

# Curriculum Vitae

**Robert D. Knight, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor of Political Science**

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Institution: Chadron State College  
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## EDUCATION

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| Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA<br>Department of Politics and Policy<br>Dissertation: "Floor-Voting Coalitions in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies during the Fox <i>Sexenio</i> : A Case of Legislative Immobilism."<br>Major fields are Comparative Politics, and American Government and Politics. Areas of specialization are Latin America, political parties, legislative behavior, democratization, and religion and politics. | Ph.D. Political Science   |
| United States International University, San Diego, CA<br>Department of Education<br>Earned a Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Sciences.  | Teaching Credential       |
| University of California, Los Angeles, CA<br>Department of Political Science<br>Major field was Comparative Politics with a specialization in Latin America.  | Graduate Coursework       |
| University of California, Davis, CA<br>Department of Political Science<br>Major fields were Comparative Politics and Political Philosophy.  | M.A. in Political Science |
| San Diego State University, San Diego, CA<br>Political Science & Economics<br>Graduated "With Distinction in Political Science"   | B.A. in Political Science |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Chadron State College, Chadron

2008-present

Associate Professor of Political Science. Taught *American National Government, Comparative Politics, International Politics, Congress and The Presidency, American Political Thought, History of Political Thought, Latin American History*, and several special topics courses. Utilized a variety of innovative pedagogical methods including team work, problem-based learning, computer-based simulations, interactive discussions, and lectures using personal response systems (clickers) to promote interactivity and in-class assessments of comprehension. Developed and delivered on-line curriculum for several courses. Received strong student and supervisor reviews while maintaining high standards. Revised and assessed the BSE-Social Science program. Developed new courses Essential Studies and Political Science curriculum.

California State University, San Marcos

2007-2008

Lecturer. Taught *Congress and Legislative Processes, Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics*, and *World Political Systems*. For the first course, I developed and delivered curriculum that introduced students to the basic workings and theoretical approaches to studying the U.S. Congress. The course covered constitutional structure and history of Congress, representation, congressional elections, legislative process and organization, oversight, and public policy. The second course provides students with a basic knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, American political institutions, and the political process. It also introduces students to basic concepts of political analysis. For the third course, I introduced students to the basic concepts and theories of comparative politics. Students applied these new tools to the study of eight countries found throughout the world's major geographical regions. A variety of teaching methods were used in all three courses, including class discussions, PowerPoint™ lectures, on-line discussion boards using WebCT™, and student research projects employing primary sources. Writing has been a part of all three courses.

Dept. of Political Science, Mt. San Jacinto College (CA)

2002-2008

Associate Instructor. Taught three sections per semester, both on-line and face-to-face.

*Introduction to American Government and Politics* provides students with a basic knowledge of the U. S. Constitution, American institutions, and the political process. It introduces students to conceptual frameworks for understanding politics. Active student learning techniques, simulations, and multimedia utilized to promote student engagement. Utilized computer lab to assist students with online policy position term projects. In my on-line sections, students write short reports on assigned websites that they visit and engaged in a number of discussion forums.

Dept. of Political Economy, Grossmont College (CA) 2001-2006  
 Adjunct Instructor. Typically taught three classes per academic year.  
*Introduction to American Government and Politics* provides students with a basic knowledge of the U. S. Constitution, American institutions and the political process. It also introduces students to conceptual frameworks for understanding politics.  
*Introduction to Politics and Political Analysis* provides students with an overview of the major subdisciplines in political science. Students apply various concepts to the study of countries throughout the world. Active student learning techniques, simulations, multimedia, and community service learning are utilized to promote student engagement. *Introduction to Comparative Politics* provides students with a basic knowledge of concepts used in comparative analysis, and substantive knowledge of the politics of several countries.

Dept. of Economics, History, & Politics, Palomar College (CA) 2002-2008  
 Adjunct Instructor. Taught one class in 2002, four classes during the 2004-2005 academic year, and three in the Spring of 2007, plus three more in the Spring of 2008. *Introduction to Political Science* provides students with an overview of the major subdisciplines in political science. Students applied various concepts to the study of countries throughout the world. Utilized many of the same learning techniques described above. *Introduction to Politics and American Government* provides students with a basic knowledge of the U. S. Constitution, American institutions and the political process. It also introduces students to conceptual frameworks for understanding politics.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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Western Political Science Assoc. Annual Conference (WPSA) March 2016  
 “Agenda Control in Fragmented Congresses: How the PRI sets the legislative agenda in Mexico.” Paper presented as Panelist on “Politics of Mexico” panel.

