

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

The Fund for American Studies

Public Policy + International Affairs Internship Seminar

General Information

Course: **SECTION 1-Inside Washington Seminar: Institutions in the Policymaking Process, ECON 496**

Dates: **Wednesday, January 24, 2024, and Fridays, January 26, 2024-March 1, 2024**
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm; Van Metre Hall, Room TBD for in person classes

Instructor: Professor Karen M. Czarnecki

Email: Primary: kczarneec@gmu.edu; Secondary: ProfessorCzarnecki@gmail.com (Please email both accounts for quickest response.)

Office hours: By Appointment. Please schedule in advance.

Professor Biography: Karen M. Czarnecki

Karen M. Czarnecki has spent over two decades in leadership roles in politics and public policy in Washington, DC. She was most recently the Vice President of Outreach for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and previously served as director of education at the Law and Economics Center at George Mason University's Scalia Law School. Her past roles include Congressional Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao (Director of the Office of the 21st Century Workforce; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment.) For over a decade, she has been a regular lecturer for the Congressional Management Foundation and the Leadership Institute, and has volunteered for many Presidential, Gubernatorial and Congressional races. Czarnecki received her BA and JD degrees from The Catholic University of America and is an alumna of the TFAS Public Policy and Economics program.

Required Texts:

How Washington Really Works, by Charles Peters

Supplemental Materials:

- The instructor regularly supplements textbook readings with journal articles, book chapters, essays, and other material. It is the student's responsibility to consult Blackboard **weekly** for updated materials prior to each class.

Course Goals:

- To further an understanding of how Washington, DC, public policy works
- To develop writing and presentation skills applicable to your future careers
- To highlight current events in the context of internship experiences

Format:

- Subject matter lectures
- Readings
- Active discussion regarding class topics, internships, assigned readings
- Student group presentations illustrating class work, assigned readings, and research
- Homework assignments

Expectations:

- The instructor and students will act with the highest level of professional ethics, demonstrate a genuine interest in the subject matter at hand, and come to every class fully prepared to engage in the learning process.
- Students will complete all of the readings in advance of each class, and come to class ready to discuss their own experiences and insights regarding the lessons at hand.
- Students will adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code. Copying, cheating, or plagiarism will not be tolerated. This policy includes the use of generative AI.
- Students will attend all class sessions and participate in class discussions. Students who are unable to attend any particular class must, to the fullest extent practicable, inform the instructor of their pending absence in advance. The instructor will work to accommodate every student's situation, where appropriate, including unexpected family or personal challenges and unanticipated events (e.g. a death in the family, severe illness, hospitalization, etc.).
- Unless otherwise agreed upon by the instructor, students will submit all their assignments on time, prior to the beginning of each class via Blackboard. With rare exception, late assignments will be marked down a minimum of one full letter grade. Students are expected to proofread their written products for typos and grammatical errors, which if left unchecked, will result in a lower grade.
- The instructor will maintain an open-door policy and be available to field any questions, concerns, comments, etc. within a reasonable timeframe.
- Please note that in order to accommodate speaker schedules, some changes in class content may occur. The professor or TFAS staff will send out a note to students if there is a change in schedule.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Once a final grade has been entered at the end of the semester, late work of any kind cannot be accepted.

Grading:

<input type="checkbox"/> Class Attendance & Participation, including:	25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of readings	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class Participation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Written Papers	35%
<input type="checkbox"/> Quizzes	10%
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Presentations	20%
<input type="checkbox"/> Internship Grade	10%

Grading standards

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	75-79
C	72-74
C-	70-71
D	68-69
F	67 or below

George Mason University's Grading Table: Letter Grade Grade Points Undergraduate Courses

A+	4.00	Satisfactory / Passing
A	4.00	Satisfactory / Passing
A-	3.67	Satisfactory / Passing
B+	3.33	Satisfactory / Passing
B	3.00	Satisfactory / Passing
B-	2.67	Satisfactory / Passing
C+	2.33	Satisfactory / Passing
C	2.00	Satisfactory / Passing
C-	1.67	Satisfactory* / Passing

D 1.00 Unsatisfactory

F 0.00 Unsatisfactory

SECTION 1 - SYLLABUS

PRIOR TO THE FIRST CLASS:

Read the essays under the Role of Government folder in Blackboard and be prepared to discuss the key takeaways from each essay in the first class. There is a **quiz the first day of class** based upon the readings. See Blackboard for tips on how to prepare (outline the readings; take note of data.) TFAS will also disseminate the readings via email two weeks prior to the first class. Please bring your laptop to the first two classes.

Jan. 24

Course Overview and Role of Government

- Introduction to subject matter, overview of assignments and expectations
- Role of Government Discussion
- **Quiz** on reading assignments posted to Blackboard (See Folder: Role of Government)
- Discussion on the Role of Government in Public Policy
- Group Presentation topics assigned at end of class

Homework Assignment/Prep for next class:

- Read *How Washington Works*, Chapter 7 (Congress)
- Read *Atlantic* article, *How to Salvage Congress*
- Read WSJ article, “Where Have All the Inspectors General Gone”
- Read *The Waxman Report*, Chapter 8 (*Fraud, Waste and Abuse*) by Henry Waxman
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

Jan. 26

Congress and the Policymaking Process

- **Quiz** on Congress readings
- Congress Group Project Presentation
- General Discussion on How Congress Works, Congress’ Relationship with other Branches

Homework Assignment:

- Work on Student Group Project assignment
- Read 2 articles posted on Blackboard under Judiciary folder regarding the Administrative State.
- Paper-Internship Interview Summary due on Feb. 2, submit via Blackboard, prior to class

Feb. 2

Site Visit and Discussion on The Judiciary, Congress and the Administrative State

