

ALEXANDER LEASURE

CURRICULUM VITAE

803.236.6567 | 2804 Sequoia Dr, Sumter, SC 29154 | alexanderleasure@icloud.com | alexanderleasure.com

EDUCATION

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Ph.D. Political Science

August 2020 – Present

M.A. Political Science

August 2020 – May 2022

Major Field: American Politics

Minor Field: Public Law

Current GPA: 4.01

Dissertation: *The Role of Model Legislation in the U.S. Congress*

Masters in Passing Paper: *Here's How You Should Pass It: Interest Group Influence and Model Legislation in the U.S. Congress*

Relevant Coursework: Seminar in American Political Behavior, Elements of Research Design, Introduction to Quantitative Analysis, Research Internship, Thesis Research, Comparative Democratization, Seminar in Effective Teaching, Studies in American Politics (Public Policy), Uses of Interim Statistical Methodology, Studies in Research Methods (Social Network Analysis), Directed Readings (Politik), Seminar in American Institutional Design, Law, Courts, & Policy, Advanced Quantitative Methods, Judicial Process & Policy Making, American Legislative Process, Transitional Justice

Erskine College, Due West, SC

B.A. Political Science & American Studies

August 2016 – May 2020

Minors: History, Psychology

GPA: 3.67

Capstone Research: Single Issue Voting in the American Southeast

Senior Thesis:

Many Houses, Many Realms: Collapse of Coalition Governing and Perceived Support for the EU (Political Science), Star Trek: Where No Country Has Gone Before (American Studies)

Relevant Coursework: Introduction to International Relations, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Capstone Research, Christian Political Thought, Senior Thesis, Senior Thesis: Research & Design, Experimental Methodology, Psychological (Social Science) Statistics, Internship, Congress, Introduction to Political Philosophy, European Politics, Erskine in Columbia (South Carolina Politics), American Government, Contemporary Global Issues, Controversies in American Politics

Public Policy Studies Certificate

January 2018 – May 2018

Program GPA: 3.94

Research Focus: North American Free Trade Agreement, Immigration Policy

Relevant Coursework: Policy Advocacy and Diplomacy, Public Policy Analysis, Professional Development Practicum, Internship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Institutional Behavior: congressional behavior, public policy development, interest group influence, perceived policy effectiveness, elite-mass linkage, party influence

Public Law: legislative drafting, legislative intent, state court processes

Political Methodology: statistical analysis, elite interviewing, focus group administration, survey experimentation, public policy analysis

PUBLICATIONS

McCoy, Jennifer, Michael Evans, Jongwoo Jeong, and Alexander Leasure. In Press, 2026. “Civil Discourse Pedagogy to Depolarize: Scalable American University Experiment.” In *Teaching Civic Engagement in Challenging Times: Global Perspectives on Democratic Education for All*. The De Gruyter-APSA Teaching Civic Engagement Series.

Peay, Periloux C., and Alexander Leasure. 2023. “Information Infrastructures for Black-Interest Advocacy in Congress.” *Congress and the Presidency* 50(2): 220–48. doi: 10.1080/07343469.2022.2158963.

Saki, Deborah, and Alexander Leasure. 2026. “Where Are the Women Memorialized? Commemoration of Women in the U.S. Congress.” *The Journal of Social Encounters* 10(1): 167–90. doi: 10.69755/2995-2212.1407.

WORKING PAPERS

‘The Role of Draft Legislation in the U.S. Congress’

Author: Alexander Leasure

‘Congressional Chaplains: An Exploration of Political, Social, and Spiritual Power’

Authors: Alexander Leasure and Deborah Saki

‘Tolerance, Diversity, and Social Media Usage: Facebook and the 2020 Presidential Election’

Authors: Alexander Leasure and Sean Richey

‘What You Know Might Hurt: Public Salience and Polarization in Congress’

Authors: Jeffery Lazarus and Alexander Leasure

‘Dressing to Win: Gendered Dress in the U.S. Congress’

Authors: Alexander Leasure and Deborah Saki

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2022 – Present

- Aiding in coursework preparation for multiple introduction level Political Science courses and sections through curriculum development, grading, and course management. Instructor of Record for Political Science 1101, Introduction to American Government, and Instructor of Record for Political Science 3145, Introduction to American Law.
- Additionally, served as a teaching assistant for the following courses: Political Science 3140, Judicial Process and Courts; Political Science 4190, Zoukis Summer Institute.

Experience Gained: teaching, textbook development, curriculum preparation, student engagement strategies, grading, editing

Department of Behavioral and Social Science, Horry Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC

Adjunct Instructor

August 2022 – Present

- Instructor of Record for Political Science 201, Introduction to American Government, Instructor of Record for Political Science 215, Introduction to State and Local Politics, and member of the college’s political science textbook committee.

