

**Call for proposals**  
**APSA Virtual Teaching & Learning Symposium**  
Dates: July 21-25, 2025

The American Political Science Association's (APSA) Teaching and Learning program is pleased to announce a call for proposals for a small cohort of political scientists to participate in a virtual teaching and learning symposium that will meet on **Zoom between July 21-25, 2025**. APSA's teaching and learning symposia provide a workshop environment where scholar-educators with similar goals can come together to share their own practices and research related to teaching and create new teaching resources for their courses. Led by Michelle D. Deardorff (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) and Allison Rank (University of Northern Iowa), the theme of this symposium is **Teaching Introduction to American Politics in Times of Uncertainty**.

Political science instructors, especially those who are teaching Introduction to American Politics/Government and other American Politics courses, are facing challenges to the traditional or textbook approaches to these classes as the current political environment in the United States is ever-changing. This symposium seeks to bring together a small cohort of political science scholar-educators to workshop, co-create, and discuss teaching resources, techniques, and strategies for teaching American Politics in times of political uncertainty and change.

This symposium is particularly interested in answering questions related to teaching the Introduction to American Politics Course in the current political environment including, but not limited to:

- How are you changing the approach/structure of your course?
- What are the assumptions underlying the course? How have these changed over time?
- How do we help students distinguish between policies they disagree with and actual threats to democratic processes and structures?
- How do you respond to current political events in meaningful ways without letting it drive your course?
- Have you incorporated historical or comparative insights into your course?

The goals of the symposium are three-fold:

1. To provide an inclusive space where participants can build supportive relationships with other scholar-educators who teach courses on American Politics, with a particular focus on the introductory-level course.
2. To present, discuss, and co-create innovative class activities, readings, or assignments for the Introduction to American Politics/Government class that help students understand the changing US political landscape.
3. To contribute teaching materials to an [APSA Educate](#) resource collection on American Politics.

Your teaching resource need not be publication ready, only something you have found useful in the introductory class and are interested in developing and sharing. The final resource collection will be shared on [APSA Educate](#) in advance of the fall 2025 semester for other faculty to browse and use in their own classes.

Possible resources/techniques include but are not limited to:

- simulations/games/active learning exercises
- readings and how you incorporate them (readings can include: open educational resources, multimedia sources, public scholarship, blog posts, etc.)
- online tools and activities
- techniques/tools that support an inclusive classroom
- approaches to facilitating civic dialogue and discourse
- activities and assignments focusing on media literacy

We encourage applications from political science faculty at all stages of their careers, from a range of institutions, including universities and two- and four-year colleges. Advanced graduate students are also encouraged to apply.

Applicants should have experience teaching on issues related to American Politics and be active APSA members at the time of the symposium.

### **Schedule**

This workshop will meet **virtually** for three sessions and participants should expect to work with their small groups outside of these sessions during the week of July 21-25.

**Monday, July 21 and Tuesday, July 22 from 11 am ET- 5 pm ET:** Participants present their own pedagogical techniques related to teaching the Introduction to American Politics course. Presentations are short, allowing for significant discussion from the group, in a workshop-style atmosphere.

**Wednesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 24:** Small groups determine their own schedule to meet and work on team-based collaborations, developing new resources to innovate the introduction to American Politics/Government classroom. Teams are constructed during the symposium based on participants' interests. Each team then decides what kind of resource(s) they want to produce (e.g. in-class exercise, simulation, social media project).

**Friday, July 25 from 11 am ET- 5 pm ET:** Full symposium will meet again to share team-based collaborations, wrap-up discussion, and discuss next steps.

**Monday, August 4:** Due date for APSA Educate resources. The resultant teaching resources are disseminated through [APSA Educate](#), political science's virtual teaching resource library. Symposium participants come away from the event with new insights into teaching and research in their area, with concrete teaching resources that they can use in their own courses.

Application deadline: June 8, 2025

Proposals should be submitted online [here](#) and include:

- Recent CV, including detailed information on teaching experience
- 250-word abstract summarizing the resource or topic you plan to present at the symposium
- 250-word description of your motivation and goals for participating in the symposium
- Brief description of your institution and how American Politics fits into your department's curriculum.

Successful applicants will be notified by June 16, 2025. Course registration fees (\$35) may be paid online in advance of the symposium.

Please note that symposium participants do need to be active APSA members. For more information, visit the [Teaching and Learning Symposia website](#) and/or contact [teaching@apsanet.org](mailto:teaching@apsanet.org).