The 2020 Summer Global Leadership Seminar, entitled Election 2020: U.S. Foreign Policy and America's Role in the World is a week-long summer institute open to all rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. This year’s seminar will seek to advance students’ understanding of several critical global challenges facing the winner of the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Through nonpartisan guest lectures, interactive workshops, and a half-day crisis simulation, students will discuss issues central to our national interest and explore topics related to America's role in a changing world. Additionally, on the Seminar's fifth-day, students will have the opportunity to synthesize all that they have learned over the course of the week by virtually presenting to their peers on their assigned foreign policy themes.

NOTE: Featured lectures and activities subject to change based on speaker availability.

Monday, July 13

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Morning Meeting - Welcome, Introduction and Preview of the Week
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia staff and interns greet students and introduce the weeklong program. Assign students Virtual Icebreaker.

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  Break and Student Prep for Icebreaker

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  Icebreaker Activity

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Expert Speaker Briefing – Intelligence: What is its Role in U.S. Foreign Policy? Carol “Rollie” Flynn - President, Foreign Policy Research Institute
This presentation will explore the evolution of the U.S. Intelligence Community’s role, activities, and challenges from its inception in 1947 at the beginning of the Cold War, through the turbulent time following 9/11, and going forward as the U.S. faces an evolving threat landscape. This briefing will examine the different types of intelligence, including the role HUMINT -- or human intelligence, and explore why intelligence is necessary.

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  Break

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  Activity – A Nation in a World of Challenges
Students are divided into groups and assigned one of six “Foreign Policy Themes”. Each group reads and researches preliminary resources for their assigned topic and generates a brief recap of the issue, and the major questions moving forward.
Students will continue in these groups throughout the program, building to the final presentation on Friday, July 17th.

Six topics:
- Disputes, Conflicts, and War
- Migration, Refugees, and Displaced People
- Diplomacy, Foreign Aid, and International Organizations
- Advancing Democracy
- Climate Change
- Global Trade

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Wrap-up
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day’s topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.

1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Optional Discussion - Race and Gender in Foreign Policy
Throughout academia, the public, and private sectors, U.S. foreign policy has historically been dominated by white men. Women and people of color have been historically marginalized within the field leading to a lack of diversity in thought and experiences. This discussion is meant as a meta-discussion on the field of foreign policy, and how the lack of diversity within the field can stall progress.

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Meeting – Wrap up from Yesterday and Preview of the Day’s Topics

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Expert Speaker Briefing – Middle East Regional Focus
Sean Yom, Temple University
An expert speaker discusses the complexity of U.S. involvement in the Middle East and the greatest challenges that the winner of the 2020 election will face in driving foreign policy in the region. What is the future of U.S. foreign policy and international relations in the Middle East? What are some aspects of U.S. involvement in the region that have become the most prominent in the American political arena and what are some aspects that have been overlooked? Why?

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Activity – U.S. – Middle East Relations
Students are divided into six teams, each looking at a different area of Middle East and U.S. relations. Groups will look at: (1) policy statements, (2) news reports, (3) statistics, (4) historical timelines, (5) leaders’ statements, and (6) political cartoons. Students will answer a set of questions as a group and create a brief presentation highlighting the challenges and opportunities of U.S. foreign policy in their assigned region.

Six teams:
- Iran
- Syria
- Israel-Palestine
- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Saudi Arabia
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
NaTakallam Refugee Conversations - Foreign Policy's Effects on Refugees  
This cultural exchange session introduces students to a guest speaker, Ghaith, from Hama, Syria. Due to the conflict in Syria, Ghaith is now a refugee living in Padua, Italy, where he studies Political Science and International Relations. It is important for students to note that refugee journeys and experiences in one's home country, in transit, and beyond look different for each individual. As part of students' focus on foreign policy, the goal of this session is to introduce students to a new perspective based on the lived experiences of a refugee guest speaker from NaTakallam.

12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Wrap-up  
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day's topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.

Wednesday, July 15

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Meeting – Wrap up from Yesterday and Preview of Debate

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Expert Speaker Briefing – China, a 21st Century Superpower  
Rui Zhong, The Wilson Center  
An expert speaker addresses the impact of the continuing global power shift to China. What does this mean for the international order and institutions like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations? How does growing Chinese political and economic influence in not just Asia, but Europe, Africa, and Latin America impact U.S. foreign policy, international relations, and global development? Students will learn more in depth about some of the most prominent issues between the U.S. and China, such as Huawei, Hong Kong, and the ongoing trade war.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  
Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Debate – U.S. – China Trade War  
Students take part in a formal debate where they must argue for or against the U.S.-China trade war. Has the trade war been an effective U.S. foreign policy tool? Will the trade war have positive or negative short- and long-term effects? Is the trade war a useful tool in the U.S.'s attempt to halt or slow down China's continuous rise as a global superpower?

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Break

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Final Presentation Prep  
Students break into their 'Foreign Policy Theme' groups and continue their research, preparation and presentation.

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Wrap-up  
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day's topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.
Thursday, July 16

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Morning Meeting – Wrap up from Yesterday and Preview of Crisis Simulation

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  Expert Speaker Briefing – Foreign Policy and COVID-19
Mauro Guillen, Professor, The Wharton School
Students will hear from an expert speaker on the role foreign policy has played in the COVID-19 pandemic. The speaker will address the short- and long-term effects of COVID-19 on U.S. foreign policy and the international relations overall. How has this pandemic set precedent for similar crises in the future and what does this mean for U.S. relations with its allies and adversaries around the world? What lessons are to be learned regarding foreign policy and international cooperation?

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Crisis Simulation – Global Pandemic Response
Using online resources, one-on-one negotiation skills, and a newly acquired understanding of key issues, students work together to create solutions to an unfolding international crisis mocking the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Students will represent heads of government, civil society actors, and private sector leaders who must cooperate while also keeping in mind self-interests.

12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.  Wrap-up
Opportunity for questions and group reflection on the day’s topics. Review agenda for tomorrow and what students should have prepared.

Friday, July 17

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Morning Meeting – Wrap up from Yesterday and Preview of day’s activities

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Expert Speaker Briefing – The Future of U.S. Foreign Policy
Craig Snyder, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
Expert Speaker will provide an overview of upcoming and ongoing issues in U.S. foreign policy. The speaker will navigate the presidential candidate’s foreign policy platforms, and provide insights into the major challenges and opportunities confronting the United States in the 2020’s.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Final Presentation Prep
Students break into small groups to finalize foreign policy presentations. See provided rubric on presentation guidelines.

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Break and Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  Group Presentations
Student led presentations of core foreign policy issues. 15-minute presentations with 5 min Q&A.

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Graduation, Certificates, Evaluations, Closing Thoughts