

Sylvia Ann Thompson

Political Science Department
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Current Academic Rank: Lecturer
Primary Department: Political Science
Secondary or Joint Appointments: None
Citizenship: U.S.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Institution

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. December 1984, Ph.D., Political Science. Exam areas in Urban Politics, Public Administration, Media and Politics, and Interest Group Politics. The Ph.D. dissertation was a community leadership and decision-making (power) study of Greater Miami, Florida. Graduate Teaching Assistantship (1976-1978) and Dissertation Research Award (1983-1984).

University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. May 1975, M.A., Politics and Public Affairs and Urban Studies. Graduate School Fellowship (1974-1975).

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. September 1971, B.A., History and Government. Illinois Teacher's Scholarship (1969-1971).

EXPERIENCE

Academic Professional Experience

August 1990 to Present – Lecturer, Political Science Department, University of Miami, I teach nine courses per year. For 14 years, I was an academic advisor to half the freshmen Political Science majors at the University of Miami.

August 1988 to August 1990 – Associate Director, Institute of Government, Florida International University. I managed the Institute and supervised its staff. I wrote grant proposals, maintained program and financial records, and submitted periodic reports. I worked with FIU professors and outside consultants to deliver technical assistance, consulting services, training, policy forums and executive leadership development programs to municipal, county and state administrators, appointees and elected officials in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. I prepared advertising material for IOG programs, and also organized all conferences, forums, meetings, seminars and training events.

August 1978 to August 1988 – Adjunct Professor, Political Science Department, University of Miami. While working full-time in non-academic positions, I taught Political Science part-time at UM.

August 1978 to August 1988 – Adjunct Professor, Political Science Department, Florida International University. While working full-time in non-academic positions, I taught Political Science part-time at FIU.

Teaching Specializations

My Ph.D. specializations are Urban Politics, Public Administration, Media and Politics, and Interest Group Politics. I regularly teach Introduction to American National Government, and Government and Society. I have also taught Modern Political Problems, Urban Politics, Interest Groups, Media and Politics, The Legislative Process, The Presidency, State and Local Government, Comparative Politics and Women in Politics.

Professional and Honorary Organizations

American Political Science Association.

Thesis and Dissertation Advising

Academic Advisor (one of two), Freshman Political Science Majors, University of Miami, 1993 to 2007. Senior Honors Thesis Committees, 1996 and 2000.

Reviewer

Several American Government textbooks for West Publishing Company; Heath Publishing Company; and Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich College Publishers.

Non-Academic Professional Experience

August 1990 to December 1997 – Owner/Consultant, Thompson Communications. I contracted with public and private non-profit organizations in the Greater Miami area to do grant proposals, annual reports, brochures, newsletters, research, fundraising, media relations, advertising campaigns, and special event planning.

August 1984 to August 1988 – Director, Special Projects, Switchboard of Miami. I wrote grant proposals; produced written advertising material for the agency; did fundraising; coordinated special events; functioned as director on short-term federally-funded projects; wrote reports; wrote speeches for others and delivered public testimony; wrote and placed PSAs; and served as the Executive Director's liaison to the Board of Directors, media, and community organizations.

July 1982 to July 1983 – Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and the ACLU of Florida Foundation. I managed state-wide operations of the ACLU; supervised the staff in the state headquarters in Miami, lobbyists in Tallahassee, and volunteers and attorneys throughout Florida; planned and conducted PR, advertising, fundraising, and membership campaigns; handled media contacts state-wide, doing interviews about the organization and pertinent cases; coordinated special events; worked with the Board to develop policy and procedures for the ACLU; and managed the financial operations of the organization.

February 1979 to July 1982 – Director, Community Affairs, Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. I carried out public relations tasks; planned and conducted fundraising activities, membership campaigns, and special events; wrote public service announcements for radio and TV, speeches, position papers, annual reports, newsletters, press releases, and brochures; and served as liaison between the President's Office and the Board, media, and community.

July 1978 to February 1979 – City Desk Researcher, The Miami Herald. I did political and social research for investigative and urban affairs reporters on the City Desk. I wrote general assignment articles for the Local Section and for Tropic Magazine.

Grant Proposals

I wrote approximately 40 grant proposals that were funded by the federal or state government over the years. These included:

Miami Museum of Science – Raised \$250,000 for the museum from the U.S. Department of Energy, 1996.

Switchboard of Miami, Inc. – Raised \$1 million for the agency from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education, 1995-1999.

Policy Analysis

I researched and wrote dozens of policy analysis and position papers over the years. For example:

“ADM Community Services Report”, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Office, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District 11, 1997.

“Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Council Report”, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District 11 and Eleventh Judicial Circuit, 1997.

“Review of State-Funded Children’s Mental Health Services”, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Office, Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District 11, 1998.

Conference Planning

I planned and coordinated over 100 conferences and events during my career. They included:

“Code Enforcement: A Legislative Update”, a conference for municipal and county officials, 1996.

“State and Local Government: Challenges of the 1990’s”, a conference for municipal, county, and state public administrators and elected official, 1999.

SERVICE

Community Activities

American Association of Retired Persons
American Civil Liberties Union
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Amnesty International
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Urban League