What the heck is going on in American politics right now? Every day seems to bring a new development in domestic and foreign policy, often driven by President Trump’s agenda. In this class, we will discuss the history of the presidency, evolving expectations of presidential power, and how President Trump has used the presidency to further a very conservative agenda, which seeks to repeal much of the policy put into place by his predecessor, President Obama. We will examine how Congress creates, debates and passes legislation, and students will participate in a simulation in which they will “play” a current member of Congress in a committee mark-up of a real bill. We will discuss how Republican gerrymandering of congressional districts in the states has distorted ideological representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and the long odds that Democrats can re-take control of either the House or Senate in the 2018 general election. Finally, we will look at Supreme Court opinions and how they do or do not provide some of the ‘checks-and-balances’ among the three branches of government envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. Among all this work we will keep a robust sense of humor and collegiality in the class—characteristics that seem sorely lacking among our representatives in Washington, D.C.