

The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs

Summer 2019

July 2 – August 8, 2019

LGAF 6224.LH

Interest Group Politics

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.

[Hall of States](#)

First class is on July 2nd

BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Instructor William Daroff

As the Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America, William Daroff is the chief lobbyist and principal spokesperson on public policy and international affairs for the 147 Jewish Federations and more than 300 independent communities represented by JFNA, Daroff ensures that the voice of Jewish Federations is a prominent force in the Nation's Capital. Named by the Forward newspaper as being among the fifty most influential Jews in America, Daroff guides the Jewish community's advocacy efforts on the Federation movement's key domestic policy issues, principally on health and human services, such as Medicare and Medicaid, long-term care, and policies affecting older Americans, including Holocaust Survivors, as well as homeland security programs and strengthening the capacity of charities to care for those in need. In addition to his focus on domestic policy, Daroff is a key player in foreign policy circles – advising policymakers and elected officials on Jewish communal concerns, namely those related to the US-Israel relationship, the Middle East conflict, and efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capacity.

Prior to assuming his “post-partisan” role with the Jewish Federations in 2005, Daroff was an active political operative, having served as a political appointee in the first Bush Administration, on three national Presidential campaign staffs, as Special Assistant to the Governor of Ohio, managed campaigns for US Congress and State Treasurer (Ohio), served as Vice Chairman of the Cuyahoga County (Cleveland, Ohio) Republican Party, and as the Deputy Executive Director of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

Daroff received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science (*summa cum laude*), Master of Arts in Political Science, and Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. He also earned a Certificate in the History of Eastern European Jewry and the Holocaust from Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Contact Information

Office Number: (202) 736-5868
Email Address: daroff@gwu.edu
Twitter: [@Daroff](https://twitter.com/Daroff)

Communication

I try to respond to all email communications within less than 24 hours. If you have an urgent need to reach me, please call me at the phone number above. I am available to meet with students after class or by appointment at my downtown DC office, near the Farragut West Metro station.

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 outside classroom communications between the instructors and the students. Students can access the course site at <https://blackboard.gwu.edu>. Support for Blackboard is available at 202-994-4948 or helpdesk.gwu.edu.

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>.

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/>.

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 [The Dubliner](#) restaurant 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

This class will be conducted as a seminar. Therefore, a significant part of the learning you will receive will come from class discussion. Therefore, just being present is not enough. I will value your participation. If an emergency prevents you from attending a class session, I expect you to notify me as early as possible prior to the class. If your lack of attendance is a chronic issue, it will affect your 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:

Dr. Steven Billet
Director, Legislative Affairs Program
sbillet@gwu.edu | 202-994-1149

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

Suzanne Farrand
Director of Academic Administration, GSPM
sfarrand@gwu.edu | 202-994-9309

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

Course Overview

This course will examine interest groups and their role in American politics. It will consider ways to evaluate interest groups systematically and rigorously. The course will examine the following questions:

1. How do interest groups get started, and how do they maintain themselves?
2. Why do people join interest groups, and who is likely to be a member?
3. What do interest groups want?
4. How and when do interest groups lobby?
5. How does money affect public policy?
6. How do interest groups affect elections?
7. What are the effects of lobbying on public policy and democracy?
8. Are interest groups good or bad?

Course Learning Objectives

1. Understand the historical foundations of lobbying in the U.S.
2. Understand of the dynamics of interest groups and the policymaking process
3. Understand the historical role of professional lobbying in the U.S.
4. Apply practical skills needed to influence public policy by as a citizen or professional advocate.
5. Apply critical thinking to the analysis of public policy issues and the development and implementation of advocacy strategies.
6. Have students demonstrate their knowledge of the role and tactics of interest groups in public policy advocacy

Course Requirements

The class format will be seminar style that will include lectures but will emphasize discussion. Many classes will have guest speakers to help illuminate the topic.

- Reading assignments for each class are listed below and will be posted as well as updated on the course Blackboard site. *All reading assignments must be completed prior to the first class of the week for which the reading is assigned.*
- Attendance and Participation are a major component of your grade.
- There will be two short papers and one final paper for this class. Written assignments must be emailed to the instructor at least 3 hours before the class for which the paper is assigned.

