

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SKIDMORE COLLEGE
Government Department

Fall 2011

October 25, 2011

Dear Government majors and minors --

I hope this edition of the Government Department newsletter finds you all well. You will find inside here all the latest information about your Government Department faculty and their doings, including the release of Prof. Flagg Taylor's new book, about recent and upcoming Government Department events, including a workshop on the State of the European Union to be held October 27 and 28, and about the activities of some of your peers, including summer collaborative research with faculty and funded internships.

Also in the newsletter you will find the Spring 2012 schedule and information about topics courses that the department will offer next semester. In addition to reading the newsletter, please check out our new and improved Government Department web site!

With best wishes for the rest of the semester,

Kate Graney

Associate Professor and
Chair of the Department of Government



FACULTY NEWS

MATT CHOI '14

Professor Kate Graney is enjoying her sabbatical and is working on a book manuscript tentatively entitled "Reorienting Europe: The Politics of Europeanization in Post-Soviet States". She is looking forward to going to Wroclaw, Poland in January for the EuroSim meeting, which Skidmore's Model European Union club will participate in.

In November **Professor Flagg Taylor** will attend a conference at the Czech Center in New York City called "Czechoslovak Samizdat and its Legacy." He is editing a book on the award-winning film *The Lives of Others* (with his friend Carl Scott). The book features authors from a range of disciplines and includes contributions from prominent German literary and political figures. Additionally, he is working on a book on the executive removal power called *The Removal Power: Dilemmas in American Constitution Development*.

Professor Aldo Vacs writes: "During the first part of the year, taking advantage of my sabbatical leave, I went to do research in the Southern Cone of Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay). My research focus was concentrated on the process of consolidation of the democratic regimes in these countries, the political economic transition from neoliberalism to state intervention in the economy, and the development of the process of integration in the region. After briefly returning to the U.S. in August, I went back to Argentina to participate in a political science congress and complete some aspects of my research work. In the meantime, I wrote a few papers on the return of populism in Latin America, the new character of Latin American insertion in the international system, a new version of a chapter on Argentine politics, and a couple of book reviews."

Professor Timothy Burns published in April "The Virtue of Thucydides' Brasidas" in *The Journal of Politics*. In May he delivered the president's address at the annual induction ceremony of the Skidmore College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The title of the address was "Why Do We Wear These Gowns and These Hoods?" In June, an issue of the French journal *Klesis* devoted to the work of Leo Strauss, which he co-edited with Lucien Oulahbib, appeared. It contained Professor Burns' article "Leo Strauss: His Life and Work," and his article "Strauss, Hobbes, and the Origins of Natural Science." The latter was also published in the June

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Review of Metaphysics, and the former will be published in *Congressional Quarterly's Encyclopedia of Modern Political Thought*.

Professor Burns spent most of the summer completing the first drafts of 17 of the 20 chapters of *Introduction To Political Philosophy*, a book that he is co-authoring with Thomas L. Pangle for Cambridge University Press. The book will consist of chapters devoted to an important work by every major political thinker from Plato to Heidegger and his students. The contract calls for the initial manuscript to be delivered by December 2012. The anticipated publication of the book is summer, 2013.

Professor Burns also wrote this summer "Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and the Problem of Classical Republicanism" for a volume titled *Souls with Longing: Representations of Honor and Love in Shakespeare*, Vol. II, edited by Bernard J. Dobski and Dustin A. Gish. The volume will be published by Lexington Books in 2012. This essay on *Julius Caesar* will also be the first chapter of Professor Burns' planned book on Shakespeare's Political Wisdom. The third chapter of that book will be on *The Merchant of Venice*; its title is "Roman Virtues in a Christian Commercial Republic: Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*." It will be appearing in late 2012, in an edition of the journal *Anemnesis* that will be devoted to that play. The volume is edited by Lee Trepanier.

Professor Burns also completed this summer revisions to his essay "The Problematic Character of Pericles' Civic Republicanism," which will soon appear in *Civic Republicanism, Enlightenment and Modernity: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics*, edited by Geoffrey Kellow and Neven Brady Leddy (University of Toronto Press). And Professor Burns' « Hobbes et Denys d'Halicarnasse: la politique et la rhétorique chez Thucydides », translated into French by Professor Marc-André Wiesmann, will be published in *La Rhétorique Démocratique En Temps De Crise: Discours, Délibération, Légitimation*, Crystal Cordell, ed. (France: ERMES Laboratoire). The English version of this article, "Thucydides, Teacher of Rhetoric? From the Roman Rhetorical Schools to Hobbes," is under review at the journal *History of Political Thought*. Professor Burns presented this article as a paper at the 2011 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago, and it has been nominated for the "Review of Politics" award, for the best paper in political theory.

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THE GREAT LIE: EXPLORING THE 20TH CENTURY TERROR STATE

ALEX MILLER '13

One of the most destructive phenomena of the twentieth century, totalitarianism, is the subject of *The Great Lie: Classic and Recent Appraisals of Ideology and Totalitarianism*. This collection of essays was edited by the Government Department's own Professor Flagg Taylor. The book features the works of two Nobel Prize winning authors and other notable scholars of totalitarianism.

Professor Taylor first submitted a proposal for this book in 2008, but was initially inspired to create this collection after teaching the class "Dissident Political Thought" here at Skidmore. His original idea was to simply create an all encompassing course reader for his students to use instead of purchasing a multitude of costly books and novels. What emerged from the simple idea of a course reader was a compendium of some of the most highly regarded texts that explored why so many Europeans were drawn to totalitarianism in the twentieth century.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the book is its enigmatic title. Professor Taylor explains that the eponymous 'Great Lie' comes from the term used by Solzhenitsyn and other distinguished writers to describe the idea that the most profound terror of totalitarianism may not be physical but rather ideological. It is the stifling conformity one must adhere to in order to live in one of these societies which makes them truly singular.

Although Professor Taylor had always been interested in political discord, his interest in totalitarianism began while working on a dissertation fellowship in Atlanta. When



searching for a way to reconcile his interest in political philosophy and 20th Century History a friend suggested that he might be interested in the communist dissidents Václav Havel and Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Professor Taylor was drawn into their battle against oppression and misinformation while reading these texts beside his apartment complex's pool. The one work that inspired him the most though was Czeslaw Milosz's *The Captive Mind*. Milosz wrote this book in an attempt to explain the allure of Stalinism to intellectuals by using personal anecdotes and stories about his fellow poets.

