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Members of the Political Science Society in front of The Supreme Court

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Majors, Minors, and Students Interested in Political Science,

On behalf of the Political Science Department I welcome you to a new academic year. In the newsletter you will find important and interesting information to help you prepare for Spring registration, know about club activities, events, internships, the Washington Semester Program, alumni highlights, and faculty accomplishments.

I'm happy to report positive results from our first year of implementing the Capstone course for graduating seniors in terms of student evaluation, original research projects, conference presentations, and poster presentations. Look at the titles of the projects in the Capstone Handbook – there's impressive work there. The next Capstone cohort is well underway doing exciting work as well. It is a challenging, but rewarding class as you become professional Political Scientists. For those who plan to graduate in May, 2017, you will get an email from me about being in the fall or spring Capstone seminar. Dr. Cutler and Dr. Lewis are directing the Capstone next year, Dr. Cutler will have the prep course this spring and the seminar in the fall focusing on more international and legal issues, Dr. Lewis will support mainly domestic projects. Do speak with your advisor and myself if you have any questions.


We do have a broad range of electives and times for our course offerings in the Spring of 2016. Look at the descriptions in the newsletter. Next year we're looking to offer Film and Politics, Congress, Disasters and Dystopias, among other exciting and relevant offerings.

A reminder that the Political Science common area SH 321 is there for your use. The computers have programs you use in your methods sequences and you can find the occasional coffee or tea or a Department Open House happening as well.

As Department Chair my office door is always open to you to talk about ideas, concerns, events, your work, and your future plans. We get good ideas from you that improve our Political Science community!

Best wishes,

Dr. Laurie Naranch

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POSC Major Course Sequence

Freshman Year			
Fall	POSC 100 - Contemporary U.S. Politics	Spring	POSC 130 - Political Theory
	POSC 130 - Political Theory		and/or POSC 150 - World Politics
Sophomore Year			
Fall	POSC 140 - Comparative Politics	Spring	POSC 178 - Political Research I
	POSC 178 - Political Research I		or POSC 182 - Political Research II
	POSC 130 - Political Theory		POSC 130 - Political Theory
			and/or POSC 150 - World Politics
			portfolio review for sophomores
Junior Year			
Fall	POSC 182- Political Research II	Spring	POSC 495 - 1 credit
	electives		electives
Senior Year			
Fall	POSC 495 - 1 credit	Spring	POSC 497 - Senior Capstone Course
	POSC 497 - Senior Capstone Course		electives
	electives		

Courses in grey must be taken at these times

Political Science Tutoring

Meghan Blasig is a junior and political science major at Siena College. She is offering sessions for tutoring in World Politics, Political Theory and Research Methods I and II for this fall semester. Along with majoring in political science, Meghan is also a prelaw student and she is working towards a women's studies minor. Meghan has efficient research method skills and has focused her previous research on women and politics in the American government system. She is offering tutoring sessions from 2-4 on Wednesday afternoons and is able to schedule other times to meet for tutoring.



Student and Alumni and Updates

Currently, I'm a Senior Policy Analyst at the Seattle Jobs Initiative. There I evaluate the effectiveness of SJI's workforce development program for low-income individuals, conduct research on an array of policy issues, and participate in workforce system reform efforts. Siena prepared me for this work in numerous ways. The education I received helped me become an excellent analyst. Additionally, I learned how to use the statistical program SPSS at Siena and it is now a key piece to my position. Outside of that, the work ethic and sense of communal responsibility I developed helps me immensely in my work to increase the social mobility of low-income individuals. -Chris Klaeysen, '08



Since graduating from Siena in May of 2011, I have been an army infantry officer. I have deployed once in 2012 and been to a myriad of army schools since then. I am currently stationed in Fort Benning Georgia as a ranger instructor. I have recently made the decision that I no longer wish to further my career on its current path, but wish to enter a completely new field and fly fighter jets for the marines. -Matthew Derosa, '11



I am currently doing social media for some websites while taking two summer courses. This is my first summer home since I started at Siena, so I am taking a bit of a break before I have to graduate. In the future, I have a couple of potential plans, but nothing is concrete yet. I plan to build upon the internships and experiences I have built while at Siena.- Kait Krolik, '16

Fair Trade

Hello friends of Fair Trade:

Siena marks its 5th Anniversary as a Fair Trade college in 2015/2016! How would you like to celebrate this accomplishment? Please contact one of the following Fair Trade Steering Committee members if you have a suggestion to share:

Vera Eccarius-Kelly (FT chair, POSC), Laurie Naranch (POSC, Women's Studies), Shannon O'Neill (Women's Center), Travis Brodbeck (President, Siena Students for Fair Trade), Victoria Engelhard (Roots Café), Michele Humbert (Environmental Liaison), Jordan Wood (BLSU Liaison), Jenner Alarcon (Activist), and Maeve McCullough (Activist).

