I. **Goals and Objectives of the Course:**

The following is the course syllabus for *PSCI 6000: From Course Paper to Journal Article*. Publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals is increasingly important for students who intend to pursue careers in academia. This course is designed around a system to help graduate students in any Political Science sub-field turn already-written seminar papers into peer-reviewed publications, which also helps with the construction of your three-article dissertation. The course combines weekly meetings focused on manuscript development with continual presentation and refinement of your projects.

Class time will be divided between short lectures and discussions about each of the steps of the publication process, “read and critique” writing group meetings, and research workshops with guest speakers. The lectures and discussions will focus on topics like writing productivity and crafting effective introductions. During the “read and critique” writing group sessions, participants in the course present portions of their manuscripts to each other for feedback. Finally, there will be faculty guests who will share some of their experiences on how they turn their projects into published articles.

II. **Texts:**

Students are expected to revise their manuscripts for publication. The revision process we will follow can be found in Wendy Laura Belcher’s excellent book, *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc., 2009). Belcher’s book is required for this course. A copy is available on the Canvas Website (this is not paginated) However you can buy a cheap copy on line that is paginated (cost is around $12). There is a new edition, but that edition is structured somewhat differently than the 2009 edition.

III. **Course Requirements and Grades**

Grades will be computed based on your success at completing the weekly assignments (70%-including the presentations and discussant roles), the quality of your final paper (20%), and on class participation (10%). For the weekly assignments, some written pieces will be turned in on Canvas at least 2 hours BEFORE the beginning of the seminar. Every other assignment you will prepare and bring with you to the class. Be prepared to present what you have done.
for the weekly assignments.

In addition, beginning on Week 4, and each week thereafter, two of you will present your work and what you have in front of the class (15 minutes per presentation). You will create a powerpoint or PDF presentation at least 24 hours PRIOR to class, and upload to Canvas. Two of you will be assigned as “discussants” who, after viewing and hearing the presentation, will offer feedback and questions. Both presenters and discussants will be evaluated in terms of the quality of the presentations and discussion. Then all other participants will ask questions and make suggestions (I will go around the room to make sure that everyone comments). I anticipate that each presentation and discussion will be about 45 minutes. Each participant will have three opportunities to formally present their work, and three opportunities to act as a formal discussant.

Getting your manuscript accepted for publication is the ultimate goal of this seminar, but you do not have to get an acceptance from a journal to get a good grade in this course. Instead, grades in this course are designed to reward determination and persistence in pursuit of publication. The degree to which each manuscript improves over the course of the semester is another salient dimension of the final evaluation for this course.

Please not that it may be the case, due to some unpredictable events such as weather (or I have to attend to some matters off campus) that this may require some revisions to the scheduling of the course. If such changes are necessary, I will contact you via email.

IV. Course schedule

Week one (January 13): Introduction
Going over the class
Reviewing “Understanding the Publication Process”

MLK day January 20, NO CLASS

Week two (January 27): Designing your plan for writing
Assignments:
- Read Belcher, chapter 1 and pp. 82-92 (PDF version is not paginated but the section entitled “Making a Good Argument” in chapter 3.
- Choose and assess your writing site.
- Design a daily and weekly writing schedule; anticipate obstacles and interruptions
- Write one 250 word paragraph identifying your argument (turn this in via Canvas prior to class).
- Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.

Week three (February 3): Starting your article.
Assignments:
- Read Belcher, chapter 2
- Revise paragraph-long statement of your argument.
• Print out your chosen paper, examine it, and make a list of revision tasks.
• Draft and revise the abstract for your paper.
• Identify and read a model article on your topic.
• Prepare 1 minute synopsis of the argument in your paper. (presentations will be held for all students on this day).
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**

**Week four (February 10): Advancing your argument.**

**Assignments:**
• Read Belcher, chapter 3.
• Review your article looking for places your argument disappears and should not.
• Revise your article around your argument.
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group A Presenters and Group A Discussants**

**Week five (February 17): Selecting a journal.**

**Assignments:**
• **Faculty Guest**
• Read Belcher, chapter 4.
• Identify three suitable journals for your work.
• Read and skim relevant articles from the selected journals.
• Finish revising your article around your argument.
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group B Presenters and Group B Discussants**

**Week six (February 24): Reviewing the related literature. Part I.**

**Assignments:**
• Read Belcher, chapter 5.
• Evaluate your current citations.
• Identify and read related literature.
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group C Presenters and Group C Discussants**

**Week seven (March 2): Reviewing the related literature. Part II.**

**Assignments:**
• Finish reading related literature
• Revise your literature review.
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group A Presenters and Group B Discussants**
Week eight (March 9) Spring Break

Week nine (March 16): Strengthening your structure
Assignments:
• Read Belcher, chapter 6.
• Outline a model article on your topic.
• Outline your paper.
• Restructure your paper using the model in the book as a guide,
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group B Presenters and Group C Discussants**

Week Ten (March 23) -No class at ISA

Week eleven (March 30): Presenting your evidence
Assignments:
• **Faculty Guest**
• Read Belcher, chapter 7
• Discuss your evidence with colleagues.
• Revisit your evidence.
• Shape evidence around argument.
• Develop check list for presenting evidence.
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group C Presenters and Group A Discussants**

Week twelve (April 6): Opening and concluding your article.
Assignments
• Read Belcher, chapter 8.
• Revise your introduction and conclusion.
• Revisit your abstract, related literature review.
• Share your manuscript with someone who will give you feedback by April 13.
• **Document time spent on your manuscript (e.g., hours spent, time of day). Turn in on Canvas before class.**
• **Group A Presenters and Group C Discussants**

Week thirteen (April 13): Giving, getting, and using others’ feedback.
Assignments:
• **Faculty Guest**
• Read Belcher, chapter 9.
• Consider the feedback you receive.
• Make a list of tasks that remain to be done.
• Revisit your introduction.
• **Group B Presenters and Group A Discussants**
Week fourteen (April 20): Editing your sentences.
Assignments:
- Read Belcher, chapter 11.
- Revise your article in response to feedback.
- Group C Presenters and Group B Discussants

Week fifteen (April 27): Sending your article.
Assignments:
- Read Belcher, chapter 12.
- Finalize your introduction.
- Finalize your related literature review and bibliography.
- Finalize your theoretical section.
- Finalize your evidence and structure.
- Finalize your conclusion.
- Prepare illustrations, if any.
- Write the submission cover letter.
- Put manuscript in journal’s style, especially the bibliography and notes.

FINAL PRESENTATIONS- ALL PRESENT, 15 minutes each

Prepare the final print or electronic version and send the manuscript to the journal you chose or prepare a memo outlining the remaining revisions and a schedule for completing them.
(turn this in to canvas, and forward me acknowledgement from journal verifying of submission).