

Michigan in Washington Fall Semester 2014

You may choose one or two classes from the following list of 3-credit electives.

For syllabi, see the “Academics” tab at www.ucdc.edu.

You may not enroll until you arrive in Washington, D.C.

We will discuss elective enrollment in detail during orientation.

<p>Mr. Ari Roth Michigan Thursday 7-10 p.m. Auditorium</p> <p>Enroll in ENG 311 OR THTREMUS 328, not both.</p>	<p>The Theater of Politics/The Politics of Theater Over the years, this course has canvassed the Washington theater scene and discovered a wealth of politically and socially attuned material on DC stages. Washington has, rather surprisingly, emerged as the second most vibrant theatrical city in the nation, surpassing Chicago and Los Angeles in number of performances offered, audience in attendance, and union actors appearing in Equity-contracted productions. The city now boasts some of the finest classical flagship and culturally specific theaters in the country. This advent of a robust theater scene planted in the seat of power has created a unique cultural profile; that of an artistic force able to speak truth to power. Yet oftentimes, theatrical institutions are constricted by the divided nature of the audience they play for, or the critical community that critiques them, or differing notions about the purpose of theater. What kind of portraits are emerging from area theaters in this politicized capital? What are the practical politics <i>within</i> these institutions that seek to engage and entertain their patrons? In addition to introducing students of the wonders of consistent theater-going with dynamic post-performance discussions with the artists who make the art, our focus will concern politically oriented works.</p>
<p>Michigan</p> <p>Friday 1-4 p.m. Enroll in PS497</p>	<p>The Middle East and the Arab Spring This course provides an overview of modern Middle Eastern politics with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the recent events of the Arab “Spring”. The course begins with an historical analysis outlining the development of the states in the Middle East. The following sections examine the possible factors underlying the resilience of authoritarianism and the potential openings available to the opposition. Topics explored include economic factors, state-society relations, international concerns, and political Islam as potential explanatory variables. The last section examines revolutions and the Arab Spring in detail, seeking to understand how it took place and what the future may hold. How did these revolutions begin and how are they likely to proceed?</p> <p>Through this course students will first gain an understanding of the dynamics of the Middle Eastern politics and society. Second, students will gain an understanding of how to compare political developments throughout the Middle East to those in other regions. Third, by the end of this course, students will have the tools and knowledge necessary to develop their own arguments about the Middle East in a comparative perspective.</p>
<p>Dr. Genevieve Lester UCDC Tuesday 6:30-9:30 p.m. Room 317 Enroll in PS 497.005.</p>	<p>Spies! The Politics of Intelligence Intelligence organizations have two qualities that Americans instinctively fear and distrust: secrecy and power. While the intelligence community can attempt to alleviate this fear and mistrust, the secret nature of intelligence work can never wholly put them to rest; moreover, Americans, particularly since 9/11, hold two opposing views of the intelligence community: omniscient and incompetent. This course is intended to explore, test and challenge both of these notions. Intelligence is generally viewed as an applied subject, studied by practitioners. This course bridges the gap between theory and practice, encouraging students to understand the role of intelligence among American institutions, as well as how it both challenges and contributes to broader theoretical concepts of transparency and governance.</p>
<p>Prof. Steven Billet Notre Dame Tuesday 6-9 p.m. Room 311 Enroll in PS 491.096.</p>	<p>Lobbying, Money and Influence in Washington This course will be an intense examination of lobbying in Washington with particular attention given to the role of money and campaign finance in the operation of what has become a highly sophisticated and poorly understood network of advocacy and influence. It will provide a basic understanding of three different but interrelated knowledge sets: the Congress, political money and lobbying by interest groups. Student should understand that while the lectures are focused on those individual subject areas and that the semester is divided into three separate sections for that purpose, the readings later in the term will often relate to earlier lectures. This is done with the intent of “connecting the dots” among all these somewhat diverse topical areas.</p>
<p>Mr. Carlos Lozada Notre Dame Wednesday 6:30-9 p.m. Meet in <i>The Washington Post</i> news conference room 1150 15th St., NW Enroll in PS 491.096.</p>	<p>American Political Journalism This class will explore the relationships among politics, news media and government. It will do so by focusing on particular news events in which the role of the media became an integral part of the story. Some of the sessions may change based on guest speakers’ schedules; topics of discussion and readings may also change based on breaking news events.</p>
<p>Prof. Ken Goldstein U. of San Francisco Wednesday 6-9 p.m. Room 311</p> <p>Enroll in PS 491.096.</p>	<p>Campaigns and Elections This class will teach you how to better understand the fundamental factors that drive elections in America and to learn some of the skills employed by political professionals. Many of your assignments will require you to apply the lessons of this class to real time events. Pundits and other observers have already generated a phenomenal amount of analysis, commentary, and predictions – and occasionally they have even been right. Our goal in this class is to go beyond the spin and hyperbole of many election commentators and understand how voters decide and how strategists persuade. It is not a “how to” class, but instead will combine the insights of campaign professionals with insight from the study of previous campaigns and core academic knowledge. In short, this class will combine theory, practice, and exploration, taking the insights of political scientists and political practitioners and rolling them into one. We will take advantage of our unique access to political professionals in DC. These political professionals will join us during normal class time, but I will also arrange other times for us to meet. For example, two consultants with extensive experience negotiating debate rules and preparing candidates for presidential debates will join us to watch one of the presidential debates.</p>