POLI 7000:
Professional Development Seminar

Spring 2016

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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 two 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?

Course Requirements and Evaluation

This class is offered on a pass-fail basis. 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 required.

Readings

There are no required books for the seminar. However, in most weeks 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 electronically (as .pdf files) on the course Moodle page.

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.

January	15	Introductory meeting
	22	Political scientists: Who are we?
	29	Evaluating quality and stature of political science departments
February	5	Evaluating quality and stature of political science departments (continued)
	12	Evaluating political scientists: Who are the leading scholars?
	19	Teaching political science (Guest lecturer: Cecil Eubanks)
	26	Evaluating scholarly media (journals and book publishers)
March	4	Evaluating scholarly media (journals and book publishers) (continued)
	11	Employment issues: Trends and prospects
	18	No class meeting
	25	Spring Break (no class meeting)
April	1	Presenting papers at professional conferences
	8	MPSA (no class meeting)
	15	Submitting papers to scholarly journals
	22	A career in political science
	29	Writing a dissertation or thesis

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 ($52). Members receive online access to 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, and *Perspectives on Politics*, another APSA journal. Although membership in the APSA is not a requirement of this course, students are encouraged to become members of the organization representing their profession.

You can join the APSA at the following web site:

http://www.apsanet.org/MEMBERSHIP/Membership-Rates

About the Instructor

James C. Garand (Ph.D., University of Kentucky, 1984) is the Emogene Pliner Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Louisiana State University.

Professor Garand has teaching and research interests in the fields of legislative politics, electoral politics, public opinion, public policy, state politics, racial and ethnic politics, domestic political economy, and research methodology and statistics. His research on a wide range of topics in American politics has been published in numerous journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Western Political Quarterly*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science and Politics, American Politics Research*, *American Politics Quarterly*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *Public Choice*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Electoral Studies*, among others. His coedited book, *Before the Vote: Forecasting American National Elections*, was published by Sage Publications in 2000. His current research agenda includes numerous projects relating to the study of American politics.

Professor Garand received the 2006 LSU Distinguished Research Master Award in recognition of outstanding faculty accomplishments in research and scholarship. In 2009 he was recognized as an LSU "Rainmaker," an award given by the LSU Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) for national and international recognition "for innovative research and creative scholarship." He served as President of the Southern Political Science Association in 2004, and he is also former president of the State Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. He served as Vice-President and Program Chair in 2001 for the Southern Political Science Association. Professor Garand is former editor of the *American Politics Quarterly*, one of the leading subfield journals in American politics. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *American Politics Research*, *Journal of Political Marketing*, and *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*, and he is a former member of the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *State Politics and Policy*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly.* He also serves as a member of the International Advisory Board of the *Online Portal for Social Science Education in Methodology* (OPOSSEM).

Professor Garand has received numerous faculty awards. In 1997 Professor Garand received the LSU Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award in recognition of sustained excellence in teaching, research, and service. In 2012 he received the Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award recognizing excellence in teaching in the LSU Honors College. In 2001 he received the LSU Foundation Distinguished Faculty Award in recognition of his excellence in graduate teaching, and he is the 1990 recipient of the university-wide Student Government Association Teaching Excellence Award for undergraduate teaching. He is also a recipient of the Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society certificate of recognition for superior instruction of freshman students during the Fall 2000 semester.

Course Outline

A. Introductory Meeting (January 15)

*   Murdie, "An Open Letter from a New DGS," unpublished.

*   Cohen, "Surviving the Ph.D.: Hints for Navigating the Sometimes Stormy Seas of Graduate Education in Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 2002: 585-88).

*   Hesli, Fink, and Duffy, "Mentoring in a Positive Graduate Student Experience: Survey Results from the Midwest Region, Part I," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2003: 457-60).

*   Hesli, Fink, and Duffy, "Mentoring in a Positive Graduate Student Experience: Survey Results from the Midwest Region, Part II," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2003: 801-04).

B. Political Scientists: Who Are We? (January 22)

American Political Science Association, *Appendices: Tables of Membership and Governance Data*.

American Political Science Association, *Political Science Faculty by Sex, Ethnicity, and Status, 1981-2000*, 2004 report.

*   National Science Foundation, "Doctorates Awarded in Political Science, 1966-2008," unpublished graph.

