



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Semester in Washington, DC Program

SWG T 305- 01: POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY
SWLW 305-03: LAW, POLITICS & LEGISLATION: ACADEMIC SEMINAR
SWJP 305-07: JOURNALISM, POLITICS & THE MEDIA: ACADEMIC SEMINAR
(9 CREDIT HOURS)

SPRING 2012 SYLLABUS

<i>Faculty information:</i>	Sam Potolicchio
<i>Faculty contact information:</i>	potolics@georgetown.edu
<i>Faculty office hours and location:</i>	TBD (based on student's schedules)
<i>Course meeting times and location:</i>	Mondays and Fridays, 11:00-2:15 pm (Note: First Class on 1/11) 3307 M Street NW, 2 nd Fl
<i>Note:</i>	<i>Students should keep their schedules open every Monday and Friday until 4:00 to accommodate field trips and guest speakers.</i>

OBJECTIVES

This course provides an introduction and overview of the American political system with specific concentration on political communication, constitutional and legal affairs. The course will 1) investigate the ideas, values, and traditions that support this system 2) examine the actions of citizens and voters that make this system democratic 3) study the institutions that comprise the American political system, particularly, the three major branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial).

The course will place critical emphasis on the "Georgetown advantage", leveraging our location in the nation's capital by studying our topics through the unique lens of proximity. Class will study theoretical academic issues, but also attend closely to how these theories play out in practice. The goal of the course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the American political system by providing a robust foundation in the scholarly literature, as well as an intimate, local, view of the institutions and actors that constitute this system.

Guest Practitioner Lecturers From Last Year

EJ Dionne, Syndicated Columnist, author, Brookings scholar
Michael Gerson, former speechwriter for President George W. Bush
Dimitri Simes, President, The Nixon Center
Paul Saunders, Executive Editor, The National Interest
Lee Hamilton, former Congressman, President of Woodrow Wilson Center, Vice-Chair of 9/11 Commission
Bruce Mehlman and Alex Vogel, founders of lobbying firm Mehlman, Vogel, and Castagnetti
Levar Stoney, Executive Director, The Democratic Party in Virginia
Richie Frohlichstein, North Carolina Field Director, Obama For America
President Aleksander Kwasniewski, former President of Poland
President Jose Maria Aznar, former President of Spain
John O'Keefe, former Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan
Robert Reilly, former President of Voice of America
Ken Mehlman, former Chairman of the National Republican Party and Campaign Manager for

President George W. Bush's Re-election Campaign
Spencer Abraham, former Secretary of Energy and former Senator from Michigan
Tucker Carlson, former host of Crossfire and Tucker, founder of the Daily Caller
Tom Tamm, Justice lawyer and *Newsweek* cover man
Partners at Hart and Lake Research (two of the nation's leading poll firms)
John Yoo, legal advisor to President Bush
Roger Pilon, Chairman, Constitutional Studies at Cato
Tim Pawlenty, former Governor of Minnesota
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, former Prime Minister of Canada
Ben Bernanke, Chairman Federal Reserve
Ron Kessler, best-selling author
Garrett Graff, editor-in-chief, *The Washingtonian*
Zalmay Khalilzad, former ambassador to the UN
Michael Sheehan, trained Presidents Clinton and Obama on speechmaking

Guest Lecturer Scholars of Political Science:

Stephen Wayne (<http://explore.georgetown.edu/people/waynes/?PageTemplateID=156>)

Michael Bailey (<http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/baileyma/>)

Marc Howard (<http://explore.georgetown.edu/people/mmh/?PageTemplateID=156>)

Clyde Wilcox (<https://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/wilcox/>)

The course will cover the following topics:

The Constitution and Federalism
Public Opinion
The Presidency
Campaigns and Elections
Congress
Judiciary
Political Parties
Political Interest Groups
Religion and Politics
Political Communication
Media and Politics
Domestic Policy-making
International and National Security Policy

GRADING

Attendance Policy: SWP student attendance is expected at all meetings of your course. Unexcused tardiness is not acceptable and may result in a lower final grade as an indication of a lack of class participation. If a student misses more than two class sessions, the Assistant Dean will be contacted regarding the appropriate action to be taken.

Late Submissions: Unless otherwise approved by the instructor, late submissions will be penalized 10% for each day beyond the deadline.

Incomplete Assignments: Incompletes in the course must be approved by both the instructor and the Assistant Dean.

