

The 2009 Davidson in Washington Program

What: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar “Liberal Democracy and Religion, At Home and Abroad” taught by Prof. Peter Ahrensorf, and a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student’s choosing.

When: May 26 – July 17, 2009.

Who: Sixteen to twenty students. Admission is competitive. Rising juniors and seniors, and in exceptional cases rising sophomores, may apply for the program. 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 attached application form (including essay and recommendation). **The application deadline is December 1, 2008.** Tuition will be approximately \$2800. Estimated housing costs for the eight weeks range widely; among the lower cost options is housing in a single dorm room with a shared bathroom at George Washington University (approx. \$2,000). Students are individually responsible for finding their own housing arrangements. *Both merit-based and need-based financial aid is available to help – in some cases substantially – to defray these costs.* All additional expenses, including meals, travel, local transportation, etc. are entirely the responsibility of students.

The Seminar: 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 major, but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements. Class participants will receive a letter grade based on class reviews and participation.

The Internship: 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 also count as one of the 10 required courses for political science requirements (but, again, not for one of the four sub-fields in the major).

Getting Started:

I. Finding An Internship

- A. Resources available from Career Services (John Adams, Director)
- B. List of 2007 and 2006 internships (handout)
- C. List of 1990-1005 internships (available at Davidson in Washington website, at <http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x12032.xml>)
- D. *The Capital Source* (in Little Library, Reference-- R 328.73 C244)
- E. Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office, available from Prof. Shaw)

II. Finding Housing

- A. George Washington University, at
<http://summerschool.georgetown.edu/housing.html>
- B. Georgetown University, at
<http://summerschool.georgetown.edu/housing.html>
- C. Georgetown Law, at
<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/reslife/summer/index.html>
- D. Other local university housing offices (Catholic, Howard, etc.)
- E. Sublets through these university offices, *Washington Post*, web roommate and apartment finder services
- F. Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office, available from Prof. Ahrensdorf)

Davidson in Washington Class
Peter Ahrens Dorf

LIBERAL DEMOCRACY AND RELIGION: AT HOME AND ABROAD

Course Description:

The question of liberal democracy and religion is today a central question of American foreign policy and of international relations as a whole. That question focuses most urgently on the relation between Islam and liberalism. Is the faith based on the Quran compatible with a regime based on consent of the governed and whose goal is the protection of the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness of all equally? Or is there a fundamental opposition between Islam and liberal democracy?

Yet the question of the relation between liberal democracy and religion as such (including, most obviously, Christianity) is one which haunts liberal democracy from the very beginning. For the claim of John Locke, the theoretical founder of liberalism, that unassisted human reason is our “sole star and compass” and his teaching that the human condition is a “state of nature” in which we humans are left to fend for ourselves seem to constitute a direct challenge to the teachings of the Bible. Furthermore, the explosively controversial issue of the separation of the church and state has been central to American domestic politics from the Founding up through our own day.

The question of liberal democracy and religion, then, is one which encompasses domestic as well as international politics, non-Muslim as well as Muslim societies, and liberal political theory as well as liberal political societies. In this course, we will explore this question by studying, first, arguments by Francis Fukuyama, Samuel Huntington, on the relation between religion and liberal democracy, then relevant works by John Locke and the American Founders, selections from Tocqueville, relevant Supreme Court cases on the separation of church and state, and finally selections from the Quran, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and arguments concerning Islam and liberalism by such Islamic opponents of liberalism as Sayyid Qutb and Ruhollah Khomeini, as well as by such Islamic liberals as Abdolkarim Soroush. But we will also examine this question by listening to guest speakers from the Washington area who will come to our class and address some aspect of this issue with us.

Requirements:

Your grade will be based on three 5-7 page papers (worth roughly 30% each) and class participation (worth roughly 10%). You must do all of the written work in order to pass the course. You will be docked a half of a grade (for example, from A to A-) on a paper which you hand in late unless you either have asked for (and received) my permission beforehand or have a very good excuse. You will be expected to read the assigned texts carefully before we discuss them in class. Regular attendance is expected.

**The 2009 Davidson in Washington Program
Tentative Schedule**

December 1	Applications and recommendations due.
December 15	Accepted applicants notified.
Christmas Break	Applicants begin searching for internships. Make sure to note application deadlines per individual opportunities.
February 16	Financial aid and scholarship awards announced.
March 16	Non-refundable program deposit due (\$200), to Ms. Donna Hamm, Business Services (3 Jackson Court, Campus Box 7162). Make check payable to Davidson College.
April 10	Balance of tuition due to Ms. Hamm. Again, make check payable to Davidson College.
April and May	Submit proposed internship to Prof. Ahrensdorf; finalize internship, travel, and housing; collect definitive syllabus; purchase books for seminar.
May 8	Deadline for approval of internship.
May 26	First class meeting.