Please send a note to tm23brod@siena.edu or veccarius-kelly@siena.edu for specific concerns regarding the availability of FT products in all of our dining spaces on campus. We are focused on educating our new food service provider, AVI, about our Fair Trade status and why this matters to us.



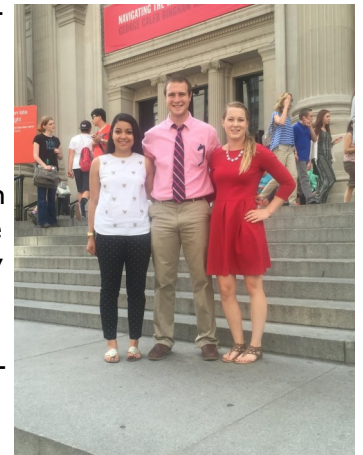
Upcoming Events

Date	Description	Time	Location
10/26 (M)	POSC 450 Information Session (see p. 15)	12:35-1:25	315 Siena Hall
10/28 (W)	Internships workshop	4:00-6:00	243 SSU
10/29 (R)	Rachel Jones, George Mason University	5:00-7:00	243-245 SSU
10/29 (R)	Town Hall Debate	9:00pm	Molinari Room (SSU)
11/9 (M)	Pizza & Politics (Grad school/careers)	12:35-1:25	217 Siena Hall
11/16 (M)	Pizza & Politics (Public Opinion on LGBTs)	12:35-1:25	217 Siena Hall
11/19 (R)	Town Hall Debate	9:00pm	Molinari Room (SSU)

ACE/CPI Update

The Community Policy Institute (CPI) is a student-led public policy research organization whose mission is to build capacity surrounding policy within the Capital Region. CPI provides policy research and analysis to non-profit partners and the broader community, enabling them to implement best practices and advocate for policies to address the challenges across a range of issues in the region – including Education, Healthcare, Homelessness, Hunger, and Justice. Housed in the Center for Academic Community Engagement (ACE) and supported by the Political Science Department, the CPI is made up of a specialized group of undergraduate Siena College students fellows who exhibit a strong interest in social justice, the nonprofit sector, research, and policy. CPI Fellows track and disseminate current policy news, research issue important to our community partners, and provide clients with in-depth policy analysis. CPI's policy research is regularly posted as part of a growing network of student-lead policy organization around the country on <http://www.policyoptions.org/albany>. The CPI is currently recruiting for our second cohort of Student Fellows for the Spring 2016 semester. The program includes a POSC 485 Public Service Internship in the Spring, a funded Intensive Internship in the Summer, POSC 265 Public Policy in the Fall, and other independent research and educational opportunities. Interested students should contact Dr. Daniel Lewis (dlewis@siena.edu), CPI Faculty Fellow, Emma Bettiol (ebettiol@siena.edu), CPI Postgraduate Coordinator, or Brittany Drollette (bm08drol@siena.edu), CPI Student Fellow Coordinator.

“The CPI was an educational experience that required me think outside of the box to build the foundation for a program that strives to make a difference in the capital region from the roots up... It is exciting to know that the work I do every day will help community partners better understand public problems in the Capital Region; and the satisfaction of knowing that my work may lead to policy change that will better conditions for disadvantaged groups in the Capital Region is priceless.” – Ryan Vyskocil '17, CPI Student Fellow



Washington Semester Program

The Washington Semester Program provides students with exciting internship and academic opportunities across a wide range of disciplines and the chance to study and live in our nation's capital city. The Program features special seminars conducted by prominent Washington decision-makers and an internship experience, which could include an assignment to a congressional committee or office, an executive branch agency, an interest group association, a think tank, a private company or firm or a media group. In addition, students have the option to take an independent research tutorial with a faculty mentor, enroll in travel course, or take a regular course offered by American University. The program provides seminars in nine concentrations, covering a range of careers and fields of study:

- American Politics
- Global Economics and Business
- Foreign Policy
- Sustainable Development
- International Law and Organizations
- Journalism and New Media
- Justice and Law
- Religion, Politics, Peace, and Security
- Public Health



All interested students should contact Dr. Daniel Lewis, Political Science Department, 321B Siena Hall, dlewis@siena.edu. Further information can also be found at <http://www.american.edu/spexs/washingtonsemester/>. **Applications for the Spring 2016 semester are due November 1.**

Malaina Buscher

During the Spring 2015 semester, I attended the Washington Semester Program. The program was a great combination of seminar-style classes and internship experience in DC. My International Law and Organizations Class travelled to sites throughout DC every week. These sites included The Pentagon, Brookings, the World Bank, and the Organization of American States.

