

**POLI 7000:
Professional Development Seminar**

Fall 2002

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Introduction

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview to the political science profession and issues relating to professional success in the discipline. We will explore three major topics. First, we will focus considerable attention on the criteria for evaluation used in political science. What are the leading political science departments? Who are the leading scholars? What are the most important journals and scholarly presses? How do we know it when we see it? Second, we will discuss some of the practical issues relating to how one can succeed in the political science profession. How does one write a dissertation or thesis? How does one go about presenting a paper at a professional conference? How does one submit a paper to a scholarly journal? How does one publish a book? How does one go about obtaining employment as a political scientist? Finally, we will discuss the careers of successful political scientists. During the course of the semester some of our most successful professors in the Department of Political Science will make a presentation to the class, describing their intellectual history and their path to success as scholars and teachers.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

This class is offered on a pass-fail basis. Each student will be evaluated on the basis class attendance, participation, and preparedness, as well as two brief (3-5 page) writing assignments.

General class participation	50%
Writing assignments (2)	50%
Total	100%

1. Class participation and preparedness are major components of evaluation in graduate seminars. Each student will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of *informed* participation and contribution to seminar discussion. Specifically, each student is expected to have read and reflected upon all assigned readings before class, and should be prepared to discuss the reading assignments during the seminar meeting. Class attendance is also required; students will receive a 0 for class participation on days in which they are absent without an acceptable excuse.
2. Each student will be asked to complete two brief writing assignments on topics relating to the political science profession. Additional information about these assignments will be made available during the semester.

Readings

There are no required books for the seminar. However, in most week students will be given a small set of readings to be read for the seminar. Assigned readings are found in the accompanying course outline. Required readings are denoted with an asterisk (*). Other readings may be read based on your own interests and inclinations. Readings will be made available to students, either electronically (as .pdf files) or as a hard copy weekly packet of materials that will be placed on file and made available to students so that arrangements can be made for photocopying.

Schedule

Please note that the following schedule is tentative. It may be necessary to shuffle some of these topics during the semester to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers. I will keep you informed of schedule changes.

August	27	Introductory meeting
September	3	Political scientists: Who are we?
	10	Evaluating quality and stature of political science departments
	17	Evaluating quality and stature of political science departments (continued)
	24	Guest speaker
October	1	Evaluating political scientists: Who are the leading scholars?
	8	Guest speaker
	15	Evaluating scholarly media (journals and book publishers)
	22	Evaluating scholarly media (journals and book publishers) (continued)
	29	Employment issues: Trends and prospects
November	5	Presenting papers at professional conferences
	12	Submitting papers to scholarly journals
	19	Guest speaker
	26	Writing a dissertation or thesis
December	3	Publishing a book

Membership in the APSA

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is the national professional organization representing political scientists in the United States. Political scientists who are active in the profession are expected to be members of the APSA. For students, membership dues are quite reasonable (\$35). Members receive the *American Political Science Review*, the official scholarly journal of the APSA, as well as *PS: Political Science and Politics*, a journal that discusses people, events, and activities in the profession. Although membership in the APSA is not a requirement of this course, students are encouraged in the strongest terms to become members of the organization representing their profession.

Course Outline

A. Introductory Meeting (August 27)

- * Cohen, "Surviving the Ph.D.: Hints for Navigating the Sometimes Stormy Seas of Graduate Education in Political Science," *PS* (September 2001).

B. Political Scientists: Who Are We? (September 3)

Somit and Tanenhaus, *American Political Science: A Profile of the Discipline*.

- * Freeman, "The Making of a Discipline," in Crotty (ed.), *Political Science: Looking to the Future*, Volume One.

Naomi Lynn, "Self Portrait: Profile of Political Scientists," in Finifter (ed.), *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*.

- * Ards and Woodard, "African Americans in the Political Science Profession," *PS* (June 1992: 252-59).

Geiger and Travis, "The Status of African American Faculty in Political Science Departments in the Southern Region," *PS* (June 1997: 219-21).

- * Committee on the Status of Women, "Improving the Status of Women in Political Science: A Report With Recommendations," *PS* (September 1992: 547-54).

Stetson, Wall, Blair, Guy, Fairchild, Canon, and Brown, "The Status of Women in Ph.D. Departments," *PS* (March 1990: 82-86).

