

**CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
EAST CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROVOST SCHOLARS  
Intensive University Seminar  
Session Five – Fall 2016  
Thursday, November 3, 2016  
2:30-5:00pm  
Guilford House, 11112 Bellflower Road, Cleveland, OH 44106**

**Seminar Title:** *Elections and Democracy in the United States*

**Purpose**

In 2016's unprecedented election cycle, it is easy to lose sight of the peculiarity of American democracy and why voting is crucial to the progress of our society. Dr. Karen Beckwith will review the components of our country's electoral process and give insight on how to navigate a murky political climate in order to make informed decisions as engaged citizens.

**Presenter Biography**



Dr. Karen Beckwith is the Flora Stone Mather Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). She received her B.A. from the University of Kentucky (1972) and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University (1977, 1982). Teaching primarily in the areas of political parties, political movements, and women, gender, and politics, she has special interests in the United States and West Europe, particularly Britain and Italy. Professor Beckwith's current research includes projects on 1) how social movements respond to loss; 2) gendered competition in party leadership contests in parliamentary democracies; and 3) patterns of women's appointments to cabinet posts in North America and West Europe. She has been awarded numerous distinctions for her research projects, and is an accomplished speaker, editor, and author in her areas of study.

**Objectives**

**The Provost Scholars will...**

- 1) Learn about the inner workings of the United States electoral system; and
- 2) Learn why voting is important to the progress of American democracy and how their individual vote makes a difference.

**Agenda**

2:30 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.: Hors d'oeuvres will be served

2:40 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.: Tutoring

3:55 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Brief Intermission

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Seminar Lecture and Discussion, Dr. Karen Beckwith

**Faculty & Staff**

- Dr. Faye Gary, Program Director
- Cicely Philpot, Program Coordinator
- Haruna Sulemana, Master's Student, Program Assistant
- CWRU Tutors

**Guest**

- Dr. Karen Beckwith, CWRU Flora Stone Mather Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science

**Word of the Week: Ideology-** (n.) An integrated system of ideas about politics, values, and culture. Those who espouse an ideology are sometimes criticized as rigid and narrow-minded. *When Jeff's governmental ideology changed, he decided to start his own political party.*

**Concierge and Matre'd**

- Provost Scholars Jordan Foust and Chantal Brown