

## FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR MICHELE ANGRIST

Dear Political Science Students,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well, enjoying your winter trimester courses, and staying warm. I'm also hoping you will enjoy the features in this trimester's newsletter. There are many!

As many of you may know, over winter break, Professor Oxley took 16 students on her New Hampshire Presidential Primary Mini-Term. They worked for (and met) multiple candidates, attended numerous town hall meetings and rallies, appeared in local press coverage, and much more. In the pages that follow, you'll read a summary of the mini-term and hear directly from two of its participants.

In addition, as has been past practice, we have two "Professors Sound Off" essays in this issue – one from Professor Oxley on New Hampshire, and one from Professor Dell'Aera on Trump. You won't want to miss these...

Finally, we are introducing a new type of content. We have reached out to a number of alums of the department, and will be featuring 2-3 "mini-interviews" with such alums in this and future newsletters. We've asked alums to talk about their memories of the department, their current positions (professional or academic), and what advice they would have for you. We hope this feature creates a linkage from past students to you, and that you enjoy and benefit from hearing from your predecessors in the department.

## PROFESSORS SOUND OFF

### New Hampshire Reflections

By Professor Zoe Oxley

Part of my winter break was spent in New Hampshire, with students on the NH

## ATTENTION JUNIOR PS MAJORS

There will be a meeting on Friday, February 19, at common lunch in Lippman 017 regarding the senior thesis. Professor Angrist will explain the requirements of the thesis and the process by which you will be matched with an advisor. In addition, several current seniors will be in attendance to share their projects with you to give you a sense of the range of types of theses that are possible. Pizza and cookies will be served. Mark your calendars and spread the word!

## ATTENTION SENIORS

### Requirements for Graduating with Honors in Political Science

- GPA of 3.30 or better in PS as well as cumulatively (Starting with Class of 2017, PS GPA must be 3.50)
- Completion of a PS seminar with an A- or better [if you do not attain an A- in the seminar, you may still be eligible for honors if your PS GPA is 3.50 or higher (3.70 beginning with Class of 2017.)] Either way, you must complete a seminar.
- At least three PS course grades of A- or better [not including thesis courses].
- A grade of A- or higher on the senior project.
- Delivery of an oral (not poster) presentation on your senior project at the Steinmetz symposium.

**\*\*ID majors must meet the requirements for honors in both departments\*\***

Presidential Primary mini-term. You can read about the mini-term and some student perspectives elsewhere in this newsletter. Here, I share a few things that I learned during our weeks in NH.

Let's start with what I didn't learn: what explains Donald Trump's popularity in NH? I was looking forward to answering this question, but my time in NH didn't enlighten me beyond what I thought before leaving Schenectady. Attending a Trump rally demonstrated that some people are attracted by his issue positions and broad slogans, some are drawn in by his celebrity, and some attend his rallies because of the spectacle. Nothing new learned there. Off and on, I would ask NH folks why they thought Trump was leading the polls in their state. I was hoping for some on-the-ground insight into Trump's support, but I didn't get any. Most people answered that they were as puzzled as I was!

One thing that I did learn (the hard way) at the Trump rally: if you try to take a Camelbak water bottle into an event with tight security screening, your bottle will be confiscated. So much for being environmentally responsible.

How did campaigning in 2016 compare to that of 2012? There were more differences than I anticipated, including this minor change: the pledge of allegiance was recited at every Republican candidate event in 2016, but not at any events in 2012.

Better campaign technology. In fact, I was on the receiving end of some of these technological developments. Four years ago, we just showed up to candidate events. This year, we were asked to register for most events. Within days (sometimes hours) of attending an event, I would begin receiving email messages from the candidate. I even got on a phone list or two, until I stopped sharing my phone number. Duh.

Old-fashioned voter targeting. Sure, technology helps campaigns be more efficient, but many campaigns have not abandoned the tried and true method of door knocking. Some campaigns have designed super cool smart phone apps to identify which doors to knock on and to record reactions, yet the technology has not replaced the all-important personal contact.

### **The Union Banner**

The Banner is Union College's student Political Newsletter. Every other week The Banner publishes five articles to be printed and dispersed throughout campus as well as published online (at [www.muse.union.edu/banner](http://www.muse.union.edu/banner)). The articles are contributed by students, providing a platform to express opinions regarding political theories, current events, and issues.

Email articles to [unionbanner@union.edu](mailto:unionbanner@union.edu) to contribute.

