RPOS 101-1031  INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS  A. Hildreth
Does it matter which party occupies the White House or dominates the Congress? How can the public shape politics today? What factors influence policymaking on key issues including gun rights, immigration or energy? In this course, we will introduce you to the workings of American politics and its key actors, institutions and policies. We review the debates and conflicts at the founding period in American politics and how they still resonate in the role of the public, the workings of the major institutions of government, and the ways actors inside and outside of government impact the policy making process.  Gen Ed: US History, Social Sciences.

RPOS 102-1142  INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  I. Hwang
Why are some countries more democratic and wealthy than other countries? How do we define democracy and development? How does the politics work? Does government need to allocate more money to social welfare? How does global politics influence the national politics and vice versa? How are the international norms made and by whom? In this class, we are going to try to find the answers to these questions by exploring the classic and modern literature in Comparative Politics and International Relations.  Gen. Ed: Social Sciences, Challenges for the 21st Century.

RPOS 356-1184  RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY  I. Miller
This course provides a broad overview of Russian foreign policy. The first part of the course examines Russia's foreign policy in the light of major political theories and Russia's history. It also identifies various security and identity issues that are at the heart of Russia's foreign policy. The second part of this course focuses on Russia's foreign policy in the post-1991 period, concluding with an examination of Russia's current involvements in Ukraine and Syria. Familiarity with politics and history of Russia is desirable, but not prerequisite.  This course is in the Global Politics and State & Security concentrations.

RPOS 361-1252  COMPARATIVE ETHNICITY  N. Jahanbani
This course focuses on examining the following: (a) concepts of ethnicity and nationalism and the comparative politics theories that explain them, (b) how and why ethnic groups are discriminated against, and (c) how and why ethnic identity is used to mobilize for rights and sometimes push for independent statehood. To examine these components in depth, the course will draw on various cases from around the world.  TPOS 261 is the Honors College version of RPOS 361; only one may be taken for credit.  This course is in the Global Politics and Equality & Inequality concentrations.

RPAD/RPOS 140  INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY  Amani Edwards
You may have heard the statement "Laws are like sausages. You should never watch them being made." This statement is not only accurate, but also interesting. Like sausage, understanding how policy is made is necessary to develop the tools to not only make the process more efficient, but to also create a better product. For example, why was the US was unable to pass gun control legislation that would have expanded background checks on gun purchases in spite of over 90% of the public being in favor? Why is the US one of the few nations to provide universal healthcare, paid family sick leave at the federal level? This is a four week intensive course, introducing students to the policy making process and the actors involved. As a student in this course, you will gain a greater appreciation for the complexity of policymaking, the vast number of actors involved in policy making, and the factors that make policies more or less successful. Focusing on the main concepts and themes of public policy, this course looks to set the foundation for policy analysis and elevate students' comprehension and public policy and administration. There are no prerequisites for this course.  Required for Public Policy majors.  Gen Ed: Social Sciences.