Interest Groups, Lobbying and the Political Process Syllabus

318

PUAD 649 002 (Spring 2019)
Room E122 – Fairfax
3 Hours
Wednesday, 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm

Instructor: Dr. David K. Rehr
Professor
Telephone: 703-819-9396 (m)
Email: Drehr@gmu.edu
Office: Founders – Room 672
Office Hours: By appointment
Meeting Times: Tuesday 6:30 – 7:15 pm - Fairfax

Communication:

The best way to connect is via email. You can expect a response within 24 hours, but often within a matter of minutes, depending on schedules. You can also make an appointment before/after class.
Academic Integrity

All members of the Schar School of Policy and Government 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 here 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. For more information, see the Honor Code: http://sls.gmu.edu/honor/

Attendance:

The expectation for the class is that regular attendance is strongly encouraged. Any student missing a class must contact Professor Rehr prior to the beginning of the class. Unauthorized absence(s) will be reflected in the final course grade. Students should be prepared for each class, having read the required readings and anticipate potential questions for guests. Remember, a portion of your final grade is based upon class participation.

Use of Electronic Devices During Class:

Use of electronic devices during class is discouraged. Laptops may be used in class if strongly preferred, but only for taking notes and be related to class material and discussions. Cell phones may not be used during class.

Recording Class Lectures and use of social media:

The recording of the course and any class is not permitted. Also, use of publicizing course material, comments or comments of guest speakers on social media is not permitted. The only exception is the posting of pictures (no video or audio) if desired by the Professor. This will allow free and unencumbered discussion and exchange of ideas. Professor Rehr may grant exceptions under unusual and exceptional circumstances.

Disability Accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.
Course Evaluation:

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course. 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:

Thys Van Schalk
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Schar School of Policy and Government
mvanscha@gmu.edu
(703)-993-8227

Class Expectations:

This class will consider a number of policy, perspectives on 'power' and value-laden issues when discussing special interest groups, lobbying and the political process. Students are encouraged to engage in respectful and engaging debate. Professional courtesy and appreciation for all points of view are essential to becoming a success in Washington, DC, or wherever your career takes you, even when you meet someone who may hold contrary strong personal principles or convictions. Seeing the world from a 360-degree perspective allows leaders to make the best decisions for the client, organization, or political position he/she represents.

Course Description and Overview

The course is designed to provide undergraduate students with the historical and legal background of special interests, lobbying and the political process at all levels of government. Students will gain some practical skills and insights necessary to succeed in government advocacy. The goals of this course are to review how citizens exercise the First Amendment right to petition their government and redress grievances, form interest groups, understand how to effectively lobby on behalf of a cause, com, review some of the laws and regulations affecting lobbying, and comprehend the competitive landscape of public policy. The seminar course format will also touch upon advocacy before the Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and State & local government, as it relates to special interests, lobbying and the political process.

The course will also feature likely guest lecturers (depending on their availability) from interest groups, congressional staff, individuals, and formers Executive Branch officials who will share their perspectives on special interest groups, lobbying, and how lobbying has impacted the creation of laws and regulations. It is the goal of this course to effectively train students in all the essential ideas necessary to understand special interest groups, lobbying, and what part each plays in the American political process.
Course Requirements

Students are expected to participate in class discussion, complete assignments on time and within guidelines, and finish assigned readings before class when due. PLEASE SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS IN CLASS ON THE EVENING THEY ARE DUE AND HAND TO DR. REHR OR LEAVE WITH HIM. Make sure your name appears at the top of the first page with reference to this class, including the assignment number. No papers will be accepted via email.

Grading:

This is a graded course. The final percentage will be determined by the following percentages: 75% based upon total points available through written assignments; 5% active class participation; 20% on final in-class presentation.

Assignments and Valuation:

