



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Semester in Washington, DC Program

**SDCP 351-01: Politics, Public Policy, Law & Legislation Academic Seminar (9 credit hours)
Fall 2015 Syllabus
September 2-December 22, 2015**

<i>Faculty information:</i>	Sam Potolicchio, PhD and Carter Cornick, MA
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<i>Faculty office hours and location:</i>	By appointment
<i>Course meeting times and location:</i>	Mondays & Fridays 12:30-3:00pm Classroom on Mondays: C217; Classroom on Fridays: C116 640 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC

OBJECTIVES

Most people, across all walks of life and regardless of age, have strong opinions about politics, policy and government – to include firm views about those leaders we put in charge to make policy and law. This course provides a broad and dynamic introduction and overview of the American public policy and political system with specific concentration on political communication, constitutional, media and legal affairs. It will take a fresh look – from traditional and practitioner perspectives – at our unique style of government: what form it is (and why that matters); how it works (or doesn't, and why); and who is in charge. Students will examine how our leaders take their respective roles and how federal/public policy is made.

The course will

1. Explore 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) and the fourth estate (the media); and,
4. Identify and explore the critical role played by political communications (i.e. language, strategy, research, social media, digital tech) in our political and policy process.

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. Students will have the opportunity to hear from former and current members of Congress (and other senior officials), as they make presentations to the class. The class will study various theoretical academic issues, but will challenge students on how these theories play out in practice. Students will be challenged to think critically and to execute, at times, to apply real-world examples relevant to the policy and political process.

Please know, students will be expected to participate fully and to think differently on how to understand the political and policy process. The ultimate goal of the course is to provide not only a comprehensive understanding of the American policy and political system, but to help develop and apply real policy and communication skills and insights that can be utilized in the future careers and chosen professions.

The seminar will draw heavily on current events in the Congress, with the Administration, and on issues before the Supreme Court.

COURSE OUTLINE

Guest Lecturers Over Last Year: Time and schedules permitting, we will endeavor to invite guest experts and professionals to discuss politics and policy. During these in-class visits, students will be expected to attend, ask serious questions and to utilize these expert insights in their class work.

Recently, speakers included former Congressman (and author) Tom Davis, Congressman Frank Wolf (former Georgetown Law alumnus and now former Congressman) and Mo Elleithee, Communications Director and Spokesman for the Democratic National Committee (DNC – just left the DNC to become Georgetown University Executive Director for McCourt School’s Institute of Politics and Public Policy).

Possible speakers for this semester include US Senator Tim Kaine, former US Senator Olympia Snowe, and former Congressmen Tom Davis and Martin Frost, as well as Mo Elleithee, senior staff from House Speaker John Boehner’s Office, and Executive Branch leadership, potentially from US Departments of Transportation and HUD, to name two.

The course will cover the following topics:

Public Policy Process	Judiciary
The Constitution and Federalism	Political Parties
Public Opinion	Political Interest Groups
Political Communications	Religion and Politics
Campaign Strategies	Political Communications
Elections	Media and Politics
The Role of Social Media/Technology	Domestic Policy-making
The Presidency	International and National Security Policy
Congress	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Materials: Students are expected to do all the required readings before class and come to class prepared to discuss and engage other students, as well as the professor, in thoughtful and respectful discussion. **Reading assignments will be posted on the course intranet site the week before they are to be read (<https://blogs.commonsgorgetown.edu/sdcp-351-01/>).** There are two books to purchase for the course:

- **The Federalist Papers (Signet Classics, Mass Market Paperback-** This edition is introduced, with notes, by Charles R. Kesler and edited by Clinton Rossiter, includes copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation); This book is available at the Georgetown Downtown campus bookstore.
- **The PARTISAN DIVIDE: Congress in Crisis**, by Tom Davis, Martin Frost, & Richard E. Cohen. This book is available at the Georgetown Downtown campus bookstore.

Note: Other books may be assigned, but professors will discuss, as potentially necessary.

