POLS 492: Washington, D.C.: Your Guide to the Swamp Ecosystem
Faculty-led Program
Summer 2019 (4-week Summer 1)
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)
Jan – TBD (2 hours)	Introductions/Syllabus/Questions	
Feb - TBD (2 hours)	Empire of Mud: The Secret History of Washington, DC	Your elevator pitch
Mar - TBD (2 hours)	The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court (1969-1971 terms)	Dressing Professionally
Apr - TBD (2 hours)	Various Readings: Working on Capitol Hill (I will provide after 3/22 meeting)	Research: Jobs in Politics and Public Policy
May - TBD (2 hours)	Pathways of Power: The Dynamics of National Policymaking Ch 1, Choose 1 of Chs 2-5, Chs 6,8, Skim 10	Navigating DC
May 11-16th, 2019	DC Program	
May - TDB (2 hours)	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.

Communication
Contact me by USD email 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.

Task	**Points**
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 meeting. 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. In order to inspire your writing, please consider the following questions while writing (you don't need to answer all of these questions for each person, but I want to seem many/most answered for each):

- How would you write a tweet-length recap the meeting to someone outside the room?
- What is something you learned about their work (or work in DC in general) from our conversation that you did not previously know?
- What is something you would like to incorporate into your own skills, habits, or writing as a result of this meeting?
- Is there a question you wish you would have asked (or came you only later) that you did not ask?
- Would you recommend that Dr. Gerrish meet with this person again next year? (I will not share this with them)

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
E-mail: 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.