The purpose of the course will be to gain mastery of skill sets needed by senior government professionals to achieve optimal performance and to successfully navigate the unfolding digital age ecosphere within which the government operates. The framework for the course will
focus on the structure, dynamics and uncertainties of government operations in the United States.

The skill set topics will include,
- Planning and performance
- Managing operations
- Understanding government oversight roles and ethical requirements
- Presenting high level briefings
- Managing Stakeholder Relations
- Deploying the elements of policy-formulation
- Managing Congressional relations and the hearing process
- Constructing Congressional testimony
- Managing media relations and responding to media inquiries
- Understanding the process of innovation in the governmental ecosphere
- Deployment of emerging technologies in government operations
- Integrating the essential elements of Democracy in policy development
- The unfolding role of enterprise risk management
- Examining the new workplace and the changing nature of work

Part One-Structure of Empire-

Session One-A History of Violence-extracting the elements of democracy from world history

Session Two-The Stars in Their Courses-Imagining Democracy-debating and discussing the changing nature of American Democracy
Session Three - Swimming with Quarks: Technology in Government Operations

Session Four - Stealing Fire from the gods: Governing and limiting governance in Innovation and Disruption mitigation

Session Five - In the Hall of the Mountain Bandits: Innovation Policy formulation workshop

Session Six - Runaway Child, Running Wild: Government Organizational models in the 21st Century and the Changing Nature of Work

Midterm - Book Review

Part Two - Dynamics and Uncertainties

Session Seven - Icarus in Flames: Planning and Operations

Session Eight - Order of Battle: Delivering High Level briefings and developing key meeting agendas

Session Nine - Claws that Catch, Teeth that Bite: Government Oversight and Investigations

Session Ten - Tales of Brave Ulysses: Stakeholder Relations

Session Eleven - The Labyrinth and the Minotaur: The Evolving relationship between Congress and the Executive Branch

Session Twelve - Witness to History: Constructing and delivering Congressional Testimony
Final-The Pigeon and the Statue: Congressional Hearing Simulation

Text Books

Why we’re Polarized, 2020, Ezra Klein

Whiplash: How to survive our faster future, 2017 Joi Eto and Jeff Howe

Mega Tech: Technology in 2050, 2017, Daniel Franklin Edited

Class Dates and times
Tuesday evenings 7:20 pm to 10:00Pm
From August 25 to December 1, 2020

Office Hours in Founders Hall 615
Monday 10am-12pm or upon request

All submissions will be in paper form using double spacing and a 12-point font.
First, participate in class discussions.

Second-Write a Two-page summary for each session, structured around your views of the issues presented during the session,

Third, present your exercise assignments during class sessions and submit your presentation, as part of the final exam portfolio.

Final Exam project. Participate in Congressional Hearing simulation. Compile your class summaries, and exercise assignments and conclude with a 5-7page summary analysis. Include 5-10 conclusions that you have arrived at regarding the material presented in the course.

**Grading system**

- 20% Active Participation in the class sessions
- 30% Summaries and analysis of the class sessions
- 20% In-class Exercise presentations
- 30% Final Portfolio submission (30 points)
- 10% Bonus Book Review (for Make-up of missed session or plus up of Letter Grade)

**Grading**

- 90 to 100 A
- 80 to 89 B
- 70 to 79 C
- 0 to 69 F

**Disability Statement** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

**Honor Code Policy** *Statement on academic integrity, for example:

Faculty in the Schar School have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty and will strictly enforce Mason’s honor code.
The Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence (CTFE) provides guidelines in this regard: http://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-learning-outcomes/