Key websites to review regularly include:

- www.nationaljournal.com
- www.realclearpolitics.com
- www.politico.com
- www.thehill.com

Scholarly articles to read/review:

- “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)

Other Requirements:

- ***Class Participation, Presentations, Debate/Scholarly Article Recitations:*** Each student will be expected to fully 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 **realclearpolitics.com** and students will also be responsible for presenting critical analyses of scholarly articles. You may be asked to prepare and present diverse assignments based on specific lecture or article. Students who fail to participate, submit assignments, and/or surf the web, text, or miss class, will receive a significant reduction in this portion of the grade.
- ***Strategy Memos, Group Presentations and Simulations:*** Students will be required to participate in a handful of simulation exercises including a persuasion exercise where each student plays a specific role within the political system, a campaign simulation, a strategy memo and a public speaking exercise.
- ***Speaker Question & Answer:*** 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:** There will be a final comprehensive exam on content from class lectures and the reading assignments. Academic weight of the exam towards final grade may increase significantly. Students will be made aware if final exam represents a larger percentage of the final grade prior to submission.

Please note: The class relies heavily on a dynamic level of participation to exploit the full Georgetown experience. Assignments may (and do) change to reflect new speakers, issues relevant to the political system, and/or breaking news events.

GRADING

Attendance Policy: SWP student attendance is expected at all meetings of your course. Unexcused tardiness is not acceptable and will 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.

Therefore, **attendance and class participation will be critical to your success in this class. Students will be expected to apply critical insights from specific readings and/or class lectures in upcoming assignments. During class, you should be prepared to think critically and participate fully.**

Late Submissions: Assignments are due on the days indicated in the course outline. No late assignments will be accepted without reasonable excuse to be determined at the sole discretion of the Professors. Unless otherwise approved by the instructors, late submissions will be penalized for each day beyond the deadline. Finally, while some assignments may not be formally graded, all assignments given will factor towards your final participation grade, and it is expected that they will be submitted on time.

Unprofessional conduct: Students are expected to focus on the class, their readings, the discussion, and the fellow students. Disruptions and/or inappropriate use of computers and phones (i.e. texting), will result in a significantly lower final grade.

Incomplete Assignments: For assignments not completed or for those turned in and completed in part, course Professors reserve the right to assign the grade of F. On the broader matter of taking an “incomplete” for the course – such designation must be approved by the Assistant Dean and one or both course Professors – please see section below: “Incomplete Option.”

Grading Scale: Students will be given numerical grades for their various assignments. These numerical grades are added up to form final grades, and they 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

Evaluation: Class participation, Presentations, Debate/Scholarly Article Recitations - 25%
 Strategy Memos, Group Presentations, and Simulations - 25%
 Guest Speaker Question & Answer -20%
 Final Exam -30%

Late Attendance: Students are required to come to class on-time, unless there is a reasonable excuse that is conveyed to the Professor in advance.

Incomplete Option: Students are expected to complete all their coursework by the end of the semester. In extraordinary, 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/s. If the professor/s grants a student additional time to complete the coursework, and the work is completed by the date established by the professor/s on or before the incomplete deadline, the "N" is changed to the appropriate grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Remember that potential guest speakers may influence the overall schedule; however, the following schedule will be our guide. The course is taught by Dr. Sam Potolicchio and Mr. Carter Cornick, with emphasis on a holistic understanding of the American political system while, concurrently, bringing a “practitioner” perspective to the curriculum.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION & POLITICS, POLICY, LEGISLATION AND LAW – THE BASICS

Readings: U.S. Constitution + Select essays from the Federalist Papers -read 6 of 7 from the following: Essay #s 1, 10, 14, 39, 51, 70, 78)

Assignment: In two paragraphs or less (150 words max), describe our form of federal government. Bring to first class.

Sept. 2 – Wednesday will be our first class (normally Monday), meeting at the National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, 13th Fl.

