



Davidson in Washington Summer 2023

What: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar - either “The Politics of Poverty,” taught by Prof. Andrew O’Geen or “American Democracy: Damaged or Endangered” taught by Prof. Susan Roberts. Students also receive a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student’s choosing.

When: Summer 2023, June 6 - July 27

Who: Thirty-five to fifty 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 7).

The application deadline is Friday, November 4, 2022 by 5pm.

Cost: Tuition for the program will be approximately \$4500. 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](#) (\$2000 to \$3200 depending on the type of room). *Both merit-based and need-based financial aid are available to help – in some cases substantially – to defray these costs.*

The Seminars: The 2023 seminar descriptions are below

"The Politics of Poverty" (O'Geen)

In the United States, in 2021, about 1 in every 8 people lived below the federally defined poverty line. For those under the age of 18, that number was closer to 1 out of every 6. For one of the most prosperous nations in the world, these may seem like surprising numbers. Yet a look at the country's history – as well as more contemporary practice – of dealing with the issue of poverty may lead to a different conclusion. In this seminar we will attempt to gain a fuller understanding of the politics of poverty in the United States. We will engage with scholarship and journalism that seeks to illuminate the causes and consequences of poverty as well as the challenges to crafting public policy that seeks to mitigate these factors. We will also engage with guest speakers and other experiences that allow us to rely on both expertise and personal accounts in our investigation of these important questions.

This 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.

"American Democracy: Damaged or Endangered" (Roberts)

Journalists, academics, public servants, and citizens have begun to question the extent to which democratic norms and faith in our institutions have been challenged in the wake of January 6, 2021 and the denial by some of the results of the 2020 Presidential election. Given these events in combination with the impact of social media, the rapidly changing demographics of the country and the possibility of a cultural war, the prospects of compromise, consensus, and coordination seem dim if not insurmountable. In this seminar, we will examine in depth topics like election integrity, the role of the media in political discourse, trust in institutions, chronic partisan antipathy, and many others, through readings and guest speakers who bring their expertise to these questions and the component of these dilemmas.

This 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.

The Internship: With the assistance of the Matthews Center for Career Development, you can apply and serve as an intern in Washington area offices. We are also open to credit being earned through remote internships, including with organizations outside the Washington area. You should discuss internships you are considering with Prof. O'Geen or Prof. Roberts. Each student

is responsible for arranging their 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 either Dr. O'Geen (anogeen@davidson.edu) or Dr. Roberts (suroberts@davidson.edu).

Getting Started:

I. Finding An Internship

- Resources available from the Center for Career Development (including a scheduled meeting with CCD staff for accepted students late in the fall semester)
- List of recent DIW internships available at the Davidson in Washington website, <https://www.davidson.edu/academic-departments/political-science/internships-careers-and-graduate-school/davidson-washington/davidson-washington-internships>
- Online lists of offices and think tanks in DC
- Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

II. Finding Housing

- George Washington University, at <http://summerhousing.gwu.edu>
- Georgetown University, at <https://residentialiving.georgetown.edu/summer/>
- Georgetown Law, at <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/your-life-career/housing/summer-housing/>.
- 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 2023 Davidson in Washington Program Tentative Schedule

November 4	Applications due at 5pm.
November 21	Accepted applicants notified.
Mid-December	Financial aid and scholarship awards announced.
Winter Break	Continue parallel searches for internships and housing. Make sure to note application deadlines per individual opportunities.

January 20	Non-refundable program deposit due (\$200) at 5pm.
April 14	Balance of tuition due.
April and May	Submit internship details to Prof. O'Geen and Prof. Roberts; finalize internship, travel, and housing; collect definitive syllabus.
May 5	Deadline for approval of internships.