

Department of Political Science

Newsletter

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NEW FACULTY IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

AMBER LUSVARDI

The Political Science department is excited to welcome **Dr. Amber Lusvardi** to the faculty. Dr. Lusvardi received her Ph.D. from Purdue University. She teaches on all three campuses (Oshkosh, Fox Cities, and Fond du Lac). Before entering academia, she was a journalist covering local and state politics in Illinois.

Last year when the department was putting together the job description for its ideal candidate, we realized we might be looking for a unicorn because we wanted someone who could do many specific things including teaching introductory courses in comparative politics, international relations, and American government. We also wanted someone who could teach on all three campuses and be a bridge among them all. And we wanted someone who could teach upper-level courses in public policy. In addition, the ideal candidate had to be an excellent teacher and researcher. With all these requirements (and a few others), we realized that finding the right person would be like finding a unicorn. In the words of Dr. Tracy Slagter, "I think we found our unicorn."

Dr. Lusvardi comes to the department as an award-winning teacher, notably for pedagogical innovations she made during the pandemic. Within only two months of joining UWO, she has positively impacted the department, including co-advising the political science club on the Fox Cities campus.

Her research focuses on agenda setting in gender justice issues. Her dissertation and book project are titled, "The End of the Child Bride: Social Movements, Strategic Actions, and State-Level Policymaking on Underage Marriage." Dr. Lusvardi also studies anti-transgender policies in the states. In this project she is examining how government institutions are trying to constrain transgender actors within the political process while anti-trans policies are being considered.

Outside of teaching and research, Dr. Lusvardi stays busy with her family, which includes her husband, two daughters, and a senior collie named Dillon. She also swims laps and runs (in her words) "slowly and badly." She is a fan of reading "cozy mysteries," which she describes as having some sort of death (not a gruesome murder) that gets solved by a female detective in the British countryside and has a happy ending.

Okay, so Dr. Lusvardi might not really be a unicorn, but we find it curious that she keeps a shiny, shimmering gavel in her office. When turned the right way, the gavel strongly resembles the magical horn of a unicorn. Magic or not, we welcome Dr. Lusvardi to the department and look forward to her contributions. Read more about Dr. Lusvardi on her website (www.amberlusvardi.com).



RETHINKING DATA PRIVACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION | STUDY ABROAD

Join **Dr. Tracy Slagter and Michael Patton** (Information Systems, Cybersecurity) in Brussels, Belgium this spring interim to explore the European Union and its groundbreaking rules on data privacy. In Europe, citizens can request to be "forgotten" online, a request made possible by the EU's General Data Privacy Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR affects citizens, businesses, and governments and is already influencing global data privacy measures.



Brussels is the beautiful capital of Belgium and also the headquarters of the European Union and NATO. In two weeks abroad, we'll explore multiple institutions of the EU, meet the agencies behind data protection laws, and converse with businesses impacted by it. We'll also have plenty of time to get to know Brussels, its history, and its amazing food culture. There will be time for weekend side-trips as well.

Students will earn SIX credits on this trip: 3 credits for European Union Politics (PS 301), and 3 credits for Business 494. Ask Dr. Slagter for more information, or head here to apply: <https://app.oie.uwosh.edu/programs/rethinking-data-privacy-in-the-eu-in-belgium>

STUDY ABROAD IN THAILAND



With the help of a grant secured by **Dr. David Siemers** and his spouse, **Dr. Sarinda Taengnoi Siemers** of the Economics Department will offer a study abroad pro-

gram. "We want to take students to Thailand, so they can learn about Thai politics, economics, and culture, but we realized that cost would be a major consideration," said the Political Science Siemers. As such, they applied to the fund left by former International Studies chair Kenneth Grieb, and obtained a \$15,000 grant. "This is a game changer, in that it puts the cost of a unique, once-in-a-lifetime three-week travel experience within financial reach." Students will visit the vibrant metropolis of Bangkok, smaller cities like Chiang Mai,



and take a trip South to the coast. "Thailand is so beautiful and rich culturally--students will benefit just by being there--but to be expertly led by a Thai native (Sarinda) makes this a unique opportunity for our students." The trip is planned for January 2024.

Students who are looking for a unique way to take a Quest 3 class will be able to, but we welcome all students at any stage of their college career. Studying abroad shows you to be an adventurous person willing to do amazing, out-of-the-ordinary things. Stay tuned and feel free to ask Dr. Siemers for details.

Scholarships

Academic Works is a scholarship website that lists all scholarships that are available to all students on campus. The Political Science Department has scholarships you may apply for and there are deadlines (<https://uwosh.academicworks.com/>). For more information or questions on scholarships, please see Angelee Hammond in Sage 4631 or email hammond@uwosh.edu.

