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. students 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 pair of readings (posted on the course website) and two guest speakers, each of whom will have ten minutes to speak. After that, they are there to answer your questions.

We have nine scheduled classes. 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 readings, 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 not allowed.

October 3: Introduction to the course.

October 10: Barbara Geddes and Erin Hartman

October 17: Lynn Vavreck and Graeme Blair

October 24: Matt Barreto and Maggie Peters

October 31: Dan Posner

November 7: Michael Chwe and Anthony Pagden

November 14: Chris Tausanovitch and Debbie Larson

November 21: no class

November 28: Eric Min and Natalie Masuoka
December 5: Robert Trager and Leslie Johns

December 12: TBA