

The Fund for American Studies
ICPES Program –Public Policy Seminar
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

Course: Public Policy Seminar
Class Dates: June 10, 2010 – July 22, 2010
Section GOVT 241 - Section A
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 p.m.

Book: *How Washington Really Works*, by Charles Peters (available in GU bookstore)

Supplemental Reading Materials:

Additional Reading Materials, articles, book chapters and essays will be posted on the website. Please consult the website weekly for any updates and new postings.

Web Address: www.karenczarnecki.com.

Click on “Academic Corner”.
Code is TFAS10 (case sensitive).

SYLLABUS

General Information:

Professor: Karen M. Czarnecki

Course Goals:

- To further an understanding of how Washington, DC works
- To examine how the internships offer practical experience for various public policy careers
- To understand the complex nature and challenges of public policy careers
- To develop writing and presentation skills applicable to careers in public policy
- To highlight current events in the context of internship experiences

Format:

- Subject matter lectures
- Readings, including:
 - *How Washington Works* by Charles Peters, and
 - Additional chapters/essays/articles/reading material as assigned
- Active discussion regarding class topics and internships
- Student group presentations illustrating class work, assigned readings, and research on various public policy issues
- Two typed homework assignments, plus Outline of policy figure
- Public Policy Guest Speakers

Grading:

- Class Attendance & Participation, including: 30%
 - Knowledge of readings
 - Overview/Presentation of Internship, plus “Factoids”
 - Required attendance at briefings and events
- Interview Summary (1-2 pages), laying out answers to proposed questions 20%
- Group Presentation (15-20 minute presentation, plus Q & A) 20%
- Strategy Memo (4-6 pages), dealing with internship organization 30%

NOTE: In preparation for the first class, please refer to the “Role of Government” section on the website, and read:

- Chapter 16, “A Compassionate Conservative,” *from A Charge To Keep*” by George W. Bush
 - Essay by Joseph G. Lehman, on Civil Society: Moral Arguments for Limiting Government
 - Essay by Stephen Moore, on Family: Washington’s War on the Family and Free Enterprise
 - Select one of the following and read:
 - **Washington Post** Article on the NEA
 - **WSJ** Article, “Minnesota Prelude” (5-12-10)
- 1 Come prepared to discuss your view of the role of government in policy matters.
 - 2 In addition, review material on “Ethics” & “Ethics Violations” (See Ethics section of website)

COURSE CALENDAR

Class #1 June 10, 2010 - Course Overview

- Introduction to Subject matter
- “Who’s Who of Washington” Interactive Quiz (optional)
- Class Introductions and brief descriptions of Internships
- Discussion of the Role of Government
- Overview of Ethics
- Group Presentation Topics Assigned

Homework Assignment:

- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Read *How Washington Works*, Chapter 1 (Press)
- Write an Internship Summary (See web for guidelines and instructions)

Class #2 June 17, 2010 - The Press

- Hand in Hard Copy of “Internship Interview Summary” at start of class
- Presentation from Press Student Group Project
- General Discussion on How the Press, Public Relations Experts, and Modern Media (Social Media) Affect Policy Formation
- Guest Speaker: TBD

Homework Assignment:

- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Read *How Washington Works*, Chapter 7 (Congress)
- Read 2 chapters on legislative/committee procedure (web)
- Read additional articles on Congress (web)

Class #3 June 24, 2010 - The Congress

- Presentation from Congress Student Project Group
- General Discussion on How Congress Works, It’s Relationship with other Branches

Homework Assignment:

- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Read *How Washington Works*, Chapter 2 (Lobbies)
- Read additional lobbying articles (web)

Class # 4 July 1, 2010 - Lobbies

- Presentation from Lobbyist Student Group Project
- General Discussion on How Lobbying Affects Policy Development
- Guest Speaker

Homework Assignment:

- Read Chapters 3 (Bureaucracy) and 6 (Regulators)
- Read additional materials and be prepared to discuss in class (web)

Class # 5 July 9, 2010 - The Bureaucracy and the Regulators

- Presentation from Bureaucracy/Regulators Student Group Project
- General Discussion on the government bureaucracy
- Guest Speaker on Regulation (T)

Homework Assignment:

- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Read 2 chapters/material on polling and campaign consultants (Web)

Class #6 July 15, 2010 - Polling and Outside Influences

- General discussion on polling, campaign consultants and public opinion
- Guest Speaker

NOTE: This will be a combined class with both sections from 6-7:30 p.m. Room TBD.

Homework Assignments:

- **Prepare INTERNSHIP STRATEGY MEMO**
- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Read Peters, Chapter 8 (White House), and A Way Out (p. 159)
- Review “The Rankings”, & “Appendix 1: Methodology of Rankings” by James Lindgren, from *Presidential Leadership: Rating the Best & the Worst in the White House* (web)

Class # 7 July 22, 2010 - The White House / Course Wrap Up

- Submit Internship Strategy Memo
- Presentation from White House Student Group Project
- General Discussion on Operations of the White House, How Administrations Control the Agenda, the View From the Top

Course Policies:

- **Class attendance and participation is mandatory. Absences must be arranged and approved in advance by professor, not TFAS staff.**
 - **Assignments and topics in the Syllabus are subject to change. Please consult website weekly as new reading assignments will be added regularly.**
 - **Homework must be turned in at the beginning of each class on its due date in person, not via email.**
 - **If you are absent from class due to illness when a written assignment is due, the paper must be submitted before class begins that day or the paper will not be accepted for credit. The professor assumes no responsibility for missing assignments. It is the full responsibility of the student to ensure that assignments are turned in on time on the due date.**
 - **All student work is based on Georgetown University’s Honor Code.**
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INTERNSHIP INTERVIEW SUMMARY INSTRUCTIONS:

Write an **INTERNSHIP SUMMARY** based on meeting with a Senior Manager/Supervisor in the organization in which you intern and address the following questions:

- 1 What is the organization's mission?
- 2 What are the sources of funds for the organization?
- 3 What are the immediate and long range goals of the organization?
- 4 What is the audience they seek to influence?
- 5 What is the biggest challenge/concern facing the organization?
- 6 How is the organization addressing this challenge, if at all?

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNSHIP SUMMARY

- 2 pages maximum
 - Use proper grammar and punctuation
 - Put in “**memo format**”
 - Do not use Question & Answer format – use paragraphs, full sentences, and develop each question thoroughly
 - Do not provide one word or very short answers. Give examples if possible, spell out the details (especially on the budget); develop your thoughts.
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INTERNSHIP STRATEGY MEMO GUIDELINES:

Write a 4-6 page memo explicitly drawing on your interview, your internship experience, and what you have learned in class, laying out how you would advise your internship organization to solve its biggest challenge. Please use examples to illustrate your points. You have the choice to solve 1 2 or 3 of the organization's problems, as long as each issue has a solution.

Note: This is NOT a repeat of the first assignment. It is your chance to show your problem-solving abilities. You can be as creative as you like as long as the ideas are rational and comprehensive.

Please be mindful of grammar, punctuation and spelling. Hint: Have someone proofread it.