

COMMUNIQUÉ

Political Campaign Internships: Not Exactly Like Life on “The West Wing”

By: Alixandra Hallen, WCAS '11

I am a political junkie, and so, when I was given the opportunity to work on a prominent Illinois politician’s campaign as my internship for Chicago Field Studies, I jumped at the chance. The pinnacle experience for most political nerds is to be involved in a campaign similar to what is depicted on the NBC show “The West Wing.” It is fast paced and exciting, often times involving long nights and lots of take-out Chinese food. This, however, is not what my campaign experience was like. Although I gained valuable experience, I learned that campaigns involve nitty-gritty, tedious work in order keep going day by day and to successfully help your candidate win the election.

The most exhausting work was checking petitions for fraudulent signatures. In order to get on the ballot, a candidate must get a certain number of signatures from constituents. Then these signatures must be submitted with a petition to get on the ballot and a judge must certify this. An opposing

candidate may challenge the truthfulness of a candidate’s signatures in court, therefore campaign workers often take on the process of verifying signatures against official records in order to strike from the official petition any fraudulent looking signatures. This project took me almost two weeks to complete. I was frustrated because I felt as though I wasn’t making a meaningful contribution to the campaign and had wasted two weeks of my life. At one point when I was feeling particularly low and discouraged, I was reassured by a campaign staff member that this work was essential to the campaign and that it had to be done quickly and efficiently. After I spent time with the campaign lawyer, helping to count and put the signatures into their final packet for the judge, I realized that what I did to help the campaign was invaluable. Without these signatures, our candidate would not have gotten on the ballot.

At first, I was disappointed because I wanted my campaign experience to be like the movies or TV, but in the end, I found my experience to be rewarding and satisfying. I enjoyed learning about what goes into the running of a successful campaign. Participating in the campaign was one of the best experiences of my school career. I not only learned the ins and outs of the electoral process, but I realized that each and every one of us can and should be a part of the political process.



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MEET A PROFESSOR: *Professor Rachel Riedl*

By: *Stephanie Spies, Co-Editor, WCAS '11*

Although Rachel Riedl is a new addition to the Political Science department this fall, she is not new to the Midwest. A Wisconsin native with a PhD from Princeton and postdoctoral research experience at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame and the Princeton Institute of International Regional Studies, she brings a refreshing new view on democratization and comparative politics to Northwestern.

Besides for her desire to return “home to the Midwest”, Riedl says she chose to come to Northwestern for the strength of its political science department, and in particular her colleagues’ expertise in comparative politics and African studies. Her academic specialty deals with democratic transitions and the way that insti-

tutions develop in new democracies, particularly in Africa, making Northwestern’s departmental strengths extremely conducive to her research interests.

Not only does Riedl have extensive experience in academics, but she also has dabbled in policy work, acting as a consultant for USAID and the World Bank on issues of local governance in Africa. This work allowed her to use her “empirical expertise to inform policy studies”, making her a great resource for students who are interested in careers with NGOs or policy after college. Additionally, Riedl is currently working on a book manuscript that evaluates the ways democratic institutions like party systems interact with states’ attempts to decentralize.

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

“...but she also has dabbled in policy work....making her a great resource for students who are interested in careers with NGOs or policy after college...”

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DUGS's World

By Andrew Roberts, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Hi. I'm the new Director of Undergraduate Studies. I've been at Northwestern for seven years which hopefully has given me enough experience with the undergraduate program to take on this job. I've also just published an advice book about college, so I'd be glad to talk with you about more than just the major. I may even find time in this column to feature some of this advice. But enough about me. The Communiqué is a student-run publication and the guiding force behind it is Stephanie Spies, who is continuing in her role from last year. I'm not sure how she gets it done along with her leadership on the debate team, but somehow she does. Stephanie is ably assisted by a new recruit, Blake Sotern, who is giving the design a major and much-needed overhaul. We plan to break in some new members of the team later in the year. On the information front, I would also like to introduce the faculty advisors for political science. Like many larger departments, we have a team of advisors who hold drop-in office hours for enrolling new majors, signing petitions to graduate, and general advising. These advisors are Victoria Defrancesco Soto, Laurel Harbridge, Jason Seawright, Jeffrey Winters (who doubles as director of the honors program), and myself. You can find our current office hours on the department website. We all look forward to your visits.

The department also plans to offer a number of events for undergraduates in addition to our regular lectures and talks. Already this quarter we have hosted an information session on grants and fellowships as well as our traditional election night discussion with Professor Janda. Keep an eye out for future luncheons featuring



Professor Roberts

talks aimed at undergraduates. As always in the department, there are new faces to look out for.

