



FAQ –2022 Teaching & Learning Symposia

(1) What are the Teaching & Learning Symposia?

The symposia are 3-day workshops held either at APSA’s headquarters in Washington, DC or virtually. Approximately 10-15 teacher-scholars participate by (1) presenting on key topics in the field and/or pedagogical techniques, and (2) creating new teaching resources related to the theme of each symposium. Each symposium begins with participant presentations and time for workshopping and questions. Participants then break out into small teams to develop new teaching resources focused on specific issues and topics.

(2) What is the purpose of the teaching and learning symposia?

Some political science educators are tasked with teaching a wide breadth of classes, requiring them to prepare course materials in areas where they are not substantive experts and/or are not up-to-date on the most recent research in a given subject area or subfield. Others may not be required to teach a broad range of classes, but simply do not have time to curate teaching resources or read up on new developments in teaching techniques and resources. Whatever their teaching responsibilities and areas of expertise, political science teacher-scholars are often required to spend significant time searching for contemporary research in a given area and/or teaching resources related to that content. The Teaching & Learning Symposia provide space to create resources to fill this gap, while also enabling a group of like-minded educators to network.

(3) What are the benefits of participating?

Participants will come away from each symposium with new insights into teaching and research in their subfield or area, with concrete teaching resources that they can use in their own courses, and with a new network of colleagues equally dedicated to teaching. In addition, the teaching resources will be disseminated to the broader political science teaching community through [APSA Educate](#). Substantive/content presenters will be invited to publish a blog post to be featured on APSA Educate. This summary piece is meant to be an additional resource that teachers can use either to inform their class prep, or to assign directly to students.

(4) What are appropriate topics for the substantive (“state of the discipline”) presentations?

Substantive presentations are intended to provide an overview of a broad contemporary topic area related to the symposium theme. For example, imagine that one of the symposium participants wants to redesign an Introduction to Political Theory syllabus to include a section on political economy. The goal of the substantive presentation is to discuss new trends in the field vis-à-vis political economy, relevant debates in the literature, contemporary political issues relevant to the course material, and so on.

(5) Who can participate?

Any faculty member or advanced graduate student who has concrete experience teaching courses related to the symposium theme (e.g. political theory, comparative politics, etc.) is eligible to apply. Participants must be active APSA members.

(6) Where are the teaching and learning symposia held?

The in-person symposia are held at the Centennial Center in APSA headquarters:
1527 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

In 2022, some symposia will be held virtually.

(7) What time does each symposium begin and end?

The schedules for the symposia vary, depending on the number of participants and the specific symposium agenda. However, most symposia begin sometime during the morning on Day 1, and end by 6pm on Day 3.

(8) When are symposia held and what themes do they focus on?

We are planning for five symposia in 2022: teaching Introduction to American Politics; Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; Social Inequality; Teaching Political Science at Community Colleges; and Global Politics. More information can be found [here](#).

(9) What kinds of teaching resources will participants produce?

Symposium teams determine what kinds of teaching resources they want to create; however, some examples might include community engagement projects, in-class exercises and assignments, simulations and games, social media projects, or resource toolkits (i.e. a collection of materials related to one topic). You can find resources from past symposia [here](#).

(10) Are the symposia funded? What is the cost to participate?

In person symposia: The registration fee is \$85. Participants are expected to pay their own travel and accommodation costs. Many of the meals are provided at no cost to participants. Some small need-based travel grants are available, which participants can request when applying. Grants range from \$200-\$500 and cannot be used for registration or membership fees. APSA encourages participants to seek funding from their home institutions and other sources, when possible.

For virtual symposia, the registration fee is \$35. Funds are available for a limited number of small accessibility grants to support unemployed or furloughed scholars and/or scholars who do not receive research support from their institution. Please note that neither APSA membership nor the fee to register for the workshop are covered by an APSA accessibility grant, and therefore should not be included in your budget.

(11) Where should participants stay?

There are many hotel options in the DC area at all price points. We encourage participants to stay wherever is most convenient. For a list of recommended properties, please send an email to teaching@apsanet.org