

Zach Lang

Department of History and Political Science
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Academic Positions

2024-present: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of History and Political Science, Anderson University

Education

2019-2024: Ph.D., Truman School of Government and Public Affairs- University of Missouri
Ph.D. Fellow: Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy
Concentrations: American Politics, Public Policy
Advisor: Peverill Squire

2015-2019: B.A., St. Lawrence University
Magna Cum Laude
Major: Government
Minor: History

Teaching & Research Interests

Politics and Law: The Constitution, Federalism & State Politics, Judicial Process & Politics

Political Thought: American Political Thought (1755-1825), Modern Political Thought (1650-1975)

Teaching Experience

Anderson University- Assistant Professor

PS 101- *American Government*- Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025

PS 301- *Public Policy*- Spring 2025

PS 303- *Political Institutions*- Fall 2024

PS 310- *Judicial Process*- Spring 2025

PS 399- *State and Local Politics*- Fall 2025

PS 410- *Civil Rights & Civil Liberties*- Fall 2025

PS 435- *Campaigns and Elections*- Fall 2024

CON 399- *The Politics of Star Wars*- Spring 2025

University of Missouri- Graduate Instructor

PS 2004: *The Politics of Star Wars*- Fall 2023, Spring 2024

PS 1100: *American Government*- Fall 2022

University of Missouri- Lead Graduate Assistant for American Government Game-Based Learning Grant (2022-2024)

Worked under Dr. Tori Mondelli to create an American government video game and in-person tabletop games. Led TA implementation and student playtesting. Lead designer of Supreme Court Nomination and Bureaucratic Politics Games and political typology test.

Other

- PhD Dissertation Writing Coach. Anderson University Graduate School (Summer 2025)
- Missouri Scholars Academy: Political Science Educational Game Instructor (Summer 2024)
- Teaching and Professional Development Program, University of Missouri (Spring 2023)
- Substitute Teacher: European History, Hereford High School, MD (Spring 2017)
- Creator, Head Coach: Hereford Zone Running Camp (Summer 2016-2021)

Invited Speaker

- “Faith and Learning Dialogue: Engaging Students on Controversial Topics” panelist at Faculty In-Service, Anderson University (Fall 2025)
- “Voting and the 2024 Presidential Election” panelist at campus-wide event, Anderson University (Fall 2024)
- “The International Relations of Game of Thrones” GOVT 371, St. Lawrence University. (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2025)

Publications

Academic Articles

1. “Unlimited Power: Energy Policy, State Politics, and Multistate Litigation Against the Federal Government.” Invited for special issue: 2025 Annual Review of Federalism in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* (2025). Available at: <https://academic.oup.com/publius/article-abstract/55/3/445/8211976?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
2. “Lessons from Dragons: Teaching Political Science with HBO’s House of the Dragon.” With Ronnie Olesker. *Journal of Political Science Education*. (2024). Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15512169.2024.2330931?src=exp-la>

Book Chapters

1. Red Tape: A Bureaucratic Politics Game in *Beating the Clock: The Power of Short Games and Active Learning in the Political Science Classroom* (2025) edited by Mark Harvey, James Fielder, Ryan Gibb, and Derek Glasgow. Taylor and Francis: Routledge Press.
2. GalactiVote: Government in Action! An American Government Video Game with Hillary Gould and Tori Mondelli. in *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* (2025) edited by J.L. Plass and X. Ochea: Springer Nature Switzerland. Originally accepted for the Joint International Conference on Serious Games: New York University (2024).

In Progress

1. “State Politics in the Early Republic and the Development of the American Executive: Representation, Party Politics, and Executive Selection Mechanisms 1788-1832.” With Aric Gooch.
2. “The Dragon in Our Minds: The Impact of exposure to Game of Thrones and House of the Dragon Fictional Narratives on Students’ Political Attitudes.” With Ronnie Olesker.