As a part of his study of totalitarianism Professor Taylor traveled to the Czech Republic this past summer order to gain a better understanding of totalitarianism and the effects it has on one's daily life. While there he interviewed many Czechs on their experiences while living under a communist regime. The two interviews in particular that stuck out in his mind as being especially illuminating were with a Czech dissident named Pavel Bratinka and with Kamila Bendova and her son Patrik (the wife and son of the now deceased dissident Václav Benda). The interview with Bratinka will be published in the January-February edition of *The American Interest* at the beginning of next year.

Students can absorb more of Professor Taylor's expertise in political philosophy in the many classes he teaches within the Government Department. He is currently teaching "Dissident Political Thought" and will be teaching "Introduction to Political Philosophy" and "Lincoln as a Statesmen" in the Spring of 2012.

**THANK YOU to the following students and alums
who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter:**

Warren Bianchi, Lauria Chin, Matt Choi, Mihaela David, Wyatt Erchak, Wilson Gibbons, Dominic Green, Julia Grigel, David Goroff, Wissam Khalifa, Rachel Konowitz, Michael Kraines, Jean-AnnKubler, Emma Kurs, Kalu Long, Miles Mattison, Alex Miller, Ralph Peer, Simone Pérez, , Tyler Reny, Thomas Rivera, Matt Rothenberg, Sayed Sarchashmah, Will Sharry, Aaron Shifreen, David Solomon, Laura Swartz, Adrian Texidor, Jillian Zatta

CONSTITUTION DAY BRINGS US “THE TEMPTATION OF WASHINGTON”

WARREN BIANCHI '12

Seldom do we, as students and citizens of the 21st century, pay due respect, or even attention, to some of the most influential people of our nation’s heritage. Faces of an era long passed, the founding fathers of America are but vague figures; mythic actors, starring in history’s stirring plot. On Thursday, September 15th, however, Dr. Gary L. Gregg of the University of Louisville reminded us of the noble sacrifices made and courses boldly taken by one of our nation’s most famed heroes, George Washington.

The Greco-Roman air of the Pohndorff Room in our library seemed hardly suitable to a lecture so “American” in content, but the choice seemed intentional, and those in attendance were eager to find out why.

Dr. Gregg began his talk by exposing folly of folklore and then quickly moved to the very real profundity of Washington’s part in founding the American Constitutional Republic as we know it. He brought this to our attention by recounting the actions of General David Patraeus, who dutifully

carried out Obama’s call for troop withdrawals from Afghanistan despite the informed opinion of military officials.

Dr. Gregg paused earnestly and reminded us of how thankful we should be that a military official would salute the President, Commander-in-Chief, ensur-



ing that our military is subordinate, and not hostile, to our democratic institutions. He then proceeded, with eloquent speech and grand gestures, to explain Washington’s part in establishing this tradition.

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After Putin:
PUTIN?

Monday, Nov 14
3:00-4:30 PM
The ICC Lounge

A discussion about contemporary Russian politics with Washington Post Moscow Bureau Chief Kathy Lally and Washington Post Moscow Correspondent and 1998 Pulitzer Prize Winner Will Englund, led by Kate Craney, Associate Professor of Government

Please join us for coffee, cider doughnuts, and the opportunity to get an invaluable, unique, and up-close look at the past, present and future of Russian politics.

Sponsored by the
Government Department

Workshop on the State of the European Union: 2011



Thursday, October 27 - Gannett Auditorium

Session One

8:00-9:30 PM

The State of the EU: Political and Economic Perspectives

Welcoming remarks and discussion moderated by

Professor Roy H. Ginsberg, Jean Monnet Chair in European
Integration Studies

Friday, October 28 - Payne Room, Tang Museum

Session Two

9:00-10:30 AM

The Eurozone Debt Crisis (Dr. McNamara)

Session Three

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

The EU and the United Nations (Messrs. Geier and Gowan)

Luncheon and Tour of the Tang Museum for Workshop
Participants and Guests

12:30-1:30 PM

Session Four

1:30-3:00 PM

The EU in Global Security Before and After the Arab
Spring

(Messrs. Geier and Gowan and Dr. Ginsberg)

Session Five

3:15-4:30 PM

Closing Roundtable with Guest Panelists and Student
Participants

Speakers

Karsten Geier is seconded from the German Foreign Ministry to the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York, where he is Senior advisor on International Security. He studied Law and Political Science/Government at Würzburg University, the University at Albany (SUNY), and Cornell University. He has served in German diplomatic posts in Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Belgium and the United States.

Richard Gowan is Associate Director at the Center on International Cooperation at New York University and Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, specializing in UN and multilateral issues. Widely quoted and published in major newspapers on international economic, political, and security issues, Mr. Gowan is coauthor of *A Global Force for Human Rights?*, *An Audit of European Power at the UN* and *Can the EU Rebuild Failing States?* and coeditor of *Cooperation for Peace and Security*. Mr. Gowan holds a master's degree in International Relations from Cambridge University.

Dr. Kathleen McNamara is Associate Professor of Government and Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She is an expert on the politics of international economic relations, specializing in the European Union, the Euro and the European Central Bank. She is author of *The Currency of Ideas: Monetary Politics in the European Union* (Cornell University Press, 1998), and coeditor of *Making History: European Integration and Institution Change at Fifty* (Oxford University Press, 2007). Dr. McNamara has published numerous essays on globalization, economic institutions, and the role of norms and culture in policymaking. She received her doctorate from Columbia University.

This two day conference is sponsored by the Departments of Management and Business, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Government, the International Affairs Program, the Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration Studies at Skidmore College and the European Commission.

The Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration Studies, funded by the European Commission, honors the memory of Jean Monnet, founder and first President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community, forerunner of today's European Union. The chair supports educational programs designed to widen knowledge of the European Union for both students and general public. Skidmore College is one of four institutions of higher learning in the United States and thirty-four in the world to have received this endowed chair in 2010.

Summer Collaborative Research

MATT ROTHENBERG '12

At the end of first semester freshman year, Beau Breslin, the professor of my Scribner Seminar, approached me about working with him on a research project over the upcoming summer. I remember feeling baffled. "A professor wants to work one-on-one with *me*," I asked myself incredulously. Little did I know at the time, this was the beginning of



Prof. Beau Breslin checks case-law records with students Shomik Ghosh '12, Matt Rothenberg '12, and Meredith Robinson '11.

a lasting relationship that would put me on the path to achieving some of my most ambitious academic and personal goals.

