

Fall 2006

PMGT 265.15: State Government and Politics

Wednesday

7:10-9:40 Duques Hall Room 259 (2201 G Street)

Course Summary:

State government and politics is a growing and dynamic field for political consultants, lobbyists, fundraisers, interest groups, and candidates. This course will focus on the legislative arena of state politics in three key areas: the legislature as an institution, lobbying, and state election campaigns. The course will be taught from the perspective of a state legislator.

The course will examine all aspects of the legislative process, paying attention to the role the governor plays in the relationship. Another particular emphasis for the class will be how political culture shapes policy and politics in each of the fifty states.

The course will be lecture/discussion oriented, with considerable attention on role-playing and case studies. Guest speakers from a range of political niches will be utilized to focus on particular important subject areas.

Although not a course about Maryland politics, the course will rely considerably on Maryland political case studies, particularly during the 2006 state election cycle. In addition to the assigned readings, students are expected to read the *Baltimore Sun* Maryland Section on a daily basis (<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/>) and the *Montgomery Gazette* Weekend Political Edition (<http://www.gazette.net/we/>) to follow Maryland politics and the election news.

Each student will be assigned one additional book from the course readings section. An assignment will be to analyze their book and prepare a discussion for the class regarding the relevant issues as it relates to state politics. A major research project analyzing the political culture of one state will be the second major assignment for course.

Instructor: Christopher B. Shank has served eight years in the Maryland General Assembly and is a 1994 graduate of the GSPM.

Hours: By appointment on campus. Call during day or evenings before 8:30 PM at 301-730-5041.

Email: shankfordelegate@hotmail.com

Required Texts:

Rosenthal, Alan, *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*, Congressional Quarterly Press, Washington, D.C., 2004.

Rosenthal, Alan, *Third House: Lobbyists and Lobbying in the States*, Congressional Quarterly Press, Washington, D.C., 2001.

Faucheux, Ronald, *Running for Office: The Strategies, Techniques and Messages Modern Political Candidates Need to Win Elections*, M. Evans & Company, 2002.

Supplemental Reading List:

Jacobs, Bradford, *Thimblerriggers: The Law vs. Governor Mandel*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.

Keyserling, Harriet, *Against the Tide: One Woman's Political Struggle*, University of South Carolina Press, 1998.

Loftus, Tom, *The Art of Legislative Politics*, Congressional Quarterly Press, 1994.

McDonough, John E., *Experiencing Politics: A Legislator's Stories of Government & Health Care*, 2000.

Van Assendelft, Laura A., *Governors, Agenda Setting, and Divided Government*, University Press of America, 1997.

Wright, Ralph, *Inside the Statehouse: Lessons from the Speaker*, Congressional Quarterly Press, 2005.

Grading: Presentation on assigned reading 25%, Research project 30%, Final exam 25%, Quizzes (announced and unannounced), class participation, and assignments 20%.

Course Outline

I. Legislative Institution

1. Sept. 6

Introduction: Course Expectations/Assignments, Political Culture, State Trends

Reading: -Heavy Lifting chaps. 1

2. Sept. 13

State of Federalism Today

Representing Your District: Constituent Service, Staying in Touch, Staff

Reading: Heavy Lifting 2,3 State of Federalism essay from Publius

3. Sept. 20

Legislative Process: Committee Process, Hearing, Floor Strategy, Bicameralism

Legislative Leadership, Rules of the Game, Parliamentary Procedure

Reading: Heavy Lifting chap 4-6, 10

4. Sept. 27

Legislature as an Institution

Role of the Governor in the Legislative Process

Guest Speaker: Governor Marvin Mandel (D) Maryland Governor (1969-1979)

Reading: Heavy Lifting chaps 7-8

5. Oct. 4

Executive Branch

Guest Speaker—Alan Friedman, Director of Legislative Relations, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Governor, State of Maryland

Reading: Heaving Lifting chaps 9, 11

II. Lobbying

6. Oct. 11

Lobbying

Guest Speaker—Bruce Bereano (contract lobbyist, Maryland)

Reading: Third House, chap 1-2

7. Oct. 18

Associations/Interest Groups

Guest Speaker-- John Hurson (former Majority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates, invited)

Reading: Third House, chap 3-5

8. Oct. 25

Ethics in State Government

Guest Speaker—William Somerville, Ethics Counsel, Maryland General Assembly

Reading: TBA

9. Nov. 1

Grassroots, Public Opinion, Media

Reading: Third House, 6-10

III. Campaigning

10. Nov. 8

Campaign Strategy: Targeting, Message, Opposition Research

Reading: Running for Office, chaps: 1-4, 12-15

11. Nov. 15

Election 2006 Debriefing

Guest Speakers—Aaron Leibowitz, Targeted Creative Communications, Zac Moffat, Republican National Committee, Victory 2006

Reading: Running for Office, chaps 5,10,11

12. Nov. 22 Reading Day—NO CLASS

13. Nov. 29

Campaign Fundraising

Guest Speakers: Carmen Miller Spence-- Finance Director, Maryland Republican Party, William Spence—Response Consulting, invited

Reading: Running for Office, chaps 6,7,8

*****Major Papers Presented**

14. Dec. 6

Campaign Tactics: Signs, Door Knocking, GOTV, Phones

Reading: Running for Office, chap 9, 16, 17

*****Major Papers Presented**

15. FINAL --TBA

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course content and/or the evaluation/grading procedures as deemed necessary upon prior notice.

Christopher B. Shank

Republican, District 2B, Washington County

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Biography:

Member of House of Delegates since 1999
Assistant Minority Leader, Republican Caucus
Chairman, Republican House Policy Committee
Chairman, Washington County Delegation
Member, Judiciary Committee
Member, Civil Law Subcommittee
Co-Chairman, House Republican Slate
Chairman, Quad-State Legislative Council
Member, American Legislative Exchange Council

Community:

Vice President, Washington County Chapter, American Cancer Society
Associate Member, Sharpsburg Lions Club
Board of Directors, Reeder's Memorial Home
Advisory Board, Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Member, Washington County Farm Bureau
Member, Boonsboro Historical Society
Member, Sharpsburg Historical Society
Member, Horizon-Goodwill Board of Directors
Save Historic Antietam Foundation

Personal:

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland June 30, 1972
South Hagerstown High School, 1990
B.A., The Johns Hopkins University, B.A. (history) 1994
George Washington University, M.A. (political management) 1998 (valedictorian:
Howard Paley Academic Excellence Award)