



Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars

Three-year Scholars Program



SAMPLE PPL COURSES

Introduction to Law (JLC 101)

A general introduction to law and the legal system, including a survey of substantive law in both civil and criminal arenas. Students learn how the legal system operates and the basic categories of law, and discuss controversial issues in each area of law.

American Constitution (SPA 220)

This course focuses on the major aspects of American constitutional law and development: the separation of powers in the American political system; the distribution of power between the federal government and the states; government power to regulate economic and property interests; and development of civil rights and liberties. Some of the most important decisions the Supreme Court has made across the spectrum of constitutional law are examined, and the relationship between law, politics, and society is also explored.

Introduction to Political Research (GOVT 310)

Every day we are confronted with puzzles about social behavior, and the theories people deploy to explain them. This course offers an introduction to political science research including how theories are generated, operationalized, and tested, how studies are designed, and how data is collected and analyzed using statistical techniques. By engaging with cutting-edge research and developing their own major project applying analytic and statistical methods to contemporary political problems, students develop essential research skills.

Justice and Public Policy (JLC 309)

This course examines criminal justice policies and introduces skills to understand policy processes and their intended or unintended consequences. While learning how to identify and analyze a social problem and its causes, students practice setting policy goals and designing policies. Students dive deep into the role of politics, government, and informal actors in policymaking and implementation. Beyond gaining substantive knowledge of key issues in these fields, students learn how scientific research can be used to understand the causes of a particular problem and find effective and equitable solutions. Students develop these skills through readings, discussions, presentations, and argumentative writing assignments.

SPA's innovative **Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program (PPL)** is designed for exceptional undergraduates to earn a degree in three years while living and studying with students who share similar interests and a common focus on academic and professional achievement. PPL students work closely with SPA faculty who teach and publish in the areas of politics, policy, government, and law. They are part of a rigorous program that provides them with the tools to make great impact through action and knowledge.



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC



Kyle Anderson (PPL '16) interned with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) which lead to his job as a Public Information Officer for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Study Abroad Opportunities

- Students may study abroad in the first summer or the fall of the third year.
- Some popular study abroad destinations are:
» Australia » Belgium » Denmark » England
» Ireland » Italy » New Zealand » Scotland
- The number of study abroad credits accepted into the major will vary. Students should work with their academic advisor to discuss individual programs.
- It is strongly recommended that students complete the majority of their university requirements before studying abroad

Internship Opportunities

- Students can earn up to 12 credits from internships toward their degree.
- PPL requires an internship be completed as a major requirement.
- Students must complete at least 30 credit hours at AU before registering an internship for credit.
- Sample internships include: » Brookings Institution
» Center for Education Reform » Human Rights Campaign » The White House

Scholarly Research Opportunities

- Take a Research Methods course.
- Students learn research design, quantitative analysis, and how to apply analytical and statistical techniques to contemporary problems.
- Students have opportunities to work with faculty mentors on their original research projects.
- Students can present their original research through research symposiums on campus or at national conferences.

AT A GLANCE

- **Built in additional cohort-based labs for experiential learning.**
- **Two dedicated faculty members for the program –Director and Faculty Advisor.**
- **Incoming PPL students are matched with an up-per-class PPL mentor.**
- **Upper-class Program Assistant (PA) who helps bridge in class and out of class experiences and providing support by attending labs and living with PPL students.**
- **Community-building initiatives throughout the course of the program.**



Clare Verbeten, SPA/PPL '15, is passionate about bringing positive change to the world.

QUESTIONS?

Contact

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