Political Science 7000: Professional Development

Fall 2009
Class Meeting: Friday 1:40-4:30
Class Location: 218 Stubbs
Instructor: David Sobek
Office Hours: Monday 9:30-10:30
Wednesday 9:00-10:00

E-mail: dsobek@lsu.edu
Office Location: 211 Stubbs
Office Number: 578-2134

Summary: This course is meant to be an introduction to political science as a profession. There is a stark difference between the study political science as an undergraduate as opposed to a graduate student. In addition, there is an equally large difference between being a graduate student and a professor. This course is designed to both highlight these differences and elucidate a way to move from an undergraduate to graduate student to professor.

This course is pass/fail and will be graded based almost entirely by your participation in the course activities. It is assumed that any of the readings assigned in the course will be read before class and you will be prepared to discuss the relevant topics. In addition, you will occasionally be required to attend events outside of the course and these are considered just as important to your grade as class attendance.

Brown Bag: You are encouraged to attend all of the departmental brown bags on Friday (around lunch time). These are research talks given by faculty and students and are a great way to see how research is done in political science. In order to pass the course, you must attend at least three (3) brown bags during the course of the semester.
Class Schedule

Section I: Political Science: The Profession

August 28th: Introduction

September 4th: What is Political Science?
- Read three articles of your choice from the American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, or American Journal of Political Science

September 11th: Being a Graduate Student


September 18th: The Subfields: American Politics
- Guest Speaker:

September 25th: The Subfields: Political Theory
- Guest Speaker:

October 2nd: Fall Break- No Class

October 9th: The Subfields: Political Communication
- Attend Brown Bag

October 16th: The Subfields: Comparative Politics
- Guest Speaker:

October 23rd: The Subfields: International Relations
- Guest Speaker:

Section II: Getting Your PhD
October 30th: Publishing as a Graduate Student


November 6th: Becoming ABD
- Guest Speaker:

November 13th: Your Dissertation
- Guest Speaker:

Section III: Teaching Political Science

November 20th: The Basics of Teaching


November 27th: Thanksgiving Break- No Class

December 4th: Teaching Your First Class
- Guest speaker: