

State Government and Leadership Class Syllabus

3230H

Winter 2008 Semester

Staff Information:

Located at the Office of Service-Learning, 208 Lowry Hall

Dr. Anne-Marie Foley, Director

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Cara Gallup, Administrative Assistant

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Office hours: Monday through Friday 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00

Class description:

This class will provide an overview of state legislature, state government, and how they interact with a wide variety of actors: lobbyists, the press, the public, and so on. In seminar-style, the class will include guest speakers and professors to speak each week about different topics (see schedule, included). As such, class questions and discussion are essential to the quality of each students' learning and the ultimate success of the class as a whole.

Although there is not a book to buy, reading assignments may be given depending on the topic. These are given to help you become familiar with the topic and to help you think of questions prior to class. Every effort will be made to give you the readings at least one week in advance.

The general schedule of the class will be to hand in/pass out papers and hold about 15 to 30 minutes of discussion at the beginning of the class about the previous class's topic and speakers. Then the new topic and speakers will be introduced, which we will focus on for the remaining time.

At the start of each class, the facilitator (Dr. Foley or myself) will ask you to pass in 3 questions that you would like to ask the speakers. This ensures that even if there have not been any formal readings to complete, everyone has given some thought to the topic and speaker(s). Although the facilitator may ask a few questions of the speakers, the primary responsibility for asking questions and learning from the speakers lies with the students.

Grading Scale:

Assignment:	Points:
Class topic suggestions	2
Weekly speaker questions	8
Speaker reaction papers	50
Policy paper #1	20
Policy paper #2	<u>20</u>
	100

Papers:

You will have the opportunity to write a total of 10-12 reaction papers over the course of the semester. Each paper will be graded on a percentage scale. At the end of the semester, the lowest grade will be dropped, and the rest of the grades will be averaged. If you miss a class, you do not need to make up that reaction paper; you may simply take a 0 and that grade will be dropped when factoring the total grades for reaction papers. There are also 2 public policy papers (see attachments for more description).

This class is graded on a +/- basis, as follows:

A	92.0% and above
A-	90.0% to 91.9%
B+	88.0% to 89.9%
B	82.0% to 87.9%
B-	80.0% to 81.9% and so on.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in this course is mandatory. Students with acceptable excuses (such as a physician's note if you are sick) will be allowed no more than 2 missed classes. Otherwise, students will be penalized for skipping classes according to the following schedule:

- 2 missed classes (13%) – one letter grade
- 3 missed classes (20%) – two letter grades
- 4 missed classes (26%) – automatic course failure

As they are a distraction to our speakers and students, please turn off your cell phone during class.

GUEST SPEAKER/PANEL REACTION PAPERS

General Instructions:

For each panel/guest speaker who presents to our class, you will write a 1 to 1.5 page paper summarizing, analyzing, and evaluating the presentation.

Guest speaker summaries are due the following class period. Papers submitted later, unless there is a valid excuse, will be penalized one letter grade for each day late.

If you are writing about a panel of speakers who spoke at the same time, evaluate and analyze the panel as a whole. If two (or more) speakers are invited to speak at different times during the same class period (say, 1-2 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.), then you may choose one speaker or the group to discuss.

Format:

Please use the prescribed headings in your paper. These headings are intended to help you analyze and reflect on the speakers.

1. *Summary:* a short (1 or 2 paragraph) summary description of the content or highlights of the presentation

2. *Analysis:* Answer the following questions:

What overall position or thesis did the speaker(s) posit?

What information was new to you?

What did you gain from the presentation?

How did the presentation tie into your internship? Please use examples, if possible.

How does the speaker's approach or presentation tie into our discussion of democratic leadership and/or the challenges to traditional leadership?

3. *Evaluation:* Answer the following questions:

Did you find the presentation interesting, informative, helpful?

Do you think we should invite this speaker again?

What additional information in the subject area would you find interesting or helpful?

Papers should be word processed. Please make every effort to hand in paper copies during class instead of emailing them (although this is acceptable if necessary).

Guest speaker summaries may be written in a fairly informal first-person style, as long as they are not written like a journal entry. They will be graded according to how well you answered the questions stated above and how well they are written. Please do check grammar and spelling before handing in papers. If you would like help with your writing style, Dr. Foley and Daisy are happy to do so.

PUBLIC POLICY PAPERS

General Instructions:

Your public policy papers should be approximately 5 pages in length.

Paper 1 will cover issues related to the state budget; paper 2 will cover issues with which you have been engaged during your internship. Other ideas may be acceptable as well; schedule an appointment with Daisy or Dr. Foley to discuss them if you would like to present one.

Due dates: Paper 1 – March 20
Paper 2 – May 8

Papers should be word processed. Please make every effort to hand in paper copies during class instead of emailing them. Papers submitted later will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late.

Format:

Public policy papers should be written in a more formal style than guest speaker summaries. They will be graded according to how well you answered the questions stated above and how well they are written. Please do check grammar and spelling before handing in papers. If you would like help with your writing style, Dr. Foley and Daisy are happy to do so.

Please use footnotes or endnotes as required; these papers should involve some research and that research should be documented.

Each paper should use the roman numerals and prescribed headers that follow. The headings will help you organize your thoughts and produce a convincing argument and policy statement. Strict observation of the format is required.

Title

I. Summary (one or two paragraphs)

A short summary of the issue definition and policy recommendations within the rest of your paper.

II. Issue Definition (approximately 1½ to 2 pages)

1. Set the stage for understanding the issue. What is its history? How did the situation develop?
2. Facts and figures that explain the issue. What makes this an issue that is of interest, that legislators may want to know more about? Is there a cost associated with this issue? Is something already being done or planned to address this issue?
3. What effect has occurred, or potentially could occur, from the issue you have just defined?

III. Policy Recommendation (approximately 2 to 3 pages)

What should be done? Suggest realistic, affordable remedies to the problem. Explain your recommendation's advantages and possible disadvantages. How have other states or localities dealt with this issue? What would need to be in place to carry out your recommendation, in terms of policy, law, or politics? How much might this recommendation cost the state or federal government to implement?

IV. Outcomes (one or two paragraphs)

A short summary of intended outcomes if the recommended policy is implemented.

3230H Class Meeting Dates and Topics

Date	Speaker	Class Topic
January 24	Dr. Foley	Introduction to class
January 31	Dr. Foley	Leadership Definitions and Analysis during the semester
February 7	Marty Oetting	Important topics this legislative session
February 14	Judy Eggen Martin Drewel, Deputy Director	Budget and Legislative Process
February 21	Otto Fajen MO Lobbyist for National Education Association	Education
February 28	Brett Berri, Assistant Attorney General Jeff Schaeperkoetter, Assistant Attorney General Mary Rhodes Russell, Supreme Court Judge	Responsibilities of the Attorney General (1-2) Balance of power between Judicial & Legislative Branches Threat to autonomy of judicial branch (2-3)
March 6	Phil Brooks, Assoc Prof of Journalism	Role of the Media
March 13	Rep. Jeff Harris	
March 20	Lobbying: Trey Davis, MO Chamber Zora Aubuchon, MO Dept. of Higher Ed. Scott Penman, Penman & Winton	
April 3	Students	Present paper in Columbia
April 10	Legislative Research House Research	
April 17	State Auditor Susan Montee Secretary of State's Office, John Beakley	
April 24	Missouri Public Service Commission Commissioner Jeff Davis	
May 1	Dr. Foley	Wrap-up & reflection