

Melissa Burgess

University of Central Arkansas
Irby Hall, Suite 217C
201 Donaghey Avenue
Conway, Arkansas 72035
Email: mburgess7@uca.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Central Arkansas
Assistant Professor

Conway, AR
2026-Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, Florida International University, July 2026
First Field: American Politics; Second Field: International Relations
Dissertation: *Three Essays on Presidential Unilateralism and White House Public Relations Effort*
Committee: Kevin Evans (chair), Todd Makse, Marzia Oceno, and David Park

M.A., Political Science, Florida International University, April 2021
Major Field: American Politics
Research Project: *Getting His Way: Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders in the Trump Administration*

B.S., Communication, Florida International University, April 2018
Major: Broadcast Media; Minor: Political Science
Honors: Magna cum Laude

RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Burgess, Melissa. 2025. "Unilateralism as a Strategic Public Relations Tool: The Case of the Clinton Administration's Minority Business Executive Order." Accepted at *Congress & the Presidency*.

Burgess, Melissa and Todd Makse. 2025. "Anachro-Knowledge: Officeholder Change and Outdated Political Knowledge." *American Politics Research*.

Work in Progress

Bowra, Bethany, Melissa Burgess and Kevin Evans. "Sincerely, Richard Nixon: Presidential Mail Logs and Interbranch Communication." Article manuscript in preparation.

Conference Papers and Presentations

Burgess, Melissa. 2025. "White House Publicity Effort on Laws and Executive Orders from Clinton to Biden." American Political Science Association Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Burgess, Melissa. 2025. "Executive Orders as Public Relations Tools: Evidence from the Clinton Presidential Archives." Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Burgess, Melissa. 2024. "Live from New York and Straight to Washington: An Examination of Portrayals of Republican and Democratic Politicians on Saturday Night Live."

Bowra, Bethany, Melissa Burgess, and Kevin Evans. 2023. "Sincerely, Richard Nixon: Presidential Mail Logs and Interbranch Communication." American Political Science Association Conference, Virtual.

Burgess, Melissa, Kyle Mattes, David Redlawsk, Ira Roseman and Ben Rudolph. 2021. "Predicting Support for Trump – an Integrative Model." American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, WA.

Bowra Bethany and Melissa Burgess. 2021. "Divided We Stand: Increasing Legislative Influence through Coalition-Building in the House." Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

University of Central Arkansas (2026-present)
U.S. Government and Politics, Fall 2026 (in-person)

Florida International University (2025)
Introduction to American Government (online)

Teaching Assistant (2021-2025)

Constitutional Law/Limits (face-to face)
Contemporary Political Theory (online)
Introduction to American Government
(face-to-face and online)

Political Parties (face-to-face)
State Government and Politics (face-to-face)
The Presidency (face-to-face)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Best Paper in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2025

Best Teaching Assistant in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University 2025

Travel Grant, Presidents and Executive Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2025
Doctoral Evidence Acquisition Fellowship, University Graduate School, Florida International University, 2024
Kimberly and Dorothea Green Fellowship for Advanced Doctoral Students, Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University, 2024
Kevin A. Hill Travel Scholarship, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2024
Best Teaching Assistant in Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2022
Best Master's Thesis, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2021

SKILLS

Computer and Statistical Software: STATA, NVIVO, Yoshikoder, Zotero, and Microsoft Office
Foreign Languages: Spanish (fluent)

REFERENCES

Kevin Evans, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Politics and International Relations
Florida International University
Committee Chair
(305) 348-2073
keacavan@fiu.edu

Todd Makse, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of Politics and International Relations
Florida International University
Committee Member
(305) 348-8451
tmakse@fiu.edu

Marzia Ocen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Politics and International Relations
Florida International University
Committee Member
(305) 348-3295
moceno@fiu.edu