

Washington Semester Program Spring 2023 Seminars

Political Transitions and Policy Implications

American Politics, Global Economics & Business, Justice & Law Concentrations

Every two and four years, our nation experiences the departure of mayors, governors, members of Congress, presidential appointees, and many other officials at all levels of government. How are these transitions handled operationally and politically? How have these transitions impacted politics and policy throughout U.S. history? This course will examine U.S. politics, policies, and institutions through the lens of governmental transitions utilizing lectures, simulations, and guest speakers.

Criminal Legal System: Roots of Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparity

Justice & Law, American Politics Concentrations

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. You 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. You 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

Journalism & New Media, Foreign Policy, Global Economics and Business Concentrations

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 2021 and beyond.

Globalization in Crisis

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 (*New for Spring 2023*)

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.