Institute for Politics and Strategy Courses

About Course Numbers:

Each Carnegie Mellon course number begins with a two-digit prefix that designates the department offering the course (i.e., 76-xxx courses are offered by the Department of English). Although each department maintains its own course numbering practices, typically, the first digit after the prefix indicates the class level: 76-xxx courses are freshmen-level, 77-xxx courses are sophomore-level, etc. Depending on the department, xx-6xx courses may be either undergraduate senior-level or graduate-level, and xx-7xx courses and higher are graduate-level. Consult the Schedule of Classes (https://ten-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet) each semester for course offerings and for any necessary pre-requisites or co-requisites.

84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions
Fall: 9 units
This is an interdisciplinary introduction to the study of politics and government in the United States. It familiarizes the student with the basic structures and processes of American government, but moves beyond the purely descriptive into the realm of the analytical. The main theoretical tools are spatial models of political decision-making, and models of collective action problems. The position taken in this course is that understanding American philosophical ideas about authority, power, and freedom is as central to demystifying the U.S. form of democracy as is understanding how decision-making institutions function. Thus, on one side, this course looks at how American political thought is infused into political institutions and society. On the other side, it investigates institutional arrangements using rationalistic theories. In addition, scientific writings at the intersection of psychology and economics are used to probe the possibility of gaining explanatory leverage on U.S. politics from the perspective of behavioral decision-making theories.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84104-decision-processes-in-american-political/

84-110 Foundations of Political Economy
Spring: 9 units
Political Economics studies the interplay between economics and politics. Politicians, for example, may deviate from welfare-maximizing policies due to political pressures. Conversely, the economic and political consequences of policy decisions can shape the choices of future governments. The course will provide a broad, accessible introduction to the key issues in micro and macroeconomics, international economics, and financial markets, emphasizing those most valuable to understanding the interaction of politics and economics. The course will examine core economic concepts to illuminate how economies work, what constraints governments face, and what the welfare implications are of policy choices. From there, the course will expand to illustrate the political and ideological influences on monetary policy and central banking, the political factors shaping economic crises, the international factors influencing the implementation of domestic polices, and political influences on economic integration.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84110.html

84-198 Research Training: Institute for Politics and Strategy
Fall and Spring
This course is part of a set of 100-level courses offered by Dietrich College departments as independent studies for second-semester freshmen, and first- or second-semester sophomores, in the College. In general, these courses are designed to give students some real research experience through work on a faculty project or lab in ways that might stimulate and nurture subsequent interest in research participation. Faculty and student will devise a personal and regularized meeting and task schedule. Each Research Training course is worth 9 units, which generally means a minimum for students of about 9 work-hours per week. These courses are offered only as electives; i.e., they cannot be applied toward a college of general education requirement, although the units do count toward graduation as elective units. Additional details (including a roster and descriptions of Research Training Courses available in any given semester) are available in the Academic Advisory Center. Prerequisites/ restrictions: for Dietrich College students only: only second-semester freshmen, or first- or second-semester sophomores; minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (at the time of registration) required for approved entry; additional prerequisites (e.g., language proficiency) may arise out of the particular demands of the research project in question.

84-200 Security War Game Simulation
Spring: 6 units
This course is a seven-week national security simulation run in coordination with Valens Global in which students will have an assigned role as a state or non-state actor and work within teams to develop policy responses to a security crisis that changes and develops over time, in response to team moves and other factors. The simulation changes each year but generally involves great power competition, directly and through non-state actor proxies. Participants will need to gain an understanding of the facts through a complex information environment that is polluted with misinformation that allows actors to engage in manipulation and deception. Students will learn how to analyze national security problems, develop and analyze options, advocate for their position, negotiate, and work within a team, as well as with other teams.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84200.html

84-215 Tomorrow's Professionals
Fall and Spring: 3 units
Professionalism is the cornerstone of a healthy and productive workplace. It is a defining component of success, but it is not innate. Rather, professionalism is taught and learned. It should be practiced deliberately and developed over time and with experience. It is a specific skill set that positions individuals for success. This seminar is designed to facilitate students’ deliberate thinking about professionalism, so that they can begin to practice it, building their unique brands, ensuring excellence in their internships and thus future careers. Throughout the seminar, we will discuss professional conduct, leadership, and strategies for success. We will discuss real-time workplace challenges, and problem-solve as a group to develop meaningful resolutions. Professionalism is a lifelong skill. The goal of this seminar is to provide students with the necessary tools to begin building their professional careers. Given the right tool set, it will catapult a career forward and open doors indefinitely. This seminar is open only to students participating in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) in the semester immediately after taking this course.

84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy
Spring: 9 units
Writing and briefing are essential skills in the policy discipline. This course will equip students with the tools necessary to enter professional policy-related domains. We will use a workshop format that promotes classroom discussions, small group work and practical exercises simulating real world experiences. The workshop format is intended to emphasize communication, writing effectiveness and leadership, as well as to increase students’ comfort levels with both receiving, applying, discussing and delivering constructive feedback and criticism. It is also intended to make this class fun and engaging, creating a safe and welcoming environment for students to reflect on their own work, and their colleagues’ during the course. Students will write a policy memo, an op-ed, and a National Security Memo (as well as some smaller additional writing assignments) as well as deliver multiple professional-style briefings for a variety of audiences. This is a writing intensive course, with a heavy emphasis on professional briefing and presenting. As such, students should expect to write and brief... a lot! This workshop-based model allows students to incorporate and give feedback in real time. The intent is that students will develop the skills necessary to enter future professional environments and hit the ground running. Students will work within small groups and with the professor to identify a topic. Area of Interest (AOI) that will be the basis for most of their course work- allowing students to focus on an area in which they would like to develop subject matter expertise (SME), as well as one they find interesting and stimulating.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84250.html
84-265 Political Science Research Methods
Spring: 9 units
This course provides an introduction to the theory and method of contemporary political analysis. It prepares students to read, interpret, critique, design, and conduct original research in political science. Tracing the research process, students will learn how to formulate research questions, theoretical models, and empirical hypotheses; and then how to design a rigorous, detailed plan for collecting or creating data with which to test such hypotheses. The course introduces common research strategies for descriptive and causal inference, which students will use to design an original research project in a group setting. In the spring 2022 group project, students will work as a group to answer a research question built around a common theme: violence and democracy. As a group, students will collect and analyze their own data—either qualitative or quantitative—to answer the research question, and present findings to classmates.
Prerequisites: 36-200 or 36-201 or 36-207 or 70-207 or 36-247 or 36-220
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84265.html

