

# POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



**D**ear Political Science Majors and Minors,

Thank you to Barbara McDonough for leading our editors, Emma Gill, Izzy Kroeger, and Carolina Lucio, in bringing the newsletter to our inboxes! I am continually amazed by all of incredible things that our faculty, students, and alumni are doing. During the past few weeks I have overheard parts of conversations between Carolina, Izzy, and Emma. “We already received so many.” “We’ve never had this many before.” I wondered what could they be referring to? The Google form! It has been really fun to learn what movies you liked, songs you are listening to, and what brought you joy over the break.

Descriptions of the fall courses are included in the newsletter. If you still are not sure what classes to take, stop by the third floor of Ladd. There is a course generator with QR code that will lead you to a quiz to find your match. You may never have to meet with your advisor again! In addition to all the fun, we have been working hard. You will find descriptions of the senior honors theses and articles on the lectures held this semester, as well as the Student Conference on United States Affairs.

As the semester winds down, we will celebrate your academic accomplishments. We will induct students into the Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for Political Science students, and we will honor the departmental prize winners. Each year the Political Science faculty award our departmental prizes to four students, who have excelled in the study of political philosophy, international relations, comparative politics, and American politics.

I am very pleased to congratulate this year’s winners:

Isabelle Kroeger is the winner of the Erwin L. Levine Prize  
(political philosophy)

Beck Hagopian is the winner of the Henry C. Galant Prize  
(comparative politics)

Conrad Kassin is the winner of the Henry T. Moore Prize  
(international relations)

Maria Bideiwy is the winner of the Susan Riley Gunderson ’64 Prize  
(American politics)

But the semester is not over yet! This Tuesday, April 16, we will gather for a book talk on *Dominica’s Story: A Life of Courage, Love, and Hope* featuring our own Professor Graney, Kaitlin McQuade ’24, and Francine Apy. The book details the personal cost of war in Ukraine. The talk will be held in Ladd 307. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Professor Natalie Taylor  
Associate Professor & Chair

A promotional poster for a book talk. The top half has a blue background with the title 'The Personal Cost of War in Ukraine Through a Young Girl's Eyes: Then and Now' in white and yellow text. Below the title is a small image of the book cover, which features a Ukrainian trident symbol. The bottom half of the poster has a yellow background. It includes the text 'Book Talk, Q &amp; A, and Book Signing', 'Featuring: Kate Graney, Professor of Political Science, Kaitlin McQuade, Skidmore Senior, and Francine Apy', 'LADD 307', 'Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM', and 'Books available for purchase'. At the bottom, it says 'Sponsored by the Political Science Department'. There is also a QR code and a small logo for 'SoulFilling'.

# FACULTY NEWS



**Emmanuel Balogun:** This semester has been pretty busy! First, I want to thank those of you who attended the talk with Howard French. A special thank you to my students in the International Relations of the Global South course, for their engagement with the book and with Professor French. It was great to have him on campus! I am also excited to partner with Professor Willis as our IR of the Global South and US Foreign Policy courses will put on a mini-conference at the end of the semester. Stay tuned for more details!

I recently joined a new scientific network called "Re-centering African Subjects and Subjectivities", funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The network brings together 16 internationally renowned scholars from different disciplines, united in shaping a new research agenda on African regionalism over the next three years. Rooted in a critical examination of both mainstream/Western and African perspectives on regionalism, and drawing inspiration from the collective expertise of its members, the

network aims to produce fresh empirical insights, advance new methodological approaches, and foster the development of innovative theories in the study of African regionalism. I will be working on a project examining political transitions in West Africa and Security Sector Reform.

I also facilitated an undergraduate international relations career workshop with students from UMass Boston, UMass Lowell, and MIT at Wellesley College. The workshop, called Bridging the Gap: Foundations in International Relations Success and Training (BTG First), included a simulation exercise, a career panel, and career workshop where we helped students work on their resumés, cover letters, and identify job opportunities in International Affairs. I look forward to bringing this workshop to Skidmore in the near future!



Finally, I am looking forward to traveling to Tokyo, Kenya, and Geneva in the next few months to begin research on my new book on multilateral reform and diplomacy (still shopping for ideas for the title). Other highlights this semester included: hanging out with Prof. Graney at the Skidmore "prom", welcoming both Professors Taylor into PC Friar Fandom, attending Mickalene Thomas' talk at The Tang, and working with my Elections Around the World course to reimagine and redesign Skidmore SGA elections. Wishing everyone a wonderful rest of the semester!



**Beau Breslin:** I'm currently on sabbatical. I'm engaged in three writing projects. 1) I am writing a traditional academic monograph that examines crucial portions of America's Founding documents—the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Articles of Confederations, and so on – that were edited out of the final drafts. I'm exploring the story behind the redactions and considering how the edits, if they had remained in the texts, might have influenced America's political development. 2) I am writing a book length manuscript on John Lansing, Jr, one of three New York delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Lansing had a very successful political career that ended in mystery. On December 12, 1829 in lower Manhattan, he mysteriously disappeared—completely vanished— while supposedly delivering a letter to a steamboat at what is now Chelsea Piers. 3) I write a weekly column for *The Fulcrum*, a non-partisan, non profit organization whose mission is to "repair our democracy." The weekly column is entitled, "A Republic, if we can keep it," those famous words uttered by Benjamin Franklin as he left the Constitutional Convention for the last time.

# FACULTY NEWS

**Yelena Biberman-Ocakli:** Greetings from Singapore! It's the second semester of my sabbatical, with the first spent in Istanbul, Turkey. I am enjoying it and learning a lot. My family and I are loving the tropical climate in the middle of winter, delicious hawker meals, and highly accessible public transportation. I started learning Mandarin Chinese. So did my 4-year-old and 6-year-old kids, with the latter taking every opportunity to make fun of my pronunciation. I made wonderful connections at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University as I continue writing my book on technology and great power politics.



I am excited to share the news of my article co-authored with Professor Chris Mann, entitled "The Effects of State Presence on the Mental Mapping of Security: Evidence from an Experiment in Kashmir," published in *Journal of Peace Research*. It is based on an ambitious project that started over five years ago in collaboration with local scholars, with the guidance and support of so many at Skidmore – my former students Sophie Mae Berman '22 and Vivian Montgomery-Walsh '22, as well as Professors Bob Turner, Charlie Bettigole, and Jennifer Cholnoky, and Mary Hoehn. The project was also made possible by the Judith Johns Carrico Faculty Grant.

Jared Schwartz '20 and I continue to work and publish together. Together with another former student and Political Science major extraordinaire, Samantha Hotz '23, we published a peer-reviewed article entitled "India as a Restorationist State: Implications for US-India Relations and South Asian Politics" in the journal *International Politics*.



I continue to serve as a Wilson China Fellow of the Washington, D.C.-based Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and am conducting research for a report. As part of my work with the Andrew W. Marshall Foundation, I also served as an Experiment Reviewer. My opera project continues to grow with Harvard University's Davis Center as a new partner. In collaboration with opera composer Professor Evan Mack (Music Department) and renowned Afghan national musician Mir Khan Moqori, I put together a detailed proposal for the opera's completion and performance, both domestic and international.



**Kate Graney:** I have really enjoyed teaching the first two iterations of our new Senior Coda class, PL 376, this year. It's been a pleasure to get to know our seniors and talk with them about their lives and plans as they move on from Skidmore. I'm now on the executive board of the Northeast Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies association, and we have our annual conference next month at the NYU. And I'm looking forward to being on sabbatical next fall, when I'll be working on some new courses, and maybe even on a new book project! We'll see how well I do at not getting distracted by Bean.