Review of Book: *Legislative Success in Fragmented Congresses in Argentina: Plurality Cartels, Minority Presidents, and Lawmaking*. Published in *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 56, Issue 4. Fall 2014

Midwest Political Science Assoc. Annual Conference April 2014  
 “Presidential Leadership, Multiplarty Coalitions, and Reforms under Divided Government: Mexico since Democratization.” Paper presentation as panelist on “Presidents, Coalitions, and Decrees” panel.

Graves Series Lecture Nov 2013  
 “Consolidating Mexico’s Democracy?” Presented at

Chadron State College. Available to view through the CSC Youtube site.

- Teaching Professor's Conference May 2013  
"Development of Interdisciplinary First-year Inquiry Courses."  
Poster presentation with two CSC colleagues.
- Western Political Science Assoc. Annual Conference (WPSA) April 2013  
"Legislative Coalitions and Agenda Control: The Mexican Chamber of Deputies during The Fox *Sexenio*." Paper presentation as panelist on the "Latin American Politics" panel.
- Article published in *ACCLAIM*, Issue no. 1 Fall 2012  
"Becoming Civically Engaged." A discussion of the renewed emphasis on civic education at Chadron State College as article explains the concept of civic engagement, and provides an overview of the various ways by which citizens can participation in civic life. It also discusses trends in civic engagement over the last half century employing generational analysis.
- International Studies Association (ISA) April 2012  
"Wishful Thinking: Transparency and Confidence in Government."  
Paper Presentation with Dr. Shafiq Rahman as panelists for panel entitled "Is Transparency the Answer? New Technologies and Government Accountability."
- Article published in *Political Institutions: Legislatures eJournal*, April 2011  
Vol 5, Issue 24  
"Structural Reforms and Legislative Immobilism: The Fox *Sexenio*." This article argues that the Mexican Congress during the Fox Administration failed to pass structural reforms in large part due to the desire of congressional party leaders to maintain high levels of floor-voting party unity. Sturctural reform initiatives are inherently bidimensional in the Mexican political context. Consequently, structural reform bills bought to the floor for plenary votes are more likely to divide legislative parties. Leaders use negative agenda control to avoid such intraparty divisions. Consequently, structural reforms that are important to economic growth and generally supported by a sizeable majority politicians were not enacted.
- Western Political Science Annual Conference (WPSA) April 2011  
"Structural Reforms and Legislative Immobilism: The Fox *Sexenio*."  
Paper presentation as panelist on the "Deciphering the Mexican Conundrum" panel.
- Amnesty International Club at Mt. San Jacinto College May 2008  
"Abu Ghraib and World Opinion Toward the U.S."  
Introduced documentary, *The Gosts of Abu Ghraib*, as part of a special event sponsored by the campus Amesty Int'l Club.
- Pacific Coast Caribbean and Latin American Studies (PCCLAS) Nov. 2007  
Annual Conference  
"Party Unity and Coalitional Voting: The Mexican Chamber of Deputies during the Fox *Sexenio*." Paper presentation as a panelist on Mexican Parties and Politicians panel.

