

**Honors Seminar on Public Policy and Global Affairs in Washington, D.C.
Spring 2017**

Sundus Alfi | The Center for American Progress (CAP)

<https://www.americanprogress.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy; Economics

Class Status: Junior

“My interests range from social domestic issues such as family, welfare and education to economic policies such as unemployment, monopolies and taxes. I also find myself extremely interested in foreign policies regarding the U.S. relationship with the Middle East, given my Middle Eastern background and experiences. Upon graduation, I plan to work for a think-tank to research and analyze domestic public policy problems for a few years to gain extensive research experience and network with media outlets and government officials. My goal is to have my work and research educate people on current policy problems and eventually, I want to work as a government official of some sort.”

Shivangi “Shiv” Amin | U.S. Department of Commerce - The Advocacy Center

<http://2016.export.gov/advocacy/>

Major(s): Economics; Public Policy

Class Status: Senior

“After graduation, I would like to work for at least one or two years in Washington D.C. Following that, I would like to attend graduate school. I think this program will allow me to get my foot in the door and will help me in developing good skills that will be helpful to me when I join the workforce after graduation. My personal reasons for studying abroad at this particular time include being able to develop some skills that I can't achieve in the classroom. I have been interested in working in D.C. ever since I decided to become a Public Policy major, and I think this would be the best way to spend my last semester of my undergraduate career.”

Catherine “Catie” Armstrong | Campaign for Youth Justice

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/>

Major(s): Journalism and Mass Communication; Public Policy

Minor: Social and Economic Justice

Class Status: Junior

“My ultimate post-graduation plan would include finding a career that could incorporate both my interests into one. The journalism side of my studies has pushed me towards an interest in working for an organization or a nonprofit with a mission I care about, but potentially in the public relations or communications department. On the policy side, I am passionate about a variety of policy issues, but became particularly interested in criminal justice reform during my first year at Carolina. Specifically, I am interested in how race and incarceration rates correlate, as well as reducing rates of recidivism. Post-graduation, my current plans are to enter the workforce for a few years before applying to graduate school for a Master's in Public Policy.”

Chloe Barnard | Generation Hope

<http://supportgenerationhope.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy

Class Status: Senior

“After I graduate, I hope to work in the public sector for a few years before applying to a master’s program in either public policy or business administration. I hope eventually to gain a position that marries my interests in public policy and Asia through either working at a nonprofit, consulting, or conducting research at a think tank. I can envision myself working in a large Mandarin-speaking city such as Shanghai within the next 10 years. Therefore, I want to achieve fluency in Mandarin both in terms of speaking and writing. I came to hear about the HSK, a Chinese proficiency test that runs up to six levels.”

Joshua “Josh” Barnes | The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training

<http://adst.org/>

Major(s): Peace, War, and Defense; History

Class Status: Junior

“My post-graduation plans are to attend graduate school for political science, public policy, or potentially education. After completing graduate school, my goal is to first work in some government bureau pertaining to national security or policy making. Afterwards, I plan to become a professor at a four-year university and teach students either history, public policy, or political science. I hope to see firsthand how the impact of leadership style can influence decision making, by working with former diplomats and other important actors in the political realm.”

Kyle Bishop | Cato Institute

<https://www.cato.org/>

Major(s): Peace, War, and Defense; Political Science

Minor: History

Class Status: Senior

“After graduation, I aim to pursue either a government or private-sector position relevant to security and/or intelligence. I am also interested in policy and would be interested in working either directly in government or for a non-governmental organization. I intend to move to the Washington, D.C. area post-graduation. I hope to apply my studies in international relations and security studies to a career in any relevant field(s). I seek to further my understanding of domestic and foreign affairs that I have acquired in the classroom here at UNC and to apply that understanding in real-time in Washington, D.C. I have a strong interest in international relations, security, policy, and intelligence and a desire to learn and grow intellectually and personally.”