84-275 Comparative Politics
Spring: 9 units
This course is an introduction to the subfield of Political Science called Comparative Politics. Scholars in this subfield use comparative methods to study and compare domestic politics across countries. In this course, we aim to learn about how political systems differ, discuss why they differ and explore the consequences of such variation. The course is divided into four sections. In the first part, we will examine the main theories and methods used to conduct research in the subfield, and discuss the development and consolidation of the modern state. In the second section, we will examine political regimes, including variation among democracies and nondemocracies. In the third unit, we will study some of the countries’ central political institutions. We will compare presidentialism to parliamentarism and examine legislatures, electoral systems, and political parties. In the final segment, we will scrutinize political mobilization and conflict. We will discuss interest groups, nationalism, social movements, protests, populism, clientelism, revolutions, civil wars, terrorism, and globalization. Students will be required to apply the concepts and methods discussed in the course to answer complex questions about hypothetical political situations and to analyze countries and report the findings via in-class group presentations.
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84275.html

84-304 In the News: Analysis of Current Events
Spring: 6 units
This discussion-based course will examine the headlines in international relations and politics, defense, national security and homeland security. We will follow major news stories, breaking down media coverage to go deeper, conducting our own unique analysis as a group but also individually, contextualizing issues within the broader global context. Students will have the opportunity to lead discussions on breaking news stories, but also to draw upon prior past headlines which still dominate the news cycle or have wider implications for international relations. The goal of this course is to encourage students to think deliberately and deeply about current events, and to contextualize those events in the broader international relations and security context.

84-306 Latin American Politics
Spring: 9 units
The world's most unequal region is an area of contrasts. Ethnically diverse, stable and tumultuous, young and old, urban and rural, learned and illiterate, prosperous and poor, independent yet dependent. The disparities that have characterized the region since colonial times have been a permanent source of instability and the cause of numerous political and economic experiments. Social scientists have found much material to study democratic innovations, revolutions, coups, civil wars, military dictatorships, impeachments, populism, clientelism, corruption, import substitution industrialization, neoliberalism, socialism, regime changes, social movements, welfare policies, regional integration, and diversified leadership. The overarching question to be explored in this course is what forces - such as economic, social, and cultural - affect the emergence, development, collapse, reemergence, and consolidation of democracy. To understand the region's present, it is necessary to study path dependence and learn how the worldviews of the past evolved over time.
Thus, the course centers in three historical periods. First, we will briefly examine Latin American history from its conquest to the end of World War II (1492-1945). The aim is to uncover the demographic and geographical settings of its economic, social, and political situation and to understand how Latin America has integrated to globalization and how the relationship with the US and China has experienced fundamental changes since the 1990s.
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84306.html

84-307 Economic and Political History of Contemporary China
Intermittent: 9 units
Global politics is increasingly being shaped by the arrival of China as an economic powerhouse, which is increasingly being viewed as a challenger to the Western model of governance and has been posited as an anti-western economic blueprint for development. To understand China and its role in global affairs, this course examines the economic and political history of China over the last century with an emphasis on the post-WWII period. Focusing on China’s evolution over this time will introduce students to compelling illustrations of theories of economic development and the politics of economic reform, the intersection of political governance and economic outcomes, how authoritarian regimes function and make decisions, and how politics can lead to humanitarian catastrophes such as the Great Leap Forward and Tiananmen Square. The course will also cover important aspects of Chinese foreign policy and how it is evolving - from the years of Mao Zedong, to Deng Xiaoping and currently under Xi Jinping. This course will also enable a more mature understanding of socialism as an economic ideology, how it contrasts with a purely market-based approach, and how modern China fits within this framework.

84-308 Political Economy of Latin America
Spring
For most of its history, Latin America has been home to political and economic experiments. Revolutions, coups, military dictatorships, democratic and authoritarian regimes have coexisted with dramatic oscillations on economic policies regarding the size and functions of the state and the role of the market. Governments have experimented with a range of strategies to attain development, using the region as a laboratory of politico-economic theories. In this course, we will examine how the complex relationship between politics and economic policies helps us to explain the current level and range of economic development in the region. The course is divided into three main sections. The first part will focus on Latin American history from its conquest to the end of the First World War (1492-1918). The second portion will consider the aftermath of the First World War to the end of the Cold War. The third segment will center on the macro processes that have characterized the region since 1990, with an emphasis on the existing challenges to democratic and economic consolidation. In a final paper, students will discuss how current events connect to the region's historical complex marriage between politics and economics. Students will be encouraged to submit their papers to the CIRP Journal (https://www.cmu.edu/ir/cirp-journal), Panoramas (http://www.panoramas.pitt.edu) or similar academic outlets.
International migration - the movement of people across national borders - is a defining political and economic phenomenon of our time. Rising social and political conflict over migration - not just in advanced democracies but also in the Global South - means that understanding the causes and consequences of international migration is more important than ever. Using analytic frameworks and real-world evidence from political science, economics, and related fields, this course will give students a full understanding of the political economy of international migration. By the end of the course, students will be able to compare and contrast the theoretical propositions, and policy recommendations, of rival schools of thought. Prerequisites: 73-100 or 88-220 or 12-421 or 73-102 or 84-110

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84310-international-political-economy.html

84-312 Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa
Intermittent: 6 units
The spread and growth of terrorism on the continent of Africa has increased substantially over the last decade; this mini is an introduction to the major terrorism groups that operate in sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout the course, we will examine the nexus of the terrorist threat in sub-Saharan Africa, and subsequent responses from governments, multinational organizations and foreign actors. It is intended to acquaint students with the dynamics of terrorism and counterterrorism efforts in sub-Saharan Africa, and by doing so establish a solid foundation upon which further expertise can be built.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84312-terrorism-in-sub-saharan-africa.html

84-313 International Organizations and Law
Fall: 9 units
This course provides students with a comprehensive overview of the role and function of international organizations and international law in global affairs. In this course, we will consider the historical development of the international legal system and theories and sources of international law. We will examine the dynamics of key international organizations within the United Nations system, the emergence of regional organizations and their role in global governance, and the relationship between international law and domestic law. Throughout the course, students will be asked to analyze current events through the lens of international law. Students will learn to read and analyze primary legal sources and gain familiarity with current research in the field. By the end of the course, students should be able to assess the record of international institutions in promoting international security, facilitating and regulating the use of emerging technologies, influencing the conduct of war, protecting human rights, and addressing global environmental concerns.

