

## The Security and Political Economy (SPEC) Lab

### APPLICATION FOR FALL 2020

Send your completed application to our lab director Alix Ziff via [uscspeclab@gmail.com](mailto:uscspeclab@gmail.com) with the subject: SPEC Fall Application. Priority applications are due July 20.

First fill in the following information, then turn to the second page, answer the questions and attach the required documentation.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis with interviews beginning early August.

#### Personal Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Year in Fall: Fr ☐ Soph. ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐

Are you a transfer student? Yes ☐ No ☐

(Optional) What is your race?: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) What is your gender identity?: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Highest degree completed by parent: High School/GED ☐ B.A./B.S. ☐ Professional/Graduate ☐

List any/all applicable social science courses you have taken: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please rank order your interest in the following tasks:

- \_\_\_ Coding data
- \_\_\_ Managing data coders
- \_\_\_ Literature search and article summaries
- \_\_\_ Synthesizing literature and writing critical reviews
- \_\_\_ Gathering and organizing data from publicly available sources online
- \_\_\_ Analyzing data
- \_\_\_ Visualizing data
- \_\_\_ Learning Data Science Skills

Please answer the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in becoming a research assistant? What do you hope to gain from the experience?
2. After looking at the SPEC Lab website, which research project is most interesting to you and why? What are other projects you'd be interested in?
3. Tell us a bit about what makes you tick, as it relates to the study of politics. This can be an observation or question you have from observing politics, something from one of your classes you found especially interesting, or the motivation for what you want to do after graduation. We want to know about what interests you.
4. What skills or experiences do you have that would make you a valuable part of the undergraduate research program? (*Examples—not at all required*: Have you worked with R? Are you a strong writer? Are you familiar with statistics or regression analysis?)

*Note: Your answer to the following questions will not affect the probability of your being offered a paid position in the SPEC Lab.*

1. Are you interested in an unpaid position if a paid position is unavailable?
2. May we forward your application to other IR faculty with research labs if we are unable to offer you a position in the SPEC lab?
3. How did you hear about SPEC Lab?

#### Final Steps!

- Please attach a copy of your (unofficial) academic transcript. Please name the file in this format: Lastname.Firstname.Transcript.
- Please attach a short writing sample from a previous class that you think best demonstrates your skill as a writer. Please name your file in this format: Lastname.Firstname.WritingSample.
- Please send this completed application and attachments in one email with the subject: SPEC Fall Application to [uscspeclab@gmail.com](mailto:uscspeclab@gmail.com)