

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Maxwell-in-Washington
DC Semester Program
Global Policy Seminar and Practicum
IRP 401 and 402

Syllabus – Spring 2020

***U.S. Foreign Policy in Year Four of the Trump Administration:
Global Priorities and Constraints***

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Introduction

The six-credit policy seminar (IRP 401) and practicum (IRP 402) – part of the 15-credit Maxwell-in-Washington Semester – are intended to help you explore U.S. involvement in world affairs and how policies are made in Washington. The seminar will also help you draw together your internship and evening courses.

During the semester, we will meet with U.S. and foreign government officials, experts and advocates, as well as journalists and public opinion specialists. They will offer insights into the forces that affect foreign policy decision-making. We will meet at CSIS and the different venues of these important players in the international arena.

In addition, the traveling seminar and practicum are designed to acquaint you with practical steps to identify and pursue career opportunities in Washington, D.C. Key elements of the seminar are designed to help you become effective policy-makers, advocates and communicators, and to master core professional skills. We will devote some time to sharing intern experiences and to discussing how to make contacts for career opportunities. And we will always explore the bigger picture – the significance of the issues and policy process for your future.

DC Semester Program Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, you should be better able to:

- Understand and evaluate the interagency policy process and forces that affect policy here and abroad;
- Analyze and evaluate the role of the Executive Branch, Congress, media, NGOs, and diplomatic missions in Washington;
- Find, evaluate and effectively use publicly available information;
- Obtain information, assistance, guidance from busy officials, activists, and media professionals;
- Create, evaluate, and communicate ideas and proposals effectively in both written (policy memos) and verbal (class presentations, simulations) forms;
- Engage in civil, substantive policy and political debate, becoming a more effective participant in a seminar-style setting;

- Formulate career interests, including identifying your passion for some particular aspect of international affairs;
- Demonstrate and use necessary skills for career networking, particularly in DC;
- Become active and effective participants in your communities (broadly defined) regarding public policy issues;
- Identify and interpret (1) the trade-offs that politicians constantly face in making policy decisions and (2) how compromise is necessary and occasionally obtained;
- Comprehend and critique the causes and possible cures of intense partisanship that has led many to argue that Washington is “broken.”
- Appreciate that economics is a discipline that provides important insights for continual/lifetime learning and real-life choices, and that, contrary to the view that it is “the dismal science,” it can be fun! (IRP 404).

Readings, Information Sources

There is no official text for the seminar. I will assign readings, generally from web-based sources, several days ahead of each class and will throw out a few questions for your consideration and class discussion.

You should also keep up to date with the news through reading the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or another major daily paper, tuning in TV news and talk shows, or listening to news and public affairs programs and podcasts. We will discuss the extent to which these sources reflect, and drive, the Washington agenda.

Other information will come from special reports and research documents made available to you by various agencies and organizations and interviews. Readings are “layered.” You are required to read the core assigned sources each week – which are not burdensome – but can delve more deeply into an issue of interest through additional readings.

In addition to *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy* and other magazines, compendia and reports, we have a small collection of books that offer greater depth for your studies. We also have a few basic primers on international economics, U.S. history and politics if you feel the need to review the basics.

Calendar/Schedule

Our class will meet on every Thursday from January 16 to April 26. We will not have class the week of Spring Break, March 16-20.

Class hours will depend on scheduled events and meetings but will generally begin at 8:30am and end by approximately 4 p.m. Occasionally, we may go beyond 4; sometimes we will end earlier. ***Please plan any weekend travel after the class ends; avoid early departure.***

Thursday Schedules: In the days preceding each Thursday class, I will post the schedule and reading assignment on the email listserv (maxwash@listserv.syr.edu). Please hold on to these schedules. They provide a review of experts we have met, both for tests and for any follow-up you wish to make. They also contain important info on directions to each meeting

place, names of contacts and phone numbers. I will post these emails as “announcements” in Blackboard as well.

