Trevor G. Samaha
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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Public Law, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, August 2025 - present

Education

Ph.D. – West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
Political Science, May 2025
Fields: American Politics and Public Policy

MA – West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
Political Science, May 2021

BA – California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Pomona, CA)
Political Science, March 2018

AA-T – Fullerton College (Fullerton, CA)
Political Science, May 2016

United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)
84 Semester Credits, Chemistry/General Science major, no degree

Teaching Experience

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Military Law and Politics, Spring 2027
Civil Liberties, Spring 2026 & Spring 2027
American Politics, Spring 2027
American Constitutional Law, Fall 2026
Comparative Legal Systems, Fall 2026
Introduction to Judicial Process, Fall 2025 & Fall 2026
Supreme Court Politics: The Court and its Justices, Spring 2026
Research Methods, Fall 2025

Instructor, West Virginia University
Empirical Political Analysis (Research Methods), Spring 2024 & Spring 2025
Law and the Legal System, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024
Civil Liberties, Spring 2023 & Fall 2023
Introduction to Public Administration, Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

Adjunct Professor, Glenville State University
American National Government (online), Fall 2024

Assistant Faculty Leader, Study Abroad in Strasbourg, France (WVU)
Comparative European Legal Systems, Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024, Summer 2025
Politics of the European Union, Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024, Summer 2025

Teaching Practicum, West Virginia University, Spring 2020
Empirical Political Analysis, Dr. David Hauser

Graduate Teaching Assistant, West Virginia University, Spring 2019
Introduction to Public Policy, Dr. Simon Haeder

Graduate Teaching Assistant, West Virginia University, Fall 2018
The Politics of Economic Policy, Dr. William Franko

Research Positions
Graduate Research Assistant, West Virginia University, Fall 2019 & Spring 2020
Dr. John Kilwein

PhD Dissertation
"The Impact of Political Party Control on Health Outcomes in U.S. States"
Chair – John Kilwein
West Virginia University Department of Political Science
Committee Member – William Franko
West Virginia University Department of Political Science
Committee Member – Simon Haeder
Texas A&M University Department of Health Policy & Management
Current: Ohio State University Division of Health Services Management and Policy
Committee Member – Matthew Jacobsmeier
West Virginia University Department of Political Science
Committee Member – Herschel Thomas
University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs

Works in Progress
"The Influence of Political Party Control on Type 2 Diabetes Health Outcomes in US States" *Working Paper*

"The Influence of Political Party Control on Infant Mortality Health Outcomes in US States" *Working Paper*

"The Impact of Political Party Control on COVID-19 Outcomes in U.S. States" *Working Paper*

"Taking Rights Away? Separating Ideology from Rights on the U.S. Supreme Court, 1946–2025" *Working Paper*. Preregistered: doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/VZ64S

"Healthy States, Peaceful States? Public Health Capacity and Militarized Interstate Disputes" (with Jarret Deaton) *Working Paper*

"Polarization and the Federal Judiciary: Analyzing the Influence of Political Polarization on Federal Judicial Appointments" *Working Paper*

Awards
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Professional Development Faculty Grant ($1500), Spring 2026
James Gabriel Fellowship, 2023-2024
Nicholas Evans Excellence in Advising Award (Nominee[1]), 2024
James Gabriel Fellowship, 2022-2023
Eberly College Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2021-2022
Allan Hammock Graduate Fellowship, 2020-2021

Academic Advising
UTC Pre-Law Advisor
Fall 2025 – Present

PSPS Faculty Advisor for Assigned Majors
Fall 2026 – Present

UTK Law School Fair, Knoxville, TN, Attended as UTC Pre-Law Advisor
September 2026

LSAC Atlanta Law School Forum, Recruited Students and Organized Trip
Fall 2025 & Fall 2026

WVU New Student Orientation, Political Science Incoming Freshman Advisor
Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024

WVU Political Science Academic Advisor (including Honors students)
Fall 2020 – Spring 2025

Students Mentored
Lilliana Jessen, UTC Departmental Honors Thesis, Fall 2026 & Spring 2027
Maelee Henderson, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2025
Drake Kocher, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2025
Paige Zimmerman, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2025
Lauren Hill, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2025
Lauren Hill, WVU Experiential Learning for Honors EXCEL Advisor, Fall 2024
Shaye Potter, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Fall 2024
Julia Grubbs, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Fall 2024
Emily O'Brien, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Fall 2024
Christopher Deluca, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2024
Dante Leff, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2024
Salah Mahli, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2024

[1] As a graduate student I was determined to be ineligible to win the award. I was the only graduate student nominated.