On the faculty side, we are welcoming a new political theorist, Jacqueline Stevens, and a new specialist on African politics, Rachel Riedl. Our administrative staff has changed considerably with Ann Kelchner taking over for Bonnie Gordon at the undergraduate desk (Bonnie is still around but now in accounting) and Kelly Schmader as the new program assistant. Say hi to them all and have a great year.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

NOVEMBER-

November 15 Winter Quarter registration begins

November 24 Thanksgiving Break begins at 6PM

November 25 Thanksgiving Day

November 29 WCAS Reading Week begins

DECEMBER-

December 6 Fall Quarter examinations begin

December 10 Fall Quarter examinations end

JANUARY-

January 3 Classes for Winter Quarter begin

January 7 Last day for late registration

Professor Rachel Riedl

(continued from page 2)

In her next book, she looks to examine “the ways in which international religion, including evangelical Christianity and Islam, influences domestic politics in Africa in its global reaches”. This issue is particularly salient in the context of current problems on the continent, she explains, as conflicts in Africa are generally ethnically and not religiously based.

Professor Riedl will be teaching a graduate course on democratization in the winter and Intro to Comparative Politics in the spring. In the future, Riedl also hopes to offer courses on local governance and democracy in the developing world, including potential classes on African politics. Be on the lookout for her classes starting in the spring!

Did you *know?*

Major Requirements...

16 courses total



Major Courses

- (3) of the following: 201, 220, 221, 230, 240, or 250
- (1) methods class: pick from 310, 311, 312, 315, and 316)
- (1) 395 research seminar
- (6) other 300-level classes

Related Courses

(5) classes in any of the following departments: Asian studies, African-American studies, anthropology, economics, gender studies, global health, history, Latin American and Caribbean studies, international studies, legal studies, philosophy, psychology and sociology. At least 3 must be at the 300 level. No more than one can be at the 100 level.

Minor Requirements...

6 courses total



- (2) of the following: 201, 220, 221, 230, 240, or 250
- (4) additional political science courses, at least 3 at the 300 level.

UPCOMING EVENTS

⇒ Celebrating the Great Tradition of Endowed Professorships!

Department of Political Science professor James Druckman will be honored in an investiture ceremony, along with Galen Bodenhausen and Jeffrey Ely.

Wednesday, December 8, 4 PM, Guild Lounge in Scott Hall

Professors from the Department of Psychology, Political Science, and Economics will receive their medallions and speak about an experience that was formative to their development as a scholar. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at 5pm.

Galen Bodenhausen

Lawyer Taylor Professorship

James Druckman

Payson S. Wild Chair in Political Science

Jeffrey Ely

Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Economics

Contact Information

Weinberg Office of Special Events

e-ure@northwestern.edu

847-467-3005 or visit: weinberg.northwestern.edu

⇒ Survey of Economically Successful Americans and the Common Good

November 2011

Ben Page, Larry Bartels (at Princeton), and a number of colleagues at Northwestern and elsewhere are undertaking a study of Economically Successful Americans and the Common Good. Beginning with a Pilot Study in the Chicago area, they are interviewing people in the top 1% and the top 1/10 of 1% of wealth-holding households, in order to learn about factors that influence economic success; successful people's civic engagement, charitable contributions, and philanthropic behavior; what they see as the most important problems facing the country, and how they should be addressed; and what their views are on many issues of the day, from education and Social Security to regulation, international trade, and tax policy.

⇒ Fullness and Dearth: Depth Experience and Democratic Life

Monday, November 22, 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM

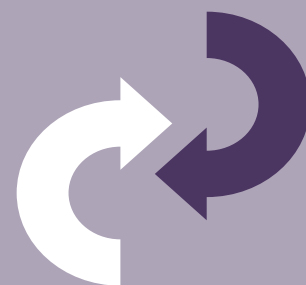
The Political Theory Colloquium presents: Stephen White, University of Virginia. "Fullness and Dearth: Depth Experience and Democratic Life." This event is sponsored by the Fulcher Fund. Co-sponsored by the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Department of Philosophy, and the Program in Rhetoric and Public Culture.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Winter Quarter Courses 2011

11/2/2010

For the most up to date listing, check Caesar online.

