

# UF Political Science Junior Fellowship: General Overview

## Program Overview

The Junior Fellows Program provides advanced undergraduates meaningful research experience, insight into the profession of Political Science, and the ability to work closely with a faculty member or an advanced (ABD) graduate student. The program will prepare members to succeed in their senior thesis work and stand out as they apply for research opportunities and advanced degrees. Working closely with supervisors on a weekly basis, attending a seminar series exploring the diversity of methods and approaches, and participating in a capstone research presentation workshop provides Junior Fellows with hands-on experience in the field of political science and valuable professional insight.

## Requirements with Advisor/Supervisor

- 1. Meet weekly to discuss research objectives, assign tasks, and maintain progress.**

If you are registered for 3 credits, you are expected to spend 9 hours per week working on the research project (this does not mean you spend all those hours at school with your supervisor). The initial meeting should serve as an introduction of the research question, the methodological approaches used and the rationale behind them, and the project expectations. It is the expectation of the Junior Fellows program that supervisors will teach and mentor their Junior Fellows in the conduct of research and professional development to prepare them for future research opportunities and advanced degrees.

- 2. Submit a progress report halfway through the semester and another at the end of the semester.**

Junior Fellows and their supervisors must submit 2 progress reports evaluating their collaboration, the research progress made, and the overall scope of the program. Progress reports will be used towards calculating the final grade (each one is worth 25% for a total of 50% of your grade)

## Requirements of the Program

- 1. Attend two research seminars coordinated by the JF Director:**

These will typically be on Monday or Thursday evenings, with two members of the department giving presentations of their research, methods, and overall professional experience and involvement in the field.

- 2. Attend three special topic presentations**

I.e. Departmental RSPs, Graham Center guest speakers, or similar events such as at the Centers for Latin American Studies and African Studies. *The two research seminars the JF Director hosts do NOT count for this requirement.*

- 3. Write 3 critical reflections**

Note: one page, single-spaced critical reflections, one for each special topic presentation

- 4. Attend and present research** at the capstone research presentation seminar workshop at the end of the semester.

### Critical Reflections

- This is more than a summary of the presentation. It's important to critically think about the theoretical arguments made, the research designs and methodologies employed (if applicable), issues the presentation does not consider, and your evaluation of the presenter's perspective in conducting research.
- Half page summary maximum, with half page critical response considering the above topics. Approximately 500 words single-spaced.
- Due no later than one week after you attend the presentation.

### Junior Fellows Research Conference Presentation

- The goal of this conference is to briefly share the purpose and approach of the type of research you were involved in this semester. The presentation should be 10-12 minutes long and may or may not use visual aids depending on the subject matter (more details on presentation guidelines will be provided later in the semester)
- Think of this as an additional opportunity to be young academics, not only doing the research, but presenting it to your colleagues. Semi-professional to professional dress is encouraged.

### Grading

- 50% of the final grade will derive from two research progress reports submitted by the faculty supervisor.
- 30% of the final grade will derive from participation in the two research seminars and the three critical reflections of the special topics presentations.
- 20% of the final grade will derive from the presentation during the final research presentation workshop.