Assignments

You will make several contributions to the class:

- 1) **Topic Intro Briefing.** Working with a partner, you will briefly introduce a key foreign policy issue for a weekly class discussion. The briefing will include a short summary of developments, your “take” on the causes, and the policy options available to the U.S. government.
- 2) **Policy Memos.** You will prepare three short memos – the first two on a pressing policy topic, and the third on your reflections on policy and related processes at the end of the semester. All are take-home assignments.
- 3) For a special **National Security Project** (see below), you will form three-person teams and submit the following (based on guidance and examples I will provide):
 - ❑ A project proposal on an issue you and team partners have selected to work on
 - ❑ A reporting memo on a Congressional hearing or public forum relevant to your chosen issue
 - ❑ A memo reporting on interviews for the same exercise
 - ❑ A memo on U.S. and foreign public opinion relevant to your issue.
 - ❑ A policy recommendation memo for the NSC to consider in dealing with your issue.

Special Project: NSC Advisory Panel Recommendations

The four memos are built into a special project for the semester, “Recommendations for U.S. National Security Strategy,” described in greater detail in a separate document. The project is intended to help you bring together your knowledge, skills and experiences from the Global Policy Seminar, internship and the other two courses.

The project simulates a tasking from the National Security Advisor or the Executive Secretary of the NSC, asking you to form an Advisory Panel to develop ideas on major global issues of your choice, for a future National Security Strategy.

NOTE: All written submissions should be double-spaced, 12-point serif font (such as Times New Roman, Garamond, or Cambria). I will read these and return them to you with comments, as would your supervisor at work. They should be brief, but substantive – as indicated in the instructions. We will use Blackboard for submitting and managing assignments.

Absences, Overdue Assignments

You are responsible for taking part in **ALL** phases of the course. If for any reason you will be absent, please contact me in advance to make alternative arrangements. One *excused* absence will not have negative repercussions. If there is more than one, it will be reflected in your participation grade.

Plan Ahead: Please make every effort to turn in assignments promptly and avoid the need to squeeze all the work in at the end of the semester. The semester moves very rapidly; plan ahead to stay ahead. You will feel much more on top of the work, and your grade will reflect that. The assignments are important for building your knowledge and understanding. The class relies on timely submissions to the best of your ability. To disincentivize inefficiency, I will deduct five points (or one-half grade) for each day an assignment is late. For example, if an assignment is due on a given Friday, a Saturday submission will lower your grade from an 80 to a 75.

Grading

Doing well is important to you and to me, and I will try to provide varied opportunities for you to succeed and grow. I will evaluate effort as well as accomplishment. As mentioned above, **full attendance and participation is vital and mandatory.** Please make every effort to complete the readings in advance and come to each session loaded with questions for our speakers. The discussion is much more exciting and fruitful when the class is prepared.

- The grade for **Global Policy Seminar (IRP 401)** will be based on two memos (a two-part series), your class issue intro presentation, your reflection memo, and your attendance/participation in class, **including the quality of your questions and discussion.** The two-part series of memos cover our seminar discussions on topical and regional issues of your choice. In the reflection memo, you will explain some “lessons learned” about the policy process and decision-making in Washington. (Please start collecting and thinking about these lessons.)
 - Memo 1 15%
 - Memo 2 30%
 - Class issue intro presentation 10%
 - Reflection memo 15%
 - Attendance/participation 30%

The grade for the **Practicum (IRP 402)** is based on the reporting memos and policy proposal and presentation in the last class.

- NSC project proposal 10%
- Hearing/forum reporting memo 15%
- Interview memo 15%
- Public opinion analysis 15%
- Final NSC policy memo 20%
- Final NSC presentation and response 15%
- NSC advisory panel prep/questions 10%

Grades will be issued numerically and translated at the end of the semester into letter grades: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 84-86=B; 80-83=B-; 77-79=C+; 74-76=C; 70-73=C-; etc.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Syracuse University and I fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform me if you require any accommodation.

Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.

Complete academic honesty is expected of all students. ANY incidence of academic dishonesty, as defined by the SU Academic Integrity Policy (see the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures at <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>) will result in both course sanctions and formal notification of the College of Arts & Sciences. *If strong evidence of plagiarism is determined, you will receive an "F" for the semester.* In this course, students are not only allowed, but must study and write memos together. Quizzes and midterms must represent the work of the individual student.