84-314 Political Economy of International Migration
Spring: 9 units
International migration - the movement of people across national borders - is a defining political and economic phenomenon of our time. Rising social and political conflict over migration - not just in advanced democracies but also in the Global South - means that understanding the causes and consequences of international migration is more important than ever. Using analytic frameworks and real-world evidence from political science, economics, and related fields, this course will give students a full understanding of the political economy of international migration. By the end of the course, students will be able to answer questions like: why do people migrate? How do they choose where to go? How do migrants re-engage with their homelands? Students will also explore migration's political and economic consequences, like backlash against immigration and "brain drain" (or gain). In the process, the course will grapple with how countries set their immigration policies and whether migration benefits or harms natives. Students will use real-world quantitative data to uncover their own insights on the drivers and impacts of international migration.

84-316 Political Economy of Transatlantic Partnership
Fall: 9 units
The changing international world order due to China's rise as a global economic superpower and the rise of authoritarianism and populism in developed economies have created new challenges and opportunities in the transatlantic community. This course examines the key economic issues in current transatlantic relations. Our focus will be on the economic cooperation and tensions between the two largest economies and the largest trade and investment partners in the 21st century, the United States and the European Union. We will identify the recent disruptive global economic events, including the financial crises, Brexit, China's accession to the World Trade Organization, regulatory affairs, COVID-19, and supply chain problems, and discuss the economic and institutional structures the US and the EU have put in place to overcome these challenges. Additionally, we will analyze the populist and nationalist challenges to the liberal democracy and how domestic political forces have resulted in environmental, economic, and human rights policies in the Atlantic, as seen in recent tariff wars, failed international agreements, and the refugee crisis. Students will leave the course with a stronger appreciation for the US and the EU's commitment to advance a rules-based international order and strategic cooperation despite distinct approaches to economic policy.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84316-political-economy-of-transatlantic-partnership.html

84-318 Politics of Developing Nations
Spring: 9 units
Be it on our feet, in our grocery bags or in the news, our daily lives connect us to people in the developing world. Despite such an intricate relationship, we tend to know very little about developing nations and their challenges beyond a common stereotype of poverty. What are developing nations? What is their place in the world? What challenges do those nations and their populations face? In this class, we will strive to answer those questions through readings of political science and political economy scholarship and in-class activities and discussions. We will explore the socio-economic and political issues that developing nations face and take special care to practice perspective taking (i.e. we will put ourselves in specific nations' shoes and consider situations from their point of view). We will adopt various lenses (e.g. post colonialism, liberalism, feminism) throughout the semester to inform our understanding of the various positions taken by global actors. By addressing the unequal power balance between developed and developing nations as well as among developing nations, we will enrich our world view and understanding of major global issues, such as development. We will practice those skills in class through discussions and activities (you should expect very little lecturing) and outside of class through guided readings. Your learning in the course will be assessed through various writing assignments (take home exams, a final paper, weekly responses) where you will practice composing arguments based on evidence.

84-319 Civil-Military Relations
Spring and Summer: 9 units
Why do militaries (people with guns) ever obey civilians (people without guns)? What is the proper role of the armed forces and military officers in a democratic society? When, why, and how do militaries achieve autonomy, battlefield effectiveness, or political rule? Students will confront such questions by surveying theories, cases, and ethical challenges of modern civil-military relations. The first half of the course surveys the theoretical, empirical, and normative literature on problems in civil-military relations, particularly the causes of military loyalty to civilian rule, colonial legacies in civil-military relations, difference in civilian and military mindsets/cultures, the relationship between civil-military relations and battlefield effectiveness, military repression and defection during civilian protests, and the determinants of outcomes of military coups and mutations. In the second half of the course, the class will survey civil-military relations in selected regions and countries (including the United States, Russia, and China). By the end, students will write an original case study explaining civil-military relations in a particular state.

Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84319-civil-military-relations.html
84-322 Nonviolent Conflict and Revolution
Spring: 9 units
How can everyday people promote justice, equality, and democracy? Throughout history, many have looked to armed struggle and revolutionary violence. But over the course of the last century, nonviolent “people power” movements -- from Gandhi’s salt march to the Arab Spring to Black Lives Matter -- have been forces for social and political change. What are the causes, strategies, tactics, dynamics, and consequences of nonviolent conflict, and how do these differ from violent or armed conflict? When and how do unarmed “people power” campaigns topple repressive authoritarian regimes? This course addresses these questions and in the process engages contending theories of power, revolution, and insurgency. The course introduces students to key concepts, theories, strategies, and historical patterns of nonviolent conflict. The class probes the success and failure of nonviolence by analyzing landmark unarmed revolutions.

84-323 War and Peace in the Contemporary Middle East
Spring: 9 units
This course examines the drivers and dynamics of war and peace in the contemporary Middle East. It is structured around a series of key debates about different facets of conflict and violence in the region, such as the causes of rebellion, the reasons resistance groups use terrorism, and the factors that facilitate peace. We will delve into competing arguments about each of these issues, applying the ideas to cases around the region. We will also examine broader regional conflicts like the Arab-Israeli dispute and Sunni-Shia confrontation. We will use a mixture of research articles and books as well as more diverse materials such as war reporting, films, and memoirs in order to create a holistic understanding of these issues.

84-324 The Future of Democracy
Intermittent: 9 units
After the Cold War, Francis Fukuyama famously argued that humanity had reached the “end of history” insofar as liberal democracy had become the last viable form of government. Yet today, illiberal democracies and dictatorships persist, the world has witnessed the return of authoritarian great powers led by China and Russia, and populist movements challenge liberal democracies around the world. What is the future of democracy around the world, and how can we know? This course surveys the causes of historical rise (and fall) of democracy, the methods and pitfalls of liberal democracies, the rise of autocracies, and the future of democracy.

84-325 Contemporary American Foreign Policy
Spring: 9 units
This course provides a survey of American foreign policy since World War I as a means of explaining why American foreign policy looks the way it does today. We will cover topics such as America’s perennial battles between isolationism and internationalism, the creation of the US-led world order after 1945, the containment of communism, and anti-terrorism after 9/11. We will cover enduring and global issues like climate change, nuclear non-proliferation, humanitarian intervention, and international economic policy, as well. Further, a main focus of the course is how foreign policy is made - the role each branch of government plays in foreign policy making, the impact of domestic politics and public opinion, and how other countries receive and react to American foreign policy. The course will use both history and data analysis to understand how foreign policy works, how it is made, and its effect both at home and abroad. A good grasp of the 20th century American and world history, and some familiarity with international relations theory are not requirements but will prove helpful. By the end of the semester, students should have acquired a broad understanding of the most important foreign policy events of the last century and have the tools to analyze foreign policy decision-making.

