

Get to know your Instructors/Track Director Political Sciences



Chris Wikler, BS (Political Science and International Relations):

I am a District Representative for Contra Costa County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff. The classes that I will teach, relative to American government and International relations, are core to the discipline of political science and offer many essential case studies to understand this field of study. The classes will emphasize on understanding and interrogating our core civic institutions (from local government, to our justice system, to the global system of economics and diplomatic cooperation); identifying cracks/weaknesses within said institutions; and thinking creatively about how policy and our politics might be a balm to heal these cracks and open opportunities for a more egalitarian & equitable systems.

Personal: I also am an ASM in Troop 200, and Vigil Advisor for Ut In Selica Lodge. I am a lifelong California/Bay Area resident, save for a 5 year stint in Boston. While there, I attended Tufts University, studying Political Science and International Relations. Upon graduating, I managed a District Attorney campaign in Middlesex County.



Frank Starn, BS, MBA (American Business - Globalization in a Pandemic: Medical Supply Chains & Global Disruptions):

Professionally, I spent the last 14 years in healthcare. I currently serve as the CEO of a healthcare start-up in Silicon Valley. Prior to that I spent 12 years at McKesson, the largest pharmaceutical distributor in the U.S. I (lived abroad for over 12 years, 8 years in Europe and over 4 years in China) have significant experience in international relations and global supply chains. My education had a major focus on global trade and economics. I will discuss with you concepts related to global supply chains and cross country trade agreements. The track on global supply chains and cross country trade agreements fits very well with my professional experiences, especially having seen the complexity and magnitude of global trade from both U.S. and foreign perspectives. Having lived abroad for an extended period will provide me an opportunity to share the challenges and rewards of being a global citizen. My roles at McKesson also took me to Washington D.C. on a regular basis for meetings with Members of Congress and leaders of major government agencies. I hope to share my experiences with class participants as they contemplate their roles and responsibilities as U.S. citizens and taking an active role in our country's political processes.

Personal: In Scouting, I serve as Council Treasurer for the Golden Gate Area Council and as VP of Council Relations on the Area Committee. I am a past President of Mt. Diablo Silverado Council. I am an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor member of the OA. Personally, my wife Carey and I have 4 children. My two oldest boys are Eagle Scouts.



Paul Shimotake, BS, JD (Law - Information, Privacy & Free Speech in the Internet Age):

Professionally, I am an attorney for Wells Fargo Bank. The practice of law is guided by principles of legal ethics, code of conduct, and rules of professional responsibility. As lawyers, we need to vigorously advocate for clients, while conducting ourselves courteously and professionally. This duty should resonate with our duties as scouts; to live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Personal: My 30-year legal career has focused on corporate and regulatory law. In Scouting, I serve as the Council Commissioner for the Golden Gate Area Council. I have led contingent troops to the National and the World Jamborees and stay active as an ASM in Troop 200 in Lafayette.

How does your class fit into Political Sciences? Knowledge and understanding are essential in the application of the law. Laws are enacted by legislators who balance the interests between labor and business, and between local, state, national, and foreign governments. Connecting all subjects in the Political Sciences track will make the scout realize the interrelationships necessary to be an engaged citizen at the levels of a community, nation and the world.
