

David O'Connell

Dickinson College, Dept. of Political Science
PO Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-254-8092

916 Armstrong Road
Carlisle, PA 17013

www.davidjoconnell.com
oconneld@dickinson.edu

Academic Employment

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

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

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

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; Phi Beta Kappa
- 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*. New York: Routledge.

- Reviewed: *Presidential Studies Quarterly, Politics and Religion, Democratization, Choice, Catholic Historical Review*

Articles

Forthcoming. "Chief of Style: Personal Appearance and Presidential Power." *White House Studies* 15 (1).

2018. "#Selfie: Instagram and the United States Congress." *Social Media + Society* (October-December): 1-17

- Research was discussed on November 29, 2018 episode of NPR Politics Podcast
- Paper has been downloaded over 1,300 times since November 2018

2018. "Catholic Politicians and the Politics of Abortion Position Taking." *Politics and Religion* 11 (June): 281-308.
(With Kathleen Marchetti)

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

Essays

2016. "Conflict and Compromise in American Religious Politics: A Review Essay." *Political Science Quarterly* 131 (Winter): 843-848.

Reviews

Forthcoming. "A Christian and a Democrat: A Religious Biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt" by John Woolverton." *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*.

2016. "Religion in the Oval Office: The Religious Lives of American Presidents" by Gary Scott Smith." *American Historical Review* 121 (April): 614-615.

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.

Op-Eds

2017. "Trump's First Six Months Look Awful, Until You Remember Clinton's," *The Hill*, August 4.

2017. "Stop Talking About Impeachment (At Least for Now)," *Washington Times*, July 5.

2017. "Why the Handel-Ossoff Race Never Mattered (Outside of Georgia)," CNBC, June 21.

2016. "Politics Can Solve the Gun Problem," *The Hill*, June 17.

Research in Progress

"How Members of the United States Congress Win Friends and Influence People on Instagram" (**Under Review**)

"Shopping Malls in American Political Development"

Teaching Experience

Courses Offered

American Government

The American Presidency

Religion in American Politics

The Politics of American Pop Culture

The Legislative Process

American Political Development (Senior Seminar)

Game Changers, Gaffes, and Zingers: Debating American Politics (First Year Seminar)

- Recipient of 2018 Constance & Rose Ganoë Memorial Award for Inspirational Teaching
- Recipient of 2015 Student Senate Faculty of the Year Award
- On average, at Dickinson have scored a 5.74 out of 6 on question asking if students "would recommend this instructor to other students looking for a good teacher" (24 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

| | |
|---|----------------|
| “The Constitution, Religion and American Public Policy” Hershey Public Library, Hershey, PA | April 2019 |
| “Counterargument to <i>How Democracies Die</i> ” Clarke Forum Event, Dickinson College | October 2018 |
| “Predicting the Outcome of the 2018 Midterm Elections” St. John’s Episcopal Church, Carlisle, PA | October 2018 |
| “The Five Things You Need to Know About the Midterm Elections” Webinar | October 2018 |
| “Blue Wave, Red Wave or No Wave? A Political Scientist’s Take on the 2018 Midterm Elections” Council for Advancement & Support of Education, Washington, DC | October 2018 |
| “Understanding American Politics in the Trump Era” Collibra, New York, NY | January 2018 |
| “Understanding American Politics in the Trump Era” Amplify, New York, NY | December 2017 |
| “Understanding American Politics in the Trump Era” Fluent Co., New York, NY | November 2017 |
| “Understanding American Politics in the Trump Era” Huge, Inc., Brooklyn, NY | September 2017 |
| “Reproductive Rights: Religion, Ethics, and the Law” Clarke Forum Event, Dickinson College | January 2017 |
| “Catholic Politicians and the Politics of Abortion Discourse” Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting | January 2017 |
| “Presidential and Senate Election Preview” Christ Presbyterian Church, Camp Hill, PA | November 2016 |
| “Roundtable on the 2016 Election” Clarke Forum Event, Dickinson College | October 2016 |
| “Everything They’re Telling You Is Wrong: A Political Scientist’s Take on the 2016 Elections” Dow Chemical DowPAC Meeting, Collegeville, PA | June 2016 |
| “Everything They’re Telling You Is Wrong: A Political Scientist’s Take on the 2016 Elections” Dickinson One College, One Community Lecture, Philadelphia, PA | March 2016 |
| “God Wills It: Presidents and the Political Use of Religion” Rotary Club of Harrisburg Meeting, Hilton Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA | March 2016 |
| “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 | April 2012 |
| "Religion in American Politics" Columbia Chapter of the Roosevelt Institute, New York | February 2010 |

