Political Science

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Purpose/Programs Supported

The Political Science collection at the Robert W. Woodruff Library supports the curricula of the Atlanta University Center schools. Clark Atlanta University (CAU), Morehouse College (MC) and Spelman College (SC) award Bachelor of Arts degrees with an option to major or minor in Political Science. The department of Political Science at Spelman College in conjunction with its Education Department prepares students for teacher certification in the social sciences. Many courses on the undergraduate Political Science curricula at CAU, MC, and SC are similar. The Departments of Political Science at MC and CAU have interdisciplinary pre-law program for students who intend to pursue law degrees. In addition to BA in Political Science: MC awards BA degrees in International Studies, and BA in Urban Studies.

The goal of the Political Science Department at SC is to transmit the knowledge of the discipline by teaching courses that are “designed for students who desire a basic, general knowledge of American Government; students who major in the discipline, but do not plan to go to graduate school; students who plan to go to graduate or professional schools; and students who plan to teach in the social sciences in the public schools of Georgia.” Majors at SC may select a concentration in American Institutions and Processes or International Relations. Majors at MC are required to choose a track from one of the following areas: American Government and Politics; Comparative Politics; International Relations; and Political Theory. The Political Science curriculum at CAU places directed emphasis on the political experience of African Americans in the United States, as well as black communities around the world.

The degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy are awarded at CAU. The curriculum is “organized around the political experience of black people in America and throughout the world.” The Ph.D. curriculum is divided into seven areas: U.S Government and Politics; African Politics; Urban Politics; International Politics; Comparative Politics; Theory and Methodology; and Public Administration.
Guidelines for Collection Development and Management

Languages

Library resources written in English Language are collected, original or translations. International students who may need materials in languages other than English have access to the resources of other libraries by making use of Inter-Library Loan service or Inter-Library Use Cards.

Chronological Coverage

The Political Science collection focuses mainly on contemporary works. However, some exceptions are made depending on courses. For example, PSC 381 (Russian Studies) covers the early history of Russia from A.D 862 to 1941; CPSC 532 (Political Institutions of China) examines the political history of China pre-1949, CPSC 537 (Government and Politics of the Caribbean) examines the political processes in Caribbean states from colonial times to independence.

Geographical Coverage

The focus of the Political Science collection is the United States of America, Africa, China, and other parts of the world. However, more emphasis is placed on the United States.

Scope

The collection attempts to cover all aspects of the Political Science curricula. Library materials on the United States of America and those relating to political experience of black people in America dominate the collection. There is an overlap among Political Science and other subjects, such as Theology, Philosophy, History, African Studies, International Studies, Public Administration, Women Studies, etc. The political science librarian works with other librarians to acquire titles in the areas of overlap.

Types of Materials, Formats Collected

Monographs, almanacs, atlases, year books, biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedia, handbooks, manuals, quotations, statistics academic journals are collected. Formats are online books, online databases, audio, visual and audio-visual resources. Online databases such as CQ Researcher, Columbia International Affairs (CIAO), The Journal Storage Project (JSTOR), and ProQuest Research Library are very popular with students and faculty.

Strengths and Weaknesses
Students and faculty have access to the online and print resources in Political Science and related subjects such as Theology, Business, History, Public Administration, African Studies, etc. Members of faculty are given the opportunity to recommend books, journals and electronic databases. Students and faculty are able to select electronic books appropriate to the political science curriculum through the Demand Driven Acquisitions model.

**Special Considerations / Textbook Collection Dev. Policy**

RWWL does not buy course textbooks: print or electronic or teachers’ edition. However, subject librarian will work with teaching faculty and students to identify resources that meet the needs of their classes.

The Library acquires monographic works authored by the AUC Political Science faculties preferably through donation. This includes works in all media normally collected by the Library.