# FACULTY NEWS



**Alex Jensen:** Aside from my holiday travels out West and back, I've been hunkering down and writing dissertation this winter, making steady progress as I prepare to present and defend my project on "toxic masculinity" in American politics later this spring. I will be presenting a couple of these chapters at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, along with a project that I am working with Elliot Jackson-Ontkush (Skidmore '24) related to the scandals of election administration officials and their downstream consequences on public opinion. In the classroom this semester, I am teaching a pair of courses related to American politics, as well as a methods course. In PL 302: Experiments in Political Science, all eleven of my students are learning about, designing, and implementing original survey experiments on topics running the gambit from American foreign policy inter-

ventions and issue framing experiments to experiments manipulating politicians' rhetoric and visual depictions of candidates as tools to shape public opinion.

**Feryaz Ocakli:** What a year this has been, and it's not even over! I am writing this update from my office at the Department of Sociology, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. How I ended up as a pretend-sociologist is a matter for another day, but rest assured, I am proudly representing political science by asking the peskiest questions at every research presentation.

After spending a semester in Istanbul, Turkey, we made our way to Singapore in January. Singapore is a small country, but a big city. It is also very accessible – the train goes everywhere, public transportation overall is amazing, and the food is just on another level. We are really enjoying our time here. I have been to Jakarta, Indonesia to visit the ASEAN Headquarters, and meet with officials and diplomats who work there. I have further plans to travel across the region over the next few months. Food security is a



major concern across Southeast Asia, and my research on the International Politics of Food Security has been received quite well. Singapore is a major food importer, and hence has to grapple with potential risks to international trade and logistics networks. Indonesia seeks self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, especially rice, which goes against the grain of the neoliberal, free-trade consensus (which is not much of a consensus anymore). China is a significant player in the Southeast Asian food landscape, and the US is always very interested in the direction ASEAN states will go in the near future. Fun times, and exciting research.

I will soon be presenting my work at the International Islamic University Malaysia, and then hold more events here at NTU. I have also made my way into a lively community of food policy researchers at the National University of Singapore. I am looking forward to seeing you all back in Saratoga in the Fall!



# FACULTY NEWS



**Ron Seyb:** I have been spending the past few months putting it in “speed drive” in order to explore some “different frequencies” (needless to say, always donning “really cute clothes”). I have conducted home invasions in Wilmington, DE (“Wedding Destination Capital of Couples Who Have Absolutely No Chance”); Cape May, NJ (Where many of the homes are so vintage that they were likely built by the Egyptian Pharaohs); Atlanta, GA (Location of The Vortex Bar & Grill, which has the best hamburgers in Atlanta and whose menu advises its patrons, “If you order a beer, wine or spirit that you’re not crazy about, that’s a damn shame”); and Jacksonville, FL (Where the city colors are teal and whatever was the color of the cloak in which Jimmy Buffet was buried. Too soon?). I anticipate that my next trip will be to the River Styx. I, after all, know the boatman... and I have some coupons.



**Flagg Taylor:** In February I delivered some brief remarks at an event to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s *The Gulag Archipelago*.

C-Span recorded the event and you can watch my segment here:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c5109779/user-clip-flagg-taylor-gulag-archipelago>

**Bob Turner:** The balance between real life and Skidmore has been a challenging one this year, however I am revitalized by the energy and excitement of my students in the classroom. I feel like the long shadow of Covid is slowly fading. A highlight for me was having two former students, Julie Jursik and Becky Stern, return to campus to talk about their lobbying experiences with Bolton-St. Johns and Pythia Public Affairs with our majors. I never cease to be amazed at all the ways that our alums are changing the world. I am also enjoying working with several talented seniors on their theses on immigration, renewable energy siting, and state judges in NY.





# FACULTY NEWS

**Bob Turner** (continued) I am working on a research project on the hidden history of redlining in New Jersey, which was inspired by my inequality politics and policy class. It was eye-opening to read the federal housing documents from the 1930s that describe my hometown, Ridgewood, NJ, as: “very strongly a “Christian” community and it is nearly impossible for a Jew to buy residential property within its confines.... Jews are excluded as in all of Ridgewood.” When not skiing at Gore or Whiteface, I am enjoying watching Arsenal fighting to the top of the EPL table with Loki.



**Gustavo Venturelli:** I am happy to be back home after a winter trip across Europe. Over more than a month, I had the incredible opportunity to visit several countries, reconnect with friends, and explore new cultures along the way. Each destination left a lasting impression on me, from the sunny and vibrant streets of Lisbon and Barcelona to the romantic scenarios of Paris and the savory food of Milan. During my trip, I had the opportunity to visit several renowned museums, including the Pinacoteca di Brera, Louvre, Musée de d'Orsay, Centre Pompidou, and Musée de l'Orangerie. One of the highlights was witnessing the mesmerizing Claude Monet oval room. Additionally, I indulged in some of the most unique cuisines, enjoying delicious food that truly captured the essence of each region. Back at Skidmore, I am writing a

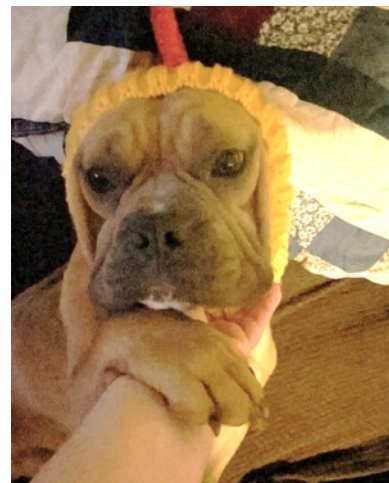
paper on Trump's primary campaign speeches with three students and will offer a synchronous summer course on Principles of International Politics. So, if you're considering getting some work done during the summer, join me to discuss international relations!



**Charmaine Willis:** This has been a busy but rewarding semester for me as I have gotten to know more of you through my PL 103, US Foreign Policy, and Global Militarization courses. In addition to my courses, I have been involved in some exciting research projects this semester. I have written a few short pieces for *The Conversation* on economic sanctions against Myanmar and Russia with my colleague Dr. Keith Preble at Miami University (OH), based on our forthcoming book. I was also lucky enough to have received several grants from Skidmore for my research on the US military including my book project on protests against the military in East/Southeast Asia (for which I will travel to the Philippines over the summer) and a survey experiment about the role of threat perception and support for the US military in East/Southeast Asia with a few colleagues at Michigan State and Dartmouth.

# FACULTY NEWS

**Charmaine Willis** (continued) I am also excited to participate in the Summer Research Faculty-Student Collaboration 2024 funded by the Mellon Foundation grant: *Africana Studies and the Humanities at Skidmore: Transnational Explorations in Social Justice* with Skidmore student Diva Belo. Our project will examine the interplay between the locations of the US's military bases around the world and the identities of the communities which host them, many of whom are historically marginalized. On a personal note, my husband and I sadly said goodbye to our bulldog Bayley at the end of the fall semester but welcomed Jelly Bean, a rescued bulldog mix, into our home over winter break. Jelly Bean is a sweet boy and has kept us (and our chickens) on our toes!



## Bonus Tip: Take the Quantitative Plunge!

Piece of advice: take a statistics, economics, or a computer science class. Your methods training in a political science PhD program can be very difficult if you've never had any experience with quantitative methods, but Skidmore is a great place to get some of that exposure with professors that have the time and ability to guide you through the material.

