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SPECIAL J-TERM OPPORTUNITY WITH PROFESSOR HARRIS

Professor Duchess Harris will be directing the HECUA program "The Civil Rights Movement: History & Consequences" during J-term 2003. The program is intended to address the civil rights movement by examining selected historical events in the movement. The course will include textual and videographic study as well as integrative seminars and site tours. It begins here in the Twin Cities with an introduction, then proceeds with a two-week tour of important sites across the South and Midwest, winds its way back up to the Twin Cities. Stops include Atlanta, Georgia; Selma, Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; and Nashville, Memphis and New Market, Tennessee.

It is intended to be an interdisciplinary, integrated, experiential, holistic approach to understanding the civil rights movement. There are only eight spaces available to Macalester students in this intensive course, so everyone is encouraged to take a look at the syllabus that is available on the Political Science department bulletin board.

TURKEY DAY POTLUCK!!!

The Annual Political Science Thanksgiving Potluck will be on

NOVEMBER 26 AT NOON

Sign up to bring a dish on the Political Science Office Door, and get ready to gobble gobble up some tasty food!

WEDNESDAY TREATS

Every Wednesday, the Political Science office will have treats available for majors and minors. Check your email for times.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR?

The Career Development Center offers a number of resources to help students answer their job and career (and internship) questions. Many of their resources are on-line and readily available.

From the CDC homepage (<http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/>) you can find all sorts of information available by major. The Web Resources for Political Science Majors (<http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/majorpoliticalscience.html>) includes information on Career Resources & Information, Resources for Job Seekers, Graduate School Resources & Information, and Other General Web Resources. More specifically, they have a whole page centered on examining the options for Political Science majors. It is definitely worth checking out!

Another great place to get your feet wet career-wise is the Intern Center. They have listings for internships in the Twin Cities, both paid and unpaid, for Fall, Spring and Summer.

SPRING TOPICS COURSES AND SENIOR SEMINARS

POLI 50.01

Work, Wealth, and Well Being: The Political Economy Tradition
David Blaney

The relationships among work, wealth and well-being are central to the study of political economy. How does work produce wealth for the individual and for society? How, or when, does individual and social wealth translate into individual and/or social well-being? And, how does the character of work affect individual well-being? This course will examine the answers given to these questions (and myriad corollary questions) by writers within the political economy tradition. Part I of the course will survey key authors: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, W. Stanley Jevons, and J.M. Keynes. We will read Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* and Jevons' *The Theory of Political Economy* in some depth, also placing the authors and their ideas in the context of their times and their other writings. We will read shorter extracts from Marx and Keynes for their value as responses or correctives to classical and neoclassical economics respectively. In Part II of the course, we will read selected, contemporary authors that examine the evolving character of work, consumption, and human happiness in late capitalism. Throughout the course, we will consider the implications of our reading for our lives as producers and consumers.

POLI 50.03

Latin American Politics
Thomas Schierholz

In this course, we will examine the relationship between states and societies in Latin America in the twentieth century: how actions of the state produce consequences for civil and political society and how actions of individuals within civil and political societies affect the state. We will proceed thematically, exploring historical trends from which we may generalize about Latin American political life. We will also explore case histories of certain countries as they are germane to a given theme. This course will include a mixture of lecture, discussion, student-led activity and independent research.

PSYC 50:05

Political Psychology
Kendrick Brown

This course examines the psychological factors influencing political behavior and effect of political systems on the thought, feelings, and motive of individuals. Attention will be given to the classical debates and current trends in research on political psychology. Among the topics covered

will be: an overview of political psychology, authoritarianism, personality and political leadership, the nature and structure of political thought, destructive obedience, and intergroup and international conflict.
Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology

POLI 50.07

Green Politics: The Future of the U.S. Environmental Movement
Brett Smith

The course will focus on the current status of and future prospects for the environmental movement in the United States. The principal question to be addressed is how environmental advocacy groups can best organize themselves to most effectively address and solve the significant environmental problems facing this country. A related goal is to broaden and deepen students' understanding of U.S. environmental problems, policies and programs designed to address those problems, and the political process by which policies are developed and problems are addressed. In addition to readings, lectures, and class discussion, the course will include a number of guest speakers who are practitioners in the area of environmental policy and politics. Grading will be based on a research project and presentation, class participation, and several short reaction papers.

POL 88.01

Black Public Intellectuals
Duchess Harris

This course will address the tradition of public intellectuals in the numerous Black communities. We will look at the historical time periods from Reconstruction, the Anti-Lynching Movement, 20s Black Nationalism, the Harlem Renaissance, The Great Migration, Communism and the Red Scare and the Black Power Revolution. We will examine men and women who are (cultural workers(through numerous media, and in turn investigate ways in which their works can be evaluated, to what extent they are able to get to the root of problems affecting the African American community as intellectuals, and whether any value judgements can be made. We will expand the definition of (politics(to include theater, literature, and film. We will interrogate the concept of who chooses the scholarly leaders for Black communities. Our focus will incorporate numerous ideologies such as separatism, conservatism, and critical race feminism.

CHANGES TO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM EXPLAINED!

