

# Political Science & International Relations

November 2023

Greetings all and welcome to the second PSIR newsletter of the Fall 2023 term.

We are now well into the semester, mid-terms and Halloween are over and Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Also fast approaching is class registration! So, this is a good time to start thinking about the end of the Fall semester and the classes and opportunities ahead in the spring.

There is much information in this newsletter that should help you with your planning. We have some upcoming talks including one on the impact of Environmental Scarcity on the outbreak of violent conflict (see inside for more details). This newsletter also provides a list of new spring 2024 internship opportunities that you may wish to consider. You will also find an interview with Prof. Jeff Miller (by our new work-study assistant, Sadie Watkins), the one in a series of faculty interviews that will appear regularly in future newsletters.

Finally, you will find a link to the list of courses we are offering in spring 2024 in both Political Science and International Relations. This is an opportunity to address a concern I've been hearing from students about getting into the senior seminar in their concentration. First, in order to take the seminar, you must receive pre-approval from the chair which is predicated on successfully completing (a minimum C- grade) the Research Methods course (offered every term). Second, in spring 2024 we are offering two seminars, one in Law and one in IR. However, all our seminars are broadly conceived, so that regardless of concentration, students can successfully complete either of these seminars. Finally, this holds true moving forward as well. In Fall 2024 we will offer the Seminar in American Politics and in Spring 2025 we will offer the Seminar in IR. Regardless of your concentration, you can take and succeed in either of them.

In addition, I hope you will all join us for our annual end of the year PSIR party on December 12th. All are invited for good food and conversation starting at 4:00 in JFT1010. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you a successful continuation of your studies,

Jonathan Schwartz  
Department Chair  
Political Science & International Relations



## FALL 2023

### Important Dates

#### November 3

Last day for Course  
Withdrawal

#### November 6

Black Solidarity Day

#### November 9

Dr. Tom Deligiannis: Violence  
in the Anthropocene Talk

#### November 13

Undergraduate registration  
for Spring 2023 classes

#### November 22-24

Thanksgiving Recess

#### December 11

Last day for S/U option

#### December 11

Last day of classes

#### December 12

Department End of the  
Year Party

#### December 15-21

FINAL EXAMS

#### REMINDER:

PSIR Club meets every  
Thursday 5:30-6:30. Follow  
@newpaltz.psira on  
Instagram to stay updated

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# MEET PROFESSOR JEFF MILLER

Interview by Sadie Leia Watkins



Professor Jeff Miller has been teaching at SUNY New Paltz since 1999. Prior to that, he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Politics and Classics at the University of California Santa Cruz, and his Master's degree and Ph.D. in Government at the University of Virginia in 1996. Before he attended graduate school, Miller worked as a congressional aide in Washington D.C. from 1989-1992. In 2022, he had his book *Democracy In Crisis: Lessons from Ancient Athens* published, which discusses ways of reimagining democratic action in the contemporary world.

As a child, Professor Miller was always interested in the Classics, but he also wanted to go into politics. In college, he double-majored in Classics and Politics. Working in Congress as an aide cured his desire to go into politics, so he decided to go to graduate school. He focused on the Classics but also looked at it from the political aspect, which then led him to where he is now.

Currently, Professor Miller is researching democratic theory in the classical period. He has ideas like, "What a theory of democracy would have looked like, had there been a democrat writing that

philosophy," and "If there were a democratic philosopher, what would that person say?" He makes a point that many philosophers during this time, such as Plato and Aristotle, are conservative critics of democracy. He turns to sources such as plays, speeches, inscriptions, and sometimes even graffiti from the time period. With these, he tries to put together an idea of what a democratic theory of democracy might have looked like.

Professor Miller is enthusiastic about his teachings, but what really intrigues him are Platonic dialogues. He says, "They're so complex and they are so difficult to wrestle an answer out of them. You rarely come away with the same answer." More modernly, he tends to pick out people and texts that he is interested in and dig into those. Some of these people include Hannah Arendt, a German-American philosopher, and Giorgio Agamben, an Italian thinker.

Many of Professor Miller's classes are quite large. To keep his students engaged, he tries to foster discussion, but this also relies heavily on if the students can and will speak on the topics discussed. In his upper division classes, he keeps interest by listening to

what the students have to say. He says, "I know I want to say these certain things about Arendt, but it's okay if we go off in this other direction." Professor Miller believes if the professor is bored about the subject, then everyone will be bored.

Because his teaching focuses on Classical Scholars, he does not have to constantly update his teaching materials. Instead, this allows him to think more about what is interesting and what to bring up in class at a particular time. For more recent topics, he is more attentive. He reads texts and tries to find what it is adding to the idea of, for example, Liberalism.

