

# Colin French

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## EDUCATION

PhD, Political Science, Syracuse University, August 2022  
American Politics (Major)  
Comparative Politics (Minor)

MA, Political Science, Syracuse University, December 2018.

M.S.ED, State University of New York at Potsdam, 2015, *With Distinction*.

Major- Curriculum & Instruction

Concentration in Social Studies

Thesis- "The Present Inadequacies of High School Economics Instruction"

B.A., St. Lawrence University, 2012, *Cum Laude*

First Major- Economics

Second Major- Canadian Studies

Minor- Government

Senior Thesis- "A Comparative Historical Analysis of Fractional Banking in the USA and Canada"

## **Dissertation Title- "Social Pressure and Accuracy Motivations- Combating Motivated Reasoning in Political Knowledge"**

My dissertation investigates the degree to which social pressure, including group identity and political partisanship, can affect the degree to which the public places value on accuracy in responses to political knowledge questions. In a political climate where openness to and acceptance of factual information is often skewed by motivated reasoning, this project seeks to find strategies to test the public's openness to facts when presented with mild social pressure. I use experimental methods, observational data, and interviews to conduct these theoretical tests.

Committee- Shana Gadarian (Advisor), Emily Thorson, Steven White

## **Research Interests**

Social Pressure & Political Behavior, Public Opinion, Political Psychology, Experimental Methods, Political Misperceptions.

## **Publications**

“One Bad Apple Spoils the Bunch: Kavanaugh and Change in Institutional Support for the Supreme Court”- Social Science Quarterly, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12983>

### **Working Papers**

“Giving up the Ghost: Public Misperceptions about Brexit”

“Commitment Tactics in Comparison: US Public Opinion and Alliance Policy” (With Dr. Erik French)

### **Research Grants/Fellowships**

IHS Conference & Research Grant (450\$)- 2017

IHS Research Fellowship (3000\$)- 2018-2019 Season.

America in the World Consortium Grant (5000\$)- Summer 2021

### **Honors**

Campbell Institute Associate- 2018-Present

Jeffrey Stonecash Award for Best Paper in American Politics- Summer 2021

Employee of the Quarter- Washington Academy- Fall 2015

NHS Selection Committee- Washington Academy- Fall 2015

Graduate Student Distinction Award, SUNY Potsdam, 2014

Cum Laude, St. Lawrence University, 2012

### **Conference Presentations**

“U.S. Public Opinion, Commitment Tactics, and Military Intervention”- Presented at MPSA 2022

“Social Pressure and Accuracy Motivations”- Presented at IHS Research Colloquium, Summer 2020

“Misperceptions about Brexit”- Presented at IHS research Colloquium, Summer 2019

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE- College Level**

University of Georgia (2022-present)-

POLS 1101- American Government (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Summer 2024)

POLS 4510- Public Opinion & American Democracy (Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

POLS 4400- Political Psychology (Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

POLS 4060- Problems in Democratic Theory (Fall 2024)

Syracuse University (Fall 2019) –

American National Government and Politics- PSC 121

Jefferson Community College (Fall 2019) –

Introduction to American Government- POL 121

SUNY Brockport (Summer 2020)-  
Issues in American Politics- PSC 371 (Online)  
, Intro to American Politics- PSC 113.

Husson University (Fall 2015)-  
History of Western Civilization (Cross registration)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE- High School & AP**

Social Science Department - Washington Academy (2014-2016)

Honors World History  
Economics  
Civics  
International Business  
Marketing  
AP European History

**SUNY University at Potsdam- 2014**

TA- Introduction to Microeconomics: ECON 103