

Caleb Griffin

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Education

PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Illinois 2019 - current
Dissertation: *Regions Lie Where Politicians Want Them to Lie*

MS in Applied Community Development at Illinois State University 2015 - 2017

BA in Political Science at Brigham Young University 2009 - 2014

Courses Taught

Intro to Political Science, 2025

Race & Ethnic Politics (Online), 2024

Intro to Political Science (Discussion Sections), 2023

Intro to Political Science (Online), 2021

Teaching Assistantships

Intro to Political Science, 2023

Politics & Media, 2020

The U.S. Constitution, 2019

Research Assistantships

Cara Wong, 2021-2022

Lab Groups

Identity and Politics, 2021-2025

Political Psychology, 2019-2021

Departmental Service

President of the Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2023-2024

Faculty Search Committee Graduate Student Representative, 2022

Project Lead: Faculty & Student Brownbags, 2021-2022 & 2023-2024

Co-Social Chair for Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2021-2022

Project Co-Lead: Mentorship program, 2021-2022

Visits Committee Member, 2020-2022

Peer Mentor, 2020-2023, 2025

Discipline Service

Reviewer for the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2025

Guest Speaker: National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-I), 2024

Panelist: Conducting Research in Morocco, MACECE, 2024

Panel Chair: Illinois State Political Science Student Conference, 2021

Reviewer for *Critique*, 2020

Published Work

Griffin, C.J.(2024). [Dickens on Political Representation and Responsiveness](#). *The Dickensian*, 120 (522), 57 - 66.

Articles Under Review

The Role of Choice in Navigating Competing Religious & Sexual Identities

What do we mean by Sharia Government?

Other Work

[The Geographic Framing of Israel](#) (2025)

[Learning a Language: the Gateway to Cosmopolitanism](#) (2017)

[Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration: Strategies for Successful Reentry](#) (2015)

Working Papers

How Perceptions of Community Support Affect Police Recruitment and Retention

Integrating Philosophical Conceptions of Identity with an Empirical Social Science Approach

Matching as a Strategy to Assess the Impact of Religiosity on Self-Esteem among Queer Christians

A New Minimalist Strategy to Conceptualize and Measure Latter-day Saint (Mormon) Religiosity

How Churches React to Changing Political Attitudes that Affect Doctrinal Stances

Fellowships

University of Illinois Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2026): \$13,000

Samuel K. Gove Fellowship (2025): \$1000

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Travel Grant (2025): \$500

Illinois Graduate Research Travel Scholarship (2025): \$200

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (2024): \$49,300

University of Illinois Dissertation Research Award (2024): \$500

Policy & Legislative Research Fellowship (2022-2023): \$20,000

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Research Fellowship (2023): \$2,500

Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, & Culture Fellowship: \$1,000

Charles M. Kneier Fellowship (2021-2022): \$2,050

Samuel K. Gove Fellowship (2020): \$550

Awards

Illinois List of Instructors Ranked Outstanding by Students (2024)

Rita & Leonard Ogren Prize for Academic Achievement (2022)

James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Nominee (2018)

Conference Presentations

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Conference: [Morocco's Place in Africa](#) (2025)

Moroccan-American Commission For Educational & Cultural Exchange Research Symposium: [Regions and Regional Identities](#) (2024)

University of Pennsylvania Borders and Boundaries Conference: [The Boundaries of Regions](#) (2023)

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Conference: [What do we mean by Sharia Government?](#) (2023)

Midwest Political Science Association Conference: [Where in the World is Morocco?](#) (2023)

UC School of Public and International Affairs Symposium: [Liberal Pluralism +](#) (2022)

Illinois EU Studies Conference: [Changing Regions, Changing Minds?](#) (2021)

ISU Political Science Student Conference: [Helping Strangers: How Language Acquisition Makes Individuals More Willing to Help Outgroup Members](#) (2016)

ISU Graduate Research Symposium: [Blowing the Language Whistle: Using Referees to Test the Effects of Shared Identity](#) (2016)

Languages

Spanish (near fluent; served a two-year Spanish-speaking mission)

Maghrebi Arabic (*Advanced Low* as determined by the Peace Corps Language Test upon completion of two years of service in Morocco).

Other Professional Experience

Legislative Fellow at the University of Illinois

2022-2023

I worked in the office of a state senator (Illinois 51st district) on a year-long project involving best practices in state recruitment of police officers.

Writing Instructor at the University of Utah

2019

I taught academic writing for the U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water. My work included lecturing, grading, editing, curriculum-development, and other activities designed to help graduate engineering students complete excellent master's theses. I also designed and taught academic writing workshops for students and faculty, which I carried out in Mehran University in Pakistan (funded by USAID).

Research Assistant at the University of Utah

2019

My role included database management, program evaluation, statistical analysis, and conducting literature reviews for three non-profits that contracted with the Social Research Institute (a research branch of the University of Utah College of Social Work).

Development Specialist at U.S. Peace Corps

2016-2018

I served in the community of Imouzzar Kandar, working with the Greenside Development Foundation, an NGO which helps young people and women in Morocco obtain the skills necessary to find stable employment. My work included grant writing, project design, teaching, and many other activities.

Legislative Research Assistant at the Utah State Legislature

2016

Assisted policy analysts and state legislators in various capacities. This included creating presentations for interim committees, preparing reports and memos, and conducting research.

Research Coordinator at Teens Act

2014-2015

Directed evaluation projects including conducting, compiling, and analyzing survey data for students and mentors. Created quarterly and annual reports for school administrators and the board of directors. Maintained a student database and carried out several large research projects. Drafted partnership proposals for Utah Valley University and the BYU Psychology department. Collaborated on a cohort project with the BYU Sociology department. Managed three interns and directed research assignments for them.

Congressional Intern at the U.S. House of Representatives

2013

Interned in Washington D.C. for the Arizona 8th District. My work included constituent relations, proof-reading, research, and clerical work.