SA.100 (CORE COURSES)

SA.100.103. Leadership, Ethics and Decision-Making. 4 Credits.
This course will expose students to the theory and practice of leadership, ethics, and decision-making in the realm of statecraft. We will take an immersive and practice-focused approach, wrestling with past and present policy challenges as a means to understand and internalize the struggle of policymakers trying to make and implement good decisions. Given that students will not vault immediately to the upper echelons of leadership upon graduation, we will take up the challenges that confront more junior and mid-level policymakers as well as senior officials. Our case studies will encompass historical successes and failures as well as simulations and exercises in which students will be forced to stand in the uncomfortable shoes of decision-makers facing no-win dilemmas. By the course’s end, students will have sharpened their skills of analysis, judgment, collaboration, decisionmaking, and presentation. They will have formed preliminary views on the following fundamental questions and be positioned to take these lessons forward into their careers.

SA.100.720. American Foreign Policy Since WWII. 4 Credits.
Covers the history of American foreign policy since World War II, with special attention to analyses and interpretations of the determining factors of continuing significance, including factors and trends in the international and domestic environment of U.S. policy.

SA.100.750. Comparative Politics. 4 Credits.
This is a survey course in comparative politics that provides an overview of major theoretical approaches and issue areas in the field of comparative politics. It exposes students to a wide range of themes through reading of foundational work each week. The course starts by introducing competing theoretical approaches adopted by scholars of the field, including the state-centric, comparative historical, rational choice, and institutional perspectives. Using these approaches, the course then proceeds to examine issue areas such as political economy of developed and developing countries, democracy and authoritarianism, voting and parties, nationalism and ethnic politics, and the international context of domestic politics.

SA.100.761. Theories of International Relations. 4 Credits.
Surveys a variety of broad theoretical approaches to analyzing the international political and economic situation. Examines approaches to the study of power, ideology, state interests, peace and war, international law, and equilibrium; presents a critique of liberal, conservative and Marxist conceptions of international politics; and introduces grand theory, political and economic interpretations of systems structure and the values that shape perspectives in international politics.

SA.100.771. Evol. of the Intl. System. 4 Credits.
Provides an historical and global geopolitical framework for understanding how the modern global system has evolved. Focuses on three broad motifs: (1) the dialectical character of the European state system, (2) the relationship of Europe to the rest of the world and (3) the progressive rise of non-European powers and the growing challenge these have posed to Europe’s dominant position in the world. Concludes with reflections on the contemporary international system and its principal actors, with an eye to defining its prospects in the 21st century.