Winter 2014 Elective Courses

The Theater of Politics & The Politics of Theater
Ari Roth, Michigan

Insulated from the worst of the economic stresses which gripped our country, DC enters a new era in its emergence as a theater hub, still balancing its artistic ambitions alongside populist and market-driven factors. What common themes are emerging this theater season? What do the offerings say about where we are now as a city, and as a country?

Rather than a sedentary study of theater history and the fundamentals of stage craft, we'll learn about the art form on-the-go, taking in work at the finest theaters this city has to offer. At its heart, this class is a theater appreciation course, with an emphasis on viewing plays in performance and in manuscript form, responding to them in post-show discussions, in blog entries, collected portfolio reflections, a final presentation, a public panel, and a group project.

We'll look at the fundamentals of what makes a play "work;" what makes a play-going experience successful, satisfying, usefully provocative, or unsatisfying. We'll develop a way of talking and writing about theater and a way of talking to theater artists about their work in post-performance sessions with the artists performing in the plays we'll be seeing and with other audience members in attendance.

U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Asia
Dominic Nardi, Esq., Michigan

To what extent do domestic political developments in Asia influence or inform U.S. foreign policy towards the region? What tools do U.S. policymakers possess when responding to crises in the Asia-Pacific region? In this course, we address these questions from both theoretical and practical perspectives. A central premise of the course is that in order to formulate a thoughtful Asia policy, we must understand Asia. As such, we will spend much time learning about the domestic politics of select Asian countries, including China, Japan, North Korea, Myanmar/Burma, and Indonesia. Students will be asked to write op-eds and research memos about U.S. foreign policy in Asia, as well as participate in a policy planning simulation. Dominic Nardi is an attorney who is finishing his Ph.D. at Michigan.

The Science of Politics: Campaigns and Elections
Prof. Ken Goldstein, University of San Francisco

Campaign professionals mostly acquire their skills through on-the job training. Although energy, creativity, and political instinct cannot be taught, there are specific technical skills and lessons about the electorate that anyone who hopes to pursue a career in politics – or just understand our electoral system -- must be familiar with. These include knowledge of the fundamental factors that drive elections and public opinion as well familiarity with the basics of survey research, statistical analysis, media relations, video production techniques, new media, media buying, speechwriting, fundraising, accounting, and political law.

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.

The Politics of U.S. Education
Prof. Deirdre Martinez, University of Pennsylvania

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 current ideas

regarding reform and innovation, privatization and school choice, race and ethnicity, poverty and inequality, and testing and accountability.

Spies! The Politics of Intelligence
Dr. Genevieve Lester, University of California

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: that it is both omniscient and incompetent. This course is intended to explore, test, and challenge both of these notions.

In this course students will be introduced to recent issues concerning intelligence, such as intelligence failure, reform, and oversight, focusing particularly on how the change in US intelligence in the post-9/11 context has increasingly emphasized domestic – or "homeland" – intelligence. Students will gain a working understanding of the different types of intelligence, the range of responsibilities that the different IC members hold, and the relationship between intelligence and the policy-making process. They will explore the political context that frames intelligence operations and learn how the three branches of government both collaborate and conflict to utilize this resource. Finally, students will consider some of the major normative questions regarding intelligence, such as: what the appropriate role for intelligence should be in a democracy, how transparent intelligence should be to the public, and how its vast array of activities should be supervised.

American Political Journalism
Mr. Carlos Lozada, Washington Post *Outlook* opinion/editorial page editor, Notre Dame

This class will explore the relationships among politics, news media and government. We will focus on particular news events in which the role of the media became an integral part of the story, and consider case studies of journalistic decision-making that had a significant impact on popular perceptions of particular political debates. This is not a class on how to become a political journalist. The goal is to understand the decisions and dilemmas behind the news and to become more informed and skeptical consumers of political news.

U.S. Lobbying, Money and Influence
Prof. Steven Billet, Notre Dame

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 these diverse topical areas.

Green Governance--Environment and Sustainability
Prof. Melanie Dupuis, University of California—Santa Cruz

Prof. Dupuis, a sociologist who studies the history of food in society, offers a course that crosses sociology and political science in examining environmental and sustainability issues and governance. Her research focuses on food and agriculture policies. Prof. Dupuis is the former interim executive director of UCDC.