

## **POLI 7000: Professional Development**

**12:00 – 12:50pm, Thursdays**

**Location: 234 Stubbs**

**Professor: Dr. Yann Kerevel**

**Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm, or by appt.**

**Office: 237 Stubbs Hall**

**Email: ykerev1@lsu.edu**

### **Course overview:**

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of the political science profession and issues relating to professional success in the discipline. We will explore several major topics. First, we will focus on how to succeed in graduate school, including how to pick an adviser, how to prepare for comprehensive exams, and how to write a dissertation. Second, we will focus on academic publishing and the peer review process. Finally, we will focus on the professional life of a political scientist, including networking, conferences, the job market, and teaching your first class.

### **Required Materials:**

All readings will be provided in PDF format on Moodle.

### **Attendance:**

I expect students to attend all classes as part of the normal learning process. This class is pass-fail and in order to pass, you must attend all sessions and complete the required readings for each week.

### **Students requiring special accommodation:**

Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225)578-5919.

### **Lectures and Readings:**

All assigned readings **MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS.**

#### **Week 1 (8/25): Introductions**

#### **Week 2 (9/1): Picking an Adviser, Forming a Committee**

- Hatemi and McDermott, 2022, "Strategies for Picking the Right Adviser"

#### **Week 3 (9/8): What are Comprehensive Exams?**

**Week 4 (9/15): Research Outlets: Journals, Books, Book Chapters**

- Garand et al. 2009, "Political Science Journals in Comparative Perspective"
- Leal, 2013, "Reassessing the Role of Edited Volumes in the Social Sciences"
- Garand, J.C. and Giles, M.W., 2011. Ranking scholarly publishers in political science: An alternative approach. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 44(2), pp.375-383.

**Week 5 (9/22): Publishing**

- Walker, 2019, "Rejection of a Manuscript and Career Resilience"
- Rich, 2013, "Publishing as a Graduate Student"
- Miller et al. 2013, "How to be a Peer Reviewer"
- Jensenius et al, 2018, "The Benefits and Pitfalls of Google Scholar"

**Week 6 (9/29): The Peer Review Process**

- Read examples of a conference paper, 1<sup>st</sup> submission, peer reviews and revised manuscript

**Week 7 (10/6): The Dissertation Prospectus**

- Van Evera, 1997, "The Dissertation Proposal"
- PS 2001 Symposium on the Dissertation Prospectus
- Read an example of a prospectus in your preferred subfield

**Week 8 (10/13): no class, fall break****Week 9 (10/20): The Dissertation**

- Read finished dissertation in your preferred subfield

**Week 10 (10/27): Conferences and Networking**

- Gupta and Waismel-Manor, 2006, "Network in Progress: A Conference Primer for Graduate Students"
- Kim et al, 2022, "Networking 101 for Graduate Students"
- Hammou and Meehan 2022, "To Twitter or Not to Twitter"

**Week 11 (11/3): The Academic Job Market, Part 1**

- APSA eJobs Report & Graduate Placement Report

**Week 12 (11/10): The Academic Job Market, Part 2**

- Finnell and Middlewood, 2022, "Navigating the Job Market Without a "Top Tier" PhD"
- Kim 2020, "The Academic Job Market"

**Week 13 (11/17): Alternative Careers**

- Benz, 2016, "Reflect, Then Prepare for a Career Outside the Academy"
- Clark, 2016, "I Don't Want to be a Professor"
- Kosar, 2016, "Preparing for Unforeseen Opportunities Outside Academia"
- Lau and Yohai, 2016, "Using Quantitative Methods in Industry"

**Week 14 (11/24): no class, Thanksgiving**

**Week 15 (12/1): Teaching**

- Boyes et al., 2022, “Preparing for the First Solo Teaching Experience”
- Nemerever and Rubalcava, 2022 “Serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant: Tips and Strategies”

**Additional Recommended Readings**

- Almasri et al., 2022 “Mental Health and the PhD: Insights and Implications for Political Science”
- Alvarez and Heuberger, 2021, “How (Not) to Reproduce: Practical Considerations to Improve Research Transparency in Political Science”
- Bellemare, M.F., 2022. *Doing Economics: What You Should Have Learned in Grad School—But Didn’t*. MIT Press.
- Chavez, and Mitchell, 2020, “Exploring Bias in Student Evaluations: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity”
- Cox 2020, “Academic Freedom and Social Media”
- Esarey and Wood, 2018, “Blogs, Online Seminars, and Social Media as Tools of Scholarship in Political Science”
- Farris et al, 2022, “Wow, I Didn’t Know These Options Existed: Understanding Tenure-Track Start-Up Packages.”
- Hassner, “Trial by Fire: Surviving the Job Talk Q&A,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2008: 803-08).
- Mitchell and Martin, 2018, “Gender Bias in Student Evaluations”
- Pole and Parashar, 2020, “Am I Pretty? 10 Tips for Designing Visually Appealing Slideware Presentations”
- PS Symposium, 2014, “Fieldwork in Political Science: Encountering Challenges and Crafting Solutions”
- Torres Beltran et al, 2022, “Show Me the Money: Information, Strategies, and Guidelines for Applying to External Grants and Fellowships in Graduate School”
- Windsor and Kronsted, 2021, “Grant Writing and the Hidden Curriculum: Mentoring and Collaborating Across Disciplines”