Course Information

Brief Overview of Academic Program

The Burch Field Research Seminar on Domestic and International Affairs offers Carolina undergraduates a unique learning, living, and internship opportunity in our nation’s capital. The seminar aims to expose students to a range of public policies that influence U.S. economic prosperity, national security, and America’s role in the broader global community.

Internship placements provide opportunities for students to apply academic learning to policy debates, to derive new insights and questions for seminar discussion, and to work directly with policy experts.

The seminar is organized around several key components:

1) A morning seminar (9:45 am–12 pm) held every Thursday. This seminar examines a range of domestic and international policy issues, including the federal budget, social policy, income inequality and poverty, international development, foreign policy, national security and intelligence policy, universal education, environment and development, and others.

2) An afternoon seminar (2–5 pm) held every Thursday. This seminar is devoted to examining the role of policy experts and advocates in addressing domestic and global challenges. It includes weekly visits to and/or guest lectures from government officials, think tanks, and policy organizations.

3) Internship placements (4 days a week) with leading domestic and international affairs agencies, policy research and/or advocacy organizations.

4) Several “off-site” visits are planned, including: a conference at the National Press Club, a performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and a 2-3 day trip to New York City. Weekly informal professional development sessions also will be planned.

Burch Field Research Seminar: Core Courses

HNRS 352.01S: Seminar on Domestic and International Affairs

Three (3) graded credit hours are awarded for satisfactory completion of the weekly morning seminar, which focuses on a study of domestic and international affairs within the U.S. policy-making process.

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Application Deadline: September 17, 2015
HNRS 352.02S: The Role of Experts and Advocates in Solving Domestic and Global Challenges
Three (3) graded credit hours are awarded for satisfactory completion of the weekly afternoon seminar, which focuses on the roles of experts and advocates in addressing and solving major domestic and global policy problems.

HNRS 393: Internship in Domestic and/or International Affairs
Six (6) graded credit hours are awarded for the successful completion of an internship program at domestic or international affairs agencies and organizations. Students are expected to work four days per week under the direction of a senior mentor at the host agency or organization.

Note on credit(s): Honors courses are repeatable for credit as long as the course content is not duplicated. Students who wish to receive major or minor credit for one or more of these courses above should discuss this with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in their major or minor department.

2015 Internship Placements

Advocacy Center, International Trade Administration
American Foreign Policy Council
Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Atlantic Council, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security
Bloomberg.gov
Center for American Progress, Economic Policy
Children’s Legal Program
Council of State Governments
Drug Policy Alliance (DPA)
Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC)
Environmental Law Institute
Hamilton Place Strategies
Office of Rep. David Price
The Jordanian Embassy
The Truman National Security Project
The U.S.-Asia Institute
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Secretary
U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)
White House Office of Cabinet Affairs

Housing
Students live in a townhouse or apartments in Washington DC. All townhouses or apartments are located in close proximity to Metro stations. The townhouses or apartments are fully furnished and include on-site laundry facilities, cable TV, and wireless internet access. Students share a room in a townhouse or apartment building with multiple suites.

Key contacts

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