Asya Stewart, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Spring 2024
William George, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Fall 2023
Louis Wabnitz, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Fall 2023
Victoria Conway, WVU Political Science Senior Capstone Advisor, Fall 2023

Conferences, Presentations, Publications

"Taking Rights Away? Separating Ideology from Rights on the U.S. Supreme Court, 1946–2025," PSPS Sweet Research Series, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Chattanooga, November 11, 2026.

"Supreme Court Update," Guest interview on *Jed & JR Mornings*, WGOW Radio. Chattanooga, November 11, 2026.

"The Supreme Court & You: Understanding Recent Decisions," Presented in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Chattanooga. The Chattery, Chattanooga, October 18, 2026.

Samaha, Trevor G. 2026. "Policy Stringency, Enforcement, and COVID-19 Mortality Across the American States." *Conference paper presented at the 2026 Health Politics and Policy Research Conference.* June 6, 2026.

"Policy Stringency, Enforcement, and COVID-19 Mortality Across the American States," PSPS Sweet Research Series, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Chattanooga, April 13, 2026.

Samaha, Trevor G. 2026. "Toward a Dominant Theory? Judicial Behavior on the Contemporary Supreme Court." *Conference paper presented at the 2026 SPSA Annual Conference.* January 16, 2026.

Samaha, Trevor G. 2026. "The Impact of Political Party Control on COVID-19 Outcomes in U.S. States." *Conference paper presented at the 2026 SPSA Annual Conference.* January 17, 2026.

Samaha, Trevor G. 2025. "The Impact of Political Party Control on Type II Diabetes Outcomes in U.S. States." *Conference paper presented at the 2025 SPSA Annual Conference.* January 9, 2025.

Samaha, Trevor G. 2018. "American College Students Are No Longer Guaranteed Supporters of Civil Liberties." *Undergraduate Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring 2018, Pp. 118–165. (peer reviewed by published undergraduate students)

Service

UTC Honor Court, August 2026 – Present
UTC Pre-Law Society Faculty Advisor, August 2025 – Present
UTC Mock Trial Faculty Advisor, January 2026 – Present
UTC Men's Club Volleyball Faculty Advisor, August 2026 – Present
UTC Golf Club Faculty Advisor, September 2026 – Present
Departmental Representative, Federal Courthouse Groundbreaking Ceremony, Chattanooga, October 2026

Professional Development
UTC College of Arts and Sciences AI Symposium, October 2026
SAPLA Conference, June 2026
UTC Walker Center Teaching and Learning Institute, Fall 2025
UTK Teaching American Civics Workshop, July 2025

Professional Memberships, Club Memberships, and Leadership Positions
Member, APSA
Member, SPSA
Member, SAPLA
Senator, WVU Graduate & Professional Student Senate, 2023-2024
President, WVU Graduate Student Association of Political Science, 2022-2023
Vice President, WVU Graduate Student Association of Political Science, 2021-2022
Treasurer, WVU Graduate Student Association of Political Science, 2020-2021
Secretary, WVU Graduate Student Association of Political Science, 2019-2020

Other Experience and Training
Veteran, United States Navy, 2011-2014
Law Clerk, Judge John S. Adams, Superior Court of Orange County, 2016
Water Conservation Intern, Fullerton Arboretum, 2015

Professional Skills
Proficient in Stata, SPSS, Access.
Experience teaching online synchronous courses.
Experience teaching online asynchronous courses.