Nicholas “Cole” Blum | Washington Institute for Near East Policy

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/>

Major(s): Peace, War, and Defense

Class Status: Junior

“I feel confident that my career will fall within the realm of international affairs and foreign policy. I have more recently decided that I would like nothing more than to delve into the world of policymaking. In addition to gaining valuable professional experience, I hope this program will give me a good taste of the day to day life of a policymaker and confirm that this career path is fitting for me. A more concentrated curriculum in American policymaking would allow me to firmly grasp the policy process itself rather than just about specific policies or policy analysis, which I have learned in the classroom. More importantly, however, I hope to gain practical insight into the career of a policymaker and their day-to-day activities.”

Olivia Buffington | Bloomberg Government

<https://about.bgov.com/>

Major(s): Public Policy; Journalism and Mass Communication

Class Status: Junior

“As is with any public policy major, Washington D.C. is my current plan for an end location. I am really hoping that the ability to intern in this program would aid in this process, in addition to all of the other benefits. Ideally, I would either work in the realm of press secretary or chief of staff for a political candidate. I am also looking into Public Relations firms that are public affairs focused, in order to cater towards my second major as well.”

Aaron Epps | Angerholzer Broz Consulting (ABC)

Major(s): Political Science; Communication Studies

Minor: Social and Economic Justice

Class Status: Junior

“I really want to be able to leverage my ability to critique and mature policy into my career field. After having gained experience over the span of a few years, I want to go to law school and specialize in employment and labor law so that I can analyze the ways in which discriminatory employee relations come about and how employee training and initiatives can be used to avoid them. I would like to end up in higher education applying corporate and legal strategies to manage diversity and inclusion efforts at the university level. I hope to become more knowledgeable of how the policies in the United States of America impact the international community.”

Ketterly “Kate” Frauenfelder | Hamilton Place Strategies

<http://hamiltonplacestrategies.com/>

Major(s): Journalism and Mass Communication; Public Policy

Class Status: Junior

“After graduation, I hope to garner the skills and knowledge I acquire from my degrees in Journalism and Public Policy to be an agent of change in the political communication field. My ideal job would be to work at a public affairs firm in Washington, D.C. I hope to be able to gain credit for my major and general education and experience in the workforce. Overall, I want to learn more about the relationship between media and communication and politics.”

Claire Graja | U.S. Department of State Bureau of Political Military Affairs

<http://www.state.gov/t/pm/>

Major(s): Peace, War, and Defense

Minor: Naval Science

Class Status: Senior

“Upon my graduation, I intend to pursue a career in the DC/Metro region in the field of national security. Alternatively, or simultaneously, I intend to earn my MA in a security related field at a DC-area graduate program. Over the last few years, my Carolina education has cemented the base of theoretical knowledge that I need for success in my postgraduate life. However, practical experience is as valuable a teacher as academic training. In order to fully round out my education in Peace, War, and Defense, I need a hands on experience in my desired field (national defense and security) to balance and perfect my educational experience. Gaining this perspective of my intended career field will strengthen me exponentially, both professionally should I choose to accept employment after graduation and academically should I pursue graduate work.”

Emily Hagstrom | National Women’s Law Center

<https://nwlc.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy; Political Science

Minor: Women’s and Gender Studies

Class Status: Junior

“After graduation, I plan to attend graduate school and attain either my masters or doctorate in Public Policy. I hope to focus on family leave, sex education, violence prevention, or access to reproductive healthcare. Once I have finished graduate school, I plan to work in government, in a non-profit, or perhaps as a legislator creating policy on a national or state level. I intend to use my experience with advocacy work and with non-profit organizations to reflect on the work I am doing and ensure that it thoroughly promotes the well-being of all citizens, particularly those within marginalized. I aim to better understand how policy analysis is conducted in non-profit organizations and government agencies. Furthermore, I seek to use this opportunity to better understand the real-world implications of my studies and to bring back to the classroom a better, more tangible idea of how what I am studying impacts the world.”

