

# PUBLIC POLICY COURSE: LEARNING DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

Our democracy is facing a number of pressing challenges, and coming together to address those problems is critical. With our current polarization, fractured media landscape, and deep partisan tension, is that even possible? What could our democracy look like if citizens put their political labels aside? In 2019, Stanford's [America in one Room](#) Deliberative Poll showed that Americans of all genders, races, political parties, and socioeconomic classes can come together to listen and understand other perspectives. How can these findings be used to begin to transform American civil discourse to make the country more open, respectful, and reflective?

In this two-week virtual course, co-led by Stanford and Close Up faculty, students will work directly on a real-world deliberative democracy project using the method of Deliberative Polling. Students will identify the most important issues facing their generation, gain the knowledge and skills needed to lead deliberations in their schools and home communities, and develop resources and events to encourage youth participation in nationwide deliberations.

## Course Details

Students will participate in a series of deliberations, examine case studies of deliberative decision-making, and examine vital questions such as:

- Why is deliberation important?
- How can young people engage on issues that matter to them and create space for an informed exchange of ideas and perspectives?
- What has research shown about the impact of deliberation on public opinion and individual behavior?
- What can we learn from experiments in deliberation around the world?
- How can youth be part of this movement for deliberative democracy?

**Date & Times:** Monday, June 28 – Thursday, July 1 & Tuesday, July 6 – Friday, July 9  
1:00–4:00pm (EST) / 10:00am–1:00pm (PST)  
*All sessions will be synchronous and take place on Zoom.*

**Lead Faculty:** [Alice Siu](#), Associate Director, Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford  
[Scot Wilson](#), Doctoral Candidate at Indiana University & Close Up Curriculum Consultant

**Enrichment course:** This course is a pre-collegiate enrichment course and does not qualify for college credit. After the conclusion of the program, participants are sent a written evaluation from their instructor and a certificate of completion.

**Eligibility:** High school students ages 15-18, with a defined interest in political science and public policy.  
*Students must have completed at least one year high school to participate.*

**Application Process & Tuition:** You will need to complete an application and submit a teacher recommendation by May 10.  
*Close Up and Stanford are committed to equity and inclusion, [contact us](#) for financial aid information.*

- Successful candidates will be notified by May 31, 2021.
- Tuition: \$1,500 per student.

## About Us

**Stanford's Center for Deliberative Democracy (CDD):** The [Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University](#) is housed in the Department of Communication. The CDD is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in 30 countries around the world through over 110 projects, at varying levels of government and society.

**Close Up Foundation:** Established in 1971, [Close Up](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization dedicated to helping students develop the knowledge and skills they need to become informed, active, and engaged citizens. Close Up's resources and programs offer students a balanced and multi-partisan look at controversial issues by using a selection of primary sources drawn from decision-makers and experts on all parts of the political spectrum.