The classes that Professor Miller teaches in rotation are POL220 Athens and Jerusalem: Political Thought in the Ancient World and POL210 The Nature of Political Thinking, along with "Political Obligation and Punishment," "Theater and Politics," and "Liberalism and its Critics." This coming spring, he will be teaching POL323 Subjects and Sovereigns: Modern Political Theory and POL325 Power, Justification, and Discipline: Political Thought in the 20th Century.





# VIOLENCE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE:

HOW HUMAN PRESSURE ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT  
IN PERU CONTRIBUTED TO VIOLENT CONFLICT

**DOES CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND HUMAN  
PRESSURE ON LOCAL  
ENVIRONMENTS  
CONTRIBUTE TO  
VIOLENT CONFLICT?**

Dr. Tom Deligiannis will present findings from research in Peru's southern highlands that links human pressure on local agricultural resource endowments to the worsening of local group conflict in Peru in the early 1980s. This research offers detailed evidence about how climate change and human pressure on local resources, combined with economic, political, and development changes, can exacerbate local violent conflict.



**DATE:**  
THURSDAY  
**NOV.  
9TH**

**TIME:**  
5:15 P.M.  
—TO—  
6:15 P.M

**PLACE:**  
LECTURE  
CENTER  
ROOM 108



**SPEAKER:**  
**DR. TOM DELIGIANNIS**  
LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL STUDIES,  
WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY, WATERLOO,  
ONTARIO, CANADA.

SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
CO-SPONSORS: LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE, AND THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONS OR REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THIS  
EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT JENNIFER FREER AT [FREERJ@NEWPALTZ.EDU](mailto:freerj@newpaltz.edu).

 **New Paltz**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



# New Paltz College Democrats



TALKING  
ACROSS  
THE LINE

STUDENT ACTIVISM  
IN AN  
AGE OF DIVIDE

## Panelists From

**Black Studies**

**Education**

**Political Science**

**Sociology**

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

6:30 - 8:00P

LECTURE CENTER 108



# International Rescue Committee Internship

## Link to announcement:

<https://rescue.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home/requisition/45896?c=rescue>

## Job Description

Resettlement is at the heart of the IRC's work with refugees. Services provided meet refugees' basic needs for food, shelter and legal rights in the early, critical stages of the long-term resettlement process. All activities lay the foundation for clients to become self-sufficient and contribute positively to their new community. The Education and Learning Interns will assist the Education and Learning Case Manager in supporting refugee and asylee adults and children, meet their short-term and long-term education goals.

Please note that this is an unpaid position.

This is a hybrid position, with opportunities to be online and in-person.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is seeking a dedicated and compassionate intern to join our team as a Youth Education and Tutoring Intern. In this role, you will work closely with our Youth Education Specialists, School Success Specialists, and other interns to support the educational needs of newly arrived youth. This internship provides an opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with refugee populations and to learn about the refugee experience as it pertains to education and English language development.

## Responsibilities

- Assist in organizing and facilitating after-school tutoring and academic support programming to refugee youth, focusing on areas such as English language skills, math, and other subjects as needed.
- Track and document all activities related to youth education and tutoring in the appropriate internal database system.
- Upload and maintain client documents in the internal databases, ensuring accuracy and confidentiality.
- Assist in the enrollment of newly arrived youth in the U.S. school system by collecting and organizing necessary documents such as medical records and school records.
- Complete and submit all trainings and professional development by deadline, as assigned.
- Uphold and promote policies and practices necessary to create a linguistically supportive, culturally responsive, trauma-informed learning environment.
- Uphold all IRC and program and child safeguarding policies and directives.
- Work and communicate with IRC staff and volunteers as needed.
- Complete assigned surveys and data tracking tasks, as assigned. Complete and submit a weekly timesheet on Salesforce platform to track and codify IRC volunteer hours.
- Additional related duties as assigned.



# INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

## SPRING '24

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS INTERNSHIP

- LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH & ANALYSIS
- TRACKING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY
- CONTRIBUTE TO FIRM'S MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS DESIGNATED BY SUPERVISOR

Duane Morris Government Strategies (DMGS) is a national, full-service, bipartisan government relations firm. DMGS professionals are experts of governments' legislative & administrative processes, public policy, & grassroots lobbying initiatives and have years of experience monitoring, drafting, amending, passing, & stopping legislation, public relations & crisis management, coalition building, development finance consulting, grant identification and writing, and procurement.

[www.DMGS.com](http://www.DMGS.com)

### JOIN OUR TEAM

Send Your Resume and  
Cover Letter To  
[rdemara@dmgs.com](mailto:rdemara@dmgs.com)

Deadline for Application is  
**October 31st, 2023**



**DUANE MORRIS**  
GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE 2024 SESSION

**INTRODUCTION:** NYPIRG's Donald K. Ross Future Leaders Program Internship begins Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> and the entire program is based in Albany. The program is full time and interns are required to make a commitment of forty hours a week to the program. Students must arrange for college credit to participate in the program. The program is directed by NYPIRG's Executive Director and the General Counsel. Stipends are available for each intern selected for the program.

