

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Curriculum Proposal

COURSE REVISION

1. Name of Department: Social Science
2. Name and Number of course: ~~PS~~ Political Theory (POL 260)
3.  This course is being withdrawn. (Go to 5)
4.  Course revised. Check appropriate items.  
 Change course number from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course title from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course hours from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course credit from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change basic skills requirements from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change prerequisites from POL 100 or any Social Science course  
to Any Social Science course  
 Change corequisites from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course description. Attach a copy of old and new description.  
 Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Reason(s) for change(s): Clarity
6. Date effective: Spring 2011

\*\*\*\*\*

Signatures

1. Emily Anderson 4/13/10  
Department Chairperson or Program Director Date
2. Shint 4/3/10  
Scheduling Officer (Advised as to Course Code) Date
3. Andie Gray 4/10/10  
Dean of Academic Affairs (Advised as to format) Date
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Curriculum Committee Date

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Curriculum Proposal

- COURSE REVISION
- Name of Department: Social Science
  - Name and Number of course: World Politics (POL 210)
  - This course is being withdrawn. (Go to 5)
  - Course revised. Check appropriate items.  
 Change course number from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course title from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course hours from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course credit from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change basic skills requirements from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change prerequisites from POL 100  
to POL 100 or POL 110  
 Change corequisites from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change course description. Attach a copy of old and new description.  
 Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- Reason(s) for change(s): New course created (POL 110)
- Date effective: Spring 2011

\*\*\*\*\*

Signatures

- Emily Anderson 4/13/10  
Department Chairperson or Program Director Date
- [Signature] 4/15/10  
Scheduling Officer (Advised as to Course Code) Date
- [Signature] 4/16/10  
Dean of Academic Affairs (Advised as to format) Date
- \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Curriculum Committee Date

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Curriculum Proposal

COURSE REVISION

1. Name of Department: Social Science
2. Name and Number of course: Politics and Government in New York City (POL 220)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ This course is being withdrawn. (Go to 5)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Course revised. Check appropriate items.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course number from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course title from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course hours from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course credit from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change basic skills requirements from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change prerequisites from POL 100  
to POL 100 or POL 110  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change corequisites from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course description. Attach a copy of old and new description.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Reason(s) for change(s): New course created (POL 110)
6. Date effective: Spring 2011

\*\*\*\*\*

Signatures

1. Emily Anderson \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/13/10  
Department Chairperson or Program Director
2. Alvin \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/15/10  
Scheduling Officer (Advised as to Course Code)
3. Robert Arroyo \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/16/10  
Dean of Academic Affairs (Advised as to format)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Curriculum Committee

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Curriculum Proposal

COURSE REVISION

1. Name of Department: Social Science
2. Name and Number of course: POL 230 (Power in American Politics)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ This course is being withdrawn. (Go to 5)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Course revised. Check appropriate items.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course number from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course title from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course hours from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course credit from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change basic skills requirements from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change prerequisites from POL 100 or any Social Science course  
to Any Social Science course 100 Level  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change corequisites from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change course description. Attach a copy of old and new description.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Reason(s) for change(s): Clarity
6. Date effective: Spring 2011

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Signatures

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Department Chairperson or Program Director Date
2. [Signature] 4/13/10  
Scheduling Officer (Advised as to Course Code) Date
3. [Signature] 4/16/10  
Dean of Academic Affairs (Advised as to format) Date
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Curriculum Committee Date

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The City University of New York

Curriculum Proposal

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ Course revised. Check appropriate items.  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Change course title from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
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1. Emily Anderson \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/13/10  
Department Chairperson or Program Director
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3. [Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/16/10  
Dean of Academic Affairs (Advised as to format)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Curriculum Committee

#### 4. Key global political conflicts today: Afghanistan

Asne Seierstad, *The Bookseller of Kabul*

Websites of UN Development Program, UNICEF, USAID

Works of recent journalism

#### **Evaluation criteria and requirements**

The course will be divided into four parts. At the end of each part of the course, we will have (1) an essay exam and (2) a debate between two teams of students, with the rest of the class as audience and judges for the debate. At the beginning of the semester, I will assign each student to one of eight debate teams. Thus, each student will participate in one of the four debates. Each student will complete the essay exam for each of the three parts of the course when he or she is *not* participating in the debate, but will be exempt from the exam for the part of the course when he or she participates in the debate. There will also be a final exam during exam week. I will also expect each student to keep a reading-response journal. The six components described above: three essay exams, one debate, a final exam, and a reading-response journal—will each contribute one sixth of your grade for the course.