Among the many aspects that had initially drawn me to Skidmore--the psychedelic design of the dining hall, the campus' proximity to some of the best skiing on the east coast--was the school's 9:1 student to faculty ratio. Having attended a high school roughly the same size as Skidmore, I valued a small classroom environment. I enjoyed working closely with both my fellow peers and my professors. And I looked forward to my first-year at Skidmore as another opportunity to forge these sorts of close relationships. As fate would have it, Professor Bres-

lin's invitation to participate in the Collaborative Summer Research Program--a program that gives students the chance to work with faculty on original research over the summer--would be one such opportunity.

Having worked together for the past three summers, Professor Breslin and I have cultivated a truly "collaborative" relationship: one that allows us to work productively, communicate openly and honestly, and attain the scholarly goals we set for ourselves. Participating equally in the research, writing, and overall collaboration of our multiple research projects--working alongside with Professor Breslin as a colleague and a friend, not as a subordinate--has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had so far at Skidmore. I greatly value the relationship I have built with Professor Breslin. He was an indispensable part of my first-year experience and has continued to be a mentor throughout my college career. Above all, his guidance has helped me grow as both a student and an adult.

We Skidmore students are lucky to have professors like Beau Breslin on campus. I encourage all students, especially first-years, to engage their professors and forge these collaborative relationships. Though it may sometimes seem otherwise, our professors are not "out to get us." They are here to challenge us to think broadly and encourage us in our academic and personal pursuits. Ultimately, though, it is up to us to take them up on their willingness to share and connect.

WASHINGTON, *Continued from Page 4*

WARREN BIANCHI '12

Enamored of tactical savvy and personal charisma radiating from his unshakable frame towering 6' 4" high, the newly liberated citizens of America offered Washington the position of monarch. With resolute faith in republican principles, however, the victorious General relinquished his sword and power to a civilian government and returned home -- just like that! "He saved our very Republic," said Dr. Gregg. Washington resisted the temptation of power -- of becoming that glorified monarch that the American people had just fought so vigorously to escape. Not since Cincinnatus of Rome had a victorious general refused such authority! The white columns and domed ceiling of the Pohndorff room suddenly seemed a perfect fit.

After a moving and impassioned lecture, the professors and students of the Government Department retired to the Surrey Inn for a wonderful dinner and discussion with Dr. Gregg. I had the pleasure of sitting next him that night and was delighted to find him intellectually inspiring, but not intimidating; jovial, but earnest; a man of both leisure and academics alike. We enjoyed a hearty meal and discussed everything from politics to sports. The dinner was followed by a series of insightful questions and answers, posed both by students and professors. It was a time to remember, and the attendees were thankful for a night of learning,



THE LEVINE INTERNSHIP AWARD AND SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

A Summer with the Special Victims Bureau

Jean-Ann Kubler '12

Last spring, I began studying inner-city child welfare policy in Professor Natalie Taylor's course, "Politics of the American Family." While conducting research for my final paper, I became fascinated by the intricacies and inadequacies of the child welfare system in New York City. With funding from the Levine Internship Award, I was able to continue my study of the city's child welfare policies through an internship as a trial assistant for the Special Victims Bureau of the Queens District Attorney's Office.

The Special Victims Bureau handles the prosecution of sex crimes and crime against children and the elderly. The Queens office practices vertical prosecution—one prosecutor handles each case from the initial 911 call through to trial and any appeals that may arise. As a result, during my internship I was able to observe and assist in almost every phase of criminal prosecution; I assisted in interviewing victims and witnesses at hospitals and crime scenes, transcribed defendants' prison Ballistics laboratories, sat second-chair at three trials, and drafted memos for a sentencing hearing.

For most of my time in the department I worked closely with a senior prosecutor who specialized in the prosecution of sex crimes against children. When I explained that I was interested in the child welfare system, she arranged for me to spend two days working with the local office of the Administration for Children's Services. Through conversations with caseworkers, I learned about the funding issues plaguing children's services administrations throughout the

country, and the many policy initiatives that have failed to remedy the problems. Because of inadequate funding and a lack of resources, caseworkers often handle as many as 20 cases at one time and are unable to give families the assistance they need to become safe environments for their children.

My work with the Special Victims Bureau confirmed some of my beliefs about inadequacies of the services in place to protect children at risk, but it also allowed me to meet many lawyers, detectives and social workers dedicated to helping vulnerable communities. Despite modest salaries and long hours, every professional I encountered was dedicated to public service and believed in the potential for their work to improve lives.

Resettling Refugees in the Capital Region

Warren Bianchi '12

The summer of 2011 came, as summers always do, earlier and faster than I had foreseen. Scrambling to find employment, I gathered my resume and drafted the numerous cover letters for everything from restaurants to think-tanks to non-profits. My first and only response came from the Albany Field Office of the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI Albany). The internship was unpaid, and the 35-hour weeks and daily commutes imbued such a wonderful opportunity with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Luckily, Professor Graney directed me to the Levine Internship Award, a competitive \$3000 grant that would allow me to sustain myself throughout the summer.

I applied for the Levine Award immediately and was ecstatic to receive a congratulatory email just a week later. Everything had fallen into place: I found a perfect internship in the field of American Government and had procured the financial means to pursue it.

The US Committee for Refugees is a non-profit organization with field offices in cities across America. It serves as the first pillar of support for newly arriving refugees and provides services for all immigrants by preparing them for life in America and showing them the available social services.



My official title at USCRI Albany was "Housing Coordinator Intern." This entailed working with case managers to find apartments for newly arriving refugees, setting up homes with the required goods, managing donations, and assisting our clients with legal advice in dealing with landlords and property laws. Every morning, I woke up at 6:30 to a crisp sunrise, chose a fitting CD, and cruised down I-87 until I reached the large, beige building, crowned majestically with a statue of the emblematic RCA dog standing 30 or 40 feet high.

The day always began with taking inventory of our warehouse and assessing what goods were needed.

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EMPLOYMENT IN THE WORLD BEYOND SKIDMORE

TYLER RENY '11

I was one of the lucky few. Upon graduating Skidmore I was employed. For the summer at least. And I would get to stay in Saratoga. Swimming in the Hudson. The racetrack. Drinks on the roof of the City Tavern. Life is good. And after several months I landed a job with a non-profit in New York City. I would have 2 days to move and start the job. I kissed any hope of a summer vacation goodbye. Yet, relieved and employed I packed up and moved to New York City. You know, where there's "nothing you can't do" (except save money on a non-profit salary).

