GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY (GVPP)

Government and Public Policy (GVPP) courses are offered by the Division of Government and Public Administration within the School of Public Affairs in the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts.

GVPP 300 American Political Institutions (3) The role and interrelationship of the federal, state and local governments in the formulation and implementation of public policy are examined. Major contemporary issues are explored to illustrate the policymaking process.

GVPP 320 Public Administration (3) The problems of municipal, state and federal governments as these relate to organization, budgeting, personnel, welfare, control, reporting, public relations, federal-state-local relations, the city government in society and the division of state and federal powers.

GVPP 321 Leadership: An Experiential Approach (3) Organized around developing leadership, this course will help students to identify goals and objectives and achieve them. This course will use adventure education and outdoor experience to support the development of personal and professional competencies for individuals interested in careers in community-serving nonprofit organizations.

GVPP 322 Bureaucracy and Public Policy (3) An understanding of the institutional political, legal and ethical challenges of public policy management in the contemporary administrative state.

GVPP 324 American Public Policy (3) Analysis of the formulation and implementation of governmental policies at all levels in such policy areas as art and cultural policy, economic stability, income maintenance, education, the environment, public finance and older adult policy. Prerequisite: GVPP 300 or permission of the instructor

GVPP 326 Urban Politics and Public Policy (3) An examination of the organization and main functions of urban government, the major participants and key issues in the urban political process, and the political relationship between cities and other levels of government. The distinctive characteristics of the political process in the urban setting with special emphasis on Baltimore.

GVPP 340 Constitutional Law (3) The role of the Constitution in the American system of government. Origins and historical development of the Constitution, the theory and operation of the federal court, and the effects of Supreme Court decisions on the relationship between different branches of government and on the rights of individuals in American society.
GVPP 341 Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights (3) An advanced course about constitutional law that focuses on the Bill of Rights and issues of civil liberties that have arisen as the Supreme Court has changed its interpretation of the Constitutional basis of decisions related to those rights. The course stresses legal reasoning and research skills; it also provides information about Constitutional issues in relation to American governmental processes and policies. suggested prerequisite: GVPP 340

 GVPP 344 American Presidency (3) An examination of the presidency in the American system of government. The powers of and limits on the president are studied, as are the relationships between the president and other major actors in the political system.

 GVPP 345 The Legislative Process (3) An examination of legislatures in the American system of government. Emphasis is placed on the study of the representative function of legislatures, the ways in which they operate and their impact on public policy.

 GVPP 348 State and Local Government (3) Emphasis on the organization, powers and functions of state, local, county and municipal governments. Government in theory and practice at different levels in the state of Maryland.

 GVPP 360 Parties, Campaigns and Elections (3) A study of the rise, history and functions of political parties in the United States. Campaign management and strategies as well as electoral tactics and movements are also examined.

 GVPP 362 Media and Government (3) A study of relationships among governments, public opinion and the media. Analysis of the components of public opinion and their individual and collective influence on government. The functioning of the media and its influence on both government and public opinion.

 GVPP 381 American Political Thought (3) A study of the political thought in the United States that has provided the foundations of American democracy from colonial times to the present, focusing on political concepts, principles, ideas and issues.

 GVPP 382 Political Ideologies (3) Focuses on the philosophical and ideological bases for the state. The political economy and social structure of governing ideologies are examined and illustrated in discussions about democracy, capitalism, liberalism, fascism, communism and socialism. Challenges to these ideologies as presented by religion and nationalism are also discussed.

 GVPP 384 Comparative Government (3) An examination of the historical and social background, political process, governments and institutions of representative foreign governments, including Great Britain, France and Germany. The identification, comparison and evaluation of the main components and characteristics of the governing process are examined.

 GVPP 385 International Relations (3) A study of concepts and principles of international relations. The nature of national power. State systems, balance of power, internationalism, causes and consequences of international stability, trends in international relations, diplomacy and conflict resolution.
GVPP 386 American Foreign Policy (3) An examination of the political, economic and military considerations involved in the formulation and implementation of United States foreign policy. Included are the constitutional responsibilities for foreign policy, the economic context, military doctrine and the country’s traditional international relationships.

GVPP 408 Methods in Government and Public Policy (3) Focuses on research and analytical techniques, statistical measurement and methods of science used in the study of governmental organizations, elections, political behavior and policy analysis.

GVPP 423 Public Budgeting and Personnel Administration (3) Focuses on budgeting and personnel administration at the national, state and local government levels. Examined are the form, content and processes of public budget development and its review, execution and management; also examined are the principles and functions of public personnel management, salary, schedules, unions, performance evaluation and retirement. prerequisite: GVPP 320 or permission of the instructor

GVPP 425 Administrative Law and Processes (3) The growth of the administrative process in the United States, the necessity for the delegation of legislative authority to administrative agencies and the need for judicial control of the bureaucracy. Emphasis on federal and state of Maryland administrative and regulatory processes.