#### **College attendance policy**

The maximum number of absence hours is limited to one more class hour than the contact hours as indicated in the BMCC college catalog. For example, you may be enrolled in a four hour class that meets four times a week. You are allowed five hours of absence, not five days. In the case of excessive absence, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an “F” or “WU” grade.

#### **Academic adjustments for students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

#### **BMCC policy on plagiarism and academic integrity statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

#### **Schedule**

This course looks at four cases of political conflict. In each case, we will ask the questions: *Who has power?* and *What is justice?*

## Introduction

Week 1: What is politics? What is political science?

### I. Regimes and rebellion in Ancient Greece

Week 2: Sophocles. *Antigone*

Week 3: Aristotle. *The Politics* (excerpts)

Week 4: Exam and debate. Question: Was Antigone's rebellion justified?

### II. Founding a republic in the United States

Week 5: *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* (excerpts by Federalists)

Week 6: *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* (excerpts by Anti-Federalists)

Week 7: Exam and debate. Question: How much unity does a republic need?

### III. Community organizing and the US Civil Rights Movement

Week 8: Film: *Eyes on the Prize* (episode on voter-rights organizing in Mississippi)

Week 9: Charles Payne. *I've Got the Light of Freedom* (selected chapters)

Week 10: Exam and debate. Question: What strategy for the civil rights movement?

### IV. Afghanistan today

Week 11: Asne Seierstad. *The Bookseller of Kabul*

Week 12: A packet of recent journalism about Afghanistan, and a selection of charts and graphs on foreign aid and social conditions in Afghanistan from UN Development Program, UNICEF, USAID

Week 13: Exam and debate. Question: Can Afghanistan soon become a democratic republic ?

## Conclusion

Week 14: Wrap-up discussion and exam review

Week 15: Final exam

## Proposal for an Introduction to Politics Course at BMCC

This memo outlines the rationale for a new 100-level political science course. Attached are a sample syllabus (including course description), three letters of articulation, and a New Course form.

### Why this new course?

At many colleges and universities in the US, the political science department offers a course that introduces students to a range of the topics and methods involved in the academic study of politics. Often, these courses are called Introduction to Political Science or, more simply, Introduction to Politics. BMCC does not yet offer such a course. It should.

American Government is currently BMCC's introductory course in political science. For many students this is appropriate. However, an Introduction to Politics option would have a number of advantages for BMCC and for many of our students.

- In the US, the discipline of political science is commonly divided into four subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. (BMCC currently offers 200-level courses in three of these four areas.) For students who expect to take more courses in political science either at BMCC or elsewhere, an Introduction to Politics course can offer better preparation for the full range of upper-level courses in the discipline. A course that addresses just one of the discipline's subfields—like our American Government course—is an inadequate introduction to the discipline as a whole.
- For students who do not expect to study politics beyond the introductory level, an Introduction to Politics class can offer a broad, general-interest understanding of political life and of the study of politics in a way that a specialized course on American Government cannot. Perhaps most importantly, a class that is not narrowly focused on American politics will appeal to the many BMCC students who are interested in global politics and the politics of countries outside the US.
- Most of the other disciplines in BMCC's Social Science department (all but History) offer general introductory courses rather than asking students to begin their studies in one specialized area of the discipline. Offering an Introduction to Politics option would bring the political science course list in line with those of other fields in the Social Science department, and would allow students to more easily identify comparable courses in different areas of study.
- While all current BMCC political science faculty are qualified to teach our American Government course, some have areas of interest or expertise beyond American politics. An Introduction to Politics course would make better use of our faculty's diverse areas of knowledge, especially if (like many equivalent courses elsewhere) it is designed to allow individual instructors to select their own course themes. This is not only a clear benefit for our students, but might also contribute to faculty retention.

