

# Political Science & International Relations

March 2024

Greetings all,

Welcome to the mid-semester newsletter. Now that mid-terms are over, you can begin to think about the end of the academic year and your plans for the summer and next fall. This newsletter provides you with information that should help you with your planning.

In addition to our regular features, we include here information on PSIR-related scholarships for which you might wish to apply. We also offer information on our summer and fall schedules. Note that both professors Miller and Pampinella will be on Sabbatical in the fall and so courses you might normally take with them will not be offered. However, there will be alternatives that ensure your timely progress towards graduation.

That said, before he departs prof. Pampinella will be offering one section of Introduction to International Politics and one section of American Foreign Policy over the summer. American Foreign Policy fulfills the IR foreign policy requirement. Not interested in summer courses? The foreign policy requirement is also met by taking Chinese Foreign Policy which is offered in the fall.

If you plan to take the Comparative Politics seminar in the fall, you must first obtain approval by emailing Jennifer Freer ([freerj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:freerj@newpaltz.edu)). Do this soon. Remember, all majors can register for this seminar. The seminar is thematic, enabling you to engage the course material from the perspective of your concentration (IR, Comparative, Theory, American, Law).

In addition, note that the fall schedule lists Nationalism in World Politics. This course will be replaced by an alternative upper division IR course once we have hired an instructor. Stay tuned.

Students seeking to complete their theory requirement in fall 2024 can take one of the following courses:

POL331 American Political Thought  
HIS 407 Intellectual History of 19th Century Europe  
PHI 270 Philosophy and the American Founding  
PHI 211 Ancient Greek Philosophy  
ENG 423 Contemporary Literary Theory

Finally, in order to register for classes, you must first obtain clearance from your academic advisor. I recommend scheduling an early visit so that you are cleared and ready to register as soon as your registration window opens around mid-April.

As ever, if you have suggestions for how to improve the newsletter, please do share them.

Wishing you all a smooth second half of the spring semester.

Jonathan Schwartz  
Chair, PSIR  
[schwartj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:schwartj@newpaltz.edu)



## SPRING 2024 Important Dates

**March 20**  
Diplomat-in-Residence

**March 21**  
Dr. Seth Masket Lecture

**March 25-29**  
Spring Break

**March 31**  
Last day to withdraw  
from courses

**April 1**  
Study Abroad deadline  
for Fall semester and  
Academic Year

**April 4**  
Scholarship applications  
close

**April 8**  
Summer and Fall 2024  
Registration Opens

**April 23**  
Passover - No Classes

**May 7**  
Last day for S/U option

**May 7**  
Last day of classes

**May 13-17**  
**FINAL EXAMS**

The PSIR Club will be holding a series of events throughout the semester. To stay informed, follow @newpaltz.psira on Instagram.

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# Meet Dr. Nancy Kassop

Interview by Sadie Leia Watkins

Dr. Nancy Kassop is a professor in the Political Science and International Relations Department. Her time at New Paltz has been the first and only full-time teaching job she has ever had. Kassop graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Political Science with a concentration in constitutional law. She then attended New York University where she obtained her master's and Ph.D in Politics, with an emphasis on constitutional law and the American presidency. Dr. Kassop's interest in politics goes back to when she was in college. It was during the time of the Vietnam War and the presidency of Richard Nixon – a time when college students held strong political opinions. She observed the way that Nixon attempted to increase his powers as president and usurp the powers of Congress. She then pursued the track of attending a graduate program in political science.

Dr. Kassop has two main research areas that she enjoys diving into – the American presidency & law and courts. More recently, she has been researching the relationship between the White House and the Department of Justice. She became interested in this topic, due to two projects, based in Washington and at the University of Virginia, where she is part of teams of scholars who interview former high-level executive branch officials. This led her to examine specifically the office of the White House counsel. The counsel's job is to provide legal advice to the president. The

position is often described, mistakenly, as "the president's lawyer," but the counsel's responsibility is actually to protect the office of the president, rather than the person holding that office.