*Anissa Joseph*

## THANK YOU TO OUR STUDENT AND ALUMNI CONTRIBUTORS

Lola Bessis '24, Maria Bideiwy '24, Sadie Bromberg '25, Bella Bruno '25, Tommy Carr '25, Matt Choi '14, Abby Ciccarone '22, Jillian Clark '25, Bridget Coyer '25, Grace deBenedictis '26, Zoe Dec '25, Flora Elghanayan '26, Grace Geurin '24, Emma Gill '24, Dominic Giordano '25, Paige Goodsell '26, Udo Hemmelgarn '25, Julia Henslee '26, Emma Hulbert '21, Bella Hynes '25, Elliot Jackson-Ontkush '24, Bradley Kadets '27, Parker Kinney '27, Isabel Kroeger '24, Olivia Kupiec '22, Eli Lewis '26, Brendan Lu '26, Carolina Lucio '24, Katy Maccarrone '26, Phoebe Marwill '24, Kaitlin McQuade '24, Josiah Fuentes Medero '26, Tony Mota '25, Avik Nandy '24, Sophia Peterson '26, Maxwell Plenby '25, Katherine Pompilio '21, Xavier Prentice-Sao '26, Jed Prickett '24, Brie Schaffer '26, Virgil Sharon '27, Lila Smith '26, Katherine Sterling '27, Simon Stephenson '26, Peris Tushabe '21, Kate Morrison-Willoughby '25

# SCUSA Reflection

## Maria Bideiwy '24

# A

ttending the 74th Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA) at West Point was a transformative experience that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on my personal and academic development. The conference, hosted at the prestigious United States Military Academy, brought together a diverse group of students from various universities and backgrounds, all united by a common passion for exploring and discussing critical issues in U.S. foreign policy and domestic affairs.

My roundtable group, "Latin America," delved into critical issues surrounding the region, particularly the concerning trends of populism and democratic backsliding. Through our discussions, we aimed to unravel the root causes and consequences of these trends and brainstormed ways the United States could collaborate with Latin American countries to empower them in their efforts to strengthen democracy. This challenge illuminated the complexities of diplomacy and the urgent need for innovative approaches to protect and promote democratic values in the region. On a personal level, I got to practice my Spanish with native speakers in my group and form lasting bonds through the stress of curing Latin America and the United States' relationship in three days.

The most unique part of the conference was the opportunity to work closely with Army cadets from West Point in crafting policy recommendations. This collaboration reinforced the notion that innovation and fresh perspectives are essential in addressing complex global challenges. The cadets' dedication to their country and their unique perspective on foreign policy added a layer of depth to our discussions: civilians and cadets struggled to agree, but our insights were indispensable to one another. I walked away from this experience with a new sensitivity to the Army: it is quite easy for us to make assumptions about what their lives are like, but it is far from useful. Our success as a group depended on our cooperation, and our cooperation depended on our understanding of each other's perspectives.

A striking aspects of my SCUSA experience was the opportunity to engage with students who shared a deep commitment to understanding the complex challenges facing our nation. I looked around and witnessed a completely engaged room of students; the diversity of perspectives and the richness of discussions I encountered during the conference were truly eye-opening. SCUSA provided a platform for in-depth dialogue and the exchange of ideas that went beyond the usual classroom experience. It was inspiring to witness the passion and knowledge that my peers brought to the table, and it reminded me of the importance of open and informed conversations in shaping our nation's future.

Furthermore, the conference featured a range of distinguished speakers and experts in the field of international relations, national security, and political science. One of the highlights was listening to Secretary John F. Kerry speak on the future of climate change, foreign policy, and innovation. His insights were enlightening, underscoring the interconnectedness of global challenges, and broadening my understanding of how foreign policy must adapt to the effects of climate change. The expertise of our co-chairs provided valuable context for the issues we were discussing, and their willingness to engage with us was a testament to the commitment of the West Point community to fostering the next generation of leaders. Hearing from these seasoned professionals was both enlightening and motivating, as it reinforced the idea that our generation has a significant role to play in shaping the future of our country.

The interactive nature of SCUSA, with its policy simulation exercises and small group discussions, pushed me out of my comfort zone and challenged my critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It reinforced the notion that leadership often requires thinking on your feet, working collaboratively with others, and making well-informed decisions under pressure. Even though I came to the conference with the intention of taking a backseat position, by the end of the four days I was volunteered as one of the speakers for our group's final presentation. I was wholly invested in our policy recommendations (specifically resting my hat on our implementation plan for Early Warning Systems in South and Central America) and I have our co-chairs to thank for that. Dr. Hecimovich and Dr. Smitson's intensity, pressure, and passion for solutions made it impossible not to participate.

My experience at the West Point Student Conference on U.S. Affairs was truly enlightening and transformative. It opened my eyes to the complexities of U.S. foreign and domestic policy, allowed me to engage with a diverse and passionate group of peers, and instilled in me a sense of duty, honor, and dedication to the future. I will carry the lessons learned and the connections made at SCUSA with me as I continue my academic and professional journey, inspired to make a positive impact on our nation's future. (Go Army, Beat Navy.)





# SCUSA Reflection

## Conrad Kassin '24



**O**n November 1st, I was fortunate to attend West Point's 74th Annual Conference on Innovation and American Foreign Policy. The gorgeous two-hour drive to West Point, redolent with seasonal shifts, served as an appropriate prologue to the theme of this engrossing journey, as change in relation to the climate would be the major theme of my week. Alex, Maria, Jedd, and I met with cadets, professors, guest speakers, and other students from colleges around the country. Students discussed a variety of topics, from facing the challenge of climate change to framing the Middle East and everything in between under the supervision of the military academy.

I observed a distinctly unique college experience. The dorms are barracks, spartan and polished, and the cadets endure rigorous physical training along with their scholastic endeavors. Days began at 0600, breakfast was served at 0700, group work occurred between 0800 to 1100, and after an hour lunch break, work would continue from 1300 to 1600, after which we could observe an assortment of military activities. This included combat training, parachute exercises, and more.

I was assigned to the climate change discussion group. Although we had different educational backgrounds and opinions, we shared a common thread in our concern for climate change. The group consisted of 11 visiting students, 4 cadets, and 2 expert professors in the field. In our first sessions, we discussed a variety of issues, the group's work was intellectually challenging, constructive, and rewarding. On the second day, we broke into smaller groups to draft policy proposals to be presented at the end of the conference. After internally debating three separate policies, we chose an internationally applicable approach. Our idea was to have the United States offer international bonds tied to state projects relating to a sustainable transition to clean energy consumption. We named these instruments Green-Linked Transition Bonds or GLTBs. The United States would offer them, but they could also be adapted for international financial institutions.

The work we synthesized from divergent viewpoints was successful; however, I felt slightly discouraged as I do not think it was a significant enough solution to address climate change. A true solution would require a whole-of-government response married with private industry and international partners. Only a vast global mobilization backed by the American industrial base and its capital will make a significant change in our current trajectory.

I hoped my lingering feeling of despair would be addressed by the keynote speaker, former Senator John Kerry, now United States Special Envoy for Climate. Though his passion moved me, I did not get the reassuring answers I had hoped for. Although his heart is in the right place, he admitted that he does not have all the answers. I discovered this firsthand when I asked him pointedly about addressing denialism in relation to climate change. I noted that only 55% of Americans, according to a recent Marist poll, agree that climate change is a real and pressing concern. I asked, "How do we address the 45% of Americans that deny or dismiss climate change, and how do we challenge the onslaught of misinformation online in relation to climate?"

