

Political Science 800
Political Science as a Discipline and Profession
Fall 2014
Wednesdays 5:30-6:45pm
422 North Hall

Scott Gehlbach
110 North Hall
608-263-1894
gehlabach@polisci.wisc.edu
Office hours: Please see <http://users.polisci.wisc.edu/gehlabach/contact.html>

Learn@UW site: <https://uwmad.courses.wisconsin.edu/d2l/home/2536083>
Classlist: polisci800-1-f14@lists.wisc.edu

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.

To facilitate this process, prior to each week's class, you will post 1–2 questions or comments related to that week's readings on the class discussion board, available on the course website at Learn@UW. The deadline for posting questions is 6 am the day of the seminar. I will share these comments with our guest faculty member before class. Please come to class prepared to discuss your comment, plus that of the person who posted just before you on the discussion board (if you posted first, the person who posted last).

Workshops and Colloquia. Much of the work of political science takes place in workshops and colloquia, with visiting speakers and discussion of written work. I want you to get in the habit of attending these. You will already be attending the workshop or colloquium for your primary subfield. I ask you to also attend a) at least one meeting of the workshop or colloquium for

some other subfield, and at least one meeting of some other group (MAD, Political Behavior, the seminar series for an area center, etc.). By the last day of class, you should turn in a 2–3 page paper (hard copy and PDF at Learn@UW), single-spaced, reflecting on the process by which ideas are exchanged and developed in different corners of the academy.

Final Grade. Your final grade for the seminar will be determined as follows: 50% for class participation and advance comments, 50% for attendance of colloquia and workshops and the related paper.

Readings and Schedule

Most readings are available through the Box folder shared with members of this class; 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 3

Positivism and Behavioralism September 10 Guest: Noam Lupu

Required

Aldrich, John H., James E. Alt, and Arthur Lupia. 2008. "The EITM Approach: Origins & Interpretation." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, ed. Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier. New York: Oxford University Press.

Clarke, Kevin A., and David M. Primo. 2007. "Modernizing Political Science: A Model-Based Approach." *Perspectives on Politics* 5: 741-54.

Druckman, James N., Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100: 627-35.

Recommended

David Sanders. 2010. "Behavioural Analysis." In *Theory and Methods in Political Science*. 3rd ed., ed. David Marsh and Gerry Stoker. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Rational Choice Theory September 17 Guest: Andy Kydd

Required

James D. Fearon. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49:379-414.

Scott Gehlbach. 2006. "A Formal Model of Exit and Voice." *Rationality & Society* 18:395-418.

Political Theory

September 24

Guest: Rick Avramenko

Required

Leo Strauss. 1959. *What is Political Philosophy?* Glencoe, IL: Free Press. Chapter 1.

MacIntyre, Alasdair. 1983. "The Indispensability of Political Theory." In David Miller & L.A. Siedentop eds., *The Nature of Political Theory*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press..

Recommended

Mark E. Warren. 1989. "What is Political Theory/Philosophy?" *PS* 22:606-12.

History and Ideas

October 1

Guest: Erica Simmons

Required

Sewell, Jr., William H. 2005. *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*. 2005. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3.

Wedeen, Lisa. 2002. "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 96(4).

Recommended

Mark M. Blyth. 1997. "'Any More Bright Ideas?' The Ideational Turn of Comparative Political Economy." *Comparative Politics* 29:229-50.

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52:887-917.

Department and Disciplinary History

October 8

Guest: Crawford Young

Required

Crawford Young, ed. 2006. *Political Science at the University of Wisconsin: A Centennial History*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison. Chapters 45 plus a field-specific chapter of your choosing.

J. Tobin Grant. 2005. "What Divides Us? The Image and Organization of Political Science." *PS* 38:379-86.

Recommended

Crawford Young, ed. 2006. *Political Science at the University of Wisconsin: A Centennial History*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison. Chapter 3.

Gabriel A. Almond. 1988. "Separate Tables: Schools and Sects in Political Science." *PS* 21:828-842.

- R. Claire Snyder. 2001. "Should Political Science Have a Civic Mission? An Overview of the Historical Evidence." *PS* 34:301-5.
- "Symposium: Shaking Things Up? Thoughts about the Future of Political Science." 2002. *PS* 35:181-205. [Articles by Hardin, Jervis, Monroe, Rudolph, Smiley, Smith]
- Thomas C. Walker. 2010. "The Perils of Paradigm Mentalities: Revisiting Kuhn, Lakatos, and Popper." *Perspectives on Politics* 8:433-51.

II. Political Science as a Profession

Publishing Not Perishing

October 15

Guest: David Canon

Required

- Gary King. 2006. "Publication, Publication." *PS* 39:119-25.
- Iain McLean et al. 2009. "Comparative Journal Ratings: A Survey Report." *Political Studies Review* 7:18-38.
- Andrew J. Polsky. 2007. "Seeing Your Name in Print: Unpacking the Mysteries of the Review Process at Political Science Scholarly Journals." *PS* 40:539-43.

Recommended

- James C. Garand and Michael W. Giles. 2011. "Ranking Scholarly Publishers in Political Science: An Alternative Approach." *PS* 44:375-83.
- Michael C. Munger. 2010. "10 Tips on How to Write Less Badly." *CHE*. September 6. <http://chronicle.com/article/10-Tips-on-How-to-Write-Less/124268/>
- Charles T. Myers. 2004. "A Short Tour of BoPublishing for Political Scientists." *PS* 37:489-91.
- David Thunder. 2004. "Back to Basics: Twelve Rules for Writing a Publishable Article." *PS* 37:493-95.
- Donna Lee Van Cott. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles." *PS* 38:741-3.