Grading Scale: Students will be given numerical grades for their various assignments. These numerical grades, when added up to form their final grades, will be converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	88-89.99
B	83-87.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	78-79.99
C	73-77.99
C-	70-72.99
D	60-69.99
F	under 60

Incomplete Option: Students are expected to complete all coursework by the end of the semester in which that coursework is taken. In extreme, documented instances (typically related to unexpected, documented health reasons), it may be necessary for students to request an Incomplete, "N," grade and a limited extension of time to complete the required coursework. Incompletes are not automatic, and should be requested first by the student of the professor. If the professor grants a student additional time to complete the coursework, and the work is completed by the date established by the professor on or before the incomplete deadline, the "N" is changed to the appropriate grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Book Review (10%): The three-page book review will accomplish the following objectives:

- 1) concisely reprise the basic argument or narrative of the book
- 2) contextualize the book within the literature of political science
- 3) critique and analyze the argument or narrative
- 4) discuss how the book contributes to our understanding of the American political system

Simulation (10%): This assignment provides a simulated interplay of the Supreme Court process. Students will be assigned different roles (Supreme Court justices, Senators, members of the House of Representatives, the President, op-ed columnists, aspiring presidential candidates, Governors etc). Each actor will then take a stance on an assigned issue prompt and write a three-page argument defending this stance or writing an opinion for the Supreme Court.

Presidential Memo (20%): Each student will write a 5 page memo to the President of the United States on a contested legal issue. The memo will accomplish the following:

- 1) outline the importance of the political issue
- 2) discuss why this issue is important to the President
- 3) survey the academic literature and political landscape
- 4) propose a course of action for the President

Scholarly Recitations (10%): This course will introduce students to the scholarly literature of political science with a particular emphasis on methodological debates and issues. Each week's readings will include scholarly articles on the topic from prominent political science journals to socialize the student in the political science discipline. In addition to these readings each student will be responsible for leading three class discussions on 3 articles chosen by the student in their particular academic concentration. The articles are designed to address both practice and theory, but more importantly, they are to spur the student to think critically about political science.

Class Debate/Discussion (20%): Each student will be expected to engage in our classroom discussions and debates. We will frequently debate an important contemporary issue as dictated by the news agenda and our weekly reading from realeclearpolitics.com

Speaker Question & Answer (10%): Using the “Georgetown advantage” the course will introduce students to significant political and academic practitioners. Part of excelling in both political science and politics requires students to engage actively in the discussion. Students will be expected to ask appropriate and provoking questions of their guest lecturers. Scheduled lecturers include federal elected officials, national editors, prominent non-profit leaders, preeminent academics, campaign strategists and national pundits.

Final Exam (20%): There will be a final comprehensive exam on content from class lectures and the reading assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS

Students need to acquire 1-4 at amazon.com or a suitable online discount vendor so to minimize cost. Students should be able to purchase all 4 books for under 50 dollars (combined).

1. Conflict and Consensus in American Politics. (2009) Wayne/Mackenzie/Cole (Textbook)
* To reduce cost an earlier edition may be purchased
2. The Choices Justices Make (1997) Epstein
3. Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America (1995) Aldrich
4. The Presidency in A Separated System (2005) Jones
5. www.realclearpolitics.com

Texts books (in addition to the Book Review and 3 Scholarly Articles Chosen By The Student)

Conflict and Consensus in American Politics. (2009) Wayne/Mackenzie/Cole (Textbook)

The Choices Justices Make (1997) Epstein

Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America (1995) Aldrich

The Presidency in A Separated System (2005) Jones

Articles

The Constitution of the United States of America

“Federalism, Nationalism, and Democracy in America” Beer (APSR 1978)

“Issues of Federalism In Response to Terrorism” Kincaid and Cole (Public Administration Review 2002)

“Balancing Regionalism and Localism: How Institutions and Incentives Shape American Transportation Policy” Gerber and Gibson (AJPS 2009)

“Towards A Progressive Politics and A Progressive Constitution” Becker (Fordham Law Review 2001)

“The United States Constitution: From Limited Government to Leviathan” Roger Pilon (Economic Education Bulletin 2005)

“Mass Political Attitudes and the Survey Response” Achen (APSR 1975)

“Getting Religion: Has Political Science Rediscovered The Faith Factor?” Wald and Wilcox (APSR 2007)

“Issue Frames and Group-Centrism in American Public Opinion” Nelson and Kinder (JOP 1996)

“Politics Across Generations: Family Transmission Re-examined” Jennings, Stoker, and Bowers (JOP 2009)

“Religion Is Not A Preference” (JOP 2008) Joshua Mitchell

“No More Wilder Effect, Never A Whitman Effect: When and Why Polls Mislead About Black and Female Candidates” Hopkins (JOP 2009)

“Presidential Saber Rattling and The Economy” Wood (JOP 2009)

“Political Prowess or ‘Lady Luck’ Evaluating Chief Executives’ Legislative Success Rates” Saiegh (JOP 2009)