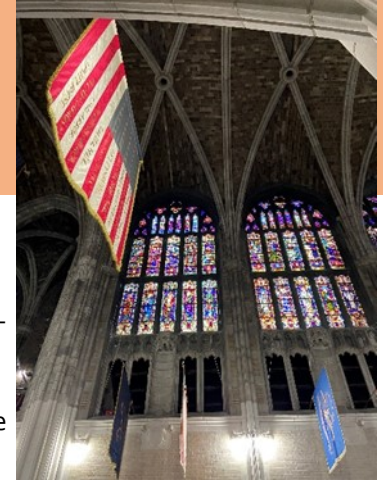
First, he said young people and people who care about our planet need to be angry and speak up. Second, he said that people-politics work and related it to his time fighting for civil rights. Third, he said that voting matters. This response, although meant in good faith, was not what I was expecting. The latter two points were lackluster, given the Sisyphean task of convincing an ideologue of an inconvenient truth. That said, his first point resonated with me. My generation needs to be angry but with precision; this anger needs to be directed toward flawed systems and their abuse of the environment. The anger needs to be focused on correcting the imbalances in our economic model that perversely reward environmental destruction. The anger must force a reexamination of our consumption patterns and our singular drive for profit.

We stand at a precipice – an inflection point – below us is a cavern, dark and inescapable, and above is untapped limitless potential. Our choice will dictate if we fall to unknown depths or ascend to unimaginable heights. I hope it's the latter.



# SCUSA Reflection

Jed Prickett '24



**A**t SCUSA 74 I enjoyed learning from my peers and adapting my classroom knowledge to a real-world context. In addition to learning about policy implementation I gained valuable insight into how a professional setting operates. I was a part of the roundtable that crafted a policy to combat climate change which combined my political science major and environmental studies minor. The policy-crafting process helped cement my desire to pursue a career in environmental policy.

My experience at SCUSA improved my ability to work in a group. There were many different viewpoints discussed, but we worked together to come to a solid policy that combined our various ideas while doing away with others that didn't help us in the long run. Everyone handled this process very maturely and no one was too proud to let their ideas face intense scrutiny. I was proud of my role in facilitating specific points of discussion and paying attention to the small details; both Conrad and I took charge over the final editing process in a small subgroup near the end of the writing process, we combed through the policy proposal and made sure everything was soundly written and thought through.

Experiencing the student culture at West Point was very interesting. Conference attendees were escorted around campus at all times and stayed in the barracks with West Point cadets. My roommates were diligent in their workout routines and studies — they were up before I was and got back to the room after I went to sleep. Similarly driven cadets participated in our roundtable.

While I appreciate the experience of working with the knowledgeable and experienced West Point cadets and faculty, the setting was perhaps a flawed avenue to approach climate solutions from. For instance, our research taught us that there is significant waste within the military that could have been addressed before attempting to fix how the rest of the world approaches climate policy. Additionally, many of the climate roundtable's ideas were met with the American military mindset that American dominance is necessary for its own sake, especially concerning China and any sign of Chinese success. This often distracted our group from the main mission of crafting an achievable policy proposal based on cooperation.

Nonetheless, a highlight of the conference was getting to know my Skidmore classmates, Conrad, Alex, and Maria. Talking to them about our interpretation of the effectiveness of the conference during the car ride home was a lot of fun and one of the most educational experiences of the weekend. I was proud of how we performed at the conference; we each contributed significantly to our respective conversations and proposals. I am very thankful to the Political Science department faculty for selecting our group of four to participate in this incredible opportunity. I am proud and grateful to have been a part of SCUSA 74 it was a very educational and enlightening experience.

## ATTENTION JUNIORS!

Students who wish to write a senior thesis must complete a thesis questionnaire form and submit it to their prospective thesis director by June 15 prior to their senior year.

# SENIOR THESES

**ATTENTION JUNIORS!** Students who wish to write a senior thesis must complete a thesis questionnaire form and submit it to their prospective thesis director by June 15 prior to their senior year.

## Unlocking Immigration Federalism: Assessing the Impact of Offices of New Americans on Immigrant Integration

Maria Bideiwy

Historically, the process of immigrant integration was nurtured mostly by religious organizations and ethnic coalitions with limited resources and narrow target populations. This trend has drastically changed, as the states are now tasked with the responsibility of managing immigrant policy, including their potential for integration. This thesis examines the burgeoning presence and potential economic ramifications of Offices of New Americans (ONAs) across the United States, just one of the institutions created in our era of state-controlled immigrant policy. These offices are dedicated to serving immigrant communities by offering a range of services including language acquisition programs, career pathways initiatives, legal aid, and assistance with citizenship processes. The research primarily focuses on the New York Office of New Americans, incorporating interviews with its staff and directors, and extends to communication with similar offices in other states. I also hope to interview members of non-profits and other stakeholders which are connected to New York's Office of New Americans. By analyzing the economic benefits generated by the programs provided by these offices, this study aims to further emphasize the role of immigrant integration in fostering economic success. Using data provided by other scholars in this specific field, I estimate the potential economic benefits of ONA's extensive programming. Through empirical data and interviews, my thesis aims to advocate for the replication of New York's model in other states, highlighting the tangible economic gains that can be achieved through the Offices of New Americans. I would also like to thank Professor Turner for his support through this process—none of this would be possible without his brain guiding mine!

## All the News That's Fit to Print: A Media Analysis of the *New York Times*'s Coverage of Transgender Stories

Ash Delmore

My thesis examines how the *New York Times* writes about transgender themes and issues. Last February, many activists were criticizing the coverage, but little has been discussed since and I am analyzing the last year of coverage and seeing if they acknowledged and learned from the criticism. I have read about the history of objectivity in journalism and argue that the core values of neutrality and detachment are harmful and reinforce political hierarchies such as the patriarchy and cisnormativity. I argue in favor of the notion of "strong objectivity" a term used by feminist scholars that acknowledges this problem and encourages journalists to center marginalized voices and see that neutrality is still political. It will be called All the News That's Fit to Print: A Media Analysis of the *New York Times*'s Coverage of Transgender Stories. I have read over 150 articles about transgender issues or themes and will base my analysis on these articles and my interpretation of objectivity.

## Legitimation in Post-Coup Egypt: Regime Justification and Nasser's 1952 Coup d'État

Corbey Ellison

This thesis explores regime justification and legitimation following illegitimate regime changes using General Gamal Abdel Nasser's 1952 coup in Egypt as a case study.



# SENIOR THESES

## ATTENTION JUNIORS!

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### Autumn in New York: Gotham and the Decline of the New Deal Order

Lisle Jamieson

In 1975, the city of New York looked out on the precipice of fiscal collapse. Years of borrowing, a fleeting tax base, deindustrialization, and the thinning of federal investment streams left the city short-changed and vulnerable, reliant on banks with waning interest in funding New York's robust network of social services. The conversations, contestations, and political resolutions that followed would reshape and remake the politics of a city that had, for four decades, represented a beacon of "social democracy." New York ultimately surrendered its commitment to *urban liberalism* and embraced a neoliberal politics of austerity, mirroring shifts taking place on the national level. Major politicians of the Right, particularly Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, capitalized on the moment to portray the New Deal-style of politics, defined by "promises and programs, subsidies and studies, welfare and make work," as inert and inept in the face of crisis. Yet the rise of austerity politics was not merely the result of developments on the Right, but the erosion and splintering of the New Deal order – order being defined as "a constellation of rules, institutions, practices, and ideas that hang together over time; a bundle of patterns." In the years preceding the fiscal crisis, critical events fractured the foundational coalitions and conceptions of New York politics, thus facilitating a reordering of city, state, and nation. This thesis draws upon the scholarship of American Political Development to explain the historical and political construction of these changing tides and grapples with their long-term impact on political life.

