

Political Science 499, Section 1  
Clemson University  
Fall Semester 2009  
Online Course

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## ***Professional Development in Political Science***

This course is designed for senior political science majors. You will reflect on your college education and present your ePortfolio for evaluation. We will consider cross-disciplinary issues, current research in political science, career options, and ethical issues related to the study of political science. This course satisfies half of the University's academic and professional development requirement for political science majors.

### ***Office Hours***

My office is 230-G Brackett Hall. I will hold office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-12:00 or by appointment.

The best way to contact me is via email: laurao@clemson.edu. Also, my office phone number is 656-1457 and you may call me there any time (if I am not in, leave a voice mail).

In this online course, you will interact with the content, instructor, and classmates on at least a weekly basis through various online assignments and activities.

### ***Distributed Competencies***

Your Clemson general education is built around developing 19 competencies, or skill sets. You will develop most of these competencies through specific courses (for example, you develop competency in oral communication by taking COMM 150 or 250).

However, there are five competencies—the “distributed competencies”—that are not tied to specific courses. Instead, we expect that you will have developed these competencies across all of the coursework you will have taken as a political science major.

**This course is designed (in part) to give you academic credit for developing these distributed competencies and to allow the Department of Political Science to assess the extent to which you have developed them.**

### ***Accommodations for Students with Disabilities***

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact us as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. “Qualified students” are those who present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services to the instructor. Student Disability Services is located in G-

20 Redfern (656-6848). Accommodations are not retroactive. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

### ***Grades***

This is a pass/fail class. You simply need to complete all of the assignments in a satisfactory manner to pass the class.

*As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge. **Anyone caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of F for the course.***

**Your grade for the course will be based on the following:**

#### **1. ePortfolio Evaluation (50 points)**

Whenever you are ready to show me your completed ePortfolio, email me at laurao@clemson.edu and we will make arrangements for me to view and evaluate it. You must be sure to include artifacts for as many competencies (including the distributed competencies) as possible.

#### **2. Online Assignments (30 points)**

Over the course of the semester, I will ask you to complete six brief online assignments. Details will be provided via email. Each activity will be worth 5 points.

#### **3. ETS Major Field Test (20 points)**

You are required to take the Educational Testing Service's Major Field Test in Political Science. This exam is designed to allow our department to assess how well you are learning political science content. Your score on the exam will not affect your grade. We just need you to take it and to do the best you can on it. I will arrange one or more in-person meetings in the evening this semester to allow you to take this exam.

\*\*\*\*\* *Course Outline* \*\*\*\*\*

### **Topic 1: Your ePortfolio and the Distributed Competencies**

During this period of time I will ask you to be sure your ePortfolio is in good working order and to reflect on the sorts of artifacts you might include to document your attainment of the distributed competencies.

READING:

- <http://www.clemson.edu/ugs/eportfolio/> (including links on left-hand side)

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday, **September 4**, by 5:00 PM.

### **Topic 2: Your General Education Experience**

During this period of time I will ask you to reflect on your Clemson General Education experience.

READING: None

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday, **September 18**, by 5:00 PM.

### **Topic 3: Cross-Disciplinary Issues**

During this period of time I will ask you to reflect on connections you perceive across the various courses you've taken as an undergraduate student.

READING: None

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday, **October 2**, by 5:00 PM.

### **Topic 4: Political Science versus Politics**

During this period of time we'll consider the differences between political science and politics.

READING: none

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday, **October 23**, by 5:00 PM.

### **Topic 5: Ethical Issues**

During this period of time we'll study ethical issues in political science and beyond.

## READING:

- Mitchell A. Seligson (2008), “Human Subjects Protection and Large-N Research: When Exempt is Research is Non-Research,” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41: 477-482 (posted on our Blackboard site).

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday, **November 6**, by 5:00 PM.

**Topic 6: Career Options**

## READING:

- <http://www.lsac.org/>
- *Careers and the Study of Political Science*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., selected chapters (posted on our Blackboard site)

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday, **November 20**, by 5:00 PM.

**\*\* There will be no final exam in this course. \*\***