Political Science 800
Political Science as a Discipline and Profession
Fall 2013
Wednesdays 5:30-6:45pm
422 North Hall

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Learn@UW site: https://uwmad.courses.wisconsin.edu/d2l/home/2156517
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This course provides an introduction to political science as a discipline and a profession. For our review of the discipline, we will consider a variety of approaches to the study of policies. For our review of the profession, we will discuss matters both broad (e.g., the life of the scholar) and narrow (e.g., obtaining research grants) that are of interest to those building professional careers in political science, particularly in academia.

The purpose of the course is to provide an orientation to basic features of scholarly life. We cannot examine all the various dimensions of this life in a one-credit seminar. The goal is, more modestly, to introduce you to some of the issues—and some of our faculty—at an early point in your scholarly career. Through the course readings and discussion, you will begin to form your own perspective on political science as a discipline and profession.

Requirements

Active Participation. The quality of this seminar depends on the active participation of all students. Everyone is expected to digest the required readings before class and to participate actively in discussion. It is essential to have a good understanding of each reading—not only individually, but, where appropriate, how they fit together.

Reaction Papers. To facilitate our conversations, you should submit a one-page, single-spaced reaction paper each week of the semester. Reaction papers should be just that: they should indicate your responses to, questions about, and observations about the week’s required readings. In them you should feel free to raise points of agreement or disagreement you might have with the various authors. Some weeks it might be a particular author that provokes a reaction; other weeks it might be several of the authors. Do not feel you must respond to every author. The key to this exercise is coming to class prepared with a reaction to some aspect of the week’s readings. When we enter the second part of the course (the profession), you might
find that your reactions are more in the form of questions—for example, questions about the job market that you would like answered that were not answered satisfactory in the readings.

These papers are required but will not be given a letter grade. Please upload the paper in PDF format no later than 6:00 pm each Tuesday to the dropbox at the Learn@UW site.

Final Grade. Your final grade for the seminar will be determined as follows: 50% for submission of reaction papers, 50% for class participation.

Readings

Most readings are available on the Learn@UW site for PS 800 <https://learnuw.wisc.edu>; a few are instead available at the web addresses below. A general disclaimer: The substantive articles assigned for this course are not necessarily the “great” or “best” works in a given area. Rather, they illustrate a given perspective, issue, or type of research.
I. Political Science as a Discipline

Introduction
September 4

Positivism and Behavioralism
September 11
Guest: Noam Lupu

Required

Recommended

Rational Choice Theory
September 18
Guest: Andy Kydd

Required

Political Theory
September 25
Guest: Rick Avramenko

Required

Recommended
History and Ideas  
October 2  
Guest: Erica Simmons

Required  

Recommended  

Department and Disciplinary History  
October 9  
Guest: Crawford Young

Required  

Recommended  
II. Political Science as a Profession

Publishing Not Perishing
October 16
Guest: Jon Pevehouse

Required

Recommended

Conferences Aren't Just for Conferring
October 23
Guest: Ryan Owens

Required
Christopher Zorn. “A Typology of Political Science Professional Meetings.” [modified]

Recommended
Peeking Ahead to the Job Market (and Tenure)

**October 30**

Guest: Yoshiko Herrera

**Required**

CVs of recent successful ABD candidates, to be provided.

**Recommended**


Becoming a Teacher

**November 6**

Guest: David Canon

**Required**


Edward M. Bumila. 2011. “Graduate Students as Independent Instructors: Seven Things to Know about Teaching Your Own Course while in Graduate School.” *PS* 44: 557-60.

**Recommended**


Teaching and Learning Excellence at UW. [https://tle.wisc.edu](https://tle.wisc.edu)
Finding Financial Support
November 13
Guest: Aili Tripp

Required
<http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new_publication_3/{7a9cb4f4-815f-de11-bd80-001cc477ec70}.pdf>

Recommended
UW Research & Sponsored Programs web site. http://www.rsp.wisc.edu/

Professional Ethics are Important
November 20
Guest: Donald Downs

Required
<http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/ethicsguideweb.pdf>
<http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/CollaborationReport08-09-06.pdf>
http://www.grad.wisc.edu/hrpp/10046.htm

Recommended
Academic Misconduct policies at UW (Student Assistance & Judicial Affairs).
<http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>

No Class for Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27
Life of the Scholar  
December 4  
Guest: Kathy Cramer

Required  

Recommended  
<http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/womeninpoliticalscience.pdf>

The Dissertation  
December 11  
Guest: TBA

Required  
Mary I. Dereshiwsky, “In Search of the Elusive Dissertation Topic.”  
<http://www.abdsurvivalguide.com/News/071102.htm>  

Recommended  
Review a few of the recent winners of APSA dissertation awards. (The 8 awards are listed at <http://www.apsanet.org/content_4113.cfm> and dissertations can be found through the UW library web site.)