

Nickolas Rios, M.A.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/nickolasrios

Professional Summary

Dedicated college educator specializing in American Government, Texas Government, and Political Science with experience teaching at both community college and university levels. Skilled in developing and delivering engaging instruction across in-person, synchronous online, and asynchronous online formats, with expertise in curriculum development, assessment, classroom management, and student engagement. Experienced with Canvas LMS, Blackboard LMS, Zoom for Education, and Turnitin, with a strong commitment to accessible and effective teaching practices. Recognized for instructional excellence, faculty service, and scholarly engagement through research presentations and interdisciplinary graduate coursework in history.

Education

- University of Texas at Tyler – Graduate History Coursework toward 18 Graduate Credit Hours (9 Hours Completed; Jan. 2026–Present)
- University of Texas at Tyler – Master of Arts in Political Science (Jul 2021 – May 2023)
- University of Houston – B.S. in Political Science; Minor in Education (2020)
GPA: 3.64, Summa Cum Laude, Pi Sigma Alpha – Secretary
- Tyler Junior College –
 - Undergraduate Coursework (Non-Degree) (Jan. 2026–Present)
GPA: 4.00
- Lee College -
 - A.A. in Humanities/Humanistic Studies (2020)
 - A.A. in Social Sciences (2018)
GPA: 3.25, Lee College Honors Society

Experience

- Professor of Government (Full-Time) – Tyler Junior College (Aug 2023 – Present)

Courses: GOVT-2305, GOVT-2306
Formats Taught: In-Person, Synchronous Online (Zoom), Fully Online (Canvas)
Tools & Skills: Canvas LMS, Zoom for Education, Dual Credit Course Delivery, Curriculum Development
Committees: Hiring Committee (Government) 2026; Hiring Committee (History) 2026; Basic Curriculum Committee Spring 2025
- Adjunct Lecturer – University of Texas at Tyler (Jul 2023 – Present)

Course: POLS-2305; POLS-2306

Formats Taught: In-Person

Tools & Skills: Higher Education Teaching, Public Speaking, Curriculum Development

- Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant – University of Texas at Tyler (Aug 2021 – May 2023)

Responsibilities: Assisted with public opinion research and supported undergraduate instruction in political science courses under Dr. Mark Owens.

Honors & Awards

- 2026 Great Teachers Retreat – Chair Nomination – Recognition for exceptional teaching
- UT Tyler Lyceum – “The Art of Nuclear Negotiation” – Presented research examining how nations have leveraged nuclear weapons not only for deterrence, but as strategic tools to achieve broader geopolitical goals such as international recognition, resource acquisition, and bargaining power. (2023)
- Tyler Junior College – Guest Speaker – “Winter Freeze of 2021” – Delivered a guest lecture analyzing the infrastructure failures, policy decisions, and regulatory issues that compounded the effects of the 2021 Texas winter storm. (Spring 2023)
- Summa Cum Laude – University of Houston (Dec 2020)
- Dean’s List – University of Houston (May 2020, Dec 2019, May 2019)

Professional Affiliations

- Texas Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA) – Member since Dec 2024; Attended 2025 TCCTA Conference
- Pi Sigma Alpha – National Political Science Honor Society, Secretary (2020)

Skills

Curriculum Development, Canvas LMS, Zoom for Education, Turnitin, Instructional Delivery: In-Person, Synchronous Online, Asynchronous Online, Dual Credit Course Delivery, Classroom Management, Public Speaking, Course Facilitation, Student Engagement