Media Activities

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| "Kamala Harris Was Ready for Her Debate Moment. Joe Biden Wasn't — And It Could Leave a Lasting Mark," <i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i> | June 29, 2019 |
| "Red or Blue? PA to Play Key Role in 2020 Election," CBS 21 | June 19, 2019 |
| "Dickinson College Expert Reacts to the State of the Union Address," FOX 43 | February 5, 2019 |
| Election 2018: New Map Gives Democrats Hope in 10th Congressional District Race," <i>The Sentinel</i> | October 17, 2018 |
| "Mejor Malo Concido," <i>El Pais</i> (Spain) | September 1, 2018 |
| "Bernie Sanders Visit for Jess King Might Not Help or Hurt Her in the General Election," <i>LNP</i> (PA) | May 9, 2018 |
| "Will He or Won't He? Dwayne Johnson on the Rock's Bid for President," <i>Washington Times</i> | May 3, 2018 |
| "Political Analysts: Democrats' Chances of Flipping Many Other Districts Trump Won by 20 Points is a Long Shot," <i>LNP</i> (PA) | March 18, 2018 |
| "Pennsylvania House Candidates Target Those Impacted by Coal Industry's Demise," FOX News | March 9, 2018 |
| "New PA Congressional Map Raises Concern for Some, Hope for Others," FOX 43 | February 20, 2018 |
| "PA Supreme Court Issues Congressional District Map," FOX 43 | February 19, 2018 |
| "Most Successful Presidents?" <i>Smart Talk</i> , WITF | February 19, 2018 |
| "Pennsylvania's Proposed Congressional District Map Prompts Reaction," FOX 43 | February 12, 2018 |
| "State of the Union: Wrap Up," <i>Smart Talk</i> , WITF | January 31, 2018 |
| "State of the Union: President Trump Extends 'Open Hand' to Democrats on Immigration," FOX43 | January 30, 2018 |
| "Rep. Pat Meehan's Political Future Up in the Air After Misconduct Allegations," <i>LNP</i> (PA) | January 23, 2018 |
| "Why Presidential Language Matters," <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> | January 12, 2018 |
| "Jimmy Kimmel Makes Brooklyn Return as More People Tune in His Talk on Trump and Politics," <i>Variety</i> | October 15, 2017 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| "Dickinson College Panel Dissects Role of Republican Party," <i>The Sentinel</i> | October 10, 2017 |
| "From Caricature to Man of Character: How Time and Art Change Image of Bush," <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> | March 23, 2017 |
| "Previewing President Trump's Address to a Joint Session of Congress," ABC 27 | February 28, 2017 |
| "Presidential Inauguration," ABC 27 | January 20, 2017 |
| "Inauguration Coverage," <i>Smart Talk</i> , WITF | January 20, 2017 |
| "VP Biden Leaves Legacy of Hard Work, Deep Friendship, Internet Humor," Voice of America | January 14, 2017 |
| "Pennsylvania on Track to Lose Political Muscle in Washington," ABC 27 | January 2, 2017 |
| "Lebanon Valley College Students, Faculty Protest Racist Graffiti and Fliers," CBS 21 | November 16, 2016 |
| "Lancaster County Pollsters Discuss How Their Industry Got the Election So Wrong," <i>LNP</i> (PA) | November 10, 2016 |
| "Election Results," ABC 27 | November 8, 2016 |
| "Election Special," FOX 43 | November 7, 2016 |
| "Hillary Clinton Leads by 2 Points Nationally, But How Accurate Are Presidential Polls, Anyways?" <i>LNP</i> (PA) | November 3, 2016 |
| "The Tricky Task of Teaching About Trump," <i>The Chronicle of Higher Education</i> | October 28, 2016 |
| "Road Trip Cornerstone Coffeehouse in Camp Hill," <i>Smart Talk</i> , WITF | October 27, 2016 |
| "'Rigged Election' Claims: What They Say About the Culture of Grievance," <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> | October 21, 2016 |
| "Dickinson Professor Weighs in on Trump's Comments About Voter Fraud," CBS 21 | October 20, 2016 |
| "Dickinson Professor Believes Trump Will Lose an Election He Probably Should Win," <i>The Sentinel</i> | October 14, 2016 |
| "Students Watch Presidential Debate at Dickinson College," ABC 27 | October 9, 2016 |
| "Students Come Out to Dickinson College for Debate Watch Party," FOX 43 | October 9, 2016 |
| "Clinton Campaigns in Harrisburg Tuesday," WGAL News 8 | October 3, 2016 |
| "PA Voters Weigh in on First Presidential Debate," CBS 21 | September 26, 2016 |
| "Chelsea Clinton Visits Carlisle," CBS 21 | September 7, 2016 |
| "Teaching Election 2016," <i>Smart Talk</i> , WITF | August 29, 2016 |
| "Teaching Trump: How Political Professors Will Balance the Election During Fall Semester," <i>LNP</i> (PA) | August 25, 2016 |
| "Will Local Republicans Up For Election Vote for Donald Trump?" <i>LNP</i> (PA) | August 15, 2016 |
| "Divided America: Even in Fractured Land, There's Much Unity," Associated Press | August 3, 2016 |
| "Democrats Get Ready for Philadelphia," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> | July 24, 2016 |
