UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
WASHINGTON PROGRAM
Fall/2010
Tuesday, 4:00-6:30

LOBBYING, MONEY AND INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON
DR. STEVEN BILLET
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Course Description

This course will be an intense examination of lobbying in Washington with particular attention given to the role of money and campaign finance in the operation of what has become a highly sophisticated and poorly understood network of advocacy and influence.

The approach of the instructor is to provide a basic understanding of three different but interrelated knowledge sets: the Congress, political money and lobbying by interest groups. Students should understand that while the lectures are focused on those individual subject areas and that the semester is divided into three separate sections for that purpose, the readings later in the term will often relate to earlier lectures. This is done with the intent of “connecting the dots” among all these somewhat diverse topical areas.

Required Reading:

Morris Fiorina, Cultural War?

Davidson, Roger and Walter Oleszek, Congress and Its Members, 12th Edition

Levine, Bertram. The Art of Lobbying

Fineman, Howard. The Thirteen American Arguments.

The instructor will provide a “course packet” of articles included in the readings.

Research, Writing and Tests.

A take-home mid-term will be distributed in mid-February. It counts for 30% of the final grade and will be based largely on reading from the texts.

Each student will be required to write a paper on a government affairs operation in Washington (approximately 5000 words). It will include a general description of the organization, its role in the overall strategy of the group, an overview of its most important issues, and a critique of the organization. A more detailed description of the project will be distributed later. This paper will substitute for a final exam.

Each student will make a ten-minute presentation of their final paper and its major findings at the end of the semester.

Grade Weighting

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<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>30 Percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30 Percent</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40 Percent</td>
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Class attendance and participation are critical. They constitute the primary point of differentiation between good and excellent final grades. This is an upper-level course that will be conducted as a seminar. It is imperative that you stay abreast of the reading assignments. Much of the information needed to do well in this course, however, will be drawn from the lectures and class discussion. While these lectures often reference the readings, many will not.

**In order to stimulate class participation, each student will prepare two questions intended to direct discussion on the readings and the topics under consideration. These must be sent to the instructor via e-mail no later than noon on the day of the class. This element of the course will be discussed in the first session.**

Class Reading Assignments

August 24
Session One: Course Introduction/Review of Syllabus/Assignments/Expectations
Course Objectives/Major Components

August 31
Session Two: Understanding Congress

Davidson and Oleszek, Chs. 1-2
Clive Thomas and Ronald Hrebenar, "Comparing Lobbying Across Liberal Democracies"
Pew Charitable Trust website
September 7

Davidson and Oleszek, Chs. 3 and 4
Nicholas Confessore “Welcome to the Machine”

September 14
Session Four: Campaign Finance and the Money Chase: BCRA, Money and its Meaning

Davidson and Oleszek, Chs. 6, 7 and 9
Stephen Ansolabehere et al “Are PAC Contributions and Lobbying Linked?”

September 21
Session Five: Political Action Committees: Democratic Facilitator or Legislative Corruptor?

Davidson and Oleszek, Chs. 13 and 16.
David Lowery et al, “Organized Interests and Political Extortion: A Test of the Fetcher Bill Hypothesis”
Steven Billet “Open the Books”

September 28
Session Six: Cutting Through the Rhetoric

Fineman, The Thirteen American Arguments

October 5
Session Seven: The Washington Lobbying World

Figueiredo, “Lobbying and Information in Politics”
Levine, Chapters 1-4

October 12
Session Eight: Washington Lobbying (continued)

Levine, Chapters 5-8

October 19
Session Nine: Issue Management

Marie Hojnacki and David Kimball “PAC Contributions and Lobbying Contacts in Congressional Committees”
Jeffrey Milyo “Bribes and Fruit Baskets: What Does the Link Between PAC Contributions and Lobbying Mean?”

Mid-Semester Break October 16-24

November 2
Session Ten: Globalization and Transnational Advocacy

Thomas and Hrebnar, “Understanding Interest Groups, Lobbying and Lobbyists in Developing Democracies”

November 9
Session Eleven: Lobbying in Washington: Analyzing the Activity through the Prism of Competitor Analysis/The PDCA Model

Shawn Zeller, “Blowout”

November 16
Session Twelve: The Internet: Bypassing Interest Structures through plebecitarian mechanisms

Clark and Themudo, “Linking the Web and the Street . . .”

November 23
Session Thirteen: Are we really so polarized?

Morris Fiorina, *Culture Wars?* All

November 30
Session Fourteen: The Dilemmas of Entrenched Interests?

Alvarez, “Sweetening the US Legislature: . . . .Sugar Lobby”

December 7
Session Fifteen: RESEARCH READOUT/IN-CLASS SUMMARIES (10 MINUTES) OF FINAL PAPER TO DATE.

Final Papers Due on December 10th.