

# Political Science & International Relations

February 2025

Dear all,

Happy New Year and welcome back for the Spring 2025 semester. I trust you are well rested and energized as you return to classes.

Among many things appearing in this first newsletter of the spring semester, please consider the internships, scholarships and study abroad opportunities we have included. In particular, I urge anyone considering an unpaid internship to apply for the Living Internship Stipend. This relatively new award is valued at up to \$3,000 and paid directly to you (not sent to cover your tuition costs).

The newsletter also includes a description of the recently completed Model EU led by Prof. Dowley. The Model EU runs annually over winter break – rotating between NYC and Brussels, Belgium. Next year will be in Belgium. You can contact Prof. Dowley for more information about the Model EU and how you can get involved.

You may have noticed that our department is being supported by three adjunct professors this term. We are pleased to welcome back Eric Bein and Rifat Lutful and introduce you to our new colleague, Greg Evans. In this newsletter we have included introductions to each of them. Consider contacting them to learn more about their teaching, research and interests.

As part of our continuing series of introductions to department faculty, you will also find an interview with Prof. Dowley.

Finally, the newsletter includes a list of important dates during the semester as well as the office locations and office hours of all your PSIR professors.

A last note. I would very much like to receive your feedback. Reach out to me (schwartzj@newpaltz.edu) with any suggestions or ideas you have for future newsletters.

Wishing you all a successful spring semester,

Jonathan Schwartz  
Department Chair Political Science & International  
Relations  
schwartzj@newpaltz.edu



## SPRING 2025 Important Dates

### February 3

Last day to drop a course w/o "W" grade

### February 17

President's Day - classes in session

### March 1

Summer study abroad applications due

### March 10

Mid-point of semester

### March 15

August 2025 degree applications due

### March 17-21

Spring Break

### April 1

Fall & Academic Year study abroad applications due

### April 7

Summer registration begins

### April 12

Passover

### April 14

Last day to request course withdrawal

### May 5

Last day to declare S/U

### May 5

Last day of classes

### May 9-15

**FINAL EXAMS**

### May 17

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Commencement Ceremony

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# Meet Professor Kathleen Dowley

By Sadie Leia Watkins

Kathleen Dowley is an Associate Professor and has been teaching at the university for 25 years. She specializes in Comparative Politics. She was the chair of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department for six years and chair of the Political Science Department for 5 years. Professor Dowley completed her undergraduate studies in American Studies at Colby College, her Masters in Russian and Eastern European Studies from the University of Michigan, and received her Ph.D. in Political Science with a specialization in Comparative Politics from Michigan State University. This spring, she is teaching Introduction to Comparative Politics and Russian Politics: Past and Present. She also teaches European Politics, Women in Politics, and the senior seminar. To keep her students engaged, Professor Dowley encourages in-class discussions, class debates, and even simulations of European politics. She ran the SUNY Model EU program for 12 years, and continues to bring students to the simulation most years.

When Professor Dowley was in her freshman year of undergrad, she took a class called Politics and Literature, which was co-taught by the Chairs of the English Department and Political Science department. From this class, she was hired as the research assistant for the Chair of the English

department; she was able to experience first-hand what it was like to be a professor. She held the position for four years, and it is what made her realize she wanted to be a professor. As she was completing her Masters, the Soviet Union was crumbling. She was fascinated by it – how it was happening, why it was happening, etc. This is what led her to becoming a professor in Comparative Politics.

In Professor Dowley's research, the common thread found in her work is the politics and governance in states that are multi-ethnic and the challenges those present. In her early work, she observed how the former Soviet Union had broken up between many ethnic groups as the new nations began to redraw their borders and adopt new citizenship policies. More recently, her focus has slightly shifted; it has focused on the integration of the Muslim population into Europe, and then, the integration of second-generation Moroccans living in Brussels. Her interest in Muslim integration developed in response to the terrorist attacks in France in 2017, after it was discovered that the perpetrators could be traced to an immigrant neighborhood in Brussels – Molenbeek – a neighborhood the Model EU participants had regularly stayed in.

# Meet the Adjuncts



## Rifat Lutful

I joined SUNY New Paltz in the fall of 2024 and am teaching Introduction to International Politics this Spring semester. I specialize in Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Security Studies. I also specialize in regionally focused courses on South Asia and the Middle East. I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Delaware (UD), hoping to graduate in the spring of 2025. My research aims to find the root causes of Islamic radicalization in Muslim-majority states. I aspire to continue my teaching journey and research and mentor the next generation of political scientists.