These events gave me the opportunity to interact with leaders in the field of International Law. Throughout the semester, I also spent two days a week interning in the House of Representatives for Congressman Chris Gibson. During my internship, I assisted with constituent correspondence, lead tours of the United States Capitol, and attended committee hearings and briefings. Overall, the Washington Semester Program was an amazing opportunity that helped me gain professional experience while learning and working in DC.



Pre-Law Society

This year the Pre-Law Society has undergone a massive reboot. Under the direction of the newly appointed executive board, the Society has begun to plan a number of events to both help potential law students develop their skills and help them prepare for the LSAT, as well as assisting them in expanding their professional network and exposing them to a wide variety of speakers on different areas of the law.

The new executive board is comprised of President Anthony Bjelke '16, Vice President Joseph Gonyeau '16, Treasurer Ryan Kelleher '18, Chief of Staff Matt Lorini '16, Public Relations Coordinator Dylan Porcello '16, and Events Coordinator Mary-Kate Browne '16. In addition to our executive board, we are supported by Dr. Cutler who continually provides us with mentoring and direction. The Board has already facilitated two events that were very successful, an LSAT informational session co-hosted with Peter Gormanly and Jim Montagnino of the LSAT Focus Approach review class, and an open house on the various opportunities available in Pre-Law Society directed mostly at freshmen and sophomore students. The focus on younger students is something the Society is very interested in fostering.

Major events we are working on planning right now include a round table of prosecutors including local DA's and US Attorneys, a panel on Environmental Law with experts in the field, a visit from a major New York State Jurist, as well as trips to the New York State Court of Appeals, New York State Court of Claims, as well as County and Town Courts in Rensselaer and Albany Counties. The Society has also been currently working on facilitating a free practice LSAT under testing conditions through the Focus Approach coming up next month. The Society is currently also working on organizing an event which admissions representatives from various law schools in the northeast come to Siena in order to have a conversation with students on the law school admissions process, and to provide advice to students currently going through the application process. The executive board is always looking for new potential ideas for events or collaboration opportunities so feel free to drop any of us a line at any time to bounce ideas off us.

Internship/ Independent Study Experience

So far my experience at the Alliance for Quality Education has been excellent. As an intern there, I have completed tasks such as helping organize, as well as attending protests held by AQE, updating databases, and working to launch social media campaigns over Facebook and Youtube. My experience with AQE has greatly improved my understanding of how advocacy groups work, as well as my perception of New York State Politics. The internship opportunities here at Siena are invaluable, and I would do whatever you can to get involved with one. -Griffin Doyle



As a senior political science major, I still needed to fulfill my political science elective requirement. Unfortunately, the electives offered did not fit into my schedule. I had heard about the independent study program, and I decided to look into it. Not only did I find a course that fit into my schedule and fulfilled my requirement, but I was also able to learn about an area of study that is not offered in the classes. Once I finished the paperwork and it was approved, I was ready to start my research for the fall semester. I am working with Dr. Laurie Naranch in the Political Science Department and we meet once a week to go over my progress and brainstorm where to go next with the research process. I am researching LGBT rights, government restrictions and culture in Russia and how the government attempts to control the culture. In addition to fulfilling the requirements for my major, I am able to research and learn about a topic that is not currently offered in the political science courses at Siena. I would highly recommend this path as a way for students to take a course in a particular field of study that is not offered and they are passionate about learning more about. -Quinn Balli

The Con Con Initiative

According to the New York State Constitution, a mandated referendum provides that every twenty years voters must be asked if they wish to hold a constitutional convention. A constitutional convention is a forum in which elected delegates come together to propose amendments and revisions to the New York State Constitution, whereafter the public votes to accept or reject these changes. The last vote for a convention was held in 1997, and had a very low voter turnout. Many cited ignorance was the main reason for this, and unfortunately not much has changed since. According to a recent Siena College poll, 75% of New Yorkers had never heard anything about a constitutional convention. The next vote will be held in 2017, making now the right time to acquaint ourselves with the issues and arguments for answering this question.

The Constitutional Convention Initiative is a collaborative effort by state government organizations to educate the public and encourage participation in the 2017 New York State Constitutional Convention Referendum. These organizations are partnering with many colleges and universities across New York State, and Siena College is one of them. Many political groups are beginning to come out in favor of or in opposition to holding a convention. However, at Siena, we are a non-partisan group whose primary interest is to educate students so that they can form their own opinions on the issue. We encourage students to simply make an informed vote, regardless of what that vote is. A group of students will be leading these efforts on campus and in various high schools throughout the Capital Region. They will be going into First Year Seminars and local high school classes to educate students about the convention. They will also be collaborating with the Political Science Society in hosting a debate and an informational session about the convention. This issue will be one of the topics for a student debate at the Town Hall Meeting at October 22nd, and the informational session will be held in November. Attending these events are simple ways to get educated so you can participate in the upcoming vote. A convention has the potential to create systemic, macro-level change across the state. Learning about the pros and cons of this impact are essential for making an informed decision in 2017.

