Welcome to Government 97, otherwise known as the Sophomore Tutorial!

My name is Leslie Finger, and I am the Course Director for the Gov 97. I hope you are having an enjoyable and relaxing winter vacation and that you’re looking forward to your first semester as an official Government concentrator! Please see below for some important logistical information about Government 97.

The tutorial will teach you how political science can be used to address important, relevant issues happening in the world today, and it will provide you a solid background in how to write and do research in political science courses. Thematically, the course will look at how political scientists have grappled with climate change, inequality, populism, information and fake news, and immigration and diversity, and you will choose a question pertaining to these themes and write an original research paper. The course consists of a weekly lecture on Tuesdays 2-3:30 pm in Art Museums Menschel Hall and a two-hour weekly section.

Sections will be organized in a seminar format grouped by undergraduate house. We have tried to ensure the vast majority of students attend tutorials in their House, but there have been cases in which this has not been possible. You should have received an email from your Teaching Fellow with scheduling information (if you have not heard from your Teaching Fellow to organize your teaching time, please let me know).

Our first lecture will be Tuesday, January 23rd, and the first tutorials will meet that same week.

In anticipation of the first weeks reading, please order the book: How Democracies Die by Levitsky and Ziblatt as soon as possible. Don’t wait until after the first lecture. Start reading now, if you like.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to meeting you this spring!

Sincerely,
Leslie K. Finger
lfinger@fas.harvard.edu