Sept. 4 – This and other Friday classes meet in C116

WEEK 2: AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM/POLICY PROCESS & COMMUNICATION

U.S. Congress VIP Tour with the Honorable William Hudnut – (TBD)

Sept. 7 – Monday, Labor Day - No Class (make-up class TBD)

WEEK 3: US CONSTITUTION & AMERICAN FEDERALISM/PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

WEEK 4: THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY/AGENDA SETTING & STRATEGIES

(Article II, Constitution; Budget – process, timelines, practice; Interface with Congress)

WEEK 5: POLITICAL SPEECHMAKING & POLICY FORMULATION/POLICY ANALYSIS

Readings: Start Davis/Frost/Cohen book, read 6 chapters through “Moneyball”) + Additional readings to be announced (will be emailed or posted on course intranet site 7 days before due)

WEEK 6: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH & POLICY FORMULATION/POLICY ADOPTION

(Article I, Constitution; Budget – process, timelines, practice; Appropriations – process, timelines, practice; Authorization – process, practice, policy)

Readings: Continue Davis/Frost/Cohen book, read 6 chapters through “House Elections...” + extra readings to be announced (will be emailed/posted on course intranet site 7 days before due)

WEEK 7: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(Article I, Constitution; Budget – process, timelines, practice; Appropriations – process, timelines, practice; Authorization – process, practice, policy)

Readings: Finish Davis, et.al. book + Additional readings to be announced (will be emailed or posted on course intranet site 7 days before due)

Oct. 12 – Monday, Columbus Day - No Class (make-up class TBD)

WEEK 8: FINISH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – U.S. SENATE – INTRO JUDICIAL BRANCH
(Article I, Constitution; Budget – process, timelines, practice; Appropriations – process, timelines, practice; Authorization – process, practice, policy + Article III)

WEEK 9: THE JUDICIARY & POLICY ADOPTION – STRICT CONSTRUCTION, OR NOT
(Article III, Constitution; Key Decisions including: Citizens United, Voting Rights Act, Healthcare, etc.)

WEEK 10: THE MEDIA & POLICY ADOPTION/ COMMUNICATION

WEEK 11: POLITICAL PARTIES & POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

WEEK 12: CANDIDATES, ELECTIONS, POLITICS & POLICY
(- Or “What you see is what you get” – Tea Party, Term Limits, Unions, Money, “Speech”/ campaign finance, politics, policy and more)

WEEK 13: CAMPAIGNS & THE FUTURE OF THE POLICY PROCESS

Thanksgiving week, Class on Monday Nov. 23rd – No Class Friday, Nov. 27

WEEK 14: FOREIGN POLICY & POLICY IMPLEMENTATION/ EVALUATION

WEEK 15: GROUP PRESENTATIONS/COURSE WRAP UP
Dec. 7 – Last Day of Class

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.

Citation system: An important aspect of academic integrity is using an acknowledged system of bibliographic references to document the sources of ideas and quotations in one’s work. Examples include APA style, MLA style, and Turabian. Students select and notify the Professor as to the method they choose to incorporate in their Issue Paper.

Plagiarism: The presentation of someone else’s ideas or work as your own is unacceptable. The sources for all information and ideas in your papers that are not your own must be documented using the documentation system followed by the American Psychological Association or the Modern Language Association. In addition, all quotations must be identified as quotations, using quotation marks and documenting the source of the quotation. Anything less than these standards is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Work that appears to have been

plagiarized, or otherwise violates the Honor Code, will be reported to Georgetown's Honor Council. If the Council finds that the work violates the University's standards of academic honesty, the work will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment – for the first offense. A second infraction will result in a grade of F for the course. The Honor Council may impose sanctions of its own as well.

The Honor Code pledge: All students in this course are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at www.georgetown.edu/honor, and in particular have read the following documents:

“Honor Council Pamphlet”

“What is Plagiarism?”

“Sanctioning Guidelines”

Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown University honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown 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 the Director of Global Education at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and teaches Politics and Public Policy and Research Methods for the Semester in Washington Program at Georgetown University and is the Distinguished Professor and Chair in Global Leadership Studies at the Russian Presidential Academy. He is the founder and President and Academic Director of the Preparing Global Leaders Summit in Moscow, Russia at the Russian Presidential Academy, Preparing Global Leaders Institute in Macedonia and Preparing Global Leaders Academy in Amman, Jordan.

He is also the academic director for Georgetown's Global Visiting Student Program and is a founding faculty member of programs in Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary. He advises top political officials, business leaders, and governments in more than 20 countries including CEO's, members of parliament, and high-ranking appointed officials in the Middle East, the Balkans, and Eastern Europe.