*   National Science Foundation, "Bachelor's Degrees Awarded in Political Science, 1966-2008," unpublished graph.

*   National Science Foundation, "Master's Degrees Awarded in Political Science, 1966-2008," unpublished graph.

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*.

Grant, "What Divides Us? The Image and Organization of Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2005: 379-86).

Maranto and Woessner, "Diversifying the Academy: How Conservative Academics Can Thrive in Liberal Academia," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2012: 469-74).

B. Political Scientists: Who Are We? (January 22) (continued)

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

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

Monforti and Michelson, "Diagnosing the Leaky Pipeline: Continuing Barriers to the Retention of Latinas and Latinos in Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (January 2008: 161-66).

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

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

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: Political Science and Politics* (June 2001: 319-26).

APSA Workshop on the Advancement of Women in Academic Political Science in the United States, "Women's Advancement in Political Science," APSA report, 2005.

Mitchell and Hesli, "Women Don't Ask? Women Don't Say No? Bargaining and Service in the Political Science Profession," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2013: 355-69).

Monroe and Chiu, "Gender Equality in the Academy: The Pipeline Problem," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2010: 303-08).

Navkov and Barclay, "Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and the Transgendered in Political Science: Report on a Discipline-Wide Survey," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (January 2010: 95-106).

C. Evaluating Quality and Stature of Political Science Departments I (January 29)

Robey, "Political Science Departments: Reputations vs. Productivity." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (Spring 1979: 202-09).

McCormick and Bernick, "Graduate Training and Productivity: A Look at Who Publishes," *Journal of Politics* (February 1982: 212-27).

Rudder, "The Quality of Graduate Education in Political Science: A Report on the New Rankings," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (Winter 1983: 48-53).

C.   Evaluating Quality and Stature of Political Science Departments I (January 29) (continued)

      Welch and Hibbing, "What Do the New Ratings of Political Science Departments Measure?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (Summer 1983: 532-40).

      Klingemann, "Ranking the Graduate Departments in the 1980s: Toward Objective Indicators," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (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: Political Science and Politics* (June 1996: 144-48).

*   National Research Council, "Summary of National Research Council rankings of Research-Doctorate Programs in Political Science," 2010.

*   U.S. News and World Report, "Best Graduate Schools: Political Science," http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-humanities-schools/political-science-rankings.

*   Ballard and Mitchell, "The Good, the Better, and the Best in Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (December 1998: 826-28).

D.   Evaluating Quality and Stature of Political Science Departments II (February 5)

      Katz and Eagles, "Ranking Political Science Programs: A View from the Lower Half," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (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: Political Science and Politics* (June 1996: 155-60).

      Lowry and Silver, "A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats: Political Science Department Reputation and the Reputation of the University," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (June 1996: 161-67).

      Miller, Tien, and Peebler, "Department Rankings: An Alternative Approach," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (December 1996: 704-17).

*   Garand and Graddy, "Ranking Political Science Departments: Do Publications Matter?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (March 1999: 113-16).

*   McCormick and Rice, "Graduate Training and Research Productivity in the 1990s: A Look at Who Publishes," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 2001: 675-80).

      Dometrius, Hood, Shirkey, and Kidd, "Bugs in the NRC's Doctoral Program Evaluation Data: From Mites to Hissing Cockroaches," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (December 1998: 829-35).

D.   Evaluating Quality and Stature of Political Science Departments II (February 5) (continued)

  *   Hix, "The Global Ranking of Political Science Departments," *Political Studies Review* (2004: 293-313).

      Munck and Snyder, "Who Publishes in Comparative Politics?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2007: 339-46).

  *   Schmidt and Chingos, "Ranking Doctoral Programs by Placement: A New Method," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2007: 523-29).

      Masuoka, Grofman, and Feld, "Ranking Departments: A Comparison of Alternative Approaches," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2007: 531-37).

      Collins, Cooper, and Knotts, "Scholarly Productivity in Non-Ph.D. Departments," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2010: 509-14).

E.   Evaluating Political Scientists: Who are the Leading Scholars in Political Science (February 12)

      Robey, "Reputations vs. Citations: Who are the Top Scholars in Political Science?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (Spring 1982: 199-200).

  *   Meier and Stewart, "Rotisserie Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1992: 565-68).

