

Congress and Homeland Security Policy
PSC 250
The George Washington University
Graduate School in Political Management
Fall 2006

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Class Dates and Location: Mondays, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Hall of States

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, Congress has enacted over 125 laws dealing with Homeland Security. The importance of Homeland Security, and the policy issues associated with it, is evident because of the large volume of legislation Congress has enacted. This course is designed (1) to familiarize the student with the variety of Homeland Security policy issues and options; (2) to expand the student's ability to explicate, criticize and synthesize the vast amount of information produced by Congress, federal agencies, and public policy experts; and (3) to expand the student's familiarity with how congress formulates public policy, both inside and outside normal legislative channels.

This course will focus on the following legislation and policy issues:

- USA PATRIOT Act (P.L. 107-56)
- Homeland Security Act (P.L. 107-296)
- Aviation Security
- Bioterrorism
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- State and Local Homeland Security (Terrorism)
- Homeland Security Intelligence
- Immigration
- Transportation Security
- Port and Water Security
- Department of Defense Role in Homeland Security
- Disaster Response

Course Requirements

Course grades are determined on the following basis:

5 papers	Ten (10%) percent each = 50%
Briefing	Twenty (20%) percent = 20%
Final Exam	Twenty (20%) percent = 20%
Participation	Ten (10%) percent = 10%

First: The fundamental requirement for this course is a careful reading of assigned material (presented to students on a CD-ROM), leading to informed discussion each week. No student can earn an A in this course without effective oral participation each week. **This is very, very important, because a seminar, unlike an undergraduate lecture, features informality and discussion. It is a group of advanced students working with an**

instructor with each doing research and ALL exchanging results through discussion. Participation is worth ten (10%) percent of your grade.

Second: Each student will research and write five (5) papers, 5-7 pages (double spaced) on the policy issues or areas discussed prior to the due date of the paper. Paper topic will be assigned. Papers are due at the beginning of class on due dates. Each paper is worth ten (10%) percent.

Third: Each student will provide an eight (8) to ten (10) minute presentation on an actual proposed homeland security bill of the student's choice. The briefing will be presented to the entire class on the last day of class (Dec. 4) and will include a brief summary of the proposed bill, homeland security issues related to the legislation and why the issues are important. The briefing is worth twenty (20%) percent.

Fourth: Each student will take a final exam, which will be distributed at the last class (Monday, Dec. 4) and due Monday, Dec. 11. There will be no page limit on the exam. I will determine the grade by substance and quality not quantity. In short, be concrete. Insights and arguments introduced by the student, if supported by facts and logic, will be highly valued. Structure and syntax, as indicators of logical thought process, will be critiqued as well. The final exam is worth twenty (20%) percent.

Texts

Due to the relative newness of the policy area of Homeland Security, there is no text that focuses primarily on Congress' Homeland Security policy actions. Reading assignments will be given out on first day of class on a CD. Additionally, this course will focus on congressional primary sources, such as proposed or enacted legislation, committee and conference reports, and U.S. Government Accountability Office. Other primary sources may include federal department and public policy documents. Secondary sources, however, can be used while researching for papers.

Miscellaneous

Spell check - enough said. **Plagiarism** - enough said. I understand most graduate students work full time and have a life outside of class. If there is a conflict due to work or other scheduled events, let me know and we will work it out. I have an informal class and believe that most students learn best by reading assigned material, analyzing it, and then verbalizing this analysis in a group discussion. The four assigned papers are an extension of this analysis and verbalization; however, footnotes and citations are a nonnegotiable requirement if the information or analysis is not your own.

Fall 2006 Class Subjects

Sept. 11

Introduction

Sept. 18

September 11th, The Beginning of Homeland Security

Reading Material:

- Chapter 1, "We Have Some Planes," *9/11 Commission Report*;
- Chapter 1, "Terrorism, Patriotism, and Dilemmas of Law Enforcement," *Defending the Homeland*, by Jonathan White;
- Chapter 1, "Homeland Security: The American Tradition," *Homeland Security*, by Mark Sauter and James Carafano CD: "18 Sep 06"

Sept. 25

Homeland Security Strategy

Reading Material:

- *National Homeland Security Strategy*, CD: "25 Sep 06 part I"
- *National Preparedness Goal*, CD: "25 Sep 06 part II"

Oct. 2

Congress' Homeland Security Role

Reading Material:

- House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology, "Enhancing Terrorism Preparedness for First Responders"
CD: "2 Oct 06 part I"
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, "DHS, The Road Ahead"
CD: "2 Oct 06 parts II-VIII"

Oct. 9

Transportation Security

Paper 1 Due, Topic: Discuss Congress' overall roles and responsibilities in relation to Homeland Security policy, and the National Homeland Security Strategy and Preparedness Goal.