### Institutional Design's Effect on the Behavior of Islamist Organizations: A Comparative Analysis of Social Movements

Conrad Kassin

My research explores the relationship between how a radical Islamist movement's organizational internal structures affect a given organization's behavior. Depending on institutional design choices around leadership or, as it is referred to in my research, command structures – which is the independent variable – the level of centralization or lack thereof dictates how and if organizations will capitalize on specific conditions in the geopolitical environment. – to reiterate, I hypothesize – that centralization of command structures produces an organization that enables the capitalization of political opportunity structures that might otherwise be missed or not seized upon. The independent variable – command structure – is either centralized or decentralized depending on the level of authority maintained by the form of leadership of either an individual, council, or bureaucrats. The level of authority is measured as centralized if there is top-down management, authorized military operations, and obedience at the periphery of the organization. Alternatively, there is a decentralization of the organization's command structure if there is a bottom-up command, autonomous military operations, and dissent within the organization. The dependent variables or political opportunity structures or (POS) are potential conditions that avail themselves to organizations in the environment that can enhance an organization's strategic posture. These conditions include openness or closure of the formal political arena, stability or instability of the electoral powers within a state, the presence or absence of potential allies, and conflict or coherence amongst political elites. My hypothesis is tested with two case studies, ISIS and Hamas, as they are decentralized and centralized, respectively, using primary and secondary sources as evidence of organizational structure, potential political opportunity structures, and behavior. The findings within my research explore potential explanations for the difference in internal institutional design choice based on the goal structures of these organizations. Additionally, the findings provide potential insights for counterterrorism operations as a holistic understanding of an organization's command structure and behavior will require varying policy responses.

# SENIOR THESES

## ATTENTION JUNIORS!

Students who wish to write a senior thesis must complete a thesis questionnaire form and submit it to their prospective thesis director by June 15 prior to their senior year.

### The Stories We Tell: Organizing and Narrative in the United States

Phoebe Marwill

Organizing refers to the actions taken by social movements in pursuit of their goals. It can include the stories that they tell, or those told about them, marches, occupations, and social media activism just to name a few. My thesis will explore 4 social movements, The Tea Party, Make America Great Again (MAGA), Black Lives Matter, and Occupy Wall Street, post-2008 in order to determine which organizing tactics make movements successful. I am contrasting the organizing tactics which were used by progressive and conservative movements in order to determine the potential cross-applicability of these tactics. It will examine the goals of these movements and attempt to understand the organizing and mobilization that has enabled some movements to achieve institutional integration and their goals but have prevented others from doing the same. My thesis will pay special attention to narratives which surround movements as well as to the ways in which movements interact with civil society and non-governmental organizations as a tactic in pursuit of their goals.

### World's Coolest Dictator: Tracing Nayib Bukele's Populist Authoritarian Messaging on X

Kaitlin McQuade

Across the globe, country after country is seeing populist movements gain power and even win office. When these populist ideas are adopted and utilized by authoritarian leaning leaders, democratic erosion and the disrespect of human rights become a real threat. For my thesis I will be looking to the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, as an example of this dangerous combination of populism and authoritarianism. Under his leadership, the country has achieved the highest rate of incarceration per capita in the world at 1.7%, he has stacked the courts with loyalists that allowed him to run for a previously unconstitutional second term, and he has shaped the legislature to allow his party a supermajority. Despite all of this, Bukele is incredibly popular. He enjoys a nearly 90% approval rating, much of which is derived from the drop in violence and gang presence in El Salvador. He is an authoritarian without need for the military or election meddling. Instead, all Bukele needs right now is his popularity and social media presence.

For my thesis I will first be contending with existing literature on populism and authoritarianism to formulate my own definition of populist authoritarianism. I will then be looking at Bukele's social media presence, specifically on X, as evidence that he is a populist authoritarian. It is his platform of choice; he posts multiple times each day and interacts daily with supporters and critics alike. I hope that my analysis will be a helpful guidance into how populist authoritarians use platforms like X to spread their message, and what Bukele's presence and popularity might mean for democracy in the country and in the region.

## ATTENTION JUNIORS!

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# Free Speech on Campus

Zoe Dec '25

On February 22, 2024 students, faculty, and Skidmore community members gathered in Davis Auditorium for the Ronald J. Fiscus Memorial Lecture in Constitutional Law. The Lecture honors the late Ronald J. Fiscus, a professor of Skidmore's Department of Government from 1980 until his passing at age 42 in 1990. In his welcome address, Professor Seyb recalled memories of his friend and colleague. Professor Fiscus specialized in constitutional law and was the author of *The Constitutional Logic of Affirmative Action*. He also helped to design Liberal Studies I, which evolved into Skidmore's "First-Year Experience" program. Professor Seyb described Ron Fiscus as a "steely-eye Constitutional scholar" who rode a "cherry Harley Davidson motorcycle that could have come straight out of Marlon Brando's garage."

Since its inauguration in 1991, the Lecture has invited "distinguished individuals who would speak on issues related to law, constitutionalism, and politics" to Skidmore's campus. Previous guests include Joanne B. Freeman, Jeffrey Rosen, and Akhil Reed Amar. This year, Skidmore welcomed Erwin Chemerinsky, Distinguished Professor of Law and Dean of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, to discuss free speech on campus.

Chemerinsky's lecture reflected his extensive scholarship of constitutional law and the First Amendment. He seamlessly outlined distinctions between the First Amendment's application to public universities and private colleges. Although speech is not protected by the First Amendment at private institutions, many have policies that foster freedom of expression and civil discourse. Chemerinsky described some of the most relevant court cases to the complex free speech issues that college campus face. He also offered insight contextualizing the news headlines about the latest round of student protests and administrative responses to them. Students took advantage of Chemerinsky's knowledge and experience during the lecture's question and answer portion to ask about speech on social media and protests that prevent guest speakers from delivering lectures and sometimes turn violent. Listening to Chemerinsky among professors, other students, and members of the Skidmore community reminded me of our shared interests in discussion among people with differing perspectives to better understand our world.



his career and further thoughts on free speech issues. After leaving the restaurant, I realized how much the night epitomized the value of a small, liberal arts college education. I had the opportunity to learn from inspiring political thinkers while connecting with them all on a more personal level and exploring my future in political science. The night reinforced Skidmore's community of learning and support that extends beyond the classroom and I am so grateful for the experience.

Thank you to Professor Flagg Taylor for organizing the event, Dean Chemerinsky for his time and valuable insight, and the Political Science Department as a whole for being one of my favorite communities on campus.



I also had the honor of joining Chemerinsky, his wife Catherine Fisk, who is also an accomplished legal scholar, their daughter, Mara Chemerinsky (Skidmore, 2020), along with Skidmore faculty and students for dinner after the lecture. The dinner allowed us all to ask Chemerinsky about





The Political Science Department will induct new members  
to the Tau Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha,  
the National Political Science Honor Society  
on April 28th

**Class of 2024**

Keilty Archibald, Maria Bideiwy\*, Olivia Collazo, Maddie Conroy, Oscar Czarnecki\*, Ash Delmore\*,  
Corbey Ellison, Rebecca Hagopian, Morgan Hidalgo, Lisle Jamieson, Isabel Kroeger\*, Kate Landino\*,  
Charlie Murphy, Jed Prickett

**Class of 2025**

Sydney Borak\*\*, Zander Chown, Bella Bruno\*\*, Bridget Coyer\*\*, Claire Crosby\*\*, Zoe Dec,  
Sarah DeSousa, Dominic Giordano\*\*, Grace Grbach, Udo Hemmelgarn, Bella Hynes, Trevor Lai,  
Liam Moren, Taryn Queenin, Isabelle Unger

**MEMBERS OF TAU GAMMA CHAPTER PREVIOUSLY INDUCTED**

Ilena Berro Pizzarossa, Addison Callaghan, Joseph Demarest, Grace Geurin, Emma Gill,  
Conrad Kassin, Nathaniel Lowell, Phoebe Marwill, Kaitlin McQuade, Harlan Power,  
Claire Thomas, Alex Western

\*Abroad Spring 2023—will be recognized and inducted this year

\*\* Currently studying abroad—will be recognized and inducted next year

# Howard French speaks to *Born in Blackness*

Xavier Prentice-Sao '26

On March 7th, Skidmore College hosted author Howard French. French, a professor at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, and former New York Times foreign correspondent and senior writer, discussed his recent book, *Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the Making of the Modern World, 1471 to the Second World War*. On the stage, he was joined by Professor Balogun who spear-headed bringing French to Skidmore in connection with his class: IR of the Global South.