Fulbright Award Winner— Jamie Desrossier

Jamie's significant study abroad experience in Israel and Tanzania, where she actively cultivated and pursued her passion for teaching, research and intercultural awareness/exchange, played a huge role in her being awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Malaysia for the 2015-16 year. While studying in Israel, for example, Jamie created her own teaching internship in a conservative muslim school where she was able to bring American English and culture to life through theater. Although Malaysia represents a new adventure for Jamie, her considerable teaching skills and global knowledge will continue to make her a successful citizen diplomat. The Fulbright application is a nearly year-long, rigorous process of essays and interviews for students and advisor; working with students like Jamie, however, makes time fly by!

— Greg Jabaut

Associate Director,
Center for International Programs



Moot Court/Mock Trial Update

The Siena College Mock Trial team is very excited to get underway for another exciting year of competition under the American Mock Trial Association. This year's case *People of the State of Midlands v. Avery Bancroft and Chase Covington* is a fascinating look at bribery law in the criminal context. Returning this year as Captain of the team is senior Anthony Bjelke, joined by his new Co-Captain, sophomore Jerry Casertino. Assisting the team this year are a series of both new and returning coaches including Meghan McLain of Ayco, The Honorable Patrick Monserratte, our Distinguished-Jurist-in-Residence and retired New York State Supreme Court Judge, Aubrey Roman of Barclay Damon LLP, Christine Armstrong and Joseph Stinton who are both third year students at Albany Law School, and Julia Stecuik of Parisi, Coan & Saccocio, PLLC. In addition to our excellent coaches and captains, the team is as always assisted by our faculty advisor Dr. Cutler, who provides the captains and coaches with his wisdom and knowledge over the course of the year in preparation. Returning as team members this year are Adam Durham '16, Joseph Gonyeau '16, Alex Van Den Eynde '16 and Jessica Putney '18 in addition to captains Bjelke and Casertino. Joining the team for their first year are Stella Pabis '17, Gianni Kierkla '19, James DiGiulio '19, and Allison Mahoney '19. Serving as Attorneys will be Bjelke, Durham, Casertino, Van Den Eynde and Gonyeau, with Putney, Pabis, Kierkla, DiGiulio and Mahoney taking on witness roles. The team looks forward to an extremely productive season this year. The team anticipates participating in three invitational tournaments, two in the Fall Semester at Colgate University in November and Monmouth University in December, and then in the spring with the College of St. Rose. Following those tournaments, the team will attend the AMTA regional competitions, for a shot to move on to competitions at the national level. This is the first year that we are really stepping up as a team in terms of the number of competitions we are taking part in and the caliber of the opponents continues to be stellar. We hope that going to three tournaments in advance of the regional round of competitions will really help up our game and help us move forward as a national caliber team. The team regularly meets Monday and Thursday nights and scrimmages on Sunday mornings throughout the fall and spring in the Girvin and Ferlazzo Moot Courtroom (Siena Hall 218), all are welcome to stop by and observe.

Model UN Update

Hello everyone! Our Model United Nations is up and running, and we are looking forward to a fantastic new year! We have had a few meetings already, and are very excited for the 2016 Harvard National Model United Conference that will be taking place February 11th to the 14th at the beautiful Park Plaza Hotel right in Downtown Boston. We will be submitting our application fee to Harvard on October 13th, and after that we will begin prepping for the conference.

This year we will have different themes during our meetings at Siena that we will work with specifically focusing on different Economic, Social, and Humanitarian problems that are affecting our world so that our delegates are well versed in a wide variety of topic areas. Our meetings are Sunday's between 1pm and 2pm in Siena Hall 217.

We will also be working on the many different aspects of the conference, such as public speaking, writing speeches, writing draft resolution and finally how to write the final resolution. Nicole Peterson, our Vice President and I want to make sure that all delegates feel comfortable with these things, as to best prepare them for the kind of work that they will be doing upon our arrival at the conference in February.

The Conference itself is one of the most extraordinary events that I believe any students could take a part of. I had participated in it last year, and it is the biggest reason that I have returned to Model UN this year. Students get the opportunity to take what they have learned and executed here at Siena during our meetings and put it into action at the conference. Over 3,000 students from all across the globe come and participate in the conference. Students also tend to make friends that last them well beyond the conference, which I think show how much this conference brings all different kinds of ideas and imaginations together, and how we can look beyond our own Siena bubble and connect with students from around the world, and even from our own nation as well.

