

Melissa S. Peterson

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Education

Doctorate of Political Science

University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Expected May, 2020)

Masters of Arts in Historical Studies

Nebraska Wesleyan University (December, 2013)

Masters of Science in Political Science

University of Nebraska – Omaha (August, 2008)

Bachelors of Arts in Secondary Education and Psychology

Cornell College (June, 2001)

Honors and Awards

Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award

Awarded by the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation (2014)

Nebraskans for Civic Reform Strengthening Democracy Awards

Outstanding Youth Engagement Program (2014)

Collegiate Experience

University of Nebraska at Omaha

PSCI 1000: Introduction to Political Science (Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016)

- Introduces students to political ideas, behaviors, processes, institutions, and issues on a national and global level.

PSCI 1100: Introduction to American National Government (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014)

- Introduces students to the foundational principles, institutions, processes, and policies of national government in the United States

PSCI 2310: Introduction to Political Theory (Spring 2014)

- Introduces students to the nature and scope of politics, the foundations of political thought, and competing traditions of political theory through the ideas of major political philosophers, the interpretation of their ideas, and the possible application of their ideas today.

PSCI 2500: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015)

- Introduces students to the fundamental concepts and theoretical approaches used to study political institutions, processes, and public policies in different country settings. This course also illustrates the rich diversity of political life and the importance of global political and economic change.

Midland University

HIS 112: US History Since 1865 (Spring 2014)

- This course surveys the history, creation, and development of the United States since the Reconstruction Era

HIS 240: Women in America (Spring 2015)

- This course surveys the public and private lives of American women of diverse class, racial, ethnic, and regional heritage from colonial times to the present. The course examines the gender roles in the family, work place and community, and the bonds that unite women of multiple cultural traditions. Students learn to examine human experience from a historical perspective and become aware of the complexity of historical thought. Through historical analysis and examination of the various experiences of the specific women selected for consideration, students gain an appreciation and respect for the common bonds that unite women of multiple traditions, how their experiences have shaped the greater American experience, and the importance, in general, of cooperation in democratic societies

HIS 212: Introduction to Political Science (Fall 2015)

- This course enables students to understand the different forms of government present through history and the theoretical underpinnings of the systems. The course examines the early practices of democracy in the ancient world, the rise of absolutism, the evolution of modern republican structures, and the rise, fall, and lasting effects of the twentieth century totalitarian regimes. Students will become acquainted with the basic structures of different government systems, and the historical relationships involved in present international relations.

HIS 213: Federal Government (Spring 2016)

- This course enables students to understand the relationship between citizenship and government. The course will examine the electoral process, the role of states within the political structure, the impact of

*Teaching
Experience*

special interests, and the relationship between congress, the presidency, and the U.S. Supreme Court. The student becomes acquainted with the basic working of the federal government, the uniqueness of the American system, and the interactive relationship of individual citizens with the government

Omaha South High Magnet School: 2001- Present

American History – Freshman

- Utilized History Alive strategies and curriculum to meet diverse student needs.
- Planned daily lessons that included multiple intelligences.
- Facilitated monthly writing assignments to meet with district writing goals.

Honors American History – Freshman

- Challenged students through the use of guided research projects.
- Prepared students for future honors advanced placement classes through vertical teaming.

Geography – Sophomores

- Conducted a variety of assessment techniques to challenge the students as well as meet the diverse needs of the classroom.

World History – Juniors

- Developed lessons using document based questions to broaden students reading and writing abilities.

American Government – Seniors

- Created a required semester project that culminated the semester's worth of learning into a meaningful project.

Anthropology - Juniors and Seniors

- Implemented lessons to allow students hands on approach to the various sides of anthropology.

AP Psychology - Juniors and Seniors

- Utilized operant conditioning techniques to train live rats to perform specific tasks
- Designed curriculum to prepare students for the AP exam

Psychology - Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

- Devised lessons to integrate cooperative learning into the course.

AP Government and Politics: American – Seniors

- Coordinated team teaching units within the curriculum to enhance student engagement.

*Service
Learning*

- Worked closely with Nebraskans for Civic Reform to create a unit on the Unicameral which included a trip to the Capitol and a mock hearing.
- Designed curriculum to prepare students for the AP exam.

AP Government and Politics: Comparative – Seniors

- Utilized speakers from UNO to introduce the various political systems.
- Designed curriculum to prepare students for the AP exam.

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Campaigns

- Worked with Dr. Benjamin-Alvarado's UNO classes and the Heartland Worker's Center to complete door to door canvassing providing non-partisan voting information to the South Omaha Community.

Neighborhood Awareness

- Worked with Dr. Landow's UNO class, Marrs Middle School, and Liberty Elementary to survey our neighborhoods and write to our city council member describing areas of our neighborhoods that need improvement.

Legislative Action

- Worked with Nebraskan's for Civic Reform and Senator Amanda McGill to introduce a bill to the Nebraska Legislature that would allow 16 year olds to register to vote when they apply for their driver's license. Students assisted with the bill drafting, testified at the committee hearing, and lobbied a potential swing vote senator.

Community Outreach

- Took a group of students to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to mentor and work with the children there for a weekend. While on the reservation we also completed community needs projects, such as winterizing homes for the elderly, and cleaning/painting in the community building. Students also conducted drives to collect goods that met the needs of the school students at the time. Created a community library by collecting books, we also collected backpacks and school supplies.
- Sponsored hunger and homelessness awareness weeks. Students hosted clothing and food drives throughout the course of the week, while promoting little known facts about hunger and homelessness. Students then

organized a sleep out on the football field, where community members shared their experiences with homelessness. Community members included: city council members, police officers, representatives from the Sienna Francis House, and formerly homeless individuals.

Co-sponsored a Service Learning/Community Service Group

- Worked with a fellow teacher to create a student led organization to give back to the community through service learning and community service opportunities.

*Publications
and Research*

Published Works

Process and Outcomes from a Youth-Led Campaign to Address Healthy Eating in an Urban School

Working Papers

Mobilizing Latino Voters: The Impact of a Bilingual Approach
Personality Types and Gender Bias in Voting

Invited Talks

IARSLCE: International Association for Research in Service Learning and Community Engagement

*Professional
Organizations*

**American Association of Educators
Midwest Political Science Association
Nebraska Coaches Association**

References

Dr. Jonathan C. Benjamin-Alvarado

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Professor

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