

Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Weekly Newsletter: September 28 – October 2, 2009

If you have any last minute questions about your program certification for graduation contact Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526. You can also stop by my office located in Founders Hall (FH) 427J. If you have any program related community or campus events that you would like us to consider for the newsletter please feel free to email them to me, Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu.

Graduation Paperwork Deadlines- [Last Week](#)

The graduation deadline is October 8th for those who anticipate on graduating in spring 2010. All information about graduation paperwork is located at: <http://registrar.nku.edu/students/graduation.php>. At this site you will find the undergraduate checklist, undergraduate application for degree candidacy, and the program certification forms among other valuable graduation information. Program certification forms must be completed by the student and then dropped off to be reviewed and signed by the chair of the department prior to **October 1**. Forms can be given to Prof. Millisor located in Founders Hall 427J. If you have any questions contact Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526.

Major & Minor Fair

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, October 14** when the Major (& Minor) Fair will take place from **10 am to 1 pm** in the **Student Union Ballroom**. All departments and academic programs from across the university setup displays and provide information about majors and minors in their departments and related student opportunities. We will have representatives from all majors and minors in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice to answer any questions you may have about the programs. Here is a list of our current majors and minors.
Majors: Criminal Justice, Political Science, International Studies, and Organizational Leadership
Minors: Pre-law, Public Administration, Criminalistics, Computer Forensics, Japanese Studies with Teaching Certification, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Middle Eastern & North African Studies with Teaching Certification, Political Science, Criminal Justice, and International Studies
Certificates: Civic Engagement and Organizational Leadership

Student Opportunities

New Study Abroad Course for Summer 2010

GRAMEEN BANK & MICRO-CREDIT: (3 CREDITS) IN BANGLADESH

WHAT IS MICRO-CREDIT?

Extension of very small loans (microloans) to those in poverty, designed to spur entrepreneurship.

WHAT IS THE GRAMEEN BANK (GB)?

The most effective and world-renowned micro-credit institution. Recipient of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONTENT OF THIS COURSE?

Combines Grameen Bank's internship program with other learning activities.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THIS COURSE?

1. Exposure to Bangladeshi culture, traditions, language, and people.
2. Learn in depth, through field visits, the philosophy and operational procedures of GB.
3. Learn about and experience the impact that microcredit has on the economic, social, and cultural life of GB members and the community.
4. Engage students, through the GB international internship program, in a learning experience which includes students from educational institutions all over the world.

WHERE WILL STUDENTS STAY?

Dhaka (capital city, Bangladesh) and villages (during field trip/internship in field).

OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES?

A garments factory tour; visit to a tea garden in Sylhet City (depending on the availability of time).

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE COURSE?

Four weeks (2nd week of July – first week of August).

WHAT IS THE COST?

Approximately \$2,800, plus three credit hours tuition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Shamima Ahmed (ahmed@nku.edu) or Dr. Julie Kunselman (kunselmanj1@nku.edu) in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice.

Tuesday, October 6th from 3 -5 Prof. Millisor along with students from the Civic Engagement class will be meeting at the Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC) in downtown Cincinnati. The mission of OJPC is a non-profit law office that works for productive, statewide reform of the criminal justice system by:

Promoting rehabilitation of incarcerated people; enabling them to successfully reintegrate into the community; and eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system. These goals are worked towards through the following programs: The Race and Justice Project; Human Rights in Prisons; Second Chance; Indigent Defense Reform; and the Clinical Legal Education Project.

We will be touring the facilities and hearing attorneys speak on the work they do with the community in the above areas. If you are interested in attending or have questions contact Prof. Millisor at millisorj1@nku.edu or 859.572.5526.

Government Day for Leadership Cincinnati. October 8, 2009. Discussion about the structure and challenges of government in Greater Cincinnati with this year's class for 52 civic, business and social service leaders. There is room for 30 NKU students to attend part of this day. Confirmed

closing speaker will be Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, who led his city through a city-county merger in 2003. The Mayor will speak generally about leadership and regionalism, and tell the story of the new governance model for Louisville/Jefferson County. This will be at 3:30 p.m. on October 8 at the Carnegie Arts Center in Covington. If you are interested in attending email Dr. Kunselman as soon as possible kunselmanj1@nku.edu

Posters-at-the Capitol. Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the State Capitol in Frankfort. This is an opportunity for undergraduate students from all disciplines to display the results of their research, scholarly, and creative work in the Capitol at the time when the legislators are there to view them. Students and their faculty sponsors who have participated in this event in the past have found it to be very interesting and rewarding. While the event is restricted to a poster presentation, the students will stand at their posters to discuss their work, so work that has generally been considered appropriate for oral presentation can be presented here as well.

Registration deadline is for your project is **October 21, 2009**. Registration is on-line via <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/URSA/>. Select the tab "Posters-at-the-Capitol." There is a limited number of spaces (~12 for each university), so a committee will review the proposals. In case there are more outstanding posters than the allotted number of slots, the committee will allocate slots in the order in which the abstracts were received. So even though the abstract deadline is October 21, it is to your advantage to register as soon as possible. **Please remember to establish a faculty sponsor for this event prior to registering.**

Internships

Future Leader Internship Program (FLIP)

FLIP offers the opportunity to learn more about the legislative process, strengthen your network, meet influential Kentuckians, work on policy issues facing our Commonwealth, interact with constituents, and learn about the inner workings of state government.

