Going on the Academic Job Market
• Resources for the Academic Job Search

• The Chronicle of Higher Education – http://chronicle.com/section/Home/5 – numerous articles on every aspect of the academic job market

• Academic Jobs Wiki - http://academicjobs.wikia.com/wiki/Academic_Jobs_Wiki – articles, job details, and plenty to drive you crazy

• Princeton McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning – workshops, seminars, one-on-one counseling, and more.
When should you go on the job market?

• $5^{th}$ year, or

• The academic year before the one in which you plan to defend
The summer before

• Talk to your advisors: is this the right year?

• Make a plan for what kind of positions to target (dissertation completion fellowships, postdocs, history, religion, poli-sci?)

• Start compiling application materials – get your recommenders any material they need to write your letters.

• If you don’t have publications, write a chapter in article form and submit it for publication
Making a plan - what should you apply for?

• Fellowships (due dates beginning in Oct)
• Postdocs (due dates EARLY in fall)
• Tenure-track jobs (due dates beginning in Oct)
• Non tenure track (due dates beginning in Oct)
• *** Join the professional associations for any field you’re planning to apply for jobs in
How do you find job postings?

• Listserves and websites of professional associations and periodicals; for example:
  • Chronicle of Higher Education
  • H-Net
  • AHA job listings
  • MESA job listings
  • AAR job listings
  • Google! (especially for postdocs, which aren’t listed as systematically as jobs)
Fall semester

• Compile application materials
• Go to McGraw Center workshops
• ASK for advice
• APPLY – earliest due dates might be in Sep!
• 1st-round interviews will be late fall/early winter
Application Materials

• Cover letter
• Letters of recommendation, usually 3
• CV
• Writing sample
• Research statement
• Statement of teaching philosophy
• Statement of teaching interests
• Sample syllabi
Cover Letters

• STRATEGIZE AND TAILOR:
  • University or teaching college?
  • What discipline?
  • Address any specific needs they mention in the job add

•*** For jobs in specific disciplines (not area studies), you need to convince them that you can speak their methodological language.
Recommendation Letters

• Most positions require 3

• STRATEGIZE: which of your recommenders would be best received by any given position?
Writing Samples

• Use appropriate ones for the positions
Teaching Statements

• Go to McGraw Center workshops for pointers on how to write these. Everyone hates them.
Syllabi

• Basic syllabi worth drawing up:
  • Introduction to... (Middle East History, Islam, Middle East Politics, etc.)
  • An upper-level undergrad course
  • Graduate “Problems and Methods in... (Middle East History, Religion, Politics, etc.)”
Interviewing

• 1st round interviews: either by Skype or at professional association meetings

• 3 components:
  • Questions about your research
  • Questions about your teaching
  • Questions you have for them
Preparing for Interviews

• Go to McGraw Center workshops and look online for standard interview questions and advice

• PREPARE and PRACTICE answers

• RESEARCH the school and department – what are their specific needs?

• PREPARE stock questions for them in advance, but nothing too basic that you could have easily found out online
Standard Questions

• Tell us about your research and its contributions to the field.
• Do you have any ideas for future projects?
• How would you teach our department’s introductory course to...?
• Tell us about an upper-level undergrad course you’d like to teach.
• Tell us about a graduate course.
• WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK AT ...?
At the Interview

• Be on time
• Don’t dress like a bum
• Have copies of your cv and any syllabi you expect to talk about
• Break out the syllabi when asked about teaching
Campus Visits

• January-March

• One or both of:
  • Job talk
  • Teaching demonstration

• Meetings with faculties, administrators, students

•*** If you’ve made it to this point, they’re interviewing you but also trying to recruit you
The Job Talk

• 45 minutes – DON’T GO OVER
• Make it interesting and intelligible for the lowest common denominator – e.g., aim for something the Americanists will understand
• PRACTICE – do a mock job talk and listen to feedback
• Go to real job talks to see what works and what doesn’t