

Michigan in Washington Fall Semester 2017

<p>Mr. Ari Roth Michigan</p>	<p>The Theater of Politics/The Politics of Theater-Thursdays at 7:00 (UCDC 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. 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>Prof. Steven Billet Notre Dame</p>	<p>Lobbying, Money and Influence in Washington-Tuesdays at 6:00 (UCDC) 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</p>	<p>American Political Journalism-Tuesdays at 6:30 (Washington Post building-1301 K St., NW) 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. This course meets in the newsroom of <i>The Washington Post</i>.</p>
<p>Prof. Ken Goldstein U. of San Francisco</p>	<p>Campaigns and Elections-Tuesdays at 6:30 (UCDC) 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>
<p>Dr. Eric Trager Michigan</p>	<p>U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East-Fridays at 1:00 (UCDC) 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 U.S. 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 issues. 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 the U.S. should address those challenges.</p>