GRSC 7001: Being a Political Scientist/GradFIRST
Fall 2023

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Course Webpage: eLC

Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 11:10AM-12:25PM
Class Location: 117 International Affairs Building (202 Herty Drive)

Goal of the Course: The goal of this course is to introduce new students in the Political Science and International Affairs doctoral program to the discipline of political science and to graduate school at the University of Georgia. We will discuss professional responsibilities and etiquette, dominant approaches to research, conflict and well-being, scholarly ethics, strategies and resources for teaching, issues of diversity and inclusion, comprehensive exams, the dissertation process, publishing and grant-seeking, employment upon graduation, and more. This course will satisfy your GradFIRST requirement.

Required Reading:

Carsey, Thomas M., and Dawn L. Carsey. 2020. *Tom's Comments: Advice About Graduate School, Finding a Job, Reaching Tenure in Political Science and Other Social Sciences, and All of the Steps in Between.* https://doi.org/10.17615/a4ke-jf78

Students are required to do the readings for each class period ahead of time.

Other Requirements:

Participation: You will not pass this class if you do not participate, and participation involves more than attending class. When you speak up in class, you enhance the experience of other students in the course. Asking questions can lead to valuable conversations that would not have come about otherwise. Missing classes without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency and/or not completing the assignments will harm your participation grade.

CV: Students are required to create a curriculum vitae. This must be posted as a PDF on a publicly viewable website before the last day of class. You may choose to create your own academic website, which is something you will need to do during graduate school anyway, or you may post your CV on your SPIA profile page or at another academic repository.

Attendance at Research Talks: Students are required to attend at least three research presentations given in SPIA during the semester. These can take place in any SPIA department or at the School level but must involve the speaker presenting their own research (whether

single- or coauthored). The presentation may be part of a speaker or brownbag series, a talk given by a SPIA faculty member or graduate student, a job talk, or a practice job talk by a SPIA graduate student. Within a week from your attendance of each presentation, you should upload to eLC a 1-3 page PDF memo that describes: (1) the speaker, the date of the presentation, and the venue; (2) the theory being tested and the research methods used; (3) the empirical findings; and (4) the strengths and weaknesses of the speaker's presentation (visuals, oral communication, and responses to questions).

Grades: This course is graded on an A-F scale. Students' participation in class and completion of the assignments will jointly determine their grade in the course. The grade is determined by participation (1/3), the CV assignment (1/3), and the research talk assignments (1/3).

Mental Health and Wellness Resources: If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) or crisis support (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Academic Integrity: The academic honesty policy of the university is supplemented (not replaced) by an Honor Code which was adopted by the Student Government Association and approved by the University Council May 1, 1997, and provides: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." All students agree to abide by this code by signing the UGA Admissions Application.

Readings and Course Schedule: *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

August 22: **Welcome**
- Introductions
- Understanding UGA resources for graduate students

August 29: What is Political Science?
- Political science is a **science**.
- Short history of the discipline
- Subfield divisions
- Atypical organization of political science at UGA/history of SPIA

September 5: **Being a Professional**
- This is a job.
- Etiquette in class and professional communication

- Social media
- Creating a website
- Creating a CV (yours needs to be made publicly available before the final day of class)
- Attending research presentations and workshops

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Section 14.3.5

September 12: **Why Do We Have to Learn All This Math and Statistics?**
- Why is everyone always talking about endogeneity, and what is it?
  - What can I do to avoid an "endogeneity problem"?
- Common quantitative research methods
- The value of quantification
- Problems with quantification
- Qualitative research

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Sections 7.1-7.3 and 7.4.1

September 19: Conflicts, Well-Being, Work-Life Balance, and Mentorship
- Managing conflicts and grievances
- Mental health and well-being
- Time management and balancing priorities
- Finding and working with mentors

September 26: Research Ethics
- Objectivity
- Pre-registration
- Transparency and replication
- Human subjects
- The ethics approval process

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Section 7.4.3

October 3: Teaching
- Who's gonna teach me how to teach?
- Teaching resources at UGA

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Chapter 13

October 10: **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Political Science**
- DEI in research
- DEI and pedagogy
- DEI on campus

October 17: Comprehensive Exams and the Dissertation
- How grades in graduate classes signal your preparation for comps and the dissertation
- What are comprehensive exams and how do they work?

- Details on the dissertation process

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Chapter 4

October 24: No Class

October 31: Conferences and Workshops
- What are the main conferences in political science?
- How do conferences work?
- At what point should I submit my research to conferences?
- What are workshops?

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Chapter 10

November 7: Academic Journals, Books, and Grants
- What are the top academic journals in political science?
- How does the journal submission process work?
- What are the top academic presses in political science?
- How does the book submission process work?
- What are the main sources for external grants in political science?
- How does the grant submission process work?

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Chapters 11 and 12

November 14: The Job Market
- What should I do in graduate school to increase my chances of landing a job?
- How do I apply for academic jobs?
- What is an academic job interview like?
- Tenure track positions vs. non-tenure track positions
- Post-docs and visiting faculty positions
- Research universities vs. liberal arts colleges
- Nonacademic jobs for people with PhDs in political science

Reading: Carsey and Carsey, Chapter 14

November 21: Should Political Science Be Public Facing?
- Using your research to make policy recommendations
- Media and social media
- Activism
- Consulting

November 28: CV Review and Time for Remaining Discussion
- We will review all students' CVs online and provide suggestions for improvement.