As an undergrad, I had done well academically. I had good grades. I had great relationships with my professors. I rarely missed class. I worked hard. Additionally, I had several amazing internships and jobs under my belt. I interned for Senator Snowe in Washington, D.C., by my senior year I was interning several days a week as the research assistant for the executive director of the Rockefeller Institute think tank in Albany, and I worked as a research assistant for two professors. I also wrote bi-weekly columns for the Skidmore News and was involved in Pi Sigma Alpha, had studied abroad in Barcelona and in Buenos Aires, and was working on a promising senior thesis on immigration politics and electoral strategy.

I also deeply believed in the American Dream. The whole white picket fence thing. After all, I was a middle-class white kid graduating from a great college with a strong academic record and significant experience. How hard could it be? I knew that unemployment was high and job growth was stagnant. What nobody told me, however, was that the job market sucks. And I mean, *really* sucks. Even for those lucky few with college degrees.

The widely circulated statistic frighteningly reveals that 85% of college graduates are moving home after graduation, something I was determined to avoid. I love my dank, musty basement as much as any young man could. It doesn't share a wall with my parents' bedroom. I could probably leave some dirty clothes on the floor and nobody would care. And, yes, it is nice and cool down there in the summer. But I can't see myself progressing towards my career goals from that launching pad, unless, of course, my career goal was to blog for Pajamas Media. But Joe the Plummer filled that opening.

By May of senior year I had sent off twenty-five or thirty customized cover letters and resumes. I had contacts connect

with their contacts in high places, positions of power, prestige, and prominence. These individuals, I imagined, would be fountains of wisdom, eager role models looking to nurture a smart young graduate from a good school in upstate New York. I sent in applications to Brookings, the Migration Policy Institute, the Urban Institute, MDRC, and others. And I waited. And waited.



Graduation was quickly approaching and I still hadn't received a single call for an interview. I hadn't even seen a rejection letter. At least let me know that I'm not qualified! I started making calls and hearing that the organizations I was applying to were receiving several thousand, let me repeat, several *thousand*, applications for the job openings. I prepared to move home. I could probably snag a job at the café I worked at in high school. I'd be making seven dollars an hour. A good wage. For a middle school janitor. In the 1970s.

And then my lucky break. The email from Associate Dean of Student Affairs, David Karp. No, I wasn't in trouble. He heard, through a reliable professor, that I might be a good summer project research assistant. I had one day to decide.

Thankfully, I made the right decision. Not only would the summer research job of cleaning data and running statistical analysis with SPSS be an amazing resume builder, but I received a bi-weekly check, food, and housing for three more months. More importantly, the job allowed me to continue the job search while gaining valuable skills and avoiding my basement for at least a few more months.

When I wasn't screaming at SPSS, brushing up on restorative justice literature, or chatting with David, I was feverishly searching for jobs and calling alumni to ask for advice. One graduate, living in DC, recommended the job site www.bradtraverse.com. It costs five dollars a month, but turned out to be a most useful tool. It aggregates all government related job openings in the DC and occasionally New York metropolitan areas. On June 27th, my birthday, I saw an opening at a non-profit in New York that worked on immigration issues. It wasn't exactly what I was looking for, but it looked promising, so I applied that afternoon. I am now a salaried program assistant. When I asked my boss how many people applied for my position, she exclaimed that over 450 applications arrived on the first day alone. They pulled the ad on day 2.

Employment in the World Beyond, continued on Page 12

The Student Government Association's Responsible Citizen Internship Award and Summer Internships

A Summer in Brussels

Emma Kurs '12

This past summer I interned at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. Thanks to the help of SGA's Responsible Citizenship Internship Award (RCIA) and IES Abroad, I was paid to live abroad and attend events every single day with major political figures, ambassadors, human rights spokespeople, and business representatives.



After having spent a semester in Freiburg, Germany on the IES Abroad European Union program, I knew I wanted to extend my stay in Europe. Fortunately, IES EU offers all students the chance to apply for their post-spring semester program, which involves a 6-week internship accompanied by a 2-week seminar on inter-cultural exchanges in the work-place. IES not only helped six of us find work at the European Parliament, but also set up our accommodations and travel arrangements for Brussels. I should also mention that, for students with other interests, IES can place you with other organizations in Brussels (i.e. the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and Greenovate! Europe). I interned for Frank Schwalba-Hoth, one of the founding members of the German Greens, a

former Member of the European Parliament (MEP), and current political analyst/strategist in the European Parliament.

While my Skidmore tuition covered the cost of the internship program (which included my residence in Brussels and the internship seminar), living in Europe is never cheap. Because I was able to set up my internship quite early in the semester, I knew from the start that I wanted to apply for the many grants Skidmore offers to fund my stay in Brussels. I received the SGA RCIA grant, a stipend of \$2500 dollars, which is eligible to any fully-enrolled student who secures a (minimum) 250-hour summer internship/ 7-week program. Students of all majors and fields can apply as long as they have find an internship, approximately students receive the award each year! It is an incredible opportunity, especially at a time when internships are not only valuable, but also necessary to securing future jobs. The grants are a way to make just as much money as you might at a restaurant or camp or other summer job while absorbing skills and trying out new careers and fields. It made my extended time in Europe affordable while allowing me to gain an unforgettable and quite crucial professional experience.

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Sales at the Bill of Rights Institute

Aaron Shifreen '13

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to receive the Responsible Citizenship Internship Award, which is a merit-based \$2,500 stipend awarded to students with unpaid internships over

the summer who otherwise may not have the ability to accept those important opportunities. As a sales intern



at the Bill of Rights Institute, an organization dedicated to the expansion and continuation of the words and ideas of America's Founders, I have expanded my skill set and learned to act professionally in an office environment.

Throughout my internship, my main duty was to assist in helping to redesign the Bill of Rights Institute online bookstore to make the web page more user-friendly and visually appealing. Although I had no previous experience with HTML and CSS coding, I learned as I went along and greatly improved the websites visual layout.

My internship was a great experience. As an individual with absolutely no sales background, I learned a lot about how to form long term goals and how to use different marketing strategies in order to discover which are the most effective. I greatly increased my technical skills, and feel more confident when looking forward to future employment opportunities. To those interested in working at an unpaid internship this summer, I highly recommend applying for the Student Government Association

The Ronald J. Fiscus Lecture in Constitutional Law Sheds Light on Common Law

Lauria Chin '12

The Department's annual Ronald J. Fiscus Lecture in Constitutional Law took place on October 6. The Fiscus Lecture is held to honor the memory of Ronald Fiscus, a beloved member of the Skidmore Government Department. This year, the Department hosted Professor Bernadette Meyler. She is a Professor of Law and English at Cornell University. Her lecture was entitled "Common Law Originalism: Constructing Constitutional Meaning from Transatlantic Legal Contexts."

