwartz

Jonn Carlo Segovia Menchaca

Tamara Segura

Yasmin Aida Sharbiani

Δ Anais Shergill

Komalpreet Shergill

ΠΣΑ Kayla Dahae Shin

Mahina Shinagawa

Savannah Shoemaker

Zarin Angel Shujayee

Nikolas Smulovitz

Kevin Solano

Karen Solorzano

ΠΣΑ Alice Soster

Δ ΠΣΑ Delaney Sparacio

Daniella Asal Spero

Veronica Marie Stagnaro

Britnee Erykah Stephen

Gretchen Vianne Brazil Stoffel

Δ Ricarda Concepción Suárez Moreno

ΠΣΑ Matthew Kenichi Suzuki

Asiyah Syed

Lulu Talesnick Lopez

ΠΣΑ Anthea Tang

Jadalynd Tedtaotao

Kharyzma Tira

Sarah Toolami

Jennifer Cát Tiên Tran

Tacy Nhu Tran

ΠΣΑ Taylor Tsan

Joel Phillip Tutwiler

Aislynn Unga

Nicholas Drake Unowitz

ΠΣΑ Eric Thomas Urbach

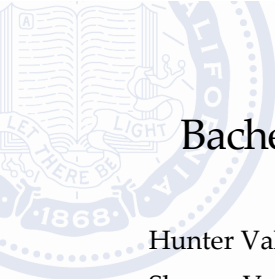
Solange Uwimana

Julienne Uy

Δ Departmental Honors

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Bachelor of Arts Candidates, 2025-2026

Hunter Valencia

Marianna Zoellin

Shauna Valentine

Gagik Vardanyan

Kimberly Vanessa Vasquez

Yana Verma

Romeo Bienvenido Villanueva

Amy Alejandra Villela Gutierrez

Jani Vue

Δ ΠΣΑ Alden Waldeck

Kyleigh Sheyenne Wallace

Logan Thomas Warren

Sinclair Margaux Wessling

Asheley Wi

Samantha Williams

Trevor Scott Woodward

ΠΣΑ Jason Ben Wu

Jingyi Wu

Wayne Wu

Annie Wynnner

Θ Δ Sona Rae Wyse

Qing Xu

Mikal G. Yonas

Skylar Yonemura

Elena Yuja Matute

Emily Jayleen Zambrano

Madison Zaragoza

Jadyn Alicia Zechariah

Δ Departmental Honors

Θ Departmental Citation Finalist

ΠΣΑ Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society

Undergraduate Awards



Departmental Citation

In recognition of distinguished undergraduate accomplishments in the Department of Political Science

David Nicholas Eick

Departmental Citation Finalists

In recognition of distinguished undergraduate accomplishments in the Department of Political Science

Skyler Holmgren-Lee

Helia Moeini

Sona Rae Wyse

William K. "Sandy" Muir Leadership Award

Awarded to Political Science undergraduates with a distinguished academic record and achievements in leadership

Madison DeVries

Skyler Holmgren-Lee

Charles H. Percy Undergraduate Grant for Public Affairs Research

Awarded to Berkeley undergraduate students who are conducting research on an aspect of American politics

Jack Guan (Awarded 2025)

Helia Moeini (2026)

Cheng Zedler First Generation Scholar

Award honors a first generation student, preferably a graduating senior, for their exemplary public service

Jennifer Lico

Owen D. Young Prize in International Relations

Campus prize for the best undergraduate essay encompassing some aspect of international relations

Annie Foo

Kids First: David L. Kirp Prize

Campus prize recognizing students engaged in new or ongoing work that demonstrates a commitment, whether in education or other domains, to creating a better future for children or youth

Jennifer Cát Tiên Tran (Awarded 2025)



Graduate Awards

Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship

Awarded to distinguished UC Berkeley graduate students who are writing their dissertations on an aspect of American politics

John Konicki

David M. Howard Memorial Prize

In recognition of outstanding achievement in graduate research in public policy, political behavior, or public opinion in the U.S. broadly understood

Jacqueline Colao

The Philo Sherman Bennett Prize in Political Science

Campus prize for the best essay encompassing some aspect of politics other than international relations

Anna Closas i Casasampera

Peter H. Odegard Memorial Award

Awarded to third year-year doctoral students who perform exceptionally well in coursework and on preliminary exams

Sara Jozer

Maya Lu

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Awards

Awarded to the best GSIs of 2025 as nominated by department faculty

Brian Charles

Leo Di Bonaventura Altuve

Anne Marie Green

Tom Lourenço Abers

Anna Pelz

Daniel Quiroga-Angel

Angélica Remache López