84-326 Theories of International Relations
Fall: 9 units
This course introduces students to the discipline of international relations (IR). In the first half of the course, students review the modern history of IR from colonialism to today and are introduced to core concepts such as the national interest, power, and international order. Students also survey a broad range of IR theories, including “grand paradigms” from realism to constructivism, mainstream “mid-level” theories that help explain global politics and aid in foreign policy analysis, as well as critical, feminist, and non-western IR theory. The second half of the course introduces students to the two major sub-fields of IR, namely security studies (concerned with the causes of war and peace, the politics of alliances, etc.) and international political economy (concerned with the causes of protectionism and free trade, the politics of economic tools of statecraft such as foreign aid, sanctions, etc.). The course ends by considering contemporary challenges posed by armed non-state actors, climate change, and various threats to the post-World War II liberal international order. This course should help students to better understand the world we live in and equip students with tools for analyzing various international events and foreign policy challenges.

Course Website: [https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84326-theories-of-international-relations.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84326-theories-of-international-relations.html)

84-327 Repression and Control in Dictatorships
Fall: 9 units
How do dictatorships exert physical and social control over their populations through state coercion? What tools and institutions do they use, and what makes dictatorships’ use of coercion distinct from that of democracies? Why is so much of the population complicit in or about, the human rights abuses which result from these control efforts? This course, drawing on research across social science and history, answers these questions by analyzing the institutions, processes, and consequences of governments’ mechanisms of physical and social control. Among other topics, we will examine the origins of state coercion, the structure and organization of state coercion, and the cooperation of civilians and other social actors with coercion. Beyond physical-legal coercion, we will evaluate ‘softer’ forms of social control such as propaganda, censorship social pressure, and 21st-century digital strategies of information manipulation. We will also consider the imprint of physical and social control on the population’s beliefs and behavior, both during the time they are subjected to coercion and the period following its end. Students will engage with these questions through (1) in-depth class discussions based on insights from historical and present-day dictatorships and (2) conducting original research and analysis of evidence.


84-328 Military Strategy and Doctrine
Fall: 9 units
While major interstate warfare has markedly declined since World War II, recent events illustrate that the causes and dynamics of major war remain some of the most important topics in international politics. This course will survey how the causes, conduct, and termination of warfare have changed over time. While the focus of the course is primarily on major warfare between states, we will also cover the use of military power in civil wars, insurgencies, and proxy wars. The first part of the course addresses why wars occur and what leaders hope to achieve using military power. We will cover the merits and limitations of different explanations for why war occurs and different ethical issues in the use of force, including just war theory and protection of civilians. The second part of the course addresses the sources of warfighting effectiveness, war outcomes, and war termination and will cover a range of material and non-material factors. The final section of the course will cover how recent military, technological, social, and political changes influence what can be achieved through military power and implications for military strategy and doctrine. By the end of the course, students will have general grasp of the major analytic approaches to understanding the occurrence and dynamics of war and will have the tools to think critically about the use of military force.

Course Website: [https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84328-military-strategy-and-doctrine.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84328-military-strategy-and-doctrine.html)
84-329 Military Strategic Theory
Intermittent: 6 units
This course examines historic and contemporary military strategists and their contributions to the body of modern military strategic theory. Using historical context, this course will explore the evolution of military strategic theory from ancient civilizations through the Napoleonic era into the modern age. The concepts underpinning strategic theory have and continue to shape policy formation, strategy selection, and military operational design. These concepts include the Clauswitzian trinity, centers of gravity, alignment of policy and strategy, protracted warfare, insurgency and revolutionary warfare, and specific Air/Sea/Land/Nuclear domain strategies. Students will be challenged to consider course concepts along with policy and resource constraints in evaluating strategies. This course will introduce students to military strategic theory in four core areas: 1) ancient strategy - the Peloponnesian War, Roman, and Byzantine Strategies; 2) Western Tradition Strategists - Clausewitz, Jomini, Hart, and Gray; 3) Eastern Tradition Strategists - Sun Tzu and Mao; and, 4) Domain Strategies - Air, Sea, Land, and Nuclear.

84-330 The Shading of Democracy: The Influence of Race on American Politics
Intermittent: 6 units
This course will explore intersections of race, political influence and the shaping of America’s democracy. Discourse will focus on racial and ethnicity-related policies, practices and processes designed to influence democratic outcomes. Students will examine complex, and often pivotal occurrences that have transformed the political landscape through the works of Richard Rorty, Achieving Our Country; Lott's Thought in Twentieth-Century America; Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness; and, Steve Phillips, Brown Is the New White: How the Demographic Revolution Has Created a New American Majority. This course is restricted to students participating in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) only.

84-331 Money, Media, and the Power of Data in Decisionmaking
Intermittent: 6 units
This course focuses on the impact of three critical influences on policy and decisionmaking in Washington D.C.: money, in the form of political campaign dollars in particular; media, from national to local; and data that can define the policy problem and solution. The course will dive into each topic through a series of case studies of policies whose successful adoption and implementation hinged upon money, media or data. Students will come away from the course with the background and context to critically consider tough questions about the role of these powerful influences on national policy. Is the media “broken”? What is the prospect for moderating the impact of money on policy? Is the influence of data and facts on the way in a hyper-partisan political context? This course is restricted to students participating in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) only.

84-332 Effects of US Policy on Businesses: Perspectives of Asian Americans
Intermittent: 6 units
This course explores the effects of policy, advocacy, and government on the business sector, specifically focusing on the perspective of businesses of Asian heritage and various kinds of business entities (corporations, startups, small business, etc.). Each student or small group of students will be assigned a particular kind of business entity and a designated Asian heritage, and the class would work through select policies, exploring how they affect the different enterprises and Asian Americans. This course is restricted to students participating in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) only.

84-333 Power and Levers for Change in Washington, DC
Intermittent: 12 units
Political and policy change often appears to sweep in at the direction of high-profile, centralized decision makers. The path to change is in truth a longer tale, driven by a diversity of actors and influencers. This course aims to more fully map out the diversity of levers that drive change in federal policymaking and implementation, examining key influences such as Congress, money, media, social movements, rhetoric and data. The course aims to give students a fuller picture of how their own particular strengths and interests are valuable to creating change, through seminar dialogue, guest speakers, and reflections on students' internship organizational structures. This course is restricted to students participating in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) only.

84-334 The History and Practice of Economic Statecraft
Intermittent: 6 units
The use of economic tools in a world of dense international economic networks to coerce other governments to achieve foreign policy aims is central to understanding the world we see and in augmenting our understanding of the wisdom of various policy options. Economic statecraft impacts target and sender governments, generates spillover effects on external countries, the domestic economy and social stability, and business and NGO perceptions of the reliability of participating in foreign countries. This course will first deeply explore the history of economic statecraft and concepts underpinning the strategic calculations regarding its use. It will scrutinize the most evocative form of policy - economic sanctions - in addition to broader frameworks of statecraft which utilize multilateral forums which are the “carrots” of international economic policy. It will also educate students on the state of the literature regarding sanctions’ efficacy, and understanding what features of the economy render target states most vulnerable to coercion. In this way we will contextualize claims that Russia “sanction-proofed” its economy prior to its invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and gain deeper insight into the unprecedented sanctions which have been imposed as a result. The course will also discuss the Iranian case, assess Chinese economic statecraft, and conjecture about how economic statecraft fits within the broader context of an emerging US-China rivalry.

