

Dr. Mark Leeper

Lecturer, University of Georgia

Awarded political science and higher education expert dedicated to providing students with high-quality educational opportunities through teaching, scholarship, and university service. Skilled communicator, fostering transparency across stakeholders to achieve University and student goals. Committed to excellence, offering a cutting-edge learning experience emphasizing public law and judicial politics, but also teaches a full range of courses in American Politics.

Selected Achievements

- Routinely recognized (8 times) for teaching excellence with multiple awards from students, faculty, and administrators.
- Designed and operated the Pre-Law program at Wayne State College (1996-2016) and the Legal Studies program at Centenary College (2016-2021).
- Chair, Department of History, Politics, and Geography (Wayne State College, 2001-2009).
- President of the Faculty, Wayne State College (2011-2015).
- Promoted departmental ties to the community, serving as a Political Analyst and Expert for multiple local media outlets (television, radio, and print).
- Served as appointed member (by the Governor) to the Louisiana State Board of Election Supervisors (2017-21).
- Partnered Centenary College with LSU Law to provide a “Public Interest Law Pipeline” for students to receive training to represent those in need.
- Member, Phi Beta Kappa.

Education and Credentials

Doctor of Philosophy in American Politics – Political Behavior and Institutions

Minor in Political Theory, Minor in Constitutional Law

Dissertation: “Springboard or Vacuum? Women, State Legislatures, and Political Ambition.”

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Master of Arts in American Politics

Thesis: “Campaign Strategy and Voter Perception: The Impact of Prejudice on Female Candidates.”

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*

Minor in History, Minor in English Literature

University of Nebraska- Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

Professional Experience

Lecturer, Department of Political Science: University of Georgia (2023-present)

Assistant Professor, Department of History and Political Science: Hampton University (2021- 2023)

Assistant Professor, Department of History and Political Science: Centenary College of Louisiana (2016-2021).

Professor, Department of History, Politics, and Geography, Wayne State College (2005-2016)

Associate Professor, Department of History, Politics, and Geography, Wayne State College (2000-2005)

Assistant Professor, Division of Social Sciences, Wayne State College (1996-2000)

Interim Professor, Department of Political Science, Guilford College (1993-1996)

Select Courses Taught

Introduction to American Government | Issues in Public Policy | Parties and Elections in the US
The American President | The U.S. Congress | Politics of the US Supreme Court | American Constitutional Law
Rights and Liberties | Law and Judicial Process | American Political Theory | Politics and Culture in American Film
Political Psychology | Seminar on Presidential Elections | The Presidential Nomination Process | Research Methods
Senior Seminar 1 | Senior Seminar 2 | Issues in State and Local Government | Issues in Political Behavior

Awards

- * **Susette M. Talarico Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Georgia, 2024.**
An annual teaching award in the Department of Political Science. All majors receive and respond to a survey to vote for the faculty member who demonstrates teaching excellence.
- * **Centenary College Pacesetter Award, 2019, 2020, and 2021.**
Students submit nominations to the Student Government Association, who then select six professors as finalists for what is essentially Professor of the Year. There is then a vote of the entire student body. The recipient (the “Pacesetter”) represents a professor who shows passion, service, and leadership for students.
- * **Broyles Inaugural Year Eminent Scholars Endowed Chair, 2016.**
\$3000 grant to support research regarding racial attitudes among adolescents (resulting article recently published in the *Journal of Social and Educational Policy*).
- * **State National Bank Teaching Excellence Award, Wayne State College, 2013.**
A campus-wide award for teaching excellence. Nominated by faculty and awarded by the VPAA.
- * **WSC Professor of the Year, 2008.**
A campus-wide award for teaching excellence. Nominated by students and selected by the Student Senate.
- * **Tanner Award, 1991.**
A campus-wide award given by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in recognition of “**excellence in teaching of undergraduate students.**”
- * **John Patrick Hagan Award, 1990.**
An annual award given by the UNC Department of Political Science for “**outstanding teaching by a graduate student.**”
- * **Phi Beta Kappa.**
Alpha Chapter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- * **Mortar Board Society.**
Black Masque Chapter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- * **Outstanding Undergraduate in Political Science.**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Publications and Presentations

1. “Looking Through the Lens of the Undergrad: The Belief in a Just World and its Effects on Perceptions of Racial Equality.” *Journal of Education and Social Policy*, Vol. 8 (March 2021). (Co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
2. “No Greater Law,” documentary review, *Religious Studies Review*, 46:3 (September 2020).
3. “The Contested Place of Religion in Family Law,” book review, *Religious Studies Review*, 45:2, p.199-200 (June 2020).

