 **M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs**

Summer 2022

June 28, 2022 – August 4, 2022

**Congress and Trade Policy**

LGAF6266.LH

3 Credits

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6:00PM-8:00PM

Hall of States Building

**BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

**Instructor**

Adam Farris

Adjunct Professor

The Graduate School of Political Management

The George Washington University

**Contact Information**

Phone Number: 405-413-6631 (cell)

Email Address: [adedfarris@gmail.com](mailto:adedfarris@gmail.com)

**Communication**

Individual meetings with the instructor must be pre-arranged appointments usually before or after class unless other arrangements are made. Email is almost always the best way to communicate with me, and I typically respond within 24 hours. If there is an urgent need, feel free to call or text my cell phone.

**Blackboard Site**

A Blackboard course site has been set up for this course. Each student is expected to check the site throughout the semester, as Blackboard will be the primary venue for classroom communications between the instructors and the students. Nearly all reading assignments will be posted within individual class session folders within Blackboard. Discussion board postings will also be utilized throughout the semester. Students can access the course site at https://blackboard.gwu.edu. Support for Blackboard is available at 202-994-4948 or [helpdesk.gwu.edu](http://helpdesk.gwu.edu/).

## Technology Requirements

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the required technology to fully participate in this course. The minimum technology requirements for learning online at GW are outlined on the [Technical Requirements and Support](https://online.gwu.edu/technical-requirements-and-support) web page.

If you have any problems with the technology in this course, you can seek technological support from GW in a variety of ways, outlined on the [IT Support](https://it.gwu.edu/support) website.

GW is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment that is accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities.

The following links provide more information about the accessibility of technologies that may be used in this course:

* [Blackboard accessibility](https://www.blackboard.com/blackboard-accessibility-commitment)
* [Microsoft Office accessibility](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility)
* [Adobe accessibility](https://www.adobe.com/accessibility.html)
* [Vimeo accessibility](https://vimeo.com/blog/post/accessibility-updates-to-the-vimeo-player/)
* [YouTube accessibility](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/189278?hl=en)
* [VoiceThread accessibility](https://voicethread.com/about/features/accessibility/)
* [Webex accessibility](https://help.webex.com/en-us/84har3/Cisco-Webex-Meetings-and-Cisco-Webex-Events-Accessibility-Features)

If you have any issues regarding the accessibility of the technology used in this course, please contact your instructor. You may also explore the [Disability Support Services](https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/) website.

## Technology Expectations

Regarding technology skills, you should be able to:

* Create documents and presentation slides
* Use a webcam and microphone
* Use a digital camera or scanner
* Upload files, including recordings and images
* Be open to learning and registering for new technologies
* Be flexible when technological glitches happen (which is a given)
* Seek technological help when necessary by contacting the Division of Information Technology

If you have any problems with the technology expectations in this course, please contact your instructor.

**Academic Integrity**

All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with, and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams. Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at <http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity>.

**University Policy on Observance of Religious Holidays**

* Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance.
* Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.
* Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

**Support for Students with Disabilities**

GW’s Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Please notify your instructor if you require accommodations. Additional information is available at <http://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/>.

**Title IX: Confidentiality and Responsible Employee Statement**The George Washington University (GWU) and its faculty are committed to helping create a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. GWU strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support and report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty members are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Mental Health Services through Colonial Health (counselors are available 24/7 at 202-994-5300 or you can make an appointment to see a counselor in person.). For more information about reporting options and resources at GWU and the community, please visit <https://haven.gwu.edu/>.

**In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class**

If we experience some an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. If we have to leave here, we will meet at **Union Station** in order to account for everyone and to make certain that everyone is safe. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University’s operating status: <http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/>.

**Attendance Policy**

The expectation is that you show up for each class period. With that said, life happens. If you are to be late or miss a class, please let me know *prior* to the class starting. Multiple missed classes will have an impact on your final grade.

**Course Evaluation**

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course through GW’s online course evaluation system. It is very important that you take the time to complete an evaluation. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course of the semester by contacting any/all of the following:

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| --- |
| Dr. Casey Burgat  Director, Legislative Affairs Program  [cburgat@gwu.edu](mailto:cburgat@gwu.edu) | 202-994-2272 |
| Suzanne Farrand  Assistant Dean of Students, College of Professional Studies  [sfarrand@gwu.edu](mailto:sfarrand@gwu.edu) | 202-994-9309 |
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**THE COURSE**

**Legislative Affairs Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the Master’s degree in Legislative Affairs, students will:

1. Gain both theoretical and practical knowledge related to the U.S. Congress, general issues in the legislative arena, and how to effectively advance legislation;
2. Hone their oral and written communication skills in both theoretical and technical aspects of legislative affairs;
3. Be able to conduct cutting-edge research and engage in effective problem solving by learning critical thinking skills;
4. Learn how to work effectively with others, the value of collaborative work, and will understand ethical issues involved in the legislative arena.