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| WPSA Annual Conference<br>“Parties in the Mexican Congress: Party Unity,<br>Coalitions and Policy Decisiveness”<br>Paper presentation as panelist on the Legislative Politics/<br>Organizational Structures and Leadership panel.   | March 2007     |
| Political Economy Days at Palomar College<br>“Determinants of Party Unity in the Mexican Congress”<br>Lecture on the changing levels of floor voting unity in the<br>Mexican Chamber of Deputies and the variables that influence<br>party unity.   | April 2007     |
| Claremont McKenna College<br>“The Mexican Congress in Transition”<br>Guest lecturer. Professor Roderic Camp’s Seminar<br>on Mexican Politics. Seminar participants were upper-<br>division students at Claremont McKenna College.   | October 2006   |
| Political Economy Days at Palomar College<br>“The 2006 Mexican Election Campaign”<br>Lecture on the Mexican presidential election campaign<br>of 2006 for college-wide event .  | April 2006     |
| Amnesty International Club at Mt. San Jacinto College<br>“Indigenous Rights and the Political Context in<br>Latin America.” Introduced documentary, <i>Trinkets and<br/> Beads</i> , as part of a special event sponsored by the campus<br>Amesty Int’l Club.   | March 2006     |
| Amnesty International Club at Mt. San Jacinto College<br>“Political Violence in Latin America.” Introduced documentary<br>on political violence in Colombia.  | November 2005  |
| Political Economy Week at Grossmont College<br>“Yes on 62: The Open Primary Initiative.” Organized and<br>moderated session on Proposition 62 just prior to the November<br>election. Introduced topic and guest speaker, former assemblyman<br>Jeff Marston.   | October 2004   |
| SDICCCA Behavioral & Social Sciences Regional Conference<br>“Religion and Latino Political Participation.” Presenter on panel<br>entitled “Processing the Political Process.” Presented research<br>findings from quantitative study estimating the influence of religious<br>variables on rates of Latino political participation. | September 2004 |
| Lilly Conference on College and University<br>Teaching-West<br>“Web Based Course Management Systems<br>in The Traditional Classroom”. Presenter on educational technology   | March 2004     |

panel. Session entitled “Technology and Best Practices.” Discussed how Web-based course management systems can be used to promote principles of good practice in teaching and learning.

Political Economy Week at Grossmont College

November 2003

“Religion in The Public Square.” Organized and moderated panel discussion on the role of religion in promoting a stronger democracy with greater civic participation. Panelist represented various religious leaders and faith-based community organizers in the San Diego area.

Claremont McKenna College

Spring 2003

“Liberalism and Positivism in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Mexico” Guest lecturer. Professor Roderic Camp’s Seminar on Mexican Politics. Seminar participants were upper-division students at Claremont McKenna College.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE at CSC**

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**Chadron State College**

2008-present

Chair for the Communication and Social Sciences Department  
(2012 – 2016)

Served as a liaison between departmental colleagues and Administration. Represented faculty to Administration. Responsible for teaching assignments, course rotation schedules, advisee assignments, departmental marketing, department scholarship awards, and assessment reports. Organized and chaired departmental meetings. Processed paperwork such as substitution requests and course inventory forms. Participated in Chairs meetings.

Student Symposium Committee Member

Serving on ad hoc committee that organizes the “Meeting of the Minds” student symposium each semester. Developed attendee survey for event assessment. Assisted with developing program and marketing.

Co-facilitated the Interdisciplinary Course Offerings Faculty Learning Community (ICO-FLC)

Fostered the development of interdisciplinary courses, explored related issues such as team teaching, and promoted an interdisciplinary campus culture. Organized on-campus interdisciplinary workshops, visits to interdisciplinary programs at other institutions, and participation in the Association for Integrative Studies annual conference. These efforts influenced the development of more than fifteen First Year Inquiry courses that are now part of the new Essential Studies program.

### Co-chair of Red Balloon Curriculum Initiative Team

Investigated and proposed intentional initiatives to foster high-impact learning, including an enhanced interdisciplinary and experiential curriculum. Continued involvement with fostering high-impact curriculum as a member of the ad-hoc High Impact Learning Committee (HICC).

### Active participant in the General Studies Faculty Learning Community (GS-FLC)

Investigated innovative, high-impact approaches to general education. Helped develop a new program for general education that emphasized the integrated nature of learning and knowledge, the importance of inquiry skills, and high-impact learning experiences.

### Social Science Curriculum Revision Project

Updated and revised the curriculum for the BSE-Social Science Program to better align the program with Nebraska State Department of Education standards. Revisions were also made to align the program with the newly revised History programs. As part of this effort, worked closely with History faculty colleagues to help develop compatible standards and assessment programs for the affiliated History and Social Science Programs. Revisions also included Political Science offerings with new courses for both majors and Essential Studies students. Changes were approved by the Academic Review Committee.

### General Studies/Essential Studies Service

Planned, implemented, and analyzed the Government Component of General Studies. Composed and submitted four assessment reports as the liaison for this component. Completed assessments using TK-20 as part of the TK-20 pilot phase of implementation. Developed and obtained Academic Review approval of new Essential Studies FYI and Capstone Essential Studies courses, along with new courses for ESOs 8, 9 and 10.

