

I. THE FORMATIVE YEARS - 1874 TO 1919

Colorado College was founded in Colorado Springs in 1874. The first “Catalogue,” published in 1875, did not list a Political Scientist on the faculty and contained no Political Science courses. The closest thing to Political Science in the catalog was a sophomore year course that included Plato’s *Crito*, a study of the relationship of the citizen to the city.¹

By 1879, however, a number of Political Science courses were offered junior and senior year, although there was no indication who was teaching them. The course descriptions were brief but did include the writers and political philosophers to be studied. Some examples:

Blackstone. Hallam’s Constitutional History.

Exposition Of Constitution Of The United States (Flanders). Democracy In America (De Tocqueville). Handbook Of American Politics (Johnston).

Political Economy (Fawcett). Or Science Of Wealth (Walker).

International Law (Woolsey).

Constitution Of The United States (Andrews).

These first Political Science courses at Colorado College covered the various

¹ “Catalogue Of The Officers And Students Of Colorado College, 1875,” no page numbers, in *Colorado College Catalogs; 1874-1894*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

sub-fields relatively well, with Constitutional Law, Political Economy, and International Law particularly prominent.²

In the catalog for 1880-1881, Political Science as a course of instruction was described for the first time: “Political Science is pursued during two years, three recitations a week. Instruction is given in the Constitutional History of England, and of the United States, in Political Economy, and in International Law.”³

The first person cited as teaching Political Science at Colorado College was George Nathaniel Marden. He held a joint appointment in History, Political Science, and Metaphysics. Marden joined the faculty in 1881, just seven years after the founding of the College in 1874. Similar to most of the early professors at Colorado College, Marden was a New Englander.⁴

Professor Marden was born on March 18, 1836, in West Concord, New Hampshire. He received his early education at Kimball Union academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. He went directly from there to a three-year theological program at Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine and was ordained a minister in

² “Colorado College, 1879,” pp. 8-9, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1874-1894*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

³ “Colorado College Bulletin For 1880-1881,” no page numbers, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1874-1894*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

⁴Buckley, Louise, *The History Of Colorado College*, Masters Thesis, Colorado College, 1935, p. 101.

1862. His pastoral work began at Boxboro, Massachusetts, and subsequently included parishes in Orland and Farmington, Maine.

During the Civil War, George Marden gave up his ministerial duties to work for the U.S. Christian Commission for seven months. After the war, he worked 18 months in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Freedmen, the newly emancipated slaves who needed help adapting to their changed status. Marden then toured Europe and the Holy Land before assuming a pastorate in South Weymouth, Massachusetts, from which he was called to Colorado College in 1881.⁵

At the time Professor Marden was teaching at Colorado College, the catalog listed five Political Science courses:

Constitutional History Of England.

Exposition Of The Constitution Of The United States (Flanders).

Democracy In America (De Tocqueville).

Political Economy.

International Law.

*Political Science (Woolsey).*⁶

George Marden charted a course that would be followed by many other

⁵ “George Nathaniel Marden,” Funeral Program, in file: Admin-Treasurer-Biography-Marden, George Nathaniel, in Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

⁶ “Triennial Bulletin, 1880-1883,” pp. 11-13, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1874-1894*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

professors of Political Science at Colorado College. He moved from teaching to a distinguished career in the College's administration. In 1884, when Edward Tenney left the presidency of Colorado College, Marden took over administration of the College's financial assets and became the College's chief fund raiser on the East Coast of the United States. Drawing on his religious training, Marden gave guest sermons at Congregational Churches in the East, talking about the work and needs of the College and then taking up a special collection to garner funds for the College's benefit.