Media Appearances

- Featured in Anderson University’s *Synthesis Magazine*: “From Push Pins to Bobbleheads: Office Décor Shows of Professors’ Personalities” by Ella Lundgren. Summer 2025 issue. Available here: <https://andersonuniversity.edu/academics/arts-and-sciences/synthesis-magazine/>

- Featured in Anderson University's *Synthesis Magazine*: "Star Wars in the Classroom: Students Examine Politics of a Galaxy Far, Far Away" by Sam Quiambao. Summer 2025 issue. Available here: <https://andersonuniversity.edu/academics/arts-and-sciences/synthesis-magazine/>
- *CS Lewis is Smarter Than You* Podcast: "'Delinquents in the snow,' "Dangers of National Repentance," and "Mediations on the Third Commandment"" Spring 2025. Available on Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/delinquents-in-the-snow-dangers-of-national/id1794462226?i=1000696624529>
- *KOPN Radio*: "Politics and Philosophy." Fall 2021

Conference Presentations

Chair/Moderator:

- May 2024. Moderator for sessions: "Customizing Chat GPT to create a GPT Teaching Assistant" and "Bringing Your Classroom to Life! How to Utilize Live Demonstrations to Enhance Understanding of Complex Concepts." Celebration of Teaching Conference. University of Missouri.
- April 2021. Panel chair for: "The Aftermath of the 2020 Election." Southwestern Political Science Association. New Orleans, Louisiana (virtual).

Panelist:

- March 2025. "The Dragon in Our Minds: the impact of exposure to Game of Thrones and House of the Dragon fictional narratives on students' political attitudes" International Studies Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
- January 2024. "Red Tape: Bureaucracy in Action" board game presentation at CUNY Adult Learning Games Conference. New York, New York (virtual).
- April 2023. "The States Strike Back: The Role of Attorneys General in Multistate Litigation Against the Federal Government." Selected for Graduate Student Workshop, Shawnee Trail Regional Conference on American Politics and Constitutionalism. Columbia, MO.
- April 2023. "The States Strike Back: The Role of Attorneys General in Multistate Litigation Against the Federal Government." Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, Illinois.
- March 2023. "Lessons from Dragons: Teaching Political Science Through House of the Dragon." International Studies Association. Montreal, Quebec.
- April 2021. "The Elitist Few or the Populist Many? Public Demand, Representation, and Health-Interest Groups in the American States." Southwestern Political Science Association. New Orleans, Louisiana (virtual).
- June 2019. "Chaos is a ladder: A study of identity, norms, and power transition in the Game of Thrones universe." British International Studies Association. London, England.

- November 2018. “Chaos is a ladder: A study of identity, norms, and power transition in the Game of Thrones universe.” Northeastern Political Science Association. Montreal, Quebec.

Service

Anderson University

- Pre-Law Advisor (LSAC Certified) (Fall 2025-present)
- Phi Alpha Theta Advisor (Fall 2025-present)
- Pi Sigma Alpha Advisor (Fall 2025-present)
- Political Science Advisor (Spring 2025-present)
- Faculty Mentor, Men’s/Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field (Spring 2025-present)
- Leadership Team, Athletics Mentor Program (Spring 2025-present)
- Founder of the Athletics Mentor Program (Spring 2025)
- Athletics Oversight Committee Member (Fall 2024-present)

University of Missouri

- Graduate Student Mentor: Joe Harrison, Antony Jackson (Spring 2021-Spring 2023)
- Secretary, Graduate Association of Political Scientists (Fall 2022-Spring 2022)
- Kinder Institute First Year Interest Group and Residential College Fellow (Fall 2022)
- Kinder Institute DC Summer Scholars Program Acceptance Committee Member (Fall 2022)

Awards

University of Missouri

- *Graduate Fellowship*. Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy (2019-2024)

St. Lawrence University

- *Outstanding Student Athlete Award* (2019)
- *Summer Research Fellowship* (2018)
- *Chi Sigma Alpha member* (2015-2019)
- *Chi Alpha Sigma member* (2015-2019)
- NCAA Division III *Liberty League All-Academic Team*: Cross Country and Track & Field (2015-2019)
- *Sesquicentennial Scholarship* (2015-2019)

- *Presidential Scholarship* (2015-2019)

Boy Scouts of America

- *Eagle Scout, Silver Palm, Order of the Arrow* (2013)

Professional Memberships

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association

References

Dr. Peverill Squire- University of Missouri
Hicks and Martha Griffith Chair in American Political Institutions
squirep@missouri.edu

Dr. Ronnie Olesker- St. Lawrence University
Michael and Virginia Ranger Professor of Political Science
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
rolesker@stlawu.edu

Dr. Jay Dow- University of Missouri
Professor
Dow@missouri.edu