Experience Gained: teaching, curriculum preparation, student engagement strategies, grading, editing

Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC

Adjunct Instructor

August 2023 – Present

- Instructor of Record for Political Science 201, Introduction to American Government, and member of the college’s political science textbook committee.

Experience Gained: teaching, curriculum preparation, student engagement strategies, grading, editing

Department of History and Political Science, Erskine College, Due West, SC

Supplemental Instructor for Political Science & Religion

August 2019 – May 2020

- Promoted student success in introduction level Political Science and Religion courses through large group tutoring sessions, in-class auditing and participation, and instruction on study skills.

Experience Gained: teaching, curriculum preparation, student engagement strategies, grading, editing

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2020 – December 2022, August 2024 – July 2025

- Assisted with conducting research exploring the speech content within the Congressional Black Caucus, evaluating elite-level social media usage, and classifying legislation. Served as a graduate assistant for Carnegie Foundation grant research team focusing on depolarization strategies for undergraduate American politics classes. Additionally, served in a reserve capacity for assistance with departmental coursework.

Experience Gained: researching, editing, data visualization, social network analysis, content analysis, scheduling

Council of State Governments, Southern Office, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Research Fellow

April 2022 – July 2025

- Providing non-partisan research and research-driven policy support for state legislators throughout the Southeast. Assisting with preparing public-facing material in a wide array of policy areas.

Scholars Strategy Network, Georgia Chapter, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Fellow

July 2022 – June 2025

- Providing administrative, research, and organizational support for the Georgia Network of SSN. Developing programming and networking to support election integrity efforts in Georgia.

PRESENTATIONS

‘Where Are the Women Memorialized? Commemoration of Women in the U.S. Congress’

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *April 2024*

‘Dressing to Win: Gendered Dress in the U.S. Congress’

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *April 2024*

‘Where Are the Women Memorialized? Commemoration of Women in the U.S. Congress’

Georgia Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *October 2023*

‘Dressing to Win: Gendered Dress in the U.S. Congress’

Georgia Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *October 2023*

‘What You Know Might Hurt: Public Salience and Polarization in Congress’

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *April 2023*

‘Tolerance, Diversity, and Social Media Usage: Facebook and the 2020 Presidential Election’

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *April 2023*

‘Tolerance, Diversity, and Social Media Usage: Facebook and the 2020 Presidential Election’

Georgia Political Science Association Annual Conference, Oral Presentation *October 2022*

‘The Cyclical Model of Approval in France’ *February 2022*

Atlanta Symposium on Political Science, Oral Presentation

‘Co-ethnic Incumbent Representation and Political Participation’ *February 2021*

Atlanta Symposium on Political Science, Roundtable Presentation

‘Single Issue Voting in the American Southeast’ *April 2019*

Carolinas Psychology Conference, Oral Presentation, AB# 65

‘Single Issue Voting in the American Southeast’ *April 2019*

Erskine College Undergraduate Research Symposium, Oral Presentation, AB# 11

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Erskine College, Due West, SC

Editor *January 2019 – May 2020*

- Reviewed both graduate and undergraduate student writing for grammar, spelling, punctuation, syntax, and content.

Experience Gained: draft revision, time management, customer service, academic reporting methods

Resident Assistant *August 2017 – December 2017*

- Provided avenues for students to share concerns and mitigate problems with their on-campus experience.
- Encouraged students to pursue academic and social success through coordination of dorm events, academic counseling, and referral to outside services.

Experience Gained: meeting organization, project coordination, conflict resolution techniques, incident reporting

Admissions Ambassador *August 2017 – May 2020*

- Giving informative tours of campus to prospective students and families, both in large groups and one-on-one.
- Establishing professional relationships with prospective students through email, answering questions and providing information regarding campus life.
- Performing different administrative tasks for the admissions department, including filing paperwork, answering phone calls, and collecting data on perspective students.

Experience Gained: public relationship management, giving tours, hosting guests, data collection, answering phone calls

United States Senate, Washington, DC

Congressional Intern

January 2018 – April 2018

- Performed administrative duties such as answering phones, distributing mail, and updating databases.
- Greeted and welcomed constituents and guests at office, offering immediate assistance, and liaising between upper office staff and general public.
- Kept up with news on a daily basis to stay informed about local, regional, national, and international events.
- Thoroughly researched issues and legislation.

