



by CHCASC 07/26/22 10:29

499Y Honors Research: Contract and Registration Form (Part I of Honors Thesis)

Contract submission deadline dates: April/May for fall semester registration; November/December for spring semester registration.

↓ STUDENT SECTION		
Last Name, First: Oliver, Tegan VanBuskirk		Grad Year: 2023
Phone: [REDACTED]	Email Address: [REDACTED]	
Major: BS-PUBHLTH Public Health Sciences (BS)		
Member of Commonwealth Honors College: Yes	Departmental Honors Dept. (if applicable): N/A	
This is a (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio	<input type="checkbox"/> I need these credits to reach 12 credits for fulltime status for my 499T/P semester.	<input type="checkbox"/> If necessary, I have obtained overload permission from my Academic Dean so these credits can be added to my SPIRE schedule.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read and followed the instructions from the section of this form titled "499Y-SEMESTER PLAN INSTRUCTIONS" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I understand that the attached plan is binding and part of my permanent UMass record; it may be shown to graduate schools upon request.		
Student's Signature: Tegan VanBuskirk Oliver		Date: 07/17/2022

↓ FACULTY SECTION - REVIEW and APPROVAL of 499Y-SEMESTER PLAN and COURSE REGISTRATION REQUEST		
<i>The UMass credit norm is 3 hours of student work per credit per week; For example: 3 credits = 9 or more hours of work per week for 13 weeks; 6 credits = 18 or more hours of work per week for 13 weeks</i>		
COMMITTEE CHAIR ↓ Info and Approval		
<i>I have reviewed and I approve the student's Honors Research Plan (attached), number of credits requested and department for course registration. As Chair, I will take responsibility for guiding lab safety, human subject testing, and/or proprietary issues so the resultant manuscript may be made public through the Du Bois Library archives.</i>		
Part I: 499Y Research: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3cr <input type="checkbox"/> 4cr	Committee Chair must provide justification: <input type="checkbox"/> 5cr <input type="checkbox"/> 6cr	
499Y Registration Department/SPIRE Subject Area: POLISCI		499Y Registration Semester and Year: Fall 2022
Chair's Name: Fountain, Jane		Email Address: [REDACTED]
Department: School of Public Policy	Phone: [REDACTED]	Address: Thompson Hall
Chair's Signature: **** 07/17/2022 ****		
For DH students: HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR of DH department: ↓ Approval as DH Requirement		
<i>The credits and course registration department requested above are appropriate to the 499Y-Semester Plan attached, and acceptable for the DH 499Y Part I requirement in my department.</i>		
HPD Name: N/A	HPD Signature: N/A	Date: N/A
HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR of department in which the ↓ course is to be registered (as noted above):		
<i>The expectations outlined in the attached proposal do or do not meet the standards of my department. This 499 coursework</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> may <input type="checkbox"/> may not be registered in my department.		
HPD Name: POLISCI: Musgrave, Robert P		Date: 07/17/2022

**** = electronic signature

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499Y Semester Plan

1. Statement regarding the goal of the thesis

The goal of this honors thesis research project is to explore the research question: What is the relationship between gender and political ambition in undergraduate students majoring in policy- or politics-related fields?

Women are underrepresented in political leadership, and research shows this is not because women lose political races when they choose to run, but rather that they are less likely to decide to run. Researchers refer to the propensity to run for elective positions as “political ambition.” This study will explore whether the divide in political ambition is present at the undergraduate level, with the goal of informing efforts to address the gender gap in public leadership.

For this research, policy- and politics-related fields will include the following majors: political science; legal studies; sociology; public health; public policy; resource economics; social thought and political economy; sustainable community development; economics; and women, gender, and sexuality studies. Political ambition will be defined and operationalized as having thought about running for office at least once before. The primary research method includes a survey of undergraduates, including questions on demographics, interest in elected office, and demographics. The survey will ask participants how many times they have been told they should run for office, among other questions, to measure external factors related to political ambition.