Professor Meyler presented an overview of the common law, its origins, its influences on the founding of the United States, and its effects on modern politics. She described common law originalism as interpreting the Constitution within the context of the common law doctrines and jurisprudence of the Founding Era. She concluded her lecture with an application of common law originalism to key parts of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights such as citizenship and the president's pardon power.

Overall, Professor Meyler's lecture challenged the argument that the common law has a single source in the work of the English jurist, William Blackstone. She pointed out that the American colonists were familiar with a number of different interpretations of the common law that predated Blackstone's



Commentaries on the Laws of England. Professor Meyler also brought to light the difficulty that the Founders had differentiating American common law from British common law, a differentiation they desired to make in order to separate themselves from their oppressors. Her lecture was an enlightening discourse on both the common law as a multi-faceted branch of law and its continued influence on the American political system.

Professor Meyler did not start her career studying law. She studied English as an undergraduate at Harvard and, during that time, never thought about law. It was not until Professor Meyler was pursuing her Ph.D. that she found her way to the law. Her introduction to the law as a graduate student prompted her to attend law school.

Professor Meyler emphasizes that there are no definite answers in constitutional law. She maintains that those studying constitutional law must analyze different kinds of constitutional arguments and understand from where they come. She further suggests that students should not seek to acquire and practice skills that are applicable to only one discipline. Professor Meyler states, "Don't train yourself too early." She emphasized that undergraduates should develop a variety of skills and competencies.

Faculty News, *continued from page 2*

Matt Choi '14

Professor Burns also reviewed, in August, a manuscript on Montesquieu's argument, in *The Spirit of the Laws*, on international relations, for the journal *Political Research Quarterly*. And just before the Fall semester began, Professor Burns was a discussant on the panel "Socrates on Justice, Eros, and the Gods," at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Seattle.

This fall, Professor Burns is teaching three courses: Introduction To Political Philosophy, The Political Thought of Thucydides, and The Philosophic Principles of the American Founding. The first two courses are in the Government Department, while the third is a Scribner Seminar. He is *very* excited to be teaching all three courses. Professor Burns is also serving this semester on Skidmore's Committee on Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure, and is enjoying the opportunity to read and examine work done by colleagues in other departments.

Professor Burns will serve as a discussant, in mid-November, on a panel at the Northeast Political Science Association, titled "Leo Strauss' Political-Philosophical Discoveries of the 1930s." On that panel, he will be commenting on two papers. One is a paper on Leo Strauss' work on Maimonides and Al-Farabi; the second is a paper on Strauss' work on Hobbes in the 1930s. In late November through January, Professor Burns will turn to completing an article that he is writing on Thucydides and Aristophanes. The article examines the two thinkers' respective treatments of the statesman Nicias and the demagogue Cleon. The article will appear in the volume *The Political Theory of Aristophanes: Rethinking the Quarrel Between Poetry and Philosophy*, edited by Bryan-Paul Frost. Finally, Professor Burns will be attending a mini-conference in Austin, in early January, on Maimonides' *Guide For the Perplexed*; it will be devoted to that work's examination of law.

A SUMMER IN BRUSSELS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

EMMA KURS '12

Although the other five IES students worked with current MEPs, I requested to work for Mr. Schwalba-Hoth, who is known as the “networking king” of Brussels. Working immediately with Mr. Schwalba-Hoth and the other intern, a student from Paris, I spent every day attending events, conducting research, sitting-in on Mr. Schwalba-Hoth’s meetings, and going to receptions. I knew that working with Mr. Hoth meant a long day, most starting at 9 am and ending at 8 or 9 pm, but it also meant learning how to put myself out there and talk to all types of people. We organized events ranging from a dinner presentation on the stale-mate in Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan to a panel at the Brussels Press Club on the revolutions in Bahrain. Every day--often even every hour-- exposed me to such a wide range of topics, people, and issues. I was lucky enough to be there during a very turbulent time on the international landscape--with the events of the Arab Spring and the Eurozone crisis stirring much controversy and debate among EU member countries. Often Mr. Hoth allowed me to choose from the wide variety of hearings, meetings, and panels held at the Parliament every day, which ranged from the effects of Wikileaks on national security, to the MEP’s political party preparatory meetings. He encouraged me to attend whatever events sparked my interest and pushed me to speak with anyone and everyone I could meet--journalists, international and local politicians, businesspeople and, of course, other interns from around the world. On the very same day that we received the opposition leader for the Congo (DRC), Etienne Tshisekedi, and his delegation, we then toured repre-

sentatives of the Bayer Pharmaceuticals company around the Parliament, followed by lunch with a politician running to represent the francophone community in Brussels-- without even time for a breather in between.



Working with Mr. Schwalba-Hoth and learning to network with people from so many countries and backgrounds was certainly challenging and (at times even frustrating), but overall my time in Brussels taught me a great deal about the political landscape of the EU. I had spent so much time taking internationally-focused government classes at Skidmore and then an entire semester on the European Union itself, so having access to sit-in on Parliamentary plenary sessions and hearings about crises facing not only Europe, but the entire world today, was unmatched for enriching my studies of international affairs and politics. Don’t miss the opportunity to apply for an SGA RCIA to make your internship possible!

Want to make a difference on our country’s most pressing issues?

Apply for a job with U.S. PIRG.

U.S. PIRG is a federation of state-based, nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations working on behalf of the public on a variety of issues, including public health, the environment, and democratic participation. U.S. PIRG is hiring smart, talented graduates for two entry-level positions, campus organizers and fellows. Campus organizers work on a college campus to recruit and train young people, while staff in the fellowship program work alongside an experienced mentor in one of the state offices. Both work full time to make a real impact on these issues by building coalitions, working with the media, and mobilizing tons of grassroots support. Apply online at <http://www.uspirg.org/jobs> or contact Emily Kowalski in the recruitment department at jobs@uspirgs.org with questions.

This information was sent to us by Rachel Konowitz '11 who is a currently working as a campus organizer with ConnPIRG at Trinity College and the UConn Greater Hartford campus. Rachel will be visiting campus on Wednesday November 2nd and Thursday November 3rd to conduct interviews and promote our job opportunities. She will be holding an information table in Case Center and is hoping to make a couple of 5 minute presentations in classes to tell students about her experiences with US PIRG.

