



MIW Winter 2012 Electives

Theater of Politics/The Politics of Theater

Mr. Ari Roth, Michigan

Thursday 7--10 p.m., Auditorium

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. This class is a Theater Appreciation course, with an emphasis on viewing plays in performance and responding to them in weekly journal entries and a final group project.

Middle East Politics and the Arab Spring

Dr. Michael Robbins, Michigan

Tuesday, 6--9 p.m., Room 314

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? 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.

American Political Journalism

Mr. Carlos Lozada, Notre Dame

Wednesday, 6--9 p.m.

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. This class meets at The Washington Post (1150 15th St NW).



Lobbying, Money and Influence in Washington

Prof. Steven Billet, Notre Dame

Tuesday, 6--9 p.m., Room 311

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. The approach of the instructor is to provide a basic understanding of three different but interrelated knowledge sets: the Congress, political money and lobbying by interest groups. Students 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.

Political Reform

Prof. Bruce Cain, UC-Berkeley

Thursday, 6--9 p.m., Room 318

Efforts to eliminate corruption and equalize political power in America are ongoing in US politics. In recent years alone, there have been federal efforts at campaign finance reform (McCain-r eingold), tighter lobbying regulations and more accurate balloting procedures. But what are the ultimate goals of these reforms? Have they changed over time? Have they been successful, and if not why not? This course will cover such topics as conflict of interest regulation, bribery, campaign finance reform, redistricting, the Voting Rights Act, transparency, election administration, and direct democracy. Reading materials will include works from the social sciences, law and journalism. The classes will include guest speakers from the reform community. In addition, Professor Cain will draw from his personal experiences as a redistricting/Voting Rights Act consultant and advisor to various reform efforts. The course requirements are two small case study papers and a final exam.

Ensuring Food Safety: Role of Producers, Consumers and Public Health Agencies

Prof. Henry Ekperigin, UCal

Tuesdays 6--9 p.m., Room 301

The course offers students an opportunity to gain insights into how the knowledge and expertise they acquire during their university studies can be applied to facilitating or enhancing efforts by public health agencies (local, state, national, and international), and by food producers, food manufacturers, food distributors and other pertinent industry, to ensure food safety.



The University of Michigan

Michigan in Washington Program

The Politics of Education Policy

Prof. Dierdre Martinez, Penn

Friday 11:45 a.m.--2:15 p.m., Room 311

Schools in the United States are a powerful instrument for shaping the development of future generations of citizens and workers. As the global economy undergoes significant change, schools are being asked to prepare for college a more diverse population with more linguistic, cultural, and social challenges than ever before. How are we addressing these and other demands being placed on our education system? How are we defining the education problem and how did accountability and choice become the dominant solutions? Students will study the ways power and politics affect and are affected by such issues as reform and innovation, centralization and decentralization within federal systems of governance, privatization and school choice, race and ethnicity, poverty and inequality, professionalization and bureaucratization, and testing and accountability.