2. Key readings

Anzia, S. F., and Berry, C. R.. (2011). The Jackie (and Jill) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen? *American Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 478-493. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23024932>

Barnes, T. D. & Cassese, E. C.. (2017). American Party Women: A Look at the Gender Gap within Parties. *Political Research Quarterly* 70(1): 127-41. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912916675738>

Coffman, H. & Bolzendahl, C. (2010). Same Game, Different Rules? Gender Differences in Political Participation. *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*, 62, 318-333. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-009-9729-y>

Crowder-Meyer, Melody, and Rosalyn Cooperman. 2018. “Can’t Buy Them Love: How Party Culture among Donors Contributes to the Party Gap in Women’s Representation.” *Journal of Politics* 80(4): 1211-24.

Foos, F. & Gilardi, F. (2020). Does Exposure to Gender Role Models Increase Women’s Political Ambition? A Field Experiment With Politicians. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 7, 157-166. <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2019.21>[\[Opens in a new window\]](#)

Fox, R. & Lawless, J. (2014). Reconciling Family Roles With Political Ambition: The New Normal for Women in Twenty-First Century US Politics. *The Journal of Politics*, 76(2). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022381613001473>

Fox, R. & Lawless, J. (2014). Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition. *American Political Science Review*, 108(3), 499-519. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055414000227>[\[Opens in a new window\]](#)

Gates, M. (2021). What the 123rd Congress Will Look Like: Examining the Gender Gap in Political Ambition of College Students. *Honors Scholar Theses*. 792. https://opencommons.uconn.edu/srhonors_theses/792

Holman, M. R., & Schneider, M. C. (2018). Gender, race, and political ambition: how intersectionality and frames influence interest in political office. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 6(2), 264-280. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2016.1208105>

Karpowitz, C. F., Monson, J. Q., Preece, J. R.. (2017). How to Elect More Women: Gender and Candidate Success in a Field Experiment. *American Journal of Political Science* 61(4): 927-43. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26379536>

Lawless, J. & Pearson, K. (2008). The Primary Reason for Women’s Underrepresentation? Reevaluating the Conventional Wisdom. *The Journal of Politics*, 70(1). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S002238160708005X>

Lawless, J. & Fox, R. (2012). “Men Rule: The Continued Under-Representation of Women in US Politics.” *American University*. <https://www.american.edu/spa/wpi/upload/2012-men-rule-report-final-web.pdf>

Lawless, J. & Fox, R. (2013). “Girls Just Wanna Not Run: The Gender Gap in Young Americans’ Political Ambition.” *American University*. https://www.american.edu/spa/wpi/upload/girls-just-wanna-not-run_policy-report.pdf

Lawless, J. & Fox, R. (2017). “The Trump Effect.” *American University*. <https://www.american.edu/spa/wpi/upload/the-trump-effect.pdf>

Melusky, Benjamin, Eric Loepp, and Kristin Kanthak. 2020. “Candidate Emergence and the Success of Women.” *PS*:

Political Science & Politics 53(3): 440-46.

Pacheco, J.S. (2008). Political Socialization in Context: The Effect of Political Competition on Youth Voter Turnout. *Political Behavior*, 30(4), 415-436. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40213326>

Pate, J. & Fox, R. (2018). Getting past the gender gap in political ambition. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 156, 166-183. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2018.10.002>

Preece, J. R. (2016) "Mind the Gender Gap: An Experiment on the Influence of Self-Efficacy on Political Interest." <http://gcel.byu.edu/Content/Mind%20the%20Gender%20Gap.pdf>

Rai, S. (2021). Analyzing and Accounting for the Gender Gap in Political Ambition among Nepali College Students. *Merge*, 5(1). <https://athenacommons.muw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1030&context=merge>

Thomsen, D. & Swers, M. (2017). Which Women Can Run? Gender, Partisanship, and Candidate Donor Networks. *Political Research Quarterly* 70(2): 449-63. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26384954>

3. Communication

I will meet biweekly for a half hour to an hour with my Committee Chair during the fall semester to discuss progress on my research. These meetings will cover check-ins about ongoing work, questions that arise, and discussion of next steps to ensure that expectations and timelines remain clear.

