

The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Reading in Legislative Affairs

LGAF 6290

Dr. Casey Burgat

Basic Requirements

LGAF 6290 is the basic Independent Study class in the Legislative Affairs program. The class affords you the opportunity to examine in greater depth issues and questions that may not be possible in our regular courses.

You have three options for the Independent Study in Legislative Affairs course:

-First, you can write a 5000 word fully-documented paper on a topic approved by me. You should submit a topic with a one or two page outline of the paper. The outline should include a strong thesis statement; the fundamental proposition you will examine. You should check in with me over the course of the semester to update me on your progress or if you have significant questions that arise. You need to commit to a specific date for completion of the paper.

-Second, you can write a “collective review” of four or five books that deal with a particular topic related to the Congress or a prominent issue. This work might, for instance, focus on major themes discussed in the works, offering a critical assessment of the arguments and their presentation. This work should be about 5000 words and should be fully documented. I will need to get an outline of the paper and the topic you intend to address.

-Third, you can write a bibliographical essay. This is a comprehensive review of the major works relating to a specific topic – sorting through the various theoretical questions and providing a deep, critical assessment of the scholarship. This is a very intense research project as it requires a command of a significant corpus of writing. This option is especially useful for someone intending to write a Master's thesis. As with the other options, this piece must be fully documented. The length is subject to negotiation with me. It must be fully documented.