84-335 Intelligence and Policy
Intermittent: 6 units
This course examines the critical role of intelligence in policy formulation, executive branch decision-making, and execution of policy in shaping national policy. The course provides a brief introduction to the Intelligence Community (IC) while exploring the role of intelligence organizations, processes, collection, analysis, production and dissemination in developing geo-political assessments informing policy formulation. We will also examine why it is important for policymakers to have a good understanding of stated and unstated assumptions influencing analytical judgements, risks and opportunities, and potential individual and bureaucratic biases. The course will focus on a few decisions from President George H.W. Bush to President Obama, with primary focus on lessons learned through quick reviews of the two wars with Iraq, the low-level Middle East conflict between the wars, and the campaign against Al Qaeda and ISIS. Students will be introduced to contemporary news articles from the period under investigation, original documents, declassified memos, decision papers, briefings, and interviews with key military and civilian planners and decision makers. With the passage of time and the consequences of decisions known, judging the role of intelligence in historical events requires an exploration of the decisions and also the what ifs. Along with being introduced to basic intelligence analytical issues related to policy support, students will learn how factors of leadership, personalities, organizational dynamics, institutional cultures, interagency dynamics, and parochialisms within agencies influence how intelligence is used.

84-336 Implementing Public Policy: From Good Idea To Reality
Spring: 12 units
Good public policy does not just “happen.” Rather, successful policy is the result of thorough research, careful drafting, and successful navigations through the government and organizational structures for which it ultimately promulgates it. The course begins with a brief review of how government and organizational behavior in a bureaucracy, and the identification of a federal agency’s current policy system as a framework to which we will turn throughout the term. Study then turns to an overview of legal research skills. Though usually the province of law students and attorneys, such skills will enable students to know when policy may be crafted “from scratch” -- or where, when, and how policy must conform to larger governing legal or regulatory structures. Students will then consider a particular sub-specie of public policy, administrative law, which addresses the special circumstances of regulatory agencies and the statutory regimes that create and govern them. The course culminates with students developing and “staffing” a national policy, modeled on the federal agency policy system studied throughout the term. This course may benefit a range of audiences: students considering government and related policy careers; future business leaders who must set standards for business practices, employee behavior, or operations within the confines of governmental regulations; prospective paralegals and attorneys; or anyone interested in exploring “what the rules are” and why. This course is restricted to students participating in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) only.
84-337 Biomedical Science Research, Policy, and Governance
Intermittent: 6 units
This course is designed to explore how the biomedical sciences intersect with policy and governance on a national and international scale. The course will explore how the US funds biomedical science, how Congress and government agencies implement science policies, and the policy implications of new scientific fields using topics such as emerging infectious disease, genomics, stem cell research, etc. We will also use the SARS-COV-2 pandemic as an example to explore topics related to science policy including funding, FDA regulation, and international cooperation. By the end of the course, the students will be able to understand the process of policy implementation in the US government and consider the effects of policy on biomedical science. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.

84-338 Political News Coverage in the Era of Trump, Twitter, and "Fake News"
Intermittent: 6 units
This class will cover political reporting on the 2020 campaign, how the candidates portray themselves, and how party tenets have evolved in recent years. We will also examine media buying, grassroots vs astroturf support, the role big money, unions and small donors play. Guest speakers will include prominent political reporters, pundits (who seem to play an increasingly important role influencing political opinion), and campaign veterans. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.

84-339 Seminar in Public Policy Research
Intermittent: 12 units
Public policy has high stakes. The taxes we pay, our access to medical care, the quality and composition of the military—all of these are the direct result of US public policy. Furthermore, public policy often touches on highly contested issues such as private gun ownership or single payer health care. Public policy research then is important, helping inform critical political decisions with evidence-based analysis. This seminar will give students an overview of public policy research concepts, terms, and actors. This will be followed by a case study unit on exemplars of public policy research: the opening of all military occupations to women, and the passage of the Affordable Care Act. A third unit will focus on the increasing role of scalable analytics and large datasets. In this unit students will gain an overview of scalable methods (including machine learning applications), the potential of “big data” to transform policy research, but the problems and pitfalls associated with a more algorithmic approach to public policy. These three units will build towards a final research project where students propose their own policy initiative. THIS COURSE IS ONLY AVAILABLE AS PART OF THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP).

Fall: 12 units
American politics has many elements and founding principles. Among them is the right of individuals-alone or in groups-to assemble and petition the government in pursuit of their interests and beliefs. This class will highlight the intersection between pressure groups, politics, and policy in Washington, DC. More specifically-based in the political science and other academic literature-the class will examine how organized interests engage and try to influence elected and public officials as they make decisions and take actions related to the nation’s political and policy agenda. The class will also interact with Washington-based advocacy and lobbying organizations to see how those ideas are applied in real life scenarios. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP).

84-343 Language and Power: How to Understand and Use Political Speech
Intermittent: 6 units
Political writing is a subspecies of language with several manifestations. There is an art to the op-ed and to the editorial, to the polemical essay and to the review. Within government, there are skills particular to writing speeches and ghosting essays, preparing Congressional testimony and Federal commission reports, and to drafting policy memoranda. There are even special forms and qualities of expression for hosting award and memorial ceremonies, and for writing thank-you notes, toasts, and letters of condolence. This course is designed to teach an appreciation for the range and nature of political writing and speech in both its public and governmental forms. It also introduces students to the fundamental skills required to do effective political writing. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.

84-346 Legal Issues in Public Administration
Intermittent: 6 units
Part I of the course will focus on legal issues in public administration and cover the relationship between the government and its employees, including the role of labor unions and collective bargaining in the federal sector. Part II will cover official immunity for government officials, “equal protection of the law” and substantive due process. Part III will cover separation of powers, federalism and judicial review of agency action. Reading assignments will include short excerpts from relevant book and periodicals. Students will also be asked to read court opinions. Although these opinions may be filled with legal jargon, at their essence, most concern the tension between individual rights and government efficiency and control. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.

84-348 Advocacy, Policy and Practice
Intermittent: 6 units
This course examines the role that advocacy and advocacy organizations play at all stages of the policymaking and implementation process, from grassroots to professional advocacy organizations, public facing communications initiatives to internal policy-focused actions. Part of the course will focus on the history of advocacy in policy making, and case studies will be used to explore the players, outcomes, and influences of advocates when designing and implementing policy. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.

