

Democracy Lab

A Schar School of Policy and Government Learning Community

Spring 2023

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1 Mission Statement

The Schar School Living-Learning Community is a “Democracy Lab” that provides first-year students at Mason with an integrated residential, academic, and experiential learning opportunity. Democracy Lab students build relationships with Schar School faculty and peers, engage with policy practitioners, and develop essential skills of citizenship.

2 Learning Outcomes

- Build **community** among faculty, staff, peers, and alumni
- Supplement the classroom learning with opportunities for **experiential learning** in which students apply key concepts to relevant contemporary problems.
- Introduce students to government and policy practitioners and help them to build familiarity and **relationships** relevant to future careers.

3 Events

The only mandatory event of the spring 2023 semester is the Welcome Back Dinner on January 27; however, Democracy Lab students are expected to participate regularly in learning community activities. There are two types of activities: Recurring and Special.

3.1 Recurring Events

3.1.1 GOV 319 – Election Analysis (M/W noon)

This special topics course is a continuation of the Voter Turnout Experiment from fall semester. In this class, students will learn state-of-the-art analytical techniques for analyzing the data DL students collected during the 2022 Midterm Election. The class will also expose students to the latest political science literature and findings regarding voter turnout. The class is open to *any* Democracy Lab student, regardless of participation in the fall Voter Turnout Experiment. **Registration required.**

3.1.2 Lunch with the Dean

Schar School Dean Mark Rozell will take small, select groups of students to lunch in the private dining room at The Globe at the Angel Cabrera Global Center. Students will be selected based on expressed interest and Democracy Lab participation. Lunches are on **Feb. 13, Mar. 27, and April 28. By invitation only**

3.1.3 Hidden Curriculum Series (Now on Mondays! 5pm - 6:30)

Back by popular demand, this bi-weekly series is exclusively for, and tailored to, Democracy Lab Students. These casual workshops explore topics to help you get the most out of your college experience. **All events take place in Eisenhower MPR.** Registration is not required. Snacks will be provided.

Date	Topic	Host/Guest
Jan. 30	Study abroad	GMU Global Education Office
Feb. 13	Internships	Schar Asst. Dean Ann Ludwick
Feb. 27	Resume writing	Career services
Mar. 20	Schar programs (PPE, BAM, URAP, GPF, Peace Corps Prep, etc.)	Schar Asst. Dean Shannon Williams
Apr. 3	Campus racial climate	ARIE Task Force
Apr. 17	Post-graduation options (Law School, grad school, etc.)	Prof. Phil Mink (Pre-law advisor)

3.1.4 Faculty dinners (Thursdays)

Select Schar faculty will join small groups of Democracy Lab students for dinner at an on-campus dining hall. Sign up to join one of these small group dinners with these esteemed Schar faculty. Each group is limited to 6 students. [Registration required](#)



Date	Host	Topic	Location/Time
Feb. 9	Prof. Heba El-Shazli	"Stories from 25 years in democracy promotion"	Southside, 5:30
Feb. 9	Prof. Jeremy Mayer	"Southern politics"	Ike's, 5:30
Feb. 23	Prof. Faye Taxman	"Mass incarceration and the criminal legal system"	Southside, 5:30
Feb. 23	Prof. Siona Listokin	"Artificial intelligence, policy, and privacy"	Southside, 5:30
Mar. 9	Prof. Chris Berk	"Prison politics"	Southside, 5:30
Mar. 9	Prof. Jo-Marie Burt	"Protest and politics in Latin America"	Southside, 5:30
Mar. 23	Prof. Justin Gest	"Immigration and demographic change"	Southside, 5:30
Mar. 23	Prof. Kelly Richter	"The law is all politics"	Southside, 5:30

Date	Host	Topic	Location/Time
Apr. 6	Prof. Jim Olds	"Building a working polity on Mars"	Southside, 5:30
Apr. 6	Prof. David Rehr	"Inside Congress from a seasoned lobbyist perspective"	Ike's, 5:30
Apr. 20	Prof. Mariely Lopez-Santana	"Federalism and social policy"	Southside, 5:30
Apr. 20	Prof. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera	"Democracy and elections in the Global South"	Southside, 6:30*

3.2 Special Events

3.2.1 Welcome Back Dinner - Jan. 27

Our Welcome Back dinner is a do-not-miss event. Not only is it our **mandatory organizing meeting for the semester**, but this event will include a special meal and faculty Lightning Talks. Check your email for a formal invitation and please RSVP (that's French for, "Let us know if you'll be attending."). The entertainment will be provided by Professors Mayer, El-Shazli, Núñez, McGlinchey, and Coll. Many other special Schar guests will join us. **January 27, Center for the Arts, 3rd floor, 6:30pm.** [Registration required](#)



3.2.2 Visit to the U.S. Institute of Peace - Feb. 10

Dem Lab goes to the District! We'll visit with experts in international diplomacy at the United States Institute of Peace, adjacent to the State Department. [Registration required by Jan. 27.](#)



3.2.3 Visit to the United States Capitol - March 24

We will visit the Capitol Visitors' Center and have a tour of the Capitol building. We will arrange for chamber gallery tickets for the House and/or Senate. [Registration required by Feb. 3.](#)



3.2.4 Visit to the United States Archives - April 21 (tentative)

We will visit the United States Archive and receive special access to a secure vault. We will meet with the Archivist of the United States, Colleen Shogun, PhD. [Registration required](#)



3.2.5 Farewell Event - May 5

This will be the final event for Democracy Lab in the 2022 - 2023 school year. We'll have treats and light programming in the Adams Hall main floor lounge. **Registration not required**

3.2.6 Study Abroad trip to Jordan, May 20 - June 8

This course will engage all of your senses as you travel within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; situated in the middle of let us say an "engaging and politically difficult" sub-region of the Middle East. Jordan has an intriguing ancient and modern history which will be explored through visiting various sites such as, Petra, Wadi Rum, Jerash, and



the Grand Al-Husseini Mosque in Amman. Earn 3 GOVT credits, under the direction of Prof. Heba El Shazli, who is an expert in Middle East politics and government. Scholarships are available. [See website for more information](#). **Registration deadline March 10.**

Recurring Events Summary

Frequency	Time	Event	Location
M/W weekly	12:00 - 1:15pm	GOV 319 – Election Analysis , Prof. Victor	Innovation Hall 135
Mondays 1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17	5:00 - 6:30pm	Hidden Curriculum Series	Eisenhower Hall MPR
Thursdays 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20,	5:30 - 7pm	Faculty Dinners Registration required	Southside or Ike's
2/13, 3/27, 4/28	12:00 - 1pm	Lunch with the Dean <i>By invitation only</i>	The Globe

Special Events Summary

Date	Time	Event	Location
F, 1/27	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Welcome Back Dinner (Mandatory) , Registration required	3rd Floor, Center for the Arts
F, 2/10	9am - 2pm	Visit to U.S. Institute for Peace , Registration required	2301 Constitution Ave., NW
F, 3/24	9am - 3pm	Visit to U.S. Capitol , Registration required	First St & East Capital St., NE
<i>Tentative</i> F, 4/21	9am - 3pm	Visit to National Archives , Registration required	700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
F, 5/5	7:00pm	Farewell Event	Adams Hall 1st floor lounge
May 20 - June 8, 2023	18-days	Study abroad trip to Jordan Link to more info.	Jordan

Democracy Lab Spring 2023 Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
30																				

DL Field Trip	First Day of classes	Last Day of Classes	MANDATORY DL Meeting	Trip to Jordan
Faculty Dinners	Hidden Curriculum	Lunch with the Dean	Spring Break	