



NON-TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POLITICS DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY OF DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Occidental College's Politics Department is seeking candidates for a non-tenure track faculty position to teach two companion law courses in the Spring 2023 semester.

The first, "Lawyering for Social Justice," is a seminar on public interest law. The second, "Community Law Internship," involves preparing students for and placing them (all undergraduates) in internships with a variety of public interest law firms and nonprofit advocacy groups in the Los Angeles area. Students take both courses together. The internships take place at organizations engaged in public interest law and students' internships are a minimum of 12 hours each week, arranged at mutually convenient times. The seminar meets three hours per week and provides in-class instruction that scaffolds the internships. The instructor supports students in finding and navigating their internships and leads the seminar that provides a practical, academic, and/or legal context for the internship experience. Many students will be contemplating attending law school, but this is not the major goal of these courses.

Additional Details

The "Lawyering for Social Justice" seminar examines different theories of legal scholars who have reconceptualized legal practice to promote social change through both legal and community knowledge. It provides students with the theoretical foundation for understanding the role that the law and the criminal justice system play in maintaining social injustice, the barriers to social justice, and ways that the legal profession, in partnership with community organizations, civil rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights groups, tenant organizations, labor unions, environmental justice groups, and others can help overcome those barriers, improve people's lives, and change power relations in society. The instructor develops their own syllabus for course, but the Department can provide samples of previous syllabi. The course typically meets two times a week for 85 minutes each time, but can be scheduled to meet once a week for 170 minutes.

The "Community Law Internship" provides students with an experiential understanding of the practice of public interest law and community lawyering. The Community Law Internship allows students to learn through direct experience about the practice of public interest law in Los Angeles as well as examine how social structures and categories such as gender, race, class, mental and physical disability, and sexual orientation interact on multiple levels to create and sustain inequality. The goal of the internship is to help students develop legal skills in a community-based setting, foster an informed perspective on the nature and limits of public interest practice, and enhance students' capacity to work ambitiously and effectively with marginalized individuals and communities.

Student internships can involve a diversity of public interest law organizations, such as Inner City Law Center, Public Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union, the Natural Resources Defense Fund, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the

Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, the California Women's Law Center, Asian American Advancing Justice, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in LA (CHIRLA), Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Communities for a Better Environment, UNITE HERE union, and the Advancement Project. The Politics Department can assist with contacts to these organizations, but it is the instructor's responsibility to reach out to organizations, to work with the relevant staff to create the internships, and to assign students. Internships need to be confirmed with organizations prior to the semester's start on January 23 (ideally, internships will be confirmed in the Fall and by December 2022). In combination, these two courses help students develop critical analysis skills, question assumptions of power, privilege, and identity, learn to respect community decision-making capacities, expand their understanding of the importance of relationships and movements in the pursuit of social justice and remain open to learning from the "lived-experiences" of community residents. Occidental is committed to providing undergraduate students with a broad liberal arts education. Enrollment in both courses is capped at 16 students. The students will be selected from a pool of applicants during the Fall semester. Ideally, the instructor would participate in the selection process to identify

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Spring 2023 classes begin January 23 and end May 2.

The preferred candidates will have been engaged in the practice of public interest law for at least five years and have connections in the local legal community. Prior teaching experience is a plus but not required.

Interested applicants should submit (1) a brief cover letter that includes a short description of their teaching philosophy and approach to the course, including organizations where they could place students; (2) a CV; and (3) a list of three references. If applicants have previous teaching experience, please include syllabi for past courses and/or teaching evaluations. Inquiries and applications should be directed to Jennifer Piscopo, Associate Professor and Chair of the Politics Department, at piscopo@oxy.edu. **Review of applications begins July 1 and will continue until the position is filled.**

This position is included in the Non-Tenure Track Bargaining Unit, and the successful applicant will be a bargaining unit employee, subject to the terms of the College's Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU Local 721.

Additional Information

Occidental is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding or related medical condition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristic or information, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. Occidental is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the curriculum, and to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and just environment within which students, staff, administrators, and faculty thrive. Candidates who can contribute to this goal through their work are encouraged to identify their strengths and experiences in this area. Individuals advancing the College's strategic equity and justice goals and those from groups whose underrepresentation in the field are particularly encouraged to apply.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. A comprehensive benefits package is available that includes: excellent health, dental, life, and retirement benefits; tuition benefits for the employee, spouse, domestic partner, and dependents; additional extras including use of gym facilities and the College Library.

For a detailed description of benefits, please visit:

<https://www.oxy.edu/offices-services/human-resources/benefits-information>.

All qualified applicants will be considered for employment, including those with criminal histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles' Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.

Occidental College is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodations to applicants with qualifying disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability for any part of the application or employment process, please contact Human Resources (hr@oxy.edu).

As a condition of hire for a staff position and for appointment to a faculty position, Occidental College requires that all candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment complete an application form (if they have not already done so) and consent to a background check. Satisfactory completion of a background check, along with pre-employment verifications and references are required as a condition of employment, but only as permitted by federal, state, and local law, including the City of Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.