Dr. Charles (Charlie) Goff Education and Political Science Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Charles (Charlie) Goff, former political science faculty member. Applicants must be undergraduates enrolled at the Oshkosh campus within the College of Education and Human Services Broadfield Social Science program or within the College of Letters and Science Political Science program. Applicant must have at least junior standing and must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. In the case of two equally qualified finalists, preference will be given to the student pursuing a COEHS Broadfield Social Science degree. Students must submit an essay showing their understanding of the education or political science profession and dedication to leadership in the education or political science profession. This award will be paid out in Fall 2023. Scholarship amount varies.

Frederick R. and Bertha C. Clow Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student enrolled at the Oshkosh campus. Full-time enrollment is not required. Applicants must have junior standing, a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, and must be pursuing a social science major within the College of Letters and Science (Criminal Justice, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, or Sociology). Special consideration will be given to applicants who currently hold or have been accepted for a position, either paid or volunteer, directly related to their major. Students must submit a statement describing why they chose their major and detail any honors they have received or activities they have participated in related to their major. This award will be paid out in Fall 2023. The scholarship amount is \$1750.

Isaac Kayando Leadership Award

The Isaac Kayando Leadership Award is given to a political science major who is enrolled at the Oshkosh campus and has demonstrated a continuing commitment to campus and community service. Students graduating in Spring 2023 must email a brief resume of their leadership activities while at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu. This award will be paid out in Spring 2023. The scholarship amount is \$200.

Outstanding Political Science Student Award

The Outstanding Political Science Student Award is given to a deserving political science major enrolled at the Oshkosh campus who has excelled academically and has enriched the department while at UW Oshkosh. There is no application process for this award; it is given at the discretion of the Political Science Department. This award will be paid out in Spring 2023. The scholarship amount is \$200.

Political Science Emerging Scholar Award

This scholarship was created to support political science majors at UW Oshkosh. The recipient must be enrolled in at least 9 credits at the Oshkosh campus. The recipient must have a declared political science major and must have completed Political Science 245 in Spring 2022 or Fall 2022. There is no application for this award. Selection will be based on student papers submitted in Political Science 245. This award will be paid out in Spring 2023. The scholarship amount is \$200.

INTERNATIONAL LAW PROJECT NEARS THE FINISH LINE FOR SLAGTER

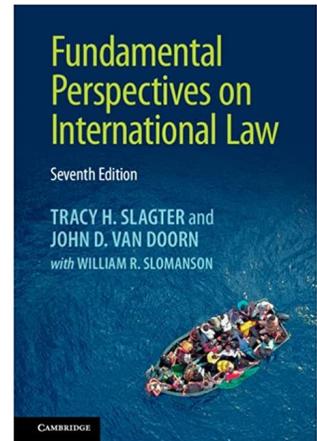
If you look on **Dr. Slagter's** bookshelves in her office, you'll see several editions of the same book: *Fundamental Perspectives on International Law*. As an undergraduate, she remembers using the second edition of the book in class, marking it up with her tiny handwriting. "It was my favorite class in college," she notes of International Law, "and I loved that book."

Fast forward from the 1990s to 2008, when Slagter was tasked with teaching International Law at UW Oshkosh for the first time. "I knew which book I would use, if it still existed," she says. "Luckily, the fifth edition was still around!" For years, she used the fifth edition until the sixth edition appeared in 2011. But after that? No updates.

She had developed an email friendship with the textbook's author, William Slomanson, a law professor in San Diego, and she was in regular contact with him. When he told her the book was going to go out of print because he was retiring, she and a lot of other college professors were disappointed. "The book is the best one out there for teaching international law at the undergraduate level," she said. It took nearly a year, but eventually Slomanson convinced Slagter that she should undertake a full rewrite of the book -- all 700+ pages of it. John Van Doorn (Troy University) is her co-author on the book.

After securing a publishing contract with Cambridge University Press, the book is scheduled to appear in February 2023, with the ebook appearing even sooner. Slagter will use the book for her spring semester International Law course. "It's surreal to think that I'll be teaching from a book I know so intimately," she said. "As instructors, we're always making some compromises when we choose a textbook -- there's always something we'd do differently. To teach from a book I actually wrote will be such a joy."

Slagter is putting the finishing touches on the online teaching resources now (with a lot of technical assistance from Angie Hammond!). She is grateful to have this project almost in her rearview mirror. "I have a new respect for textbook authors, that's for sure," she said. "This definitely ranks as the most difficult project I've ever undertaken. But in the end, I'm really proud of it and I hope students will gain a better understanding of the world because of it."



KRUEGER WINS AWARD



Dr. Krueger won the College of Letters and Science Service Award in September. This award recognizes the activities of faculty members who devote substantial time and effort to university hiring and curricular processes, faculty governance, and reform efforts. Dr. Krueger was nominated by Dr. Thomas, who highlighted the former's role in the search for a new College of Letters and Science Dean as well as his work for the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and cam

pus civic engagement activities. Reached for comment, Dr. Krueger noted that he sees his service as part of a tradition among Political Science faculty and staff to help make the university a better place for students, staff, and faculty. Several other Political Science Faculty have been acknowledged for their service the university in recent years including Drs. Scribner, Siemers, and Slagter.