“Do The Advantages of Incumbency Advantage Incumbents” Gordon and Landa (JOP 2009)

“The Election Implications of Candidate Ambiguity” Tomz and Van Houling (AJPS 2009)

“Does Gerrymandering Cause Polarization?” McCarty, Poole and Rosenthal (AJPS 2009)

“US Members In Their Constituencies” Fenno APSR (1977)

“Delegates or Trustees? A Theory of Political Accountability” Fox and Shotts (JOP 2009)

“The Dynamics of Partisan Conflict on Congressional Approval” Ramirez (AJPS 2009)

“Agenda Setting on The Supreme Court: The Collision of Policy and Jurisprudence” Black and Owens (JOP 2009)

“New Style Judicial Campaigns and The Legitimacy of State High Courts” Gibson (JOP 2009)

“The Participatory Effect of Redistricting” Hayes and McKee (AJPS 2009)

“Source Cues, Partisan Identities, and Political Value Expression” Goren, Federico, Kittilison (AJPS 2009)

“The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America” Walker (APSR 1983)

“Lobbying and Taxes” Richter (AJPS 2009)

“Educating The Least Informed: Group Endorsements In A Grassroots Campaign” Arceneux (AJPS 2009)

“Interest Group Competition and Coalition Formation” Holyoke (AJPS 2009)

COURSE OUTLINE

Class will meet on Monday and Friday mornings from Noon till 3:15 PM in the Conference Room, 3307 M St, NW, Second Floor. Assignments are due on the days indicated in the course outline.
Academic Reading Outline:

Monday

Week 1: 1/11

Introduction to the Course
Class Introductions

Week 2: 1/16

No Class: Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday

Week 3: 1/23

Topic: Public Opinion
Textbook Chapter 2

“Mass Political Attitudes and the Survey Response”
Achen (APSR 1975)

“Issue Frames and Group-Centrism in American Public Opinion” Nelson and Kinder (JOP 1996)

“Politics Across Generations: Family Transmission Re-examined” Jennings, Stoker, and Bowers (JOP 2009)

Week 4: 1/30

Topic: Campaigns and Elections
Textbook Chapter 4

“Do The Advantages of Incumbency Advantage Incumbents” Gordon and Landa (JOP 2009)

Friday

Week 1: 1/13

Topic: The Constitution and Federalism
Textbook Chapter 1

“Towards A Progressive Politics and A Progressive Constitution” Becker (Fordham Law Review 2001)

“The United States Constitution: From Limited Government to Leviathan” Roger Pilon (Economic Education Bulletin 2005)

Week: 2 1/20

Topic: The Constitution of the United States of America

“Federalism, Nationalism, and Democracy in America” Beer (APSR 1978)

“Issues of Federalism In Response to Terrorism” Kincaid and Cole (Public Administration Review 2002)

Week 3: 1/27

Topic: The Presidency
Textbook Chapter 3

The Presidency in A Separated System (2005)
Jones (entire book)

Week 4: 2/3

Topic: Congress
Textbook Chapter 5

Delegates or Trustees? A Theory of Political Accountability” Fox and Shotts (JOP 2009)

“The Election Implications of Candidate Ambiguity”
Tomz and Van Houling (AJPS 2009)

“Does Gerrymandering Cause Polarization?” McCarty,
Poole and Rosenthal (AJPS 2009)

“US Members In Their Constituencies” Fenno APSR
(1977)

Week 5: 2/6

Visit to the Congress with former Rep. Bill Hudnut

“The Participatory Effect of Redistricting” Hayes and
McKee (AJPS 2009)

Week 6: 2/13

Topic: Political Parties

Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of
Political Parties in America (1995) Aldrich

Entire book

Week 7: 2/20

No Class: President’s Day Holiday

Week 8: 2/27

Topic: Political Interest Groups

Textbook Chapter 6

Week 9: 3/5

No Class: Spring Break

Week 10: 3/14

Topic: Religion and Politics

“Religion Is Not A Preference” (JOP 2008) Joshua
Mitchell

“The Dynamics of Partisan Conflict on
Congressional Approval” Ramirez (AJPS 2009)

Week 5: 2/10

Topic: Judiciary

The Choices Justices Make (1997) Epstein (entire
book)

Week 6: 2/17

Guest Speaker: NSA Intel Officer

“Source Cues, Partisan Identities, and Political
Value Expression” Goren, Federico, Kittilison
(AJPS 2009)

Week 7: 2/24

Topic: Political Parties (continued)

Book Review Due

Week 8: 3/2

Guest Speaker: Rabbi TBT

“The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups
in America” Walker (APSR 1983)

“Lobbying and Taxes” Richter (AJPS 2009)