King, Bruce, and Gilligan, "The Science of Political Science Graduate Admissions," *PS* (December 1993: 772-78).

Hesli and Burrell, "Faculty Rank Among Political Scientists and Reports on the Academic Environment: The Differential Impact of Gender on Observed Patterns," *PS* (March 1995: 101-11).

Hopkins, "Observations on Gender, Political Science, and the Academy," *JOP* (August 1993: 561-68).

- * Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, "The Status of Women in Political Science: Female Participation in the Professorate and the Study of Women and Politics in the Discipline," *PS* (June 2001: 319-26).

C. Evaluating Quality and Stature of Political Science Departments (September 10, September 17)

- Robey, "Political Science Departments: Reputations vs. Productivity." *PS* (Spring 1979: 202-09).
- McCormick and Bernick, "Graduate Training and Productivity: A Look at Who Publishes," *JOP* (February 1982: 212-27).
- Rudder, "The Quality of Graduate Education in Political Science: A Report on the New Rankings," *PS* (Winter 1983: 48-53).
- Welch and Hibbing, "What Do the New Ratings of Political Science Departments Measure?" *PS* (Summer 1983: 532-40).
- Klingemann, "Ranking the Graduate Departments in the 1980s: Toward Objective Indicators," *PS* (1986: 651-61).
- * Teske, "Rankings of Political Science Departments Based on Publications in the *APSR*, *JOP*, and *AJPS*, 1986-1995," unpublished report.
 - * "National Research Council Relative Rankings for Research-Doctorate Programs in Political Science," *PS* (June 1996: 144-48).
 - * "U.S. News and World Report Ranking of Graduate Political Science Departments," *PS* (June 1996: 148).
 - * Katz and Eagles, "Ranking Political Science Programs: A View from the Lower Half," *PS* (June 1996: 149-54).
 - * Jackman and Siverson, "Rating the Rating: An Analysis of the National Research Council's Appraisal of Political Science Ph.D. Programs," *PS* (June 1996: 155-60).
 - * Lowry and Silver, "A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats: Political Science Department Reputation and the Reputation of the University," *PS* (June 1996: 161-67).
 - * Miller, Tien, and Peebler, "Department Rankings: An Alternative Approach," *PS* (December 1996: 704-17).
 - * Ballard and Mitchell, "The Good, the Better, and the Best in Political Science," *PS* (December 1998: 826-28).
 - * Garand and Graddy, "Ranking Political Science Departments: Do Publications Matter?" *PS* (March 1999: 113-16).
 - * McCormick and Rice, "Graduate Training and Research Productivity in the 1990s: A Look at Who Publishes," *PS* (September 2001: 675-80).
- Dometrius, Hood, Shirkey, and Kidd, "Bugs in the NRC's Doctoral Program Evaluation Data: From Mites to Hissing Cockroaches," *PS* (December 1998: 829-35).

D. Evaluating Political Scientists: Who are the Leading Scholars in Political Science (October 1)

- * Robey, "Reputations vs. Citations: Who are the Top Scholars in Political Science?" *PS* (Spring 1982: 199-200).
- * Meier and Stewart, "Rotisserie Political Science," *PS* (September 1992: 565-68).
- * Miller, Tien, and Peebler, "The American Political Science Review Hall of Fame: Assessments and Implications for an Evolving Discipline," *PS* (March 1996: 73-83).

E. Scholarly Media in Political Science (October 15, October 22)

- Giles and Wright, "Political Scientists' Evaluations of Sixty-Three Journals," *PS* (Summer 1975: 254-57).
- Christenson and Sigelman, "Accrediting Knowledge: Journal Stature and Citation Impact in Social Science," *SSQ* (1985: 964-75).
- Sigelman and Scioli, "Retreading Familiar Terrain: Bias, Peer Review, and the NSF Political Science Program," *PS* (Winter 1987: 62-69).
- Lester, "Evaluating the Evaluators: Accrediting Knowledge and the Ranking of Political Science Journals," *PS* (September 1990: 445-47).
- * Giles, Mizell, and Paterson, "Political Scientists' Journal Evaluation Revisited," *PS* (September 1989: 613-17).
 - * Garand, "An Alternative Interpretation of Recent Political Science Journal Evaluations," *PS* (September 1990: 448-51).
 - * Crewe and Norris, "British and American Journal Evaluation: Divergence or Convergence," *PS* (September 1991: 524-30).
 - * Garand and Giles, "Journals in the Discipline: A Report on a New Survey of Political Scientists," submitted for publication to *PS: Political Science and Politics*.
- Lewis-Beck and Levy, "Correlates of Publication Success: Some *AJPS* Results," *PS* (September 1993: 558-61).
- Young, "An Assessment of Articles Published by Women in 15 Top Political Science Journals," *PS* (September 1995: 525-33).
- * Giles, "From Gutenberg to Gigabytes: Scholarly Communication in the Age of Cyberspace," *JOP* (August 1996: 613-26).
- Finifter, "Report of the Editor of the *American Political Science Review*, 1995-96," *PS* (December 1996: 758-68).
- * Goodson, Dillman, and Hira, "Ranking the Presses: Political Scientists Evaluations of Publisher Quality," *PS* (June 1999: 257-62).