While raising money in Baltimore, Maryland, George Marden was forced by a bad storm to stay some extra time at the home of William Frederick Slocum, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Baltimore. The two men came to know and like each other, and Marden recruited Slocum to become President of Colorado College. Slocum's presidency was one of the longest and most productive in the history of the College, lasting from 1888 to 1917. Marden served as Treasurer of the College under President Slocum from 1897 to 1907.⁷

For his critical service to the College at a time of great need, Marden is informally referred to as "the savior of Colorado College." Near the end of his tenure as College Treasurer, an acquaintance accused George Marden of throwing

⁷ Hershey, Charlie Brown, *Colorado College; 1874-1949* (Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado College, 1952), pp. 59-61.

himself away on the cause of Colorado College. Marden replied: “Well, I thought it was about as good a throw as I could make.”⁸

In his letter announcing his retirement from the College in 1906, George Marden lamented that he had been called from teaching and scholarship to be an administrator. He wrote: “I have found satisfaction in putting myself in at any point along the line wherever I was most needed. I have never regretted the sacrifice made in giving up my own studies to work in ways that will help others to study.”⁹ Here was a sentiment which a number of future members of the Political Department at Colorado College would come to share and appreciate.

The second person to teach Political Science at Colorado College was William Montague Hall, who held a B.A. degree from Yale University. Hall came to the College in 1890.¹⁰

William M. Hall was born in New York City on July 2, 1857. He grew up in New England, but he traveled extensively in Europe during his youth and became

⁸ “George Nathaniel Marden,” Funeral Program, in file: Admin-Treasurer-Biography-Marden, George Nathaniel, in Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

⁹ Letter, George Nathaniel Marden to the Board of Trustees of Colorado College, May 30, 1906, in file: Admin-Treasurer-Biography-Marden, George Nathaniel, in Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

¹⁰ William Montague Hall’s job teaching Political Science at Colorado College was originally awarded to Oliver Huntington Richardson, but Richardson was immediately granted a one-year leave of absence due to poor health and never taught at the College. See Buckley, p. 105.

fluent in French and Spanish by an early age. He attended the Hopkins grammar school in New Haven, Connecticut, and then entered Yale University. He was class valedictorian at Yale and editor of the campus literary magazine.

Hall studied law at Columbia Law School but was forced by ill health to go west to California for the milder climate. His doctor there advised him to move to Colorado, so he settled in Colorado Springs in 1890 and subsequently became Professor of Political and Social Science at Colorado College. The student newspaper evaluated Professor Hall's teaching ability this way:

“In the discussion of economic and social problems, too often clouded with passion and prejudice, he weighed the arguments pro and con with the impartiality of a judge.... His students were not left in doubt. He always reached a conclusion and usually it was a conservative one. But narrow dogmatism formed no part of his teaching. He would concede much injustice in our social system, and was always ready to give fair and careful consideration to any plan suggesting a remedy. But these plans were always subjected to searching tests of reason and experience, and when found wanting were cast aside.”¹¹

During Professor Hall's time at Colorado College, the catalog listed the following Political Science and related courses:

¹¹ “William Montague Hall,” *The Colorado Collegian*, Vol. 5, No. 3, Colorado College, December, 1894, p. 3-5.

European Governments.

Money And Taxation.

Political Economy.

Popular Government.

*Rental Tax, Railways And Socialism.*¹²

Similar to George Marden, Hall was advanced to an administrative post. President Slocum named him the first Dean of Colorado College. In that role, William Montague Hall undertook a major reorganization of the courses of study at the College and worked to develop high educational standards at the institution. Ill health, followed by his death in December of 1894, limited Hall's deanship to a relatively short period of service.¹³

Hall was replaced as a teacher during the 1894-1895 academic year by David Fleming Matchett, a former student at Colorado College who was an outstanding orator. While an undergraduate, Matchett won the Colorado State Oratorical contest for Colorado College in 1892 and placed third in the Interstate contest that year. Matchett also attended Yale University and earned both a B.A.