Hunter Hammond | The Signal Group

<http://www.signalgroup.com/>

Major(s): Economics; Interdisciplinary Studies

Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Class Status: Junior

“After graduation, I plan to work in Washington, D.C. doing some sort of political data analysis. The fields of government relations and strategic consulting interest me. I also may pursue a career in law. I hope to be able to see how the political structure truly works in D.C. Moreover, the ability to intern in D.C. for an entire semester should give me a feel for the city in a way that no other experience could. I hope to learn from the internship in a hands-on way. Meeting students from all over the country and the world with similar passions as mine will be fun and engaging. Meeting new people in an environment different from UNC will be a vital experience.”

Rishi Kumar | Office of Rep. David Price (NC)

<https://price.house.gov/>

Major(s): Public Policy

Minor: English

Class Status: Junior

“Upon graduation, I plan to attend law school and use my J.D. in a public policy capacity. More specifically, I am interested in lobbying and advocacy, a field in which knowledge of policy and law is crucial. This will probably result in my living in D.C. for several years, if not decades. I want to gain practical experience in public policy. There is no better way to understand the academics of a subject than to do the practical work of that subject. To that end, I wish to do more than simply study in a new location. It is not enough for me to learn how to read briefs and write papers--I want to see how policy works in the workplace. I want to apply the skills I have learned in classrooms to the real world by working in an office that deals with public policy issues, whether in a think tank or governmental office.”

Danielle Lafleur | American Enterprise Institute (AEI)

<https://www.aei.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy; Political Science

Class Status: Junior

“Once I graduate, I plan to apply to either law school or a masters of public policy program. While I have not solidified my next step after graduation, I do know where I want to end up. My career goal is to become a policy analyst. I enjoy evaluating policies and finding which solution will best solve the problem. I hope to experience the policymaking process in real life and not just read it in a book. I want to see policy forming in front of my eyes. I want to take all I have learned from my courses and use it in my internship. The most important academic objective I seek to achieve while in the program is to have a deeper understanding of policy and how government, the public, and politics work together and sometimes against to achieve their goals.”

Antoine Lopez | U.S. Department of Commerce - The Advocacy Center

<http://2016.export.gov/advocacy/>

Major(s): Political Science; Peace, War, and Defense

Minor: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Class Status: Senior

“As a career goal, I plan to become diplomat for the United States government. My highest interest goes toward peace in the world and I want to dedicate my life working in that direction. In order to fulfil my goals, it is crucial for me to understand and experience the policy making process. Such travel will help me tremendously and will get me one step closer to success. While If I want to help in the future, I need today to learn the process, master the policy literacy, and in the distance future improve my skills to excel in this discipline for the sake of the American Citizen.”

Jordan Mareno | Feedback Labs

<http://feedbacklabs.org/>

Major(s): Business Administration; Political Science

Class Status: Sophomore

“Post-graduation, I hope to work on the management side of a non-profit organization. I was able to work with Teach for America in Mississippi this summer, and the experience inspired me in a way that I had not encountered before. Whether or not I continue working with Teach for America specifically, I hope to remain in the realm of education. Eventually, I dream of taking my career to D.C. – my absolute favorite city. While I have really enjoyed the instruction that I have received in my first 3 semesters at UNC, I am yearning for hands-on experience. I want to apply what I have learned thus far to the real-world. From there, I will be able to recognize where I have strengths and where I need to improve. After identifying gaps in my abilities, I will be able to return to Chapel Hill with specific learning objectives in mind.”

Lauren Miller | Precision Strategies

<http://www.precisionstrategies.com/>

Major(s): Political Science; Journalism and Mass Communication

Class Status: Junior

“After graduation I intend to work in the political sphere. Broadly, I am looking for campaigns or causes that I feel very passionate about. Whether that means working for a political consulting firm that champions progressive causes, or working for democratic candidates, or working for a government agency. I am hoping to find an opportunity for me to build on my professional skill set, while furthering my understanding of government agencies and policies. I am looking to refine my understanding of the domestic policy-making process and our nation's role in the international community. Moreover, I hope that my internship placement will allow me to apply my academic coursework in a way that lends to exploring and solving policy problems.”