Four CUNY senior colleges (and a number of other popular transfer destinations for BMCC students, such as Fordham University and Long Island University) currently offer equivalent courses.



## What would this course be like?

The academic study of politics is an intellectually and methodologically diverse field. There is no way that a single course can acquaint students with the full range of topics and approaches that make up the discipline. What an Introduction to Politics class can do, however, is introduce students to *multiple* topics within and approaches to the study of politics.

Introduction to Politics courses at other colleges and universities vary widely, but most seem to have at least a few characteristics in common.

- They introduce concepts and methods of analysis applicable to politics in the US and to politics elsewhere, to current events and to the past.
- They include a variety of sources or approaches, possibly including qualitative and quantitative research methods, first-person accounts, literature, and theory.
- They are organized around a set of key concepts central to the discipline of political science and common to most or all of its subfields.
- Individual instructors are able to choose a specific theme for each class.

Here, for example, are descriptions of the four equivalent courses currently offered at CUNY senior colleges.

### 1. College of Staten Island

Introduction to Political Science (POL 103): "An introduction to the world of politics and the fundamentals of political science. Major topics: the basics of politics: power, government, nation, state; forms of political behavior from democratic participation to revolutionary violence; political ideas and norms; varieties of democratic and non-democratic forms of government; politics and society; the global context of politics."

The sample syllabus sent by the department describes a course in which students learn "fundamental terms in the discipline of political science" and "relate those terms to our political society." The instructor assigned an introduction to political science textbook that uses a comparative perspective. The key terms studied included (among others): power, authority, nations, states, governments, democracy, public opinion, political parties, representation, executives, administration, legal systems, political economy, political violence, international politics, and global political economy.

### 2. Brooklyn College

Introduction to Politics (POL 1.7): "Introduction to political science and contemporary issues. The concepts and uses of power, the nature and role of the state, the development and politics of identity, political economy, political change, the global financial order. Application to specific countries and problems."

The sample syllabus sent by the department describes a course with a theme of globalization and global politics. The theme was to be examined through the lenses of major twentieth-century political ideologies (liberalism, fascism, Marxism). The instructor proposes in the course description that “politics in any given country...should be analyzed historically and with attention to international economic and political context.” The instructor assigned a course packet including both classical works of political and social thought and recent works by historians and political scientists.

### 3. Queens College

Introduction to Political Science (POL 101): “An analytical study of the basic concepts of political science, including power, conflict, coercion, the state, and the government. Will also include a basic introduction to methodology and research techniques.”

The sample syllabus sent by the department describes a course organized around the question: “What is power?” The course pairs films—both classic and popular—with readings that include classics such as *The Federalist Papers* and *The Communist Manifesto* and recently popular works by authors such as Jonathan Kozol and Al Gore. Key concepts include (among others) democracy, equality, conservatism, Marxism, race, pluralism, and ecology.

### 4. Medgar Evers College

Introduction to Political Science (POL 101): “Basic concepts in political science, including the nature of political power, definitions of basic terms; major political systems; constitutional and behavioral approaches used in the study of political science, and scope of political science will be analyzed.”

(We have not yet received the sample syllabus that we’ve requested.)

### **Proposed BMCC course**

Here is a draft description of an Introduction to Politics course for BMCC:

*3 credits, 3 hours, no prerequisites*

*This class involves students in observation and critical analysis of political affairs. Topics and themes will include both American and global perspectives and both contemporary and historical cases. The class introduces a range of approaches to the study of politics, such as empirical research, quantitative analysis, theoretical questioning, and the examination of literary or artistic works. Central concepts will include politics, power, government, conflict, and justice.*

All current BMCC political science faculty would be qualified to teach such a course. The course would not involve any new expenses for the college.

