



**Political Science Department**  
**Senior Conference 2022**

**Friday, April 22, 9:00am-5:00pm**  
Bronco Student Center, Andromeda Suite

Schedule of Panels:

- Session A (Panels 1, 2, 3): 9:00-10:20am
- Session B (Panels 4, 5, 6): 10:30am-12:00pm
- Session C (Panels 7, 8, 9): 12:10-1:40pm
- Session D (Panels 10, 11, 12): 1:50-3:20pm
- Session E (Panels 13, 14, 15): 3:30-5:00pm

Session A: 9:00-10:20am

**Panel 1: Polarization in America**

**Faculty:** Renford Reese

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda A

**Nicolas Hernandez Florez** - Presidents' Effects on Opposing Party Coordination

**Bebe Lee** - Finding Common Ground in American Politics

**Sophia Ortiz** - "Are the Courts Really Non-Partisan?": Partisan Influence in the American Judiciary

**Aimee Pineda** - An Apprehension of Democracy: What is Left Unsettled Between the Ideas and Such Action.

**Beck Vilhauer** - Problems of Growing Polarization in American Politics

Session A: 9:00-10:20am

**Panel 2: Political Behavior in America**

**Faculty:** Mario Guerrero

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda B

**Jocelyn Alfaro** - Social Media and Its Ability to Increase Young Voter Turnout

**Breanna Caal** – Free to Not Believe: Analyzing the Persecution of Religious Minorities

**Verenna Denina** – Title forthcoming

**Judith Gomez** – Title forthcoming

**Eduardo Hernandez** – Title forthcoming

**Alan Sanchez** - How Usage of the Pan Ethnic Term Latinx Affects Support from College Aged Latinos/Latinas

Session A: 9:00-10:20am

**Panel 3: Public Policy in the United States**

**Faculty:** Brady Collins & Lauren Hom

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda C

**Evelyn Cortez** - Reproductive Healthcare in a College Setting: Promotion and Access

**Jessica Esquivel** - An Analysis of the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the United States Drug Policy and Substance Use

**Alexis Gonzalez** - The Effects of the United States Healthcare System on Low- and High-Income Communities

**Andrew Gonzalez** - Private Prisons for Profit

**Desiree Morales** - Ethical Principles in the Non-Profit Sector: An Analysis of Accountability and Corruption in Philanthropy

**Serina Crystal Vargas** - Homelessness Crisis in California: A Comparative Analysis Between Brentwood, Compton, and Los Angeles

Session B: 10:30am-12:00pm

**Panel 4: Immigration & Other Legal Issues**

**Faculty:** Laureen Hom & Renford Reese

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda A

**Cynthia Antuche** - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services(USCIS): How Processing Delays Create Resulting Consequences to Applicants

**Diego Diaz Henriquez** – On the Potential Solutions Regarding the Homelessness Epidemic in The United States in General and in Southern California in Particular

**Jade Ochoa** – Reducing Recidivism Rates in Offenders with Mental Health Issues: An Analysis of the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office

**Leen Salid** - Developing Innovative Economic Development Programs Using Social Media

**Monique Eileen Sierra** - Latino Immigrants

**Victoria Venegas Gomez** - Color, Crime, & Courts: Racism in Criminal Justice from a Defense's Point of View

Session B: 10:30am-12:00pm

**Panel 5: Constitutional Questions & Political Behavior**

**Faculty:** Elli Menounou

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda B

**Terra DeKnikker** – The Effect of Judicial Review on Public Opinion

**Shanecia Hernandez** - The Effect Domestic Terrorist Attacks Have on the State’s Interpretation of the Second Amendment

**Rachel Kim** – The Death Penalty: The Disagreement Surrounding Capital Punishment

**Pablo Morales** – Social Media Regulation and The Freedom of Speech

**Aaron Rodriguez** – Political Rhetorical Manipulation and Voter Attitudes

**Angel Valdes** - The First Amendment and Social Media

Session B: 10:30am-12:00pm

**Panel 6: A Grab-Bag of Today’s Big Questions**

**Faculty:** Brady Collins & Mario Guerrero

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda C

**Kevin Cho** – Title forthcoming

**Sir Clark** - Socio-Economic Disparity: Judicially-centered Meritocracy and its Economic Degradation

**Kolton Kladifko** - The Failure of LA's "Great Outdoors": A Study of Park Inequity in Los Angeles

**Juan Montero Garzon** - Counterproductive Counterterrorism: America’s Struggles to Contain Terrorism in the Forever Wars

