RPOS 101  INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS  A. Hildreth  
1027  ONLINE  
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  INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  C. Willis  
1136  ONLINE  
Why do some countries like North Korea pursue nuclear weapons while a majority do not? What are the implications of Brexit for the European Union and regional integration? What accounts for the rise in nationalism in many nation-states? What explains the rise of violent extremist groups such as the Islamic State? In this course, we will explore the theories and concepts through which political scientists try to answer these contemporary questions. In doing so, we will examine both classical and contemporary works in the subfields of comparative politics and international relations. At the conclusion of the course, students will not only have an understanding of major theories and concepts in these political science subfields but will also be to apply them to some of the most pressing political issues of our time. Gen. Ed: Social Sciences, Challenges for the 21st Century.

RPOS 206  POLITICS IN FILM  José Cruz  
1294  4W2  ONLINE  
This course examines visual representations of selected aspects of American politics. We will use films as our primary texts and will compare and contrast the facts, ideas, and symbols they provide with written accounts and analyses of the phenomena, processes, and events represented. Although this will not be the primary focus of the course, we will also explore the implications of media representations of politics for democracy and democratic participation.

RPAD 302  UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS  M. Kang  
1293  ONLINE  
The major objective of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to explore basic ideas about how people work in large (work) organizations, and the processes and structures that operate day to day in such organizations. The course examines how people act and interact within organizations and attempt to change those organizations, and how organizations react to the individuals who comprise the organization. The course uses multiple perspectives or frames as a way of understanding of individual and organizational behavior in work organizations. Only one version of RPAD 302 may be taken for credit.

RPOS 337  CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS IN U.S.  P. Nicholas  
1295  ONLINE  
This course examines how people run for office in the United States, especially for the presidency and Congress. Our course begins with the different types of elections and elected offices, nationally, in the states, and at the local level. Then we will consider the decision to run for office; the role of parties; interest groups; media; campaign finance; and contemporary campaign techniques. Students will research case studies from the 2018 Congressional Election. We will also assess whether the structure and content of U.S. elections fosters or distorts democratic representation.
RPOS 356  
RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY  
I. Miller  
1172  
ONLINE

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 365  
GOVERNMENT & THE MASS MEDIA  
S. McKeever  
7760  
ONLINE

We hear a lot about “The Media” in our contemporary political discourse, and everyone has an opinion on media: "it is too biased," "it is too shallow," "it is the bedrock of free speech," “it keeps politicians honest,” and the like. In this course, we will dig deeper than anecdotal evidence and personal experience to try to discover what media is really like and what role it plays in the political realm. We will want to see how media exerts political and governmental power and how it has political and governmental power exerted through it. As we do so, we want to decide if, generally, media is good or bad for democracy and whether or not our current media is helping or hindering our democracy. In order to analyze the above, we will view media through a variety of lenses. We will begin by studying it theoretically and conceptually before working to get an understanding of the particularities and complexities of the relationship between government and media and in particular democratic government and media. Along the way, we will examine the history of media and inherent issues that media must contend with as well as discover how “media” (as the plural of “medium”) itself already communicates with us and so are politically relevant. At the end of the course, we should have a better understanding of the complexities of the various issues surrounding mass media, so that we can more intelligently engage with the rapidly changing nature of it.

RPOS 399  
International Energy  
Joshua Caldon  
1297  
ONLINE

This course will allow students to critically analyze international energy concerns and policies. In doing so, students will gain a more comprehensive understanding of the framing of energy problems and develop skills to discern how and why state and non-state actors address these energy concerns. At the end of this course the student will be able to address specific energy issues that interest them, they will be able to effectively explain and communicate what influences the actors involved in these issues, and they will be able to define possible policies options these actors are likely to promote and the likely reactions to these policy options by other actors.

RPAD/RPOS 140  
INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY  
Amani Edwards  
1243  
ONLINE

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 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.