

David O'Connell

Dickinson College, Dept. of Political Science
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Academic Employment

Assistant Professor 2013 – Current
Department of Political Science
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

Visiting Assistant Professor 2012 – 2013
Department of Political Studies
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Education

Columbia University, New York, NY

Ph.D. in Political Science 2012
M.Phil. in Political Science 2009
M.A. in Political Science 2007

- Examination Fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics
- Committee: Ira Katznelson, Fred Harris, Robert Shapiro, Kenneth Jackson, Courtney Bender

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

B.A. with Distinction in Political Science 2005

- Major in Political Science, Minor in Economics
- Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.95
- Honors Thesis: *A Look in the Mirror: Corruption, Connecticut and a Deteriorating Political Culture*

Books

2014. *God Wills It: Presidents and the Political Use of Religion*. Piscataway, NJ: Transaction.

Articles

2011. "Situational Gamblers: Prospect Theory and the Commonalities of Presidential Campaign Management." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 41 (March): 64-92.

Reviews

2016. "*Religion in the Oval Office: The Religious Lives of American Presidents* by Gary Scott Smith." *American Historical Review* (forthcoming)

2015. "*God Talk: Experimenting With the Religious Causes of Public Opinion* by Paul A. Djupe and Brian R. Calfano." *Political Science Quarterly* 130 (Summer): 372-373.

2012. "Faiths of the Postwar Presidents: From Truman to Obama by David L. Holmes." *Political Science Quarterly* 127 (Winter): 721-722.

Research in Progress

"Chief of Style: Personal Appearance and Presidential Power" (**Under Review**)

"Catholic Politicians and the Politics of Abortion Position-Taking" (With Katie Marchetti)

With Friends Like These... (Book Project)

Teaching Experience

Courses Offered

American Government
The American Presidency
American Political Development
Religion in American Politics
The Politics of American Pop Culture

- On average, at Dickinson have scored a 5.83 out of 6 on question asking if students "would recommend this instructor to other students looking for a good teacher" (9 courses total)
- Received a grade of "excellent" on overall instructor evaluation on 65 of 83 student evaluations while at Bard College
- Received a grade of "excellent" on overall effectiveness on 215 of 234 student evaluations at Columbia University (92%)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

"Rap Music and Politics" Holland Union Building, Dickinson College	April 2015
"Faith and Politics" Landis House, Dickinson College	March 2015
"Religion and Incivility" St. John's Episcopal Church, Carlisle, PA	February 2015
"Rebellion and Revolution" Guest Lecture to Ideas That Have Shaped the World First Year Seminar, Dickinson College	November 2014
"Arms, Armageddon and the Evil Empire: Ronald Reagan's Religious Rhetoric on Defense Spending" American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans	September 2012
"Holy War on the Battlefield of Energy: Jimmy Carter's Religious Rhetoric on Energy Policy" New York State Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Staten Island, NY	April 2012
"Arms, Armageddon and the Evil Empire: Ronald Reagan's Religious Rhetoric on Defense Spending" Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago (poster)	April 2012
"Religion in American Politics" Monthly Meeting of the Columbia Chapter of the Roosevelt Institute, New York	February 2010

Media Activities

"Previewing the State of the Union," FOX43 News	January 12, 2016
"Lawmakers Get Donations from NRA, Say Money Doesn't Buy Votes," <i>LNP</i> (PA), http://lancasteronline.com/news/pennsylvania/lawmakers-get-donations-from-nra-say-money-doesn-t-buy/article_ab5c9396-b3b5-11e5-a64d-774214f478ca.html	January 5, 2016
"The Insult Campaign," <i>La Opinion</i> , http://www.laopinion.com/2015/12/09/la-campana-del-insulto/	December 10, 2015
"Lower Voter Turnout Expected for Municipal Elections," <i>LNP</i> (PA), http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/lower-voter-turnout-expected-for-municipal-elections/article_46526806-7c1d-11e5-a014-af393a547307.html	October 27, 2015
"Democratic and Republican Debates Differ in Drama," <i>LNP</i> (PA), http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/democratic-and-republican-debates-differ-in-drama/article_58857fb8-72b3-11e5-8af7-6f22cc0c678f.html	October 15, 2015
"Candidates Jockey for House Speaker Boehner's Job," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> , http://www.post-gazette.com/news/nation/2015/10/07/Candidates-jockey-for-Speaker-Boehner-s-job/stories/201510070113	October 7, 2015
"Lancaster County Representatives, Political Analysts React to Boehner's Resignation," <i>LNP</i> (PA), http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/lancaster-county-representatives-political-analysts-react-to-boehner-s-resignation/article_a2a135ec-63c7-11e5-b360-bbe49ebbfc7.html	September 25, 2015
"Santorum's 2012 Success Proving Difficult to Replicate in 2016 Race," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> , http://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2015/09/07/Santorum-not-following-in-footsteps-of-other-GOP-runners-up/stories/201509060090	September 7, 2015
"Pope's Political Messages Cause Some to Pick, Choose," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> , http://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2015/08/30/Pope-Francis-political-messages-cause-some-to-pick-choose/stories/201508230010	August 30, 2015
"Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal Lags Support from Notables in Presidential Endorsement Race," <i>The Advocate</i> (LA), http://theadvocate.com/columnists/gregoryroberts/13297973-123/louisiana-gov-bobby-jindal-lags	August 30, 2015
"Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's Presidential Quest Continues, Focus Remains on 'Early States,'" <i>The Advocate</i> (LA), http://theadvocate.com/columnists/scottrabalais/13122199-123/louisiana-gov-bobby-jindals-presidential	August 10, 2015
"The First GOP Debate: Five Takeaways," <i>LNP</i> (PA), http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/the-first-gop-debate-five-takeaways/article_fa8807cc-3d4d-11e5-9ce4-3753cdd80214.html	August 7, 2015
"Obama, You're Still No Reagan," CNN, http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/17/politics/obama-reagan-compare/	July 19, 2015
"Author Spotlight," <i>Good Day PA</i> , ABC27, http://abc27.com/2015/02/16/author-spotlight-david-oconnell/	February 16, 2015
Netcast with America's Democrats on <i>God Wills It</i> , http://www.americasdemocrats.org/	August 2014
"Municipalities Reflect on Supreme Court Decision Allowing Prayer at Town Meetings," <i>The Sentinel</i> (PA), http://cumberlink.com/news/religion/municipalities-reflect-on-supreme-court-decision-allowing-prayer-at-town/article_5fe12a6e-dfa7-11e3-8644-001a4bcf887a.html	May 19, 2014

Honors and Awards

Student Senate Faculty of the Year, Dickinson College	2015
Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University	2006 – 2012
Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society	2005
Multiple time department and student nominee for Columbia Presidential Teaching Awards	

College Service

Member, All-College Committee on Enrollment and Student Life	2015 - Current
Member, Religious Life Advisory Committee	2014 - 2015
Faculty Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society	2014 - Current

Research and Teaching Interests in American Politics

The Presidency	Religion and Politics	American Political Development
Campaigns and Elections	Political Psychology	