

Political Science and International Relations



Winter 2021 Newsletter

Spring 2021 Dates

January 25

**Campus Observation
of Martin Luther King
Day**

January 26

**“Insurrection, Impeachment,
and Inauguration panel, 4:30
via WebEx**

January 19-25

Add/Drop Period

February 1

**First Day of In Person
Instruction**

February 2-March 29

Course Withdrawal Period

February 23

**Mind, Body, Spirit Day
No Classes**

March 1

Last Day to Submit work for an “I”

March 8

Midpoint of the semester

**On Campus Covid Testing:
Awosting Hall Basement**

Tuesday, Jan. 26: 11 a.m. – 4

Wednesday, Jan. 27: 11 a.m. – 4

Thursday, Jan. 28: 11 a.m. – 4

**Friday, Jan. 29: Enzo Testing
(appointment only – [sign up here](#))**

Welcome back, even if only remotely these first few weeks. And welcome to New Paltz, if you are new transfer student. New Year, new administration, but some of the same concerns as last term regarding COVID safety on campus and beyond. I hope you all managed the winter break safely and as well as can be expected under these stressful circumstances. This newsletter includes some announcements about upcoming events, info sessions, latest news, and reminders about upcoming dates/deadlines of importance.

If you have any questions about the PSIR Department, please feel free to email me and we can set up a zoom session to talk about your program of study and any concerns you have in trying to plan your next moves.
dowleyk@newpaltz.edu.

[Kathleen Dowley, Associate Professor and Chair, PSIR](#)

Learn More About OUR GEP Program In New York For Fall 2021

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



GENERAL INTEREST MEETING

The SUNY Global Engagement Program (GEP) provides students with the opportunity to spend a semester immersed in international affairs in the world's most important global city.

**When: February 10th
11am - 12pm**

**Where:
<https://bit.ly/2KJZiZ4>**

newpaltz.edu/gep
gep@newpaltz.edu



For more information, please contact Professor Özler at:
ozleri@newpaltz.edu or gep@newpaltz.edu

[Opportunity to Participate In U.N. Semester Briefings on Fridays](#)

Due to the pandemic, the UN is not allowing the Friday in-person briefings in NYC that were a regular feature of our spring UN Semester class. Briefings are now being held remotely, via webex, on Fridays between 10-12:15. This is actually an opportunity for students who are not enrolled in the class to view the briefings, by joining the class via the links below. The schedule of briefings for the next two months are listed below. If you have interest in any of the topics, please join Professor Ozler and her class!

(January 29) Secretary General Briefing

10:00-11:00–Richard Amdur, Chief Speechwriter and Communications Director to the UN Secretary General

11:15-12:15 Security Council Nikolay Galkin, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Political and Peacekeeping affairs

Socio-Economic Development (February 5)

10:00-11:00 – United Nations Development Program, TBD

11:15-12:15 Economic and Social Development Julian Slotman, Associate Economics Officer, Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, one of the authors for World Economic Situation Prospects

Sustainable Development Goals (February 12)

10-11:00 Sustainable Development Goals TBD

11:15-12:15 Masooma Rahmaty, Program Officer, Sustainable Development Goals International Peace Institute, New Paltz alumnus

(February 19) Mexico

10:00-11:00 Bruce Knotts Director Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the UN (NGOs work at on SDGs, Climate Change and human rights at the UN)

11:15-12-15 Mexico, Sylvia Paola Mendoza, Second Secretary in charge of SDGs, and Tonie Jáquez Huacuja, First Secretary in charge of Political Affairs, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN

February 26 Climate Change

10-11 UNEP, Satwant Kaur, Communications Officer, UN Environment Program Asia Pacific Office

11:15 Fiji, Agnes Harm, Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations (on: Climate Change)

Meeting Link

United Nations Semester Class Briefings

Hosted by Serife Ozler

<https://newpaltz.webex.com/newpaltz/j.php?MTID=m5221cbf27954abffb5fd1142ec7690c1>

Friday, Jan 22, 2021 10:00 am | 3 hours | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Occurs every Friday effective 1/22/2021 until 4/30/2021 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 178 588 0757

Password: UN2021



INSURRECTION, IMPEACHMENT, & INAUGURATION

A Faculty Panel Discussion of Upheaval in Washington

☆☆☆ Panelists ☆☆☆



Mona Ali
Associate Professor
(Economics)



Lou Roper
Distinguished Professor
(History)



Nancy Kassop
Professor
(Political Science)



Gerald Benjamin
Professor Emeritus
(Political Science),
Founder of the
Benjamin Center



Daniel Lipson
Associate Professor
(Political Science)



Stephen Pampinella
Assistant Professor
(Political Science)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26
4:30 PM
Via WebEx

Panelists are experts in fields ranging from the early American Republic, the American Presidency, constitutional law, federalism, the relationship between imperial governance and racism, insurgency, international relations, foreign policy, and political economy.

