Class details

UPADM-GP 9101 Politics & Public Policy: City, Nation, Globe
Spring 2015
Mondays, 9:00AM-12:00PM*
1307 L Street, NW, DC
Room Location to be confirmed.

Instructor Details

Sam Potolicchio
Office hours/meetings by appointment.

Prerequisites

n/a

Class Description

This course will provide a broad and dynamic introduction of the American political system and public policy. As part of this discussion, we will explore the impact and role of digital communication and political strategy, as well as constitutional, media and legal affairs. The course will 1) investigate the dynamics, ideas, values, and traditions that support American politics and the policy process 2) examine the actions of citizens and voters that make this system democratic 3) study the institutions and actors that comprise the American political system, particularly, the three major branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) and the fourth estate (the media) and how policy and constitutional tensions involve political and moral choices (4) explore the critical role played by political communications (i.e. language, strategy, research, social media, digital tech) throughout our political and policy process. The course will place critical emphasis on the “DC advantage”, leveraging our location in the nation’s capital by studying our topics through the unique lens of proximity and applied practice. While this class will study various theoretical academic issues, it will also attend closely to how these theories play out in practice. Students will be challenged to think critically and to execute, at times, real-world examples relevant to the policy and political process. The ultimate goal of the course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the American political system and overview of public policy in a constitutional democracy that includes a robust theoretical and
practical foundation.

**Desired Outcomes**

*To understand how to influence the policy process

*To think critically about the complicated interplay of the political process

*Learn how to communicate effectively and persuasively through a range of different mediums

*Learn how to formulate theories and questions about politics through a social science lens

**Assessment Components**

Group Strategy Projects (30% of the Class Grade): Students will take part in a group projects (divided based on class size). Special attention should be placed on how they should utilize social media and new technology help build creative new strategies that will ultimately build support for their designated legislative goal.

Simulations (20%): 1. USPS simulation provides a simulated interplay of the the United States Political Systems 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.(3 pages)

2. Campaign advertising simulation. Students will design an advertisement during a simulated campaign. (campaign ad, 1 page of script)

3. Speechmaking/writing simulation. Students will be broken up into a speechwriting team on a given issue prompt. They will write/strategize based on the circumstance and select one team member to perform the speech. (3 pages) Class Debate/Scholarly Article

Recitations (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 realclearpolitics.com and students will also be responsible for presenting critical analyses of scholarly articles. Students will also be expected, when so assigned, to evaluate key articles (i.e. speeches) and present their thoughts and views in a clear and analytical fashion. (4 pages)

Book Debriefs (10%): Students will have to read selected texts and debrief a fictional President on
the contents of the book.

Final Exam (20%) There will be a final comprehensive exam on content from class lectures and the reading assignments (10 pages)

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

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<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
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<td><strong>Grade A:</strong> The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade B:</strong> The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade C:</strong> The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade D:</strong> The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade F:</strong> The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.</td>
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<td>NYU Washington, DC uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:</td>
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<tr>
<td>100-94 A 76-74 C</td>
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<td>93-90 A- 73-70 C-</td>
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<td>89-87 B+ 69-67 D+</td>
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<td>86-84 B 65-66 D</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-80 B- below 65 F</td>
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<td>79-77 C+</td>
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Attendance Policy

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students’ semester grades. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must email or discuss with the Academic Program Coordinator in advance of their missed class. For an excused absence, students must produce a doctor’s note dated with the exact dates of the missed class and/or exam.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Program Coordinator prior to the date(s) in question, who will communicate the absence to all relevant faculty members. If faculty members do receive notification, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each instructor to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

Late Submission of Work

1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed. (If the assignment must be submitted in person, the Academic Program Coordinator can collect on behalf of the
faculty between the hours of 9–5, M–F.)

3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g.,: A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.

4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.

6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.

7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at +1-212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Plagiarism Policy

As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship.
It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

http://gls.nyu.edu/page/gls.academicintegrity

http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity


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** Required Text(s) **


** To reduce cost any edition may be purchased

** Please note: Readings will be assigned as the semester progresses, and adjustments to the syllabus are possible. Additional readings may also assigned as necessary and required.

** Key websites to review regularly include:

nationaljournal.com;   realclearpolitics.com; politico.com; thehill.com

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Scholarly Recitation Article Pool


Supplemental Texts(s) (not required for purchase)

N/A

Session 1 – [2/2]

Leadership and Public Policy
“Overcoming Cognitive Deficits”
“Leadership Styles”

Session 2 – [2/9]

Representative Democracy
“The Constitutional Architecture in America”
Conflict and Consensus chapter 1 and 2
Tribe “On Reading the Constitution”

The class will not meet next Monday (2/16) because of Presidents Day

Session 3 – [2/23]

Political Persuasion and Influence
“How To Get What You Want Within the System” Lim
“Five Trends in Presidential Rhetoric”
Conflict and Consensus chapter 5
Session 4 – [3/2]

Executives, Legislatures, and Policymaking
Jones “Presidency in a Separated System”

Session 5 – [3/9]

Executives, Legislatures, and Policymaking
Jones “Presidency in a Separated System” Conflict and Consensus chapters 11, 14

Session 6 – [3/16]

Elections, Parties and Interest Groups
Conflict and Consensus chapters 6, 7, 8
Aldrich “Why Parties”

Classes will not meet next week (3/23) because of Spring Break.

Session 7 – [3/30]

Elections, Parties and Interest Groups
Aldrich “Why Parties”

Session 8 – [4/6]

Advertising Simulation
Halperin and Heilemann “Game Change”

Session 9 – [4/13]

“Inside Washington”
Halperin and Heilemann “Game Change”

Session 10 – [4/20]

The Judiciary
“Democratic Insulation”
Conflict and Consensus chapter 13
Friedman “History of the Countermajoritarian Difficulty”

**Session 11 – [4/27]**

Political Simulation
Conflict and Consensus chapter 9
Groseclose and Milyo “A Measure of Media Bias”

**Session 12 – [5/4]**

The Media
Groseclose and Milyo “A Measure of Media Bias”

**Session 13 - May 8 FRIDAY - LEGISLATIVE DAY (to make up for President’s Day)**

Speechwriting Simulation
Potolicchio “The Persuasive Presidency”

**Session 14 – May 11**

Foreign Policy
Conflict and Consensus chapter 15

**Session 15 – May 18 (FINAL EXAM WEEK)**

Final Exam Due

**Your Instructor**

Sam Potolicchio, PhD, is the Distinguished Professor and Chair in Global Leadership Studies at the Russian Presidential Academy. Dr. Potolicchio is also the Senior Lecturer for the Lugar Academy of the University of Indianapolis and Georgetown University. 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 100 different universities in 30 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.