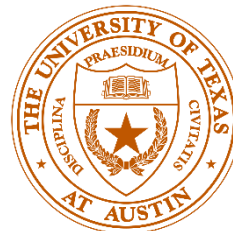


GOV 312L: Issues and Policies in American Government

Instructor: Professor Nathan Barrymore
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Classroom: UTC 1.132
Office: CBA 5.258
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00pm – 2:00pm
or by appointment on Zoom
Final Exam: Friday, May 24th, in Washington, D.C.
Canvas: <https://utexas.instructure.com>



Description

This class will explore 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 explore relevant literature on business-government relations, including material on interest group theory, the legislative and regulatory policy processes, campaign finance, and lobbying. 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 in Washington. The Washington component of the program will be organized The Washington Campus, which is run by a consortium of business schools that includes UT. In addition to deepening students' understanding of the politics of the policy process and the intricacies of business-government relations, this class will also help students develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

Course Meeting Times and Locations

This course consists of four sessions in person on campus during the spring and trip to Washington D.C. for a week. Attendance for all sessions is mandatory.

On campus course sessions:

- Wednesday March 20th, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday March 27th, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday April 10th, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Wednesday April 24th, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Washington, D.C. course component:

- The Washington D.C. portion of the course will take place on Monday May 20th through Friday May 24th. You should expect to be in sessions from 8:00am through 5:00pm each day. Plan on arriving to Washington D.C. by the afternoon of Sunday, May 19th in order to be in sessions by 8:00am on Monday, May 20th.
- 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 subway stops at Farragut North (Red Line) and Farragut West (Blue, Orange, and Silver lines).
- Further details on the schedule will be provided by The Washington Campus.

Tentative Class Schedule – Austin Sessions

#	Class Description	Date
<u>Interest Groups, Interest Group Formation and Businesses as Interests</u>		
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madison, James. 1787. <i>Federalist</i> 10. • Olson, Mancur. 1982. <i>The Rise and Decline of Nations</i>. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press. Chp. 2. • Schlozman, Kay. 2010. “Who Sings in the Heavenly Chorus? The Shape of Organized Interest System,” in L. Sandy Maisel and Jeffrey M. Berry, eds., <i>The Oxford Handbook of American Political Parties</i>. New York: Oxford University Press. • Godwin, R. Kenneth, and Barry J. Sheldon. 2002. “What Corporations Really Want from Government: the Public Provision of Private Goods,” in Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis, eds., <i>Interest Group Politics</i>. 6th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. 	20-Mar
<u>Policymaking Institutions</u>		
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerwin, Cornelius M. 2010. <i>Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy</i>. 4th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chp. 1. 	27-Mar
<u>Campaign Finance</u>		
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romero, Jessie. 2014. “Money Talks: Legal Challenges have opened the door to new kinds of political spending. What does the money buy?” <i>Econ Focus</i> Fourth Quarter: 16–20. • Hall, Richard, and Frank Wayman. 1990. “Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 84 (3): 797–820. • Ansolabehere, Stephen, John M. de Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2003. “Why Is There So Little Money in U.S. Politics?” <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 17 (1):105–130. 	10-Apr
<u>Lobbying</u>		
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kersh, Rogan. 2007. “The Well-Informed Lobbyist: Information and Interest Group Lobbying,” in Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis, eds., <i>Interest Group Politics</i>. 7th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. • Yackee, Jason Webb, and Susan Webb Yackee. 2006. “A Bias Toward Business? Assessing Interest Group Influence on the U.S. Bureaucracy.” <i>Journal of Politics</i> 68 (1): 128–139. • Walker, Edward T. 2010. “Industry Driven Activism.” <i>Contexts</i> 9(2): 44–49. • Baumgartner, Frank, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David Kimball, and Beth Leech. 2009. <i>Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chp. 10: “Does Money Buy Public Policy?” 	24-Apr

Course Fees, Transportation and Lodging

In addition to normal tuition and registration fees, students must pay a \$1,350 fee to cover logistics and other services provided by The Washington Campus. This payment will go directly to The Washington Campus and is paid separately from your UT tuition.

Students are responsible for their own transportation to Washington, D.C. and their own housing and most meals in D.C. These may make sense to coordinate with other students.

Additional UT Paperwork

UT requires students to complete a release and indemnification form, as well as a medical authorization form prior to travel. Medical form (depending on whether you are 18 and older or not). The forms will be posted to Canvas in the “Files” section.

All forms and paperwork are due by May 2, 2024. You will submit all forms to a Box link (provided via Canvas at a later date).

Assessment

Course grades will consist of four components:

1. **Class participation – 10%**: This includes attendance at all four 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.
2. **Class preparation – 30%**: Before each of the four Austin classes, I will circulate 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. The lowest of the four quiz grades will be dropped.
3. **Group projects – 25%**: In the first class meeting I will randomly assign students to groups. Each group will focus on a current policy issue facing a specific firm, the latter of which we will assign via lot. 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 Canvas by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 10.
4. **Final exam – 35%**: 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

I intend to follow a curve in this course in which I award roughly half As (90-100) and half Bs (80-90), including +/- grades. However, I will not hesitate to award grades of C+ or lower to students whose performance (or lack thereof) justifies such a mark.

Note on timing of grades for transcripts

Although this class is listed as a Spring Semester class, it runs into the summer. This means that final grades cannot be assigned during the Spring Semester. Hence, a placeholder grade or 'Incomplete' grade will be assigned. Every effort will be made to update official transcript grades in a timely manner; however, this may take until after the Fall 2018 semester begins for UT's Registrar to process.

Disability Accommodations

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/>. I look forward to engaging with every student in this class, and my goal is that every student feels welcome, challenged, and supported. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you in any of these regards.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Model (LLM) Policy

I encourage you to use any AI tools you find useful to prepare for this course. You may use AI tools in any way you wish to review assigned readings. You should not replace reading the assigned readings with AI summaries, and of course you are responsible for any hallucinations an LLM provides to you. The Washington Campus may have a different AI policy for the Washington, D.C. portion of the course.

Late assignments

Grades in this course will be based on class attendance and participation, quizzes, and a group presentation. Class attendance, participation and quizzes cannot be completed late for credit.

Religious observances

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, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Policy on scholastic dishonesty

By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described there. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described there. If the application of the Statement 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 Conduct and Academic Integrity 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.