

Graduate Professional Skills

POLS 7116-01

Room: Gibson 308

Spring 2017

Call # 33564

Mondays 2:30-5:00 PM

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This is a third-year PhD seminar on the state of the discipline of political science and the skills one needs as a professional political science, whether in or outside academia. In this course we will explore the common tasks performed by professors and as well as a few topics relevant to the completion of graduate studies. We will conclude the course with some thoughts of the role of the political scientist beyond academia.

Learning Objectives

Students satisfactorily completing this course will have demonstrated advanced substantive knowledge of and analytical competence in:

- a. teaching methodologies
- b. the process of research
- c. the academic job market
- d. engaging audiences beyond the discipline

Program Outcomes

This course contributes to the political science doctoral program by providing students with knowledge of:

- a. the tasks performed by political scientists employed in academia
- b. best practices for teaching and conducting research in political science
- c. the role of the political scientist beyond academia

Evaluation

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----|
| • Syllabus, Lecture, Lecture Notes | due Feb 13 | 15% |
| • Conference Paper or Panel Proposal | due Feb 20 | 15% |
| • Draft of Dissertation Prospectus | due Mar 20 | 15% |
| • Journal Author's Reply | due Apr 10 | 15% |
| • Job Market: CV, Cover Letter | due Apr 24 | 15% |
| • Class Participation | throughout | 25% |

Written assignments will be evaluated for completeness and the extent to which they incorporate material from the assigned readings and class discussion. Class participation will be evaluated by the instructors noting whether or not students engage in active and consistent participation each class meeting.

Grades will be assessed using the following breakdown:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| • B+ 87%-90% | • A 93%-100% | • A- 90-93% |
| | • B 83%-97% | • B- 80%-83% |

Course Policies

This course will operate as a seminar; as such, students should be ready to engage one another in discussion. Students are expected to attend each class, to be on time, and to have all course materials read **prior** to the class in which they are discussed. Please turn off all electronic devices during class. Laptop computers are not permitted in class; please turn them off and put them away before class starts. All assignments must be completed for a student to pass the course. Requests for regrading any exam or assignment must be made no later than one week after it has been handed back. No make-ups will be allowed except in very serious circumstances (The professors reserve the right to determine what is "very serious"). Course incompletes will only be allowed for circumstances in which the student is physically unable to complete the course; the student must otherwise be passing the course in order to be granted the incomplete.

Honor Code of Conduct

All doctoral students will be expected to uphold and exceed the Unified Code of Graduate Student Academic Conduct:

<http://tulane.edu/provost/upload/Unified-Code-of-GS-Academic-Conduct-11-14-07.pdf>

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 – January 23

Topic: Introduction to the class, syllabus review, discussion of the profession

Readings:

- James W. Ceaser, “The Role of Political Science and Political Scientists in Civic Education.” Available at https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/the-role-of-political-science-and-political-scientists-in-civic-education_102917311507.pdf

Week 2 – January 30

Topic: Teaching – Course Preparation

Readings:

- James Lang, 2008. *On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to Your First Semester of College Teaching*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Pages 1-20 (available on Canvas).

Assignment Distributed: Teaching Materials

Week 3 – February 6

Topic: Teaching – Classroom, Grading, Campus Affairs

Activity: Guest speakers

Readings:

- Lang, pp. 63-213 (available on Canvas)

Week 4 – February 13

Topic: Teaching – Classroom

Activity: Mini-lectures

Readings: (none)

Assignment DUE: Teaching Materials

Assignment Distributed: Conference Proposal

Week 5 – February 20

Topic: Conferences – Proposals, Attending, Presenting, Discussant

Readings:

- Michael Munger, “Conference Papers.” Web video available at: <https://theihs.org/career-resources/guide-to-academic-publishing-with-mike-munger/> (scroll on right side down to video for Conference Papers).
- Packet of paper/panel proposals from SPSA 2017 (available on Canvas).

Assignment DUE: Conference Proposal

February 27 – NO CLASS – LUNDI GRAS

Week 6 – March 6

Topic: Dissertation Prospectus

Readings:

- Michael Munger, “Don’t Be That Guy – Finish Your Papers.” Web video available at: <https://theihs.org/career-resources/guide-to-academic-publishing-with-mike-munger/> (scroll on right side down to video for Don’t Be That Guy).
 - Sara C. Benesh, “The Key to a Successful Prospectus: Consult an Advisor, Early and Often.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Dec., 2001), pp. 853-854. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1350285>
 - Richard L. Fox, “Developing the Dissertation Prospectus.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Dec., 2001), pp. 849-850. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1350283>
 - Peter J. May, “Constructing the Prospectus.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Dec., 2001), pp. 843-844. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1350280>
 - Steven B. Rothman, “Comparatively Evaluating Potential Dissertation and Thesis Projects.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 41, No. 2 (Apr., 2008), pp. 367-369. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20452187>
- Assignment Distributed: Draft of Dissertation Prospectus

Week 7 – March 13

Topic: Dissertation Prospectus

Activity: Prospectus workshop

Readings: (none)

Bring Draft of Dissertation Prospectus to class for workshop

Week 8 – March 20

Topic: Grants

Activity: Guest speaker

Readings:

- Rina Agarwala and Emmanuel Teitelbaum, “Trends in Funding for Dissertation Field Research.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (April 2010), pp. 283-293. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40646729>
- Beverly Wiggins and Susan Gramling, “Funding and Proposal Writing for Social Science Faculty and Graduate Student Research.” Available at <http://www.irss.unc.edu/content/pdf/granhandout.pdf>

Assignment DUE: Draft of Dissertation Prospectus

March 27 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 9 – April 3

Topic: Journals – Submissions, Article Reviews

Readings:

- Michael Munger, “The Journal Review Process.” Web video available at: <https://theihs.org/career-resources/guide-to-academic-publishing-with-mike-munger/> (scroll on right side down to video for The Journal Review Process).
 - Donna Lee Van Cott, “A Graduate Student’s Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (Oct., 2005), pp. 741-743. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30044359>
 - Packet of sample journal submission, readers reports (available on Canvas).
- Assignment Distributed: Journal Author’s Reply

Week 10 – April 10

Topic: Job Market

Readings:

- William J. Miller and Bobbi Gentry, “Navigating the Academic Job Market in Treacherous Times.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 44, No. 3 (July 2011), pp. 578-582. Available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41319774>
- Assignment DUE: Journal Author’s Reply**
- Assignment Distributed: Job Market CV, Cover Letter

April 17 – NO CLASS – EASTER BREAK

Week 11 – April 24

Topic: Beyond Academia

Activity: Guest speaker

Readings:

- Richard A. Posner, *Public Intellectuals: A Study of Decline*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Pages 17-82, 399-426 (available on Canvas).
- Assignment DUE: Job Market CV, Cover Letter**

Week 12 – May 1

Topic: IRB / Concluding Thoughts

Activity: Guest speaker

Readings:

- Gary King and Melissa Sands, “How Human Subjects Research Rules Mislead You and Your University, and What to Do About it.” Available at http://gking.harvard.edu/files/gking/files/irb_politics_paper_1.pdf