**Evan Park** - A Friendly Court: How Amicus Curiae Briefs Influence the Supreme Court

**Brian Powers** - Marxism, Humanism, and Historical Dependence

Session C: 12:10-1:40pm

**Panel 7: Public Service Work**

**Faculty:** Laureen Hom & Mary Anne Mendoza

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda A

**Micah Aguila** - Corruption and Accountability

**Tori Gallagher** - An Analysis of Youth Civic Engagement

**Giselle Herrera** - Providing Public Service While Working Remotely from Home

**Naveeda Nasir Rajput** - Workplace Discrimination in the Public Sector and ways it is being addressed

**Derek S. Sweem** - Land Use Conflict in the City of Fontana

**Spencer Waldron** - Exploring the Use of Tech-Based Systems in a City Government

Session C: 12:10-1:40pm

**Panel 8: Legal Issues in the United States**

**Faculty:** Mario Guerrero & Elli Menounou

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda B

**Erika Garcia** – Analyzing the Evolution of Social Media and Social Movements in the U.S

**John Gordon** - The Deterrent Effect of The Death Penalty on State Crime

**Joseph Gordon** - The Effects of Race in Relation to Sentencing in the Criminal Justice System

**Jennifer Pacheco** – Presidential Rhetoric and the Effect of Attitudes on Immigration

**Isabel Powers** - The Role of State Party Affiliations in Rape Shield Laws

**Aelyn Trujillo** - On College Campus Sexual Assault: How the effectiveness of investigations effect the outcomes

Session C: 12:10-1:40pm

**Panel 9: Issues in American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations**

**Faculty:** Robert Nyenhuis & Marc Scarcelli

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda C

**Rebecca Alvarenga** – The Effect of Homelessness on Queer Youth

**Kristopher Flowers** – Title Forthcoming

**Cynthia Gomez** – Title Forthcoming

**Vanessa Perez** – U.S. Public Opinion on Climate Change

**Jillian Rundall** –Education and Poverty Alleviation: Which Educational Policy Would Be the Most Beneficial for Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation?

**Joshua Tan** - Cryptocurrency: The Trials and Tribulations of attempting to Regulate What Could be the Future of Currency

Session D: 1:50-3:20pm

**Panel 10: Questions in Comparative Politics**

**Faculty:** Mario Guerrero & Robert Nyenhuis

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda A

**Krysta Danyel Elias** - What is the Global Issue with Sustainable Housing Affordability and Housing Policies?

**Daniel Heo** – American Attitudes Towards Asian-Americans due to COVID-19

**Alisson Rodriguez** – What Effect has China’s Investment had on Central American Relations?

**Cesar Rodriguez** – Ambiguous Afghanistan: A Failed State or Not?

**Elizabeth Rodriguez** – Late 20th Century U.S. Intervention of Latin America

**Joanna Wells** - Consequences of Economic Nationalism in America: How Relying on American Made Products Would Alter the Economic Strength of The U.S.

Session D: 1:50-3:20pm

**Panel 11: Contemporary Issues in American Law**

**Faculty:** Brady Collins & Elli Menounou

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda B

**Emily Rebecca Flores** - Journey to the Promise Land: Immigration Policy throughout different U.S. Presidential administrations and its correlation with undocumented immigration

**Hennessy Gomez** – California Politics: Does the seemingly progressive state and its laws fall under the trustee or delegate model of representation?

**Breanna Li** – Public Perception and Judicial Activism in Common versus Civil Law Systems

**Isabelle Lovell** – An Analysis of the Motivations for Allowing State Laws to Contradict Federal Law in the Case of Marijuana Legalization

**Fernando Orellana** – Assessing the Impact and Efficiency of the Plea-Bargaining Process

**Andrea Proctor** - A Flawed Foundation: Laws and Racial Disparities in the Incarceration System

Session D: 1:50-3:20pm

**Panel 12: Questions around the World**

**Faculty:** Mary Anne Mendoza & Marc Scarcelli

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda C

**Teferi Ejigu** – Is Ethnic Federalism the Main Cause of The Current Ethiopian Civil War?

**Christian Garcia** – NAFTA’s Impact on Mexico

**Angel Medrano** – Is climate change a leading cause for conflicts in Africa?

**Jarell Perez** – The Rise and Fall of Mexico's Most Terrifying Drug Cartel: Los Zetas

**Taj Tomlinson** – Palestine and Israel: Is the two-state solution still viable for both to become independent states?

**Ashley Trinidad** - Understanding the U.S Foreign Policy Failures in Vietnam and Afghanistan

Session E: 3:30-5:00pm

**Panel 13: Social & Economic Questions around the World**

**Faculty:** Robert Nyenhuis & Mary Anne Mendoza

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda A

**Vahe Demirdjian** – Gun Violence in Australia and the United States: Assessing Factors That Contribute to Gun Homicides

**Miguel Franco** – Why do Countries Struggle to Develop Economically

**Maria Georgey** - Why do refugees leave their home country?

**Prabhat Jammalamadaka** – Economic Performance Comparison of American States

**Micah Parker** - Why communism failed

Session E: 3:30-5:00pm

**Panel 14: Media in America & Other Contemporary Issues**

**Faculty:** Mario Guerrero & Elli Menounou

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda B

**Ivan Macias** – Title Forthcoming

**Nicholas Nguyen** – Title Forthcoming

**Olivia Cecilia Real** – In the context of a pandemic and social development, how do critical events shape political socialization, and influence the political attitudes of generational cohorts?

**Camila Rivas** – Media Influence: Identifying the Impact Media Has on Political Behavior

**Farah Naylea Sanchez** – Social Media and Politics: Determining the Influence Social Media has on Progressive Views

**Isabel Vargas** - Unifying or Polarizing?: How Using Social Media as a Primary News Source Affects Political Polarization

Session E: 3:30-5:00pm

**Panel 15: Terrorism and Human Rights**

**Faculty:** Marc Scarcelli

**Room:** Bronco Student Center, Andromeda C

**Kenneth Del Real Ramos** - Examining United States Family Detention Centers in light of International Human Rights and Refugee Asylum Laws

**Ryan Hosozawa** – The Efficacy of Anti-Domestic Terrorist Legislation in The United States and Western Europe

**Sophia Johnson** – State Stability and Terrorism: Is the Lack of State Stability to Blame for Terrorism in the Middle East?

**Adam Mrich** – The new scope of Jihad, a deeper look into the future of global terrorism

**Henry H. Ouzounyan** – What should the United States do with our relationship with Turkey?

**Sebastian Arnold Veron** - Effective Counterterrorism: Has Counterterrorism Policy Been Effective in Combating Racially and Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism in the 21st Century?