Retail politics is alive and well. In 2012, it seemed as if retail politics was on its way out. NH citizens and politicians bemoaned the lack of candidate town hall events and meet and greets that year. Not so this year. When a party's contest is competitive (unlike in 2012 when Mitt Romney won handily), the candidates will come to NH and they will hold open events. Add a second competitive party contest, and you can fill your calendar with political dates. No wonder we were all exhausted at the end of our mini-term.

On the policy front, I learned that we, as a nation, are nowhere near consensus on guns. Okay, I did not need to go to NH to know this. Yet, after hearing the candidates' stump speeches and responses to questions about guns, the reality of how far apart the two political parties are sunk in in a way it had not before. And left me exceedingly depressed and worried that we will never solve our national gun problem.

So as not to end on a depressing note, I live you with this more upbeat one: NH is a small and welcoming state. On the morning that he was to announce the date of the 2016 NH primary, the Secretary of State, Bill Gardner, called to let me know the date would be announced in about an hour. He is solely responsible for setting the date of the primary, a rather big deal in NH and nationally. Secretary

Gardner had enjoyed meeting us the week before, and thought some of the students might like to attend the ceremony. Fortunately, two were working near the state capitol that day, and were able to be at the event. Small state, friendly people – some things do not change in New Hampshire.

### **Past Imperfect: Donald Trump's Model of American Greatness**

By Professor Tony Dell'Aera

What does it mean for a country to be great? What must a country have lost or succumbed to or ceased doing if there is an appeal for the country to be great *again*? These are some thoughts that I have been pondering as I watched Donald Trump's fantastic rise to the top of the Republican polls these past months and weeks and now only days before the first ballots are cast in the 2016 presidential election season. Mr. Trump's campaign features an effective and catchy slogan, "Make America Great Again," yet it is not a wholly unique slogan as far presidential campaigns go. Ronald Reagan featured the same exact phrase in one of his slogans in 1980, and many other campaigns of all political stripes have featured similarly styled slogans that appeal to patriotism and promise some variety of change to improve the country. Every once in a while, a slogan features just the right wording and just the right message for just the right candidate, and their convergence becomes both memorable and illustrative, with Barack Obama's "Change" illustrating a message and a metaphor with an ultimate economy of language. Otherwise, most slogans do not penetrate any more deeply into the hearts of voters than would the campaign pin they might wear on their chest. Their messages are couched in generic terms, pithy turns of phrase, and occasionally even the attempted creative use of punctuation marks. But generally presidential candidates sitting atop their party's polls just before the Iowa caucuses do not feature such caustic, derisive, and divisive views as Mr. Trump has espoused in this campaign. When wedded to Mr. Trump's

platform, his campaign slogan takes on a potentially deeper and darker meaning.

Aspiring for American greatness is a worthy cause that has been a consistent companion in the nation's history, going all the way back to the time of the founding (such as in John Jay's Federalist Paper #2). But aspiring for greatness is not the same as lamenting the loss of greatness and seeking its restoration. If America is to be made "great again" per Mr. Trump, then there must be a baseline, a model, a time that Mr. Trump feels is the exemplar of this lost greatness. How far back must we reach to find this golden age that could enrich an America that has allegedly lost its way? Since Mr. Trump appropriated one of Ronald Reagan's campaign slogans and speaks wistfully of this era (during which Mr. Trump built a large part of his fortune), perhaps it might serve as a model of greatness. Alas this might prove problematic lest one believe that such things as supply side economics, \$640 government toilet seats, HIV/AIDS denial, welfare demonization, stock market crashes, Iran-Contra, the so-called war on drugs, urban decline, the failure of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Savings & Loan scandal, yuppies, and mullets are features of a greater America.

If Mr. Trump is feeling particularly nostalgic perhaps he is looking back to the 1950s, a time of communist witch hunts, rampant racism and vestiges of Jim Crow, marginalized women, the military draft, the Korean War, the targeting of homosexuality, unregulated pollution, J. Edgar Hoover, Amos 'n' Andy, the glamorization of juvenile delinquency, and TV Dinners. These snapshots are not portraits of an America that is greater, but of an America that can be greatly disappointing. No slogan or jingoism can hide the fact that America is not a utopia nor does it pretend to be. This is not to say that the 1950s or the 1980s are dark periods of American history. Far from it. But these eras do not represent a greater America than what we see

today, and a yearn to return to these times takes far too many steps backward, when part of America's greatness is its ability to push forward, an ability that is emboldened when people recognize that progress as a society does not take place on an issue by issue basis in isolation from one another, but rather as part of an interconnected, interdependent ecosystem where a single stone cast into the water spreads ripples slowly felt across the entire lake. But perhaps Mr. Trump's active longing for the past is simply informed by the potential effect it would have on his competition, representing a time when women, children of immigrants, and Canadians did not run for President of the United States.