### CSCEA Negotiator

Served as CSC alternate negotiator for NSEA during AY 2009-10 and AY 2010-11. Served as negotiator for AY 2011-12 and AY 2012-13. Served as CSC's lead negotiator for AY 2013-14 and AY 2014-15. Representing faculty in negotiations with NSC Board in respect to the Negotiated Agreement, and serving as NSEA board member.

### Active member of the Faculty First Year Blended Experience (FFYBE) Advisory Team

Advisory team that helped design and implement professional development programs for new faculty in areas of pedagogy, institutional culture, and professional success.

## Faculty advisor to the Political Science/Social Science Club

Helped Club members host guest speakers on campus for students and community members, held student events to foster civic engagement, and organize and conduct fund-raisers (e.g., Oktoberfest). Took students several times to the Conference on World Affairs at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

## Assessment Software Project

Investigated and recommended a Web-based assessment software program (TK-20) as part of an ad-hoc committee established for that purpose. TK-20 was adopted and is being implemented by the institution. Volunteered to implement the program for the Government Component of General Studies and the MSE-Social Science program during the pilot stage of implementation.

## Faculty Search Committees

Served on four departmental search committees, including one as Chair, and one search committee for the Dean of Liberal Arts and Teaching and Learning.

## Faculty Senate Committees

Served on Faculty Senate and the following Faculty Senate Sub-Committees: Academic Review, Educational Technology, Graduate Council, and the Research Institute Committee.

## Presidential Committees

Served on the following presidential committees: International Students Committee and Academic Assessment Software Implementation Committee.

## Departmental Service (other than current Chair duties)

Mentored adjunct faculty members in Political Science, and new tenure-track History faculty members. Work with Department Chair to grow the MAE-History program and put it completely on-line. Successfully completed assessment of the MAE-Social Science program. Improved and updated Department's website. Assisted Chair with development of four-year rotation schedules. Meet with numerous prospective students considering majors in our programs.

## Student Advising

Advised a full-load of students both with majors within our Department, and undeclared students. In addition, advised students in the MAE-History program.

## Graduate Faculty Service

Read and recommended revisions to several Master's thesis manuscripts. Served on thesis committees for graduate students seeking both a ME-Social Science and a MAE-History degree.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| Conferences on Higher Education and Pedagogy<br>Participation in the following conferences with campus colleagues and with the support of CSC: Faculty Learning Community Facilitator Workshop (Claremont), Association for Integrative Studies (Grand Rapids), TK-20 Users Conference (Austin), AAC&U High Impact Learning Conference (Philadelphia), Association for General and Liberal Studies Annual Conference (Austin), Open Ed Leadership Conference, ACE Leadership Conference for Department Chairs, and Open Education Conference 2013. | 2009-2013    |
| Faculty First Year Blended Experience (FFYBE)<br>Successfully completed all FFYBE modules required of first year faculty at Chadron State College.   | AY 2008-09   |
| Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)<br>Collaborated with department colleagues at Grossmont College in developing SLOs and assessment instruments for our introductory course in United States Government & Politics  | Spring 2006  |
| Curriculum Development Project<br>Helped to develop a proposal for a new course offering in comparative politics at Palomar College  | Spring 2006  |
| Preparing Future Faculty Fellow<br>One-year program at Claremont Graduate University preparing future faculty members for an academic career   | 2003-2004    |
| Technology for Student Centered Learning<br>Three day workshop at MSJC, Menifee Campus   | January 2003 |
| Online Course Development Training Program<br>Week-long workshop at Grossmont College<br>Earned certificate in online course development   | Summer 2002  |
| UCSD Center for U.S.-Mexico Studies Research Seminars<br>Attended numerous research presentations sponsored by the Center  | 2000-2006    |
| American Political Science Association Annual Meeting<br>Attended paper presentations, poster sessions, panel discussions, and plenary meeting.  | August 2001  |
| American Political Science Association Annual Meeting<br>Attended paper presentations, poster sessions, panel discussions, and plenary meeting.  | August 2000  |
| International Conference on Character Education  | June 1999    |

Three day conference entitled, “Educating Hearts  
And Minds: values, ethics, citizenship”

Program in Educational Technology, UCSD  
Completed 7 units of coursework

1998-1999

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

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### CSC Research Foundation Grant (2015-16)

Grant awarded to collect and analyze data on agenda control in Mexican Congress during the Peña Nieto Administration (2012-present). Grant money is mostly being spent on employing CSC student research assistants for data collection and entry into a statistical program. Findings will be presented at the Western Political Science Annual Meeting during March, 2016. The resulting conference paper will be revised and submitted for publication.