GVPP 426 Foundations of Democracy I (3) Examines the scope and nature of the fundamental values reflected in our system of democratic governance. Democracy joins individual citizens, neighbors and communities. Acting together they form the essence of an associational life—that is to say, a life lived with reciprocal linkages to the well-being of others and to the common good. Particular attention will be placed on the decision-making and organizational design systems that characterize our social, political and economic institutions as well as community-serving nonprofits.

GVPP 427 Foundations of Democracy II (3) The primary focus is an examination of the scope of ethical behavior reflected in the various aspects of the public policy process. Particular attention is given to the administrative implementation of policy and the fundamental values inherent in the American democratic process.

GVPP 461 Maryland Government Processes and Politics (3) A study of the structure of Maryland’s three branches of government and their relationship to interest groups, political parties and public policies.

GVPP 463 Interest Group Politics and Lobbying (3) Examination of interest groups as key components in the functioning of a pluralistic political system. The proliferation of interests from trade associations to the public, nonprofit interests will be documented. The techniques of lobbying are also explored.
GVPP 465 Survey Research and Public Opinion Analysis (3) The methodologies of survey research and public opinion analysis such as sampling procedures, questionnaire design and measurement issues. Students are introduced to evaluation of current political polls and become conversant with some of the key issues in designing and carrying out polls.

GVPP 470/GVPP 471 Individual Research (1-3) Individual research on a subject of mutual interest to both student and supervisory faculty. Depending on the scope and depth of research, 1 to 3 credits may be earned for the successful completion of either course. The student may, upon approval, take both courses. prerequisites: a minimum of 12 credit hours in GVPP courses earned at the University of Baltimore and approval of the program director

GVPP 482 Topics in Political Theory (3) Selected political theory examines perennial issues in political thought within the frameworks of classical, medieval, renaissance, enlightenment and modern political theory. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

GVPP 483 Aging and Public Policy (3) The development of public policies as they relate to older Americans is examined. Analysis of the political attitudes and behaviors of older persons to determine the effects of older adults on the political process. Major federal legislation developed to respond to particular problems encountered by older persons is also analyzed (e.g., income maintenance, health care, transportation, housing, employment, nutrition).

GVPP 484 International Political Economy (3) Examination of the rapid changes in the postwar system of trade, production and finance. Students are exposed to discussions concerning the impact that these changes have presented to national identities and the public policy responses undertaken by states to maintain and enhance their position in the global trading system.

GVPP 485 The Far East in World Affairs (3) Political, economic and military aspects of India, Japan and Southeast Asia. Emphasis on their contemporary foreign relations.

GVPP 486 The Middle East (3) Political, economic and military aspects of Turkey, Iran, Egypt and the other Arab states, Israel and the eastern Mediterranean. Emphasis on foreign relations, the interrelationship of these powers and their relationships with Western European powers, the Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China and the United States.

GVPP 487 Western Europe (3) Political, economic and military aspects of Austria, the Benelux countries, France, Italy and Germany with an emphasis on their contemporary foreign relations.

GVPP 488 The Commonwealth of Independent States and China in World Affairs (3) International relations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the People’s Republic of China. An example of the political, economic and military considerations of these two countries in the conduct of their relationships.
GVPP 489 The United Nations (3) Study of the development and evolution of the United Nations. The roles and functions of the UN’s principal organs and specialized agencies. Generally offered during the spring semester in association with preparing students to attend a model United Nations competition.

GVPP 490/GVPP 491 Internship (3) Internship designed to broaden the educational experience of the student through work assignments with appropriate governmental agencies. Depending on the academic value of the work assignments, the student may enroll for up to a total of 6 credits in this internship. This course is eligible for a continuing studies grade. 

prerequisites: major in government and public policy or jurisprudence, a minimum of 12 credits completed in GVPP courses with a GPA of at least 3.0, and approval of the program director

GVPP 493 Honors Seminar (3) An advanced interdisciplinary seminar that focuses on important books and issues and encourages independent thinking, clear presentation and an understanding of the concerns and methods of various disciplines. The course may be team taught; topic and instructor(s) may change from semester to semester. The course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. 

prerequisites: 3.5 GPA and permission of the Denit Honors Program director

GVPP 494 Honors Project (3-6) Directed individual instruction in an advanced project of the student’s choice; the project must be academically related to this discipline. Each student works closely with a faculty director, who guides his/her progress. The project must be of honors quality and must be finally approved by both the faculty director and a second faculty member. Course is eligible for a continuing studies grade. 

prerequisites: honors standing, 3.5 GPA and permission of both the Denit Honors Program director and the faculty director

GVPP 497 Topics in Government and Public Policy (1-6) Intensive exploration of topics in political science of mutual interest to faculty and students. Content varies according to the concurrent interests of faculty and students. The topic for study will appear under that name in the class schedule.

GVPP 499 Senior Seminar (3) A senior-level seminar required of all government and public policy majors. Topics considered include the perspectives of the major sub-fields of government and public policy and their relations with other disciplines. Students demonstrate their abilities to analyze, assess and write about relevant issues and practices in government and public administration. Open to students who are not government and public policy majors only by permission of the instructor.