Best Guest Lecturers

On any given day at NYU, you might be surprised by what can happen.

Bill Clinton

“I took a graduate class open to undergraduates in the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, with Professor Doug Band, called The Interaction of Politics and Public Policy. Professor Band, who is the creator of the Clinton Global Initiative and Bill Clinton’s chief adviser, invited President Clinton to our class. He talked about the changing meaning of being a citizen, how social media and the internet have influenced policy-making around the world, and how we as young people can have a meaningful impact through our careers. We asked questions, and he might have even inspired some members of the class to seriously consider public service as a career path.”

Anthony Bourdain

“At a Global Liberal Studies Program event, Dean Schwarzbach introduced us all to famed chef, author, and television personality, Anthony Bourdain. Mr. Bourdain took the opportunity to discuss the dynamic connections between food, culture, travel, and globalization. He shared epic tales of his filming of No Reservations and spoke about how food is one thing that we all share, and yet it is prepared and interpreted so differently by various cultures. This lecture was particularly informative for me as I plan to one day open up and run a French bistro.”

Ashima Talwar

Gallatin School of Individualized Study

Rajesh Bilimoria

“The best guest speaker I had was in my marketing class. Professor Ambar Macfadyen brought in Rajesh Bilimoria, the vice president of Continuum Design Consultancy, a New York City marketing firm that has managed many products, including Swiffer® and Nike. He spoke about tailoring messages to a culture or country and about the amazing depth of the marketing research that companies do before launching a marketing plan and launching a product.”

Jude Dworaczyk

College of Arts and Science

One day, Jon Stewart may show up to guest-teach your Intro to Media class. Or South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone may show up to your freshman writing class to speak to you about storytelling techniques. Or Christiane Amanpour may sneakily embed herself in the back of your classroom, staging an investigative journalist’s surprise reveal. Yes, all of these moments have occurred at NYU.

When asked who their favorite guest lecturers were, NYU students named some fascinating people.

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Alexander Zelenich

Global Liberal Studies