Once this course is adopted, we would expect to change the prerequisites of other BMCC political science courses to allow this course as a prerequisite, and we would ask those departments that require their students to take American Government to consider adding Introduction to Politics as an option.



Social Science

Borough of Manhattan Community College  
The City University of New York  
[www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu)

199 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007-1097  
tel. 212-220-1210  
fax 212-746-7731

November 11, 2009

Dear Prof. Vasilios Petratos:

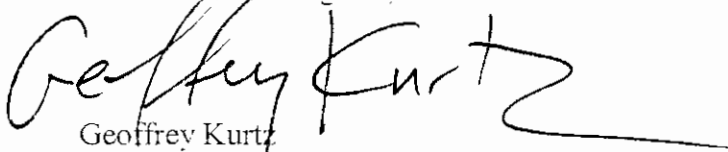
I am seeking your support in establishing a new course at BMCC. In order for a new course to gain approval from BMCC's curriculum committee, a department must show that other colleges within the CUNY system will grant transfer credit for this course. The political science faculty in our department have worked together to develop a proposal for an Introduction to Politics course that we believe is similar to one of your department's courses, and we would like to ask you to consider granting transfer credit for such a course.

This fax includes a sample syllabus. Individual instructors would create their own courses based on the sample syllabus, following BMCC and Social Science Department guidelines. We intend to offer this course at the 100-level, and to allow it as a prerequisite for our 200-level courses in Political Science.

If you find our proposed course, Introduction to Politics, to be equivalent to your department's course Introduction to Political Science (POL 103), I would appreciate it if you would issue a letter of articulation addressed to the Social Sciences Department at BMCC.

If you have suggestions on how we might improve the course, please let us know. You can reach me at [gkurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:gkurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu) or at (212) 220-1245 with any questions.

Thanks and best regards,

  
Geoffrey Kurtz  
Assistant Professor of Political Science



John.Bowman@qc.cuny.edu  
12/01/2009 11:47 AM

To: gkurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu  
cc: patricia.rachal@qc.cuny.edu  
bcc:  
Subject: articulation request

History: This message has been replied to.

Dear Professor Kurtz,

Pat Rachal asked me to review your request. I apologize for the delay. Our department will recognize your Introduction to Politics course as equivalent to our PSCI 101.

Best wishes.

John R. Bowman  
Professor of Political Science and Deputy Chair  
Queens College  
City University of New York  
Flushing, NY 11367  
Tel. 718-997-5490  
Fax. 718-997-5492



"Sally Bermanzohn"  
<SallyB@brooklyn.cuny.edu>

12/01/2009 03:12 PM

To: <GKurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu>

cc

bcc

Subject: RE: Reminder: articulation request

History: This message has been replied to.

Dear Geoffrey,

My apologies for letting this slip through the cracks. I have reviewed your sample syllabus and it looks like an excellent course and an equivalent to our POL 1.7 Introduction to Politics course.

Please let me know if there is any additional way I can support this course proposal.

Sincerely,

Sally Bermanzohn Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairperson  
Political Science Department  
Brooklyn College CUNY

**From:** GKurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu [mailto:GKurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2009 2:39 PM

**To:** Sally Bermanzohn

**Subject:** Reminder: articulation request

Dear Prof. Bermanzohn:

A couple of weeks ago I emailed to ask if your department would recognize our proposed new Introduction to Politics course as an equivalent to your POL 1.7 class. I realize this is a busy time of year, and my request quite understandably wouldn't have been at the top of your priority list. But we would like to get our course proposal in order by the end of the semester.

When you get a chance, we'd appreciate your response. I've attached the sample syllabus again.