**Graduate School Expectations**  
Students enrolled in a graduate program should take their academic responsibilities seriously and be prepared to meet the following expectations:

1. Utilize effective time management skills so as to complete and submit their assignments on their required due dates and times.
2. Have attained a mastery of written communication skills including proper sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and word usage.
3. Understand how to properly format in-text citations and references for resources and information integrated into their written assignments.

**Course Description and Overview**

This course will teach you about the substance and politics of international trade policy. You will learn how and why trade legislation is developed and considered by the Congress and the administration. You will also be required to prepare a one-pager on a trade topic of your choice, an essential advocacy tool; give a 5-minute speech to your classmates on a different trade policy topic of your choice; and write a final paper on yet a different trade policy topic of your choice.

**Course Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the various policies and politics at issue in international trade.
2. Become familiar with international trade policymaking, concepts, and institutions.
3. Learn about the politics of trade, and the difference between the way things are supposed to work and how they really work.

**Document Citations**

Students are absolutely required to document their work, including data, quotes, and broad theories. I do not care which citation style you use, but Chicago is the most common on the Hill. I do, however, ask that you cite using footnotes rather than endnotes or a works cited page.

**PLEASE NOTE**: You can lose points for failure to footnote accurately or for grammatical and spelling errors. This is a graduate course, and graduate level work requires that your work is proofread and presented in an acceptable manner.

**Course Requirements**

1. This is an introductory course. You are not expected to come in as an expert on international law or trade coming into this class.
2. Connect the dots. See the relationships between different topics, and understand the players in developing and implementing trade policy. Don’t get hung up on minutiae.
3. Ask yourself why proponents of the various policies you are studying like them, and why opponents do not.

**I will be available for virtual meetings for students who wish to talk about class, the LGAF program, really anything.** Please email me to schedule a meeting date and time.Should you have trouble accessing any of the required reading, please let me know as soon as possible.

Finally, in order to liven up discussion (and make sure the readings are being read), students should have a minimum of two (2) discussion questions for the class ready in case being called on. The questions can stem from implications of the topic; or more general takeaways that may lead to a deeper understanding when discussed. If it becomes clear students don’t have discussion questions ready, I reserve the right to make them due on discussion boards (no one wants this!).

**Evaluation and Grading**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Learning Objective(s) Addressed** | **Due Date** | **Weight** |
| One-Pager | To express yourself persuasively and concisely; show that you understand the issue. |  | 12.5% |
| Speech | To practice presentation skills and solid understanding of the issue being presented. |  | 12.5% |
| Final Paper | To research a trade topic in depth and communicate the issue clearly. |  | 50% |
| Participation |  |  | 25% |
| Total |  |  | 100% |

**Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade\*** | | **Grading Standard** |
| A | 94-100 | Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work. |
| A- | 90-93 | Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work. |
| B+ | 87-89 | Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work. |
| B | 83-86 | Satisfactory work, but needs reworking and more effort. Note that although not a failing grade, at the graduate level, anything below a “B” is viewed as unacceptable. |
| B- | 80-82 | You’ve completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all of the requirements. |
| C+ | 77-79 | Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern. |
| C | 73-76 | Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern. |
| C- | 70-72 (lowest grade to pass) | Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc. |
| F | Below 70 | Unacceptable performance, or inability to submit the assignment. |

\*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

**Required Text and Learning Materials**

There will be required readings, including book chapters, academic articles, and online articles, as indicated in the syllabus. Each of these will be made available for free, either on Blackboard class website or via links within this syllabus.

**Tentative Course Calendar\***\*The instructor reserves the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class progress. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar.

**Class #1 – 6/28/2022 – The Politics and Origins of Trade**

Topic and Content Covered: Why countries trade, and why they don’t; comparative advantage; trade’s effects on jobs and wages; the trade deficit; and the economic principles of trade.

Reading Due Today:

* CRS Report R45148: *U.S. Trade Policy Primer: Frequently Asked Questions* (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45148/7>)
* *America’s Uneasy History with Free Trade*, I.M. Destler (available at <https://hbr.org/2016/04/americas-uneasy-history-with-free-trade>)
* Jefferson’s 1793 Report on Commerce (available at <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-27-02-0503-0004>)
* 2017 Trade Policy Agenda and 2016 Annual Report – specifically “The President’s Trade Policy Agenda” pp 13-19 (available at <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/reports/2017/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2017.pdf>)
* *Germany’s trade surplus is a problem* (available at <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/ben-bernanke/2015/04/03/germanys-trade-surplus-is-a-problem/>)

**Class #2 – 6/30/2022 – The Politics and Origins of Trade (cont.)**

Guest Speaker: Mayur Patel, chief international trade counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.

Topic and Content Covered: Founders’ arguments on trade – the beginnings of liberalism vs. illiberalism; *laissez-faire* vs. “managed” trade.