In the book, French answers questions about Africa's place in history that the post-colonial present poses, but fundamentally cannot answer due to the hundreds of years of distortion around Africa's involvement in the creation of the modern world. One of the arguments French presents is how Africa was never an obstacle for Europeans to connect with Asia, as commonly represented, but was instead a collection of kingdoms with equal levels of technology and vast amounts of wealth in terms of gold. This fact explains the long pauses in Europeans' "exploration" down the coast of Africa and exposes a long history of European and African diplomacy focused on the trade of African gold instead of trade with Asia.

Undeniably so, this greatly alters the understanding of Africa's position in history in the world as a site where it the citizens of its country have little to no agency, to an understanding of Africa as an assemblage of kingdoms powerful enough to demand European compromise. Since the book contains additional perspective-altering recollections of historical moments, the only way to understand truly French's argument is to read it yourself, which I highly suggest you do. Bringing this back to the discussion with French, when asked "When do we know that enough has been done?" regarding un-learning and implementing contemporary understandings of the past. French replied "I don't know", however through this book, he seeks to establish "fundamental adjustments in our understandings" of African International Relations and of resistance. I interpret this to mean, that to truly resist and change the society that we see as unjust; we must first understand the processes and history that built it.

To conclude, I have to give a special thank you to Professor Balogun for presenting the opportunity to his class to both read *Born in Blackness* and meet Howard French.



# Study Abroad Moments



Special thanks to Bella Bruno and Keilty Archibald, London School of Economics and Political Science; Bridget Coyer in Berlin; Clare Crosby in Florence; Dominic Giordano studying in Brazil for sharing these pictures!



These pictures were taken in Budapest, Westminster Abbey, the Hampton Court Palace, the Leaning Tower of Pisa and, Rio de Janeiro with Christ the Redeemer .



# ALUMNI UPDATES LIFE POST-SKIDMORE



## Matt Choi '14

After many years working in advertising, I decided to get my masters in urban planning from CUNY Hunter. Planning had always been an armchair interest

of mine but the pandemic spurred me to pursue this interest as a career. I got a chance to add to my Hunter education by studying for a term in London at UCL, the same school I studied abroad in while at Skidmore. I've ended up specializing in parks, public spaces, and streets, and will graduate this spring. As an activity spurred mostly by local governments, I use my Skidmore education almost daily to understand better the power dynamics and decision-making processes that shape our cities. You can read my thoughts on cities and planning in my newsletter @ [mattchoi.substack.com](mailto:mattchoi.substack.com)



## Olivia Kupiec '22

I graduated from Skidmore in May of 2022 with a BA in Political Science. That summer following graduation, I moved back to my home city, New York City, and began working full-time as a Legal Assistant for a former

Criminal Defense Attorney and current Coordinating Discovery Attorney (CDA) Julie de Almeida. CDAs serve as a litigation support resource for CJA panel attorneys and federal defender organization (FDO) staff on complex, criminal cases in which there are a large number of defendants, voluminous discovery, or complicated electronic discovery issues. In addition to my full-time position, in January of 2023 I was

hired as a Paralegal to assist a team of federal public defenders, mitigation specialists, investigators, and other experts in litigating criminal defense matters involving clients facing federal capital prosecution (a.k.a. the death penalty). My experience within the criminal defense world thus far has been an incredible, challenging, emotional, and collaborative journey that continues to remind me of the unjust, punitive nature of our existing law enforcement and justice systems, and the importance of those working tirelessly to support those trapped by said systems. I intend to keep exploring the legal world here and aspire to complete a dual-degree in Law and Social Work in the future. When I'm not at work, I spend time with friends and family exploring new food joints across the city (Chinatown having some of my favorite spots), attending trivia and a variety of other game nights, playing pickup frisbee, and traveling here and there to visit my buddies from Skidmore that live elsewhere. If any of this resonates with you, I'm always happy to chat about life after Skid!

## Katherine Pompilio '21

While I miss Skidmore and all of my friends at Ladd Hall dearly, I'm happy to report that life post-graduation has (for the most part) been going pretty well! Since I spent most of senior spring working on my thesis with Professor Turner, I took the summer after graduation to apply to jobs. I realized later in my college career that I was very interested in the internet and how it worked—more specifically, the laws (or lack-thereof) that govern the online ecosystem and their implications. I wanted to more experience working in this space so I applied to an internship at Lawfare—a national security law and policy publication. I loved my work so much there that I applied to work with Lawfare full time, and I've been there ever since! At Lawfare, I've been able to dive into my interest in internet law and cybersecurity, while also exploring other corners of national security. I'm an editor, so I spend a lot of my day editing pieces on various subjects, from undersea cables, to espionage campaigns, foreign and domestic terrorism, and more.



# ALUMNI UPDATES LIFE POST-SKIDMORE

**Katherine** continued from previous page

I'm an editor, so I spend a lot of my day editing pieces on various subjects, from undersea cables, to espionage campaigns, foreign and domestic terrorism, and more.. I also get to explore my interests through podcasting and writing my own pieces, which is one of my favorite parts of my job. I also work as a producer on a narrative podcast series called *The Aftermath*, which explores all the ways those responsible for the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol have and have not been held to account. Heading into the coming year, I'll likely be focusing on the 2024 election, and covering the various Trump Trials in NY, FL, GA, and DC. I'm planning on being in the courtroom for various hearings in Trump's NY criminal trial coming up next month! While my job is based in DC, (which is great because I get to visit my DC friends often!) I live in NYC. I'm just settling into my new apartment in a new neighborhood and I love it so much. I spend most of my free time with friends (including friends from the polisci department!), exploring new restaurants, bars, and cafes. I'm very excited for the weather to warm up so I can spend more time outside—especially in Washington Square Park which is one of my favorite spots in the city. I also work mostly remotely, so I'm looking forward to spending the days of this summer that I'm not in court on the beach! I've been enjoying reading, cooking, and skiing in recent months. I'm looking forward to (most likely) applying to grad school in the near future, and spending time with family as well. A big hello to all of my friends in Ladd Hall! I miss you dearly and I promise to visit you in Saratoga soon!

## In

January I spent two weeks in Costa Rica and happily reconnected with three recent PL alumna. While in Washington DC the night before I flew to Costa Rica I had dinner with Emma Hulbert '21 and Peris Tushabe '21 (sad to have missed seeing Katherine Pompilio '21) then on my first full day in Costa Rica Abby Ciccarone '22 welcomed me to her Latin American home away from home!

I feel fortunate to connect the threads from a work day with a vacation via the community that Skidmore builds. Sharing time with PL students is a gift that keeps on giving.

*Barbara McDonough*





# THREE YEARS OUT: CLASS OF 2021



**Emma Hulbert** When I graduated from Skidmore in May 2021, Peris Tushabe and I took a leap of faith and moved to Washington, DC. We were friendly coworkers at the time; we knew each other from working as Political Science department assistants at Skidmore, making copies for Professor Natalie Taylor or chatting with Barbara during our shifts. I have Barbara and the Political Science department to thank for my now best friend.

