

# DC Semester Program

## Fall 2018

### *Citizenship, Public Interests, and Democracy*

*Taught by Professor William Fisher*

Through the study of notions of citizenship and policy and engagement with practitioners, experts, and activists, this semester-long program aims to help students develop a multi-faceted understanding of the public and public interest as idea, symbol, and rhetoric. Along with study of philosophical underpinnings, students will learn ethnographic methods and other social science methodologies to observe how these ideas are lived, experienced and shaped at local, national, and global levels. Students' internships with different civic and governmental organizations will help foster a holistic and comparative framework for understanding varieties of citizenship and policy in terms of their potential for democratic public participation.

#### **Washington Program Internship**

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499*

Students will work at a wide variety of institutions that deal with public policy and citizenship. Examples include: Public Citizen, Global Trade Watch, Partnership for Working Families, Suited for Change, Organization of American States, AFL-CIO, Inter-American Foundation, Center for Corporate Policy, Center for Science in the Public Interest, US Public Interest Research Group, Howard University School of Law Public Interest Resource Center, Economic Policy Institute, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Union of Concerned Scientists, National Institute of Health, Environmental Defense, Conservation International, NOAA, World Bank, Community Gardens, National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of the American Indian, and NAACP.

#### **Citizenship**

- *3 credit hours: ANTH 350 (Possible cross-listings with GOVT, GBST, CMST)*

Citizenship is more than a definition of status within a community. The nature and consequence of belonging, the way that inclusion and exclusion are experienced point to areas that need to be explored if our potential for citizen involvement is to be exercised. This course examines citizenship from a number of vantage points that illuminate how we live with one another within communities. What is the nature of the community and the nature of attachment? What are the limits of the liberal philosophical definition of kinship? What kind of subjectivities are demanded of citizens? How do immigrants experience citizenship? How is citizenship exercised in different territorial and institutional spaces and in different organizational contexts? We will use ethnographic methods and theoretical readings to observe and describe the experience and exercise of citizenship.

#### **Public Policy in Anthropological Perspective**

- *3 credit hours: ANTH 350 (Possible cross-listings with IR, GOVT, GBST, CMST)*

The objective of this course is to introduce students to concepts and methods for the study of public policy as a sociocultural phenomenon. We study policy as a category and concept relevant to states and the first part of the course locate the study of states and their bureaucracy within the overall study of human diversity that includes non-state societies. The second part of the course examines states in terms of the perspectives state organization imposes on governments and citizens/subjects alike. The third part of the course examines the way that subjects of policy are created and the social fields within which policy is constructed and contested and encourages students to bring ethnographic evidence to bear on their understanding of policy. The fourth part of the course focuses on an extended multi-sited case study of operation of policy under conditions of globalization.