



2021-22 Kinder Institute Society of Fellows
Call for Applications
Deadline: Friday, March 26, 2021, 11:59pm

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the Society of Fellows program is an opportunity for students of all majors at Mizzou to spend a year forging an intellectual community devoted to inquiry into and discussion of the complicated, often seemingly contradictory history of constitutional democracy in the U.S. and around the globe. As the program components below indicate, throughout the fall and spring semesters, participants will engage with peers, MU faculty, and visiting scholars at the Kinder Institute in considering the ideas, events, and institutions that are central to understanding democratic government and culture.

All rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors who will be in-residence in Columbia for the duration of the 2021-22 academic year are eligible to apply.

Residential Conference (August 17-20, 2021, REQUIRED)*

Every year, the Fellows program kicks off with an all-expense-paid, three-day residential conference at the historic Tiger Hotel in downtown Columbia, through which Fellows attend a series of lectures and seminar-style discussions focused on political and intellectual history with MU faculty members. Seminars last year addressed topics ranging from “Race, Work, and Liberal Education,” to “The Qualified Immunity Shell Game,” to “Spatial Politics in Early America,” and were led by faculty from the Departments of History, Political Science, and Music, the College of Education, and the Law School.

*Note that conference dates might change slightly, but it will be held the week of August 16.

Quarterly Dinner Lectures (September/October/November 2021, February/March/April 2022, REQUIRED)

Throughout the academic year, Fellows attend a variety of academic events which, in the past, have included lunch discussions about their recent research with scholars visiting the Kinder Institute, dinner lectures with Pulitzer Prize-winning authors and State Supreme Court justices, and one-read sessions with KICD faculty. Fellows are also the first group of undergrads to be notified when events—such as our annual True/False Director Q&A—pop up suddenly on the Kinder Institute’s radar. Fellows are required to attend two out of three (min.) scheduled events per semester.

***Journal on Constitutional Democracy* (Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Semesters, OPTIONAL)**

Fellows also have exclusive access to enroll in CNST_DEM 4975 (cross-listed HIST and POL_SC), a two-semester course (two credit hours in the fall, one credit hour in the spring) through which students produce all elements of the Kinder Institute's undergraduate *Journal on Constitutional Democracy*. In addition to writing the articles for the *Journal*—which students in the class get to spend a full academic year patiently conceptualizing, researching, composing, and revising—staff members edit, design, and thematically conceptualize the publication. Starting in Fall 2021, and pending approval, the *Journal* class will be offered as a WI course that can be applied to History, Constitutional Democracy, Political Science, or the College of Arts & Science's 1000+ Writing Intensive requirement.

2021-22 SOCIETY OF FELLOWS APPLICATIONS

There are two components, described below, to the Society of Fellows Application: a cover letter and academic resume, and a series of short essay responses.

I. COVER LETTER & ACADEMIC RESUME

Please submit a one-page (max.) cover letter that details your interest in the Fellows program and why you think you'd be a good fit for it, followed, in the same document, by an academic resume that includes the following information: your major(s)/minor(s) and GPA; academic and service clubs you participate in and other on-campus organizational affiliations; work and volunteer experience; email and home address; and contact information (phone or email) for three references, at least one of whom should be an MU faculty member. Students should feel free to include any other information they find relevant in the resume.

II. SHORT ESSAY RESPONSES

Students should respond to **all three** of the below prompts in 350 (min.)-500 (max.) words. Please include all responses in the same document.

- **Prompt #1:** What is something you read, either during high school or your time at Mizzou, that you feel intellectually transformed you and how/why?
- **Prompt #2:** If you could design a lunch discussion for the Society of Fellows program: what topic would be discussed/addressed and, in detail, why? who would lead the discussion (and this can be anyone)? what short reading would you have Fellows do in advance of the discussion?
- **Prompt #3:** We often use the verb 'explore' to describe the Fellows program (e.g., it provides students with an opportunity to explore the nuanced history of constitutional democracy). Describe a time—it could be academic, it could be geographical or cultural, it could be introspective—when you thought you fully embodied an adventurous spirit of exploration.

Please submit both parts of the application, in separate documents, to Society of Fellows Program Director Dr. Thomas Kane, **KaneTC@missouri.edu**, using the following file names: (1) Your Last Name_SOF_Resume; (2) Your Last Name_SOF_Short Essays. Questions about applications or the program in general can be sent to Dr. Kane at the above email address.

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