## Eric Bein MA, Phd Abd Cornell U Dept of Government

Since spending time as an advocate for housing and for those living with AIDS in the 90s, I've taught at numerous upstate schools, including an interdisciplinary program at SUNY Albany, and Poli Sci at SUNY Ulster. Currently, I am teaching Introduction to International Politics. Other courses I have taught include Intro to Comparative Politics, American Government, Intro to International Relations, Modern Political Philosophy, and Radical Political Philosophy. My particular intellectual interests involve social movements, race and class and how they shape and are shaped by public policy.



## Greg Evans

I am teaching Crisis and Response in International Public Health. I have recently retired from the deanship at Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. Prior to this, I was Department Chair at St. Louis University School of Public Health where, shortly after 9/11, I started an Institute of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infectious Diseases. I have been teaching public health courses for 45 years with a specialty in biosecurity. I am looking forward to this opportunity to teach a course that interests me, and I hope will interest students at SUNY New Paltz.



# STUDY ABROAD FAIR



**Interested in traveling the world?  
Want to earn college credits in the process?  
Study abroad!**

**Thursday, February 6th  
10:30AM - 1:00 PM  
Lecture Center North Lobby**

# POLITICAL THEORY COURSES

Check these courses from various departments that will earn you credit for your Political Theory requirement!

**PHI 215 - Modern Philosophy**

**PHI 372 - Political & Social Philosophy**

**SOC 328 - Political Sociology**

**ECO 351 - History of Economic Thought**

Once the student completes the course with a grade of C- or better, they should contact their PSIR advisor who will ensure that the course is listed as fulfilling the Political Theory requirement of the major.

# Global Model EU in NYC

From January 6-9, SUNY New Paltz PoliSci and IR students participated in the annual transatlantic Model European Union summit. 11 New Paltz students participated, alongside Professor Kathleen Dowley, at the SUNY Global Center, simulating three EU Council configurations over two days of intense negotiations. The Heads of Government (the EU Council) debated enlargement to Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, the Foreign Ministers debated relations with the US under President-elect Trump, and the Environment Ministers focused on the EU Green Energy plan. New Paltz Model EU veterans, who last year participated in Brussels in January, played the EU Council Presidency/Secretariat team, chairing the all-important meetings. Luke Beaver played new EU Council President Antonio Costa, Kerrith McGarry played EU High Minister for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas, and Emily Clayton and Jacqueline Avignone played essential roles as members of the EU Secretariat, supporting the presidency in their goal to achieve EU consensus on difficult issues. SUNY New Paltz also represented Malta (Oliva Tolemeo, James DeGorter and Jacob Kamen) and Romania (Stephen McDermott, Kaan Bayram, and Sprio Cataldi) while Inka Urrea Bodner took on a shared role with another university in playing Austria's Chancellor. New Paltz participated alongside delegations from SUNY Buffalo, Albany, and Cortland, Ithaca and LeMoyne University, Brussels School of Governance, University of London in Paris, Schmalkalden University in Germany, Babes Bolyai in Romania, and the University of Lille School of Management (France).



# SUNY Washington DC Internship Program

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Through the guidance of SUNY Washington DC Internship program, I have the opportunity to be a legislative intern for Senator Charles E Schumer of New York for the duration of Spring 2025. With the changing of administration and Senator Schumer now becoming the Democratic Minority Leader, my experience has been transformative. My responsibilities include speaking to constituents, writing memos on various hearings, giving tours of the Capitol, escorting guests, and assisting staff with other administrative tasks. I am extremely grateful for this experience, and I am excited to see my growth by the end of the semester.





# Global Engagement Program is accepting applications for Fall 2025!



Fall 2024 Cohort at SUNY Global Center

The Global Engagement Program (GEP) offers academic coursework related to global issues and a field experience through *internships*. New York City offers a wealth of opportunity for students to gain hands on experience in the world of international affairs. The presence of the United Nations Secretariat and offices of all UN related organizations offers possibilities for students in many fields of study related to global affairs including education, the arts, the social and natural sciences, and business. GEP offers an opportunity to have a global experience while remaining within New York state.

Students obtain a globally engaged and internationally focused internship in New York City, attend weekly seminar and colloquium and conduct a major research project. The goal of this course is to gain field experience in international affairs. Students will be able to demonstrate multicultural and interpersonal communication skills and become fluent in the current state of international relations including UN and affiliated organizations as well as international non-governmental organizations.

