

Political Science Undergraduate Program Summer 2019 Course Descriptions

<u>CRN</u>	<u>Course ID</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Meeting Time(s)</u>
3563	30201 01	U.S. Foreign Policy	Joseph Parent	TWTh 3:15-5:30
		<p>The United States is the most powerful state in the world today. Its actions are important not just for US citizens, but they also affect whether others go to war, whether they will win their wars, whether they receive economic aid, whether they will go broke, or whether they will starve. What determines US foreign policy? What is the national interest? When do we go to war? Would you send US soldiers into war? If so, into which wars and for what reasons? How do our economic policies affect others? Does trade help or hurt the US economy and its citizens? We first study several theories about foreign policy. We then examine the US foreign policy process, including the President, Congress, the bureaucracy, the media, and public opinion. To see how this all works, we turn to the history of US foreign policy, from Washington's farewell address through the World Wars and the Cold War to the Gulf War. We then study several major issue areas, including weapons of mass destruction, trade and economics, and the environment. Finally, we develop and debate forecasts and strategies for the future.</p>		
3843	30482 01	Identity Politics	Michael Hoffman	MTWThF 12:30-1:50
		<p>Course has been cancelled</p> <p>Identity politics has recently regained attention as a major force in political behavior. In this course, we will examine the features of identity politics that bear on individuals' political preferences and decisions. Using both historical and contemporary examples, we will analyze the role of identity considerations in electoral behavior, protest, and partisanship, among other areas. Some of the identity categories studied will be race, gender, and religious affiliation. The course includes cases both within the American context and international comparisons.</p>		

3888 34815 **How to (Not) Lie with** **Jeffrey Harden** **TTh** **7:30p-9:30p**
01 **Statistics**

How will Amazon HQ2 impact local economies? Should parents allow kids to have screen time? What role did demographic shifts in suburban areas play in the 2016 and 2018 elections? Does the infield shift work? Modern society constantly faces questions that require data, statistics, and other empirical evidence to answer well. But the proliferation of niche media outlets, the rise of fake news, and the increase in academic research retraction makes navigating potential answers to these questions difficult. This course is designed to give students tools to confront this challenge by developing their statistical and information literacy skills. It will demonstrate how data and statistical analyses are susceptible to a wide variety of known and implicit biases, which may ultimately lead consumers of information to make problematic choices. The course will consider this issue from the perspectives of consumers of research as well as researchers themselves. We will discuss effective strategies for reading and interpreting quantitative research while considering the incentives researchers face in producing it. Ultimately, students will complete the class better equipped to evaluate empirical claims made by news outlets, social media, or their peers. The goal is to encourage students to approach data-driven answers to important questions with appropriate tools rather than blind acceptance or excessive skepticism.

2743 45999 **Summer Internship** **Carolina Arroyo** **TBD** **TBD**
01

Summer internships are an excellent way to explore career options, to gain valuable work experience and to build your resume. Students who have secured an unpaid summer internship can apply for academic credit by contacting the Director of Internships. To qualify for credit, internships must have prior approval, must be unpaid, be at least 6 weeks in duration and provide at least 120 hours of work.