Location: The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE (2 blocks from Union Station. Please arrive by 12:50 pm)

- Discussion of the power of the federal courts, how they set policy, judicial activism, and legislation and the courts
- Submit “Internship Interview Summary” prior to class
- Guest Speaker: TBD

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Read Peters, Chapters 3 (Bureaucracy) and 6 (Regulators)
- Under folder named Regulation, read 3 articles: “The Problems with Regulation,” Getting More Bang for the Regulatory Buck” and “Look Before You Leap: A Key Principle for Regulation”

Feb. 9**Regulatory Agencies and the Rulemaking Process**

- Discussion on the complexities and shortcomings of regulatory policy
- Presentation from Regulation Student Group Project

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Under Bureaucracy folder, read white paper on “Why the Bureaucracy Fails”
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

Feb. 16**Site Visit and Discussion on Regulation and Its Impact on Various Sectors of the Economy****Location: CATO Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001****Homework Assignment for next class:**

- Reading assignments to be posted one week in advance on Blackboard.
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

Feb. 23**The Press Corps and Coverage of Presidential Candidates in an Election Year**

Speaker: Professor Richard Benedetto, American University and George Mason University

- General discussion and critique on how the media covers the White House and presidential candidates in an election year from a veteran reporter who has covered four administrations for a major news outlet.

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Read Chapter 8 (White House) and “A Way Out”
- Listen to “The Staffer” podcast, link to episode featuring Tevi Troy in blackboard (only first 30 minutes)
- Read chapter on White House operations
- Work on Student Group Project assignments
- Prepare First Draft of Policy Persuasion Paper

March 1**The White House, Policy Directives, and a President’s Agenda**

- Submit outline/first draft of Policy Persuasion Paper via Blackboard prior to class
- Presentation from White House Group Project
- General Discussion on White House Operations, How Administrations Control the Agenda

Homework Assignment for Lobbying class on March 15:

- Read Peters, *How Washington Works*, Chapter 2 (Lobbies)

- Read S. Vance, chapter posted from *The Influence Game*
- Read Abramoff, 2 chapters posted from *Capitol Punishment*
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

The Fund for American Studies
Public Policy + International Affairs Internship Seminar

General Information

Course: **SECTION 2-Inside Washington Seminar: Outside Influences in the Policymaking Process, ECON 496**

Dates: Friday, March 15, 2024-April 24, 2024
Note one class on Wednesday, April 24.

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm; Van Metre Hall, Room TBD for in person classes

Instructor: Professor Karen M. Czarnecki

Email: Primary: kcarnec@gmu.edu; Secondary: ProfessorCzarnecki@gmail.com (Please email both accounts for quickest response.)

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C	2.00	Satisfactory / Passing
C-	1.67	Satisfactory* / Passing
D	1.00	Unsatisfactory

SECTION 2 - SYLLABUS**Homework Assignment for Lobbying class on March 15:**

- Read Peters, *How Washington Works*, Chapter 2 (Lobbies)
- Read S. Vance, chapter posted from *The Influence Game*
- Read Abramoff, 2 chapters posted from *Capitol Punishment*
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

March 15**The Lobbying Class and Interest Group Practices**

- Presentation from Lobbying Student Group
- General Discussion on How Lobbying Affects Policy Development, Lobbying Tactics/Strategy
- Guest speaker: TBD

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Read articles on democratic institutions under International Organizations folder.
- Read transcript of Council on Foreign Relations event “Global View of U.S.-China Relations”
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

March 22**Site visit and Discussion of The Role of International Organizations in the Policy Process**

Location: International Republican Institute, 1225 I (Eye) Street NW, Suite 800 Wash., DC 20005

- Discussion on why IRI and the National Democratic Institute were formed, how they advance democracy around the globe, and challenges and possibilities facing democracies around the world
- Work on Student Group Project assignments

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Read “Devaluing the Think Tank” in *National Affairs* by Tevi Troy
- Read Chapter 4, “Competing in the Marketplace of Ideas: The Strategies of Think Tanks,” from *Do Think Tanks Matter?*
- Prepare think tank essay assignment (one page, single spaced)

March 29**The Role Think Tanks in the Federal Policy Process**

- Presentation from Think Tank Group Project
- Submit Think Tank essay and white paper via Blackboard prior to class
- General discussion on how think tanks influence public policy

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Read 2 AEI white papers posted to Blackboard.

April 5

Site visit and Discussion on Economic Opportunity

Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Speaker: TBD

- Discussion on the role of think tanks in the policy process, how their strategies have changed over time, and how one should view economic opportunity.

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Reading assignments will be posted to Blackboard one week prior to class.

April 12

How Opinion Polling and Surveys Affect the Political Climate and Policy

Speaker: Professor Richard Benedetto, American University and George Mason University

- General discussion on the role that opinion surveys and polling affect public policy.
- Submit your revised and final Policy Persuasion Paper via Blackboard prior to class.

Homework Assignment for next class:

- Read essays on political consulting and polling posted to Blackboard.
- Listen to podcast TBD posted to Blackboard.
- Please answer the questions on the discussion thread on the assigned reading under the folder “Outside Advisors.”

April 19

The Kitchen Sink of Outside Advisors: Fundraisers, Consultants, Political Parties, Pollsters and Pundits

Panel of Guest Speakers: TBD

- A panel of political consultants will discuss their roles in the policy process, how they work with incumbent elected officials and political novices, and how they seek to shape public opinion, candidate profiles, and ultimately, public policy.

Homework Assignment for last class:

- Review the two dozen articles under Career Advice folder.
- Please come prepared with questions that you would like answered.

April 24 – Class from 5-7 pm

Practical Matters and Job Prospects Post Graduation

- General discussion on resumes, cover Letters, references, the value of graduate or law school post-graduation.