Reading Material:

- CRS Report, "Transportation Security: Issues for the 109th Congress" CD: "9 Oct 06 part I"
- TSA, Assistant Secretary David M. Stone, Testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation CD: "9 Oct 06 part II"
- P.L. 107-71, "Aviation and Transportation Security Act" CD: "9 Oct 06 part III"
- P.L. 107-296, "Homeland Security Act", CD: "Homeland Security Act"
 - Title IV, Subtitle A
 - Title XIV
 - Title XVI

Oct. 16

Bioterrorism Security

Reading Material:

- Trust for America's Health, "Ready or Not" CD: "16 Oct 06 part I"
- P.L. 107-188, "Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act"
CD: "16 Oct 06 part II"

Oct. 23

Critical Infrastructure Protection

Paper 2 Due, Topic: Discuss transportation security or bioterrorism policy issues Congress has addressed in legislation, unresolved issues and options, and introduced legislation.

Reading Material:

- CRS Report, "Vulnerability of Concentrated Critical Infrastructure" CD: "23 Oct 06 part I"
- CRS Report, "Risk Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection" CD: "23 Oct 06 part II"
- GAO Report, "Critical Infrastructure Protection: Cybersecurity" CD: "23 Oct 06 part III"
- GAO Report, "Homeland Security: Chemical Facilities" CD: "23 Oct 06 part IV"
- USA Patriot Act, Title VII CD: "USA Patriot Act"
- Homeland Security Act, Title II CD: "Homeland Security Act"

Oct. 30

State and Local Homeland Security (Terrorism)

Reading Material:

- GAO Report, "Emergency Preparedness and Response" CD: "30 Oct 06 part I"
- CRS Report, "Homeland Security Grants: Evolution of Program Guidance and Grant Allocation Methods" CD: "30 Oct 06 part II"
- Michael O'Hanlon, Brookings Institute, Testimony before the Senate's Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs CD: "30 Oct 06 part III"
- The Rockefeller Institute of Government, "The Federalism Challenge" CD: "30 Oct 06 part IV"
- Homeland Security Act, Title V CD: "Homeland Security Act"

Nov. 6

Homeland Security Intelligence

Paper 3 Due, Topic: Discuss critical infrastructure protection or state and local homeland security policy issues Congress has addressed in legislation, unresolved issues and options, and introduced legislation.

Reading Material:

- CRS Report, "Homeland Security Intelligence" CD: "6 Nov 06 part I"
- P.L. 108-458, "Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act" CD: "6 Nov 06 part II"
- USA Patriot Act, CD: "USA Patriot Act"
 - Title II
 - Title IX
- Homeland Security Act CD: "Homeland Security Act"
 - Title VIII, Subtitle I

Nov. 13

Immigration and Border Security

Reading Material:

- Homeland Security Act, CD: "Homeland Security Act"
 - Title IV, Subtitles B, C, D, E, and F
- USA Patriot Act, CD: "USA Patriot Act"
 - Title IV
- CRS Report, "Immigration Related Border Security Legislation in the 109th Congress" CD: "13 Nov 06 part I"
- P.L. 107-173, "Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act" CD: "13 Nov 06 part II"

Nov. 20

Department Defense's Homeland Security Role

Paper 4 Due, Topic: Discuss homeland security intelligence or immigration/border security policy issues Congress has addressed in legislation, unresolved issues and options, and introduced legislation.

Reading Material:

- CRS Report, "Homeland Security: Northern Command" CD: "20 Nov 06 part I"
- Department of Defense, "Homeland Security" CD: "20 Nov 06 part II"

Nov. 27

Disaster Response

Reading Material:

- House Bi-Partisan Commission on Katrina, Executive Summary of a "Failure of Initiative" CD: "27 Nov 06 part I"
- Executive Office of the President, "Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina" CD: "27 Nov 06 part II"

Dec. 4

Presentations

Paper 5 Due, Topic: Discuss DoD's homeland security role or disaster response policy issues Congress has addressed in legislation, unresolved issues and options, and introduced legislation.

Dec. 11

Final Due