### **THE NEW HAMPSHIRE MINI-TERM DECEMBER 2015**

By Katherine Treacy

Over winter break, the New Hampshire Primary mini-term brought 16 Union students to Manchester, NH. They all interned for either a candidate campaign organization or media organization. Many of the students got to meet with various presidential candidates and ask them questions regarding their campaign. The students truly enjoyed being involved in rallies, calling voters, and showing their support for individual candidates. According to his blog entry, Michael Glassman, sophomore at Union, felt that he really gained a lot of insight from attending the candidate rallies. Although the rallies were usually later in the day and located out in the cold weather, he endured the conditions and showed his unconditional support for his favorite candidates by waving signs at the rallies. Since most of the discussions held revolved around foreign policy, Union students made it their mission to ask candidates about their opinion on very important topics such as climate change. All of the students participating in this mini-term spoke highly of their experience. This mini-term was a true success as it helped inform our Union students about the importance of the

youngest bracket of voters during the primary elections campaign.

To learn more, check out the mini-term blog at: <http://muse.union.edu/psc289t-tab-2015/>

### **Julianne Lorees's New Hampshire Miniterm Experience**

I spent three weeks over winter break living in Manchester, NH, where many of us were studying the "First in the Nation" primary. During my time there, I spent almost 70 hours volunteering for Jeb Bush's campaign and visited as many other candidate events that I could in my free time (I also got to meet Jeb twice!). While Democrats are better known for their intense grassroots campaigning, Republicans tend to have less of a reputation for doing those activities to the same extent. I thought it was interesting, however, because Jeb's campaign had a different mindset. His situation is interesting because he's clearly very well-funded, yet that hasn't necessarily correlated to his poll numbers. In an attempt to connect to the voters better, they sent out paid staffers to knock on doors every day from 9am to until it got dark, in addition to the typical phone calling most campaigns do. I would even say that getting to as many houses as possible was one of their primary goals, so they had me knocking as much as I could (which resulted in me going to about 1000 different houses during my time there). It's very intimidating to go up to random strangers in an attempt to have a political conversation with them, and even harder when you get some very grumpy respondents, but for the people who actually gave me the time to talk to them, it was very enlightening. Regardless of what their ultimate perspective was, you could tell how important the primary is to NH constituents. Politics is part of their culture and many of them love talking about it and cherish the somewhat unique opportunity that they have to potentially meet most of the candidates. There are a lot of people around the country who tend to disagree with the way our primary and caucus system currently runs, insisting that it is unfair for Iowa

and NH to go first. While I'll leave that conversation for another day, I will say that NH does not take its role lightly in this process—politics is embedded into their culture and I would go as far as to say that if they didn't have the first primary, the state would lose part of its identity. The experience was amazing not only because I learned so much and had the chance to meet so many influential politicians, but also because I was able to step out of my comfort zone and grow more as a person.

### **Gillian Henry's New Hampshire Miniterm Experience**

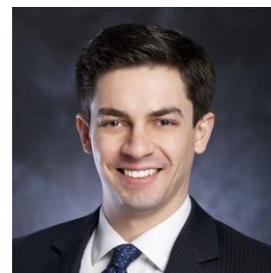
Studying “abroad” in the faraway state of New Hampshire was akin to a dusty tornado sweeping me off my feet and dropping me right in the middle of Oz. A land unto its own, with characters similar to but different than those in my home state, I did not expect to be in a seemingly “foreign land”, but was pleasantly surprised that I was. Growing up in California, where Republicans are a rare species and politically active voters even more uncommon, politics was a world to which I was a foreigner. To politically apathetic me, New Hampshire was Oz: sparkling and unfamiliar with an uncanny resemblance to home. In this unknown land, politics pervaded everything; much like the distinct greenness of the Emerald City was the city of Manchester decidedly political. Almost every New Hampshireite was proud of their First in the Nation status and took their role as appraisers seriously. In three weeks alone I saw Bernie, Rubio, and Rand Paul; I met Carly, Jeb!, and Kasich; and I saw and met my candidate twice. Though there were no theatrics on a wizardly scale, meeting Hillary Clinton was magical. Shaking hands with the candidate for whom I had called hundreds of people and knocked on countless doors transformed the fairytale world of politics into a world in which I felt at home. No longer was politics the scripted ads and hyped-up media that I once thought it was. The mini-term in New Hampshire opened my eyes to a whole new universe where politics meant meeting and appraising every presidential candidate. While I

