

Winter 2015 Elective Course Schedule and Descriptions
Michigan Winter Term 2015 (same as what UCDC calls “Spring 2015”)

Schedule is subject to change, especially the classroom assignments.

**AFTER YOU MAKE YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OR TWO ELECTIVES, PLEASE CLICK
ON THE LINK BELOW AND FILL OUT THE GOOGLE FORM
TO LET DR. HOWARD KNOW YOUR CHOICES. *Thank you.***

Fiscal Policymaking in the U.S.

Mr. Sandy Mackenzie
University of California
Tuesdays
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Room 317

The purpose of this course is to give students a comprehensive overview of the major issues facing U.S. fiscal policy, with special emphasis on structural issues, such as the problems facing the major entitlement programs: Social Security, and Medicare/Medicaid. The course will emphasize the economic aspects of fiscal issues, but will also address their historical roots and political aspects. For example, its discussion of expenditure will address the constraints posed by the budget system and the political process on expenditure control. Similarly, it will explore how politics has shaped the tax system, and why the government policy discussion is so often stymied. Washington-based experts in the field will be included in presentations and class meetings.

(MMH Note: Mr. MacKenzie worked for decades for the International Monetary Fund—IMF—and is one of the world’s experts on entitlement programs, especially retirement programs, such as Social Security. You do not have to be an economics major to take this course. Mr. MacKenzie was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. He speaks four languages, other than English, and he hails from Canada. You will receive credit for this class through PS 491.096 for Winter 2015.)

Lobbying, Money and Influence in Washington

Dr. Steven Billet,
Notre Dame
Tuesdays
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Room 210

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.

(MMH note: Dr. Billet teaches at *The George Washington University*, as well as at UCDC, and he was a lobbyist. You will receive credit for this class through PS 491.096 for Winter 2015.)

The Communicator’s Dilemma: Covering Politics and Government with Speed and Depth in an Age of Twitter

Michael Tackett

Tuesdays

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Room 311

This course examines trends in a media landscape transformed by technology over the last three decades, from the post-Watergate era to the early soundings of the 2016 presidential campaign. The course will lean hard on guest speakers to give it topicality, urgency and a sense of personal connection. We will also dissect media in its many forms to see if the old standards of objectivity have given way to a new model that verges on advocacy.

(MMH Note: You will receive credit for this class through PS 491.096 for Winter 2015.)

Campaigns and Elections

Dr. Ken Goldstein

Wednesdays

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Room 311

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 and commentary about the 2012 election – and occasionally they have even been right. The 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. And, to give you some of the technical skills to get an interesting job with a campaign. This class will combine the insights of campaign professionals with insight from the study of previous campaigns and core academic knowledge. It will combine theory, practice, and exploration, taking the insights of political scientists and political practitioners and rolling them into one particular emphasis on Congress, the White House, executive bureaucracy, interest groups, and media.

(MMH Note: Dr. Goldstein received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan and was a tenured member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Political Science Department before resigning there to become the internship program director for the University of San Francisco. He is one of the analysts who calls races on elections nights for ABC News in New York. You will receive credit for this class through PS 491.096 for Winter 2015.)

American Political Journalism

Mr. Carlos Lozada

Notre Dame

Wednesdays

6:30-9:00 p.m.

The Washington Post's

Newsroom's Conference Room 1150 15th St., NW

Report to the *Post's* security desk at front door by 6:15 first night with photo ID.

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.

(MMH Note: Mr. Lozada is *The Washington Post's* "Outlook" section of editorials, opinions, and analysis every Sunday. He is a graduate of Princeton and Notre Dame and hails from Lima, Peru. You do not need to be a comm studies major to take this course, nor will this course teach you how to be a journalist. You will receive credit for this class through PS 491.096 for Winter 2015.)

