Davidson in Washington
Summer 2018

What: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar “Partisanship and Polarization in American Politics,” taught by Prof. Graham Bullock, and a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student’s choosing. Depending on enrollment numbers, a second seminar option taught by either Prof. Susan Roberts or Prof. Silvi Tosca may be offered as well.

When: Summer 2018 approx. June 4 - July 28 (exact dates TBD)

Who: Fifteen to twenty-five students. Admission is competitive. Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors, may apply for the program (with preference to upperclassmen). Eligibility is NOT limited to political science majors; students who have yet to declare a major and those majoring in another discipline are encouraged to apply. Participants are required to have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

How: Complete the application form (available by October 1).

The application deadline is November 10, 2017 by 5pm.

Cost: Tuition for the program will be approximately $3500. All living expenses & travel are the responsibility of the student. There are a wide range of housing options including summer housing in George Washington University dorms (a high-end option at approx. $2400). Both merit-based and need-based financial aid are available to help – in some cases substantially – to defray these costs.
**The Seminar:** The 2018 seminar is titled, "Partisanship and Polarization in American Politics."

In this seminar, we will explore the dynamics of partisanship and polarization in the United States. The course will examine the claim that American politics has become both more partisan and more polarized in recent years. We will examine to what extent political parties, ideologies, and social change have contributed to these purported trends, and we will utilize key political science concepts to analyze both the polarizing and unifying effects of public opinion, political elites, and institutional design. The course will also explore the historical and psychological roots of political polarization, and examine potential future trajectories for partisanship and polarization in US politics. Guest speakers from the Washington area will come and talk to us about different topics related to the course.

A second seminar offered by either Professor Susan Roberts or Professor Silvi Tosca, topic TBD, may be offered depending on their availability and the number of students who are admitted to the program. The seminar will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for approximately 2 hours. This course counts as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science major, but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements. Class participants will receive a letter grade based on class papers and participation.

**The Internship:** With the assistance of the Center for Career Development, you can apply and serve as an intern in Washington area offices. Each student is responsible for arranging his or her full-time internship with a government office, political party, research institute, trade or industry association, public interest non-profit organization, or similar organization. At the end of the internship, each student will write an 8-10 page analytical paper about the internship experience and the role of the organization in the political process. Participants receive a pass-fail grade for this component of the program. This course can count as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science requirements but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements. Here is a [list](#) of recent DIW internships.

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For more information about the program, visit the Political Science [website](#) or email Dr. Graham Bullock ([grbullock@davidson.edu](mailto:grbullock@davidson.edu)).
Getting Started:

I. Finding An Internship
   - Resources available from Career Services (including a scheduled meeting with CS staff for accepted students in January 2018)
   - Talk with former program participants (names available on request)
   - The Capital Source (this is a directory of offices and think tanks in DC, publications discontinued in 2008, but the old version is still of some use)
   - Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

II. Finding Housing
   - George Washington University, at http://summerhousing.gwu.edu
   - Georgetown University, at http://housing.georgetown.edu/summer/index.cfm?fuse=overview&type=nongu
   - Other local university housing offices (Catholic, Howard, etc.)
   - Sublets through Washington Post, online roommate and apartment finder services
   - Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

The 2018 Davidson in Washington Program
Tentative Schedule

November 10  Applications due.
November 21  Accepted applicants notified.
Mid-December  Financial aid and scholarship awards announced.
Christmas Break  Applicants begin searching for internships (but may start earlier). Make sure to note application deadlines per individual opportunities.
January 19  Non-refundable program deposit due ($200).
April 9  Balance of tuition due.
April and May  Submit internship details to Prof. Bullock; finalize internship, travel, and housing; collect definitive syllabus.
May 7  Deadline for approval of internships.