Reading Due Today:

* *The Aftermath of Hamilton’s “Report on Manufacturers”* (available at <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/sites.dartmouth.edu/dist/c/1993/files/2021/08/Irwin-Hamiltons-Report-on-Manufactures.pdf>)
* CRS In Focus IF11035: *Managed Trade and Quantitative Restrictions: Issues for Congress* (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11035/7>)
* CRS In Focus IF11110: *U.S. Trade Debates: The Case For and Against Trade Restrictions* (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11110/3>)
* *The Federalist* No. 11 (available at <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-04-02-0163>)
* *The Federalist* No. 53 (available at <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-10-02-0285>)

**Class #3 – 7/5/2022 – The Mechanics of Trade Policy**

Topic and Content Covered: Authorities of the Legislative and Executive Branches; the agencies – USTR, Commerce, CBP, Treasury, Agriculture, ITC, OMB, and the interagency process.

Reading Due Today:

* U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (both available at <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/>)
* CRS In Focus IF11016, *U.S. Trade Policy Functions: Who Does What?* (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11016>)
* *U.S. Foreign Policy Powers: Congress and the President* (available at <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-foreign-policy-powers-congress-and-president>)

**Class #4 – 7/7/2022 – The Mechanics of Trade Policy (cont.)**

Topic and Content Covered: Trade negotiations; trade promotion authority (TPA); how a trade agreement moves into force.

Reading Due Today:

* *Trade and the Separation of Powers*, Meyer and Sitaraman, pp. 585-626 (available at <https://scholarship.law.vanderbilt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2103&context=faculty-publications>)
* CRS Report R43491: *Trade Promotion Authority (TPA): Frequently Asked Questions* (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R43491/45>)

Assignment Due Today: One-pager describing your views regarding the separation of powers and cooperation between the Executive and Legislative Branches with respect to federal trade policy.

**Class #5 – 7/12/2022 – The Mechanics of Trade Policy (cont.)**

Guest Speaker: Nasim Fussell, former chief international trade counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.

Topic and Content Covered: Congress’ view of the Executive Branch’s role in U.S. trade policy; Congress’ role in confirming presidential trade posts.

Reading Due Today:

* Statement of Robert E. Lighthizer before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, March 14, 2017 (available at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2017-03-14%20Testimony%20of%20Robert%20E.%20Lighthizer.pdf>)
* Statement of Senator Orrin Hatch at the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance hearing, March 14, 2017 (available at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/3.14.17%20Hatch%20Statement%20at%20Finance%20Confirmation%20Hearing%20for%20USTR.pdf>)
* Statement of Senator Ron Wyden at the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance hearing, March 14, 2017 (available at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/031417%20Wyden%20Statement%20at%20Finance%20Committee%20Hearing%20on%20Lighthizer%20Nomination%20for%20USTR.pdf>)

**Class #6 – 7/14/2022 – The Mechanics of Trade Policy (cont.)**

Guest Speaker: Sam duPont, Economic Policy Advisor for Senator Chris Coons, and former Director for ICT Services and Digital Trade at the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**Class #7 – 7/19/2022 – Global Perspective on Trade**

Guest Speaker: TBD.

Topic and Content Covered: International Investment Agreements (IIAs), Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), World Trade Organization (WTO).

Reading Due Today:

* CRS In Focus IF10052: *U.S. International Investment Agreements (IIAs)* (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10052/14>)
* CRS In Focus IF100002: The World Trade Organization (available at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10002/26>)

**Class #8 – 7/21/2022 – National Security and Trade**

Topic and Content Covered: The importance of trade to national security, and vice versa; the use of trade policy to pursue national security policy objectives.

Select readings from Sun Tzu’s *Art of War* and Carl von Clausewitz’s *On War*, and Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War* to be provided by the course instructor.

**Class #9 – 7/26/2022 – National Security and Trade (cont.)**

Reading Due Today:

* *Trade Is Politics by Another Means, with Apologies to Carl von Clausewitz* (available at <https://milkeninstitute.org/article/trade-politics-another-means-apologies-carl-von-clausewitz>)
* *Trade, Redistribution, and the Imperial Presidency*, Meyer (available at <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/campuspress.yale.edu/dist/8/1581/files/2018/12/Meyer_YJIL-Symposium_Trade-Redistribution-and-the-Imperial-Presidency_12.04.18-1gx9j4j.pdf>)
* *The Normalization of Trade Security Exceptionalism* (available at <https://www.lawfareblog.com/normalization-trade-security-exceptionalism>)

**Class #10 – 7/28/2022 – Speech Day**

Assignment Due Today: Be prepared to give a 5-7 minute speech on a trade topic of your choice.

**Class #11 – 8/2/2022 – The Current State of Play in Trade**

Topic and Content Covered: To be determined depending on current events and developments in Congress and the administration.

**Class #12 – 8/4/2022 – Wrap Up and Final Paper Due**

Topic and Content Covered: Culmination of the course’s teachings and objectives.

Assignment Due Today: Final paper on your views on any one of the following topics:

* The role of international trade in congressional politics, and/or the role of congressional politics in federal trade policy,
* International trade’s role in national security policymaking,
* Pros and cons of the current trade policymaking paradigm (TPA, executive agreements, etc) and one way in which Congress might enhance trade policymaking, or
* A topic of your choice, through consultation with and approval from the course instructor.