Sports, Politics and Society

Prof. Andrei Markovits

Michigan

Wednesdays

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Room 210

Few things have characterized mass culture in the 20th century more consistently and thoroughly than sports. Particularly in their team variety, there is not one industrial country in the world that does not possess at least one major team sport which has attained hegemonic dimensions in that country's culture in the course of the previous century. There can simply be no doubt that team sports as a form of mass culture have been among the most essential ingredients of public life in the 20th century. If anything, their cultural importance has increased in the beginning years of the 21st and shows every indication that this importance will grow in years to come. Why has this been the case? And how did this happen? Moreover, why did the United States deviate from much of the rest of the industrial world not in terms of the presence of such sports, but in their number and kind? Briefly put, why are baseball, football and basketball (as well as ice hockey to a certain extent) the hegemonic team sports that defined American mass culture throughout the 20th century whereas no other industrial country has more than two such hegemonic team sports, most often indeed only one – soccer? Why has this sports map remained so stable throughout a highly volatile and ever-changing century? Will this stability persist into the new millennium or will new forces challenge these hegemonic sports and contest them in their respective cultural space? Will the United States become a major soccer power and will Americans be glued to events in this sport as they have been in those of baseball, football, basketball and hockey for many decades? And, conversely, will soccer-obsessed Europeans come to love basketball and other American sports as much as they have loved soccer? Lastly, will China incorporate both sports cultures and excel at one or the other – or even both – eventually surpassing its American and European teachers?

(MMH Note: Prof. Markovits' class on the Ann Arbor campus is so popular, it is taught in a large lecture hall with a number of GSI's. There will be no GSI's in DC. This course is offered in three Michigan departments as Political Science 386.001; German 379.001; and, Sociology 379.001. You may choose which department from which you want credit. You may not register for this course by yourself. Dr. Howard will be asking you if you wish permission to enroll, and she will arrange for your "override" with the department you choose. For right now, stay enrolled in PS 491.096.)

21st Century Diplomacy: Challenges and Opportunities

Andrew Shapiro

University of California

Thursdays

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Room 317

Traditionally, “diplomacy” has been defined as the conduct by government officials of negotiations and other relations. However, today’s world has myriad challenges which require an expansion of our understanding of what diplomacy entails. This course will provide an overview of the different types of diplomatic engagement that are being utilized by governments, multilateral institutions and other actors that impact international relations. It will consider what the goals of diplomacy should be in today’s interconnected world and what are the most effective tools to support our national security, foreign policy and economic interests. Along with an examination of traditional diplomatic tools, the course will also examine variations such as diplomacy related to defense, development and economic issues. Guest speakers with a variety of diplomatic experiences will provide a context for contemporary diplomacy. (MMH Note: You will receive credit for this class through PS 491.096 for Winter 2015.)

U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East

Dr. Eric Trager

Michigan

Fridays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Room 314

What are the United States’ interests in the Middle East? Who and what determine those interests? And how are those interests pursued? This course addresses these questions in two parts. First, we will consider the domestic American debate on foreign policy in the Middle East, exploring key Middle Eastern trends; America’s regional interests; and the political actors and factors that shape U.S. policy in the Middle East. We will then turn to America’s actions and relationships in the region, assessing American policy dilemmas across a wide variety of countries and events. Students should leave this class with a strong understanding of the challenges that the U.S. faces in the Middle East, as well as an informed viewpoint regarding how well America is meeting those challenges.

(MMH Note: Dr. Trager specializes in studying the Muslim Brotherhood and Egypt at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank. He graduated from Harvard. You may not register for this course by yourself. Dr. Howard will be asking you if you wish permission to enroll, and she will arrange for your “override” for PS 497.003. For right now, stay enrolled in PS 491.096.)

If you wish to look at old syllabi for these electives, go to www.udcd.edu, then academic, and make sure to choose Spring 2015 SEMESTER electives. FYI, most of the U-Cal campuses run on the quarter system, not the semester system.

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHICH ELECTIVE TO TAKE?

PLEASE GO TO

https://docs.google.com/a/umich.edu/forms/d/1Dc62uGsP1R8OK3-Vx2s1L5_o7kMBQOGszx_uuIyo00/viewform?usp=send_form

AND FILL OUT THE GOOGLE FORM TO LET DR. HOWARD KNOW YOUR CHOICES. SHE WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR REGISTRATION. YOU MAY NOT REGISTER FOR CLASSES WITHOUT HER HELP. DR. HOWARD WILL ARRANGE FOR YOUR “OVERRIDES” INTO YOUR CHOSEN ELECTIVES. YOU CANNOT ENROLL ON YOUR OWN, NOR WILL YOU FIND THE CLASSES ABOVE LISTED IN THE LSA COURSE GUIDE. *Thank you.*