**PROGRAM:** Interns will be chosen for the program through a competitive selection process based on several criteria, including academic preparation and achievement, NYPIRG experience, and a personal interview. Applicants need not have previous NYPIRG experience. Intern training will begin with an intensive eight-day orientation on the state legislative process and on NYPIRG's issues. Individual conferences and group meetings will be conducted regularly to clarify goals and objectives. Each intern must research and track one or two policy issue areas as their primary responsibility and also will be assigned a broad issue area in which to track relevant legislation and legislative activity.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Assigned issue areas attempt to take into account students' experience, abilities and interests. Each assignment will entail a variety of responsibilities. Duties typically include:

- Researching pending or proposed legislation
- Meeting with legislators and their staffs
- Tracking legislation in committees and on the floor
- Writing bill memoranda
- Drafting and researching reports, surveys and newsletter articles
- Building coalitions among other interest and community groups
- Consulting with NYPIRG staff to gain technical and legal assistance
- Providing legislative updates for NYPIRG campus chapters
- Holding speaking engagements on issue areas of expertise

**EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT:** Workshops, seminars, discussion groups, and reading and writing assignments are provided throughout the program. They feature NYPIRG legislative and issue experts, as well as legislators and their aides, and leaders of other public interest groups. Workshop topics include the following and more: Overview of NYPIRG's Legislative Agenda; Public Interest Lobbies; Structure and Function of the State Legislature; How a Bill Becomes a



Law; Mass Media in New York State; the Politics of New York State; Time Planning; Legal Research; Public Speaking; Conducting Effective Advocacy Meetings; and Coalition Building.

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** The interns must arrange for academic credit for the internship. Interns are responsible for securing this credit themselves, via independent study or the equivalent.

**REQUIRED READING:** Readings from this list will be assigned to give each intern a broad perspective on the state legislative process and current issues. Interns will be required to supplement this list by following newspapers, public affairs shows, and social media outlets.

1. Stonecash, et al: Governing New York State
2. Calicehia & Sadowski, The Legislative Process in New York State, Chapter One in The Lobbying Handbook: A Guide to Effective Lobbying in New York State,
3. Kingdon, Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policy
4. Stone, The Policy Paradox
5. McDonough, Experiencing Politics
6. Ward: New York State Government: What It Does, How It Works
7. Rosenthal, Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature
8. Machiavelli, The Prince
9. Caro, The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York
10. NYPIRG: Legislative Internship Resource Manual

**DONALD K. ROSS FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM:** Is named after NYPIRG's first Executive Director, Donald. K. Ross. Donald teamed up with consumer advocate Ralph Nader to develop the idea that ultimately led to the establishment of Public Interest Research Groups across the nation. Their ideas, contained in the book Action For A Change, offered a blueprint for PIRGs. PIRGs have now spread across the nation with PIRGs in roughly half of the states. Donald moved on to become NYPIRG's first director in 1973. He left a decade later and was involved in the creation of other civic organizations across the nation. His work of establishing organizations that offer young people the opportunity to receive training and experience to influence public policy lives on through this program.

**EVALUATIONS:** Overall intern performance is assessed by the Executive Director and the General Counsel. The campus faculty advisor(s) will receive a final evaluation that summarizes the quality of each intern's performance in all areas of the internship, including academic and written.

The internship begins on January 8th, 2024. The internship runs concurrent with the legislative calendar and ends at the end of the academic semester. Applications are due October 27th, 2023 and can be submitted on-line at [civicinternships@nypirg.org](mailto:civicinternships@nypirg.org).



**CALLING ALL STUDENTS  
INTERESTED IN POLITICS  
AND ELECTIONS!**

## **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

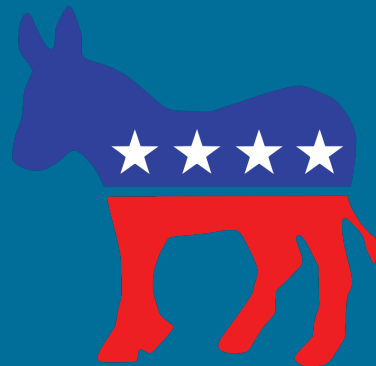
**FROM THE NEW YORK DEMOCRATS AT SUNY NEW PALTZ**

**Looking for students who:**

- Want to be part of a long-term organizing effort**
- Have social media content development experience**
- Enjoy talking and interacting with others**