¹² "Annual Bulletin Of Colorado College, April 15, 1891," pp. 32-33, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1874-1894*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

¹³ Hershey, pp. 156, 181. Buckley, pp. 105-106.

and LL.B. degree.¹⁴

The first person with a Ph.D. to teach Political Science at the College was Francis Walker, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who received his Ph.D from Columbia. Walker taught at Colorado College from 1895 to 1900. The Political Science courses listed in the catalog at that time were:

Historical Politics.

Comparative Politics And Constitutional Law.

Socialism.

*International Law.*¹⁵

Apparently Walker had something of a national reputation as a scholar, because he is described in College histories as “very well known in the East.”¹⁶

By the turn of the 20th Century, Colorado College was prospering. Many new buildings were under construction, and both the student body and the faculty were growing in numbers. The faculty had become too large for College historians to record individual accounts of each faculty member’s contribution. Political

¹⁴ Hershey, p. 211.

¹⁵ “22nd Annual Bulletin Of Colorado College, May, 1896,” pp. 47-48, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1895-1899*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College. Also see “25th Annual Bulletin Of Colorado College, 1899,” pp. 50-51, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1895-1899*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

¹⁶Buckley, p. 108.

Science, however, remained a thriving part of the College curriculum.

From 1900 to 1907, Thomas K. Urdahl, Ph.D., held the professorship in Political and Social Science. Professor Urdahl received his B.L. from the University of Wisconsin in 1891 and his Ph.D., also from Wisconsin, in 1897. He was the first Political Science professor at Colorado College to have his name listed above the courses he was teaching. He taught three of the courses that Professor Walker had taught:

Comparative Politics And Constitutional Law.

International Law.

*Historical Politics.*¹⁷

Apparently Thomas Urdahl's teaching assignments at Colorado College were quite broadly defined. It was noted that, in 1906, Urdahl was giving "all of the instruction in Economics, Political Science and History, and in addition, assisted in giving instruction in Law."¹⁸

Two professors did the Political Science chores at Colorado College from 1907 to 1910. The first was Clarence James Foreman, M.S., M.A., during 1907-1908. Then came John Maurice Clark, M.A., who taught Political Economy from

¹⁷ "27th Annual Bulletin Of Colorado College, 1901," p. 40, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1900-1904*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

¹⁸Hershey, p. 201.

1908 to 1910.

In 1914 the College hired Albert Russell Ellingwood as an Instructor in Political Science. Note that his title assigned him to teaching Political Science and no other subject. Albert Ellingwood was another home grown product, having received his A.B. degree from Colorado College in 1910. He went on to get a B.C.L. from Oxford University in England in 1913. While teaching at Colorado College, Ellingwood completed the work for a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918.

The curriculum offered during Professor Ellingwood's tenure covered five of the six major sub-fields of Political Science and then some. There was an introductory Political Science course, *Elements Of Political Science*, that was required of all students majoring in Political Science. On the American side, there were courses entitled *American Government*, *State Government*, *Municipal Government*, *History Of American Diplomacy*, and *American Political Theory*. On the International-Comparative side, there were courses on *Comparative Government*, *International Law*, and *English Government*. The catalogs of the time carefully noted that, with Albert Ellingwood as the sole Political Science professor, only the *Elements Of Political Science* course was offered every year.

It is important to note the versatility of teachers such as Albert Russell

Ellingwood. The catalogs from his time indicated he was qualified to teach in essentially all the fields of Political Science, both American and International-Comparative.¹⁹

To summarize: For 39 years, from 1881 to 1920, Political Science was taught at Colorado College, but it was offered mainly in conjunction with other Social Science courses. Most of the professorial appointments were in Political Science and either History or Social Science. Also during this early period in Colorado College history, no Political Science professor taught at the College for more than seven years.

¹⁹ “43rd Annual Catalogue Of Colorado College, 1916-1917,” pp. 89-90, and “44th Annual Catalogue Of Colorado College, 1917-1918,” pp. 100-101, in *Colorado College Catalogs, 1915-1919*, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.