Writing Well

October 22

Guest: Ryan Owens

Recommended

- O'Conner, Patricia T. 2010. *Woe Is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. Riverhead Trade.

The Dissertation

October 29

Guest: Jessica Weeks

Required

Gina Barreca. 2011. "6 Easy – and Not So Easy – Pieces of Advice for Grad Students." *CHE*. May 28. <<http://chronicle.com/blogs/brainstorm/6-easy-and-not-so-easy-pieces-of-advice-for-grad-students/33730>>

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

Peter A. Hall. 1990. "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics." *PS* 23:596-8.

Gary King. 2009. "Dissertation Advice."

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.)

Becoming a Teacher

November 5

Guest: Melanie Manion

Required

Lawrence Baum. 2002. "Enthusiasm in Teaching." *PS* 35:87-90.

Robert Boice. 1991. "Quick Starters: New Faculty Who Succeed." *New Directions for Teaching and Learning* 48: 111-21.

Edward M. Bumila. 2010. "Graduate Students as Independent Instructors: Seven Things to Know about Teaching Your Own Course while in Graduate School." *PS* 44: 557-60.

Recommended

Arthur P. Mattuck. 2009. *The Torch or the Firehose: A Guide to Section Teaching*. <<http://ocw.mit.edu/resources/res-18-004-the-torch-or-the-firehose-a-guide-to-section-teaching-spring-2009/online-publication/tfh.pdf>>

Teaching and Learning Excellence at UW. <https://tle.wisc.edu>

Finding Financial Support

November 12

Guest: Aili Tripp

Required

Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon. 1995. "The Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions." <http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new_publication_3/{7a9cb4f4-815f-de11-bd80-001cc477ec70}.pdf>

Recommended

Micah Altman. 2009. "Funding, Funding." *PS* 42:521-6.

Russell Dalton and Randolph Silversen. 1998. "Gee! I've Never Spent 5.5 Million Before: The Six Fallacies of NSF Proposal Writing." *PS* 31:74-6.

UW Research & Sponsored Programs web site. <http://www.rsp.wisc.edu/>
“Dissertation Proposal Resources.” <http://iis.berkeley.edu/DissPropWorkshop>

Professional Ethics are Important

November 19

Guest: Donald Downs

Required

APSA. “A Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science.” 3rd edition. <<http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/ethicsguideweb.pdf>>

Kanchan Chandra et al. 2008. “Report of ASPA Working Group on Collaboration.” <<http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/CollaborationReport08-09-06.pdf>>

Jennifer Couzin. 2006. “Scientific Misconduct: Truth and Consequences.” *Science* 313:1222-26.

Mitchell A. Seligson. 2008. “Human Subjects Protection and Large-N Research: When Exempt is Non-Exempt and Research is Non-Research.” *PS* 41:477-82.

UW-Madison SBS Human Research Protection Program: Guidance. <http://www.grad.wisc.edu/hrpp/10046.htm>

Recommended

Steven M. Cahn. 1993. *Saints and Scamps: Ethics in Academia*. Revised ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Knut Fylkesnes and Torgeir Knag Fylkesnes. 2003. “Informed Consent as Part and Parcel of the Scientific Inquiry.” *Lancet* 361:2171. June 28.

John Ziman. 1998. “Why Must Scientists Become More Ethically Sensitive Than They Used To Be?” *Science* 282:1813.

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

No Class for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26

Peeking Ahead to the Job Market (and Tenure)

December 3

Guest: Yoshiko Herrera

Required

CVs of recent successful ABD candidates, to be provided.

Recommended

Daniel S. Hamermesh. 2011. “10 Tips for Junior Faculty.” *Insider Higher Ed*. May 25. http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2011/05/25/10_tips_for_junior_faculty_members

William J. Miller and Bobbi Gentry. 2011. “Navigating the Academic Job Market in Treacherous Times.” *PS* 44:578-82.

Evelyn M. Simien. 2002. “On the Market: Strategies for the Successful Job Candidate.” *PS* 35:581-3.

Jon B. Gould and Scott Keeter. 2004. "No Second Chance at Making a Good First Impression: Peril and Possibility in the Campus Visit." *PS* 36:792-94.

Jason Stone. "Becoming a More Productive Researcher." *CHE*. February 17, 2005. <<http://chronicle.com/article/Becoming-a-More-Productive/45106>>

A.Wuffle. 2006. "Uncle Wuffle's Advice on Job Talks." *PS* 39:883-6.

Life of the Scholar

December 10

Guest: Nadav Shelef

Required

Martha Ackelsberg et al. 2004. "Remembering the 'Life' in Academic Life: Finding a Balance between Work and Personal Responsibilities in the Academy." *PS* 34:879-83.

Elizabeth A. Bennion. 2004. "The Importance of Peer Mentoring for Facilitating Professional and Personal Development." *PS* 34:111-13.

Miriam Erez. 1996. "Rhythms of an Academic's Life: Crossing Cultural Borders." In P. J. Frost and S. Taylor, eds., *Rhythms of Academic Life*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage. p. 19-29.

Theodore Lowi. 2004. "Memo to the APSA Task Force on Mentoring." *PS* 34:325-6.

Recommended

Kristen Monroe et al. 2008. "Gender Equality in Academia: Bad News from the Trenches, and Some Possible Solutions." *Perspectives on Politics* 6:215-33.

American Political Science Association. 2004. "Women's Advancement in Political Science: A Report of the APSA Workshop on the Advancement of Women in Academic Political Science in the United States." p. iii-vi, 1-13.

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