**The 2008 Davidson in Washington Program
Student internships**

1. Christoph Pross	Brookings Institution
2. Ryan Gough	Hudson Institute
3. Annaliese Rosenthal	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
4. Chris Ryan	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
5. Evan Colbert	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
6. Katherine Johnson	Department of Defense (Office of Coalition, Peacekeeping, and Multinational Cooperation)
7. Melanee Smith	National Center for Victims of Crime
8. Andrew Foglia	National Coalition for the Homeless
9. Krista Timeus	Center for American Progress
10. Tatenda Musapatike	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
11. James Mayo	Imagine Schools [Organization for Public Charter Schools]
12. Mike Jucewicz	Department of Defense
13. Ross White	The President's Council on Bioethics
14. Bryan Norris	Office of Sue Myrick/ Office of John Spratt
15. Kennesia Martin	SchoolVentures
16. Erik Suspanic	Strat@comm
17. Joseph Tabler	Arnold and Porter
18. Davis Greene	Office of Sen. Bill Nelson/ National Coalition for the Homeless
19. Chris Marsicano	Americans for the Arts Action Fund
20. Chelsea Heath	Running Start
21. Meikaela Zwierski	Brustein and Manasevit
22. Michele Torsiglieri	Legal Counsel for the Elderly

**The 2007 Davidson in Washington Program
Student internships**

1. Abdul Hadi, Hanan	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
2. Adermatt, Logan	National Endowment of Democracy
3. Anderson, John	Information Technology and Innovation Forum
4. Blake, Richmond	People for the American Way
5. Chamberlin, Trevor	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
6. Curtiss, Megan	Congressman Steven LaTourette
7. Elinor, Ben	Consumer Federation of America
8. Irei, Alissa	Create! Education Solutions
9. Jones, Olivia	American Society of International Law
10. Kali, Stephen	Global Fund for Children
11. Kalita, Alexandra	Inter American dialogue
13. McCormick, Moira	Earth Day Network
14. O'Shea, Claire	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
15. Saldana, Scott	Congressman Steny Hoyer
16. Satterwhite, Brad	Judicial Watch
17. Stroup, Paul	Congresswoman Sue Myrick
18. Webster, Zeke	Common Good Strategies

**The 2006 Davidson in Washington Program
Student internships**

1. Bialas, John	U.S. Chamber of Commerce / Federation Relations
2. Brown, Amanda	Rep. Mike Fitzgerald / Pennsylvania
3. Cummins, Johnny	White House / Political Affairs Office
4. Foster, Scott	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
5. Gurskis, Emily	Meet the Press / NBC
6. Hartman, Matthew	Rep. John Carter / Texas
7. Hopkins, Jamie	Common Good Strategies
8. Hubbard, Elisabeth (Libby)	The ONE Campaign
9. Hubbard, James M. (Mickey)	National Coalition for the Homeless
10. Isaac-Lowry, Alicyn	Bois, Schiller, and Flexner
11. Jones, Beau	Strother-Duffy-Shelton (SDS) [consultants]
12. MacDonald, Ross	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
13. Maguire, Jessica	Goodwill of Greater Washington
14. Moore, Ashley	CBS News Early Show
15. Morales, Francisco	Common Good Strategies
16. Petit, Matthew	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
17. Pittman, Evangeline	The European Institute
18. Rogers-Ganter, Hannah	Rep. Bill Delahunt / Massachusetts
19. Santamarina, Fernanda	Global Trade Watch / Public Citizen
20. Stone, Tyler	Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
21. Whetstone, Will	Sallie Mae Corporation / Government Relations
22. Whipple, Margaret	Sen. Blanche Lincoln / Arkansas
23. Zipperstein, Emily	Sen. Bill Nelson / Florida

2009 Davidson in Washington Application

The Application Form and Essay must be turned in to Ms. Kristen Schrauder (CHA 2129) on or before December 1, 2008. A signature is not necessary for email submissions.

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Davidson ID number: _____ Social Sec. Number: _____

Davidson Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Home address: _____

Are you currently receiving financial aid? Yes: _____ No: _____

Do you wish to be considered for financial aid?* Yes: _____ No: _____

**If you are not currently receiving financial aid but wish to be considered for such aid, please include with your application a letter explaining why you have financial need for the summer.*

Parent/guardian to be notified in case of emergency:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home phone: _____ Work/cell phone: _____

Recommendation: *Ask a Davidson faculty member outside of the Political Science Department to write a recommendation and submit the letter to Prof. Peter J. Ahrensdorf on or before December 1, 2008.*

Name of professor writing recommendation: _____

Academic work: *Planned political science course(s), if any, in the spring: _____*

Major: _____ Advisor: _____

Essay: *Write a paragraph (roughly 100 words) explaining why you should be selected to participate in this program and what you hope to get out of it. Please attach the Essay to your signed application form.*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**2009 Davidson in Washington
Recommendation Form**

Student's name: _____

Recommender's name: _____

Recommender's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Dear Colleague:

The student named above is applying to the 2008 Davidson in Washington Program. This competitive program requires students to intern in a D.C. area office and participate in an evening seminar. Students will represent Davidson to their employers, fellow employees and the larger Washington community.

Each student will be expected to complete all academic work for the seminar while interning at least 40 hours per week. We wish to select students who will be able to manage these substantial academic and work demands in a responsible, timely and collegial manner. Please provide a *brief* assessment of the student's suitability for this program, especially his or her maturity, character and capacity for academic and professional work.

Please return this form and your assessment to Prof. Peter J. Ahrensdorf, Political Science Department, via campus mail, by December 1, 2008. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Ahrensdorf