  *   Miller, Tien, and Peebler, "The American Political Science Review Hall of Fame: Assessments and Implications for an Evolving Discipline," *PS: Political Science and Politics S* (March 1996: 73-83).

      Samuels, "The Modal Number of Citations to Political Science Articles Is Greater than Zero: Accounting for Citations in Articles and Books," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2011: 783-92).

  *   Masuoka, Grofman, and Feld, "The Political Science 400: A 20-Year Update," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2007: 133-45).

F.   Teaching political science (Guest lecture: Cecil Eubanks) (February 19)

      No assigned reading

G. Evaluating Scholarly Media in Political Science I (February 26)

Giles and Wright, "Political Scientists' Evaluations of Sixty-Three Journals," PS*: Political Science and Politics* (Summer 1975: 254-57).

Christenson and Sigelman, "Accrediting Knowledge: Journal Stature and Citation Impact in Social Science," *Social Science Quarterly* (1985: 964-75).

Sigelman and Scioli, "Retreading Familiar Terrain: Bias, Peer Review, and the NSF Political Science Program," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (Winter 1987: 62-69.

Lester, "Evaluating the Evaluators: Accrediting Knowledge and the Ranking of Political Science Journals," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1990: 445-47).

* Giles, Mizell, and Paterson, "Political Scientists' Journal Evaluation Revisited," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1989: 613-17).

* Garand, "An Alternative Interpretation of Recent Political Science Journal Evaluations," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1990: 448-51).

* Crewe and Norris, "British and American Journal Evaluation: Divergence or Convergence," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1991: 524-30).

* Garand and Giles, "Journals in the Discipline: A Report on a New Survey of Political Scientists," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2003: 293-308).

Lewis-Beck and Levy, "Correlates of Publication Success: Some *AJPS* Results," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1993: 558-61).

Young, "An Assessment of Articles Published by Women in 15 Top Political Science Journals," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 1995: 525-33).

H. Evaluating Scholarly Media in Political Science II (March 4)

Giles, "From Gutenberg to Gigabytes: Scholarly Communication in the Age of Cyberspace," *Journal of Politics* (August 1996: 613-26).

Garand, 2005 Presidential Address, Southern Political Science Association, "Integration and Fragmentation in Political Science: Exploring Patterns of Scholarly Communication in a Divided Discipline," *Journal of Politics* (November 2005: 979-1005).

*   Giles and Garand, "Ranking Political Science Journals: Reputational and Citational Approaches," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2007: 741-51).

*   Garand, Giles, Blais, and McLean, "Political Science Journals in Comparative Perspective: Evaluating Scholarly Journals in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2009: 695-717).

Garand, Giles, Blais, and McLean, "Supplement for Political Science Journals in Comparative Perspective: Evaluating Scholarly Journals in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom," *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

*   Goodson, Dillman, and Hira, "Ranking the Presses: Political Scientists Evaluations of Publisher Quality," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (June 1999: 257-62).

*   Garand and Giles, "Ranking Scholarly Publishers in Political Science: An Alternative Approach," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2011: 375-83).

Breuning and Sanders, "Gender and Journal Authorship in Eight Prestigious Political Science Journals," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2007: 347-51).

Evans and Moulder, "Reflecting on a Decade of Women's Publications in Four Top Political Science Journals," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2011: 793-98).

I.   Employment Issues: Trends and Prospects (March 11)

> Lopez, "Placement Report: Political Science Ph.D.s and ABDs on the Job Market in 2001-2002*," PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2003: 835-41).

> * Diascro, "The Job Market and Placement in Political Science in 2009–10," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2011: 597-603).

> APSA, "Snapshot: Three Years of Political Science Doctoral Student Placement," unpublished report.

> * APSA, "A Longitudinal Look at Political Science Job Postings in APSA e-Jobs, 2002-2013," unpublished report.

> * APSA, "A Longitudinal View of Political Science Doctoral Student Placement, 2009 – 2013," unpublished report.

> * APSA, "Six Years of Political Science Doctoral Student Placement, 2009- 2014," unpublished report.

> * Hoffman, "Half Full? A Look at the American Political Science Association's Data on Job Listings and Graduate Placement," https://medium.com/@amhst20/half-full-cee894c43827.

