

WASHINGTON AT WORK – May Intersession 2015

PS 3535/5400

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This course is designed to combine an academic view of the actors and institutions in our nation's capitol with a hands-on exploration of Washington, D.C. "Washington at Work" is a 3-credit course in the Department of Government and Justice Studies and will include both classroom teaching and a week in Washington, D.C. This course will be subject to rigorous departmental and university standards. Requirements for the course will include classroom instruction, required readings, participation, and a term paper.

Required Texts/Readings:

- Fiorina, Morris P. with Samuel J. Abrams. (2009). *Disconnect: The Breakdown of Representation in American Politics*. University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, OK.
- Additional required readings are posted to ASULearn
- Graduate students will also select one additional text in consultation with the course instructors. This text will be integrated into the final paper and should be related to the subject content of the course (i.e., federal government, representation, interest groups, bureaucracy, etc.). See Final Paper description for further information.

Grading Distribution for the Course

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Participation	50%	40%
Critical Review	15%	20%
Final Paper	25%	30%
Expert Primers	10%	10%

Description of Course Assignments and Requirements

Participation - You are required to attend classes in Boone prior to going to Washington, D.C. Readings must be completed prior to coming to class. During our stay in Washington, we expect you to participate fully in all of the planned activities. **Failure to attend any of the scheduled events will lead to a 10 point deduction on your final grade.** We will be maintaining a tight schedule in Washington, D.C., and we will not be able to hold up the entire group simply because one or more of the participants are late. We will leave without you if you are not on time for our scheduled departures, and it will be your responsibility to meet the group at the next scheduled event or return to housing. Sleeping during any event will result in a failing participation grade. ***Please remember that you are a representative of Appalachian State University, and should conduct yourself professionally at all times.***

In-class participation includes attendance at class meetings, coming prepared to discuss the readings, and being an active/engaged during class discussions. An in-class presentation project prepared on a unique Washington institution will also be required. The institutions shall be selected from the following: the U.S. Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museum system, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the National Archives.

Critical Review – Due 06/22/15 by 5:00 PM. Both undergraduate and graduate students will write a critical review of the *Disconnect* book. Each critical review should be a minimum of **five full pages of text**. The review should provide your own summary of the book as well as your analysis of the design, findings, conclusions, and strengths and weaknesses of the text as presented by the authors (the summary section should be limited- spend the majority of your efforts on analysis). **Late assignments: a 10 point late penalty will be assessed per each calendar day late.**

Final Paper- Due 06/22/15 by 5:00 PM. Both undergraduate and graduate students will prepare a final paper that analyzes a subject topic, or group experience that you were exposed to while in Washington D.C. For instance, you may wish to further understand and discuss a specific program, policy, organization or piece of legislation that you learned about. This paper should include your own perceptions and reflections about the issue, but will also require outside research materials to provide further insight into the broader political, bureaucratic and socio-economic perspectives related to the topic. Outside books, journal articles, government reports should be used to develop this paper, however newspaper and website sources should be kept to a minimum.

Undergraduate students will prepare a final paper that is 6-8 pages of text using a minimum of five outside sources. Graduate students should develop a paper that is 8-10 pages of text, with a minimum of ten outside sources, one of which must be a book that has been approved by one of the instructors and that you have not previously read. Outside research materials are to be referenced both in text and in a bibliography using the APA

formatting style (visit <http://www.apastyle.org/> for additional information). **Late assignments: a 10 point late penalty will be assessed per each calendar day late.**

Expert Primer– Due in-class, date TBD. In pairs you will explore and provide information to the class in preparation for our meetings in Washington. Each of you will be assigned two meetings (i.e., Republican National Committee, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Department of Commerce, etc.) on which to be the “expert”. This will include **developing a two page primer (per meeting)** that provides salient points related to the organization, key personnel and current issues/facts. If there are additional details that do not fit within the two pages, you may provide them in an Appendix. In addition, if Q&A time is provided during the meetings in Washington, as the expert you will be expected to serve as the lead questioner in the meeting you have been assigned. Please note that this does not prevent other group members from making inquiries during the meetings (in fact, they should be actively engaged to receive a strong participation grade); however this ensures that our group is prepared for at least some exchange with our host during each of our Washington meetings. **Class time will be provided to work on these assignments.**

Schedule Details

Please note that this schedule serves as a general framework for the class. Dates, times and meetings may be subject to change based upon instructor discretion.

Boone Class

Classes in Boone will meet May 11-14 from 6-9pm in Anne Belk Hall room 211. Readings posted to ASULearn for that day should be read prior to coming to class.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Monday (05/11)	Course Overview America & the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Exceptionalism Shrapnel in the Heart
Tuesday (05/12)	Parties, Campaigns and Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign Effects on Vote Choice Home Style Fennos Paradox
Wednesday (05/13)	Interest Groups and Bureaucracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Coalition Framework North Carolina Coalition Case Study Breaking Through Bureaucracy
Thursday (05/14)	Policy Effects and Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great Drug War

Tentative DC Schedule

Sunday	Morning	Depart Boone approx. 8am
	Evening	Ranger-led monument tour
Monday	Morning	RNC/DNC
	Evening	Pentagon
Tuesday	Morning	Brady Campaign
	Evening	NRA
Wednesday	Morning	Dept. of Commerce
	Evening	Capitol Hill
Thursday	Morning	DEA
	Evening	Mexican Embassy
Friday	Morning	Holocaust Museum
	Evening	Free time
Saturday	Morning	Depart DC approx. 10am

Accommodations in Washington

Hotel Harrington

436 11th St. NW

Washington, DC 20004

Dress Code

We will be wearing *business attire* for our meetings. This means jackets for men and slacks/skirts/dresses (with a jacket or cardigan, if needed) for women.

We also have built some time into the schedule for you to do your own exploring around DC, so you may also want to bring some comfortable clothes as well.

Inclusions and Exclusions – As you are aware, your transportation from Boone to Washington (and back) will be provided in addition to any transportation within Washington, D.C. Your housing is included, as well as entrance to any of the required activities. Meals are not included, so you should bring enough money for any food or beverages, plus any other spending money that you deem necessary. Any activities not associated with the course (dining, entertainment, etc.) are your responsibility.

As per the Academic Integrity Code...

- Students attending Appalachian State University agree to abide by the following code:
- Students will not lie, cheat, or steal to gain academic advantage.
- Students will oppose every instance of academic dishonesty.
- Students shall agree to abide by the Academic Integrity Code when submitting the admission application.