Right now, Dr. Kassop is teaching courses on the American presidency and the American court system, both of which she extremely enjoys. She also enjoys teaching the survey course in American government. She says, "The American government classes are where I meet students at the very beginning of their college careers." She sees the class as an opportunity to introduce the major to those who become Political Science majors. The content with all of the classes she teaches is always changing. To keep up with current events, she typically will assign brief writing assignments that will usually require reading some articles or listening to a podcast. She also asks students to regularly read a news publication to keep up to date with recent events.

The professors she had, both in her undergraduate and graduate studies, left a significant mark on her life. The respect and admiration she has for her former professors is what made her want to teach. She says, "If I can be half of what they were, and have half of the impact on my students that they had on me..." Dr. Kassop hopes to leave the same impression on her students that her professors had on her.





# ALUMNI INTERVIEW

## *Class of '73*

By Sadie Leia Watkins



A long-time supporter of the Political Science and International Relations department here at New Paltz, Howard Goldblatt graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Following that, he attended New York University and obtained a master's in Politics. During his time at New Paltz, he volunteered with the Theater department building and painting sets and later joined the New Paltz Players, a club that was affiliated with the Theater department. He was a part of multiple committees, including the Political Science department's committee for hiring new faculty. This was a committee that allowed student members to sit in on discussions and interviews of prospective professors.

After obtaining his master's, he spent a semester as an adjunct professor at Kingsborough Community College, where he drew on his New Paltz experience to teach his classes. He then moved to Washington D.C. where he first worked as an unpaid staffer to a congressman, which would lead him to work for three different members of

the House of Representatives until 1986. Then, he had a 25-year career as Director of Government Affairs for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, where he worked with state legislators to push for stronger regulations on insurance issues. Since retirement, he has been volunteering with the National Parks Service.

Howard Goldblatt makes a generous annual contribution to the Political Science and International Relations department to support the Washington D.C. trip. He makes these contributions because he attributes his successes throughout his entire career to what he learned at SUNY New Paltz. He wants to give current students the kinds of opportunities that he had.

Howard has also created a fully endowed public policy scholarship to help political science students. This is another way he is giving back to SUNY New Paltz.

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!



**FOLLOW THIS LINK**

**[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/45N7TBFZ](https://tinyurl.com/45N7TBFZ)**

**SIGN-IN TO YOUR  
NEW PALTZ ACCOUNT**

**START APPLYING!**

**MANY OF THE APPLICATIONS  
FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL  
YEAR CLOSE APRIL 8TH**



# Interested in a career at the ★★ State Department? ★★



Meet Kyla Brooke, the NY Metro  
Diplomat-in-Residence!

**Join Kyla this Wednesday, March  
20th in LC109 at 4pm to learn  
more about State Department  
student opportunities!**



**2024 GARY KING**  
**VISITING LECTURER**  
**APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH**

**THE BENJAMIN CENTER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PRESENT**

# **STILL TRUMP'S PARTY: HOW LOCAL REPUBLICAN LEADERS MADE UP THEIR MINDS IN THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION**



## **DR. SETH MASKET**

**PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL  
 SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER DIRECTOR,  
 CENTER ON AMERICAN POLITICS**

From the very beginning of primary and caucus season, the outcome was clear: the Republican Party had already decided on Donald Trump.

This is a substantial departure from history — no major party has renominated a losing presidential aspirant since 1968, and none has renominated a former president since 1892.

How did we get here?

Dr. Masket began surveying county chairs nearly one year ago in an effort to track the so-called “invisible primary” of the 2024 campaign — the crucial coordination and jockeying that occurs before anyone starts voting or caucusing, but which will do much to determine the eventual winner. County chairs are figures who play a key role in shaping the race. Using data collected through this survey, Dr. Masket explores the Republican

grassroots during the 2020-24 presidential nomination cycle. His work demonstrates that the informal rules that govern the party have changed dramatically over the past decade, and that a populist and nativist faction that was powerful among the grassroots for decades but often shunned by party elites eventually seized control of the party and imposed its new rules. These rules shun concepts like electability, forbearance, and conceding lost elections, and instead advance candidates and policies they like regardless of external consequences.