Experience Gained: effective communication, scheduling, answering phone calls, giving tours, and reporting methods

Meritor, Inc. – Quality Department, Manning, SC

Administrative Intern

May 2017 – August 2019

- Continually sought methods for improving daily operations, communications with clients, recordkeeping, and data entry for increased efficiency.
- Assisted coworkers and staff members with special tasks on a daily basis.
- Provided administrative services, including phone and email correspondence, making copies, and handling incoming and outgoing mail and faxes.

Experience Gained: preparing global level quality reports, coordinating document control and retention (i.e., PPAP forms, gap analysis, & work instructions), data collection and organization, entering and receiving purchase order requisitions

RESEARCH

Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Student Principal Investigator

August 2024 – Present

Serving as the principal investigator for research studying the development of draft legislation on the national level. Engaged in over 60 elite interviews with congressional and interest group legislative staff on the bill drafting process.

Experience Gained: elite interviewing, study development, qualitative analysis, content analysis, context analysis, case study analysis

Student Principal Investigator

August 2024 – July 2025

Served as the co-principal investigator for the project, “Mitigating Pernicious Polarization through Innovative Civic Educational Interventions,” which aims to build student civic skills and dispositions to navigate a hyperpolarized context, remain open to contending viewpoints, and become engaged rather than alienated citizens.

Experience Gained: conducting focus groups, survey research, reviewing academic and coursework data

Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Research Assistant, Co-Author

August 2020 – July 2022

Served as the research assistant for research studying the policy process of the Congressional Black Caucus, specifically exploring the use and access of information to further political change.

Experience Gained: utilizing social network analysis, creating relational databases, preparing content for publication

Department of Psychology and Sociology, Erskine College, Due West, SC

Principal Investigator

November 2018 – April 2019

Served as the principal investigator for research studying the relationship between issue-based voting behavior and primary issue support and party affiliation among electors in the Southeastern United States. Engaged in over a dozen research projects utilizing a variety of experimental methodologies.

Experience Gained: utilizing statistical software, conducting focus groups, using internet survey hosts, engaging in cross-discipline publication preparation, presenting and effectively communicating research outcomes and implications

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Association, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

President

August 2024 – May 2025

Chair – Atlanta Symposium on Political Science

August 2023 – May 2024

Co-Chair – Atlanta Symposium on Political Science

August 2022 – May 2023

Professional Development Chair

August 2021 – May 2022

Academic Office, Erskine College, Due West, SC

Student Representative to the Faculty

August 2017 – May 2019

Represented and advocated for the Student Body in all faculty meetings. Coordinated student participation and membership on faculty committees.

Student Government Association, Erskine College, Due West, SC

Student Body Vice President

August 2018 – May 2019

Coordinated all SGA events and assisted the Student Body President in all duties deemed necessary.

Student Body Parliamentarian

August 2017 – December 2017

Maintained Robert's Rules of Order in all meetings and upheld the organization's constitution.

Freshman Class President

August 2016 – May 2017

Represented and advocated for the Freshman Class in all organization meetings and coordinated class responsibilities.

South Carolina Student Legislature, Columbia, SC

Governor

August 2019 – December 2019

Leading a state-wide student run non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the education of South Carolina college students on policy making and government through the use of a mock state government.

Lieutenant Governor

January 2019 – July 2019

Presided over the SCSL State Senate and prepared bill books along with other publications.

Chapter Vice Chair – Erskine College

August 2017 – December 2017

Presided over meetings when the chair was not present. In addition, served as a member of the SCSL state senate.

Omicron Delta Kappa, Erskine College, Due West, SC

Vice President

August 2019 – May 2020

Assisting the President in all duties deemed necessary.

ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association

Fall 2018 – Present

Midwest Political Science Association

Fall 2022 – Present

Southern Political Science Association

Spring 2023 – Present

South Carolina Political Science Association

Spring 2020 – Present

Georgia Political Science Association

Fall 2022 – Present

Omicron Delta Kappa

Fall 2018 – Present

Graduate Student Association

Fall 2020 – Present

Visual Arts Society – Erskine College

Fall 2017 – Spring 2020

South Carolina Student Legislature – Erskine College

Fall 2016 – Spring 2020

Epsilon Sigma Tau – Erskine College

Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

Student Government Association – Erskine College

Fall 2016 – Spring 2019

AWARDS

Carlisle Award – *South Carolina Student Legislature*

2019

Hatfield Prize for Social Science Finalist

2019 – 2020

Alexander Leasure

Most Distinguished Senator Award – <i>Student Government Association</i>	<i>2016 – 2017</i>
Dean’s List – <i>Erskine College</i>	<i>2016, 2018, 2020</i>
Good Citizen Award – <i>Daughters of the American Revolution</i>	<i>Spring 2016</i>
Golden Apple Award – <i>Sumter County Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>2015 – 2016</i>