“Educating The Least Informed: Group
Endorsements In A Grassroots Campaign”
Arceneux (AJPS 2009)

“Interest Group Competition and Coalition
Formation” Holyoke (AJPS 2009)

Week 9: 3/9

No Class: Spring Break

Week 10: 3/16

Guest Speaker: Imam TBT

“Getting Religion: Has Political Science
Rediscovered The Faith Factor?” Wald and
Wilcox (APSR 2007)

Week 11: 3/19
Topic: Political Communication

"Does Presidential Rhetoric Matter? Priming and Presidential Approval" Druckman

"Presidential Difference in the Early Republic: The Highly Disparate Leadership Styles of Washington, Adams and Jefferson" Greenstein (PSQ 2010)

Week 12: 3/26
Topic: Media and Politics
Textbook Chapter 7

Week 13: 4/2
International and National Security Policy
Textbook Chapter 8

Week 14: 4/9
No Class: Easter Break

Week 15: 4/16
Topic: International and National Security Policy (continued)
Textbook Chapter 9,10

Scholarly Recitation

Week 16: 4/23
Topic: Domestic Policy-making (continued)
Textbook Chapter 13, 14

Scholarly Recitation

Week 17: 4/30
Final Exam

Week 11: 3/23
Guest speaker: Secretary Spencer Abraham
Simulation Due

Week 12: 3/30
Guest speaker: Tom Tamm

Week 13: 4/6
No Class: Easter Break

Week 14: 4/13
Guest Speaker: Counter-Terrorism Specialist from the CIA

Presidential Memo Due

Week 15: 4/20
Topic: Domestic Policy-making
Textbook Chapter 11, 12

Scholarly Recitation

Week 16: 4/27
Guest Speaker TBA

Course Review

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONOR CODE

Academic Integrity: All students within SCS will maintain the highest standards of academic and personal integrity in pursuit of their education at Georgetown. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense, and students found in violation are subject to academic penalties that include, but are not limited to, failure of the course and termination from the program.

Turnitin.com: Georgetown subscribes to Turnitin.com, a Web-based service that, among other things, is able to sniff out possible plagiarism in student work. Once faculty members have set up their accounts, students and faculty can electronically submit essays to a digital drop box. Turnitin then automatically

searches the essay for passages found on the Internet (including pages no longer online), in the ProQuest Research Library, and in all papers previously submitted by users at any member school. The Honor Council highly recommends that faculty members make regular use of this service. We believe that when applied to all essays submitted in a class, this technology can be a powerful tool to educate and to deter.

Citation system: Students are expected to use generally accepted citation systems, e.g. APA style, MLA style.

The Honor Code pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life,

I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System:

To be honest in any academic endeavor, and

To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

OTHER ITEMS

Faculty Bio: Sam Potolicchio is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Georgetown University where he teaches American Politics and Public Affairs and Research Methods for the Semester in Washington Program. At Georgetown, Potolicchio has taught courses on Presidential Rhetoric, Religion and Politics, Constitutional Law, and the United States Political System. He is a decorated teacher, winning three "Teacher of the Year" awards at Georgetown. He is the lecturer on American Federalism for the Open World Leadership program at the Library of Congress, where he speaks weekly to visiting dignitaries from the post-Soviet republics. He also lectures to elected officials and business leaders from China and Japan as part of Georgetown's Global Education Initiative. He has delivered keynote lectures internationally at 27 different universities in the Czech Republic, Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Mexico, Moldova, Georgia and Bulgaria. Potolicchio also teaches during his summers for The American Institute of Political and Economic Systems and The International Institute of Political and Economics Systems, where he has taught students from 65 different countries. Potolicchio's book chapters on Religion and Politics have been published in volumes by *Congressional Quarterly Press* and *Oxford University Press*. In addition to his doctoral work at Georgetown, Potolicchio holds a B.A. from Georgetown University in Government and Psychology, an M.A. from Georgetown University in Government, and a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard University.

Updated Syllabus: Students will, on occasion, receive via email an updated syllabus from the instructor as we tailor the class readings to fit students' interests and as our speakers assign readings.

Classroom Etiquette: Students should turn off all cell phones, pagers, or other communication devices while in class. Class discussions should be respectful and considerate of others' views and opinions.

Students with Disabilities Policy: Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (Leavey Center, Suite 335; 202-687-8354; arc@georgetown.edu; <http://ldss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm>) before the start of classes to allow their office time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your professors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

Academic Recourse Center (ARC): ARC strives to facilitate the success of Georgetown students through services for students with disabilities, student-athletes, and any student facing academic challenges. To learn more about how ARC please visit: <http://guarc.georgetown.edu/>.