Employment in the World Beyond Skidmore, continued from page 8

Tyler Reny '11

It is impossible to prepare fully for our contemporary job market. My financial advisor friends say they lie awake at night fearing global economic collapse. The next Lehman Brothers is out there, they say, ready to fail. China? Europe? There are, however, several things I wish I had done in college to prepare me more fully for the post-graduation bubble eviction and harsh thrust into reality.

First, it is important to work hard in college, learn as much as you can about a subject that interests you, and get good grades, but remember that academics alone are not nearly enough to get a job. I found out quickly that not a single employer cared what classes I took or which research papers I wrote. They wanted to know about my internship and job experiences.

Which leads me to point two.

Apply for as many internships as humanly possible. They allow you to build your professional network and develop skills. While it might be fun to be a camp counselor, I suggest you only do so if you hope you get into camp management, education, or a similar field.



Third, almost every job opening I saw in political science related fields required a firm grasp of statistics, various statistical software packages like SPSS, and economics. The government department doesn't require you to take them, but I strongly suggest you do. These skills are so important. Try to

fit microeconomics, macroeconomics, and intro to statistics into your schedule. You won't be sorry.

Finally, send out as many resumes and cover letters as you can, make sure each cover letter is personalized to the job posting, and start *early* (seniors, this means January or February).

This isn't the job market our parents remember. Being chosen for that dream job is going to require extra work and meticulous planning. So, yes, go out on weekends, have fun, but don't forget that mediocre work and pleasure

filled summers will get you a one-way ticket home after graduation. If you want to succeed in this new American economy, you need to be prepared for the harsh landscape outside of the Skidmore bubble.

Revolution in the Arab World: The Morning After

Wilson Gibbons '14

In a region as tumultuous and politically active as the Middle East, the most difficult question posing students and experts alike is attempting to unravel what will happen next. During the lecture on Tuesday, September 27th "Revolution in the Arab World: The Morning After," neither speaker provided us with an answer. There are none who can. However they did provide, what appears to be, the most accurate and unbiased information that people in the Skidmore community could have come by.

The lecture began with a warm introduction from department chair Professor K. Graney of the two speakers, Mr. Steve Negus and Ms. Sumita Pahwa. It then proceeded very quickly into a detailed summary of the build up to the Libyan rebellion, and the eventual overthrow of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's forty year reign as dictator of Libya.

Initially, Mr. Negus supplied a short background on the history of Colonel Gaddafi's rule in Libya, describing some of the idiosyncrasies of Mr. Gaddafi's dictatorial reign; in particular, his preference for direct not parliamentary democracy and his military "adventures" in Africa.

Revolution, continued on Page 15



Resettling Refugees in Albany, *continued from Page 7*

Warren Bianchi '12

For each home obtained for new arrivals, USCRI Albany has the obligation of providing a list of goods, including cleaning supplies, bedding, the first week's groceries, basic furnishings and other items essential to beginning life anew in America. As a 501c(3) non-profit, USCRI Albany's budget was always tight, and it was my job to find these items as cheaply as possible, if not for free. I helped reach out to church groups, local businesses, and private donors to get as many goods as possible, and, to my surprise and delight, the community's generosity provided us with the majority of those goods for free. In the meantime, I wrote guides on topics such as how to deal with negligent landlords and the legal rights of tenants. While these projects took up most of my hours at USCRI Albany, they were certainly not my own task.

USCRI Albany provides refugees with a multitude of support programs, including a cultural orientation, English classes, job placement programs, and access to federal subsidies such as Food Stamps and Medicaid. While I was not out setting up homes or interacting with donors from the community, I would assist clients in taking the steps necessary to take advantage of these resources. Because many of our clients spoke little to no English, these tasks, seemingly mundane, rose to pro-

found importance as I realized what a direct influence I had on our clients' acquisition of food or basic healthcare.

The time I spend at USCRI Albany was truly rewarding and enlightening. I witnessed firsthand the plight of refugees from around the globe, and I gained a deeper understanding of American citizenship and its legal aspects. I could not have hoped for an internship that better blended American government and law, the international and American regulations guiding misplaced peoples, and a chance to do something genuinely helpful for the community. Needless to say, this experience would not have been possible without the Levine Internship Award, which allowed me to pay rent for a quaint home in Saratoga Springs, drive to Albany every day, and purchase necessities such as food, clothes and the appurtenances of a self-sufficient, professional life. The quality of the internship and the support I received from Skidmore show that students here are well supported in pursuits of noble, worthwhile and educational opportunities. I urge all students of Government to take advantage of Skidmore's willingness to support its students' academic ventures through grants such as the Levine Internship Award.

Academic Council Representative, Aaron Shifreen: Hello, my name is Aaron Shifreen, and I am the junior Government department Academic Council representative for this school year. Academic council is a student run body composed of two representatives from each department and meets on a weekly basis to discuss academic policies and procedures of the college. As the representative for the Government department, I act as a student liaison between the students and faculty and am here to answer any questions and listen to any new ideas or concerns to help ensure the high quality of the Government department at Skidmore. Feel free to contact me at ashifree@skidmore.edu if you have any questions, and if you are interested in the greater workings of Academic Council, open meetings are held every Thursday from 8-9:30 pm.

Washington Semester Program

Aaron Shifreen '13

This past semester, I participated in the American University Washington Semester Program (WSP) in Washington, DC. Although many people seem confused as to why I chose to go to our nation's capitol as opposed to somewhere abroad, I can guarantee that WSP was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. As a student in the Public law seminar, I was able to gain a more complex understanding of the legislating process, as well as a greater understanding of the American judicial system. My professor was a former Parliamentarian for the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, and a week rarely went by when our class failed to meet with a member of Congress or a member of the federal Judicial system. I would definitely say that one of the highlights of the experience was when our class got to meet privately with Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, who was willing to answer all of our questions. Even though I will not have the opportunity to study abroad at Skidmore, I learned so much more about the everyday workings of our Federal government and had a unique, once in a lifetime experience.

Attention Junior Government Majors!

Are you eligible to and interested in writing a senior honors thesis? If so, read our guidelines and timeline for this yearlong process on the web at:

<http://cms.skidmore.edu/government/index.cfm> !

Student News: Government students are at work and involved in the Skidmore community and beyond in diverse ways

Warren Bianchi '12 is doing his thesis on Multiculturalism and Muslim Integration in Germany. Warren plays bass in a band called Houseboat, and after college might go to law school.

Wyatt Erchak '12 has been a cartoonist for Skidmore News since 2009 and is working on his first graphic novel in his free time. This spring he plans to begin the SGA chartering process to start a club, FAD (Friends of Anxiety Disorders), for students with anxiety-related disorders. Currently, he is working on his senior government-history comparative research paper about the warrior-rules of Edward III of England and Ashikaga Takauji of Japan.