Evaluation and Grading

		Due Date	Weight
Assignment #1	Analyzing Nonprofits	July 11	15%
Assignment #2	Explaining Legislative Lobbying	July 23	15%
Assignment #3	Final Paper	August 4	30%
Attendance and Participation			40%
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.

Required Text

Interest Groups and Lobbying: Pursuing Political Interests in America, Thomas T. Holyoke, Westview Press, 2014

Supplemental Learning Materials will be posted on the course Blackboard site or otherwise disseminated.

Tentative Course Calendar*

*The instructor reserves the right to alter course content as well as assignments and to adjust the pace to accommodate class progress.

Tuesday, 7/2

Introductions and Orientation

Tuesday, 7/9

Interests and Interest Groups + Collective Action & Interest Group Organization
Reading: *Interest Groups and Lobbying*, Chapters 1 & 2

Guest Speaker: Mark Isakowitz, Chief of Staff to Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

Thursday, 7/11

Social Movements
Reading: *Interest Groups and Lobbying*, Chapter 3
Due: Analyzing Nonprofits Assignment

Guest Speaker: TBD

- Tuesday, 7/16 Lobbyists and Organization Management & A Model of Interest Group Advocacy
Reading: Interest Groups and Lobbying, Chapters 4 & 5
- Guest Speaker: TBD
- Thursday, 7/18 Congressional Lobbying
Reading: Interest Groups and Lobbying, Chapters 6
- Guest Speaker: Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL)
<https://schneider.house.gov/about>
- Tuesday, 7/23 Executive Branch Lobbying
Reading: Interest Groups and Lobbying, Chapter 7
- Guest Speaker: Paul Teller, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
<http://cpac.conservative.org/speakers/paul-teller/>
- CLASS WILL BE HELD AT THE WHITE HOUSE COMPLEX IN THE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM IN THE EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING (Room 210/212). ARRIVE AT 17th AND STATE PLACE, NW ENTRANCE BY 5:30PM.**
- Thursday, 7/25 Judicial Branch
Reading: : Interest Groups and Lobbying, Chapter 8
Due: Explaining Legislative Lobbying Assignment + Approved Final Paper Topic Due
- Guest Speaker: Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL: 1989-2019)
<https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors/ileana-c-ros-lehtinen.html>
- Tuesday, 7/30 Coalitional Advocacy
Reading: Interest Groups and Lobbying, Chapter 9
- Guest Speaker: Wade Henderson, former CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wade_Henderson
- Thursday, 8/1 Interest Groups, Elections, and Campaign Finance
Reading: Interest Groups and Lobbying, Chapter 10
- Guest Speaker: Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN: 2003-2009)
<https://www.hoganlovells.com/en/norm-coleman>
- Tuesday, 8/4 Representation in the Interest Group Age
Reading: Interest Groups and Lobbying, Conclusion
Due: Final Paper
- Guest Speaker: TBD
- Thursday, 8/6 Presentation of Final Papers (part 1)
- Tuesday, 8/8 Presentation of Final Paper (part 2)

Assignments

Due July 11: Analyzing Nonprofits

This assignment is a five-page paper (double-spaced) analyzing two nonprofit organizations.

First, register for a free account at www.guidestar.org. This provides you access to records on thousands of nonprofits in the US.

Second, choose your two nonprofits: go to the search area on Guide Star and identify at two 501c3 nonprofits that are operating and engaged in lobbying. They must fulfill the criteria below:

- a. Choose at least two nonprofits that have 2017 tax forms (which relates to the previous year's taxes, 2016). Find the Form 990 tax forms and open the .pdf files for each.
- b. Verify their tax-exempt status by looking for Item I on the 990 form. They should be 501c3, not 501c4.
- c. Verify that they lobby in Part IV, Question 4. They should both have answered "yes."

IMPORTANT: THESE CRITERIA WILL REQUIRE YOU TO LOOK AT MORE THAN TWO IF THE FIRST TWO YOU FIND DO NOT MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. If you choose two nonprofits that are not 501c3 or do not lobby, you will be unable to complete the assignment.