84-352 Representation and Voting Rights
Spring: 9 units
What does it mean to be represented? Who is represented, who is not? What is the nature of that representation? In practice, do the norms of representation result in policy congruence? In this course, we will explore the concept of representation, what it means in theory, and how it works in practice. We will explore the theoretical underpinnings of representation from a democratic norms’ perspective, the legal and constitutional nature of U.S. institutions, and evaluate empirically how well represented the public is. In the United States, legislative elections are held in single-member districts, which require the drawing of district boundaries every decade. Several weeks of the course will be devoted to understanding this process. The course will culminate with a final project in which we will draw electoral maps that are legally compliant and will be proposed for the 2021 round of redistricting.

84-360 CMU/WSP: Internship Seminar
Fall and Spring: 12 units
The internship is the experiential “core” of the Washington Semester Program. Students intern three days per week, for approximately 24-25 hours, in offices from Capitol Hill to the White House and including opportunities in cabinet agencies, nonprofit institutions, museums, advocacy groups, policy think tanks, cultural institutions, and news organizations. Through the internship, students gain professional experience and make long-lasting professional and personal contacts. In addition, students meet once a week with the CMU internship faculty for a 2-hour seminar to report and reflect on their internship experiences, and address pressing current issues from the perspective of their internship organization. In addition, the weekly seminar typically includes 1-2 CMU alumni from the Washington, DC, area. Their personal and professional experiences become part of the seminar conversation, and they make themselves available to students as ongoing sources of information and advice. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.

84-362 Diplomacy and Statecraft
Fall: 9 units
Diplomacy and statecraft are the driving forces behind foreign policy and international politics. In the first part of the course, students are introduced to the concepts, theories, and history of diplomacy. Students survey examine key cases and statesmen and women from the Congress of Vienna to the present. Finally, the class will survey the role of diplomacy in today's international headlines. Students will also be asked to draft a project on a topic of their choosing. This course is designed to teach an appreciation for the range and nature of political writing and speech in both its public and governmental forms. It also introduces students to the fundamental skills required to do effective political writing. THIS COURSE IS RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM (CMU/WSP) ONLY.
84-363 Comparative Legal Systems  
Intermittent: 9 units  
This course carries out a comparative study of the nature of courts and law, their position in political systems and the role of judges as political actors, and the potential of legal political institutions to impact society. The course is very theoretical and is organized around key themes and concepts, rather than historical detail on countries. We will examine the political and regime logic behind the origin of judicial power, competing theories about judicial decision making, the meaning and significance of judicial independence, and the potential effectiveness of courts as tools for social and political change.

84-364 Comparative Presidential Behavior: Leadership, Personality, and Decision Making  
Fall: 9 units  
Presidents receive universal attention for good reasons. As the most powerful politicians in the 49 countries that they govern, their behavior and decisions have enormous consequences. Given the vast amounts of energy dedicated to understanding presidents, one would expect that many questions about presidential behavior and performance have been answered. However, there is still little understanding of how presidents matter. In this course we address the pressing question of how presidents matter from a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective. We will mainly incorporate insights from political science and psychology, but also from other disciplines that study leadership (e.g., management and history). In the first section we will discuss the comparative history, evolution, and characteristics of the presidency, examining cross-country variation of presidential powers and roles. In the second part, we will discuss theories that have addressed the role of political leaders from different disciplines and methodological approaches. In the third (and main) section, we will study the personal presidency, or how the unique background of the leaders and their personality traits are related to relevant political outcomes. In the last section, we will examine how the broader social, political, and economic context explains presidential behavior and performance.

84-365 The Politics of Fake News and Misinformation  
Spring: 9 units  
This course analyzes the drivers and dynamics of fake news and misinformation in social and political life. From conspiracy theories about COVID and climate change to misinformation about political violence and conflict, how can we characterize fake news and misinformation and why does it often spread so widely? What are the factors that explain why individuals accept or reject it? And what are its consequences for our political behavior? In this course, we will explore these and other questions on fake news and misinformation, drawing on the fast-growing body of research on the topic. In particular, we will first focus on defining and characterizing the problem of fake news and misinformation, and then we will examine its production, consumption, and consequences. As the final assignment in the course, students will write an original research paper applying ideas from class to an example of fake news or misinformation of interest to them.

84-366 The American Presidency  
Spring: 9 units  
The person elected president of the United States immediately assumes many formal and informal roles including, but not limited to, head of the Executive Branch, diplomat-in-chief, commander-in-chief, leader of party, and legislator-in-chief. Yet the president must fulfill these roles within the confines of a three-branch government and the limitations of power placed upon the office; a literal catch-22. This course therefore seeks to understand how the presidency developed to acquire its many different roles, and how the holders of the office must maneuver the intricacies and challenges of their position in political systems and the role of judges as political actors, and the potential of legal political institutions to impact society. The course is very theoretical and is organized around key themes and concepts, rather than historical detail on countries. We will examine the political and regime logic behind the origin of judicial power, competing theories about judicial decision making, the meaning and significance of judicial independence, and the potential effectiveness of courts as tools for social and political change.

84-369 Decision Science for International Relations  
Fall: 9 units  
Decision Science looks at choices from three interrelated perspectives: analysis, characterizing decision makers’ options, in terms of expected effects on outcomes that they value; description, characterizing decision makers’ beliefs and preferences; and interventions, helping decision makers to choose among the options available to them or create better ones. The course integrates foundational research in Decision Science with applications to international relations and politics. Prerequisites: 19-250 or 36-200 or 36-201  
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84369-decision-science-for-international-relat (https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84369-decision-science-for-international-relat/)

84-370 Nuclear Security & Arms Control  
Spring: 9 units  
This course introduces students to the importance and challenges of implementing the safeguards surrounding nuclear energy and arms control. Students will learn the challenges of nuclear and conventional weapons proliferation, current treaties and export control organizations and assess their effectiveness, and evaluate policy challenges related to emerging weapons technologies, particularly drones and AI.

84-372 Space and National Security  
Spring: 9 units  
Space systems contribute a great deal to America’s security, prosperity, and quality of life. This course examines how space-based services provide critical support to military and intelligence operations and contribute to national security more broadly. The course is designed to investigate several interrelated themes, weaving together relevant aspects of technology, strategy, and policy. The material is approached from both functional and historical perspectives, beginning with the basics of military and intelligence space operations and ending with an examination of the space- and cyber-related technical, strategic, and political challenges facing the nation today and in the foreseeable future.