Most importantly, Model UN will be stressing the importance of international peace, cooperation, and diplomacy throughout the entire process, and making sure that the values of St. Francis guide us in our journey to the HNMUN conference, as well as the DORS values at Siena.

Nicole and I are so excited to be leading MUN this year, and we know that this year will be one of the best years ever.

Ryan Kelleher,

President Model United Nations Club



Summer Legal Fellows - Dylan Porcello

Working as a Summer Legal Fellow at Fordham Law School's Feerick Center for Social Justice was an eye-opening experience. The fellowship opened new doors for me and further helped me solidify my decision to pursue a law degree.

The Feerick Center is Fordham Law's gateway to assisting the underrepresented people of New York. I was fortunate enough to spend an insightful nine weeks at Fordham and was able to gain valuable insight on a multitude of injustices within the city. My fellowship focused mostly on three specific issues. This included: the Bronx Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO), Unaccompanied Immigrant Children, and the New York City High School application process.

CLARO is a free limited legal advice provided to low-income New Yorkers who are facing consumer debt issues. Many of these people are taken advantage of or served properly, and therefore are unaware of why they are being sued. My role at CLARO was to volunteer every Thursday from three to five hours, assisting the attorneys and acting as a first contact for clients in desperate need. Attending CLARO sessions allowed me to understand the nature of certain consumer debt injustices and how they can be resolved. I was also able to learn about how to defend against a judgement. I firmly believe that this experience will pay dividends when I am in law school. Along with my CLARO experience, I was able to attend consumer court in the Bronx, which allowed me to see the issues that I had been working with in action.

Unaccompanied immigrant children lack guidance, resources, and often times struggle to find an identity in their new homes, upon escaping persecution and other dangerous circumstances. The Feerick Center designed a participatory action research study, which was then developed into a comprehensive report on the matter. My role involved editing, citing, and doing further research for the report during the final stages of its completion. Editing the report allowed me to have a greater appreciation for the work that the Feerick Center was doing.

New York City has been plagued with educational inequities which are a result of the High School application process. In the beginning stages of a report, I was to research different school districts across the United States, and see how they related to New York. From this research and attending stakeholder meeting I was able to gain a clear understanding of the issue at hand.



Political Science Society

Under management of a new E-board, the Political Science Society is undergoing serious changes. The club has moved from monthly meetings to weekly meetings on Wednesday nights. While keeping an academic component, the Political Science Society is becoming open to having an entertaining value to it. The club is proud to announce that it has 95 registered members; the majority of which signed up this year.

During September, the Political Science Society contributed to the National Voter Registration Week, where the club encouraged Siena and AVI workers to register to vote. The club managed to get roughly 100 new students to register to vote in various states, including New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Maine, Florida and California. In addition to registering students to vote, the club also helps students learn how to fill out absentee ballots. The Political Science Society is attempting to keep students engaged in the upcoming election by hosting Debate Bingo for every televised party debate.

Alongside the College Democrats and the College Republicans, the Political Science Society will continue to host town halls once a month, where students can talk about and debate current issues and policies. The next town hall events will be on October 29th, November 19th and December 10th. Our first Town Hall was on September 22nd with roughly 50 students participating in discussions focused on college tuition costs, the situation in Syria, immigration reforms, free trade, Planned Parenthood funds and the Iran Deal.

The Political Science Society will also be hosting dinner and movie events each month as well. All movies shown have a link to government and politics, and are voted on by members who regularly attended meetings. The first movie we showed this semester was "Man of the Year." We plan to show "Forrest Gump" on October 21st, "Thirteen Days" on November 18th and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" on December 9th.



The club is very satisfied with its recent trip to Washington D.C. chaperoned by Dr. Lewis and Dr. Collens. Eighteen students visited the Capitol, the Pentagon and the Supreme Court over this four-day trip. During the trip, students met with the offices of Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand and Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. This was our first major trip this year and the club hopes to make this trip into an annual one.

In all, the club is opening up to more opportunities to participate and foster an interest in political science. If you have any suggestions or opportunities to share with the club, please shoot an email over to mk05brow@siena.edu.

Mary-Kate Browne
President, Political Science Society

Study Abroad

Jenner Alarcón

I studied abroad in Central America last spring. This is a picture of one of the adventures I had when I was down there. I climbed the volcano Pacaya in Guatemala. When I came back to Siena I became a member of the steering committee of Fair Trade. I am also a founding member of Alpha Phi Omega, the new community service fraternity on campus. And lastly I am an intern at the Red Cross of Northeastern New York.