Third, read through the two 990 forms. These are very complicated and will take a while to figure out. Please take your time to figure out what the complicated terms, references, and definitions mean.

1. Now, compare in writing the two organizations in terms of the sources and size of their *revenue*.
 - a. Are they similar in size or different?
 - b. Do they generate revenues in similar ways or differently? You will need to go to Part VIII for more details.
2. Now examine Part 1, Section 1. Respond in writing to these questions by analyzing, comparing, contrasting, and synthesizing the results. Use the readings in the course to supplement your analysis.
 - a. What does each organization do? You may do additional research at each organization's website if it is helpful.
 - b. What dimension of the mission of each nonprofit organization is directly or indirectly political and might call for public/government affairs activities and lobbying?
 - c. How much is each organization expending on lobbying?
 - d. Have their lobbying activities remained consistent over the last four years? Please use basic statistics.

Due July 25: Explaining Legislative Lobbying

This assignment is a five-page paper (double-spaced) on lobbying surrounding a piece of legislation of your choosing. In the paper, you need to try to answer these questions:

- 1) What types of interest groups devoted resources to influencing the bill?
- 2) How much money was spent to influence it and who dominated the lobbying?

- 3) Is this bill the most important legislation for the interest groups that lobbied on it or did they dedicate more resources to other bills?
- 4) Is the bill advancing through Congress? Is there any evidence that lobbying played a role?

To search for a bill of interest, you can use the following:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/>

To find a bill, narrow your list by clicking an advanced “current status” or using the “subject” pull down menu and selecting a topic. You will see a list of bills that meet your criteria. Clicking on a bill will give you the bill’s topics and text, how far it made it through Congress, and information about its co-sponsors and committee referrals.

Once you find a bill, you can use the online tools at OpenSecrets:

<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/>

To search for a specific bill:

- 1) Click the pull down menu under “Search database by” and select “Bills.” Search for the bill name or number.
- 2) Find the appropriate bill and make sure that it had associated lobbying. If not, choose another bill. It helps to pick a bill on which there were several organizations lobbying, but not more than 50.
- 3) You will receive a list of the organizations that reported lobbying on that bill. Click the organization name to find out what other bills they tried to influence. Click on the number of reports to view what the organizations wrote on their lobbying disclosure forms.
- 4) Under “report,” click the paper icons to see their lobbying disclosure forms. See how much they reported under “Expense relating to lobbying activities.”
- 5) Try to determine from their reports whether they were for or against the bill or wanted a specific provision. Add up the lobbyist spending on each side of the bill or dedicated to individual provisions.

In your paper, you will want to report data on the amounts spent in favor of the bill and in opposition. You will also want to describe what each interest group wanted to achieve from their lobbying and whether they succeeded: Did the final bill address their concerns? Did any bill pass or move through committee or one of the chambers?

Due August 4: Final Paper

Topic to be approved by July 25

A final paper is due on the August 4th, which students will present during the last two class periods. The topic will be approved by the instructor to ensure no duplication, by July 25. The assignment is to select an interest group of your choice and discuss how this interest group attempts to use its resources to influence the political process. Interest groups will be presented and approved in advance, to ensure that there is no duplication. Your paper, which should be ten to twelve double-spaced pages, should address the following questions:

- 1) What is the background and history of the group you selected? What are its goals? How does the interest group that you selected try to influence U.S. elections?
- 2) How does it attempt to influence the legislative process?

- 3) Has the interest group that you selected been mostly successful overall or has your group's political record been more mixed?
- 4) Does the experience of the interest group that you selected lend more support to the arguments advanced by pluralist theory or does it lend more support to the arguments advanced by power elite theory?
- 5) Or, does neither theory seem to apply? What does the experience of the group you selected teach us about how American democracy operates?

A presentation to class members will be made by each student during the last two class periods.

Unless explicitly allowed by the instructor course materials, class discussions, and examinations are created for and expected to be used by class participants only. The recording and rebroadcasting of such material, by any means, is forbidden.