### CSC Research Foundation Grant (2014-15)

Grant awarded to employ student research assistants to collect and input data into statistics program for “Transparency and Trust in Government” research project. The project was a cross-national, statistical investigation testing the hypothesis that greater transparency is negatively associated with confidence in government. This was a joint project with a departmental colleague. The resulting co-authored manuscript has been submitted for publication with *Governance*.

### CSC Research Foundation Grant (2013-14)

Grant awarded to collect and analyze data on presidential leadership and legislative coalitions in Mexico under divided government (2000-present). All of the grant money is being spent on employing CSC student research assistants. Findings will be presented at the Midwest Political Science during April of 2014. The resulting conference paper will be revised and submitted for publication.

### CSC Research Foundation Grant (2011-12)

Grant awarded to collect and analyze data on legislative coalitions and agenda control in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. All of the grant money has been spent on employing CSC student research assistants. Findings will be presented at the Western Political Science during April of 2013. The resulting conference paper will be revised and submitted for publication.

### Claremont Graduate School, Program in Politics and Policy Fellowship, 2002-2005

Fellowship consisted of a 50 percentage tuition waiver based on GPA and GRE scores.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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Article published in *The Press-Enterprise*, January 8, 2006

“Pulpit Politics.” A commentary arguing that the United States has evinced a long history of religious involvement in politics, especially important social movements, and that the constitutional principle of separation of church and state is frequently misunderstood in current political discourse. This publication was a full length opinion piece published in the Sunday “Perspective” section.

Article published in *The Press-Enterprise*, January 16, 2005

“U.S. Selfishness Warps Immigration Reform.” A commentary criticizing an editorial in the same newspaper that argued Mexico was promoting “illegal” migration to the United States. My article took the position that U.S. citizens need to examine our own failure to develop a sensible immigration policy. This publication was a full length opinion piece published in the Sunday “Perspective” section.

Article in *The Wilson Society Newsletter*, October 29, 2004

“The Open Primary Initiative: Increasing Voter Choice.” An argument in favor of Proposition 62, an initiative on the November, 2004 California ballot.

### Manuscript Review

Provided a critical review of two chapters for a book by Scott Mainwaring, Ph.D. and Timothy Scully, Ph.D. entitled, Christian Democracy in Latin America. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 2003. Acknowledgement of my contributions to the book were cited when published.

### Department of Political Economy Program Review

Assisted Dr. Braunwarth in compiling information for the department’s program review at Grossmont College during the Fall semester of 2003. My contribution to this project focused on the instructional technology section of the review.

Article in *The Wilson Newsletter*, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003

“WYSIWYG- NOT!” A critical review of the course offerings and faculty resources in the Department of Politics and Policy at Claremont Graduate University.

Article in *The Wilson Newsletter*, March 23<sup>th</sup>, 2004

“Department of Politics & Policy’s Mission: Does it match our needs?” An argument for greater emphasis on teacher preparation in the Department’s graduate programs.

### Campaign Activities

Active with Californians for an Open Primary. Worked as a volunteer in numerous political campaigns. President of a political club while attending San Diego State University.

### Club Advisor

Advisor for one of the two political party clubs at the Meniffee Valley Campus of Mt. San Jacinto College.

### Community Service

Coached youth baseball and soccer teams. Worked with students on Mission Trails Park clean-up project as part of a Grossmont College community service program. Volunteer for the

Habitat for Humanity project in Temecula. Volunteer for “Closer to Home,” a “soup kitchen” in Chadron, Nebraska. Team leader for community service projects organized by the Big Event at Chadron State College. Worked for the “Mobile Food Pantry,” an event that provides free groceries to the needy in the Nebraska Panhandle.

## **MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Political Science Association

Sectional memberships: Comparative Politics, Legislative Studies, Religion and Politics, Political Economy

Western Political Science Association

Pacific Coast Caribbean and Latin American Studies Association

International Studies Association