

**Dickinson Semester-in-Washington
Pre-Departure Briefing – December 2011**
<http://blogs.dickinson.edu/twc/>

1. Credits and grades: You will find answers to many of the questions you might have re: credits and grades online in the tabs of the home page.

2. Independent Study: Each of you will complete an independent study project (ISP) with a Dickinson professor identified by you as follows. Be sure to keep in touch with your professor weekly (at a minimum) to negotiate the contours of that project and to keep your mentor up to date on your progress. Your professor should be scheduling a face-to-face meeting with you in DC sometime around the middle of the semester. Keep in mind that this is a Dickinson-specific part of the program (students from other schools will not have this particular requirement). Also, keep in mind that while your TWC grades will get reported on your transcript, the letter grade you receive on your independent study is the **ONLY** grade that will be calculated into your GPA.

3. Other Dickinson students at TWC in upcoming term:

Summer '12			Fall '12		
Last	First	Major: Faculty	Last	First	Major: Faculty
Downing	Brayden	Music ECON: Semenova	Diaz	Alba	LAWP: Edlin
Fekrat	Nasim	POSC: Commins	Glosson	Reginald	AFST: Jones
Royyuru	Aditya	ECON: Farrant	Holguin	Victor	ECON: Bellinger
			Ko	Jinyoung	POSC: Stuart
			McDowell	Essence	SOCIO: Schubert
			Ozel	Can	INBM: Poulton
			St. Julien	Michele	SOCIO: Rose
			Colletti	Kyle	LAWP: Edlin
			Wang	Tommy	POSC: Strand

While specifics re: your project are negotiated directly with your IPS professor, general information on the independent study project can be found at the *Independent Study Project* tab of the home page.

4. Vital Statistics form: Fax (717-245-1688) or email (barrickr@dickinson.edu) this form back from TWC to Kristine Barrick in Global Ed as soon as you have all the data.

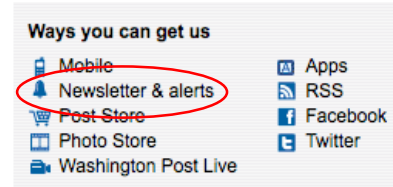
5. Washington Protocol

- **Dress up:** Better to be over-dressed than under-dress, as a rule, but check with your internship site in advance so that you have a sense for what to pack. If you do dress casually, it's always a good idea to have some "dress-up" wear at the office, in case an after-hours event opportunity arises unexpectedly.

- **Read up**

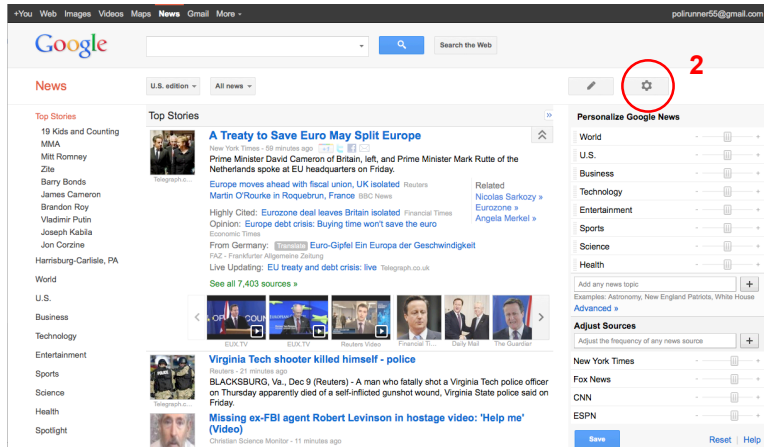
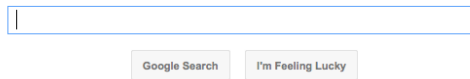
Washington Post: Scan the *Washington Post* daily online before you leave your apartment, or hard copy on the Metro en route to work. To get the online newsletter by email, sign up with *Washington Post* by clicking *Newsletters*, then selecting your preferred options (you will get a digest of news headlines with links to articles at a minimum, in your overnight email). You can do this now, so it's all ready to go when you need it in January.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>



Once you have an internship site, start tracking breaking stories related to your internship. You will be a star of the show if you show up at work every day on top of the latest stories!

Google News alerts: <http://www.google.com/> → News → News Alerts



- **Shake hands:** Always shake hands firmly and with confidence, even when it feels awkward.
- **Swap cards:** Get your TWC business cards ASAP and never leave home without them. Swap business cards at every turn. Be a geek and keep them in protective sleeves.
- **Ask questions:** Ask questions when you don't understand something (don't stick your head in the sand). Washingtonians are famous for speaking a different language (lots of short-hand and acronyms), so when the words and terms start flying, don't be shy, just ask.

- **Work hard:** Early birds and hard workers get lots of worms (worms are good!).
- **Stay late:** Staying longer than expected leads to great letters of recommendation, and sometimes even job offers.
- **Volunteer to do extra:** Once again; rewards go to those who go the extra mile.
- **Take the time to seek out (and do!) free things:** Some of the best things in life are free, both on the professional front, and socially/culturally. Do everything you get a chance to do.
- **Keep in touch:** Don't forget to keep in touch with your Independent Study faculty advisor at Dickinson

6. Safety

- **Common sense:** Washington is a safe city as a rule, but cities are cities. Be smart, look out for yourself and each other, and don't travel alone late at night – it's all about common sense.
- **Key chains:** We will send you a Dickinson key chain in the mail. Use it for your DC keys – it has the TWC emergency number on it (717-245-1111: not that you will need it, but just in case. . .)

7. Ask me, Global Ed, or other students if you have questions

Fall '12 TWC Students

Last	First	Major	Last	First	Major
Birmingham	Michael	PMGT	Magida	Emily	AMST
Brandt	Bernadette	PMGT	Meisel	Bradford	HIST
Ge	Yixue	ART, Econ	Moriarty	Caitlin	POSC RUSS
Hanington	MaKayla	LAWP	Muhammad	Isaiah	POLSC
Harnsberger	Anelia	SPAN	Niedermayer	Kristina	History
Hilsberg	Matthew	POSC	Shaffer	Hannah	LAWP POSC
Huang	Chen	INBM			

8. Do yourself and the college proud -- You represent the college in all you do. We are all depending on you to set the professional tone and to pave the way for others to follow you. Very few ever get the opportunity you are about to have – make the most of it!