4. Specialized training

The research involves live human beings. The UMass Office of Human Research Protection reviewed the proposed work and determined that the research did not meet the federal definition of human subject research.

5. Methods or agenda

Data collection will involve a survey of approximately 200 undergraduate students enrolled in general education courses (specific classes to be determined). I will analyze the data on gender and political ambition using a chi-squared test comparing categorical variables of low, medium, and high political ambition (based on quantitative values related to the number of times one has considered running for office, among other things) with gender and major.

I constructed the independent and dependent variables and their corresponding measures and survey items using a range of existing research on political ambition. I plan to use factor analysis to analyze the relationships among independent variables and to allow for the analysis of several variables that may impact and/or measure political ambition. Using this method, I will explore how the measures of political ambition, such as considering running for office and engaging with political news or work, relate to one another.

Draft Survey: <https://forms.gle/R8AZieoAcr7fZ2qu7>

Survey Questions:

Thank you for taking this 4-5 minute survey. Your answers are anonymous, and the results will be analyzed as part of an honors thesis focused on the relationship between gender and political ambition among undergraduates. Reach out to toliver@umass.edu with any questions or additional relevant comments.

Demographics (7)

What is your class year?

- First-year
- Second-year
- Third-year
- Fourth-year

- Beyond fourth-year

What is your age?

- Younger than 17
- 17-24
- Older than 24

What is your primary major?

- Accounting
- Afro-American Studies
- Animal Science
- Anthropology
- Arboriculture and Community Forest Management
- Architecture
- Art
- Art Education
- Art History
- Astronomy
- BDIC
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Building and Construction Technology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language and Literature
- Civil Engineering
- Classics
- Classics and Philosophy
- Communication
- Communication Disorders
- Comparative Literature
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Dance
- Earth Systems
- Economics

- Education
- Electrical Engineering
- English
- Environmental Science
- Equine Concentration
- Exploratory Track
- Finance
- Food Science
- French and Francophone Studies
- Geography
- Geology
- German and Scandinavian Studies
- History
- History of Art and Architecture
- Horticulture Science
- Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Industrial Engineering
- Informatics
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Language and Literature
- Journalism
- Judaic Studies
- Kinesiology
- Landscape Architecture
- Landscape Contracting
- Legal Studies
- Linguistics
- Management
- Managerial Economics
- Marketing
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Microbiology
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music

- Natural Resources Conservation
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Operations and Information Management
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Plant and Soil Science
- Political Science
- Portuguese and Brazilian Studies
- Psychology
- Public Health Sciences
- Public Policy
- Resource Economics
- Russian Eurasian and Polish Studies
- Social Thought and Political Economy
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport Management
- Sustainable Community Development
- Sustainable Food and Farming
- Sustainable Horticulture
- Theater
- Turfgrass Science and Management
- Veterinary Technology
- Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Which best describes you?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to disclose
- Additional gender category/identity not listed

Which best describes you? (Select all that apply)

- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino

- Native American or Alaskan Native
- White or Caucasian
- A race/ethnicity not listed here
- Prefer not to disclose

Which best describes your ideology?

- Liberal
- Moderate
- Conservative
- I don't know

Which best describes your political affiliation?

- Democrat
- Independent, leaning Democrat
- Independent
- Independent, leaning Republican
- Republican
- I don't know

Interest in Elected Office (8)

Have you considered running for office?

- Yes, I have seriously considered it.
- Yes, it has crossed my mind.
- No, I have never thought about it.

Do you plan to run for office in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

[branching logic] If you do not plan to run for office, why not? (Select all that apply)

- I am not interested in politics
- I have other career plans
- I would not be qualified to run
- I do not believe I would win
- It would be too much of a financial risk
- Other [please explain]

Has someone suggested that you should run for office?

