

Washington Semester Program Fall 2023 Seminars

US Presidency

Do executive orders undermine democracy? Should the president be limited to two terms? May the president pardon himself? In this course, we will take an in-depth look at the presidency from three complementary perspectives. First, we will undertake a broad, historical overview of the institution and the men who have served as president. Second, we will examine classic political science texts to track the evolution of our understanding of the job. Third, we will conduct an in-depth analysis of key issues facing the modern chief executive, and then discuss how recent presidents have handled them.

Global Economics and Business: International Business, Law and Organization Policy Issues

This course explores business, legal and institutional policy issues arising in the interdependent global economy. The class discussions focus on current events and academic and policy research on international actors including multinational firms, civic groups, states, and international organizations. The weekly topics include growing inequality, the COVID pandemic, the infodemic, vaccine nationalism, climate change, economic and sustainable development, taxing and regulating big tech and big pharma, financial crises, trade protectionism, a rising China, clean and affordable water as a human right, and corruption. In the class sessions, we will concentrate on globalization's complex problems and analyze the policy solutions.

International Peace and Security

The course will introduce students to the major concepts and issues currently shaping the fields of international peace, conflict and security studies. In this course, students will analyze a variety of contemporary conflict issues and challenges to peace to gain a better understanding of the threats that states and communities face in the 21st century. Over the duration of the semester students will explore key challenges to peace and the main strategies for responding to conflicts and learn how to recognize and critique the assumptions upon which these strategies rest. The topics include classic security concerns ranging from causes of violent conflicts to terrorism, but also a broad range of extended challenges to human security including topics related to environmental, health, gender, and resource security.

Criminal Legal System: Roots of Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparity

This course will explore the roots of mass incarceration and racial disparity in the Criminal Legal System. The course will critically analyze policing that precedes incarceration, and recent calls for defunding the police. Students will learn the intersections of public law and how it impacts the way society is policed and has led to a massive increase of those incarcerated particularly of

underrepresented racial and social identities. Students will discover the foundations of rioting historically and recently that challenge the underpinnings of how our society has its laws enforced.

National Conversations in Times of Crisis

The modes of conversation from the individual level to the societal level have undergone swift evolution due to declining print media, the growth of internet forums and social media, and the increasing polarization on how we should live and govern our society. All of these points have now crashed into the upset of daily life due to pandemic and the poignant fight against racial injustice. This course will explore how journalism, public relations, the public health community, and diplomacy are tackling these realities from their various professional lenses. The course will include lectures and guest speakers from these different fields offering insights on the changing communication landscape in 2023 and beyond.