

DC Semester Program

Spring 2017

Judicial Politics: Law and Politics in the Nation's Capital *Taught by Professor Christine Nemacheck*

The focus of this semester is the American legal system, the roles of various legal actors, and the manner in which the judicial system affects, and is affected by, the other branches of government. As we examine these areas, we will analyze and evaluate the role of political actors and prominent issues addressed by the legal system.

Washington Program Internship

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499*

Students will intern at a wide variety of Washington political institutions – Department of Justice, District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General, Immigration and Naturalization Service, US House Committee on Judiciary/Subcommittees, US Senate Judiciary Committee/Subcommittees, US Supreme Court Curator's Office, Alliance for Justice, American Center for Law and Justice, American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Common Cause, Family Research Council, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, NAACP, National Organization for Women, National Right to Life, Planned Parenthood Federation, American Bar Association, American Immigration Lawyers Association, National Institute of Justice, American Enterprise Institute, Brookings Institution, Environmental Law Institute, Heritage Foundation, Institute for Women's Policy Research, National Women's Law Center, The Sentencing Project, Women's Legal Defense Fund, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and many others. The semester's program is designed to be an integrated experience in which students complete writing assignments, of both a narrow and extended focus, to assess the ways in which law and politics intersect in their individual work experiences.

American Legal Process

- *3 credit hours: GOVT 372*

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the American legal system. Its aim is to examine court functions, the roles of various legal actors, including citizens in their role as jurors, and the manner in which the judicial system affects, and is affected by, other branches of government. A main focus of the course will be on the intersection between law and politics. The course is not designed to be a primer on civil liberties or civil rights, or any other area of law. However, we will examine case law as we analyze the prominence of politics in the legal process. We will further analyze and evaluate the role of political actors and prominent issues addressed by the legal system.

Topics in Government: Legal Process in DC

- *1 credit hours: GOVT 390*

This course is a one credit addition to the American legal process course typically taught on campus. Through it you will be encouraged to consider the practical politics you experience in Washington DC through the lens of political science research on the judiciary, broadly speaking.

The Intersection between Law & Politics

- *4 credit hours: GOVT 401*

This seminar will be an examination of the intersections of law and politics using academic and scholarly sources as well as the experiences of practitioners in the legal and political system. Guest speakers will provide unique insight into different aspects of our legal system. Readings will be assigned to correspond with speakers' visits and provide students with background information on the topic to be discussed. Past speakers on this topic have included guests from Alliance for Justice, the Federal District Courthouse, the Department of Justice, the ACLU, and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.