BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Instructor
Rodney L. Whitlock, PhD

Contact Information
Phone Number:
Email Address: whitlock@gwu.edu

Communication
The best means of communication for me is email. Please don’t hesitate to contact me as you need and I’ll get back to you as quickly as possible. Further, if for some reason I don’t get back to you, please don’t hesitate to contact me 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.

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 | 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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Learning Objective(s) Addressed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>First half of class material</td>
<td>Distributed February 23; Due March 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Second half of class material</td>
<td>Distributed April 19; Due April 26</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper on a legislative issue or regulatory issue</td>
<td></td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Chapter Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Committee Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade*</th>
<th>Grading Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100 Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93 Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82 You’ve completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all of the requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79 Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76 Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72 (lowest grade to pass) Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 70 Unacceptable performance, or inability to submit the assignment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Required Text and Learning Materials


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  (January 12)  False Start (Rodney was away)

SESSION 2  (January 19)  INTRODUCTION

SESSION 3  (January 26)  AN OVERVIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP

Readings:
- Collier, Ch. 1. Introduction.
SESSION 4  (February 2) THE CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP
Readings:
• Fisher, Ch. 1. Constitutional Struggles.
• Fisher, Ch. 2. Appointment Powers.
• Fisher, Ch. 3. Theory in a Crucible: The Removal Power.
• Fisher, Ch. 6. Power over Knowledge: Seeking and Withholding Information.
• Thurber, Ch. 12. “Obama’s Constitutional Conflicts with Congress.” Louis Fisher.

SESSION 5  (February 9) THE ROLE TIME PLAYS IN THE RELATIONSHIP
Readings:
• Thurber, Ch. 5. “The Presidency and Congressional Time.” Roger Davidson.

SESSION 6  (February 16) THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: A HISTORICAL REVIEW
Readings:
• Collier, Chs. 2-10.

SESSION 7  (February 23) THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, I
Readings:
• Thurber, Ch. 2. “Obama’s First-term Legislative Presidency: Partisan Not Personal.” Stephen Wayne
• Thurber Ch. 3. “White House Congressional Relations in a Polarized Age.” Patrick Griffin and Gary Andres.
• Thurber, Ch. 6. “The President and the Congressional Party Leadership in a Hyper-Partisan Era.” Barbara Sinclair.

***MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED ***

SESSION 8  (March 1) THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, II
Readings:
• Fisher, Ch. 5. Vetoes: Presidential and Legislative.
• Thurber, Ch. 7. The President, Congress, and Lobbyists: Has President Obama Changed the Way Washington Works.” James A. Thurber.
• Thurber, Ch. 8. “The President, Congress and the Media.” Ron Elving.
• Thurber, Ch. 13. “Congress and President Obama: A Perspective.” Walter J. Oleszek and Mark Oleszek.

*** MIDTERM DUE ***

SESSION 9  (March 8) THE PRESIDENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, III
Readings:
• Fisher, Ch. 4. Legislative Powers.
• Thurber, Ch. 10. “The Politics of Federal Regulation: Congress Acts, the President Hones His Policies by Regulation.” Claudia Hartley Thurber.
*** NO CLASS MARCH 15  SPRING BREAK ***

SESSION 10  (March 22)  SPENDING MONEY: THE SUPER BOWL
Readings:
• Fisher, Ch. 7. The Power of the Purse.
• Thurber, Ch. 9. “The President, Congress and Budget Decisions.” Joseph White.

SESSION 11  (March 29)  THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE BUREAUCRACY
Readings:
• Thurber, Ch. 4. “Organizing the 21st Century White House.” James Pfiffner.

SESSION 12  (April 5)  FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I
Readings:
• Fisher, Ch. 9. The War Power.
• Thurber, Ch. 11. “The President, Congress and Foreign Policy.” Lawrence Korb and Alex Rothman.

*** PAPER DUE ***

SESSION 13  (April 12)  FOREIGN AFFAIRS, II
Readings:
• Fisher, Ch. 8. Treaties and Executive Agreements.

SESSION 14  (April 19)  IN CONCLUSION
Readings:
• Collier, Ch. 11. Conclusion.
• Fisher, Ch. 10. Conclusions.
• Thurber, Ch. 15, “Assesing Presidential-Congressional Relations: A Need for Reform.” James A. Thurber.

*** FINAL DISTRIBUTED ***

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