| "Toomey Says He Has 'High Regard' for VP Pick Kaine," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> | July 23, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| "Lancaster Democrat Named To List of Candidates Who Could Flip Republican House Districts This Year," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | July 14, 2016 |
| "Guns Become Focus in Senate Race as Republican Sen. Toomey Introduces New Gun Control Bill," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | June 17, 2016 |
| "Sanders Legacy: 'Liberal' No Longer a Four-Letter Word?" <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> | May 24, 2016 |
| "The Weaknesses of Hillary Clinton," <i>La Opinion</i> | May 6, 2016 |
| "Why is Bernie Sanders Still in the Presidential Race?" <i>La Opinion</i> | May 6, 2016 |
| "Analysts: Presidential Candidates Could Stop in Central Pennsylvania in the Next Two Weeks," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | April 14, 2016 |
| "Presidential Legacies," <i>Lectures in History, C-SPAN</i> | March 19, 2016 |
| "Will Pennsylvania's April 26 Primary Matter in the Presidential Race?" <i>LNP (PA)</i> , | February 23, 2016 |
| "What Makes a Successful President?" <i>Smart Talk, WITF</i> | February 15, 2016 |
| "Resetting Presidential Campaigns," <i>Smart Talk, WITF</i> | February 11, 2016 |
| "Voters, Candidates Take Last Looks at Each Other Before N.H. Primary," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> | February 9, 2016 |
| "Dickinson Students Closely Following Caucus Results," FOX 43 | February 1, 2016 |
| Political Analysts: Iowa Caucuses are 'Bizarre,' But Effects Are Important," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | February 1, 2016 |
| "Rise of Trump and Sanders: Does Religion Still Matter in Politics?" <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> | January 29, 2016 |
| "Previewing the State of the Union," FOX 43 | January 12, 2016 |
| "Lawmakers Get Donations from NRA, Say Money Doesn't Buy Votes," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | January 5, 2016 |
| "The Insult Campaign," <i>La Opinion</i> | December 10, 2015 |
| "Lower Voter Turnout Expected for Municipal Elections," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | October 27, 2015 |
| "Democratic and Republican Debates Differ in Drama," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | October 15, 2015 |
| "Candidates Jockey for House Speaker Boehner's Job," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> | October 7, 2015 |
| "Lancaster County Representatives, Political Analysts React to Boehner's Resignation," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | September 25, 2015 |
| "Santorum's 2012 Success Proving Difficult to Replicate in 2016 Race," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> | September 7, 2015 |
| "Pope's Political Messages Cause Some to Pick, Choose," <i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i> | August 30, 2015 |
| "Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal Lags Support from Notables in Presidential Endorsement Race," <i>The Advocate (LA)</i> | August 30, 2015 |
| "Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's Presidential Quest Continues, Focus Remains on 'Early States,'" <i>The Advocate (LA)</i> | August 10, 2015 |
| "The First GOP Debate: Five Takeaways," <i>LNP (PA)</i> | August 7, 2015 |
| "Obama, You're Still No Reagan," CNN | July 19, 2015 |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| "Author Spotlight," <i>Good Day PA</i> , ABC 27 | 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) | May 19, 2014 |

Honors and Awards

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Constance & Rose Ganoë Memorial Award for Inspirational Teaching | 2018 |
| 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 and Professional Service

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Member, Dining Services Food Advisory Committee | 2019 - Current |
| Faculty Liaison, The Washington Center | 2018 - Current |
| Member, All College Committee on Enrollment and Student Life | 2015; 2018 - Current |
| Editorial Board, Dickinson Magazine | 2017 - Current |
| Faculty Wear the Red Representative for the Football Program | 2015 – 2016 |
| Member, Religious Life Advisory Committee | 2014 - 2015 |
| Faculty Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society | 2014 - Current |
| Reviewer for WW Norton, <i>Congress & The Presidency, Politics & Religion</i> | |

Research and Teaching Interests in American Politics

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| The Presidency | Religion and Politics | American Political Development |
| Campaigns and Elections | Social Media and Political Communication | |