Additional detail about each assignment is provided at the end of the syllabus. Below provides the name of each topic, the learning objective addressed, due date, and the maximum number of points available to the student. All written papers should be at least 5 pages long (double spaced). Details on all semester assignments will be handed out on the first day of class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Learning Objective(s) Addressed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight (Total points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explain and offer your opinion on Madison's argument about the importance of Special Interests in our Republic. How would Madison view his arguments today?</td>
<td>Students will better understand basic principles of constitutional principles, economic self-interest and economic foundations of the U.S. government.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on January 30, 2019.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflect on your personal strengths and weaknesses as an advocate, in relation to emotional intelligence and leadership theories.</td>
<td>Students will exercise the professional skills expected of members of the advocacy &amp; lobbying profession.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on February 13, 2019.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose a Special Interest Group with which you disagree politically: Describe how it was formed, what it advocates, how</td>
<td>Students will better understand the motivations of citizens engaged in the lobbying process.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on February 10.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
<td>Weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose a Special Interest Group, which mirrors your political philosophy, and describe how it was formed, what it advocates, and what lobbying results it has achieved.</td>
<td>Students will better understand the motivations of citizens engaged in the lobbying process that may have similar viewpoints. Students will learn about specific groups or organizations they are interested in engaging.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on March 6, 2019.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose a state or federal elected official and explain how he/she won their election campaign.</td>
<td>Experience dynamics involved with elections and how the experiences may impact the opinions held by elected officials.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on March 27, 2019.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose, follow and explain a legislative coalition</td>
<td>Students will learn “how to” build, expand, or leverage a specific group of interests to advance public policy.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on April 10, 2019.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick two favorite advocacy tools, compare and contrast it use and how it impacts the decision-making of elected officials</td>
<td>Students will become more familiar with lobbying tools used by professional lobbyists at all levels of government.</td>
<td>Before 6 pm on April 24, 2019.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Assignment – Choose from one topic (Dr. Rehr will provide list) and explain the importance as it relates to coalitions, lobbying, or the political process. Power Point presentation required.</td>
<td>Enhance oral advocacy skills through successful completion of final presentation before professor and peers.</td>
<td>PowerPoint is ready to present on May 8, 2018.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Active engagement in class, respect for the opinions of others, and strong questioner of course guests.</td>
<td>Viewed throughout the course, with end date of December 11. Class</td>
<td>5</td>
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Grading Percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-85%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 80%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>79 – 75%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>74 – 69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Percentage below 69%</td>
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Required Reading:


Supplemental:


Tentative Course Calendar*

*The instructor(s) reserves the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class progress and the availability of invited guest lecturers. All guest lecturers mentioned are tentative and subject to their availability. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar.
Each class will be divided into two sessions – approximately 90 minutes each to ensure students understand the complexity of interest groups, lobbying and public policy. Expect to stay until 10 pm each class session. Time adjustments may be made on syllabus topics.

Spring 2019 Course

January 23

Class #1 – Course Overview – Do Special Interests Impact Law and Regulations?
What roles do Lobbyists Play?

Topic and Content Covered

Introductions
Learning expectations
Syllabus review

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, oral advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving.

Required Reading:


Class Questions and Discussion Issues

What are student and professor expectations for class?

How should laws be made?

What do think lobbyists Do? And what do they do not do?

Is it ethical to influence Congress, State Government, or Local Government?

How do we decide good public policy issues from bad public policy issues?

How to we manage, organize, solicit, interpret, and take action on the perspectives of 200 million Americans?
Second portion of class – January 23

Class #2 – What are the historical origins of influencing government at the national level?

Topic and Content Covered

Origin of ability of citizens to redress the government
Historical construct of influence
Founding Fathers’ view of special interest groups

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will understand basic principles of the U.S. Constitution, Economic Foundations, Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Students will be able to apply basic economic concepts to the law.

Required Reading:

Resolutions of the Continental Congress (1 page)
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(jc00132))

Examination of Dr. Benjamin Franklin in the House of Commons
https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-13-02-0035


Kernell & Smith, 2.2, James Madison, Federalist No. 51.

Class Questions and Discussion issues:

What were the conditions that led to allowing citizens to redress their grievances before government?

What conditions are needed for Madison’s view on interests to work correctly?

Would the Founding Fathers be surprised by today’s advocacy environment?
January 30

Class #3 – Why do we cover emotional intelligence and authentic leadership? Why is it important to this course? How does this benefit our understanding of Interest Groups, Lobbying, and public policy? (Only one topic this evening so we can thoroughly discuss and understand)

Topic and Content Covered

Understanding how to assess our authentic leadership
Looking at emotional intelligence as a vehicle for personal success with interest group involvement, lobbying, and impacting the political process.

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their strengths and challenges with respect to political leadership and activism.

Students will be able to better understand their unique narrative that will help them to more successful in their professional life.

Required Reading:


Class Questions and Discussion issues

Why is it important we understand being an Authentic Leader?
What are the elements of emotional intelligence?
Why is this leadership lesson important of our success in dealing with interest groups, lobbyists or impacting public policy?