Dom Green '12 is in two bands and an a cappella group (the Skidmore Bandersnatchers). One of his bands, Slim Charles, has its first EP coming out this Saturday (The EP is called Versus Fatso Jr.) and the band has a website slimcharles.bandcamp.com. The other band, The Downlow, is a cover band that plays popular music at events and parties on campus and around Saratoga.

Michael Kraines '12 and **Dominic Green '12** will represent the Government Department at the annual Student Conference on United States Affairs next month at the United States Military Academy, West Point. Delegates spend four days discussing current topics affecting foreign policy.

Lauren Lange '12 is currently working as a policy analyst at the New York State Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Lauren works in a unit that has been tasked with redesigning the developmental disability service system in New York; the organization is in the process of negotiating with the federal government to implement an 1115 waiver that will allow NY State to test creative, innovative and efficient approaches to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Lauren is interested in developments in smart home technology and the concept of No Wrong Door. More information is available at http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011_waiver/

Thomas Rivera '13 is SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs. Read his letter to Government Majors below.

Matt Choi '14 will be continuing to train for this spring's collegiate cycling season, weather permitting of course. While he's not on his bike he will be trying to survive an intense midterm season, and strive to become a recognized regular at Max London's.

David Solomon '13 is currently studying in Beijing for the year, taking intensive mandarin (4 hours/day, 4 days/week) in IES's language intensive program, as well as studying Chinese government and working an internship for a Chinese international research organization called Horizon Key. David also reports that he is "living with a Chinese family and it's all been wonderful so far."

David Goroff '14 is a peer mentor for a freshman writing scribe seminar, in addition to that the "big thing" this year is that he is working with staff and administrators to start, on the Skidmore campus, a student operated and staffed emergency medical service.

Academic Council

Hello Government Majors and Minors. My name is Thomas Rivera-Patterson and I am the Vice President of Academic Affairs. I chair a group called Academic Council whose main objective is to bridge the relationship between students and faculty on campus. Academic Council consists of nominated student representatives from each academic major (juniors and seniors), who are passionate about creating a community in the department. These representatives do many things including sitting in on faculty meetings, programming departmental events, hosting panel discussions with faculty members, and tackling the important social issues of campus. My sole responsibility is to make sure that with regard to academics; our students have a voice pertaining to events and policies that are going to have a direct effect on them. Even though I am a part of SGA, I am very much a human being. My first language is Spanish and I visit Puerto Rico quite frequently. I'm from the Bronx and I have 6 sisters. Yes, I am the only boy, which means this is a one man show. I have a love for public speaking; I like to read books about political reformations, and I like to have conversations with random people at Skidmore. My hope is that when you read this, you will not be intimidated to approach me and have a conversation about the finer things in life.

Revolution in the Arab World: The Morning After, *continued from page 12*

Wilson Gibbons '14

He then cited specifically how the country defied the odds, given the fact that Libya was ruled with an iron fist for close to half a century. Prior to the Libyan uprising most experts felt that only secularist, autocratic, or "soft" dictatorships, similar to Mr. Mubarak's rule in Egypt, were vulnerable. However, given the political divide which was explained using a map he had drawn on the board. The revolutions beginnings began to make sense. Certain coastal cities, such as Benghazi, had long been ignored by Mr. Gaddafi's regime due to tribal affiliations and rivalries.

This neglect provided the stage for a nucleus of lawyers to eventually become the political idealists, organizers, and activists behind the rebel movement. This group of intellectual elite would eventually form the National Transitional Council.

The lecture also served to emphasize the importance of NATO intervention in Libya. The rebel army charged with expelling Mr. Gaddafi's army was not particularly well organized or well armed. Mr. Gaddafi's loyalist army was well equipped with heavy weaponry. Were it not for the aerial intervention of NATO, according to Mr. Negus narrative, Gaddafi's tank divisions would have taken Benghazi and effectively ended the revolution before it even begun in earnest. Subse-

quently, unlike in other parts of the region, western influence was welcomed and even encouraged. France, and in particular it's President Nicolas Sarkozy, are idolized as liberators in Libya. Ultimately, the impression to take away is that there is a chance that a representative parliamentary democracy will flourish in Libya despite a lack of democratic tradition. However, there is still much to be decided if that chance is to become reality.



The second half of the lecture consisted of a detailed summary of what is currently happening in the world of Egyptian politics. Ever since the collapse of Mr. Hosni Mubarak's autocratic regime, the political sphere has become open in a way never seen before in Egypt. There are a seemingly infinite amount of opinions about what should be done to continue to process of rebuilding the Egyptian nation.

This uprising is considered by most political experts, including Ms. Pahwa, as a people's revolution. Therefore, al-

most every single political party emerging from the ashes of dictatorship is claiming to speak for the masses. However, it is clear that there is a plethora of opinions among the Egyptian populous. The clearest divide in opinions appears to be age. Even within the Muslim Brotherhood, a reformed theocratic group, there are fierce differences of opinion between the old established leaders and the more secularist young members.

The end of the revolution has also brought an end to political unity against Mubarak. Secularists and Islamists are deeply suspicious of one another. Neither group wants to see the other "Hi-Jack the Revolution". Ultimately, the revolution has given all political groups a greater voice in the public sphere. New found freedoms of the press and media has allowed for ongoing political dialogue, and even political satire, to take place. Television has given the various political parties jockeying for position a forum to express their beliefs in a non-violent way. Helping to facilitate what many hope will be a peaceful transition on the road to democracy.

While freedom of the media has created a platform for political dialogue, the new influx of opinions has shrouded Egypt's political future with uncertainty.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Julia Grigel '11 is teaching English in Toulouse, France.

Miles Mattison '11 is a Saranac Brewery Sales Representative for F.X. Matt Brewing Company based in Buffalo, NY.

Will Sharry '11 is the Assistant Communications and New Media Director for Connecticut State Representative William Tong's 2012 bid for Connecticut's Senate seat in Congress.

This fall *Wissam Khalifa '11* moved to Indiana to attend the University of Notre Dame Graduate School. Wissam is a master's degree candidate in Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

Mihaela David '10 is a research intern in the Europe Program at CSIS, where she focuses on economic and political developments across Europe and helps organize events with government officials and leading experts on current European topics. She is a master's degree candidate in German and European studies at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Mihaela is a contributing author of *Russian Soft Power in the 21st Century: An examination of Russian Compatriot Policy in Estonia* published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, August 2011.

