

BROCK M. TITLOW

PERSONAL

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

July 2026 - Present Visiting Instructor of Politics - **Oberlin College**

EDUCATION

Fall 2026 Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science — **Syracuse University**
Fields: American Politics, Public Policy
Dissertation: “Reading the Room, Not the Report: The Decline of Technocratic Expertise in Congressional Committees”
Committee: Chris Faricy (chair), Steven White, Sarah Pralle, Maraam Dwidar

Legislative support agencies like the Congressional Research Service were created by earlier Congresses to support the institutional goals of the legislative branch without allegiance to party or ideology. Yet, the Congresses that created these agencies operated in a less polarized, committee-centric government, calling into question how these agencies fare in today’s highly polarized party government. I argue that technocratic sources like support agencies have less instrumental value for policymaking than they once did because the switch to party government, increased polarization, and asymmetric party organization necessitate the strategic use of these and alternative sources for policymaking. Through an analysis of thousands of House committee hearings and a comparative case study, I show that support agency citations are falling, are most done through the electoral lens of party leaders, and come with varying degrees of trust.

2022 M.A., Political Science — **Syracuse University**
2020 M.A., Political Science — **University of Illinois at Springfield**
2018 B.A., Political Science — **University of Illinois at Springfield**
 –Summa Cum Laude with Honors

TEACHING INTERESTS

- **Undergraduate:**

American Politics: American National Government and Politics, U.S. Congressional Politics, American Political Development, Political Parties, The U.S. Presidency, American Political Thought, American Political Institutions, State and Local Politics, Religion and Politics, Interest Groups

Public Policy: Introduction to Public Policy, Bureaucratic Politics, Interest Groups, Environmental Policy, Ideas and Public Policy

Methods: Introduction to Political Analysis

- **Graduate**

American Politics: Core Seminar in American Politics, American Political Development, American Political Institutions, Political Parties

Public Policy: Theories of Public Policy, Interest Groups, Policy Analysis

Methods: Qualitative Research Methods, Logic of Inquiry

WORKING PAPERS

“Re-Writing the Contract? Effects of Congressional Retirement on Lame Duck Voting.”

“Relevant Work Experience? The Effects of Congressional Work History on Presidential Success.”

“Her Preference: The Committee Preferences of Black Women in Congress.” (With Curtis Edmonds)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Oberlin College and Conservatory

Intro to American Politics	(Fall 2026; Spring 2027)
Videogames and Politics	(Fall 2026)
U.S. Congressional Politics and Legislative Studies	(Spring 2027)
American Political Development	(Spring 2027)

Syracuse University

<i>As Instructor of Record</i>	
U.S. Congressional Politics	(Spring 2024)
American National Government and Politics	(Summer 2024)

<i>As Teaching Assistant</i>	
U.S. Congressional Politics	(Fall 2020) <i>Prof. Maraam Dwidar</i>
American National Government and Politics	(Fall 2024, 2025, Spring 2021, 2023, 2025, 2026) <i>Profs. Shana Gadarian, Grant Reeher, Jenn Jackson, and Scott Taylor</i>
U.S. Foreign Policy	(Fall 2023) <i>Prof. Greg Smith</i>
Introduction to Political Analysis	(Spring 2022) <i>Prof. Maraam Dwidar</i>
Political Theory	(Fall 2022) <i>Prof. Dennis Rasmussen</i>
Introduction to Comparative Politics	(Fall 2021) <i>Prof. Margarita Estevez-Abe</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-Present	Graduate Research Associate, Campbell Public Affairs Institute
Spring 2023	Research Assistantship (Prof. Maraam Dwidar)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023 Kristi Andersen Award to attend the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research
(Syracuse University Political Science Department)

SERVICE

2023 Graduate Liaison, American Politics Institutions Search Committee
2023 Committee Member, Committee to restructure teaching assistant feedback forms
2022 Graduate Liaison, promotion and tenure committee for Prof. Steven White
2021-2023 Secretary, Political Science Graduate Student Association

SKILLS

Proficient: R, Stata
Beginner: Python, LATEX

MEMBERSHIPS

2019-present American Political Science Association
2019-present Midwest Political Science Association

Pi Sigma Alpha Inducted 2018

REFERENCES

- **Christopher Faricy**
Hicker Family Professor in
Renewing Democratic Community
Department of Political Science
Syracuse University
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- **Steven White**
Associate Professor
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- **Maraam Dwidar**
Assistant Professor
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