

**POLS/CJUS 492: How the Sausage gets made: Politics and Policy in D.C.**  
**DC Faculty-led Program**  
**Spring/Summer 2018**  
**3 Credits**

Professor Ed Gerrish  
University of South Dakota  
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Office: Dakota Hall 112  
Office hours: by appointment  
Class Location: Dakota Hall 105

**Course Description and Schedule**

This course is designed to prepare students for their summer week-long DC program. The course will introduce students to some professional development practices and ideas (elevator pitch, dressing professionally) as well as some readings that will help students understand DC culture and politics. All books are available electronically, also check to see if you can get books through the library and interlibrary loan.

Date / Time	Book	Professional Development (assigned in previous class)
December 2017	Informational Meeting	
Tuesday January 23 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 PM	Introductions/Syllabus/Questions	
Tuesday February 20 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 PM	<a href="#">Empire of Mud: The Secret History of Washington, DC</a>	Your elevator pitch
Tuesday March 20 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 PM	<a href="#">The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court (Read 1969-1972)</a>	Dressing Professionally
Tuesday April 17 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 PM	<a href="#">Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked</a>	Research: Jobs in Politics and Public Policy
Tuesday May 8 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 PM	<a href="#">Pathways of Power: The Dynamics of National Policymaking</a>	How to Navigate DC
Friday May 11 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 PM	Final preparatory meeting	
May 12-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	DC Program	
TDB	Program Recap Meeting	

**Learning Objectives**

- Gain knowledge about the practical (as opposed to theoretical) political process from USD alumni with experience in the US capital
- Better understand the bureaucratic policymaking process, by talking to USD graduates who work at high levels of the US federal bureaucracy
- Learn more about how policy ideas come from the private sector to the public sector by talking with policy researchers
- Learn what skills are most helpful in today's competitive job market

- Synthesize experiences through daily journaling and post-program reflection.

## **Technology**

### *Microsoft Word*

All assignment must be in written and submitted in Word.

### *Desire2Learn (D2L)*

We will not use D2L for this course! All documents can be sent by email to [ed.gerrish@usd.edu](mailto:ed.gerrish@usd.edu).

## **Communication**

Contact me by USD email, skype, or stop by my office if you are on campus. Early communication, particularly if you are facing difficulties is always the best course of action. I typically respond to emails in the morning. If I have not corresponded with you in two days hours, please contact me again as the message may have been filtered into junk mail.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Points</b>
Book reaction	40% ; 10% Each
Attendance / Participation	40%
Post-Program Diary	20%

## **Grade Scale**

90% or above	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
< 60%	F

## **Assignment Details**

### *Book Reaction*

You are to write 4 book reactions, one for each book. The book reaction should be 2-3 pages (single spaced). It should do two things: provide a summary of the content of the book and a reaction to the book, including what you like/did not look, what you agree and disagree with. The summary should be shorter than the reaction. The book summaries are due before or in the class in which it is discussed.

### *Attendance/Participation*

Unless other accommodations are made, you are expected to attend, prepare, and participate in classes. I understand that you may have conflicts for some or all classes because of the scheduling process. Please work with me to meet/talk/work with me separately in such instance.

### *Post-Program Diary*

After the program is completed, you are to submit a 5-7 page reaction to the experience. It should take the form of a diary, analyzing each event in the program, particularly speakers and presentations. We will discuss the expectations of this diary in more detail in class.

## **Class and University Policies:**

### *USD's excused absence policy:*

“When necessary, make-up of course requirements missed because of student participation in university sanctioned events and activities shall be worked out between the instructor and the student upon the student's timely initiative. For a university related event, a student must contact his/her instructor at least two days prior to the absence and provide documentation from the sponsoring unit indicating the dates that the student will be absent from class.”

### *Civility*

Please treat other people and their beliefs with the respect you would like in return. No cell phones or text messaging during class and please limit the use of laptops to coursework. Your laptop as well as the web should only be used as a course resource and to assist with class activities. If you cannot abide by this policy I will ask you to turn off your computer or leave the classroom.

### *Freedom in Learning*

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact Associate Dean Kurt Hackemer to initiate a review of the evaluation.

### *USD College of Arts and Sciences Policy on Academic Dishonesty*

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook. No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be: given a zero for that assignment, allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit, assigned a reduced grade for the course, dropped from the course, or failed in the course.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

Ernetta L. Fox, Director

Disability Services, Room 119 Service Center

(605)677-6389

Web Site: [www.usd.edu/ds](http://www.usd.edu/ds)

E-mail: [dservices@usd.edu](mailto:dservices@usd.edu)

### **Students Called to Active Service**

I will make every effort to ensure that students called to active service are given the appropriate time and support to complete this course per University guidelines.