Potolicchio was named by the *Princeton Review* as one of the “Best Professors in America” in 2012, the only one chosen from his field. He has won numerous teaching awards at Georgetown and the K. Patricia Cross Award from the American Association of Colleges and Universities as one of the future leaders of American higher education in 2011.

He is the official 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. Potolicchio's book chapters on Religion and Politics have been published in volumes by Congressional Quarterly Press and Oxford University Press. He has delivered keynote lectures internationally at over 150 different universities in 50 countries including Oxford, Cambridge and Bologna.

Potolicchio has taught students during his summers from almost 140 different countries. He is currently the lecturer on American Politics at Georgetown's Global Education Institute where he lectures to high-level government officials and businessmen from China and Japan. Potolicchio also serves as the scholar-in-residence at the Landon School and as a basketball coach has guided his team, the Jelleff Hoyas to 6 undefeated

championship seasons. He received a bachelor of arts in Psychology from Georgetown, master's in Theological Studies from Harvard, and a masters and doctorate from Georgetown in Government.

Faculty Bio: Carter Cornick has over 25 years of professional experience, having served in the Congress for Members of the House and Senate, two Administrations, and in the private sector. In 1987, Mr. Cornick began a 17 year career on Capitol Hill. He worked for 6 Members of the House of Representatives in jobs ranging from Deputy Chief of Staff to Communications Director to Legislative Assistant, and he played a major role in drafting, negotiating and passing a number of pieces of legislation. For nearly 8 years he worked for U.S. Senator John Warner, former Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, first as his Communications Director and Committee Spokesman (Senate Rules Committee and Armed Services Committee) and finally, from 2007 to 2009, as his Chief of Staff. From 2002 to 2007, Mr. Cornick served as one of the top political appointees at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He carried the role of Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and was the Secretary's point man for all activity with the U.S. Congress. He also played a key role in representing the Department in interagency initiatives on community and economic development matters. In 2007, Mr. Cornick testified before the House Financial Services Committee for HUD on the subject of Government Sponsored Enterprises (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) reform.

Since 2009, Mr. Cornick has worked in the private sector, both independently and as a Senior Vice President at Cassidy & Associates. He is presently a Senior Advisor at Dawson & Associates in Washington, DC. Since 2012, Mr. Cornick has served as Adjunct Professor for Georgetown University's Semester in Washington Program (School of Continuing Studies) and is a Guest Lecturer on the American Political system for the Georgetown Global Education Initiative, making multiple presentations to senior officials and visiting delegations engaged with the Program.

He graduated from the University of Virginia (UVA) in 1986, with a Masters Degree in Government and Foreign Affairs. He earned his B.A. from UVA in 1984.

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

Students with Disabilities Policy: Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (**Georgetown Downtown, Ms. Mara Bellino Disability/Learning Skills Advisor; 202-784-7366; arc@georgetown.edu; academicsupport.georgetown.edu/academic**) before the start of classes to allow their offices time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter for 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.

Counseling and Psychiatric Service (CAPS): CAPS serves as the university's primary mental health agency for its students and campus community. CAPS staff collaborates directly with students in overcoming difficulties that may interfere with the accomplishment of their educational, personal, and career goals. To learn more about CAPS services please visit: <http://caps.georgetown.edu/>.

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.

Georgetown Writing Center: As a member of the Georgetown community, you will have full access to the University Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu>) located in Lauinger Library 217A. Offered to students at all levels, the center's tutoring has proved helpful to those wishing to improve their grammar and style, to respond more effectively to assignments, to learn to organize both short papers and lengthy research

projects, and to turn first drafts into publishable projects. Some students seek assistance on a regular basis; some only occasionally. For well-established students, the writing tutors have also offered on-line help, responding to questions about papers submitted through email attachments and counseling students through phone conferences.

Inclement Weather, School Closings and Other Emergencies: During inclement weather or other emergencies, check: <http://preparedness.georgetown.edu>, or call (202) 687-7669 for information about school/event closings. If the university is open, class will meet on schedule. Should the university be closed class will not meet, however, any written assignments submitted through Blackboard will be due as usual. Students are advised to sign up for the text messaging service for instant notification of school closings. You may sign up for this service at Student Access+ .

End of Syllabus