84-373 Emerging Technologies and the Law  
Spring: 9 units  
This course provides a forum for students to consider the relationship between key emerging technologies and the law. In the first half of the course, each session will be dedicated to discussing the legal implications of a particular emerging technology, including autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and blockchain technology, stem cell therapy, quantum computing, and 3D printing. In the second half of the course, we will turn to overarching themes at the intersection of law and technology, including emerging technologies and the law of armed conflict, policing and surveillance, intellectual property, and privacy. Throughout the course, students will be asked to consider whether existing legal frameworks are sufficient to address issues related to emerging technologies.

84-380 US Grand Strategy  
Fall: 9 units  
What role should the United States play in the world? Should the U.S. solely protect its own borders or advance democracy, promote human rights, and contain aggressive countries? These are questions that Americans have wrestled with throughout modern U.S. history. In this class, students will learn about those arguments and engage in debate over both the goals of U.S. foreign policy and the means of achieving them. This course will situate current events in the historical context of grand strategy during and after the Cold War, as well as a wider understanding of how countries determine their goals and seek to pursue them through a combination of diplomatic, economic, military, and political means. Students will explore the connection between domestic and foreign affairs and how all these issues relate to current U.S. strategy toward a rising China, an assertive Russia, and so-called “rogue states” like Iran and North Korea. Students should emerge from the class with a better understanding of U.S. grand strategy but also with a greater ability to formulate and communicate their own views on U.S. strategy toward the rest of the world.  
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84380-us-grand-strategy.html
84-383 Cyber Policy as National Policy  
Spring: 6 units  
The decisions nations make in cyberspace have profound implications for both prosperity and sovereignty. The internet is a digital thread tying together peoples. The nature of our participation in this ecosystem is determined by policy makers. Cyber policy mirrors the political ethos of governments. Some nations choose to use cyber as a tool of control and repression, others construct cyber policies as key enablers of innovation and the free exchange of ideas. The translation of traditional policy objectives into a direction for cyber is often problematic. The perpetually liminal state of conflict in cyberspace adds another set of challenges for policy makers. In this course we will explore national cyber policies. We will compare approaches and explore the role of culture. In our analysis we will enumerate the attributes of effective national cyber policy and conduct postmortems on failed policies. We will examine the ethical questions faced by cyber policy makers. Every citizen has a role in cyber policy. This course is intended to prepare future policy makers and create informed citizens.

84-386 The Privatization of Force  
Fall: 9 units  
This course considers different forms of privatized force and security over time and across various strategic contexts, from historical mercenarism up to modern-day private military and security contractors. While going through the historical and modern material chronologically, the course considers the various issues associated with each form of privatized force, including questions that arise regarding the state’s monopoly on violence, legal and humanitarian issues, and civil-military relations. These range from theoretical concerns regarding modern definitions of the state, to practical operational-level concerns pertaining to field coordination issues between the military and private contractors in modern conflicts.

84-387 Technology and Policy of Cyber War  
Spring: 9 units  
This course examines underlying and emerging technologies and policies associated with cyber war and cyber threats. The technological concepts reviewed in this course include but are not limited to the internet, networks and sensors, and trends associated with “hyperconnectivity” (e.g., The Internet of Things). The course will review history, international policy, military doctrine, and lessons learned from the use of cyber operations and cyberspace in conflicts. The principle objective of this course is to introduce students to the technological and policy variables that affect the ability to manage cyber conflicts.

84-388 Concepts of War and Cyber War  
Fall: 6 units  
This course examines traditional theories, concepts, and practices in international relations and warfare- conventional, unconventional, and modern- and relates them to the emerging dynamics of cyber war. The principle concepts examined in this course reflect, have shaped, and continue to shape state and non-state actor behaviors and their calculations of how to prepare for and prosecute warfare. These include, among others, conventional and nuclear deterrence, offense-defense dynamics, first strike capabilities, and irregular warfare. The course will focus on theory but will leverage history, military doctrine, and cases to highlight the challenges of integrating cyber war into defense planning and practice. Students will be challenged to consider how the 2009 introduction of cyberspace as a warfare domain- in addition to land, maritime, air, and space- affects the ways that scholars and practitioners- operating with force structures and strategic, operational, and tactical concepts that are decades, if not centuries old- conceive of and practice warfare in the 21st Century. The principle objective of this course is to introduce students to cyber war within the context of traditional, and emerging, concepts of armed and unarmed warfare. This course will focus on two core areas: 1) a discussion of traditional concepts of warfare in the physical domains; and, 2) a discussion of cyber war and its interaction with these traditional concepts.

Course Website: [https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84388-concepts-of-war-and-cyber-war.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84388-concepts-of-war-and-cyber-war.html)

84-389 Terrorism and Insurgency  
Spring: 9 units  
There are many forms of political violence but not all are created equal. Some, like terrorism, are a tactic while others, like insurgency, are a strategy. How important is it to define terrorism and insurgency? What causes insurgencies, and what determines the choice of terrorism as a tactic within insurgencies? This course will go into depth to analyze the various manifestations of terrorism and insurgency. The course will cover the historical evolution of terrorism and insurgency as well as recent trends. The course will also focus on groups, methods, ideologies, and organizational structures, and will address the effectiveness of different policies over time at managing insurgency and terrorism, and the role that these policies play in U.S. strategy.

Course Website: [https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84389-terrorism-and-insurgency.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84389-terrorism-and-insurgency.html)

84-390 Social Media, Technology, and Conflict  
Spring: 9 units  
This course will examine the role that social media and technology have had on conflict and governance over the past decade. Interconnectedness has expanded dramatically and continues to expand, not only within coastal cities but also between them and their hinterlands, from city to city, and between home populations and global networks, including diaspora populations. The Arab Spring uprisings were significantly influenced by the use of cell phones, social media, and text-messaging as organizing tools. But it is not only protesters that are harnessing the power of social media and emerging technologies- insurgent groups like the Islamic State have been able to use Twitter, YouTube, Telegram and other social media platforms to their advantage. Apps have been used to both recruit and fund raise for terrorist groups, while individuals living on the other side of the world are radicalized by virulent ideologies spread through the Internet. The proliferation of so-called “fake news” and the ubiquity of social media has introduced an entirely new variable into the study of conflict and relations between individuals, small groups, non-state actors, and nation-states.

84-393 Legislative Decision Making: US Congress  
Spring: 9 units  
This course analyzes decision-making by the United States Congress. The course examines legislative behavior by focusing on the way Congress is organized (institutional and constitutional structure) and the ways legislators, voters, and various other parties interact (strategic constraints). Students will both learn the legislative process and explore the influence of norms, rules, expectations, incentives and, perhaps most important of all, the power of the electorate in influencing legislative outcomes and policy. Elections, voting decisions, committee assignments, political party power, and intra-branch relations across the Federal government are some of the topics into which we will delve. This course does not require any prior knowledge of the U.S. Congress, and there are no prerequisites for the course.

