

Alexander Denison

Curriculum Vitae
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1 Contact Information

Department of Political Science
University of Kentucky
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2 Education

Ph.D. Political Science. University of Kentucky, Expected May 2021.
Committee: Dr. Justin Wedeking (chair), Dr. Mark Peffley, Dr. Richard Waterman, Dr. Michael Zilis, Dr. James Hertog (communications)

Dissertation: “News Treatment of the Supreme Court: Language Selection, Ideological Directions, and Public Impact”

M.A. Political Science. University of Kentucky, 2018.

M.A. Political Science. Western Illinois University, 2014.

B.J. Journalism. University of Missouri – Columbia, 2012.

3 Appointments

Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Political Science, University of Georgia (2019-2020)

4 Honors and Grants

Provost’s Award for Outstanding Teaching, University of Kentucky (2018)
University-wide award for demonstrating meritorious excellence in undergraduate instruction and dedication to student achievement.

College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Kentucky (2017)
For excellence in undergraduate instruction within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sidney Ulmer Award, University of Kentucky (2016; 2018)
For outstanding graduate student in the area of Judicial Process or the American Political Process.

Coleman Research Award, University of Kentucky (2017; 2018)
For ongoing projects on judicial behavior and media coverage.

Political Science Department Summer Research Grant, University of Kentucky (2015)
For continuing research on media coverage of the Supreme Court.

Graduate Student Professional Development Award, Western Illinois University (2014)
For continuing research on American legislative behavior.

5 Teaching Experience

Teaching Interests: Judicial Politics, Constitutional Law, American Government, Political Behavior, Separation of Powers, Political Communication, Public Opinion, Elite Polarization, Politics in Popular Culture, Text Analysis

Visiting Lecturer. Department of Political Science, University of Georgia (2019-2020)
Constitutional Law I - Institutional Powers: Fall 2019; Spring 2020 (hybrid)
Constitutional Law II – Rights and Liberties: Fall 2019 (Honors); Spring 2020 (hybrid)
American Government: Spring 2020 (hybrid)

Head Teaching Assistant. Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky (2017-2018)
Led the department's group of graduate student teaching assistants through teaching workshop presentations and general mentorship.

Instructor. Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky (2015-2019)
Law and Courts: Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2020; Spring 2021
American Government: Fall 2015; Summer 2016 (online); Summer 2017 (online); Summer 2018 (online);
Summer 2019 (online)
Politics and Film: Summer 2018 (online)

Teaching Assistant. Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky (2014-2015)
American Government: Fall 2014; Spring 2015 (With Dr. Stephen Voss)

6 Workshops and Guest Lectures Taught

“Avoiding Implicit Bias in the Classroom.” (2018)
Workshop. Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky.

“The Courts in American Politics.” (2017)
Presentation. Summer Student Congress, Department of Political Science, Transylvania University.

“Teaching New or Unfamiliar Material in Undergraduate Courses.” (2017)
Workshop. Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky.

7 Additional Training in Methods and Teaching

“Duration Modeling.” (2019)
Workshop. Fred Boehmke, Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research, University of Kentucky.

“Computer-Assisted Text Analysis.” (2017)
Audited course. Justin Wedeking, Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky.

“Cultural Competence.” (2017)

Workshop. Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky.

“LINKS Center Summer Workshop for Social Network Analysis.” (2016)

Statistics Series. Gatton School of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky.

“Implicit Bias in the Classroom.” (2016)

Workshop. Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Kentucky.

“Navigating Conflict and Building Bridges.” (2016)

Workshop. Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, University of Kentucky.

“Designing Effective Multiple Choice Exams.” (2015)

Workshop. Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, University of Kentucky.

“Paper Writing Teaching Techniques.” (2015)

Workshop. Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, University of Kentucky.

8 Publications

“Negative Media Coverage of the Supreme Court: The Interactive Role of Opinion Language, Coalition Size, and Ideological Signals.” 2020. *Social Science Quarterly*. With Justin Wedeking and Michael Zilis.

“The New (Mis)Information Environment of Advanced Democracies.” 2019. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Representation in Liberal Democracies*. Eds. Robert Rohrschneider and Jacques Thomassen. Oxford University Press. With Mark Peffley and Travis N. Taylor.

“The Confirmation Legacy of Antonin Scalia.” 2018. *The Conservative Revolution of Antonin Scalia*. Eds. David A. Schultz and Howard Schweber. Lexington Books. With Justin Wedeking.

“Using Text as Data to Measure Latent Legal Constructs: A Dictionary-Based Approach.” 2017. *Michigan State Law Review* 2017:1057-1084. With Justin Wedeking.

“Hitting the ‘Bullseye’ in Supreme Court Coverage: News Quality in the Court’s 2014 Term.” 2017. *Elon Law Review* IX(2)489-523. With Mike Zilis and Justin Wedeking.

“Elena Kagan.” 2017. *Encyclopedia of Civil Rights and Liberties*. Eds. John Scheb and Kara Stooksbury. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. With Justin Wedeking.

9 Working Papers

“Distorting the Court?: Decision Agreement and Language Selection in Media Portrayals of the Supreme Court.”

“Re-Examining Judicial Prestige Among State Courts of Last Resort.”

10 Ongoing Research Projects

“Media Coverage of Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings.”

“Searching for Ideological Bias in Media Coverage of the Supreme Court.” With Justin Wedeking and Michael Zilis.

11 Conference Presentations

“Is News Coverage of the Supreme Court Ideological?” With Justin Wedeking. Presented at the 2017 Midwest Political Science Association Conference: Chicago, IL.

“Positive Symbolism in News Coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court.” With Michael Zilis. Presented at the 2017 Midwest Political Science Association Conference: Chicago, IL.

“Distorting the Court?: Decision Agreement and Language Selection in Media Portrayals of the Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2017 Southern Political Science Association Conference: New Orleans, LA.

“Negative Media Coverage of the Supreme Court: The Interactive Role of Opinion Language, Coalition Size, and Ideological Signals.” With Justin Wedeking and Michael Zilis. Presented at the 2017 Southern Political Science Association Conference: New Orleans, LA.

“Negative Media Coverage of the Supreme Court: The Interactive Role of Opinion Language, Coalition Size, and Ideological Signals.” With Justin Wedeking and Michael Zilis. Presented at the 2017 Annual Kentucky Political Science Association Conference: Danville, KY.

“Distorting the Court?: Decision Agreement and Language Selection in Media Portrayals of the Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Kentucky Political Science Association Conference: Somerset, KY.

New Elephants in the Room: The Impact of Citizens United on Intra-Party Conflict.” With Kimberly Rice. Presented at 2014 Annual Iowa Political Science Association Conference: Pella, IA.

12 Research Positions

Research Assistant (2018-2019)
Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research, University of Kentucky

Research Assistant (2018; 2016; 2015)
With Justin Wedeking, University of Kentucky

Research Assistant (2015; 2016)
With Michael Zilis, University of Kentucky

Graduate Assistant (2012-2014)
University Libraries, Western Illinois University

13 Service

Head Teaching Assistant for Dept. of Political Science, U. of Kentucky (2017-2018)

President of Graduate Student Government, Dept. of Political Science, U. of Kentucky (2017-2018)

Advisor for Campus YMCA Congress, U. of Kentucky (2016-2018)