

**Careers in Political Science-PLSC 101**  
**One Hour Credit**  
**11:00-11:50 AM Fridays**

**FALL 2018 (CRN 14599)**  
**Location: Bancroft 339**

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**Office hours:** Monday: 10:00-11:00, Tuesday 2:00-4:00 each week, and Friday 1:30-2:30 *by appointment only for this day only*. Other appointments can be made if these times do not meet your schedule.

**Course description:** This is a course designed to expose students to careers in political science or those for which political science is a useful major or minor. We will invite some former alumni who graduated in the major with a PLSC degree to visit the class as well as some practicing professionals in selected fields, both in person and perhaps on skype as well. The course also will have students examine their own interests and thoughts on potential careers. Finally, this course attempts to answer the question, what can I do with a liberal arts degree?

**GOALS** for this course are:

(1) to provide a structured opportunity for students to investigate careers related to politics and political science and (2) to assist students in preparing for the job search, in terms of assisting in self-knowledge and its progression.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon course completion, students will be able to:

Be familiar with some potential career opportunities for those with a political science background.

(2) Be more aware of their own interests as political science majors and to explore new opportunities.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**Textbook:** Lindsey Pollak, *Getting from College to Career, revised edition*, Harper Business: 2012

(This is a very popular text with ideas useful for any career with a strong emphasis on Internet resources)

**Free online American Political Science Career Manual:**

<http://www.apsanet.org/Portals/54/files/Publications/CareersandtheStudyofPoliticalScience2003.pdf>

**Course Requirements:**

Class participation: 30%

Paper on long term career plans: 10%

Reactions to readings: 40%

Final paper: 20%

**Student Learning Activities:**

\* The shorter paper will be two to three pages on your ideas for your professional future! The idea is to explore multiple potential careers and employment.

\*The paper will be an investigation of a potential job/career for a person with a political science background: compared to the first paper, you will investigate one career in depth. Paper length will be four to five pages. For example, how does one explore a career in state government and obtain employment?

\*Participation includes: contributions to class discussion, bringing in requested articles on issues of the day, leading discussions, or group work. Too many absences will detract from this grade, **especially** in a one-hour course that meets only once per week.

**Grading Scale- This course is on a Pass/Fail Grading system**

**Student Code of Conduct:** The Political Science Department abhors all forms of academic misconduct, and faculty members aggressively investigate all incidents of suspected cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, using turnitin.com. Please click on the enclosed link to read the enclosed policy in detail:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/plsc/PLAGIARISM/%20AND%20MISCONDUCT.doc>

For cell phone and laptop policy see:

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/artscience/AppropriateUseApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf>

**Attendance Policy:** Over two unexcused absences during the semester will result in a **significantly** lower participation grade. Chronic lateness is an imposition on other students and will also count against the participation grade. **Over four** unexcused absences will result in failure for the course.

**Office of Accessibility (OA): Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access:**

Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility (OA) at 803-323-3290, or, [accessibility@winthrop.edu](mailto:accessibility@winthrop.edu). Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Accessibility.

**Dropping the Course:** This course needs to be dropped before **October 19** if it does not fit your needs. After this date, you cannot drop it for any reason unless approved by the Registrar. In short, the professor cannot give permission to drop the course after this date.

**Final Exam:** There is no final exam in this course.

**Potential Career Fields:** More information in the APSA career manual! We will do our best to cover some of them, both in terms of readings and discussions as well as visitors to the class.

1. Campaigns staffer or field operative
2. Federal government employment in various branches
3. State or local government
4. Non-Profit employment
5. government relations in the private sector
6. Business positions
7. Education at multiple levels
8. Legal careers
9. International opportunities
10. Urban planning
11. Public Servant-run for office!

**Course Schedule:** I reserve the right to rearrange this syllabus in order to improve the quality of the course. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of such changes by checking with another class member if a class is missed!!!!!!!!!! This syllabus has a dual track: the Pollak text helps you with personal skills and exploration, its aim is as much psychological as programmatic. The APSA reading is focused on specific careers as well as visitors to the class. Note that some of the speakers below are tentatively scheduled and there may be some changes.

