

INTEREST GROUP POLITICS

PSC 221

Masters in Legislative Affairs

Spring 2007

Instructor:

Dr. Steven Billet

Director, Masters in Legislative Affairs

Chief of Staff GSPM

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Time and Place:

Hall of States (location available at entrance check-in each week)

Wednesdays 6-8 pm

For those unfamiliar with the Hall of States procedures, you are required to show a photo id and get a pass to enter the building.

The process takes a few minutes so get there early.

Office hours:

I am available most days during normal working hours. Please send an e-mail or call for an appointment.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of the interest groups and lobbying in the United States. The primary focus is on legislative lobbying but will touch in some part on other aspects of the activity including some consideration of lobbying at other levels of government. In addition to the basic

overview, we will spend time considering some of the ethical dimensions of lobbying and advocacy work in legislative settings.

The class format will include lectures and class discussion. We will from time to time have guest lecturers. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in discussions based on the readings. The instructor will assign specific students to assist in leading discussions based on the reading.

Assignments and Evaluation

There will be two essay assignments of about 1000 words that will be handed out in the first weeks of the course. These will each count for 20% of your final grade.

A final paper of approximately 5000 words, fully documented will constitute the final exam for the course. You will be asked to present your findings during the last two sessions in class. This will count for 40% of your final grade.

Class participation is expected and will count for 20%.

There will be no in-class tests.

Texts and Readings

The Broken Branch, Mann and Ornstein

Hostile Takeover, Sirota

Congress: The Electoral Connection, Mayhew

Congress and Its Members, Davidson and Oleszek

Total Lobbying, Nownes

Interest Group Politics (7th Edition), Cigler and Loomis

Class Schedule and Assignments

January 17

Nownes, Chapters 1-4.

January 24

Nownes, Rest of Book

January 31

Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection

February 7

Davidson and Oleszek, Parts One and Two

February 14

Davidson and Oleszek, Part Three

February 21

Davidson and Oleszek, Parts Four and Five

February 28

Mann and Ornstein, The Broken Branch

March 7

Continued Discussion of the Broken Branch

March 14 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

Sirota, Hostile Takeover

March 21

Continued Discussion of Hostile Takeover

March 28

Cigler and Loomis, Interest Group Politics Parts 1 and 2

April 4

Cigler and Loomis, Interest Group Politics, Parts 3 and 4

April 11

Cigler and Loomis, Conclusion

April 18

In-class exercises/presentations

April 25

In-class exercises/presentations

May 3-4 Reading Days

May 9 Final Paper Due