Manuela Nivia | Washington Office on Latin America

<https://www.wola.org/>

Major(s): Global Studies

Minor: Social and Economic Justice

Class Status: Senior

“I hope to continue my international studies career so as to expand and communicate on political, economic, social, and cultural issues that dominate the global agenda. Through advocacy, I hope to one day have the opportunity to affect the behavior and attitudes of both individuals and state leaders in regards to pertinent social international issues affecting our world. I want to contribute to development of human rights awareness with the purpose of combating the abuse of human rights, while empowering victims and communities, particularly in developing nations. Upon graduation, I hope to work with organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund, a desire that has been particularly driven by my involvement with UNICEF at Carolina, where I currently serve at campus president. I look forward to work with international affairs agencies upon graduation and this would serve as a fundamental experience for my future career.”

Snehal Parikh | American Public Health Association

<https://www.apha.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy

Class Status: Junior

“I am seeking an opportunity to gain exposure and insight into the dynamics of public health and its relevant policies as they relate to the implementation and management of appropriate clinical care protocol in leading healthcare systems and research institutions. I hope to employ my background in public policy and health care to pursue a graduate degree in Health Policy and Management prior to applying to medical school. I hope to better understand this policymaking process and how factors such as lobbyists, media agencies and expert communities influence policy outcomes. I hope to gain skills to effectively apply various aspects of policymaking to effectively contribute to existing policy measures related to health care.”

Abbey Rogers | U.S. Department of State Bureau of Public Affairs

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/>

Major(s): Journalism and Mass Communication; Peace, War, and Defense

Class Status: Junior

“I am planning on pursuing a career in public affairs, particularly in the national security sector of the United States government. I chose my two majors, Journalism and Peace, War and Defense, with the intention of using my degree to build a career that would allow me to be a part of something that is bigger than myself. I am passionate about national security issues, and understand the importance of well-informed policy for the prosperity of the United States and the larger global community. Thus, I am dedicated to deepening my understanding of our complex public policy landscape. Simply, spending a semester outside of Chapel Hill would give me the chance to develop new skills and challenge my ability to apply academic concepts to the real world.”

Daniel “Danny” Santos | McCain Institute

<https://www.mccaininstitute.org/>

Major(s): Political Science; History

Class Status: Junior

“After graduation, I would love to work for the State Department, a municipality, or for the federal government. I have another goal that involves the acquisition of a Master’s Degree, hopefully, within the next 10 years. The ideal goal is to work for an organization or agency that would aid me in earning a Master's Degree. I move forward with an open mind in discovering my position; but I do know for certain that working for the federal government in Washington D.C. or for the government of my home state of North Carolina is my future goal. I seek to take classes that spark an interest in me and encourage me to think from a different perspective, teaching me ways to approach a problem or conflict. I want to meet new students and teachers and learn from new information they are willing to offer.”

Christopher “Chris” Sharer | Office of Senator Joe Manchin (WV)

<http://www.manchin.senate.gov/public/>

Major(s): Political Science; Public Policy

Class Status: Junior

“Government and politics have always been a passion of mine. It has influenced the organizations I have joined, the classes I have taken, and ultimately, many of my interests. Following graduation, I plan to continue on that same path, but with a much more refined direction. That direction involves working in the domestic sphere of the United States government and moving to Washington, D.C. in order to work on Capitol Hill. Ideally in Washington, I would work in some Congressional capacity; however, I am more focused on remaining in the domestic realm. Real world examples are bountiful and to have an avenue in which to experience these examples, while continuing your education is something that I value greatly and consider my strongest academic objective during study abroad.”

Matthew “Matt” Shear | START, Understanding Domestic Radicalization

<http://www.start.umd.edu/>

Major(s): Peace, War, and Defense; Psychology

Minor: Arabic

Class Status: Junior

“Post-graduation, I'm strongly considering either law school or a graduate program related to Peace, War, and Defense. I would like to start a career in the public sector, particularly in the Department of Justice or Department of Defense. Overall, I would like to be in a position that allows me to analyze and/or impact world affairs through the lens of security. I hope that this position would afford me the opportunity to improve both national and international human security while also improving quality of life across the globe. I would like to delve deeper into core policy issues and the mechanisms for affecting them. Whereas it is easy to simply discuss policy or policymaking in isolation, I would like to learn about the two in tandem.”