February 6

Class #4 – What is the history of interest groups? What important role to interest groups play? What causes interest groups to form or organize? Does economic self-interest play an important role in interest group advocacy?
**Topic and Content Covered**

Definition of what constitutes an ‘interest group’. Understanding the economic motivation to interest groups. How to interest groups organize and fund its activities.

**Learning Objectives Addressed**

Students will learn the motivations of interest groups and what they expect from elected officials in government.

**Required Reading:**

Kernell & Smith, 1.1, Mancur Olson, Jr., The Logic of Collective Action.

Kernell & Smith, 1.2, Garrett Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons.

**Class Questions and Discussion issues:**

Does interest group organizing help America stay one nation or does it lead to a so-called “tribalism” of demographics?

What are the positive and negative implications of interest group organizing?

Does improvement and use of social media make interest group organizing more authentic or more synthetic?

Can Interest groups threaten the rights or property of those who do not agree? Should any constraints be placed on Interest Group lobbying?

**Second portion of class February 6**

Class #5 – An example of special interest group advocacy?

**Topic and Content Covered**

History of the interest group? How does the organization function? How is the organization’s public policy determined? How is results measured by members of the organization or the leadership?
Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will exercise the professional skills when asking speaker questions and respecting the organization being discussed.

Required Readings:

None

Guest Speaker:

Special interest organization speaker.

Class Questions and Discussion issues:

What are the challenges faced by the organization to grow membership, interact with the media, and have an impact on public policy?

How did you become part of the interest group? How do you reconcile your own personal beliefs with the policy of the organization, especially if there are conflicts?

What tips would you offer to be an influential interest group in the minds of elected officials?

February 13

Class #6 – What it the market place for public policy ideas?

Topic and Content Covered

The competitive marketplace for advocacy

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, oral advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving.

Students will be able to apply basic economic concepts to advocacy and lobbying.

Required Reading:

Rehr, David, eBook, Cutting Through Congressional Clutter: Proven Ideas and Tips to Gain Influence and Be Heard, August 2018.
Class Questions and Discussion issues

What is the motivation for lobbying?

How should you think about advocacy competition?

What are the important criteria you should always consider when viewing advocacy competition?

How do you get noticed as a lobbyist?

Does advocacy and lobbying competition exist at the state and local level? What would be an alternative system?

Second Portion of February 13

Class #7 – What is the process by which ideas become laws? How does it actually happen?

Topic and Content Covered

Fundamentals of understanding the legislative process
Number of bills, resolutions introduced and those that become law
Using statistics to determine your ability to succeed
The legislative ‘shortcuts’ that help you get your result

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, policy analysis, oral advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving.

Required Reading:

The Legislative Process on the House Floor: An Introduction (12 pages)
The Legislative Process on the Senate Floor: An Introduction (13 page)
View “Bill on Capitol Hill” (3:21)
View Congress.Gov videos on the legislative process. (about 25 minutes)

Class Questions and Discussion Issues:

How does the legislative process actually work?

Are there short cuts or alternative ways to meet legislative goals?
How can statistics help a lobbyist better understand his/her enacting legislative priorities?

**February 20**

Class #9 – Where does Congress go for information? What does a day look like for a Member of Congress and/or their staff?

**Topic and Content Covered**

Presentation of *THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS REPORT*, updated findings

**Learning Objectives Addressed**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

**Required Reading:**


**Class Questions and Discussion Issues:**

Where do congressional staffs look for information?

What sources of information do congressional staffs value?

Do lobbyists and congressional staff view some sources of information differently?

What are the advantages to a lobbyist if he/she knows where congressional staffs look for information?

**Second Portion of February 20**

Class #10 – How Interest Groups leverage research to advance public policy?

**Topic and Content Covered**

Why survey research is important in legislative advocacy

Discovering the strengths/weaknesses of your adversaries

Using “Thomas” as a lobbying tool
Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

Required Readings:

None.

Class Questions and Discussion Issues:

What kind of research should lobbyists consider using?
How does a lobbyist differentiate research in promoting a public policy?
Does packaging of information matter to Elected Officials and/or staff?

February 27

Class #11 – The importance of choosing the ‘right words' to impact public policy?

Topic and Content Covered

How to think about branding your legislative campaign
The importance of how to frame issues
Discussion of various legislative ‘frames' and models

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of legal research, legal analysis, oral advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving.