Jordan Wood

My decision to study abroad in Namibia and South Africa during the spring semester of 2015 was one of the best choices I've ever made. I participated in a travel program, where I lived with fourteen other Americans in the capital city of Windhoek. I traveled to Johannesburg, Cape Town, the Namibian coast, and rural northern Namibia as a group. During my travels and class time, I was fortunate enough to interact with members of parliament, activists, employees at both large and small NGO's, educators, historians, and other various community members.

Academically, it was a fascinating semester. Most of my classes counted toward the Political Science major. We discussed the political development of Southern Africa, including pre-colonialism, colonialism, apartheid, and post-apartheid. We also discussed the politics of development which involves globalization, poverty, gender, and aid. I was also able to take a history of racism course, comparing southern Africa and the United States. My internship, working at the AIDS and rights Alliance for Southern Africa, was one of the most important aspects of my academics there. ARASA promotes a human rights approach to the HIV/AIDS issue. I was able to synthesize reports to donors, interview sex workers regarding the issues they face, and work on their social media platform.

Even though the classroom was an important source of knowledge, interacting with the community and traveling was the most rewarding part of the experience. I was able to build connections with many people that I will carry for the rest of my life. Experiencing a different culture not only improved my communication skills but also allowed me to become more open-minded. One phrase particularly impacted me. Ubuntu, a word in the Xhosa language, essentially translates to humanism. Specifically, this word embodies the idea that I am human because I belong to the human community and I view others accordingly. The spirit of Ubuntu allowed me to have amazing experiences. I climbed the tallest sand dune in the world, in quite an amazing time I might add! I enjoyed exotic cuisine, including crocodile, zebra, oryx, Springbok, and kudu. I viewed a presidential inauguration in person. I was able to travel to Victoria Falls, one of the seven wonders of the natural world. The amount of travel and new experiences was incredible. I truly recommend study abroad, or traveling in general, because it leaves an imprint on your heart you won't forget!



Faculty Updates

Dr. Laurie Naranch - Chair

Dr. Naranch wrote her entry on the 19th century abolitionist and women's rights advocate Sojourner Truth for *50 Key Feminist Thinkers*, forthcoming with Routledge press. Her latest blog post with the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College is on education at <http://www.hannaharendtcenter.org/?author=74289#sthash.0eSpKnPr.dpuf>. Naranch will present current work at the Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting in November called "Inclinations, Skin, and Narrations of Bodies Politic" using the work of Adriana Cavarero, Giorgio Agamben and Sojourner Truth. She spent the rest of the summer preparing for her classes on human rights and the Symposium on Living Philosophers on the work of the Italian political philosopher Adriana Cavarero. And then there was hiking, sailing, trying new Hudson Valley restaurants, and enjoying the van Gogh and nature exhibit at the Clark Art Institute for summer relaxation.

Dr. Leonard Cutler

Dr. Cutler celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in early June with his wife Sheila in Italy visiting and enjoying the cities of Florence, Siena, Milan, Venice, the Tuscany region and Cinque Terra. During the latter part of June and July he traveled to Siena's six Summer Legal Fellows host sites meeting with our students and site supervisors, including law professors, and second and third year law students evaluating their experiences to date. During the last week in July and the first week of August Dr. Cutler and his entire family, including the children and grandchildren, spent R&R time in Maine by the ocean. During the course of the summer he continued his research and scholarship on Obama's Counterterrorism Policy as it is specifically directed toward the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

Dr. Daniel C. Lewis

Dr. Lewis' ongoing research examining state political institutions and policy priorities, in collaboration with Sandra K. Schneider and William G. Jacoby (Michigan State University), will be published in two leading peer-reviewed academic journals. "[Institutional Characteristics and State Policy Priorities: The Impact of Legislatures and Governors](#)" is scheduled to appear in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* in December and "[The Impact of Direct Democracy on State Spending Priorities](#)" has been accepted for publication in *Electoral Studies*. He has continued his work on direct democracy institutions, presenting a study entitled, "Direct Democracy and Economic Inequality in the American States," at the State Politics and Policy Conference in Sacramento in May. This summer, Lewis began a new collaborative research project studying public attitudes toward transgender rights and issues. The project conducted a national online survey in June and will be fielding a second, phone-based survey this Fall. In addition to his research, he also spent the summer as the Faculty Fellow for the [Community Policy Institute](#), working with student fellows to build the policy research capacity of the Capital Region's non-profit community through the new [PolicyOptions.org website](#).

Dr. Salvatore Lombardo

During the summer Dr. Lombardo continued his research on Alexis de Tocqueville. As a part of this research, he worked on revisions on the paper that he presented in April at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. In this paper he discusses two important concepts in Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America: the tyranny of the majority and despotism*.