F. Employment Issues: Trends and Prospects (October 29)

- Davis, "The Job Market for Political Scientists in 1998: The Good News and the Bad News," *PS* (September 2000: 675-77).
- * Davis, "The Job Market and Placement, 1999-2001," *PS* (September 2002: 605-09).
 - * Drezner, "So You Want to Get a Tenure-Track Job," *PS* (September 1998: 609-14).
 - * Carter and Scott, "Navigating the Academic Job Market Minefield," *PS* (September 1998: 615-22).
- Mann, "Finding Jobs in Political Science: 1996 Placement Candidates Report on Their Employment Search and Outcomes," *PS* (September 1998: 591-608)
- * Matthews, "The Changing Structure of the Academic Job Market," *PS* (June 2000: 237-42).
- Mann, "Political Science Departments Report Declines in Enrollments and Majors in Recent Years," *PS* (September 1996: 527-32).
- * Furlong and Furlong, "Netting the Big One: Things Candidates (and Departments) Ought to Know," *PS* (March 1994: 91-97).
 - * Anognoson, "Netting the Big One: Some Things Candidates (and Departments) Ought to Know . . . From the Hiring Department's Perspective," *PS* (September 1994: 558-62).
- Schlozman, "External Reviews in Tenure and Promotions Decisions: How Does the Process Work? How Should It?" *PS* (September 1998: 623-30).
- Anonymous and Anonymous, "Tenure in a Chilly Climate," *PS* (March 1999: 91-99).
- Lenz, "The New 'U'," *PS* (March 1997: 11-14).
- Pilant and Ellison, "Two Perspectives on Tenure," *PS* (March 1997: 14-17).
- Turner, "Tenure and the Constitution of the University," *PS* (March 1997: 17-20).
- Whicker, "An Economic Perspective of Academic Tenure," *PS* (March 1997: 21-25).
- Simien, "On the Market: Strategies for a Successful Job Candidate," *PS* (September 2002

G. Presenting papers at professional conferences (November 5)

H. Submitting papers to scholarly journals (November 12)

APSR Style Manual.

Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, *Research Methods in the Social Sciences* (5th edition), Appendix B ("Writing Research Papers").

Wolfinger, "Tips for Writing Papers," *PS* (March 1993: 87-88).

Most and Poe, "Getting Started on Political Research," *PS* (December 1990: 592-96).

I. Writing a dissertation or thesis (November 26)

* Useem, "Choosing a Dissertation Topic," *PS* (June 1997: 213-16).

* "Writing a Dissertation: Advice from Five Award Winners," *PS* (1986: 61-70).

Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS* (December 1990: 592-96).

* May, "Constructing the Prospectus," *PS* (December 2001: 843-44).

* Farrar-Myers, "The 'Rights' of Passage," *PS* (December 2001: 845-46).

* Anderson, "Faculty Roles and Student Projects," *PS* (December 2001: 847-48).

* Fox, "Developing the Dissertation Prospectus," *PS* (December 2001: 849-50).

* Benesh, "The Key to a Successful Prospectus: Consult an Advisor, Early and Often," *PS* (December 2001: 853-54).

J. Lagniappe

"Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science," *PS* (June 1992: 238-52)

Harman, "High Anxiety: Some Lessons for Graduate Students Entering the Profession," *PS* (September 1991: 535-39).

A Wuffle, "Uncle Wuffle's Advice to the Assistant Professor," *PS* (March 1993: 89-90).