Required Reading:


Class Questions and Discussion Issues:

How Members/congressional staffs see the world?
Why do words matter?
Is there a balancing act between using the ‘right words’ and authenticity in public policy?
Second Portion of February 27

Class #12 – How to view Interest Group money in politics? Is there too much or too little? Does Interest Group money impact election outcomes?

**Topic and Content Covered**

What real role does money play in the public policy process  
Are campaigns influenced by contributions  
What is the research and reality of campaign support  
How would individuals get elected without campaign contributions  
What campaign finance reforms, if any, should be considered

**Learning Objectives Addressed**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

**Required Reading:**

[https://act.represent.us/sign/money-politics-problem/](https://act.represent.us/sign/money-politics-problem/)

**Topic and Content Covered**

The role of money in politics  
Is it a tool for influence  
Leveraging money as an advocacy tool  
Various campaign finance reform ideas and their impact  
Changing the competitive “Interest Group” playing field

**Class Questions and Discussion Issues**

Does money play a role in Influence Group influence?  
What is the best least imperfect system of electing our leaders?  
How do you create a level playing field among interest groups with campaign finance reform?  

**Class Questions and Discussion Issues**

Are calls for campaign finance reform authentic or do Interest Groups just want to change the balance of available tools?  
Do we recognize the imperfect status of elected leaders, while still preserving freedom of speech in our current campaign finance system?
March 6

Class #13 – What advocacy tools are being used to influence the Congress? (Part 1)

Topic and Content Covered

How research is being used in advocacy
The importance of building personal relationships
What is a public policy coalition
Creating multi-member coalitions
Following practical rules for successful coalitions

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

Required Reading:


Class Questions and Discussion Issues

How do you build relationships with members of Congress and staff?

Do most coalitions follow the 80/20 rule? How do you keep them focused on your legislative priorities?

Second Portion of March 6

Class #14 – How can an effective public relations strategy can boost your legislative efforts?

Topic and Content Covered

Understanding Public Relations principles as it relates to legislative advocacy
Basics understanding of elements of public relations
How to ensure your PR campaign is focused, effective, and ways to measure impact

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.
Class Questions and Discussion Issues

What are the fundamental issues of importance to effective PR advocacy campaigns?

How does a PR campaign cut through information or media clutter?

Why is timing of a campaign important?

What new trends, if any, are being used in effective PR advocacy campaigns?

NO CLASS ON MARCH 13; SPRING BREAK

March 20

Class #15 – What advocacy tools are being used to influence the Congress? (Part 2)

Topic and Content Covered

Mobilizing constituents back home to deliver the right message
Available internal U.S. Congress resources

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

Required Reading:


Class Questions and Discussion Issues

Which internal congressional resources are most used by Members of Congress and their staffs?

What are the challenges to effective ‘grassroots’ engagement with Members of Congress?

How does social media impact constituent engagement?
Second Portion of March 20

Class #16 – What advocacy tools are being used to influence the Congress? (Part 3)

Topic and Content Covered

The importance of external visibility (Capitol South Metro, Building signs, etc.)
Effective Washington Fly-in’s
Earned media in advocacy

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of legal research, legal analysis, oral advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving.

Required Readings:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/586d5c4ce4b0d359c42adb75

Class Questions and Discussion Issues

Does external visibility impact successful advocacy?

How can so-called ‘Fly-In’s’ become more effective and what should be done?

How do you build relationships with media outlets to advance your advocacy efforts?

March 27

Class 17 – Why Interest Groups need to understand the culture and rules of the U.S. Congress to be successful?

Topic and Content Covered

How the House and Senate operates
The culture of the equal but not so equal institutions
How elected leaders view their constituents

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.
**Required Readings:**
None.

**Guest Speaker:**
Former U.S. Congress staffer

**Class Questions and Discussion Issues**

Is the Senate more complex than the House in advancing legislation?
Do elected leaders’ personalities play a significant role in advocacy?
How to Senators and House members interact?

**Second Portion of March 27**

Class #18 – What are the practical experiences Interest Group advocates have experienced in their professional careers?

**Topic and Content Covered**

Current and former lobbyists explain how the system operates
Tips on effective advocacy
Career development and enhancement
Discussion of reality of U.S. Congress

**Learning Objectives Addressed**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, negotiation, and problem solving.

