

**SYLLABUS**  
**WASHINGTON FOCUS**  
**RESEARCH SEMINAR**

University of California Washington Center

Professor: Marc Sandalow

Thursday 10 – 1 Room 1104

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**Marc Sandalow**

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Office hours: Thursday 2-5 (or anytime by appointment)

**OVERVIEW**

Much is said about Washington. Much of it is wrong. This course will immerse students in the history, politics, culture and character of the nation's capital. You will learn about Washington's transformation from a remote federal city into the world's most powerful capital. We will analyze the accuracy of Washington's depiction throughout history, how it is represented – and misrepresented -- in modern culture, and why it is ridiculed by politicians who want to work there. We will examine the glorification and vilification of Washington in literature and film and assess the truth behind popular Washington myths. We will probe Washington policy debates and rituals and survey the research tools used to separate fact from fiction. You will have an opportunity to study and visit monuments and museums, as well as iconic institutions such as the Newseum and Ben's Chili Bowl.

The seminar is the primary academic component of your term in Washington. You will be exposed to a mix of, lectures, readings, discussions, field trips and guest speakers to experience as much of Washington as possible in a single term. Readings will include scholarly writing, literature and journalistic accounts, aimed at offering insight into the workings and role of the capital. Students will be required to use primary sources to learn more about their internships and to determine the validity of Washington conceptions and misconceptions. Regular discussion of contemporary policy and politics will provide a window of understanding into how Washington works.

The seminar is also a place to discuss your internship and put your work in perspective. The seminar will encourage students to reflect analytically on their internships and the Washington program.

**We will meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Attendance is mandatory and you should plan to leave your schedule free on Thursday until at least 1.**

## GOALS

Students will emerge with a sophisticated understanding of how Washington works and a strong sense of the institutions that drive the federal government including Congress, the White House, courts, media, lobbyists, interest groups, and political campaigns. They will experience the city's cultural offerings and urban challenges. They will gain insights into why the nation holds Washington in low esteem and develop skills to determine which stereotypes are based in fact. Students will also emerge with a deeper understanding of the role of public service and citizenship and the contributions of their own internship.

## INSTRUCTOR

Marc Sandalow ([msandalow@ucdc.edu](mailto:msandalow@ucdc.edu)) is Associate Academic Director of the University of California's Washington Program. He is the author of three books, including "Madam Speaker," a biography of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He has been a journalist for 30 years, including 21 years at the *San Francisco Chronicle* where he covered California politics and spent a decade as the paper's Washington Bureau Chief. He is a former columnist and contributing editor for the *California Journal*, and is currently a political analyst for KPIX-TV and KCBS radio in San Francisco as well as Hearst Argyle television stations. He has been with the University of California's Washington Center since 2008.

## COURSE MATERIAL

Reading material will be compiled in a reader (cost: roughly \$25.) A copy of the reader will be available to borrow from the Res Life office on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Avid reading of newspapers, blogs and policy magazines will enhance the course, your internship, and the Washington experience.

Additional readings may be distributed, including works from:

*Capital Speculations*, 2006 Sarah Luria, University of New Hampshire Press.

*Fight Club Politics*, 2007, Juliet Eilperin, Rowman & Littlefield

*Monument Wars*, 2005, Kirk Savage, University of California Press

*On Writing Well*, 2001 William Zinsser, Collins

*This Town*, 2014 Mark Leibovich, Blue Rider Press

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot make a class because of an internship commitment, opportunity or illness, please let me know in advance. Failure to attend without advance notice will affect your participation grade.

## OFFICE HOURS

My office is room 323. I will be available from 2 to 5 each Thursday. In addition, you are free to make an appointment any other time during the week. My door is sometimes closed or only cracked open even when I am there. **Feel free to knock or schedule an appointment anytime.**

## ASSIGNMENTS

Please e-mail written assignments to me ([msandalow@ucdc.edu](mailto:msandalow@ucdc.edu)). Include your name and the assignment name in the subject line. If possible, please attach as a WORD document. Hard copies are not necessary.