GROUP ADVISING

The Political Science Department is offering an advising and information session for majors & minors. Stop by to hear about course offerings, check in on your progress in your major, remove a hold, or chat with Political Science faculty advisers about general education requirements.



October 26, 2022
Sage 3206
4:30 - 6:00pm

Contact Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu for any information!

There will be pizza!

SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

Contact Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu or (920) 424-3456 with questions on registering into Political Science courses:



These courses are offered every semester: **Introduction to Comparative Politics (101); American Government and Politics (105); International Politics (115); Political Methodology (245)**

Spring 2023 Additional Courses

Politics of Food (214) Quest III
Introduction to Law (253)
International Law (308)
Politics of Genocide (313)
Environmental Law (316)
Politics of National Security (352)
Congress in the American Political System (365)
Modern American Political Thought (378)
Latin American Politics (379)



Part of the academic life of faculty members is engaging in original research and participating in professional organizations. This fall three faculty members traveled to Montreal Canada for the American Political Science Association (APSA) meeting. This international conference is an annual meeting of political scientists from around the world working in all the major subfields.

Professor Thomas served in an administrative role as program chair and president-elect for the Sexuality & Politics Division of APSA. This means he was in charge of reviewing paper and panel proposals and deciding which ones would be accepted to this conference. He also chaired a panel and served as a discussant for electronic posters in Montreal.

Professor Siemers attended to present his research comparing how Federalists and Antifederalists thought separation of powers governments might collapse. In his work, he tests their views against subsequent experience, to see which of their ideas are validated and which are not. This is part of Siemers' ongoing interest in separation of powers issues and about how theories of politics relate to lived experience.

Professor Scribner presented research on the constitutional rights of women in South Africa and Botswana. This research forms part of a book due to be published in 2023 concerning how sex and gender equality are recognized in constitutions worldwide and how these differences affect the ability of rights advocates to achieve or defend policy advances that support women's equality.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: NUEMEYER



Jason Neumeyer graduated from UW Oshkosh in 2016 and, after receiving a Master's Degree from UW Milwaukee, has taught introductory courses on the Fond du Lac, Fox Cities, and Oshkosh campuses since 2020. We want to say thank you to Jason for his many years with the department both as a student and fellow instructor as he moves on to his new position. Jason's new position is a survey specialist with Polco, a data-driven software company based out of Bolder, CO and Middleton, WI. The goal of the organization is to provide the information tools that local governments need to make policy decisions that best represent the opinions of their community members. What follows is a short interview with Jason about his time at UW -Fox Cities and Oshkosh.

You were a UW-FOX Cities student, then a Political Science major at UW Oshkosh before you were a faculty member. What are your favorite memories of your time as a student and what drew you to returning after graduation? My college experience began at UW-Fox Cities– and I had no idea what path to pursue. In my second semester, I enrolled in an American Government class with Professor Waller. In this course, we participated in a class-wide project to rewrite the Constitution from start to finish. Thinking about this foundation of our government through the lens of one of the Framers gave me a real appreciation for how important these details really are. That class changed the course of my life – I have been studying, researching, and teaching political science ever since! When the occasion arose to return to UWO, I jumped at the opportunity to have this type of impact on a new group of incoming students.

You've now been on "both sides" of the classroom experience. What are your favorite parts of teaching and what advice do you have for students? Teaching political science today is an interesting experience, especially as more young people become engaged with the political process. I really enjoy the opportunity to connect the ideas and themes from the different courses to the current events that students are interested in. For example, topics like gerrymandering, the impeachment process, and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine have been top of mind for many students over the past few years. As an instructor, I have attempted to lean into this interest by developing assignments and projects that have encouraged students to connect some of our discussions in the classroom to these events happening around the globe.

Advice: There are countless positive takeaways from studying at a university like UWO – learning from experts within the field; gaining actionable life skills to help you find and succeed in your future career; developing a broader understanding of the world around you. My top piece of advice is this: be active in this community around you because the relationships that you develop today can pay dividends for you down the road.

You also worked with students to start the UWO-Fox Cities Political Science Club at FOX/FDL. What excites you about advising a student group for Political Science? One of the most important aspects of a student's time in college is her/his involvement in activities outside of the classroom. These events help to build social networks and can lead to lifelong friendships or potential job opportunities. In addition, work within this club can help highlight just how much of an impact politics has on their daily lives. This club has hosted a variety of events with many members from broader Fox Valley community, including speakers from the League of Women Voters and The People's Maps Commission. Currently, the executive team is organizing a voter registration drive to help students prepare for the 2022 Midterm Elections and has a number of field trips planned to hear from local policy-makers. For more information about the club and its activities, please feel free to reach out to myself