100 Freshman Seminars101-6-20 Utopia in History of Political Thought, **Christov** MW 2-3:20 LIB3322**200 Levels**201 Introduction to Political Theory, **Stevens** MW 2-3:20 TECHLR3220 American Government & Politics, **Sweet** TTh 3:30-4:50 FSK217230 Introduction to Law in the Political Arena, **Skogan** MWF 10-10:50 TECHAUD259 Contemporary African Politics, **Joseph** TTh 2-3:20 CLRKB01**300 Levels**302 Early Modern Political Thought, **Christov** MW 4-5:20 KRG4365312 Statistical Research Methods, **Seawright** TTh 12:30-1:50 ANNG15320 The Presidency, **Galvin** TTh 9:30-10:50 TECHAUD321 Community Political Processes, **Skogan** MW 3:30-4:50 TECHM166325 Congress and the Legislative Processes, **Harbridge** TTh 12:30-1:50 CLRKB03330 The Politics of Local Justice, **Iris** TTh 11-12:20 ANNG15341 International Political Economy, **Nelson** MW 2-3:20 TECHL211345 National Security, **Caverley** MW 3:30-4:50 TECHLR3353 Politics in Latin America, **Seawright** TTh 3:30-4:50 FSL1421354 Southeast Asian Politics, **Winters** TTh 12:30-1:50 UNV122370 The Fate of the State in a Globalizing World, **Hanson** TTh 9:30-10:50 PKS222**390 Special Topics**20 Middle East Politics, **Pearlman** TTh 2-3:20 ANNG1521 The Politics of Humanitarian Aid, **Rice** MW 12:30-2 CLRKB03**395 Political Research Seminars**20 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, **Pearlman** T 9-11:50 Scott 21221 Ideology in American Politics, **Chong** W 2-4:50 PKS22422 The Political Thought of Emmanuel Levinas, **Loriaux** T 2-4:50 LIB337023 Global Climate Change: Policy and Society, **Wolinsky** T 2-4:50 UNIV318

WINTER QUARTER 2011 POLITICAL RESEARCH SEMINARS

20 **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** **Pearlman** **T 9:00 – 11:50**

This course explores the history and politics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We will cover the issues that have defined the conflict's development over time, namely its social, ideological, and diplomatic origins, the 1948 war, the evolution of Israeli and Palestinian nationalism, the sources of violence, the rise and fall of the Oslo peace process, and the first and second Palestinian Intifadas. We will study and critically analyze a range of perspectives on these events and themes.

21 **Ideology in American Politics** **Chong** **W 2:00 – 4:50**

In this research seminar, we examine the values and beliefs underlying political ideology in American politics. What are the defining features and symbols of liberalism and conservatism? What separates the political center from the ideological extremes? Are there ideological cycles in American politics? This seminar analyzes politicians, parties, public opinion, and political movements on the left-right spectrum. We will identify what has been constant in liberalism and conservatism over time, and also how the positions of liberals and conservatives have evolved in response to political events.

22 **The Political Thought of Emmanuel Levinas** **Loriaux** **T 2:00 – 4:50**

Levinas begins his influential book, *Totality and Infinity*:

“Everyone will readily agree that it is of the highest importance to know whether we are not duped by morality.

“Does not lucidity, the mind's openness upon the true, consist in catching sight of the permanent possibility of war? The state of war suspends morality; it divests the eternal institutions and obligations of their eternity and rescinds ad interim the unconditional imperatives. In advance its shadow falls over the actions of men. War is not only one of the ordeals – the greatest – of which morality lives; it renders morality derisory. The art of foreseeing war and of winning it by every means – politics – is henceforth enjoined as the very exercise of reason. Politics is opposed to morality, as philosophy to naïveté.”

Emmanuel Levinas was born in Lithuania in 1906. He received a traditional Jewish education before leaving for Strasbourg, France, in 1924 and Freiburg, Germany, in 1928 to study Philosophy. He was conscripted by the French military in 1939 and taken prisoner by the German military in 1940. Ironically, military imprisonment, however trying, saved his life. The SS killed his family in Lithuania. The mother of his French wife died in deportation. His wife and daughter survived thanks to a philosopher friend who kept them hidden in a monastery. After the war Levinas returned to his scholarship, and by the early 1980s was recognized as one of the most brilliant and influential philosophers of the twentieth century.

Levinas' training and experience left him with a simple question: how can a civilization's philosophical brilliance coexist with that same civilization's astonishing capacity for barbarity? Is it because that civilization was “duped by morality?”

23 **Global Climate Change: Policy and Society** **Wolinsky** **T 2-4:50**

The goal of this course is to examine global climate change both as a policy issue and as a phenomenon that has affected society and culture. We will compare climate change policy-making at the international, national, state, and local levels. We will examine several dimensions of climate change policies including reaction to scientific information, evaluation of costs versus benefits under uncertainty, leadership, and openness to adaptation. We will then look at how society has reacted to policy-making on climate change. We will compare trends in public attitudes on climate change and examine the relationship between public policy and civic action. We will finally look at how the issue of climate change has spread beyond politics and is finding new expressions in the arts, architecture, and other realms of culture.