learned how to make persuasion calls, I primarily learned how to multitask; as I familiarized myself with door-to-door canvassing, I mastered the art of humble rejection. Every person called and each door knocked made incremental but almost imperceptible headway; truthfully, the most important role I played was convincing myself. Three weeks may have been too short to impact the campaign on a palpable level, but I learned much about myself and the wonderful land of politics that no classroom experience could ever offer. I discovered where my head and my heart had been all along, and this mini-term has given me the courage to expand my horizons to include the realm of U.S. Politics. This Oz, not unrelated to the average American city, taught me a lot: there's no place like home.

### **ALUMNI INTERVIEWS**

#### **Jordan Goldman**

*What is your current professional title (or academic program if you are in graduate school)?*



Associate, Corporate Department in the New York office of Paul Hastings LLP, an international law firm.

*What does the work (professional or academic) involve, and how did your time at Union prepare you for it?*

I represent companies in merger, acquisition, private equity and joint venture transactions. My role varies from deal to deal, but usually includes drafting transaction documents, negotiating key terms of those documents with clients and opposing counsel, and conducting legal due diligence. The extensive writing required by the courses I took at Union prepared me well for law school and life as an associate in a law firm. Critical thinking and writing are what I do and the quality of Union's academics, particularly in the Political Science department, gave me the tools required for my chosen career. In addition, the

small class sizes and expectation that all students would participate in class taught me how to put forth and defend a position, skills that are invaluable in law school and as an attorney.

*What is your fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science at Union?*

My fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science was defending my senior thesis at the Steinmetz Symposium. Professor Zoe Oxley supervised my thesis, entitled "The Effect of Public Approval Levels of Congress on Midterm Elections." Several of my professors, my family and about 20 friends were there to support my defense. It was a fun way to end my academic career at Union.

My favorite course in the Political Science department was the introductory course on Constitutional Law, taught by Professor Bradley Hays. Although memorizing 80 or so Supreme Court cases (with dissents!) was daunting, it was one of the more interesting courses I took. Professor Hays was new to Union then but quickly became a mentor to me. Plus, that knowledge of cases helped me immensely when I took Constitutional Law again in law school, a welcome bonus.

*What advice would you have for current Political Science majors as they think about life after Union?*

My advice to current Political Science majors is four-fold. First, enjoy your time at Union. Never again will you have as much time to delve into topics purely to satisfy academic curiosity, and Union is a great place to do so (in addition to being a fun place in general). Second, make sure you know what your next step will be after you leave Union. Whether you begin work right away or apply to graduate school, understand the pros and cons of each choice and make an informed decision. Your professors and academic advisors can help you figure out the next step. Third, find a balance between not being pressured to follow a certain

path and being "lost" after graduation. You've already made a substantial investment of time and money into your education and you should have a plan of attack, but diving into something that isn't a good fit and which can be quite expensive is just as bad as having no plan at all. Finally, don't be afraid to reach out to Union alumni. We are happy and flattered to field questions and in my experience Union's bond goes far beyond the four years we all spent in Schenectady. In other words, Let's Go U!

### **Kelsey MacElroy**

*What is your current professional title (or academic program if you are in graduate school)?*



I am currently in my second year of a three year JD/MBA program at Cornell University.

*What does the work (professional or academic) involve, and how did your time at Union prepare you for it?*

As a JD/MBA, I am taking a diverse set of classes in both the business school and the law school. While my business school classes require a quantitative mindset, my law school classes are far more qualitative and theoretical. The liberal arts education I received at Union and, more specifically, the structure of the Core Curriculum prepared me to adapt to the breadth of courses I am taking as I pursue this dual degree. I was able to broaden my horizons beyond the Political Science department to take courses in economics, hard sciences, and math. Due to these experiences, I was able to build a strong foundation in a wide variety of disciplines that have been invaluable in my graduate work.