Faculty Updates (Continued)

Dr. Ausra Park

Dr. Park received a summer pedagogy fellowship from the Diversity Action Committee to design a new course titled *Human Insecurity: Global Challenges* that will consider such issues as human trafficking, poverty, refugees and stateless peoples, resource curse or the political economy of conflict (i.e., "blood" diamonds; oil power); "globalized" inequalities (economic, gender, class, ethnicity, regional), food security, transnational crime, civil wars, impact of climate change, and threats to public health. This course will be offered as a special topics course within a year or two, depending on departmental course rotation. During the summer, Dr. Park published two single-authored articles. One of them examined personal influences of Lithuania's presidents on the country's "White House" (it is, actually, a white palace in the middle of Vilnius's old town); the second article analyzed migration outflows from Lithuania, studying political and social causes of the massive exodus that this country experienced since the 2009 global financial crisis. Prof. Park is currently revising a paper "The Politics of Human Trafficking in Lithuania: Perspectives from Government, NGOs, and Academia" for publication that she presented at the 20th Association for Nationalities Studies World Convention at Columbia University in April 2015.

Dr. Jack D. Collens

Dr. Collens received a summer pedagogy fellowship from Siena College's Committee on Faculty Teaching and Development to design a course on presidential nomination campaigns with travel to New Hampshire for the "first-in-the-nation" primary. During the summer, he spent much of his time navigating the logistics of offering a travel course, booked the dates, and designed much of the course's components. He also continued work on several scholarly manuscripts, including one on the role of the Tea Party in driving turnout in the 2010 and 2012 elections and another on the fate of female candidates in congressional primaries. He also prepared to assist in piloting the department's First Year Research Fellowship program with Drs. Cutler and Lombardo. Finally, he traveled to Salt Lake City to score AP US Government exams, to Georgia and Philadelphia to visit family, and to the Finger Lakes region to relax.

Dr. Vera Eccarius-Kelly

Dr. Eccarius-Kelly was selected as a Nonresident Fellow by the DC-based Rethink Institute for 2015/2016. She published blog posts that address the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey and Europe, and the systematic repression of independent media in Turkey. (The posts are available at <http://www.rethinkinstitute.org/author/vera/>.) Dr. Eccarius-Kelly participated in an International Faculty Development Seminar in Jordan and Turkey during the month of June to explore the dynamics of the Syrian war as well as the regional refugee crisis. In August, she returned to the region to assess changes in Turkish politics. She spent time in Turkey and in Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) to collect data on Kurdish, Syrian, and Palestinian refugees, to explore the conditions in refugee encampments and among undocumented refugee populations, and she met with a number of regional civil society actors in Turkish and Kurdish communities. Several of Dr. Eccarius-Kelly's publications are forthcoming. Her research article titled "The Imaginary Kurdish Museum: Ordinary Kurds, Narrative Nationalisms and Collective Memory" is scheduled to appear in the *International Journal of Kurdish Studies*. In addition, her book chapter titled "Behind the Frontlines: Kobani, Legitimacy, and Kurdish Diaspora Mobilization" has been accepted for publication in an edited volume on Kurdish Politics by Mazda Press.

Participate in the 2016 Presidential Primary!

Informational Session: Monday, October 26, 12:35-1:25

Siena Hall 315



POSC 450 (Spring 2016 Travel Course) Presidential Nomination Campaigns

Prof. Jack D. Collens

MWF 1:30-2:30

Travel Dates: 01.09.2016—01.16.2016

This course begins with a week in Manchester, NH before the start of the Spring semester — weeks before the famous New Hampshire “first in the nation” primary election. Students will attend campaign rallies, volunteer for the campaign of their choice, meet with prominent campaign consultants, and learn first-hand how presidential primary campaigns operate. Back at Siena, students will learn about presidential nomination campaigns, evaluate the nominations process, and produce a student-run course blog about the 2016 nominations process. Please direct all questions to jcollens@siena.edu or attend the informational session detailed above. Permission of instructor required for registration.

Course Fee: \$650

Spring 2016 Course Offerings

We will offer the following gateway courses this coming fall: POSC 100 (Contemporary U.S. Politics, 4 sections), POSC 130 (Political Theory, 1 section), POSC 140 (Comparative Politics, 1 section), POSC 150 (World Politics, 2 sections), POSC 178 (Political Research I, 1 section), and POSC 182 (Political Research II, 1 section). We will also offer the following electives:

POSC 205: State and Local Government

Prof. Daniel C. Lewis

11:25-12:50 TR

This course is designed to familiarize students with the roles and responsibilities of state and local governments while providing insight into the complex dynamics the U.S. federal system. Using a comparative state perspective, we will cover the major institutions of state and local government, as well as elections, citizen participation, political parties, organized interests and specific policy areas, such as fiscal policy, economic development and morality policy.