Please join us for this important discussion, moderated by **Kathleen Dowley**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science & International Relations, and **kt Tobin**, Director, The Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives.

SPONSORED BY: the Department of Political Science & International Relations, Department of History, Department of Economics, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives.



To Join: <https://newpaltz.webex.com/newpaltz/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2e559ffeaafb1a3a2a2b0fe41d828778e>

Password: Impeachment

WHY WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN FEDERALISM FROM THE BOTTOM UP

OpEd by Professor Scott Minkoff and Professor Emeritus Gerald Benjamin
(From **Governing.Com: The Future of States and Localities**)



“Before you join those who are loudly condemning our American federal system as undemocratic, consider what the last few months would have looked like if the president appointed governors, or a national agency under the auspices of the president was responsible for running American elections, or if states did not control their own budgets.

The regional autonomy assured by the federal system is among the key reasons that the country has thus far been able to weather an extraordinary national governance crisis — a crisis that was decades in the making but accelerated by Donald Trump's assault on liberal

democracy and the predations of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ability of state leaders to challenge the practices and policies of the Trump administration and proceed with a degree of autonomy showed again and again that distributed power remains critical for maintaining American democracy.

But all is not well in the states. Many, often the most populous, lack the capacity to properly address challenges across a range of policy areas, including infrastructure, education and public health. Needed aid has not been forthcoming from the federal government, whose politics are dominated by less-populous states. Simultaneously, state politics have become deeply polarized and nationalized, too often with leaders prioritizing partisan affiliations and ties to national political actors over the actual needs of their states' residents.

In a recent *Governing* column, Don F. Kettl made some important suggestions for how the Biden administration can effectively work with states and local governments to improve the functioning of federalism. These suggestions are top-down; they are about what Washington can and should do. A more healthy federalism for America will also require bottom-up reform, with two objectives: improving policy outcomes for states and reinforcing the capacity of states and local governments to serve as a bulwark against future attacks on American democracy.

Bottom-up improvements must start with state and local governments doubling down on democratic reform. Election laws and systems must be upgraded to further ease and expand participation, provide for timely vote counting, and allow for secure voting under a variety of crisis conditions. There must be fair redistricting systems both to more fully realize democracy and to build the public's confidence in their representatives. Alternative voting systems, especially ones that might moderate polarization such as [ranked-choice/instant-runoff voting](#), also ought to be considered.

Second, states and localities should find ways to build more nonpartisan structures into governing institutions. Especially in states where a single party controls government and is likely to continue to do so, minority party adherents must not become disaffected from their government. Regulatory processes, performance oversight, fiscal management, state constitutional reform (with renewed attention to local home rule to further empower local majorities) and fair redistricting (again) are key potential targets for inclusive reform.

Third, state and local governments should be more careful about protecting their resource bases and take a hard look at the fairness of the demographic and geographic distribution of their spending. (for the rest, go to <https://www.governing.com/now/Why-We-Need-to-Strengthen-Federalism-from-the-Bottom-Up.html>).

Spring 2021 Political Science Faculty Contact Information

**FACULTY OFFICE HOURS WILL BE HELD REMOTELY FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEMESTER
PLEASE REACH OUT TO FACULTY VIA EMAIL IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THEM**

PROFESSOR	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Eric Bein	beine@newpaltz.edu

INVITATION TO JOIN NEW PALTZ COLLEGE DEMOCRATS:

"The SUNY New Paltz College Democrats are back. This semester we're going to meet online to watch movies, play political trivia, register voters, and call local politicians about issues like climate change and racial justice. To learn more follow us on Instagram and Twitter (@npcollegedems for both) or email us at npyoungdems@gmail.com. Thank you and have a great semester!" (from PSIR student Daniel Atonna).