- 1. SHORT ASSIGNMENTS:** To be assigned on many, but not all, weeks. Assignments may include original research into a historic landmark, a census report on your hometown and descriptions of media depictions of Washington.
- 2. INTERNSHIP PAPER:** You will write a paper describing how the institution you are working for serves the public interest. What is the overarching goal of the work? Whom does the work benefit? What aspects of your organization's work are altruistic, and which are self-serving? A strong paper will include: a description of the organization; some details on its size, budget, mission and history; perspective on where it fits into the broader policy world; a discussion of what is meant by the public interest; how the outside world views the organization; and how your contributions serves the public interest. **1500-2000 words**
- 3. WASHINGTON PORTRAYAL/MEDIA STEREOTYPE REVIEW:** Each student will select a book, movie or television show which features, or takes place in, Washington. You may select any piece of literature, fiction or non-fiction, so long as Washington is prominent. Write a review which describes how the book perpetuates, dispels, or confirms a Washington stereotype or myth. Explain with research and analysis the accuracy of the book, movie or show. Use your own experience from your term in Washington to evaluate its validity. The central point of the review should be the accuracy its portrayal. **1500-2000 words.**
- 4. WASHINGTON POLICY PAPER:** Students will write a policy analysis on an issue of their choice, preferably one that overlaps with their internship. Each paper will include an objective explanation of the issue, a critical analysis expressing the author's views, and a counter-argument. **1500-2000 words**
- 5. ORAL PRESENTATION "MOCK" PUBLIC INTEREST SPEECH:**  
Each student will deliver a one-minute talk on an organization of your choice that begins with the sentence: ***"I believe that (name of organization) is good for America."*** You may select any organization which meets two criteria: 1) the organization must have a Washington presence and 2) you must personally find its work reprehensible. You will then answer questions from the class.

For example, you might argue that "The Tobacco Council is good for America because it fights to preserve the right of Americans to engage in a relaxing and legal activity." You would go on to explain what the council does and why its activities serve the greater good.

## GRADING

1. Class participation/oral presentation/short assignments 25%
2. Internship paper 25%
3. Washington stereotype paper 25%
4. Policy paper 25%

## Draft Syllabus

A final version of the syllabus

***Content, research and clarity are the most important qualities, of all assignments, though careful writing, grammar, a lack of typos and other details also count. Late papers will be penalized one-third a grade each day. Plagiarism is not-tolerated and will result in a failing grade.***

### University policies

***Sexual Harassment:*** Students who wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct should contact UCDC's Counseling Services at [UCDCCounseling@gmail.com](mailto:UCDCCounseling@gmail.com). To report sexual misconduct to ask questions about UCDC policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct, please contact the UCDC Title IX administrator, Josh Brimmeier (202-974-6214 or [josh.brimmeier@ucdc.edu](mailto:josh.brimmeier@ucdc.edu)). Because the University of California is legally obligated to investigate reports of sexual misconduct, the confidentiality of reported misconduct cannot be guaranteed.

***Disabilities:*** In compliance with the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Public Law 93- 112) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336), University of California policy prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and activities. If you require accommodation for class, please let me know at our first meeting (if not earlier) so the necessary arrangements can be made.

***Policy on Academic Misconduct:*** UCDC has a zero-tolerance policy for cheating, plagiarism, and any other form of dishonesty. Students should refer to their home campus Student Code of Conduct for the regulations that apply to them. The burden is on each student to know what behaviors constitute cheating and plagiarism. Ignorance of these behaviors is not an adequate defense.

## WEEK- BY-WEEK SCHEDULE

### 1. WASHINGTON: REALITY AND MYTH

***THEME: Overview of Washington institutions and misconceptions.***

Introductions and course expectations

Government/current events quiz

How the world perceives and misperceives Washington

### 2. WHY WASHINGTON? A HISTORY OF THE CAPITAL AND ITS EVOLUTION

***THEME: The rise and role of the federal city***

Washington's selection as capital.