Kalu Long '10 is taking part in *Beyond Globalization*, a yearlong interdisciplinary study of the social, economic, anthropological, and ecological effects of globalization offered through the International Honors Program. As a part of his studies he will travel to Tanzania, India, New

Zealand and Mexico.

Ralph Peer '10 is employed by the International Republican Institute in Washington, DC, responsible for the Institute's democracy programs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Simone Perez '10 works on the Subcommittee on Aviation within the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, she is primarily responsible for public outreach and conducting background research for members of the subcommittee.

Sayed Sarchashmah '10 was named as a Security and Politics Officer and Assistant to the Ambassador at the Afghan Embassy in Washington, D.C. and is simultaneously completing an MA in International Affairs at Georgetown.

Laura Swartz '10 is working at a Democratic polling firm in Washington D.C.

Adrian Texidor '10 worked on a Democratic primary campaign in Rhode Island's 1st District. His candidate won the primary and entered into the general election.

Jillian Zatta '10 works at Goldman Sachs in Human Capital Management under Goldman Sachs University. She works supporting the Securities division which trains and educates analysts in the division by incorporating recent legislation, financial protocols, popular opinion, risk, and the current market landscape into Goldman Sachs culture and business practices.

Carlos Serrano '09 took his LSAT exam in February 2011 and hopes to attend law school part-time while continuing to work in the field of immigration law.

Jason Takahashi '09 recently served as the assistant cameraman for "Stepping into the Fire," a film exploring shamanism in Peru. After working the film, Jason spent 45 days with a shaman filming a documentary about the different levels of practice and other things happening in Peru, particularly around the jungle regions.

What Counts for What?

Spring 2012: Government Classes

American Government Distribution

GO 224 American Indian Politics and Policy / Ferraioli / MWF 1:25 - 2:20PM

GO 311 Constitutional Law / Ferraioli / MW 6:30 – 7:50PM

GO 332 American Party System / N Taylor / TTH 11:10 – 12:30PM

GO 352 Women and the Law / Ferraioli / MWF 11:15 – 12:10PM

Comparative Politics Distribution

GO 203 Comparative European Politics / Ginsberg / MW 2:30 – 3:50PM

GO 209 The Latin American Puzzle / Vacs / MWF 10:10 – 11:05AM

International Relations Distribution

GO 228 US Foreign Policy / Vacs / MWF 9:05 – 10:00AM

GO 301 Contemporary International Politics / Ginsberg / MW 4:00 – 5:20PM

GO 366 Understanding Globalization / Vacs / WF 12:20 – 1:40PM

Political Theory Distribution

GO 304 Modern Political Thought / Burns / TTH 9:10 – 11:00AM

GO 308 Contemporary Political Thought / Burns / TTH 3:40 – 5:30PM

GO 351A Lincoln as a Statesman / F Taylor / MW 2:30 – 3:50PM

Springs 2011 Classes

Spring 2012 Government Classes

GO-101 001 Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Ron Seyb
M/W/F 11:15AM—12:10PM Ladd 307

GO-101 002 Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Natalie Taylor
TU/TH 2:10PM – 3:30PM Ladd 307

GO-102 001 Introduction to Political Philosophy

Instructor: Flagg Taylor
W/F 10:10AM – 11:30AM Palamountain 202

GO-103 Introduction to Comparative and International Politics

Instructor: Roy Ginsberg
TU/TH 9:40AM – 11:00AM Ladd 307

GO-203 001 Comparative European Politics

Instructor: Roy Ginsberg
M/W 2:30PM– 3:50PM Ladd 307

GO209 001 The Latin American Puzzle

Instructor: Aldo Vacs
M/W/F 10:10AM – 11:05AM Ladd 206

GO-224 001 American Indian Politics and Policy

Instructor: Pat Ferraioli
M/W/F 1:25PM – 2:20PM Ladd 307

GO-228 US Foreign Policy

Instructor: Aldo Vacs
M/W/F 9:05AM – 10:00 AM Ladd 207

GO-301 001 Contemporary International Politics

Instructor: Roy Ginsberg
M/W 4:00PM—5:20PM Ladd 207

GO-304 001 Modern Political Thought

Instructor: Timothy Burns
TU/TH 9:10AM—11:00AM Library 213

GO-308 001 Contemporary Political Thought

Instructor: Timothy Burns
TU/TH 3:40PM—5:30PM Tisch 208

GO-311 001 Constitutional Law

Instructor: Pat Ferraioli
M/W 6:30PM—7:50PM Ladd 207

GO-332 001 American Party System

Instructor: Natalie Taylor
TU/TH 11:10AM—12:30PM Ladd 207

GO-351A Lincoln as a Statesman

Instructor: Flagg Taylor
M/W 2:30PM – 3:50PM Ladd 207

GO-352 001 Women and Law

Instructor: Pat Ferraioli
M/W/F 11:15AM—12:10PM Ladd 207

GO-366 001 Understanding Globalization

Instructor: Aldo Vacs
W/F 12:20PM -1:40PM Ladd 106

Spring 2012 Topics Course Descriptions

GO 351A: Lincoln as Statesman Professor Flagg Taylor, MW 2:30—3:50PM

This course will explore Lincoln's confrontation with the problem of slavery and the American regime. It will consist primarily of a close analysis of Lincoln's speeches and writings. Lincoln's speeches and deeds have been said by some scholars to constitute a completion of the American founding or a second American revolution. We will explore the origins and nature of Lincoln's impact, trying to understand Lincoln's project from the perspective of Lincoln himself. Lincoln reflected deeply on America's founding ideals as expressed in its public documents, as well as particular historical realities confronting the nation in the 1800s. Our course of study will therefore attempt to mimic these reflections. Recommended preparation GO102 and/or GO236.

GO 366: Understanding Globalization Professor Aldo Vacs ,WF 12:20—1:40PM

A critical examination of globalization as a political, economic, technological, social, and cultural phenomenon, which has wrought fundamental changes to our lives by making the world smaller and more interdependent. The course will explore the meaning, features and impact of globalization on the role of states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and transnational corporations; the transformation of national sovereignty; the expansion of liberal democracy; the changes in international economic relations (trade, finance, investment) and institutions (GATT/WTO, IMF, World Bank); the promotion of social progress and backwardness; the rise and decline of nationalistic, ethnic, and religious confrontations; and the development of cultural diversity and homogeneity. Special attention will be devoted to analyzing the ideologies, actors, and interests promoting and opposing globalization as well as the risks and opportunities associated with globalization from the perspective of different groups.