

Faculty Member Contact Information

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Description of the URCA Assistant Position


This posting includes one funded position. In addition, the faculty member may be willing to mentor additional, unfunded students.


How many unfunded students is this professor taking in addition to his/her one funded student? 1

(Students, if the faculty member will have both funded and unfunded students, he or she is free to select which student receives the funding. Funding cannot be split up between multiple students; only one student will receive it.)

Which of the following apply to this position?

This position is **only** open to students who have declared a major in this discipline. **M**

This project deals with social justice issues. 

This project deals with sustainability (green) issues. 

This project deals with human health and wellness issues. 

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position? 8

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9.)

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit? Yes No

If yes, in which course? Ethnic and Racial Politics

If yes, for how many credit hours? 3

Location of research/creative activities: Library/ University

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity:

The student will provide support to me on my research on religious violence. From Catholic -Protestant clashes in Northern Ireland to Christian- Muslim violence in Indonesia and Nigeria, religious riots have been a central feature of the political landscape in many countries. In many cases, politically motivated elites deliberately inflame religious tensions to further their own vested objectives. However, the interesting question is why such riots occur in some places and not in others? Why does virulent elite rhetoric only sometimes translate into outright violence? This project seeks to analyze such spatial variations in the patterns of religious riots in a few selected locales.

Brief description of student responsibilities:

The assistant will be primarily responsible for gathering data and conducting literature reviews. The project will involve a heavy data component as I seek to build a database on religious riots at the neighborhood level in a few selected countries. This will require gathering information on incidents of violence as well as collecting data on key social, economic and political indicators. In addition, the assistant will also be called upon to analyze the existing literature on the topic and conduct literature reviews on various aspects.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

By the end of the semester, the student should be confident in his/her ability to conduct effective, succinct and analytically sharp literature reviews. The student will gain familiarity with the politics of collective violence. The student should also be able to construct an event database and should have the knowledge to effectively code and operationalize variables.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours), please indicate all required days and times:

The position is flexible with regards to when the student carries out assigned tasks. I may require the student to meet with me once a week at a mutually convenient time.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

An advanced class in Political Science or sociology will be useful, but not necessary.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

Familiarity in Excel or SPSS is a plus