84-402 Judicial Politics and Behavior  
Spring: 9 units  
This course is a survey of research and insight into one of the most unique American government institutions: the judiciary. Rather than exclusively reading case law (as one would do in a Constitutional Law class), this course examines court structure, rules of law and, most importantly, judges as actors within an institutional setting. We will focus on how rules, norms, and expectations guide the decisions, actions, and range of options available to judges. Here we will study the nature of judicial decision-making and its antecedents, the organization of the judicial branch and its implications for behavior, and the strategic interactions both within courts and between the courts and the more “political” branches of government. The course will look at state and federal courts within the United States, supplemented with examples from international jurisdictions. Material from law, history, economics, political science, sociology, and psychology will be introduced throughout the semester. Although some of the literature uses empirical and/or game theoretical models, students are not expected to have mastered these tools prior to taking the course.
84-405 The Future of Warfare
Fall: 9 units
Warfare is constantly evolving. In the contemporary conflict environment, irregular actors and tactics are prominent within an overarching context of great power strategic competition that is in many ways reminiscent of the Cold War. Hybrid actors and proxy groups wage war in an asymmetric and irregular manner, relying on ambiguity, strategic surprise and deception to accomplish their objectives. These activities often occur within the so-called “gray zone,” an area of neither declared nor undeclared hostilities where U.S. adversaries like Russia, China, Iran and others are gradually allocating resources. This course will examine and historically contextualize various “new” trends in warfare, including operations in the information environment, the development of violent non-state actors with conventional military capabilities, and state support of mercenary forces to achieve strategic gains without attribution. Case studies examined in this course will include Russian mercenary activities across the Middle East and Africa, Chinese cyberwarfare and information operations, Iranian sponsorship of proxy militias in Syria and Lebanon, and a range of other emerging trends in areas such as technology, demographics, and social media, all of which are combining to characterize the way wars are fought today.
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84405-the-future-of-warfare.html

84-421 Advanced Topics in American Politics
Fall: 9 units
This upper-level course examines prominent classical and contemporary works in the two major subfields in American politics, political institutions and political behavior. This means the seminar will address topics such as Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and courts, but also public opinion, elections, campaign political parties, and the importance of geography, wealth, ethnicity, gender, and religion in politics. There will be an emphasis on analyzing and appraising the theory, methodology, and contributions of the selected readings, and on discussing their complementarity. Intensive discussions and written essays are key components of the course. Prerequisite: 84-104
Course Website: https://www.cmu.edu/ips/courses/undergraduate-courses/84421-advanced-topics-in-american-politics.htm

84-450 Policy Seminar
Fall and Spring: 6 units
The Policy Seminar course takes a critical look at decision making in domestic politics and US foreign policy. It does so through weekly roundtable discussions with a diverse set of thought leaders. Based on intellectually significant essays that students are expected to read in advance of each class, these discussions give students an opportunity to ask probing questions about the three branches of the US government, media, embassies, advocacy groups, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations. This course seeks to help students understand the responsibilities and activities that leaders and decision makers carry out on behalf of their organizations. Students are instructed in how to confidently and respectfully ask critical questions of those shaping policy. The term “roundtabling” is used to describe submitting an issue for critical discussion among relevant stakeholders. Knowing how to direct a roundtable is a significant element in the professional development of anyone interested in taking part in the policy arena, and this course helps students hone this important skill. In requiring students to read important essays related to each class session and then step back from discussions with leaders to write analytical essays, this course teaches students how to develop strong arguments based on solid logic and credible evidence, an essential component in making democracy work.

84-451 Policy Seminar II
All Semesters: 6 units
The Policy Seminar course takes a critical look at decision making in domestic politics and US foreign policy. It does so through weekly roundtable discussions with a diverse set of thought leaders. Based on intellectually significant essays that students are expected to read in advance of each class, these discussions give students an opportunity to ask probing questions about the three branches of the US government, media, embassies, advocacy groups, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations. This course seeks to help students understand the responsibilities and activities that leaders and decision makers carry out on behalf of their organizations. Students are instructed in how to confidently and respectfully ask critical questions of those shaping policy. The term “roundtabling” is used to describe submitting an issue for critical discussion among relevant stakeholders. Knowing how to direct a roundtable is a significant element in the professional development of anyone interested in taking part in the policy arena, and this course helps students hone this important skill. In requiring students to read important essays related to each class session and then step back from discussions with leaders to write analytical essays, this course teaches students how to develop strong arguments based on solid logic and credible evidence, an essential component in making democracy work.

84-498 Undergraduate Research
Fall and Spring
Students conduct research under the supervision of an Institute for Politics and Strategy faculty member. Students who wish to engage in research should seek out a faculty member whose interests are appropriate to the research. Prerequisite: Students must also complete an “Independent Study/Research for Credit” form, available from the IPS Deputy Director or on the IPS website. Permission of a faculty sponsor.

84-499 Independent Study
All Semesters
Students conduct independent academic study under the supervision of an Institute for Politics and Strategy faculty member. Students who wish to engage in an independent study should seek out a faculty member whose interests are appropriate to the topic. Students must also complete an “Independent Study/Research for Credit” form, available from the IPS Deputy Director or on the IPS website. Prerequisite: Permission of a faculty sponsor.

84-505 Undergraduate Internship
All Semesters
An internship is an approved and monitored work experience that can be related to an academic field of study through active reflection and specific learning goals. Students will be in regular contact with a faculty member in the Institute for Politics and Strategy, who will assign and evaluate academic work. Internships are available for 3, 6, or 9 units, depending on the type and amount of academic work produced. Students are responsible for finding their own internships and faculty sponsors, although assistance is available through the IPS Deputy Director.

84-683 Cyber Policy as National Policy
Spring: 6 units
The decisions nations make in cyberspace have profound implications for both prosperity and sovereignty. The internet is a digital thread tying together peoples. The nature of our participation in this ecosystem is determined by policy makers. Cyber policy mirrors the political ethos of governments. Some nations choose to use cyber as a tool of control and repression, others construct cyber policies as key enablers of innovation and the free exchange of ideas. The translation of traditional policy objectives into a direction for cyber is often problematic. The perpetually liminal state of conflict in cyberspace adds another set of challenges for policy makers. In this course we will explore national cyber policies. We will compare approaches and explore the role of culture. In our analysis we will enumerate the attributes of effective national cyber policy and conduct postmortems on failed policies. We will examine the ethical questions faced by cyber policy makers. Every citizen has a role in cyber policy. This course is intended to prepare future policy makers and create informed citizens.