**May Term in Washington FAQ**

**2021**

1. **How can I learn more about the May Term in Washington course?**

Professor McLaughlin and Professor Auton will host a May Term in Washington course information session in Professor McLaughlin’s WebEx meeting room (<https://redlands.webex.com/meet/eric_mclaughlin>) on Monday, September 21st at 7 p.m. PST.

1. **How do I apply for participation in the May Term in Washington course?**

All interested students must complete a May Term in Washington Course Application and return it to Prof. McLaughlin or Prof. Auton no later than Friday, October 9th. Students will be notified of their acceptance shortly thereafter. Students accepted into the course must complete, sign, and return to Starla the Registration and Financial Commitment for May Term Travel Course form no later than 4pm on Friday, October 16th.

1. **What is the course fee, and what does it include?**

The course fee is $2300 and covers your housing costs and all mandatory course activities. This total does not include a $200 damage deposit that has been initially paid for by the Political Science Department. However, if for any reason your housing deposit is not returned from WISH (i.e. unit left dirty or damaged), you will be required to repay the Political Science Department for any and all costs assessed by WISH.

1. **What other expenses should I anticipate?**

Not included in your course fee are your airfare to Washington, airport transportation, food, Metro fees, optional activities, and entertainment costs. Last year’s students averaged about $350-$600 in airfare, $150 in Metro fees, and $800-$1,200 in food and entertainment costs.

1. **Is there any financial aid available?**

Yes. Scholarships are available from both the May Term Travel Office and the Political Science Department. Applications for the May Term Travel Office awards are due on September 30th, while the Political Science Departmental Scholarships are due Friday, October 9th. Other financial aid (i.e. PLUS and private loans) may also be available. Check with the Financial Aid Office for details.

1. **When are payments due?**

Student Financial Services will bill the course fee to student accounts in mid- to late November. Students must pay the entire fee prior to Wednesday, December 16th, make loan arrangements to be disbursed on the first day of Spring semester classes, or participate in the University’s payment plan.

1. **What are the travel dates for the course?**

Students should fly into Ronald Reagan International Airport (DCA) on Monday, May 10th. Students must check out of their housing by noon on Thursday, June 3rd. There will be no course activities on this day, so students can arrange their flights to depart anytime on Thursday, June 3rd. Students book airfares on their own. Be sure to book them enough in advance to take advantage of the lowest fares (at least 21 days early).

1. **When is the first day of class?**

The first day of class will be Tuesday, May 11th. We will meet in the morning (TBD).

1. **How is the class structured?**

Most class meetings are held in the morning. Many, but not all, afternoons will be free. Optional tours will be available. There are occasional social activities in the evening. There are no assigned readings or research projects. Students write daily one-page reflection papers and submit them either via email or in handwritten form.

1. **Is there a pre-departure meeting?**

Yes. Assuming we are back in person for the Spring, we will have a pre-departure meeting at the U of R in late March or early April. Check your email for announcements!