

POLITICAL SCIENCE 591
PUBLISHING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
FALL SEMESTER 09

Instructor: Dennis Judd
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Class Time: W, 6-8:30
Classroom: 1171 BSB

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to refine research that they have previously conducted for presentation at conferences and/or publication in professional journals or other appropriate outlets. Please note that the course is not suitable for preparing dissertation proposals, and students are not allowed to use it for that purpose. Students should work with their faculty advisors in preparing proposals, and will generally do so by signing up for independent studies. It would be counter-productive to try to prepare a dissertation proposal in this course, so if you've ended up here with that goal in mind, I will ask you to drop the course in favor of a reading/research course taken under the sponsorship of your advisor.

The prerequisite for the course is advanced standing in the Ph.D. program in political science, or an equivalent research background. Please note that in most cases this is not a course in which students begin a new research project, although exceptions will be made for students undertaking new, ambitious projects that show exceptional promise. Students are required to submit one or more completed papers at the beginning of the course; ordinarily these will be research papers previously completed for seminars. During the semester, they will take a series of steps to rework/refine this work for conference or journal submission. If possible, by the end of the semester students will have submitted their work to a journal or to a conference sponsored by a professional association.

The course will work as a peer-reviewed research group. I will take a lot of time reading and critiquing drafts of your proposals and papers, but your research will also be pushed along by the comments/critiques of other students in the class.

Ground Rules.

You should always be prepared to meet as indicated in the course schedule. However, because the course depends as much upon independent work as upon interactions within the classroom, from time to time the regular class time will be cancelled to make room for meetings between individual students and me. Accordingly, I have not prepared, in advance, a schedule of assignments for each class period; instead, assignments will be made week by week. Please note only the following information on scheduled class meetings: The first class will be held on Wednesday, September 3; the last class of the semester is December 3.

This class will prosper if all students participate at the level customary in an advanced graduate course. As with all my courses, I require that assignments be submitted on time. Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please call or e-mail in advance. If you know in advance that you may miss any classes during the semester, see me at the end of the first class.

Grading.

The final grade will be determined primarily by my evaluation of the final paper(s) produced for the course. Class participation, including peer review critiques, will also be taken into account, as will the quality of end-of-semester presentations. The best way to ensure an “A” is to make sufficient progress by the end of the semester to make a submission to a professional conference or a professional journal.

Assignments.

I am offering a preliminary list of assignments so that you can be prepared for what’s coming. As the semester develops, this list undoubtedly will be amended as need be.

- At the beginning of the semester, students are required to submit a paper for evaluation. I will return these papers, with comments, within two weeks (probably via e-mail).
- Students will be required to prepare a proposal for a finished paper/article. Ordinarily it takes a few weeks to develop a finished proposal. I will hand out and we will discuss guidelines for proposal writing.
- Students will be required to present some research on matters relevant to preparing publishable work. Such assignments typically include: a list of conferences and journals by subfield; conference and journal rankings by subfield; submission guidelines and other relevant information (e.g., deadlines and review procedures); anonymous reviews of proposals/papers completed by other students in the class.
- Near the end of the semester, a formal presentation of work will be required so that students can prepare for and practice conference presentations.
- A specific plan for submission or for further research will be required by the end of the semester.