

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY - SPRING 2022

COLGATE IN WASHINGTON D.C.



Director:
Barry Shain,
Department of Political Science

Tentative Program Dates:
late January to mid May, 2022

Learn about the 2021-22 Colgate Study Groups and Talk With the Faculty Directors at the Study Group Fair on Wednesday, October 7th, 2020, 4:00–5:00:
<https://www.colgate.edu/academics/off-campus-study/campus-opportunities/virtual-study-group-fair>

For more information about the program:
Please contact Prof. Shain at bshainh@colgate.edu

Information Sessions will be held on:
Thursday, October 15 at 4:00pm - <https://colgate.zoom.us/j/93543910413>
and
Tuesday, October 27 at 11:45am - <https://colgate.zoom.us/j/91702681869>

Colgate University's

Washington Study Group combines rigorous academic analysis with a total immersion in Washington political life. During the semester, students take seminars on American political history, the nature of the national governmental and public policy systems, and choose an internship in congressional offices, agencies, or think-tanks. They also meet national leaders in politics, journalism, of advocacy groups, and business, while visiting the great historical and cultural sites of the city.

Courses taken on this study group do not satisfy the Core Global Engagements requirement.



Begun in 1935, the Washington Study Group is the oldest of Colgate's study groups and the first program of its kind in Washington, D.C. Many of its graduates establish life-long connections in Washington and return after graduation to build successful careers in national government and politics.

Program Structure and Course Credits:

The Washington Study Group (WSG) features three 400-level seminars and a 12-week internship. Integrating course work with direct participation in the governing, advocacy, or policy process, the program provides a balance of academic study, immersion in DC life, and practical political/administrative experience. The three graded courses (POSC 410, 412, and 414) count for concentration credit with POSC 414 fulfilling the department's requirement for a senior seminar with which to complete the major. The satisfactory/unsatisfactory internship component (POSC 413) counts toward overall university graduation requirements. The seminars combine lectures, group discussion, and presentations by Washington insiders.



1. Our Changing Constitutional Order/American Political Thought (POSC 410). This course explores the late-eighteenth century elite vision of government and politics as developed in the Constitutional Convention (and the debates that followed) and how the institutions born there have evolved and continue to evolve. We will examine, as well, the changing institutional roles of Congress, the President, the courts, political parties, and interest groups in the political process. Additionally, changing attitudes and norms towards political elites, populism, democracy, class, localism vs. nationalism, and race will also be explored. Taught by Professor Shain.

2. Executive Decision Making and Leadership/ Administrative Law and Its Challenges (POSC 412).

The first half of this course meets as a weekly seminar, and explores themes relevant to the students' experience in Washington: why government organizations function (or fail to function), presidential leadership of the bureaucracy, the formation of political/policy agendas, budget development and execution, executive-congressional relations, the media, and current events. In the second half of the course, students will research and write a major paper on a topic that draws upon sources unique to their being in the nation's capital and their particular internships. Taught by an adjunct professor.

3. Internships in the American Political System (POSC 413).

Students serve a 12-week internship within various agencies and politically-related institutions, including possibly: executive agencies, congressional offices, the Supreme Court, the State Department, the media, or interest groups. They participate directly or indirectly in the activities of the political and policy-formation processes. The linked course (POSC 412) is designed to enhance and complement the students' internship experience. This course is graded satisfactory/not satisfactory. Placements and supervision will be by a Colgate alumna, Rebecca Fertig Cohen.

4. Contemporary Politics and Policy Process (POSC 414).

This course applies the literature on the policy process explored in both POSC 410 and POSC 412 to a topical policy area. Previous topics have included health care, welfare reform, campaign finance reform, energy policies, the proper scope of the federal government, labor market reform and the likely changing role of work in American life, and the causes and consequences of political gridlock. This year, as is particularly apt, our focus will likely be on the relationship between "science" and politics, with an especial interest in disease and pandemics. In research papers and class presentations, students will explore this or another policy area, come to understand it, and propose policy reforms and assess their political feasibility. For research papers, students will have borrowing privileges at the Georgetown University Library. Taught by Professor Shain.

Eligibility, Basis for Selection, and Prerequisites:

The WSG is open to students who will be juniors, as well as seniors or mature sophomores, in the spring of 2022. Students do not have to be concentrates in political science or international relations to be eligible for the group, although most are.

Selections are made by the Director in consultation with faculty colleagues. Criteria for selection include: academic achievement, evidence of interest, and personal qualifications essential for participation in the program, in particular a requisite workplace decorum necessary for the successful completion of an internship among dedicated professionals.

Applicants for the Washington Study Group, before participating, must have taken one or more prerequisite courses that will be explored with the program director. Among those courses most likely to prove valuable are:

POSC 150: America as a Democracy

POSC 151: Politics and Moral Vision

POSC 210: Congress

POSC 211: The Presidency and Executive Leadership

Living Arrangements:

Students will live in furnished apartments in a hall owned and operated by NYU located at 1307 L. Street, NW in the District of Columbia. Each residential floor contains 4-person, 2-bedroom, with 1-bathroom apartments. Students also have access to a game room, fully equipped gym, resource center, laundry room, serenity space, and ample multipurpose spaces. A full-time Residential Life Coordinator and part-time Residential Life Administrators reside at the NYU Washington, DC facility to provide advice, guidance, and support. Colgate will make the necessary arrangements for apartment leases and will charge students directly for their housing. Students will have access to a shared kitchen in their apartments and will prepare their own meals.

Students will receive a Metro card and use the D.C. Metro for much of their transportation. Most or all classes will be held at the Hall of States, about a two block walk from Union Station. Onsite parking is not available. Colgate discourages students from having a private vehicle in Washington, D.C.

Specific Advice for this Study Group:

Behavior must be consistent with the responsibilities as participants in governmental or adult professional organizations. The program is a full-time activity and precludes other work commitments, such as part-time employment. While on internship assignments, students maintain the dress code and work required of their placement. Note that some internships are paid while others are not. This is at the discretion of the entity offering the internship and is not under Colgate's control. Note that the Off-Campus Study office will work with the Career Center to offer advice on professional clothing and associated costs.

Extracurricular Activities:

There will be various activities and excursions to enhance student understanding of Washington culture and history. Washington offers an abundant and rich cultural life, including the Smithsonian Museums, Shakespearean theatre, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as three major-league sports teams. The Study Group (assuming the COVID crisis has passed sufficiently by the spring of 2022), in common, will visit or attend various educational, cultural, and athletic events.

Calendar and Deadlines:

Students interested in applying should plan on attending the virtual Off-Campus Study Group fair on October 7 and one of the two informational meetings on October 15 or on October 27. The Study Group on-line application process will open on October 7, 2020 and will close on November 4, 2020. Applications are submitted online at offcampusstudy.colgate.edu. Only finalists in the selection process will be interviewed. Professor Shain will arrange interviews directly with applicants via e-mail and he will announce admission decisions in early January, 2021.