POSC 270: European Politics

Prof. Salvatore Lombardo

2:35-4:00 TR

This course is a survey of the political institutions and processes of West European democracies. The course takes a comparative approach to examine such important topics as centralization and devolution, executive and legislative powers, political parties, electoral systems and elections, judicial politics. We will also examine such important issues as the welfare state, the economy, human rights, the environment, health care systems, and immigration. We will pay special attention to France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. A significant portion of the course will be dedicated to the politics and policies of the European Union and how they shape and are shaped by the member states.

POSC 315: 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments

Prof. Leonard Cutler

9:50-11:15 TR

Our post 9/11 society has been profoundly affected with respect to impacts on substantive due process rights including the guarantee against unreasonable search and seizure, the right to counsel, the right to a fair and speedy trial as well as the right to confront our accusers in the criminal justice system. This course will examine the critical seminal cases examined by the United States Supreme Court and the New York State Court of Appeals that address 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendment rights that you and I enjoy as members of our democratic society.

POSC 329 (Special Topics): Majority Rule? Minority Politics in American Democracy

Prof. Daniel C. Lewis

6:00-8:55 W

This course examines the role of minorities in the American political system using an inclusive concept of minority groups, covering race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion. As a historically diverse nation governed by a republican democracy, there is an inherent tension between the majoritarian nature of democracy and the place of minority groups and individuals in the U.S., making minority politics a defining feature of the political system. The course covers the theoretical foundations of minority civil rights in democracies, explores the historical development of politics and policies relevant to minority groups, and analyzes the nature of minority politics in contemporary American society.

Spring 2016 Course Offerings (Continued)

POSC 349 (Special Topics): Syria and the Future of the Middle East

Prof. Vera Eccarius-Kelly
3:50-5:15 MW

This course is geared toward examining geopolitical changes in the Middle East by exploring four case study countries, including Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and Iran. Political unrest throughout the Arab world led to the fall of powerful regimes after calls for freedom, democracy and reforms engulfed the region in 2011. Demands for change led to both peaceful protests and armed confrontations as government corruption, elite self-interest, and economic inequalities become increasingly evident. Students in this advanced seminar examine emerging power structures following Arab Spring protests and will disentangle the dynamics of the Syrian war. Among the factors to be studied are the emergence of social movements, the rise of ISIS and extremist elements, and the intensification of the refugee crisis. This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.

POSC 450 (Travel Course): Presidential Nomination Campaigns

Prof. Jack D. Collens
1:30-2:30 MWF

Students in this class will develop a comprehensive understanding of U.S. presidential nomination campaigns through both classroom-based and experiential learning. The course begins with a week in Manchester, NH in January of 2016 - weeks before the famous New Hampshire "first in the nation" primary election. Students will attend campaign rallies, volunteer for the campaign of their choice, and learn first-hand how presidential primary campaigns work. Upon returning to Siena, students will learn about how political scientists study presidential primary campaigns and how the nomination process has developed over time. A major component of the course will be a student-run course blog following the remaining primary elections. By combining theoretical and observational studies of nomination campaigns, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of one of our country's most elaborate political rituals. See flyer on page 15 for details on applying for the course.

POSC 485: Public Policy and Legislative Process Internship

Prof. Leonard Cutler

The objective of the course is to prepare and expose students to the intricacies of the legislative and public policy process by a blend of selective readings and active participation in the New York State Legislature, Congress, public policy agencies or public advocacy groups. If you would like to "capitalize on the capital," you should consider interning and becoming involved in undertaking legislative research related to constituent concerns or public policy issues that need to be addressed. Open to Juniors/Seniors. See Dr. Cutler for details.

Meet the Political Science Faculty

Faculty Information:



Name	Office Location	Phone Number	Email
Dr. Laurie E. Naranch (Chair)	321F Siena Hall	782-6877	lnaranch@siena.edu
Dr. Leonard Cutler	326A Siena Hall	782-2350	cutler@siena.edu
Dr. Vera Eccarius-Kelly	316 Siena Hall	782-6743	veccarius- kelly@siena.edu
Dr. Ausra Park	321A Siena Hall	782-6795	apark@siena.edu
Dr. Salvatore Lombardo	321E Siena Hall	783-2395	lombardo@siena.edu
Dr. Daniel Lewis	321B Siena Hall	783-2325	dlewis@siena.edu
Dr. Jack Collens	321C Siena Hall	782-6603	jcollens@siena.edu