Thanks again & regards

GK

---

Geoffrey Kurtz

Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Department of Social Sciences and Human Services  
Borough of Manhattan Community College  
The City University of New York  
(212) 220-1245  
gkurtz@bmcc.cuny.edu



COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND  
The City University of New York  
www.csi.cuny.edu

Department of Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy

November 10, 2009

Dear Prof. Geoffrey Kurtz:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 11 concerning your 100 level course in Political Science. We find that your proposed course is the equivalent to our POL 103 Course.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Petratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vasilios Petratos  
Chair, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and Geography

Social Science and Human Services  
Department Meeting Minutes, March 10, 2010

In attendance: All members present except as noted.

Absent: Rose Kim, Rhea Parsons

Excused: Lisa Rose

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.
- II. The minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting were approved
- III. New Faculty Introductions
  - Two professors in sociology were introduced: Angie Beeman and Sheldon Applewhite
- IV. Announcements –Professor Anderson
  - There are several changes to the academic calendar to make up for snow cancellations. May 18, a Tuesday, will be a Friday schedule; The last day of classes is now the 19<sup>th</sup>, not the 17<sup>th</sup>; there will be no reading day
  - University Faculty Senate elections are taking place—Alex D’erizans is running
  - Vice President Craig has said that the New York Times is willing to provide free newspapers if they will be used in class
  - Globalization Day is March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Richard Harris Terrace.
  - Ting Lei received an award from the New York Academy of Sciences in recognition of his work
  - Rebecca Hill announced that the next PSC/CUNY chapter meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>, in which the chapter will outline demands for the upcoming contract. There is also a budget blitz across CUNY to coincide with the state vote on the budget on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Charles Post will be presenting in the Teaching Learning Center on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.
- V. Faculty Salon
  - Vernon Smith and Lisa Rose will be presenting tomorrow in the Hudson Room from 4 to 6, followed by happy hour at Lilly O’Brien’s
  - The following salon is May 7<sup>th</sup> in which Yana Durmysheva and Charles Post will be presenting from 2 to 4 in the Hudson Room
  - Please contact Robin for the fall and next spring if you wish to present
- VI. Fall Schedules
  - Sangeeta Bishop thanked faculty for turning in their fall schedules
  - She asked faculty to check if their WI classes were marked accurately, and said she would send out DL information tomorrow
  - She asked faculty to let her know if they planned to use reassigned time

- VII. Summer Session
- Mohammad Soleymani said the schedule is complete
- VIII. Adjunct Observations
- Robin Isserles reminded faculty to sign up for adjunct observations.
  - She said to give at least 24 hours notice and to meet within one week afterward.
  - She asked faculty to let her know if they are very dissatisfied with the class they observe
  - Faculty must also stay until the end if the class is not satisfactory
  - The deadline is April 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Fabian Balardini asked faculty to remind adjunct faculty to incorporate learning outcomes for their discipline—sample syllabi with the learning outcomes will be sent
- IX. Curriculum Committee Report
- The cross-listing of the Ethnic Studies course, The Latino Experience in the US, as a sociology course was approved unanimously
  - A new course, Introduction to Politics, was unanimously approved
- X. Disciplinary Majors
- Alex D'erizans said that interest was greatest at the other CUNY schools for psychology, history and sociology majors.
  - There is a letter of intent for a history major, and Lehman, John Jay, Brooklyn College, and York want to formulate articulation agreements.
  - Elizabeth Wissinger said there is a letter of intent for a sociology major and that Hunter, Brooklyn College, and John Jay have shown interest.
  - Emily Anderson said BMCC has been approached by Hunter to create an associates degree in Geographic Information Systems Science
    - A letter of intent outlining the course requirements was circulated to the department
    - The major would require a new geography course, Environmental Conservation-Resource Management
    - It was agreed that the letter of intent should reflect that Social Science courses can provide a critical perspective
- XI. New Business
- There is a union election this spring, and there will be only one slate, including Rebecca Hill, Geoff Kurtz, Charles Post, Gail Mansouri, and Tony Gronowicz. Faculty were encouraged to vote
  - Questions were raised about the elevators in Murray being out of order
  - Professor Isserles announced the Saint Patrick's Day luncheon to benefit students

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Jacob Kramer, Secretary