*What is your fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science at Union?*

My fondest recollection was turning in the final version of my senior thesis. After months of hard work, all-nighters, and countless revisions, I felt a profound sense of accomplishment when I

handed Professor Hays the bound version of my thesis. It was certainly a challenging experience but I grew immensely as both a writer and a critical thinker.

*What advice would you have for current Political Science majors as they think about life after Union?*

The best advice is to diversify your skill set by taking advantage of the wide array of course offerings. Even if you are a political science major, consider taking a class outside of the social sciences departments, such as a computer science course, that might be beneficial for life after Union or that just interests you generally.

### **Caroline Tulp**

*What is your current professional title (or academic program if you are in graduate school)?*



I recently started working as the Southern Africa

Program Coordinator at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). Last year I lived in Laos working for Pencils of Promise, a small NGO that builds schools and implements educational programs.

*What does the work (professional or academic) involve, and how did your time at Union prepare you for it?*

My organization works with Election Management Bodies across the world to help governments conduct democratic elections. We also work with civil society organizations (political parties, ngos, media, etc.) as appropriate to help this process. As Program Coordinator for Southern Africa, I support our teams on the ground in Zimbabwe and Zambia to implement our programs, which include anything from making sure the voter registration lists are accurate to implementing an SMS (texting) tool so people can text a number and receive a response with the location of their polling station.

Union helped prepare me for this position in so many ways it's hard to narrow it down, but I think most importantly, Union forced me to think critically and defend my views. I participated in Model UN and the DC term, which both really pushed me to think outside the box and do the research needed to have intelligent discussions with senior persons at organizations. This is extremely important as I have to present and discuss current events in Africa at our team meetings. Also, I did a Central Europe term abroad, which introduced me to traveling and working in developing countries, and I got hooked!

*What is your fondest recollection of majoring in Political Science at Union?*

When I did the DC term with Professor Lobe one of my favorite memories was before we even went to DC. The entire group was invited to his house before we left for DC for a dinner party. It was not only great to meet everyone before the term began, but it also showed the strong connection

### **PSC Major Foreign Experience Requirement**

All PSC majors, including ID-PSC majors, need to fulfill the foreign experience requirement. There are two ways to fulfill this requirement:

1. Complete a three-course language sequence (only two courses are required if the sequence is begun beyond the first introductory course in the language).
2. Complete a full-length term abroad (miniterms do not qualify).

Please plan carefully to fulfill this requirement: for many languages, the introductory course is only offered in the Fall Term, so you cannot necessarily begin your language study any time in the year.

that Union professors have with their students. We played games in his basement, met his kids, and ate dinner all together. It was a great way to start the term.

*What advice would you have for current Political Science majors as they think about life after Union?*

1) Know that you can switch careers. Don't freak out if you don't know what you want to do for the next 10 years. I worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers for 3 years in auditing before I made a career shift to international development. It's hard to do, but it is absolutely possible and I know a few other people who did it as well.

2) Use the Union network. To get my job at PwC and also at IFES, I networked with Union alumni and it is amazing how far the chain goes. Everyone was so willing to help when they knew I was also a Union alum. Because Union is so small, that connection goes much further than campus.

### **PSC Major Research Requirement**

All PSC majors are required to take two research-focused courses:

- An R course (the R indicates that the course is research-intensive)
- Either a 2<sup>nd</sup> R course, a seminar, or a research methods course (PSC 220, 222 or 223)

[Note: Normally, students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 to gain entrance into a seminar.]

PSC Interdepartmental (ID) majors must take one R course to fulfill the research requirement. Students are strongly recommended to complete this requirement before the end of their junior year, as preparation for their senior thesis.

## **Spring 2016 POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES**

### **Introductory**

- PSC 111: Introduction to American Politics  
(Hays) MWF 1:50 - 2:55PM
- PSC 112: Introduction to Global Politics  
(Dallas) MWF 8:00 - 9:05AM
- PSC 113: Introduction to Political Theory  
(Brown) MW 3:05 - 4:45PM

### **Political Theory**

- PSC 233: Human Rights and Political Theory  
(Cidam) TTh 10:55AM - 12:40PM
- PSC 236: Police, Security, and Biopower  
(Seri) TTh 1:55 - 3:40PM

