

GOV 312L: Issues & Politics in American Government

Business-Government Relations/Washington Campus Spring 2022

Instructor: Jeffery R. Patterson, Ph.D. **Email:** jeffery.patterson@utexas.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Times: Mondays March 28, April 11, and May 9, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

May 23 -27 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Washington Campus

Classroom: UTC 1.118

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class explores the theory and practice of business/government relations, with particular focus on federal government policymaking in Washington, D.C. Students will meet in Austin during the latter half of the spring semester to discuss relevant literature on business/government relations, including material on interest group theories, the legislative and regulatory policymaking, strategic corporate advocacy, and campaign finance. In May, students will attend a one-week session in Washington to meet with policymakers and their staffs, lobbyists, and others to learn more about the nuts and bolts of business-government relations. The Washington component of the program is organized The Washington Campus, which is run by a consortium of business schools that includes UT. Upon completion of the course, students should have a more comprehensive understanding of the politics of the policy process and the intricacies of business-government interactions, as well as help students develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

REQUIREMENTS

This class will consist of: (1) three mandatory class meetings on campus during the spring semester on the following Thursdays: March 28, April 11, and May 9; and 2) a mandatory trip May 23-27 to Washington, D.C., when you should expect to be in class all day, every day (i.e., from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The Washington sessions will be held at The Washington Campus' classroom located at 1150 18th St., NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036. It is convenient to subways stops at Farragut North (Red Line) and Farragut West (Blue, Orange, and Silver lines).

FEES & COSTS

In addition to normal tuition and registration fees, students must pay an additional \$1,250 fee to cover logistics and other services provided by The Washington Campus added to your tuition bill.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, & MEALS

Students are also responsible for fees associated with travel to Washington, D.C. and accommodations/meals in Washington, D.C. These may make sense to coordinate with other students.

UT requires students to complete a release and indemnification form, as well as a medical authorization form prior to travel. Please follow the link below for the forms and instructions relevant to you (depending on whether you are 18 and older or not): Our class is listed on the Spring 2022 trip list as "GOV_312L_Unique_38090_Washington_Campus".

Release and Medical Authorization: utdirect.utexas.edu/business/releaseforms/instructions.WBX

Submit documents to the UTBox: utexas.app.box.com/f/7ca7681f128d439aaebfc00d0780576c

When submitting the document, please use the file naming conventions:

[YOUR NAME_EID] Authorization Form

[YOUR NAME_EID] Drivers License

[YOUR NAME_EID] Health Insurance group card/certificate

ALL FORMS & PAPERWORK DUE BY MAY 10, 2020

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Class participation (10 percent) This includes attendance at all three Austin sessions and all the Washington week sessions, as well as engagement in class discussions and activities. Attendance is required at all of the sessions, but it is not sufficient to earn an “A” for participation. You should also be engaged in discussions and small group work. Because there are so few class meetings for this class, missing a session will have a significant adverse effect on your attendance/participation grade.

Class preparation (30 percent) Before each of the three Austin classes, you’ll receive a list of questions about the readings. Each Austin class will begin with a short quiz on Canvas consisting of questions similar to those that guide your reading. The quizzes are designed merely to test whether you have done the readings. If you have done the readings, you should easily be able to answer all of the questions correctly.

Group projects (25 percent) For our first class meeting, we will randomly assign students to groups which will focus on a current policy issue facing a specific company or firm. Over the course of our Austin classes, the groups will complete three worksheets on their firms that correspond to class material. Ultimately, each group will generate a short (4 double-spaced pages or less) strategy memo for their firm that will be due via email by midnight on Friday, May 17.

Final exam (35 percent) At the conclusion of the final day of classes in Washington, there will be a final exam based on the material covered in both the Austin and Washington sessions.

Additional Information on Grading Although this class is listed as a Spring Semester class, it runs into the summer, meaning that final grades cannot be assigned during the Spring Semester. Hence, a placeholder grade or ‘Incomplete’ grade will be assigned—official transcript grades will be updated as quickly as possible.

NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ABSENCES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Please take the time to review the recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://operations.utexas.edu/units/csas/>.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PROFESSIONALISM

The University of Texas at Austin has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. Students are expected to abide by the University’s policies on scholastic dishonesty. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in these policies. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in these policies. If the application of the policies on scholastic dishonesty to this class or its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/> to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty, as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

Students are also expected to abide by the McCombs Classroom Professionalism Policy, which includes a prohibition on laptop computers and similar devices (e.g., tablets and smart phones), except when requested or when they are necessary for a learning accommodation.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (Austin Sessions)

Monday, March 28 - Interest Groups and Businesses as Interests

- Baumgartner, Frank, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David Kimball, and Beth Leech. (2009) *Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 10: "Does Money Buy Public Policy?"
- Schlozman, Kay (2010) "Who Sings in the Heavenly Chorus? The Shape of Organized Interest System," in L. Sandy Maisel and Jeffrey M. Berry, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Parties*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Yackee, Jason Webb, and Susan Webb Yackee. (2006) "A Bias Toward Business? Assessing Interest Group Influence on the U.S. Bureaucracy." *Journal of Politics* 68 (1): 128–139.

Drutman, Lee, (2014) *The Business of America is Lobbying: Explaining the Growth of Corporate Political Activity in Washington*, D.C. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Chs. 1-4

Monday, April 11 - Policymaking Institutions: Congress & Bureaucracy

Binder, Sarah A. (2003) *Stalemate: Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. Chs. 1 & 2.

Kerwin, Cornelius M. (2010) *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*. 4th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Ch. 1.

Garvey, Gerald. (1993) *Facing the Bureaucracy: Living and Dying in a Public Agency*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. Chs. 1 & 2.

Monday, May 9 – Political Influence and Campaigns

Romero, Jessie. (2014) "Money Talks: Legal Challenges have opened the door to new kinds of political spending. What does the money buy?" *Econ Focus* Fourth Quarter: 16–20.

Hall, Richard, and Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84 (3): 797–820.

Lux, Sean, T. Russell Crook, and David J. Woehr, "Mixing Business With Politics: A Meta-Analysis of the Antecedents and Outcomes of Corporate Political Activity," *Journal of Management* Vol. 37 No. 1, January 2011 pp. 223-247

Whitaker, L. Paige (2018) *Campaign Finance Law: An Analysis of Key Issues, Recent Developments, and Constitutional Considerations for Legislation*, Washington D.C.: Congressional Research Service <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R45320.pdf>