Dr. Masket's talk will examine the impact those rule changes have had on party decision-making, campaigning—including the role that the various 2023 criminal indictments against Trump played in helping his nomination campaign—governing and American democracy.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21 | 5:00–6:30 p.m.**  
**SCIENCE HALL, ROOM 181 • SUNY NEW PALTZ**



# TURNUP Youth Activism Remote Internship

## What is TurnUp?

TurnUp Activism is a progressive non-profit organization dedicated to making the world more **just, fair, and equitable** for all by increasing youth activism and civic engagement to **strengthen our democracy**.

## About the Internship

Interns work in remote teams of mission-driven young people from all around the country to help amplify **youth civic engagement** and participate in **activism on many progressive/social justice issues** including climate change, racial justice, reproductive rights, ending gun violence, and combating voter suppression.

## Internship Structure

- Fully **remote** with optional in person activities
- Rolling admission - **start and end any time!**
- High school, college, and graduate students can apply
- Flexible time commitment - **you choose between 5-30 hours/week**
- Hours can count towards **community service or school credit**
- Learn from **world-renowned** speakers from a variety of fields

## Skills Developed

- Communication
- Professionalism
- Critical thinking and writing
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Public speaking
- Grassroots organizing

### Benefits



Earn valuable letters of recommendation



Bolster your resume



Be eligible to win prizes and awards



Widen your networking scope

### Curriculum



Grassroots Activism



Voter Registration and Turnout Projects



Research activism, Civics, and Social Justice Issues



Writing and Reflection

## Apply Here!

<https://bit.ly/2023TurnUpInternship>



JOIN OUR INTERNSHIP  
AND BECOME A FORCE  
FOR CHANGE!





**BEST**  
GRAD SCHOOLS& WORLD REPORT  
**U.S. News**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
2023

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY



### GRADUATE DEGREES

- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of International Affairs (MIA)
- MA in Political Science
- Graduate Certificates
- BA/MIA Combined Degree

### DEADLINES

- Spring: December 1
- Fall: February 1 (funding consideration)
- Fall: July 1
  - Contact us at [rockadmissions@albany.edu](mailto:rockadmissions@albany.edu)

### BA/MIA COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM

Diplomacy & Global Governance | Global & Homeland Security | Global Public Management | International Development

- Begin graduate coursework during your senior year at New Paltz
- Accelerate the Master's program by one semester
- Pay undergraduate tuition rate for Master's courses (about half the cost)
- **Fall Deadline: May 15**, Spring Deadline: December 1



ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY | STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK







WANT TO BUILD TRAILS  
THIS SUMMER?

# JOIN THE RCSC

Rockland Conservation & Service Corps

# TRAIL CREW

Bear Mountain State Park trails were severely damaged by a devastating storm in 2023.

Earn money and gain experience repairing them!



### Career Insight

Learn about  
opportunities in the  
environmental field.



### Stipend for expenses

We provide a stipend  
of \$3,500 into  
biweekly payments.



### Education Award

We provide a  
scholarship of \$1,459.26  
once the program ends.



Scan QR code to apply!

APPLY NOW





# More about the Trail Crew



**FULLTIME, 350 HOUR COMMITMENT**  
**END OF MAY UNTIL MID AUGUST**



**EXCELLENT TRAINING PROVIDED BY**  
**NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE**  
*As well as from Palisades Interstate Park Commission and  
Rockland Conservation & Service Corps*



**PLACEMENT AT BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**  
*Repair and restore these iconic, premiere sections of the  
Appalachian Trail and Suffern Bear Mountain Trail for public use!*



**APPLY NOW**



**Scan QR code to apply!**

**rcsc@co.rockland.ny.us**



**@rcconservation**

**845-364-2937**

For More information about other paid and volunteer  
trail building opportunities, visit New York- New Jersey Trail Conference at  
[www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org).



# ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Applications are now being accepted for Fall admission to the **Master of Arts (MA) program in Government and Politics** at St. John's University.

This flexible 33-credit program offers major and minor concentrations in: American Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and Public Administration.

Advanced Certificates are also offered in Public Administration and in International Law and Diplomacy.

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Government and Politics at St. John's combines rigorous academic study with the opportunity to develop valuable practical skills that are highly attractive to a wide array of employers across the public and private sectors. You'll benefit from our small class sizes, individual attention from our distinguished faculty, and the flexibility to develop breadth and depth in the field of government and politics.