Applications are considered on a rolling basis and a maximum of 20 students will be admitted to the program. We strongly encourage students to apply early.

Contact Professor Ozler for more information: [ozleri@newpaltz.edu](mailto:ozleri@newpaltz.edu)

Office Hours Tuesdays 11am-3pm 912 JFT

# TURNUP Youth Activism Remote Internship

## What is TurnUp?

TurnUp Activism is a progressive non-profit organization dedicated to making the world more **just, fair, and equitable** for all by increasing youth activism and civic engagement to **strengthen our democracy**.

## About the Internship

Interns work in remote teams of mission-driven young people from all around the country to help amplify **youth civic engagement** and participate in **activism on many progressive/social justice issues** including climate change, racial justice, reproductive rights, ending gun violence, and combating voter suppression.

## Internship Structure

- Fully **remote** with optional in person activities
- Rolling admission - **start and end any time!**
- High school, college, and graduate students can apply
- Flexible time commitment - **you choose between 5-30 hours/week**
- Hours can count towards **community service or school credit**
- Learn from **world-renowned** speakers from a variety of fields

## Skills Developed

- Communication
- Professionalism
- Critical thinking and writing
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Public speaking
- Grassroots organizing

## Benefits



Earn valuable letters of recommendation



Bolster your resume



Be eligible to win prizes and awards



Widen your networking scope

## Curriculum



Grassroots Activism



Voter Registration and Turnout Projects



Research activism, Civics, and Social Justice Issues



Writing and Reflection

## Apply Here!

Visit <https://bit.ly/2023TurnUpInternship>



Visit <https://www.turnup.us/internship> to learn more



turn

JOIN OUR INTERNSHIP  
AND BECOME A FORCE  
FOR CHANGE!

# Internship Funding Opportunities for 2025!

## Living Internship Stipend

Enables students to participate in an unpaid internship or curricular applied learning in public service and high-demand non-profit sectors related to their major and/or future career goals, but that is not required by their major.

Award: Up to \$3,000

## Campus Auxiliary Services Stipend (CAS)

Supports students involved in a semester-long internship or student teaching placement that is required by their major.

Award: Up to \$2,000 for fall/spring; Up to \$3,000 for summer

## Applied Learning Travel Grant

Supports students who are completing an internship or applied learning experience, including student teaching, that is required by their major and are commuting more than 15 miles one way. The grant is designed to cover travel expenses.

Award: \$500 per student

Living Internship Stipend



CAS Stipend



Travel Grant





## PSIR Faculty Office Hours-Spring 2025

**Welcome to the Department of Political Science and International Relations!**

PROFESSOR	PHONE/EMAIL	DAYS	TIMES	OFFICE
Jonathan Schwartz Chair	845 257 2627 schwartzj@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	11:00am-1:00pm 11:00am-1:00pm	JFT 816
Kathleen Dowley	845 257 3558 dowleyk@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Fridays	12:30pm-3:30pm 12:15pm-1:15pm	JFT 808
Nancy Kassop	845 257 3544 kassopn@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm-2:00pm	JFT 812
Joel Lefkowitz	845 257 3792 lefkowij@newpaltz.edu	Wednesdays Thursdays	2:00pm-5:00pm 5:00pm-6:00pm	JFT 400
Daniel Lipson	845 257 3543 lipsond@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Thursdays	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm-2:00pm	JFT 810
Jeff Miller	845 257 3934 millerj@newpaltz.edu		On Leave Spring '25	JFT 920
Scott Minkoff	845 257 3541 minkoffs@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays Wednesdays	9:30am-10:45am 9:30am-12:00pm	JFT 1016
S. Ilgu Ozler	845 257 2635 ozleri@newpaltz.edu	Tuesdays	11:00am-3:00pm	JFT 912
Stephen Pampinella	845 257 3549 pampines@newpaltz.edu	Mondays Wednesdays	1:00pm-3:00pm 10:00am-12:00pm	JFT 522
Eric Bein*	beine@newpaltz.edu	virtual	Email for appointment	
Rifat Lutful*	lutfulr@newpaltz.edu	Fridays	Email for appointment	
Greg Evans*	evansr@newpaltz.edu	Wednesdays	2:00pm-4:00pm	JFT 806

The Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Freer can be reached via email at [freerj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:freerj@newpaltz.edu)