> Howard, "A Dozen Sentences That Should Appear In Your (Academic) Job Application Letter," unpublished memo.

> Gould and Keeter, "No Second Chance at Making a Good First Impression: Peril and Possibility in the Campus Visit," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2003: 791-94).

> Simien, "On the Market: Strategies for a Successful Job Candidate," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (September 2002).

> Matthews, "The Changing Structure of the Academic Job Market," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (June 2000: 237-42).

> * Wuffle, "Uncle Wuffle's Advice on Job Talks," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2006: 883-86).

> Hassner, "Trial by Fire: Surviving the Job Talk Q&A," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2008: 803-08).

> Hanley, "A Primer on Applying to the Liberal Arts College," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2008: 809-12).

> * Miller and Gentry, "Navigating the Academic Job Market in Treacherous Times," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2011: 578-82).

I.   Employment Issues: Trends and Prospects (continued))

>   Masuoka, Grofman, and Feld, "The Production and Placement of Political Science Ph.D.s, 1902–2000," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2007: 361-66).

>   Fowler, Grofman, and Feld, "Social Networks in Political Science: Hiring and Placement of Ph.D.s, 1960–2002," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2007: 729-39).

J.   Presenting papers at professional conferences (April 1)

>   *   Gupta and Waismel-Manor, "Network in Progress: A Conference Primer for Graduate Students," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2006: 485-90).

K.   Submitting papers to scholarly journals (April 15)

>   *   Ishiyama, "Report of the Editor of the *American Political Science Review*, 2013-2014," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2015: 396-99).

>   *   Thunder, "Back to Basics: Twelve Rules for Writing a Publishable Articles," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2004: 493-95).

>   *   King, "Publication, Publication," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (January 2006: 119-24).

>   *   Weeks, "Facing Failure: The Use (and Abuse) of Rejection in Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2006: 879-82).

>   Lee Sigelman, "Are Two (or Three or Four . . . or Nine) Heads Better than One? Collaboration, Multidisciplinarity, and Publishability," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2009: 507-12).

>   *   Yoder and Bramlett, "What Happens at the Journal Office Stays at the Journal Office: Assessing Journal Transparency and Record-Keeping Practices," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2011: 363-73).

>   Jordan and Hill, "Editors' Perceptions of Ethical and Managerial Problems in Political Science Journals," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2012: 724-27).

>   Miller, Pevehouse, Rogowski, Tingley, and Wilson, "How To Be a Peer Reviewer: A Guide for Recent and Soon-to-be PhDs," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (January 2013: 120-23).

>   *   Wilson, "Publishing (and the Seven Deadly Sins)," unpublished PowerPoint presentation, 2012.

>   Myers, "A Short Tour of Book Publishing for Political Scientists," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2004: 489-91).

L.   A career in political science (April 22)

   *   Hesli, DeLaat, Youde, Mendez, and Lee, "Success in Graduate School and After: Survey Results from the Midwest Region, Part III," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2006: 317-25).

       Hesli and Lee, "Faculty Research Productivity: Why Do Some of Our Colleagues Publish More than Others?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2011: 393-408).

   *   Hesli and Lee, "Job Satisfaction in Academia: Why Are Some Faculty Members Happier Than Others?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2013: 339-54).

   *   Rothgeb and Burger, "Tenure Standards in Political Science Departments: Results from a Survey of Department Chairs," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2009: 513-19).

       Weyland, "The Logic of the Tenure Decision: In Dubio Contra 'Reum'" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2011: 357-62).

       Marshall and Rothgeb, "So YouWant Tenure? Factors Affecting Tenure Decisions in Political Science Departments," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2011: 571-77).

       Hesli, Lee, and Mitchell, "Predicting Rank Attainment in Political Science: What Else Besides Publications Affects Promotion?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2012: 475-92).

       Grofman, "Determinants of Political Science Faculty Salaries at the University of California," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (October 2009: 719-27).

M. Writing a dissertation or thesis (April 29)

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Rothman, "Comparatively Evaluating Potential Dissertation and Thesis Projects," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (April 2008: 367-69).

N. Publishing a book (April 29)

Myers, "A Short Tour of Book Publishing for Political Scientists," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (July 2004: 489-91).