

David O'Connell

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Academic Employment

Associate Professor Department of Political Science Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA	2020 – Current
Assistant Professor Department of Political Science Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA	2013 – 2020
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
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- 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

2020. "Chief of Style: Personal Appearance and Presidential Power." *White House Studies* 14 (3): 239-255.

2020. "The Dynamics of Congressional Popularity on Instagram." *Online Information Review* 44 (5): 995-1011.

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 4,000 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. "John F. Kennedy and the Politics of Faith by Patrick Lacroix." *Political Science Quarterly*.

2020. "Religious Identity in US Politics by Matthew R. Miles and *Rock of Ages: Subcultural Religious Identity and Public Opinion among Young Evangelicals* by Jeremiah J. Castle." *Political Science Quarterly* 135 (Fall): 521-523.

2020. "A Christian and a Democrat: A Religious Biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt by John Woolverton." *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 89 (March): 230-232.

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. "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

"Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones But Words Can Never Hurt Me? Evaluating the Impact of Different Kinds of Congressional Scandals"

"Do Athletes Make Better Congressmembers?"

"The New Talk Radio: Podcasts and American Politics"

"Shopping Malls in American Political Development"

Teaching Experience

Courses Offered

American Government
The Legislative Process
The American Presidency
Religion in American Politics
The Politics of American Pop Culture

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
- Over 2013-2019, averaged 5.74 out of 6 on student responses to "I would recommend this instructor to other students looking for a good teacher" at Dickinson College
- 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

"October Surprise? Looking Ahead to Election Day" Webinar	October 2020
"Things Your Political Science Professors Don't Know About the 2020 Election!" Webinar	June 2020
"Political Dynamics of Impeachment" Clarke Forum Event, Dickinson College	November 2019
"Religion and American Public Policy Today" St. John's Episcopal Church, Carlisle, PA	October 2019
"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 Will 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

"WGAL In Focus," WGAL 8	February 6, 2021
"LX News", NBCLX	February 5, 2021
"An Inauguration for the History Books," FOX43	January 20, 2021
"What is the Future of the Republican Party? Political Scientists Weigh in on That, and the Impact of 2020," FOX43	January 7, 2021
"Very Different Scene from Summer Protests at U.S. Capitol," CBS 21	January 6, 2021
"Your Thoughts on the Biden Win," Smart Talk, WITF	November 9, 2020
"Will Pennsylvania Decide the Presidency?" Smart Talk, WITF	November 4, 2020
"Democracy 2020: Weighing in on Election Results," FOX 43	November 4, 2020

"Perry, DePasquale Locked in Tight Race for 10th Congressional District," FOX 43	November 3, 2020
"Trump and the Future of the Celebrity Candidate," <i>The Hollywood Reporter</i>	November 2, 2020
"5 Questions: Dickinson College Professor Studies Congress and Instagram," The Sentinel	November 2, 2020
"2020 Election By The Numbers," WalletHub	October 28, 2020
"Donald Trump's Chances of Winning Pennsylvania Slip Just Days Before Election," <i>Newsweek</i>	October 28, 2020
"Pennsylvania Projected to Lose a Congressional Seat After the Census," Fox 43	October 13, 2020
"'If We Don't Win Pennsylvania, We Are So Screwed,' Biden Insider Says, <i>Newsweek</i>	October 11, 2020
"Why the Vice Presidential Debate Matters,"	October 7, 2020
"Political Science Professors Weigh in on President Trump, Joe Biden's Debate Performances," Fox 43	September 30, 2020
"How Likely is the Presidential Debate to Sway Voters?" Fox 43	September 29, 2020
"Pennsylvania's Critical Role in Determining the Next U.S. President," CBS 21	September 28, 2020
"Government Funding, Coronavirus Relief Top Agenda as Congress Returns to DC," Sinclair Broadcasting	September 8, 2020
"Eight Congressional Races Could Decide if Biden Beats Trump," <i>Newsweek</i>	August 25, 2020
"For Joe Biden, Trump's Impeachment Inquiry Emphasizes His Strong Standing While Also Testing It," <i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	October 2, 2019
"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 (PA)</i>	August 25, 2016
"Will Local Republicans Up For Election Vote for Donald Trump?" <i>LNP (PA)</i>	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</i> (LA)	August 30, 2015
"Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's Presidential Quest Continues, Focus Remains on 'Early States,'" <i>The Advocate</i> (LA)	August 10, 2015
"The First GOP Debate: Five Takeaways," <i>LNP</i> (PA)	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, All College Committee on Academic Program and Standards	2021 - Current
Member, Young Alumni Trustee Selection Committee	2021
Member, Dining Services Food Advisory Committee	2019 - 2020
Faculty Liaison, The Washington Center and Dickinson in DC Programs	2018 - Current
Member, All College Committee on Enrollment and Student Life	2015; 2018 - 2021
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, International Journal of Press/Politics, New Media and Society, Presidential Studies Quarterly</i>	