

# The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs

Spring 2021

February 2 – April 13

## Executive-Legislative Relations

LGAF6203

Tuesdays 6:00pm to 8:00pm

<https://gwu.webex.com/meet/whitlock>

### BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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#### Instructors

Rodney L. **Whitlock**, Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty

202 204 1468

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James (JP) **Paluskiewicz**

Adjunct Faculty

202 421 7716

[jp5580@gwu.edu](mailto:jp5580@gwu.edu)

#### Office Hours

By appointment.

#### Communication

The best means of communication for us is email. Please don't hesitate to contact us as you need and one of us will get back to you as quickly as possible. If for some reason we don't get back to you, please don't hesitate to contact us a second time.

#### 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://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>.

#### 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 [www.gwu.edu/~dss](http://www.gwu.edu/~dss).

### **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. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University's operating status: <http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/>.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected but not mandatory. Life is going on around this class. That said, your ability to adequately answer questions on the exams will benefit considerably from being in class.

### **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:

Dr. Steven Billet  
Director, Legislative Affairs Program  
[sbillet@gwu.edu](mailto:sbillet@gwu.edu) | 202-994-1149

Dr. Jack Prostko  
Associate Dean for Learning and Faculty Development  
College of Professional Studies  
[jackp@gwu.edu](mailto:jackp@gwu.edu) | 202-994-3592

Suzanne Farrand  
Director of Academic Administration, GSPM  
[sfarrand@gwu.edu](mailto:sfarrand@gwu.edu) | 202-994-9309

## **THE COURSE**

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### **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 addresses the perennial conflicts between the White House and Congress. The Constitution has set the basic framework of power, and over the centuries patterns of power and precedent have developed. This course looks at the constitutional aspects of Congressional-Executive relations, the institutional settings, the forces of weak and strong leadership, and other dynamics that make up this complex, fascinating relationship.

**Course Learning Objectives**

The objective of this course is to become a more sophisticated analyst of the interrelationship between the executive and legislative branches.

**Course Requirements**

Students will write two exams, a midterm and a final. Students will write one paper. Students will make at least one presentation. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and participate in class conversations.

**Evaluation and Grading**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Learning Objective(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Final exam	All of class material	April 20	40%
Paper on a legislative issue or regulatory issue		March 30	40%
Class Chapter Presentation			15%
General Participation			5%
<b>Total</b>			<b>100%</b>

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

- Kenneth Collier, *Between the Branches* (1997). ISBN#: 978-0822956297 (This book is best acquired at <http://books.google.com/ebooks>).
- Louis Fisher, *Constitutional Conflicts between Congress and the President*, 6th ed. (2014). ISBN#: 978-0700619986
- James A. Thurber and Jordan Tama, *Rivals for Power*, 6th ed. (2017). ISBN#: 978-1538100981

### 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.

### SESSION 1 (FEBRUARY 2) INTRODUCTION & AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP

Readings:

- Collier, Ch. 1. Introduction.
- Thurber, Ch 1: “An Introduction to Presidential-Congressional Rivalry.” James A. Thurber and Jordan Tama.

**SESSION 2 (FEBRUARY 9) THE CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP**

Readings:

- Fisher, Ch. 1. Constitutional Struggles.
- Fisher, Ch. 2. Appointment Powers.
- Fisher, Ch. 3. Theory in a Crucible: The Removal Power.
- Thurber, Ch. 9. "Rivalry for Power in the Judicial Appointment Process." John Anthony Maltese.
- Fisher, Ch. 6. Power over Knowledge: Seeking and Withholding Information.
- Thurber, Ch. 6. "Congressional Investigations: An Important Check on Presidential Power." Douglas L. Kriner.

**SESSION 3 (FEBRUARY 16) THE ROLE TIME PLAYS IN THE RELATIONSHIP**

Readings:

- Thurber, Ch. 3. "Party Brands, Elections, and Presidential-Congressional Relations." David R. Jones.

**SESSION 4 (FEBRUARY 23) THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: A HISTORICAL REVIEW**

Readings:

- Collier, Chs. 2-10.

**SESSION 5 (MARCH 2) THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, I**

Readings:

- Thurber Ch. 2. "Congress and the President: Legislating in Polarized Times." Sarah Binder.
- Thurber Ch. 7. "White House Congressional Relations in a Polarized Age." Gary Andres and Patrick Griffin.

**SESSION 6 (MARCH 9) THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, II**

Readings:

- Fisher, Ch. 5. Vetoes: Presidential and Legislative.
- Thurber Ch. 8. "Presidential and Congressional Cooperation: A Provisional Partnership." Ross K. Baker.
- Thurber Ch. 10. "The President, Congress, and Domestic Policy Making." James A. Thurber.

**\*\*\* MARCH 16 SPRING BREAK \*\*\***

**SESSION 8 (MARCH 23) SPENDING MONEY: THE SUPER BOWL**

Readings:

- Fisher, Ch. 7. The Power of the Purse.

**SESSION 7 (MARCH 30) REGULATORY PROCESS AND BUREAUCRACY**

Readings:

- Fisher, Ch. 4. Legislative Powers.
- Thurber, Ch. 5. "Congress, the President and the Politics of Federal Regulation." Claudia Hartley Thurber.
- Thurber, Ch. 4. "Unilateral Presidential Authority: Uses and Abuses." James P. Pfiffner.

**\*\*\* PAPER DUE \*\*\***

**SESSION 9 (APRIL 6) FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I & II**

Readings:

- Fisher, Ch. 9. The War Power.
- Fisher, Ch. 8. Treaties and Executive Agreements.
- Thurber, Ch. 11. "Presidential-Congressional Relations in Foreign Policy." Jordan Tama.

**SESSION 10 (APRIL 13) IN CONCLUSION**

Readings:

- Collier, Ch. 11. Conclusion.
- Fisher, Ch. 10. Conclusions.

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