



## Political Science and Global Affairs: April 2022

Hope the semester is wrapping up well for everyone. We look forward to celebrating our Seniors at graduation, and at a little gathering during finals' week. This newsletter contains some information on our new Americanist, Maye Henning, on this year's Senior Award Winners, on upcoming events, and has reflections from 3 students who participated in some enriching opportunities this spring. Take a look and, as always, reach out if you have questions.

## News and Events



### **New Faculty Member!**

Help us welcome our newest department faculty member, Maye Henning! Maye comes to us from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and will begin teaching for us in August. She'll be offering courses in American Politics, including American Political Development, American Political Institutions, and other courses related to race, Asian politics and imperialism within our system.

### **Washington Semester Program**

We've had more and more interest in the Washington Semester Program at American University. Up to 3 students can participate each semester and the tuition exchange applies similarly to doing study abroad. Here is a [link to the program's website](#). Dr. Meiser is our contact person. The fall 2022 has two participants, and the applications for spring 2023



semester are open now. Past UP students have interned with the [NAACP](#), [American Youth Policy Forum](#), [WEConnect International](#), and on Capitol Hill.

### **Spring 2023 Draft Schedule**

For those of you planning ahead, this is how the Spring 2023 schedule is shaping up so far:

302 Perspectives on Social Justice (Santiago)  
307 Contemporary Political Theory (Curtis)  
321 Politics of Hip Hop (Meiser)  
353 Strategies War & Peace (Meiser)  
375 Gender Migration Studies (Golesorkhi)  
391 State and Local Politics (Cole Grisham)  
391 American Political Institutions (Maye Henning)  
401 GWSS Seminar (Golesorkhi)  
423 Constitutional Interpretation (Curtis)  
462 Globalization and its Discontents (Santiago)  
491 American Political Development (Henning)

We'll also offer the usual array of 200, 203, and 205 sections.

### **End of Year Celebration!**

We'll have an end-of-year celebration, so keep an eye out for the date....right now, we're planning for Thursday of Finals' Week around the lunch hour. The Department will provide food and beverages for all.

### **Founders' Day 2022**

Join us in celebrating our **Senior Award Winners!**

- Br. Donald Stombrowski Academic Achievement: **Grace Fortson**
- Fr. Claude Pomerleau Award for Student Leadership: **Connor Heffernan**
- Stephen A Taylor Award for Excellence in Mock Trial: **Madison Johnson**

**Founders' Day presentations featuring Pol students include:**

- Colton Michael 3:15-4:05 DB 135: **Strategic Policy Planning for Municipalities: Toward a Better Approach to City Governance**
- Mock Trial Showcase 2:15-3:05 DB 136: **State vs. Sutcliffe, A Criminal Arson Case**

### **From Nick Owen (Pol 2020): Summer 2022 internship opportunity.**

Nick is the Legislative Correspondent for [Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici \(OR-01\)](#)!

Nick writes: We're accepting applicants for our Washington, DC office (anticipating two in-person interns and one remote intern) and our Beaverton, OR office (with up to two part-time intern openings). The application deadline is April 22, but applications will be considered on a rolling basis afterward. Our internship outreach is listed on Handshake; we encourage all students to apply, and strongly encourage candidates with Oregon ties. The application can be found [here on the Congresswoman's website](#). Our DC internship program places students in the center of a fast-paced congressional office with opportunities to conduct legislative research, fielding and writing constituent correspondence, attending meetings and briefings, writing legislative memos, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, and assisting our legislative staff with

hearings and projects. Interns in our Beaverton office assist outreach staff and caseworkers, assemble daily press clips, research policy, and attend meetings with the Congresswoman. We value our interns diligent work and compensate full-time interns with a monthly stipend of \$1,800 (part-time interns receive prorated compensation based on their schedules)





## Student Conference on Religion in the Public Sphere, Wheatley Institute at BYU

In February, Michelle Melgarde and Alex Miller participated in the Wheatley Institute sponsored by Brigham Young University. Look for this opportunity next year! We can always send two students to participate in the program.

Here is what Michelle wrote about her experience:

I was able to participate in the Student Conference on Religion in the Public Sphere, or SCRIPS. It is a student-centered conference sponsored by the Wheatley Institution at Brigham Young University and was held in Provo Utah. The conference is centered around different assigned roundtable delegations, of which had various foci. The one I participated in was "Theological Disinformation: the limits of tolerance in a pluralist society", which was led by the President and CEO at International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, James Patton. The tables were to pitch potential programs to address issues within the various discussion groups. My group focused on the use of libraries as a third-space to create relationships between groups that otherwise would not be engaged with each other, with a focus on religious discrimination and anti-Semitism. We did receive funding for a pilot program but have yet to receive further information. The conference gave insight into interfaith work, as well as served as a platform to engage with others from different backgrounds in an academic setting.

Here is what Alex reported:

While Catholicism defines major components of the student experience at the University of Portland, I tend to under-appreciate the broader political implications of religion beyond our campus. When I learned about the SCRIPS conference, I challenged myself to attend and engage with scholarship about political issues faced by religious communities.

The central theme of the conference revolves around issues of pluralism. How do members of different faiths interact with each other? What policies help facilitate interactions that reduce bigotry, strife, and contention? I worked on a panel that tackled these issues within Muslim communities.

