

The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs

Semester: Summer 2019

May 19 – June 25, 2020

Course Name

LGAF 6270.LH2

T/Th 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Hall of States

BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Instructors (Bio of instructors available online)

Prof. Ehsan Zaffar

Contact Information

Phone: 661-714-3374

Email: zaffar@gwu.edu

Dr. Kevin Fandl

Contact Information

Phone: 202-725-5305

Email: kfandl@gmail.com

Communication

Please contact via email before calling. To set up a meeting, we prefer to meet before class. You may also setup a meeting with Prof. Zaffar using the “Calendly” link on Blackboard.

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 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. If we have to leave here, we will meet at **Union Station (flagpole)** 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

We will take attendance in class. Students must attend every class possible. Missing more than two classes without a legitimate and predetermined excuse will receive an incomplete or a failing 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:

Casey Burgat
Director, Legislative Affairs Program
cburgat@gwu.edu | 202-994-2272

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.

Course Description and Overview

Homeland security in the United States became a national priority and a major concern of the American public following the events that transpired on September 11, 2001. Since that time, significant resources have gone into the prevention of terrorist attacks and the preparation of the U.S. government for life in a vulnerable environment. Substantial new laws were passed and new legislation continues to be proposed to combat threats and secure the country. Today, in light of the rise of the "Islamic State" and the resurgence of Al Qaeda, as well as affiliated threats from lone wolf terrorists around the world, legislative and executive leaders are struggling to identify the best response, while courts sort out the legality of their efforts.

But homeland security is about more than terrorism. In fact, the vast majority of our daily activities, from trade to travel, touch on homeland security in much more profound ways than terrorism has. In this course, we will focus on the foundations of both homeland security and terrorism in order to develop a more complete understanding of the importance of the changes that have taken place in the last decade.

Although this is a comprehensive survey course, emphasis will be placed on "friction points" in the homeland security enterprise, such as the tradeoff between security and liberty, border security and economic vitality, and surveillance and privacy, as well as the legal changes that have been undertaken to effectuate new policies and practices of the Administration to promote homeland security. The course will be taught using a variety of methods, including lectures, student presentations, papers, and electronic media. The goal is to give students a clear understanding of the scope of this topic and to develop the tools necessary to more fully comprehend the key subtopics in this broad field.

Though this course usually takes place in-person, unless otherwise noted, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the entirety of class this semester will take place online using Blackboard Collaborate. A webcam, mic and stable internet connection will be required. We are very familiar with Blackboard Collaborate and will share information about how to access it a few weeks before class.

Course Requirements

Your grade will be determined based upon the following elements, each described below:

Class participation 20%

Presentation 30%

Short Paper 50%

Class participation

Your participation grade will be determined based upon your attendance and active participation in discussions related to the assigned topic. Failure to complete the readings and provide insightful commentary will be treated as absence from the class. Participation implies *meaningful* participation, e.g. not waiting until the last few classes to engage in class discussion or attendance. If you feel shy or have problems engaging in class discussions for some reason, I encourage you to contact me ASAP and we can work out an arrangement that will allow you to meaningfully participate.

Video Presentations

One of the best ways to understand the impact of homeland security-related laws and policies is through visual depictions of key events in our history. Throughout the course, we will watch portions of several videos addressing issues such as border security, intelligence-gathering, and terrorism. We will discuss the video presentations at the end of the class.

Student Presentations

You will be asked to give a short (20 minutes) presentation to the class about any of the assigned topics. The presentation should include a PPT or Prezi presentation, which you will upload to the course blackboard site within 48 hours of giving the presentation.

You will then lead a discussion for an additional brief period based upon your presentation. Your topic should relate to one of the assigned topics in the course and will be scheduled as close as possible to that class date. You will be assessed based upon the following factors:

- Quality and depth of research (at least five substantive sources are recommended)
- Organization of the presentation
- Presentation delivery (PPT or other electronic media may be used to supplement)
- Preparation of discussion questions for the class
- Knowledge of the topic presented

Topics will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Depending on class size, only 1-2 presentation will be scheduled during a given class period.

Final Paper on Comparative Homeland Security

Homeland security is not only an issue for the United States. Concerns over terrorism, immigration, national disasters, and the like, pervade the domestic policy of most countries. The U.S. approach may be one of the most far-reaching and comprehensive in the world, but it has faced a host of its own challenges.

For your short paper, select a country other than the United States and provide an examination of their homeland security policy (note that it may not be called “homeland security”). Then, compare their approach with the approach taken in the United States. Be sure to identify commonalities as well as areas in which there is divergence. Conclude with your thoughts on whether one approach is better than the other and how you weigh the costs and benefits (e.g., security vs. liberty).

