



**2022-23 Kinder Institute Society of Fellows**  
Call for Applications  
*Deadline: Sunday, March 27, 2022, 11:59pm*

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One of two flagship programs at the Kinder Institute, the Society of Fellows brings undergraduates from across Mizzou's campus together for a year of communal inquiry into the history, theory, and practice of constitutional democracy around the globe. Any current undergraduate who is returning to Mizzou for the full 2022-23 school year is eligible to apply for the Fellows program. Application materials and instructions can be found on page two of this call-for-applications, and any questions can be directed to Kinder Institute Director of Undergrad Studies and Society of Fellows Program Coordinator Dr. Thomas Kane, [KaneTC@missouri.edu](mailto:KaneTC@missouri.edu).

The Kinder Institute will hold an info session about the Fellows program at 5:30pm on Wednesday, March 9. RSVP to Dr. Kane at the email address above to express interest in attending.

### **Program Description**

The Fellows program is made up of the following three core components:

**Summer Seminar:** Every year, a week or two before the fall semester starts in August, the Fellows program kicks off with a three-day conference at the Tiger Hotel, through which participants attend a series of seminars, lectures, discussions, and dinners with faculty from across an array of departments at MU. The conference sessions aren't thematically organized but are instead designed to bounce around so that Fellows can collectively explore and discuss a wide range of topics related to the study of constitutional democracy. For context, last year's conference opened with a seminar on the political philosophy of the Declaration of Independence and closed with a keynote lecture on "Race, Politics, and Country Music." Full attendance at the conference—tentatively scheduled this year for August 8-11, 2022—is mandatory, and the Kinder Institute will provide lodging (at the Tiger Hotel) and meals for all Fellows for the duration of the conference.

**Monthly Events:** In order to continue—and expand on—the conversations that get started at the summer seminar, we get the Fellows back together 3-4 times per semester for various academic events, which might include one-reads over lunch with scholars visiting the Kinder Institute, dinner lectures with KICD faculty, or cultural excursions out on the town (e.g., film screenings, concerts, plays, art openings). In order to remain in good standing with the Fellows program, participants must attend at least two scheduled events per semester.

**Journal on Constitutional Democracy:** Though not required to be a part of the program, all Fellows have the option to enroll in CNST\_DEM 4975, a writing course through which students spend two semesters patiently conceptualizing, researching, drafting, and revising a substantial article project (15-20 pp.) that's ultimately published in the Kinder Institute's undergraduate *Journal on Constitutional Democracy*. A wonderful course for any Fellow who loves (or wants to love) writing and wants to re-consider the essay form, the Journal class meets for two hours per week in the fall and one hour per week in the spring and applies toward the experiential requirement for both the B.A. and Minor in Constitutional Democracy.

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The two components of the Society of Fellows application detailed below should be saved as separate **PDFs or MS Word Documents** using the following file names: (1) Your Last Name\_SOF\_Resume; (2) Your Last Name\_SOF\_Essays.

**Completed applications should be submitted via email to Dr. Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu**

## I. Academic Resume

In addition to standard resume fodder—e.g., contact information, work and volunteer experience—the academic resume you submit for your Fellows application should include (but shouldn't necessarily be limited to) details such as: your major/minor and GPA; clubs and other orgs that you're involved with on campus; and a short list of classes that you've taken at Mizzou which you feel prepare you especially well for the study of democracy at the heart of the Fellows program. (A note on this last item: These don't at all have to be only History or Political Science classes, so be expansive in interpreting "prepare you especially well for the study of democracy")

## II. Essay Questions

Please respond to **all three** of the following essay questions in 350-500 words **each**:

- **Essay 1**: Describe your most intellectually joyful or eye-opening reading experience—the book or poem or story or article (or other genre) that really set your world on fire—and why it was so influential to your development as a thinker;
- **Essay 2**: If you could design a major that *doesn't* exist at Mizzou (or anywhere else, most likely), what would it be and what would you hope for students to take away from it? In addition to a description of the major, include 3-4 classes that you're pretty sure don't already exist but that would be a part of your major's core curriculum;
- **Essay 3**: What do you think is the most understudied or overlooked era/event/moment/movement in history and why do you think it deserves more attention?

*Ed. Note:* The essays are designed for you not to give rote answers that you think we want to hear but, instead, creative answers that demonstrate the breadth and depth of your curiosity, so be adventurous in answering these!

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