4. "The Real College," in *Teachers College: Essays on the Art of Education*, Bonnie Johnson-Haddix, Editor (WSC Press, 2008).
 5. "Random School Searches and Student Rights," in *Opposing Viewpoints: Students' Rights*, Jamuna Carroll, Editor (Thomson Gale Press, 2005).
 6. "High School Drug Search Policies and the Politics of Sin," *Policy Studies Journal*, (Winter 2003).
 7. "The Impact of Prejudice on Female Candidates: An Experimental Look at Voter Prejudice," *American Politics Quarterly*, 19:2 (April 1991).
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8. "Women State Legislators and Political Ambition," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Women's Studies Association, Greensboro, NC, 1994.
 9. "A Report from the Bottom Rung: Ambition, Advancement, and Women State Legislators," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 1994.
 10. "Springboard or Vacuum? Women, State Legislatures, and Political Ambition, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, GA, November 1996.
 11. "Revolutionaries and Representation: A Study of Republican Women in Congress," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 1998.
 12. "Reassessing How Women Legislate: The Republican "Zeros in Congress," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Political Science Association, San Antonio, Texas, April 1999.
 13. "Public School Search Policies and the 'Politics of Sin,'" presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2002.
 14. "The Nebraska Political Ethos," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Political Science Association, April 2003.
 15. "Bill Sponsorship and Policy Priorities of Female Legislators in the NE Unicameral," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Political Science Association, April 2005 (co-author: Cory Carnahan (WSC undergraduate)).
 16. "Are We All Human? Women State Legislators and Women's Issues," presented at the Southwest Political Science Association, Albuquerque, NM, March 2006 (co-author: Cory Carnahan (WSC undergraduate)).
 17. "Conceptions of Civil Liberties and Moral Development Among College Students," presented at the Southwest Political Science Association, Albuquerque, NM, March 2007 (co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
 18. "Undergraduates and the First Amendment: Perceptions of Authority, Freedom, and Morality on the College Campus," presented at the Southwest Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, March 2008 (co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
 19. "Undergraduates and the First Amendment: Perceptions of Authority, Freedom, and Morality on the College Campus," presented at the Western Political Science Association, March 2009, Vancouver, BC (co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
 20. "The Interplay of Authority and Freedom on the College Campus," presented at both the Great Plains Political Science Association, September 2011, Yankton, SD, and the Nebraska Psychology Association, October 2012, Kearney, NE.
 21. "Sex Differences in Perceptions of Improper Teacher/Student Relationships," presented at the Southwest Political Science Association, April 2014, San Antonio, Texas
 22. "We'll All Stick Together in All Kinds of Weather: Nuances in Nebraska Political Attitudes," presented at Great Plains Political Science Association Conference, October, 2014 South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
 23. "Teaching Challenges in an Internet Age," Panel Moderator, Great Plains Political Science Association, Brookings, SD, October 2014.
 24. "'Conflicting Attitudes within a Seemingly Solid 'Red State,'" Poster Presentation, American Psychological Society, New York, New York, May 2015.
 25. "The Presence of the "BJW" Personality Among College Students and Its Effect on Attitudes Regarding Racially-Charged Issues," presented at the Southwest Political Science Association, April 2017, Austin TX (co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
 26. "The "BJW" World View and Its Effect on Attitudes Regarding Racially Charged Issues," presented at the Southwest Political Science Association, October 2018, Orlando, Florida (co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
 27. "The "BJW" World View and Its Effect on Hate Crimes and other Attitudes Regarding Racially Charged Issues," paper presented at the Mid-South Sociological Virtual Conference, October 2020. (co-author: Dr. Karen Walker).
 28. Mark Leeper and Karen Walker, "Structural Racism in the Health Care System for Young, Black Women"; Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 3, 2023.
 29. Mark Leeper and Karen Walker, "The Struggle for Cultural Competence: Health Care Delivery and Young Black Women"; Southeast Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 16, 2024.

School Activities

Faculty Representative, Title IX Students

Hampton University
2021-2023

Assigned to parties in Title IX sexual assault cases. Served for the accused or alleged victim in preparation for, and conduct at the hearing.

Faculty Advisor, Student Government Association

Centenary College
2019-2021

Commentator, Student Radio Programming

Wayne State College (1998-2016), Centenary College (2018-2021)
Team up with students to host call-in political talk shows (“Radio Free Wayne,” “Radio Free Shreveport”)

Advisor, Political Science Club

Hampton University
2021-2023

Member, Academic Programs Committee

Centenary College
2018-2021

Creator, Dual Public Interest Law Program with LSU

Centenary College
2017-2021

Designer / Implementation, Legal Studies Minor/Program

Centenary College
2016-2021

Faculty Advisor, Honor Court

Centenary College
2016-2019

Member, Diversity Committee

Centenary College
2016

President, Faculty Senate

Wayne State College
Led faculty in policy discussions and disagreements with Board of Trustees regarding weakening of tenure protections, unilateral curricular changes,
2011-2015

Faculty Advisor and Creator, Philomathean Society

WSC—home grown honorary recognizing the college’s 10 outstanding rising seniors.
2012-2016

Chair, Department of History, Politics, and Geography

Wayne State College
2001-2009

Advisor, Political Science Club

WSC (called the Wayne Political Union”)
A club focusing on addressing campus and community issues.
1997-2016

Designer / Faculty Advisor, Student Judicial Board/Parking Appeals Board

Wayne State College
2004-2011

Media

KMEG (Channel 44), KTIV (Channel 4), KNEN (94.7 FM), WJAG (106.7 FM), *The Sioux City Journal*, KSLA (Shreveport, NBC), KTBS (Shreveport/ABC)—Political Analyst

Advised on political impacts of current events, including weekly interviews prior to elections. Sat in studio on election night.

REFERENCES

Dr. Susan Haire
Chair, Department of Political Science
University of Georgia
(706) 542-7079

Dr. Joe Blankenau
Professor, Wayne State College
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Dr. Spencer Dew
Teaching Professor, The Ohio State University
614-292-3700