### **Comparative Politics**

- PSC 240R: Comparative Ethnic & Racial  
Politics (Hislope)  
MWF 11:45AM - 12:50PM
- PSC 243: Latin American Politics  
(Seri) TTh 9:00 - 10:45AM

### **International Politics**

- PSC 251T: American Foreign Policy  
(DC Term) (Lobe)
- PSC 355: Defense Policy  
(Brown) MW 7:00 - 8:45PM
- PSC 358R: Wealth & Power Among Nations  
(Dallas) MWF 10:30 - 11:35AM

### **U.S. Politics**

- PSC 275: Law and Film  
(Hays) MW 3:05 - 4:45PM
- PSC 280T: Internship (DC Term)  
(Lobe)
- PSC 291: Urban Politics (Dell'Aera)  
TTh 10:55 AM - 12:40 PM
- PSC 369: Seminar in American Politics  
(Dell'Aera) TTh 1:55 - 3:40PM

### **Internships**

- PSC 277: Capital Region Political Internships  
(Brown)

## UPPER-LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FALL TERM

### **PSC 233: Human Rights and Political Theory**

We are living in an age of human rights. Today, there is hardly any disagreement that we, as human beings, are entitled to a certain set of rights by the mere fact of being human. This almost universal acceptance of human rights has changed the world we live in dramatic ways. Following the aftermath of World War II, we have seen the emergence of innumerable international and nongovernmental organizations that are specifically devoted to the protection of human rights. And yet, despite all these developments, human rights abuses, in different guises, rage on all over the world, including the developed countries of the West. What can account for this unsettling fact? Are the ongoing human rights abuses a result of an implementation problem bringing to light the inadequacies of the current international human rights regimes or are they symptomatic of a deeper problem that goes to the heart of the notion of human rights itself? Do the unprecedented developments in human rights law announce the coming of a new and better world where all people, regardless of their race, gender and citizenship status will benefit from legal protection or is the idea of expanding human rights to whole humanity a utopian dream that runs the risk of becoming an ideology used by the Western powers to legitimize their new colonial adventures? We will address these challenging, intriguing, and somewhat disconcerting questions through an interdisciplinary inquiry where we will engage with the debates surrounding human rights not only within the fields of political theory and international relations but also in academic disciplines other than political science such as history, anthropology, legal studies, psychology, and philosophy. During the course of the semester, we will explore the historical and philosophical origins of human rights, examine various examples of the current human rights abuses we observe in the developed countries of the West, and analyze contemporary criticisms

of the human rights discourse by focusing on issues as torture, the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, humanitarianism, and humanitarian intervention.

### **PSC 236: Police, Security, and Biopower**

While the development of a political community presupposes a certain level of security, the second half of the 20th century shows how unfortunately frequent it has become for people to turn into victims of the devices they set to secure themselves. How can the tensions between the political and security be addressed to enhance, not to destroy, the freedom and creativity that characterize a political community? Organized as a seminar, and heavy in contemporary political theory, this course will explore both practical and theoretical relations between political communities and the pre-political preconditions for their preservation.

### **PSC 240R: Comparative Ethnic & Racial Politics**

An introduction to the trends and patterns of ethnic conflicts in the contemporary world. Issues pertaining to the rise of nations; theories of ethnic mobilization; the attempt to build general, cross-national explanations; and current efforts to solve ethnic conflict.

### **PSC 243: Latin American Politics**

This course offers a working knowledge of Latin America's current politics, trends, and challenges. Years after democratization, regular elections are in place, and support for democracy in the region seems widespread. Still, as local traditions infuse the principles of liberal democracy, politics in Latin America reveal unique traits. Exploring the political as an interpretive endeavor, the course's readings, assignments, and class discussions will help to identify key political institutions, traditions, and cleavages, as well as forms of agency and leadership, both in specific countries and at the regional level.

### **PSC 275: Law and Film**

This course uses the medium of film as a springboard to introduce and explore concepts in legal theory, American legal culture, and the

exercise of public and private power through the legal system. Specific topics of discussion include law as morality, higher versus positive law, law and gender, and the heroic lawyer mythology.

### **PSC 277: Capital Region Political Internships**

This class enables students to become politically active and/or gain political experience by working for elected officials, government agencies, election campaigns, interest groups, non-profit organizations, lobby firms, etc. Students draw on their internship experience and related academic work to reach a better understanding of the complexities and dynamics of politics at the state or local level. Students are permitted to enroll in this course twice, although the course will count toward the Political Science major only once.