My first job out of college was a fellowship at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a progressive lobby group across the street from the Hart Senate Office Building. For a year, I worked in an outreach position; I planned events, connected with the organization's network, wrote blog posts for the website, and led workshops. Jumping into professional life was an adjustment, for sure, but I'd highly recommend fellowships as a way to do just that.

Following that fellowship, I took a position as an event planner at the Center for American Progress, a progressive non-partisan think tank, where I still work today. Through planning events, I've learned the importance of communications: research findings or groundbreaking reports mean nothing if nobody reads them, and it's my job to create panels and keynotes to help publicize those new ideas. I've met an astonishing number of DC's political elite; mostly sharing mundane logistical details with them in the green room before events. Sometimes I can't believe I get to tell people like Senator Elizabeth Warren how to hold a microphone.

Almost 3 years since graduation, I feel very settled into life in DC. I now live with Peris and Isaiah Perkins, another Skidmore grad, in a strangely-shaped townhouse, and about 10 other Skidmore grads have moved into the neighborhood as well. I can't recommend highly enough recreating the Northwoods apartments feel as an adult; nothing beats walking to your Skidmore friends' houses for dinner after a long day.

I'm grateful to the Skidmore political science department and all my professors for preparing me for the real world, teaching me to write, and teaching me to think. And to Barbara, thank you for being such a support system to me in college and for staying in touch. Current students, Barbara is a great person to know, I promise. Say "hi" to her from me.



**Peris Tushabe** During my time working in the Poli-Sci department, my then coworker (turned best friend) Emma Hulbert and I used to joke about being big city girls in Washington D.C. then after graduation Emma asked if I actually wanted to move (she got a job!!), I immediately said yes. No job, no plan, just hopes and dreams.

Following graduation, I was lucky to be a recipient of Skidmore's Post Graduate Fund; an award of \$15,000 to a student apprenticing/running a project for six months post college. I was thrilled when I got word that I was selected then for the next six months, I conducted a project borne out of a course I took called Theatre for Social Change, taught by the incredible Dr. Eunice Ferreira. I was focused on how to use theatre as a tool for psychosocial education, promoting the importance of keeping girls in school in my home country, Uganda. The COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in an over year-long school shut down in the country which in turn led to a lot of young girls being married off so their parents could receive the dowry which was used to feed their other children. I worked with a specific school in the northern region of the country where we put

together a series of skits, poems, and traditional dance pieces all with the singular message of keeping girls in school. We ended up on local radio and performing for a variety of audiences in the region, all of whom received the message well! The funding from Skidmore really helped me get the project off the ground and I have continued to work with the program since then.

Continued bottom page 21

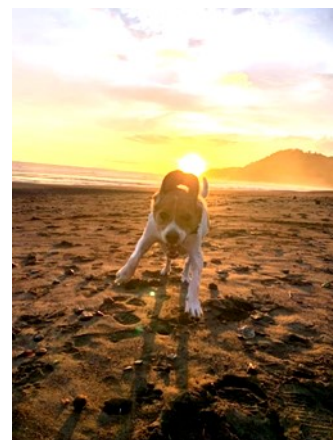


# TWO YEARS OUT: CLASS OF 2022

**Abby Ciccarone** One month after graduating with the class of '22, my dog Chance and I got on a plane to move to Costa Rica, and we haven't looked back! I am currently living in Santa Ana, Costa Rica, a beautiful "suburb" of the nation's capital on the mountainside and just 90 minutes from the ocean. I work remotely as a tutor for students of all ages and backgrounds, and in a plethora of subjects. I spend my free time chilling by the pool, riding horses to waterfalls, and taking my motorbike to *miradores* to watch the sun set.

In June, I will be graduating with a Masters in Peace Education from the United Nations Mandated University for Peace here in Costa Rica. UPeace is a tiny university in the jungle that unites peacemakers from all over the world. The learning is limitless, interdisciplinary, and extremely relevant. My perspectives have never been challenged to this extent this before, and I have had opportunities to learn alongside presidents and policymakers, global activists, and social innovators. I am studying to understand how we can transform educational spaces to create a more peaceful world. We examine various approaches to education—social justice education, education for sustainable development, restorative justice, education in emergencies, and all the ways systems of education have been harmful so that we can dream of and co-create impactful, student-centered learning spaces that propel our societies in a more peaceful direction. It is amazing to find a program where I can combine all my Skidmore experiences and personal interests of political science, intergroup relations, Spanish, activism, and education. As challenging as it has been to be a full-time student in such a multi-cultural space while also working full time and continuing to set roots here in my new home, the knowledge, personal connections, and incredible experiences I am gaining all make it worth it. Besides, how bad can school be when you're studying next to monkeys and toucans every day?

If anyone is interested in living/studying abroad or learning more about the University for Peace, please feel free to email me at [abbycicc@gmail.com](mailto:abbycicc@gmail.com). I'd love to hear from you!



## Peris continued from previous page

I moved to DC. though for the first 2 months I wasn't employed and focused most of my energy on my Keep Girls In School project. Luckily, I soon got a job with literary and human rights nonprofit, PEN America and have been working there since fall of 2021. I spend most of my time travelling around the country running workshops on free speech and freedom of expression for students, faculty, community members and more.

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After nearly 3 years in DC, I feel like I've found community and lifelong friendships. For now, I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather live. Moving here with no job or plan was perhaps an impulse decision, but also a big leap of faith and determination to make something new work for me. I am so very grateful for the Political Science department for not only setting me up with a mindset geared toward success but also for giving me a lifelong friend in Emma (shoutout to Barbara!!). Barbara is a fixture of the department and the highlight as well. It's been so delightful to keep in touch with her and in that way stay connected to the department. If you're reading this, invest in a friendship with Barbara!!!





The following pages came together thanks to YOUR participation.

Nearly 40 students replied to our Political Science Google Survey then the PL editing team of Izzy, Emma and Carolina got creative with your answers!



Some of the things we look forward to outside of classes this semester...

I have an internship this semester at Bolton-St Johns, a lobbying firm, and I'm excited to learn more about New York state politics through that job

Exploring new cities as I am currently abroad in Belgrade, Serbia!

Finally getting my driver's license!

Finding a new cafe or library to explore

BUDGET SUNDAYS WITH VPFA JOSH MAXWELL AND THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

My first speaking role in a Skidmore production

Attending the Eastern Sociology Conference in Washington DC

Exploring the Copenhagen!!

yoga at the chapel

Hanging out with the Skidmore Dynamics (the hottest acapella group on campus) and trying out for Jet Lag Comedy

Playing in my final season of Ultimate Frisbee

GETTING MY PHYSICAL FITNESS UP AND KILLIN IT AT MY ROTC BATTALION!

Going on a hiking trip to Portugal

Performing with the Skidmore Orchestra and as part of a small cello ensemble.

yoga at the chapel

Skiing at Gore Mountain!

TABLETOP CLUB!



# STUDENT NEWS (THANK YOU!)

Best movie you have watched recently?