**Required Readings:**
None.

**Guest Speaker:**
Panel of Interest Group advocates to discuss their experiences and insights.

**Class Questions and Discussion Issues**

How does the process work in reality?
What ways would you suggest to build relationships with Members/staff?
What advice you give law students who are interested in Capitol Hill?

April 3

Class #19 – Positioning you Interest Group Organization and Differentiation of your public policy issue: Practical considerations?

Topic and Content Covered

How to think about your Interest Group
Reviewing a check-off list of determining your influence
How do you stay ‘top of mind’ with Elected Officials

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will consider how to remain ethical to their individual values, while they impact public policy through lobbying.

Reading Requirements:

May be assigned during the course.

Class Questions and Discussion Issues

How do you measure general Interest Group influence

Why is it important to remember Lord Acton’s phrase, “Power Corrupts and Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely”

Are there simple things that can make you a more effective Interest Group Advocate

Second Portion of April 3

Class #20 – Why using Appropriation ‘Riders’ to advance your legislative priorities?
How do these riders impact executive branch regulatory actions?

Topic and Content Covered

What is a ‘rider’ and how is it used
Historical use of ‘riders’

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will analyze the specific advocacy and lobbying techniques and the ways to lobby ethically.
Required Reading:

Background on Section 89 law that will be discussed in class:
http://www.ipbtax.com/publications-129.html

Class Questions and Discussion Issues

Why would ‘riders’ be used?

Do Members of Congress like the use of riders?

What are the benefits or costs of using a multi-front legislative strategy?

April 10

Class #21 – How do you decide and evaluate professional lobbying firms to advance your legislative agenda?

Topic and Content Covered

Use of professional lobbying firms
Measuring professional firm effectiveness

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

Students will be able to apply basic economic concepts to public policy.

Required Reading:

Kernell, Principles and Practice of American Politics, 13.2, Jennifer Nicoli Victor,
Gridlock Lobbying: Breaking, Creating, and Maintaining Legislative Stalemate.

Class Questions and Discussion Issues

What benefits do professional lobbying firms provide?

Is there an economic ‘principle-agent’ dilemma in professional lobbying firms?

Are there objective metrics in measuring professional lobbying firms
**Second Portion of April 10**

Class #22 – How can advocates leverage public policy institutions to advance legislative priorities

**Topic and Content Covered**

The Washington public policy terrain  
Benefits of interacting with public policy organizations  
The motivation of public policy think-tanks

**Learning Objectives Addressed**

Students will be able to apply basic economic concepts to the law.  
Students will exercise the professional skills expected of members of the legal profession.

**Required Readings:**

[https://thebestschools.org/features/most-influential-think-tanks/](https://thebestschools.org/features/most-influential-think-tanks/)

**Guest Speaker:**  
Think-Tank expert.

**Class Questions and Discussion Issues**

Do public policy think tanks impact Capitol Hill?  
How does a think tank cut through the information clutter?  
What is the line between policy education and lobbying?

**April 17**

Class #24 – How does the media cover the U.S. Congress and what impact does that coverage have on Interest Group advocacy efforts?

**Topic and Content Covered**

Media coverage of the U.S. Congress  
Insights on building relationships with media outlets
Impact of media coverage on advocacy efforts

Learning Objectives Addressed

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research, analysis, oral advocacy, and problem solving.

Required Readings:

None.

Class Questions and Discussion Issues

Are there formal and informal rules on dealing with the media?
How does media coverage propel advocacy efforts?
Can you trust the media to tell the right story?

Guest Speaker

Media expert who covers elected officials.

Second portion of April 17

Class #25 – Class conversation: How do we improve, keep, or change our system of government. Your thoughts based on your experiences and the issues discussed during the course

Topic and Content Covered

What is the most important idea I learned in this course?
How do we maximize our democratic institutions and individual freedom
What checks do we have on an authoritarian society or do we have one already

Required Readings:

None

Class Questions and Discussion Issues

Knowing what you know now, what one idea would you share with an Interest Group to make them more effective?
Are you more optimistic about the future of our Republic, or less? Why?

Does a system of lobbying exit where there is more transparency, accountability or responsiveness to the citizens?

April 24 (Whole class for presentations)

Class 25 – What did I learn from my studies?

Students will have up to 7 minutes (timed) to present findings and lessons learned from selected topic. Power Point is required.

May 1 (Whole class for presentations)

Class 26 – What did I learn from my studies?

Students will have up to 7 minutes (timed) to present findings and lessons learned from selected topic. Power Point is required.