Over the course of three days, in the mountains high above Provo, Utah; my group tackled these questions by hammering out a program proposal to assist Afghani refugees settle in the United States. The experience challenged my critical thinking in unexpected ways. It's easy to identify problems but developing concrete policy-oriented solutions presented a challenge I struggled with.

Luckily, the folks from the Wheatley Institution provided copious support. My group worked with a fantastic faculty mentor, Dr. Nadia Oweidat, who inspired our team's proposal. I met students from across the country who shared a deep engagement with the issues we faced. I plan to connect with those people for years to come.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the conference. I got to engage with new ideas, tackle big problems, hone my problem-solving capabilities, and create meaningful relationships. If UP receives more invitations to events held by the Wheatley Institution, I highly recommend attending.





## Miguel Navarro: Spring Break in Northern Ireland

How did you all spend your spring break? Some of you might have gone to Cabo, stayed on campus, or gone home to see family and loved ones. On the other hand, I had the most unique spring break that, if you asked me 3 years ago, I could never have seen myself doing. Along with 9 other students, I traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland: a place that has been the center of intercultural conflict for generations. A place of sectarianism and division and a place of modernization, healing, and progress. Throughout this trip, I learned more about myself, the world around me, and how I can use the lessons learned in Belfast in my future career path. First, a little background information: Last October, I got one of those classic Poli sci department emails from Doctor Santiago, giving background information about a specifically designed Communications course called Intercultural conflict negotiation and transformation.

Led by Doctor Jeff Kersen Griep (Jeff), it was a 3 credit course investigating what's known about challenges and the means of transformative peacebuilding conflict management in cross-cultural conflict situations. Besides the fact that it counted as part of my credits outside of the major, two pieces of it stood out to me, which gave me the reason to sign up for the class. Part one: As someone who wants to enter the Foreign Service and work in Diplomacy and International relations, I was able to convey and instruct the practices and techniques diplomats and policymakers use when practicing statecraft. Part two is that this course had a study abroad component: a week abroad to Belfast, Northern Ireland, a place where for multiple generations, sectarianism, political violence, and extremism had taken hold of the area and its people. I applied through study abroad, got accepted, and counted the days until the fantastic trip I was about to undertake. As the course got underway, I realized that while this course might be listed as a communications course, I believe it is a course that combines elements of the disciplines of history, political science, and communications.

This trip to Belfast was my first time abroad by myself. I have been blessed and fortunate to visit Europe on numerous occasions with my family, but this indeed was the first time I have been by myself in a foreign country. Mom and dad were quick to say, as I talked with them the night before my flight, "This is the culmination of your training as a world traveler, traveling without the family." Luckily I wasn't solely traveling; I was going with a group of very 5 intelligent and talented individuals. 3 flights later, we arrived in Belfast. 2 days before the rest of the group arrived, and the study abroad component began, we toured on our own! We made excellent use of the public transportation system and went sightseeing. From St. George's market, an open-air market that I find rivaling Pike's place, to the Titanic Museum (The infamous vessel was built in Belfast) and the beautiful city center, we took advantage of our time in Belfast, interacting with the locals, and even indulging in a pint of the legendary Guiness beer. By the time the rest of the group arrived, we had a feel of the place and its surroundings, and it was time to dive into the content.

This study tour was organized between UP study abroad, our professor Jeff, and the Reverend Gary Mason, a key negotiator and peacebuilder to the 1998 Good Friday agreement. Before and during the trip, we learned about the history of the Troubles, the conflict between

Catholics and Protestants in Ireland throughout the 20th century, and how current communities continue evolving, even after the conflict in ensuring the transformation of the population. We toured memorials where many were massacred, marveled at the "peace walls" dividing catholic and protestant communities, and even toured the Stormont Parliament building, which stands as the center of the Northern Irish government. Throughout these 10 days, we would also be engaging in talks with members from all sides of the conflict: Former IRA members, Republicans, Unionists, Loyalists, family members of those who were killed, and even those who are involved in community restoration, and social justice in Northern Ireland today. Through this, I was able to gain not just one perspective on the Troubles but multiple perspectives on this conflict and why each side and person was involved the way they were. It allowed me to not favor one side but to look at all sides equally, not take and interpret a story one way, but hear all perspectives of a story, and beware the dangers of a single story.

This trip into Belfast has helped me develop research skills and understand the conflict by exploring ideas of communication, negotiation, sociology, and International relations. As I aspire to head into the field of Diplomacy and International relations for a future career, this week abroad in Northern Ireland gave further insight into the techniques used by diplomats and negotiators in building peace in a cultural conflict, particularly in one of the most recognized regions of the world, where Intercultural conflict has occurred. By studying negotiation techniques, and the process needed for both sides to come together and proclaim peace, from prominent negotiators, this trip has helped me gain firsthand experience on what Diplomats and negotiators should do if necessary to stop a cultural conflict. As an FSO or Political analyst, you must demonstrate superb communication and negotiation skills, and this experience furthermore has helped me prepare for that role. On a personal level, Studying abroad in Belfast and interacting with the local community allowed me to become a better global citizen, as my dream goal is to interact with many cultures of the world. This trip allowed me to better my soul, engage in global efficacy, and become one with the people.







