

## Washington Semester Program American University

### Academic Programs and Prerequisites

#### ***American Politics***

The American Politics program examines the institutions and political processes that determine how government works in America. Topics include the Congress, the executive branch, political parties, interest groups, lobbying and elections. **Prerequisites:** Govt 103 and Govt 290.

#### ***Economic Policy***

The Economic Policy semester offers students an opportunity to study the macro and micro dimensions of both international and domestic economic policy. They study in-depth the economic policy-making process in Washington and look at the vital role of international economic activities in U.S. policy. Each semester is unique because the content is influenced by relevant events occurring at the time. Some of the topics included last year were the Microsoft Antitrust case, exchange rates and capital flows, and how monetary policy is made. **Prerequisites:** Econ 200, Econ 251 and Econ 252.

#### ***Foreign Policy***

The Foreign Policy Semester allows students to examine the emerging issues in international relations. During the first part of the semester, students focus on the institutions and decision-making processes at work in the American foreign policy community. Then it turns to analyzing issues such as U.S. relations with Russia, the Pacific Rim, foreign policy in the Balkans, changes in the Middle East, democracy and free trade in Latin America, and threats to stability in Africa. **Prerequisites:** Govt 103 and Govt 290.

#### ***International Business and Trade***

Washington, DC is an ideal location for the study of international business and trade: 75% of all multinational corporations now have offices there. In addition, there are trade and professional associations, foreign embassies and federal agencies. The first part of the program explores major issues, such as export/import procedures, foreign investment, and political risk analysis. The latter part of the semester analyzes specific business

opportunities in various parts of the world. **Prerequisites:** Econ 200, Econ 251 and Econ 252. There are two sections of this program; SLU does **not** award credit for the International Business & Trade program that includes a travel module to China.

### ***International Environment and Development §***

Students spend most of the semester in Washington, DC studying global environmental policy issues and the role of major international organizations. They also have an intensive 3-week practicum in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands studying those same issues at the international, national and local levels. Students are responsible for the additional costs (approximately \$3,100) of the travel component.

### ***International Law and Organizations §***

This program focuses on the role of international law among nations and the work of multinational organizations in making global policies. In addition to 13 weeks in Washington, DC, students will spend three weeks visiting the UN in NYC, the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and NATO and the EU in Brussels. **Prerequisites:** Govt 103 and Govt 290. Students are responsible for the additional costs (approximately \$4,900) of the travel component.

### ***Journalism***

The Journalism program introduces students to the principles, ethics, and issues of journalism in Washington, D.C. Areas of study and discussion include: the workings of large and small newspapers; broadcast news bureaus; covering the White House, Congress and State Department; how the press is assessed by the people who make the news; coverage of Washington news by foreign journalists; the methods and significance of the wire services; critical issues (e.g., First Amendment rights); and news dissemination. Internships are available at entry levels with numerous local and national publications, journals, and radio and television stations.

**Prerequisite:** Eng 201 or its equivalent.

*Research project:* English majors can get a second English credit if their research project is appropriate for the major and has prior approval of the department chair.

## ***Justice and Law***

Students participating in the Justice and Law program will select either the Justice or Public Law course option. Below is a description of each program. Note that these two course options have different requirements.

***Justice:*** This course explores the interrelationships between the institutions and individuals operating in the criminal justice system. It considers the problems of the civil justice system, the moral and philosophical aspects of justice, and the role of punishment and rehabilitation in society. The semester sweeps students into the political storm that surrounds issues of justice. Ideologies of justice are varied and impassioned. Whenever possible, seminars will feature speakers with opposing points of view, providing balance and clarity. Students will consider what needs to be changed in our society to improve justice, and some ways that changes could occur. **Prerequisite:** None. Government majors will not receive departmental credit for this course.

***Public Law:*** Students get an up-close look at the pivotal topics of our time and the processes by which the U.S. legal system addresses them. The program traces American public law through its origination, formulation, implementation, and interpretation. Current issues confronting the republic and the processes by which decisions are made constitute the core of the program. **Prerequisites:** Govt 103 and Govt 290.

## **Transforming Communities**

*Think globally, act locally* -- it's a credo of our time, a motto for taking the right steps to achieve a better world. Washington, D.C. serves as a distinctive learning laboratory for exploring how grassroots action, government opportunities, and creative programs can strengthen and rebuild communities. Students in the program -- a ethnically, politically, economically, and geographically diverse group -- will investigate a variety of creative solutions to bring about real progress.