Evolution from sleepy town to world power to political scapegoat

READING:

1. *Founding Brothers: the Revolutionary Generation* Joseph Ellis "The Dinner" (Chapter 2)
2. *The Grand Idea: George Washington's Potomac and the Race to the West* Joel Achenbach (Chapter 9)
3. *The Federalist Papers No. 43, Publius*
4. *The Anti-Federalist Papers No. 43, The Federal Farmer*

### 3. SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

**THEME: Primer on Washington policy making for the public interest and profit**

Discussion of citizenship and distinctions between public and private interest

Discussion of policy issue (TBD) as illustration of how Washington works

Movie Excerpt: "Thank You For Smoking."

READINGS:

1. *A Theory of Justice: The Veil of Ignorance*, John Rawls
2. *Lobbying for the People: The Political Behavior of Public Interest Groups*, Jeffrey M Berry (chapter 1)
3. *Lobbyists are Good People, Too* Lanny Davis
4. *JFK Peace Corps Speech, Ann Arbor Michigan 1960*

### 4. WASHINGTON AS SYMBOL IN LITERATURE AND POPULAR CULTURE

**THEME: How Washington is (mis)portrayed.**

Evolving attitudes and misconceptions

READING:

1. *Hollywood on the Potomac: Getting it all Wrong and Yet Getting it Right*, Mike Canning
2. *The 100 Best Washington Movies Ever*, *Washington Magazine*

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Washington TV/movie descriptions**

### 5. LIVE FROM WASHINGTON: HOW THE NEWS MEDIA: SHAPES WASHINGTON AND ITS IMAGE

**THEME: The evolving world of political journalism and how it shapes Washington.**

How the news media covers Washington.

How Washington manipulates the news media

How to determine what you can trust

**FIELD TRIP: THE NEWSEUM: Media ethics class**

READING:

1. *Morning Miracle: Inside the Washington Post*, David Kindred
2. *The Entire State Before Cameras*, Marc Sandalow

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Internship Paper**

### 6. WASHINGTON AS EPITAPH *Do Americans hate Washington?*

**THEME: How perceptions of Washington shape politics.**

READINGS:

**Draft Syllabus**

A final version of the syllabus

1. *Why America Hates Washington*, Erick Erickson
2. *This is Why Americans Hate Washington*, Daniel DePetris
3. *Americans Really, Really Hate the Government*, Michael Snyder
4. *Institutional Corruption Defined*, Lawrence Lessig.

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Identify book, TV or movie choice for stereotype assignment**

**7. HARD CHOICES: WHY WASHINGTON POLICY IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT APPEARS**

READING: *Budget Message of the President 2017*

**8. A CAPITAL DIVIDED: THE OTHER WASHINGTON**

**THEME: Exploring poor, powerless and monument-free Washington**

READING: *A brief history of African Americans in Washington DC* Marya Annette McQuinter

VIEWING: [The Nine Lives of Marion Barry](#)

**POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP: Ben's Chili Bowl/Talk by Dr. Bernard Demczuk**

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Stereotype paper**

**9. ARTS AND CULTURE: A FEDERAL LUXURY OR RESPONSIBILITY?**

**THEME: The scope, importance and politics of Washington's arts and museums**

READING:

1. *The Thorny Path to a National Black Museum*, Kate Taylor
2. *The Enola Gay Controversy: History, Memory and the Politics of Presentation*, Michael J. Hogan
3. *Monument Wars: Washington, D.C., the National Mall, and the Transformation of the Memorial Landscape*  
Kirk Savage

**FIELD TRIP TO NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY: Talk on presidential portraits**

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Presidential portraits**

**10. WASHINGTON AND TRUMP: CAN THEY LIVE TOGETHER?**

President Trump's first months

The pace of Washington work

Who works for the government and why they don't get raises.

Government salaries and the revolving door

How to find work in Washington

Serving the public

READING: *Reading:*

**ASSIGNMENT DUE JUNE 8: Policy Paper**