

# DC Semester Program

## Fall 2017

### *National Defense Politics and Budgeting*

*Taught by Professor John Gilmour*

This semester is about the politics of American national defense and national security within the context of American national institutions. It will examine major institutions of American national government – the legislative, executive, and judicial branches – and how they influence and impact national security. There will also be a simultaneous focus on the federal budget and national security. Within the broad realm of national security, the main focus will be on national defense and the Defense Department, but there will also be attention to other aspects of national security such as intelligence, homeland security, surveillance, and more.

#### **Washington Program Internship**

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499 (\*Potential to satisfy COLL 300 requirement)*

Students will intern at a wide variety of Washington institutions and organizations outside government that have an important impact on national security. Examples include the Armed Services committees in the House and Senate, the defense appropriations subcommittees in the House and Senate, the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, various publications that focus on defense and security issues, defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Dynamics, research organizations that work on defense issues such as Brookings or the American Enterprise Institute – and many more. It may also be possible to arrange internships in the Defense Department or the State Department, although these normally require a longer lead-time.

#### **American Politics and National Defense**

- *3 credit hours: GOVT 391*

This course will examine the politics of national defense and national security. This will include sections on public opinion on defense-related issues, how the US Constitution allocates power over defense and war-making, the role of Congress in equipping and authorizing the armed forces, the defense acquisition process, the importance of various interests (veterans, defense contractors, and more) in shaping defense policies, how decisions to go to war are made, the War Powers Resolution as a means of constraining the president, and much more.

#### **National Defense Policymaking in DC**

- *1 credit hour: GOVT 390*

This course is a one-credit addition to the Topics in Government Course. In this course, you will be encouraged to consider the practical politics you experience in Washington, DC through the lens of political science research on national defense, broadly speaking.

#### **The Federal Budget and National Defense**

- *4 credit hours: GOVT 401*

In Washington, people commonly say “budget is policy.” It is complicated and arcane, but the federal budget process is the means by which decisions are made about how much of federal spending is allocated to defense and other competing budgetary priorities. This course will examine the federal budget in general, including entitlements such as Social Security and Medicare, the appropriations process, federal tax policy, and also how the overall budget situation constrains and shapes the defense budget. More specific to the defense budget, the course will examine the defense authorization process, the appropriations process, continuing resolutions, the impact of sequestration on the defense budget, and more.