## POLISCI BLOCKBUSTER



Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953)

### SPRING 2024 SELECTION



Marathon Man (1976)



Castle in the Sky (1986)



Singles (1992)



Holes (2003)



Mean Girls (2004 & 2024)



13 Going On 30 (2004)



Coach Carter (2005)



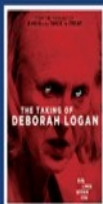
Narnia (2005)



Killer Bean (2008)



The Hangover II (2011)



The Taking of Deborah Logan (2014)



Carol (2015)



Hacksaw Ridge (2016)



Mid90s (2018)



Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)



The Menu (2022)



The Boy and the Heron (2023)



Society of the Snow (2023)



American Fiction (2023)



Oppenheimer (2023)



The Holdovers (2023)



Theatre Camp (2023)



Anatomy of a Fall (2023)



Barbie (2023)



Napoleon (2023)



Saltburn (2023)



Missing (2023)



Asteroid City (2023)



Nimona (2023)



12th Fail (2023)



The Color Purple (2023)

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Nearly 40 students replied to our Political Science Google Survey then the PL editing team of Izzy, Emma and Carolina got creative with your answers!

# STUDENT MUSIC

# WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

Design credit to Izzy Kroeger



**SIDE A**

- “Deliverance” by Opeth
- “Silver Springs” by Fleetwood Mac
- “Bullet With Butterfly Wings” by The Smashing Pumpkins
- “Company” by Justin Bieber
- “Under Control” by The Strokes
- “Link Up” by Metro Boomin
- “Copacabana” by Barry Manilow
- “The Spins” by Mac Miller
- “Murder on the Dancefloor” by Sophie Ellis-Bextor
- “Love Song” by Lana Del Ray
- “Garh Tany” by Sherine
- “Favorite Song” by Toosii
- “Not Strong Enough” by boygenius
- “Always” by Daniel Caesar
- “Talk Too Much” by Renee Rapp
- “Bonfire” by Childish Gambino
- “The Bug Collector” by Haley Heynderickx

**SIDE B**

- “Show Me How” by Men I Trust
- “History of Man” by Maisie Peters
- “Skipping Down the Sidewalk” by Amelia Day
- “Yours” by Maye
- “Homesick” by Noah Kahan and Sam Fender
- “Paper Bag” by Fiona Apple
- “Edge of Seventeen” by Stevie Nicks
- “All I Want for Christmas Is You” by Mariah Carey
- “Kingston” by Faye Webster
- “Drivers Seat” by Sleepy Hollow
- “Circle With Me” by Spiritbox
- “Silver Lining” by Mt. Joy
- “Get to You” by The Honeysticks
- “Karma Police” cover by Pierce the Veil
- “Summer in the City” by Lovin’ Spoonful
- “Tum Se Hi” by Pritam and Mohit Chauhan
- “Secret” by Louane



# POLITICAL SCIENCE BINGO

<p>Asked Prof. Ocakli what he learned at Comedy Works</p>	<p>Eaten free snacks at a department-sponsored lecture</p>	<p>Seen Prof. Seyb lie on the floor to cuddle a dog</p>	<p>Walked Loki</p>
<p>Listened to Prof F. Taylor's podcast, "Enduring Interest"</p>	<p>Talked about the Boston Celtics with Prof. Balogun</p>	<p>Attended class with Stanis</p>	<p>Asked Prof. Jensen about seeing Bob Dylan in concert</p>
<p>Followed @skidmorebean on Instagram</p>	<p>Had a chat with Barbara</p>	<p>Added Bob on LinkedIn</p>	<p>Listened to Prof. Venturelli's Brazilian Punk band, "fantasma"</p>
<p>Had a Constitutional debate with Prof. Breslin</p>	<p>Listened to Prof. Biberman-Ocakli's "How to Kill a Superpower" podcast</p>	<p>Asked about Prof. Willis's experience doing research in the Philippines</p>	<p>Talked about the Barbie movie with Prof. N. Taylor</p>



# TOPICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## PL 351: Travelers' Wisdom: Political Philosophy in a Global Age

Advances in technology and transportation allow us to see ourselves as “global citizens,” suggesting we require new ways to think about political life. However, travel has always been an important theme of Western political thought, beginning with the ancient Greek practice of *theoria*—the practice of visiting foreign city-states and describing those customs in order to develop a particular kind of political wisdom. In the millennia since Herodotus first introduced the practice of *theoria*, political philosophers have used travel and travelers to illuminate and explore the very questions that are central to political life in our global age. Political philosophers, who have used travel as a means to acquire political wisdom, explore the very challenges that are central to political life in our global age: interconnectedness and diversity; the contingent and shifting nature of political identity; and threats of political and cultural imperialism. In order to gain a deeper understanding of our “new world,” we will travel back through the history of western political philosophy. Natalie Taylor

## PL 364: Religion and State in the Contemporary Middle East: A Comparative Perspective

In the Middle East, the religion-state question has been and remains at the center of intellectual and religious discourse. In this course, we examine the tensions and compromises between religion and state in the various spheres of political, social, cultural, economic, and intellectual interaction in the Middle East. A number of fundamental issues will be discussed, such as citizenship, national identity, human rights, minorities, gender and democracy. The course provides an overview of the critical modern paradigms of religion-state in the Middle East through which we will conduct a comparative analysis between three countries: Tunisia, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. These countries represent different and central religious-state relations paradigms in the Middle East. SPECIAL FORMAT COURSE: This 1-credit course meets for five weeks from September 10 to October 8, 2024 in an evening supper-club format over a shared meal in Murray-Aikens upstairs dining room. Enrolled students will be served a buffet dinner during each class period.

Instructor: Muhammad al-Atawneh, Greenberg Middle East Scholar-in-Residence

## PL 365: Food Politics

This course examines food security and insecurity in the global arena. It investigates the role of food in the development of global politics, domestic political hierarchies, class politics, as well as environmental issues. We will investigate our food system, and discuss critical issues about the future of food from comparative, international, and historical perspectives. Feryaz Ocakli

## PL 365: East Asian Politics

Examines the internal political processes and regional and global dynamics of one of the most important regions in the world. Will be looking at China, North and South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, as well as countries close to the region, such as the Philippines, Mongolia and Australia. Prerequisite: PL 103 or permission of instructor.

## PL 366: Technology and International Politics

Technology is evolving faster and more globally than ever. It is a central aspect of international politics, shaping communication and conflict between state and nonstate actors. This course examines the emergence and evolution of technology as a function of politics, social institutions, and economics; the impact of technology on international security; the ethical questions raised by disruptive innovations; and attempts to regulate technologies through international law and institutions. The course will cover the emergence and impact of historical technologies such as the tank, the aircraft carrier, and nuclear weapons, and contemporary technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and cyberspace. Yelena Biberman Ocakli

# FAALL 2024

# WHAT COUNTS FOR WHAT?

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Fall 2024 Courses

#### AMERICAN POLITICS.

- PL101: Introduction to American Politics (RS, BT)
- PL231: Environmental Politics (BT)
- PL252: Psychology of Politics (RS)
- PL311: Constitutional Law (BB)
- PL315: Immigration Politics and Policy (BT)
- PL334: United States Presidency (RS)

#### POLITICAL THEORY.

- PL102: Introduction to Political Philosophy (VAP)
- PL204: Classical Political Thought (NT)
- PL308: Contemporary Political Thought (VAP)
- PL351: Travelers' Wisdom: Political Theory in a Global Age (NT)

#### COMPARATIVE POLITICS.

- PL103: Introduction to International and Comparative Politics (CW, FO)
- PL239: Middle Eastern Politics (FO)
- PL 364: Religion and State in the Contemporary Middle East: A Comparative Perspective (Greenberg Middle East Scholar-in-Residence: Muhammad al-Atawneh)
- PL365: Food Politics (FO)
- PL365: East Asian Politics (CW)

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

- PL103: Introduction to International and Comparative Politics (CW, FO)
- PL201: Principles of International Politics (CW)
- PL366 Technology and International Politics (YBO)

#### SENIOR CODA.

- PL376: Senior Coda (BT)

# FALL 2024