Open to any major, offers \$750 stipend, NKU provides transportation to and from Frankfort, intern on Tuesday and Thursday (January –April), provides 12 credits (6 credits graded & 6 credits pass/fail). For more information or to fill out an application visit <http://www.nku.edu/~psc/programs/political/flip.php>

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Jonathan McKenzie at mckenziej1@nku.edu

Émigré Memorial German Internship Program EMGIP – *Bundestag*

EMGIP - *Bundestag* offers internship opportunities for U.S. and Canadian students in the German parliament, the *Bundestag*. The internships are 2 months long in positions matching the student's interest and experience. Interns will be placed within the *Verwaltung*, preferably with a *Sekretariat* working for their preferred *Ausschuss*. Besides from contributing to the respective offices, interns have the opportunity to study legislative and administrative procedures in the German parliament.

Program Objectives:

DAAD programs are helping to create good will and professional relationships that will help build a solid basis for relations between Germany and North America.

EMGIP Internships were founded in 1965 by Professors Louise Holborn and George Romoser with the assistance of many scholars of German affairs, especially in the social sciences and contemporary history, and with the financial and planning aid of various German offices also interested in encouraging the development of future generations of German experts. In view of the contributions of German émigrés, the experiential program was named Émigré Memorial German Internship Program.

Eligibility:

Applicants for EMGIP – *Bundestag* should possess outstanding academic records and personal integrity as well as some knowledge of the German legislative process. Participants should be advanced undergraduates or graduate students in fields such as political science, international relations, law, history, economics or German. Students must be able to fully communicate in German. US and Canadian citizens and permanent residents are eligible to apply. International students who are enrolled in a full time course of study in the US or Canada may also apply. German nationals are not eligible.

Attention graduating seniors:

Successful applicants must hand in a certificate of enrollment for the internship period to ensure student status in Germany or enroll at the Free University as special students.

Language Skills:

Intermediate German skills and above (oral and written) are required as well as the appropriate professional vocabulary. Applicants must submit the DAAD language certificate.

Application Guidelines:

Application forms and up-to-date information about the application process for the EMGIP – *Bundestag* internships as well as detailed guidelines are available at www.daad.org.

The following documentation is required:

- Application Form
- Resume
- Short Essay
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- DAAD Language Certificate

In order to receive an optimal placement you should clearly state your particular interests in the essay. The German *Bundestag* suggests that you choose a 2 month period between September and mid-December when the *Bundestag* is in session. Placements during the spring are from May 1st through June 2010. Since the spring session ends in late June, placements typically end in early July for the summer break.

Application Deadline: November 1st, 2009 (postmark)

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. All materials and the correct amount of copies must be submitted on time.

Selection Process:

An independent selection committee of expert academics will be convened by DAAD to screen the applications. Short listed candidates will be interviewed in German between December and January.

Placement Process:

Once accepted into the program, the administration of the *Bundestag* will search for an appropriate position for the interns. This process may take a while as the EMGIP Interns will be competing with hundreds of native Germans for the most prestigious placements.

Terms of award:

The successful applicant will receive compensation of approximately €1,500 per month by the German *Bundestag*. Subsidized health insurance is available through DAAD for a monthly fee. DAAD can help the interns to obtain housing in Berlin (the average rent for a room is €270/month and for an apartment €420) and make contacts with fellow international interns and German students. All travel expenses are the intern's responsibility.

Student Organizations

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) the Pre Law Chapter is sponsoring two upcoming Law School Symposiums. At these gatherings, the law schools will have representatives from Admissions who will field any question students may have and address a variety of issues that students need to consider while applying to law schools.

The Kentucky Law School Symposium

University of Kentucky College of Law
University of Louisville (Brandeis)
Salmon P. Chase College of Law
September 30, 2009 in Landrum 509 at 12 noon.

The Ohio Law School Symposium

The Ohio State College of Law
Capital College of Law
University of Cincinnati College of Law
October 8, 2009 in Nunn Hall 404 at 1:00 pm

New Faculty

Jonathan McKenzie is an assistant professor of Political Science where he teaches courses mainly in political theory. He earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from Purdue University in 2008, where he wrote a dissertation on the American individualist Henry David Thoreau. Originally from Wyoming, Jonathan obtained a B.S. and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Wyoming.

His research interests include 19th and 20th century American philosophy, continental political theory, existential phenomenology, and psychoanalytic theory. He has published work on Thoreau, William James, Martin Heidegger, Emma Goldman, and Sigmund Freud.

Jonathan teaches courses in the history of political thought, including pre-and-post Enlightenment political thought, Western political thought, and courses in 19th and 20th century American political thought. Jonathan enjoys allowing students to navigate a course as much as possible, giving them the freedom to discover what is most important to them. He follows the counsel of Thoreau both in and out of the classroom: "We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep."

Outside the classroom you may find Jonathan sauntering with his wife and two kids or playing disc golf.

Q and A with Dr. McKenzie

Why did you pursue a PhD in political science?

It was really the only thing I ever wanted to do. I was always interested in the life of a professor—reading, teaching, writing—and I loved politics and political science. I knew I would probably cry myself to sleep every night if I had to be a lawyer, so the PhD was an easy choice for me.

How has your background and life experiences influenced your teaching?

I try to use everyone's experience in the classroom. I usually teach courses on the history of political thought, which most students consider at a distance from their daily lives. I'm trying to show them that Plato, Nietzsche, Hobbes, Thoreau—all of these people said things that resonate with personal experience. I try to allow everyone's experience, including my own, to bracket the particular philosophies we study.

What excites you most about teaching?

The moment before we start class every day. I still get a little nervous. I love the students in each of my classes and want them to find some aspect of their life that can use philosophical reflection. Seeing a student utilize a philosophy in the exploration of life is a very fine reward.

Who has been most influential in your career?

I had two mentors—Fred Homer and Michael Weinstein—who were not only world-renowned scholars but wonderful teachers and humane individuals. Every student has a teacher who really clicks with them and, if that teacher is worth his/her salt, can impact that student in the achievement of the student's ambitions. I was lucky enough to have two.

What advice do you have for students?

Read more Nietzsche.