

## Winter 2016 Electives

**Please note: you take required research seminar on Fridays 9:30 a.m.—12 noon.**

### American Political Journalism

Mr. Carlos Lozada

Wednesdays 6:30—9:30 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. Some of the sessions may change based on guest speakers' schedules; topics of discussion and readings may also change based on breaking news events. (Note: Class is taught off-site at Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, NW.)

### Campaigns and Elections

Prof. Ken Goldstein

Wednesdays 6:30 –9:30 p.m.

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.

### Environmental Politics and Policy

Prof. Barry Rabe

Fridays 1:00—4:00 p.m. (Note: UCDC website may have wrong time of class posted—it's really 1 p.m. on Fridays.)

This course introduces students to the formation and implementation of environmental policy, with primary emphasis on the United States. It draws heavily from the discipline of political science in examining environmental politics and how this body of theory translates into public policy. Unlike many policy courses that focus exclusively on either national or international institutions, this course will concentrate on federal, state, and local governance and relations across these levels. In turn, we will frequently compare the respective abilities of state and federal governments to both enact and implement environmental policy, drawing on past experience to consider what the “next generation” of American environmental policy might entail.

## Lobbying, Money and Influence in Washington

Prof. Steven Billet

Tuesdays 6:00—9:00 p.m.

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

## The Politics of Theater/The Theater of Politics

Mr. Ari Roth

Thursdays 7:00—10:00 p.m. (Note: the UCDC website says 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., but it will start at 7) Since 2006, this course has canvassed the Washington DC theater scene and discovered a wealth of offerings, many of them, not surprisingly, political in focus. Which prompts the question: What should the role of an arts community be in an essentially political town? To provide escape? A dissident voice? Which raises the larger question about art: What's it good for? Why make it and attend it? We'll be asking that question throughout the semester, of artists and the institutions that produce them. More specifically, we'll examine what the impact and challenge of presenting politically-relevant work in Washington DC might be as we discuss the range and history of "political theater." What are the stories being told right now that reflect how we view the past, understand the present, and envision the future? We'll think about the role of theater as it holds up a mirror to society as our focus moves from examinations inward and inter-personal, toward portraits that are more broadly regional and national in scope.

## U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East

Dr. Eric Trager

Thursdays 6:00—9:00 p.m.

What are the United States' interests in the Middle East? Who and what determine those interests? 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.