My name is Brian Conley and I’m a professor in the political science and legal studies Department. I got into Politics as a young person through punk rock. We were excluded you know we didn’t have a vote we didn’t have a say we didn’t have money we’re too young but we wanted to comment on the world and we wanted to learn about the world it was explicitly political. It was talking about the world it was talking about like abuses that were going on the world and possible alternative ways to deal with it and it was a way that young people could have a contribution or participation in that discussion. My experience actually directly informs my teaching and to the extent to which I used to run political campaigns I ran campaigns all the way from the city level to the Congressional level. We have a lot of students who are interested in campaign politics and we teach a number of courses specifically designed on campaign politics and I think the most important advice that I give to students who are interested in this space are twofold number one it’s really about a plan you have to have a plan if you don’t have a plan you’re actually not running and then number two consult consult consult. Campaigns are incredibly exciting it’s essentially like you have a team of people competing against another team of people, it’s like any of these kind of TV shows with these groups of people competing with. That’s what a political campaign is. But what’s different about it is you’re actually competing for real stakes, I mean maybe you can win money on those shows but we’re talking about actual like politics policymaking and shaping the future of the world nothing less nothing. The students who thrive in our program are students who have kind of an interest in practical politics, ongoing hands-on politics, want to kind of get right out there and have an effect immediately or someone who’s actually already been doing it and just wants to take that next step. So we’re a program that you actually can complete in a calendar year so you can start in September and finish in September you can start in January and end in following January. So the whole thing really is about giving you some
foundational skills and then getting you out there we do that through having an internship, required for the graduate program but then also in a lot of our classes we actually have you doing like practical real world assignments and I guess if anything what I want to do is I want to pass on to someone the knowledge that or the idea and the impression and the understanding that if they are committed to it enough they really can do anything they want to do.