Your paper will be evaluated as follows:

- Style: 12pt. Times New Roman; Double spaced; APA format; at least 10 pages (no more than 15)
- References: At least ten academic references (e.g., Wikipedia and similar sources do not qualify)
- Analysis: Thorough, graduate-level comparative **analysis** of the issue
- Due date: See schedule below

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment	Learning Objective(s) Addressed	Due Date	Weight
Presentation		As scheduled	30%
Final Paper		As scheduled	50%
Attendance and Participation		Tues/ Thurs	20%
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 will be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

Required Text and Learning Materials

The following texts are required for this course:

- Zaffar, [Understanding Homeland Security: Foundations of Security Policy](#) (1st ed.) (Routledge, 2019).

The following texts are recommended for this course. These texts are optional and need not be purchased.

- Russell D. Howard, *HOMELAND SECURITY AND TERRORISM: READINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS* (McGraw-Hill 2005).
- Nadav Morag, *COMPARATIVE HOMELAND SECURITY: GLOBAL LESSONS* (2011).

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.

May 19 – June 4: Taught by Prof. Fandl

June 9 – 25: Taught by Prof. Zaffar

Tuesday, May 19

Session 1 | Topic: **Introduction to the course and to homeland security**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 1 – Homeland Security Before 9/11
- Sudha Setty, *Obama's National Security Exceptionalism*, Chicago-Kent Law Review (2016)

Optional Readings:

- CQ Researcher: Chapter 9 - Homeland Security: Two Years After 9/11, Are We Safer? (Uploaded to BB)

Activities: Sign-up for presentation date

Video: PBS Frontline—Are We Safer? (21 minutes) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/are-we-safer/>

Thursday, May 21

Session 2 | Topic: **The Legal and Political Structure of Homeland Security in the United States; Comparative Analysis of Homeland Security Around the Globe**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 2 – The Formation of the Homeland Security Enterprise After 9/11

- Alperen, Chapter 5: The Structure of the Department of Homeland Security (Uploaded to BB)

Optional Readings:

- CBP and ICE: [Does the Current Organizational Structure Best Serve U.S. Homeland Security Interests?](#) Committee Hearing.

Activities: Video: Defending America (History Channel presentation)

Tuesday, May 26

Session 3 | Topic: **Immigration**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 3 – Immigration
- Kevin Fandl, [States' Rights and Refugee Resettlement](#), 52 Texas J. Int'l L. (2016)
- [GAO Report on Immigration Enforcement](#) (2009).

Optional Readings:

- CQ Researcher: Chapter 10 – [Real ID: Will the New Driver's License Law Make Americans Safer?](#)

Activities: Presentations Begin; Video: Border (immigration)

Thursday, May 28

Session 4 | Topic: **Border Security**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 4 – Border Threats, Border Security and Risk Assessment
- [GAO Report on SW Border Security](#) (2011)
- CQ Researcher: Chapter 13 – Policing the Borders: Can the United States Guard Against Terrorists? (Uploaded to BB)

Activities: Video: Border Wars (National Geographic)

Tuesday, June 2

Session 5 | Topic: **Trade and Homeland Security**

Readings: Zaffar: Chapter 6 - Transportation

- Raj Bhala, *Fighting Bad Guys with International Trade Law*, U.C. Davis L. Rev. (1997)

Thursday, June 4

Session 6 | Topic: **Infrastructure Protection**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 9 - Infrastructure Protection and Technology
- CQ Researcher, Terrorism, Chapter 11: [Cybersecurity](#)

Tuesday, June 9

Session 7 | Topic: **Emergency Management, Hazards**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 7 – Emergency Management & Hazards

Activities: Video: [PBS Frontline, Katrina – Storm that Drowned a City](#) (54 minutes)

Tuesday, June 11

Session 9 | Topic: **Intelligence**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 5 – Intelligence

Activities: Presentations

Thursday, June 16

Session 8 | Topic: **Cybersecurity**

Guest Lecture: TBA

- Zaffar: Chapter 8 - Cybersecurity
- CQ Researcher, Terrorism, Chapter 11: [Cybersecurity](#)

Required: View the PBS Frontline Video [Are We Safer](#). Prepare to discuss this video during class after the guest lecture.

Activities: Presentations

Thursday, June 18

Session 10 | Topic: **Civil Liberties, Torture, and National Security**

Readings:

- Zaffar: Chapter 10 – Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and Privacy
- [THE USA PATRIOT ACT AVOID JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON.S .SUICIDE PACT?](#) (Albany Law Review, 2005).
- [War About Terror: Civil Liberties and National Security After 9/11: A CFR Working paper](#) (2009),

Optional Readings:

- CQ Researcher: Chapter 15 – [Torture Debate: Is the U.S. War on Terror Legitimizing Torture?](#)

Activities: Presentations

Tuesday, June 23

Session 11 | Topic: **Assessing our Security**

Guest Lecture: TBA

Required: View the PBS Frontline Video [Are We Safer](#). Prepare to discuss this video during class after the guest lecture.

Activities: Presentations

Thursday, June 25

Final Session | Topic: **The Future of Homeland Security**

Final review; outstanding student presentations

***** FINAL PAPERS DUE ON BLACKBOARD BY 11:59pm JUNE 25 *****

Copyright Statement

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.