**Expect to:**

- Develop social media content**
- Interact with student voting groups**
- Activate the campus to get out and vote!**



**Program lasts through 2024**

**For more info, contact Tristan Telesfort (845)282-9450 10**





### Amnesty Hudson Valley Youth Leader and Campus Liaison position

Amnesty International USA Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter is looking for a Chapter Support Youth Leader Volunteer. The candidates should have

- strong interest in human rights
- strong writing and research skills
- be well versed in social media
- competent in designing materials for outreach.
- competent in Excel and Outlook Office 365 email system

The Youth Leader has the opportunity to

- attend monthly meetings (every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in New Paltz Village Hall) and get to know local human rights advocates in the Hudson Valley
- help organize, run and attend chapter events, giving an opportunity to learn about current global and local human rights issues like immigration, criminal justice, gun violence among others
- help organize and participate in advocacy visits to congressional and state elected representative offices; learn about policy issues related to advocacy work
- keep the local chapter social media up to date and active
- help with current campaigns; potential for leadership opportunities to take up new issues of interest by the chapter
- act as a liaison to the students on campus
- make connections with local, national and global human rights advocates and experts

Interested students should contact Diana Zuckerman [dianazuck@yahoo.com](mailto:dianazuck@yahoo.com) or text (845)389-3779

# **CONGRESSMAN PAT RYAN (NY-18) SPRING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM JANUARY - MAY 2024**

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**THIS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN AND SERVE THROUGH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. THE PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE TOOLS, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE NEEDED TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY. IT WILL BE BASED AT OUR DISTRICT OFFICE IN NEWBURGH, NY. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 17TH.**

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- RESEARCHING AND WRITING CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE**
- HELPING CONSTITUENTS FIND INFORMATION**
- FIELDING CONSTITUENT PHONE CALLS**
- EVENT COORDINATION AND PREPARATION**

**QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO  
DESTINY HALLENBECK AT  
DESTINY.HALLENBECK@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV**

**PRIOR OFFICE EXPERIENCE  
IS PREFERRED, BUT NOT  
REQUIRED**

## **INTERNS WILL:**

- MEET AND INTERACT WITH CONSTITUENTS AS WELL AS COMMUNITY LEADERS AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS**
- WORK CLOSELY WITH STAFF MEMBERS AND ASSIST IN VARIOUS PROJECTS (MAY REQUIRE WEEKEND AVAILABILITY)**

**[Application Here](#)**



**Join us for the  
Political Science and  
International Relations**

*End of the Year  
Party*

**Where: JFT1010**

**When: December 12th  
4:00 PM**

**Food and Drinks will be  
provided!**

# Spring 2024

## Schedule of Classes

**Political Science:**

**Click here for list of classes**

**International Relations:**

- **Click here for list of classes**



## PSIR Faculty Office Hours-Fall 2023

**Welcome to the Department of Political Science and International Relations!**

PROFESSOR	PHONE/EMAIL	DAYS	TIMES	OFFICE
Jonathan Schwartz-Chair	845 257 2627 schwartzj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Tuesdays	11am-1pm 9am-11am Or by appointment	JFT 816
Kathleen Dowley	845 257 3558 dowleyk@newpaltz.edu	Wednesdays  Tuesdays Fridays	10am-12pm  10:45am-11:45am 10:45am-11:45am	SCB 133  JFT 514 JFT 514
Nancy Kassop	845 257 3544 kassopn@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays	10am-12pm 9am-11am and by appointment/Webex	FOB W8
Joel Lefkowitz	845 257 3792 lefkowij@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays and by appointment	3:30-4:30pm 12:30-3:30pm 3:30-4:30pm	FOB W6
Daniel Lipson	845 257 3543 lipsond@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	10am-12pm 12-2pm	SCB 135
Jeff Miller	845 257 3934 millerj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays	3:30-4:30pm 2-3pm 3:30-4:30pm	JFT 920
Scott Minkoff	845 257 3541 minkoffs@newpaltz.edu		On Leave	
S. Ilgu Ozler	845 257 2635 ozleri@newpaltz.edu	Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays and by appointment	3:30-5:30pm 9-10am in-person NYC 9-10am in-person NYC	SCB 134 NYC NYC
Stephen Pampinella	845 257 3549 pampines@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays	4-5pm 9:30-10:30am and 1-2pm	JFT 522
Eric Bein*	beine@newpaltz.edu		Email for Appointment	
Tassiana Moura de Oliveira*	mouradet@newpaltz.edu	Fridays	12:30pm-1:30pm and by appointment	SCB 132
Deborah Robbins*	robbinsd@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	2:30-3:30pm 4:45-5:45pm	SCB 132

The Administrative Assistant, Jen Freer can be reached via email at [freerj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:freerj@newpaltz.edu)