This course provides an introduction for undergraduates regarding how governments address important social issues by examining the leading national and international challenges confronting the United States. These issues include the U.S. fiscal deficit, energy, social security, global imbalances, poverty and inequality, healthcare policy, climate change, defense spending and the use of force, the rise of new economic powers, foreign relations and education to name a few. Many topics will also incorporate approaches employed by other countries facing similar social issues and challenges.