Our extensive New York City alumni network and contacts offer excellent internship opportunities as well as career information.

Classes meet one evening a week, serving the needs of both full-time and part-time students.

For more information, visit our website at:

<https://www.stjohns.edu/academics/programs/government-and-politics-master-arts>

And, we're happy to talk! Don't hesitate to contact our Graduate Program Director:

William F. Byrne, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Government and Politics

St. John's University

[byrnew@stjohns.edu](mailto:byrnew@stjohns.edu)





Universiteit  
Leiden

The Summer School 'European Union, the United Nations and Global Governance' (The Hague, June 10-14, 2024) offers a series of lectures and seminars familiarizing students with the inner workings of these two institutions and interactions between them. It allows for an interactive format with lecturers and includes several visits to institutions relevant to the Summer School's overarching theme in The Hague. The Summer School focuses on Master-level and PhD students, to allow for advanced exchanges and engaged interaction between students and teachers. In exceptional cases, it accepts Bachelor-level students with excellent academic track records. The Summer School offers engaging lectures on salient topics related to European integration and the work of the United Nations, including international peace and stability, economic and financial cooperation, the role of the G20 in global affairs, global security governance, relations between the EU and the United States, European fiscal and monetary policies, climate protection and energy. Students also visit core institutions in The Hague, such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). As this is an advanced Summer School targeted at graduate-level students, there will be active exchanges between participants and lecturers as well as among the participants themselves. Upon successful completion of the Summer School, participants receive a certificate acknowledging their participation.

**Application due: 05/06/2024**

**Click [HERE](#) for  
more information**



WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL  
DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY

## Summer Diplomacy Academy July 8th-30th, 2024, Washington D.C.

In person & Online

Application due March 31st, 2024

The Washington International Diplomatic Academy's summer course is a unique practical professional training program that introduces undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates, to careers in international diplomacy by allowing them to learn from and work with career ambassadors with decades of experience.

The program covers the fundamentals of diplomatic practice and focuses on real-world aspects of work in embassies, consulates, government agencies, international organizations and global NGOs. The instructors are professional diplomats who have served in dozens of countries around the world. They teach the skills they learned by practicing diplomacy and managing international relations, with simulation exercises and case studies derived from their own careers. They offer insight into policy-making and implementation, diplomatic protocol, the functions and management of embassies and consulates, diplomatic reporting and writing, negotiation and mediation, political and economic tradecraft, public diplomacy, cross-cultural communication and other competencies.

Reference Professor Dowley in response to the question "How did you learn about this program?" on the application form!



Scan this QR code to more  
information and to apply!





**Summer and Fall 2024  
classes are now available!**

**Start your planning NOW!**

**Summer courses:**

Political  
Science

International  
Relations

**Fall courses:**

Political  
Science

International  
Relations



## PSIR Faculty Office Hours-Spring 2024

**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 Thursdays and by appointment	10:00am-12:00pm 9:00am-11:00am	JFT 816
Kathleen Dowley	845 257 3558 dowleyk@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays	3:15pm-4:15pm 10:00am-12:00pm	JFT 514 SCB 133
Nancy Kassop	845 257 3544 kassopn@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays and by appointment	10:00am-12:00pm 9:00am-11:00am	FOB W8
Joel Lefkowitz	845 257 3792 lefkowij@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays	5:00pm-6:30pm 5:00pm-6:30pm 5:00pm-6:00pm and by appointment	FOB W6
Daniel Lipson	845 257 3543 lipsond@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays and by appointment	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm-2:00pm	SCB 135
Jeff Miller	845 257 3934 millerj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays and by appointment	3:30pm-4:30pm 11:00am-12:00pm 3:30pm-4:30pm	JFT 920
Scott Minkoff	845 257 3541 minkoffs@newpaltz.edu		On Leave	
S. Ilgu Ozler	845 257 2635 ozleri@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays	11:00am-3:00pm	SCB 134
Stephen Pampinella	845 257 3549 pampines@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	2:00pm-4:00pm 9:30am-10:30am	JFT 522
Eric Bein*	beine@newpaltz.edu	virtual	Email for Appointment	
Tassiana Moura de Oliveira*	mouradet@newpaltz.edu	virtual	Email for Appointment	

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