This term, a total of fourteen students are working in and around the Capital District in the context of PSC 277. A complete list of their placements follows.

If you think you might be interested in enrolling in PSC 277 in the spring, please contact Professor Brown for more information.

Senator Schumer's Office  
Senator Gillibrand's Office  
Congressman Gibson's Office  
Congressman Tonko's Office  
Schenectady County District Attorney, Victims' Unit  
SKDK Albany (a political public relations firm)  
New York State Senator Hamilton's Office  
New York State Senator Golden's Office  
New York State Senator Vandetto's Office  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Alliance for Clean Energy  
NYC Mayor's Office Lobby  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
US Post Office Inspector's Office

### **PSC 291: Urban Politics**

This course is designed to survey the politics of America's central cities. The actors in this story include machine bosses, reformers, immigrants, bureaucrats, politicians, average citizens, the rich, and the poor. Particular attention will be given to

the forms of local government, governing strategies of mayors, populations, and types of communities, urban institutions, and policy challenges. The first part of the course will examine various forms of city government, the emergence of urban America, and the rise of political machines. The second part of the course will study the effects of progressive reforms, the reorganization of city politics and the emergence of race and ethnicity in the post-war city. The third part of the course will examine policy challenges such as poverty, crime, education, and economic development in the contemporary city. We will conclude with a consideration of national urban policy and different ways average citizens can make a difference.

### **PSC 355: Defense Policy**

A deeper understanding of US Defense Policy in relation to current trends in the international threat environment. Examines the historical roots of US defense policy with a focus on the impact of isolationism, exceptionalism, and the Cold War on those policies. The policy-making process itself will be examined highlighting the influence of the realist paradigm, as well as the various organizational inputs, which help to shape the policy outcomes. A look at the post-Cold War period with emphasis on the impact of 9/11 and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction on changes in US policy.

### **PSC 358: Wealth and Power Among Nations**

An examination of the tensions between developed and developing countries in the global political economy. First, the course traces the genealogy of thinkers on the issues of development, such as Smith, Marx, Keynes, modernization theory and development economics, as a way to understand the enduring debates within the field. Second, it examines historical transformations in the international economy, such as in trade, global finance and economic crises, in order to understand how the structures and opportunities for developing countries have transformed over time. Finally, although there is no focus on any single region of the world, the course touches upon the oil boom in the Middle East in the 1970s, the debt crises in

Latin America and Africa in the 1980s, the rise of Japan and the East Asia tigers, the fall of the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries in the 1990s, the new giants of China and India, new forms of post-Fordist production, and the relationship between production and identity.

### **PSC 369 Seminar in American Politics: The Political Development of the Presidency**

This seminar will explore the political development of the American Presidency, from the time of the founding to the present day. We begin with the question of how can a political institution that was designed in the late 1700s continue to function today? As we answer this question, we will examine the Constitutional origins of the Presidency, how the duties of the President have expanded over time, how the size of the Presidential institution itself has grown into a huge bureaucracy to carry out the functions of the Executive branch, how the demands of the electoral process have affected the way a President governs, how a President develops strategies to address issues and crises while working with (and sometimes against) the other branches of government in a system where power is separated, shared, checked, and balanced, and how a President deals with myriad actors both at home and abroad.



### **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

To keep up to date on all events, talks, requirements, deadlines, etc., please “like” our new Facebook Page, which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/UnionCPoliticalScience>

### **Senior Thesis Submission Information**

Seniors: If you are working on a Fall-Winter thesis, your finished work is due on the last day of classes, **Friday March 11**, in the Political Science office (Lippman 117) by 4:00 pm. Do not submit your thesis directly to your advisor – it must be submitted to the departmental office. You need to submit one hard copy, and it must be bound in some *secure* way (any type of binding is fine other than a staple or paper clip). If you are working on an ID thesis and have two advisors, you should submit one copy to each department. No special cover page is necessary, including if you hope to be a candidate for departmental honors. If you are on track for honors, you will be contacted in the spring and given thesis-related instructions at that time. When you turn in your thesis, Ms. Fortsch will require you to fill out an evaluation of the senior thesis experience as a condition of your submission, so be sure to allow 10-15 minutes to complete this in the PS office. The college administration requires that we collect these evaluations. There will be some yummy treats in the office that day to celebrate your achievements! Finally, check with your advisor as to whether or not you will be able to have the copy you submit returned to you in the spring.