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Entering a Ph.D. program is disorienting. More advanced graduate students and faculty lead weirdly-organized lives, speak a strange language, and spend months or years trying to acquire esoteric skills. It’s often hard to see the path that allegedly leads from your first-year courses to life as a tenure-track professor.

The goals of this course are to help entering Ph.D. student better cope with the challenges of graduate school, build connections with other graduate students and faculty members, and learn about life as a political scientist (or political theorist). Each week we’ll have a single reading and a guest speaker who will be given no more than ten minutes to speak. After that, they are there to answer your questions.

We have eight scheduled classes and speakers (or groups of speakers) – mostly faculty, but also some graduate students and UCLA staff. I’ve left the final week open, and will ask the class to select the speaker. Think of who you most want to hear from and I’ll try to get them.

Everyone is expected to do the weekly reading, attend each class, and participate actively in the discussions. The course is required for all entering Ph.D. students in Political Science. Laptops and other electronic devices are banned.

**October 4:** Introduction to the course.

**October 11:** Lorrie Frasure-Yokley on the world of survey research. To prepare: review the online materials from her 2016 Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey.

**October 18:** Michael Chwe and Barry O’Neill on doing interdisciplinary and unorthodox work. Please read Michael Chwe’s “Stereotypes Are More Powerful When People Like to Agree with Each Other,” working paper, September 2016; and excerpts from Barry O’Neill’s *Honor, Symbols, and War* (2001).

**October 25:** Davide Panagia on life as a political theorist. Please read the Preface and Introduction of Panagia’s forthcoming book, *Rancière’s Sentiments* (Duke University Press, 2018). Also, Mack Eason – one of the Writing Mavens – will be coming in to offer tips & tools about writing grant proposals.


November 22: Graeme Blair on doing experiments, and Tim Dennis (Center for Open Science) on data openness, management, and reproducibility. Read Graeme Blair, Rebecca Littman, and Elizabeth Levy Paluck, “Motivating the adoption of new community-minded behaviors: An empirical test in Nigeria.”

November 29: Barbara Geddes on her research, and Dr. Nicole Green, Executive Director of UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), on coping with the stresses of life as a graduate student. Please read Geddes, Wright, and Frantz (2014), “Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Dataset,” Perspectives on Politics (12:2).

December 6: David Sears on his research, and Ashley Blum, Aaron Rudkin, and Adam Boche, on life as a research assistant. Please read Sears, Danbold, and Zavala, “Incorporation of Latino Immigrants into the American Party System.”