- Yes
- No

[branching logic] Who suggested that you should run for office? (Select all that apply)

- An elected official
- A non-elected political official or activist
- A friend, family member or acquaintance professor
- Someone else [please specify]

Based on where you see yourself in your career in the next 10-15 years, how qualified do you feel you will be to run for office?

- Very qualified
- Somewhat qualified
- Somewhat unqualified
- Not at all qualified

If you were to become a candidate for public office, how likely do you think it is that you would win your first campaign?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

What is your attitude toward running for office in the future?

- I would definitely like to run in the future
- I might run if the opportunity presented itself
- I would not rule it out, but currently no interest
- I would never run for office

If you were to run for office in the future, at which level of government would you likely run?

- Local
- State
- Federal

Political Engagement (10)

Are you registered to vote?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Did you vote in the 2020 general election?

- Yes
- No

[branching logic] If you did not vote in the 2020 general election, why didn't you?

- I was not eligible to vote
- I was eligible to vote but not registered

- I didn't know the election was happening
- I didn't know where or when to vote
- I chose not to

Did you vote in the 2020 primary election?

- Yes
- No

[branching logic] If you did not vote in the 2020 primary election, why didn't you?

- I was not eligible to vote
- I was eligible to vote but not registered
- I didn't know the election was happening
- I didn't know where or when to vote
- I chose not to

Do you plan to vote in the 2022 midterm elections?

- Yes
- No

Have you ever volunteered for a political campaign?

- Yes
- No, but would consider it in the future
- No, and would not consider it in the future

How often do you intentionally read, watch, or listen to political news?

- Daily
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- Once every few weeks
- Rarely

Do you know who your federal representatives are?

- Yes
- No

Do you know who your state representatives are?

- Yes
- No

Do you know who your local representatives are?

- Yes
- No

[open-ended] If you are interested in the idea of elected office but don't see yourself running, why is that? What factors do

you believe make you hesitant to run for office?

[open-ended] What qualities or skills make a person qualified to run for elected office?

6. Timeline and Grading

6.1. Describe a graded assignment due by the W (withdrawal) date.

A literature review table detailing study type, variables, populations, and results of key readings will be due by the withdrawal date.

6.2. Describe and give dates for other first-semester assignments.

Due September 23, 2022: Draft introduction section of 499T/P thesis; Literature review outline Due September 30, 2022: Draft methods section of 499T/P thesis proposal; Literature review introduction Due October 7, 2022: Draft evaluation section of 499T/P thesis proposal; Literature review methods Due October 14, 2022: Draft communication section of 499T/P thesis proposal; Literature review discussion Due October 28, 2022: Draft timeline section of 499T/P thesis proposal; Literature review conclusion Due November 4, 2022: Literature review abstract Due November 11, 2022: Final draft 499T/P thesis proposal; Final draft literature review Due December 1, 2022 (tentative): Submit 499T/P thesis proposal; Reach out to professors teaching spring general education professors about administering surveys

6.3. Give the date by which second committee member will have been selected. Give the name, if known.

My second committee member will be Dr. Ray La Raja.

6.4. Give the date by which a first draft of your literature review will be submitted to your advisor.

I will submit a first full draft of the literature review by November 11, 2022.

6.5. Give the dates by which (a) a draft of your 499T/P proposal will be submitted to your advisor, and (b) your 499T/P proposal will be uploaded to PATHS (this deadline should be before the end of the 499Y semester).

I will submit a first full draft of the 499T/P proposal to my advisor by November 11, 2022. I will submit the proposal to PATHS by December 1, 2022.

COMMENTS

Academic Standards Committee (Acad Stds Comm) | Student+Faculty | Acad Stds Committee - Approved | 07/26/22 10:29
The ASC has read and approved this well articulated proposal.

Musgrave, Robert P (Honors Prog Dir) | Student+Faculty | Email sent | 07/17/22 16:58
This looks exciting and well thought through--it could be very interesting research.
