



Dr. Jay DeSart

Dr. DeSart serves as the Chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Utah Valley University (UVU), a position he has held since joining the institution in 2004 to spearhead the creation of the Political Science program. With a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, obtained in 1994, Dr. DeSart brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his roles. As an educator, Dr. DeSart is dedicated to teaching a wide range of courses, including American National Government, Political Analysis and its advanced course, Survey Research and Design Methods, Political Parties, the U.S. Presidency, Public Opinion and Political Behavior, and the US Congress. His academic pursuits have led him to publish significant research on the influence of political parties on voter perceptions, election forecasting at both national and state levels, and the effects of anti-intellectualism on citizen attitudes and behaviors. Beyond his academic responsibilities, Dr. DeSart is a founding Director of the Utah Debate Commission (UDC) and represents UVU on its Board. The UDC organizes televised debates for Utah's congressional and statewide office candidates every election year. He plays a crucial role in the Commission, serving on the Venue Committee and chairing the Polling Committee, underscoring his commitment to enhancing civic engagement and political discourse in Utah.