Contemporary Topics in Politics
Honors RAP

This Honors RAP is located in Oak Hall in the Commonwealth Honors College Residential Area.

Contemporary Topics in Politics is ideal for students interested in expanding their understanding of politics and government. Students will study Political Theory in an Honors Gen Ed course (satisfying University and Honors requirements), while they also enroll in a 1-credit seminar named "Front Page" where they will explore current events, with a focus on the 2018 elections. Course descriptions are included below.

All students in this program will live together on the same floor, and are required to be roommates with others in this program.

Related Courses:

Polisci 171H: Introduction to Political Theory

What does Plato have to do with climate change and police violence? What does Machiavelli have to do with rising inequality and the influence of money in elections today? What does Tocqueville have to do with Instagram and Facebook? This course will teach Honors students how to use the history of political theory to understand and tackle political problems we face today. We will also examine the use of political theory in contemporary film and public debate, as well as in our own speech and writing.

Honors 191FP: Front Page Seminar

An opportunity to discuss current state, national, and global issues and events with talented faculty AND distinguished community members and influential alums. Class time will be devoted to vibrant and challenging discussions based on critical reading and analysis of newspaper articles on current issues. Requirements: Reading the front page stories from the New York Times and the Boston Globe daily. Supplemental reading as needed. Objective: Training students as opinion leaders; to encourage them to be steadily engaged in the social, political and economic concerns of their time; to provide a context for interaction with experts and significant community members, and prepare them with verbal skills that are important in interviews for scholarships, graduate and professional schools, and employment.