Cassidy Slater | Human Rights First

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/>

Major(s): Political Science; Romance Languages and Literatures

Minor: Women's and Gender Studies

Class Status: Junior

“After graduation, I plan to move to Washington DC or New York and work in international relations, either in the public sector with the United States Government or in the private sector through an NGO. I plan on obtaining a law degree and/or a master's in public administration. I seek to obtain experience working in Washington DC. I also aspire to become more knowledgeable about domestic as well as international current events.”

Joshua “Josh” Smith | Democratic Governors Association

<https://democraticgovernors.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy

Class Status: Senior

“I want to be a public servant once I leave the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I believe the university has given me the tools and skills necessary to be involved in public policy. My immediate post-graduation plan is to go to law school. There are a number of critical issues, like criminal justice reform, that I want to work on as soon as possible. I believe the country and state is ready for someone to champion these issues as soon as possible. I believe learning is as much experiential as it is formal. Carolina has given me a wonderful education in the classroom and now I have the opportunity to go beyond the classroom and learn about public policy in a practical way.”

Kiralina Soare | U.S. Asia Institute

<https://www.usasiainstitute.org/>

Major(s): Global Studies

Class Status: Sophomore

“After I graduate from UNC, I will attend law school and eventually I hope to get both my Juris Doctor Degree and a Masters of Laws Degree. I am planning on going into international law, with a specialty in human rights. Eventually, I would like have a career as a diplomat. My personal dream is to work at an organization like the U.N. I have known for a long time that I am interested in policy and foreign affairs and I have been taking classes in these subjects since I came to Carolina. I think I am at the point in my education where I would benefit most from seeing the real life applications of what I have been learning in classrooms. In addition, I think everyone can benefit from living in a new environment for even a short time.”

Hannah Wallace | American Foreign Policy Council

<http://www.afpc.org/>

Major(s): Political Science

Minor: Hispanic Studies

Class Status: Senior

“When I graduate, I intend on either finding employment in the public policy or public administration field in the Washington D.C. area or attending graduate school in public administration in the Washington D.C. area. I am interested in policy formation and specifically analysis. This internship is distinctly relevant to my career goals and academic plan because it allows the opportunity for real-life experience in D.C. and the opportunity to network with professionals that could guide me towards my goals. Overall, I hope this experience will help me to further refine my area of interest within public policy.”

Tori Wentz | The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans

<https://sites.ed.gov/whieeaa/>

Major(s): Public Policy; Political Science

Minor: Entrepreneurship (Economics)

Class Status: Junior

“After my undergraduate career, I plan to continue my education perusing at least a Master's in Public Policy degree (MPP), with hopes of enrolling in a doctoral degree program with a focus in social policy. During my time at UNC I have been heavily involved in organizations that strive to better the lives of those who are less fortunate. Through these organizations, I have found that I am passionate about helping others. As of now, I see myself working for a government entity that structures policies that have a strong influence on people who live below the federal poverty line.”

Amanda Witwer | The National Criminal Justice Association

<http://www.ncja.org/>

Major(s): Public Policy; Sociology

Class Status: Junior

“After I earn my bachelor's degree, I plan to take a few years off to explore the criminal justice field and prepare for graduate school. Once I have narrowed down my interests and gained some exposure to the field, I plan to pursue a master's degree in Criminal Justice. Ultimately, it is my goal to become a policy researcher/analyst and a criminal justice reform advocate. While I am passionate about criminal justice policy and intend to pursue a career in the field, attending a university that does not offer a criminal justice major or minor has limited my ability to pursue these interests at this stage of my education. I hope that taking part in this program will guide my future academic pursuits. The insight I could gain from interning with a policy organization in Washington D.C. would be incredibly valuable as I begin to look into graduate schools and programs.”