**August 24-**Introduction and discussion of course.

**August 31-**Pollak Chapter One: "Get Started." Visit from **Professor Katarina Moyon** from the West Center and **Dr. John Holder** Coordinator of Internships for PLSC. Read 1-8 in Choosing a Career in the APSA online manual. Please print out a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. (Note all reactions and questions must be printed out for collection, not hand written)

**September 7-**Pollak Chapter Two: "Stop Being a Student and Start Being a Professional," Bring in a paragraph on moments in classes (not just political science) that have inspired you towards a potential career. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on

the career reading. Visit to the class from **Dr. Leslie Bickford**, the Director of the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards.

**September 14**-Pollack Chapter Three: Figure Out What You Want...and What you Don't." Visit from the Office of Career and Civic Engagement on resources to help you. Bring in your resume for discussion with a partner. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack. Visit from a Career Consultant from the Center for Career and Civic Engagement at Winthrop to see the opportunities available.

**September 21**—Skype Visit from a political scientist in the Department for careers in teaching and research in our field. Read 69-80 in the APSA manual on careers in various levels of education. Potential visit from **Dr. Chris Cooper**, Professor of Political Science at Georgia State and political science alumnus.

**September 28**-Pollak Chapter Five: "Gain Real World Experience," Read 45-50 on careers in business in the APSA manual. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. Visit from **Ashley Burnside** from Student Affairs, political science alumnus.

**October 5**- Pollack Chapter Four: "Talk, Listen, Repeat," Visit from Political Science Alumnus in the field of law as well as general discussion of legal careers. Read 39-44 on Law in the online APSA manual. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. Visit from Attorney **Erin Urquhart**, political science alumnus and **Dr. Adolphus Belk**, Pre-Law Advisor for the Department of Political Science.

**October 12**-Pollak Chapter Six: "Give Yourself an Edge" Visit from local legislative official for advice on careers in politics. Read 9-26 in the APSA career manual on careers in the Federal government. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading.

**October 19**-Pollak Chapter Seven: "Market Yourself on Paper and Online" Visit from a Political science alumnus in the field. Read 63-68 on careers in campaigns and polling in the APSA career manual. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. Visit from **Summersby Okey**, former campaign volunteer and political science alumni.

**October 26**-Pollak Chapter Eight: "Find Opportunities" Visit from local person in state government. Read 27-32 on service in state and local government in the APSA career manual. Also 81-83 on Public Service in manual. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. Visit from **Jeremy Winkler** from the town of Rock Hill and political science alumnus.

**November 2**-Pollack Chapter Nine: "Over-prepare for Interviews" Visit from alumnus. Read 33-38 on careers in non-profits in the APSA manual. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. Visit from **Sarah Cohen** with the Conservation Voters of South Carolina and political science alumnus.

**November 9-** Pollak Chapter Ten, Also read 51-56 in Career Manual on International Careers. Please write a one paragraph reaction to Pollack and a question or comment on the career reading. You need to turn in your paper by the end of study day at 5 pm. Visit by **Alexis Gordon**, Charlotte International Cabinet and political science alumnus.

**November 16-No class due to SRMUN team contest!**

**November 23-No class due to Thanksgiving Break.**

**November 30-Class Presentations. Gadget day for Evaluations.**

No exam in this course

### **Important Reminders:**

**Class Listserv:** I will make frequent use of the class listserv provided by the Division of Computing and Information Technology, and you are required to subscribe to it. For additional information, go to:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081>

**Winthrop's Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)** identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination and application process. ONCA is located in Dinkins 222B. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of the ONCA webpage [www.winthrop.edu/onca](http://www.winthrop.edu/onca) and email [onca@winthrop.edu](mailto:onca@winthrop.edu) for more information.

**Winthrop's Academic Success Center** is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or [success@winthrop.edu](mailto:success@winthrop.edu) or [www.winthrop.edu/success](http://www.winthrop.edu/success).

**Winthrop's Office of Victims Assistance (OVA)** provides services to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking as well as educational programming to prevent these crimes from occurring. The staff assists all survivors, regardless of when they were victimized, in obtaining counseling, medical care, housing options, legal prosecution, and more. In addition, the OVA helps students access support services for academic problems resulting from victimization. The OVA is located in 204 Crawford and can be reached at (803) 323-2206. In the case of an after-hours emergency, please call Campus Police at (803)323-3333, or the local rape crisis center, Safe Passage, at their 24-hour hot-line, (803)329-2800. For more information please visit: <http://www.winthrop.edu/victimsassistance/>

**Plagiarism** Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. Consult your Writing 101

Writing Manual for proper citation techniques. Please consult the Political Science Department Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct for further clarifications:  
<http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kedrowskik/academicmisconduct.htm>.