The political science curriculum has undergone some changes in order to meet the needs of majors more effectively. Two major alterations have been put into place. First, students are required to take only two foundations courses. In previous years, students were required to take three courses, including Foundations of Political Theory. Now they are required to take two. In order to maintain the rigor of the major while increasing flexibility, students are now required to take one more intermediate level course of their choosing. Under the new system, students are still required to take at least one advanced course and a capstone that can be either an advanced course, senior seminar or an honors project. Department faculty are making a substantive effort to differentiate the classes on the basis of their classification as either foundation, intermediate or advanced. Under this new scheme, classes will build on one another, meaning that skills developed in a foundations class will be used, expanded and strengthened in intermediate courses. Advanced courses will in turn build on the skills developed in intermediate courses providing a stronger sense of continuity in the

major.

The second major change has to deal with the political science methods course. In the past, all Political Science Majors were required to take a statistics class as a prerequisite to the research methods class. In its new incarnation, the methods class will focus more on how to write a good political science research paper.

The department has also revised the requirements for a minor in Political Science from six classes down to five. Students must now take one foundations, one intermediate and one advanced course in addition to two political science classes of their choosing in order to complete the major.

These changes have at once made the Political Science major more adaptable to individual student interests without sacrificing any of the substance of the major. The lightened foundations requirement also means that professors will have more time to teach intermediate and advanced level classes, providing more course variety for students to choose from. Overall, the changes bode well for political science learning in coming semesters.

AMAZING ALUMI PROFILED! THIS ISSUE: MINH TA

In his studies at Macalester, Minh Ta brought together critical theories of race and ethnicity with an interest in political activism and public policy. These concerns are reflected in his Honors thesis, titled "A Genealogy of Welfare Queens: Social Welfare Policy and African American Women, 1935-1996."

It is also not surprising that he was quite active on campus. During his tenure as Vice President of the Community Council, he took the lead in promoting a multicultural studies program and developing a new course evaluation policy. He was also a member of the

Department's Student Policy Committee and served on a faculty search committee. He graduated from Macalester in 1997.

Building on an earlier internship with the Minnesota State Legislature, Minh joined Capitol Hill Associates, which lobbies on behalf of various non-profit organizations in Minnesota. He recently moved to Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, where he is the Public Policy Director.

MAJOR PROFILE: JULIE COHEN CHATS WITH HER CREW

by Lauren Wilcox, Ben Straus and Emily Rice

Lauren: What's your favorite Poli Sci class and why?

Julie: My senior sem, because I'm excited about doing a year long research project. Guns, guns, guns. When I think about it, I've spent the last few years learning a lot about various aspects of guns. Now I'm writing about guns.

Ben: What's your favorite ever PowerPoint presentation?

JC: I'd have to go with the guy from the WHO at the Roundtable last year.

LW: What's with the hair? Is it, say, dyed?

JC: Hmmmm. Mebbe.

Emily: So, I've noticed you are wearing new shoes now.

JC: I was actually sporting the sandals a few days ago.

ER: The ones where your toes come out of the front? With the thick socks?

LW: Tell me about you and shoes.

JC: I'm an empiricist. It informs my academic career and my shoe buying. You, Lauren, were trapped in a theoretical construct about shoes. You thought that, one, you had big feet, and two, pointy toes would make your feet look bigger. Much like structuralism, this was not based on empirical facts but faulty assumptions. Once I showed you a new way of thinking; a new paradigm, if you will, you bought the pointy-toed boots that are the envy of all who see them on you.

LW: What do you plan to do after graduation?:

JC: Marry well. But before that, I will pass some time in law school. Perhaps I will find a husband in law school! [eyes brightening at the thought]

Didn't you all see Legally Blonde?

LW: I hated Legally Blonde.

BS: What is one thing you want to do before you graduate?

JC: Get a TD booster, they won't let me validate without one. Also, I want to get up in the middle of the dining hall and recite a poem.

LW: What is your most valuable possession?

JC: In terms of how often I use it, my headphones. In terms of emotional attachment, my favorite books. My favorite is Ficciones by Borges. Tough going in Spanish, but I'd recommend it to anyone in English or Spanish.

LW: Favorite movie?

JC: LA Confidential

ER: Favorite candy?

JC: Really good bittersweet chocolate.

LW: Favorite alcoholic beverage?

JC: Guinness and whiskey. But not together.

BS: Any words of wisdom for underclasspeople?

JC: To the next generation: Don't specialize too early- get some breadth in your education. There's lots of fun stuff to do and tell... and show. I'm going to trade school, not Poli Sci school. I think that's important to realize. Take the LSAT; law school is a get-out-of-life-free card. I'm trying to prolong my adolescence as long as possible. Also, in the words of Gary Sinese from Forrest Gump, "Take care of your feet!"

Nominate a major to be profiled. Email kscott@macalester.edu with suggestions or hints as to our next major profile subject!

GET MORE THAN A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Design a T-Shirt

The Council of Political Science Students (COPPS) is pleased to announce that it is looking for a design for the annual Political Science t-shirt. Come up with a catchy slogan and a design and SPO entries to Krista Scott. Entries will be narrowed down and then voted upon. The person whose design is chosen gets a free t-shirt.

Name the newsletter

This newsletter needs a good name. If you can think of one, SPO it to Krista Scott. Pi Sigma Alpha members will vote on a favorite. If we like yours best, you'll get a prize!