COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the first seven weeks of the course, we will focus our efforts on Policy case studies. These case studies examine issues Congress tackled in the past in addition to current issues yet to be resolved on the Congressional agenda. These case studies will concentrate on key legislative and policy issues, but this relatively short time frame limits the amount of issues we can adequately cover in class. I will conduct each class in a seminar style, and we will begin with an introduction and overview of the topic from a guest speaker or me. The remaining portion of the class will be devoted to a roundtable discussion. I expect all participants to come well prepared for our discussion and to engage respectfully with the rest of the class.

GRADING

For this half of the course, your grade will consist of one final paper (70%) and class participation (30%).

PAPER

Your final paper will formulate a well-reasoned response to one of the following questions in 15-20 pages: 1) Is Congress functional or dysfunctional? If you consider Congress functional then why and what should be done to protect it? If Congress is dysfunctional, why and how would you propose to fix it? OR 2) As an institution, does Congress serve the country well in these times? What major internal challenges does Congress as an institution face over the next decade?

You can take either approach. The purpose of the paper is for you to articulate your views and opinions on Congress. Going to the library and summarizing relevant articles alone will not earn high marks. You need to interview Congressional and Regulatory staff and members of Congress and use their insight to deepen your own views. You should also convey your first-hand impressions and observations collected from your externship experience. This paper demands that you move beyond the confines of your assigned office to gain a greater sense of the institution and the process.
COURSE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
Class overview

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
The Ten Rules of Success in the Political Process of Washington
Guest: Bob Kyle, former Deputy Secretary, OMB, Partner, Hogan Lovells,
        Adjunct Professor of Law Georgetown University

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
Congress vs. Judiciary: Nomination Battles
Guest: Mark Gitenstein, Former Staff Director, Senate Judiciary Committee,
       Counsel, Mayer Brown Law Firm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Congress vs. Congress: How the Institution Has Changed
Guest: Former Senator John Warner (R-VA)
       Ira Shapiro, Author of “The Last Great Senate”, former Chief of Staff to
       Senator Rockefeller

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
The Power of Non Profits and Think Tanks in the Policy Debate
Guest: Tamara Luzzato – Senior Vice President, Government Relations, Pew
       Trust; Former Chief of Staff to Senator Hilary Clinton

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Tax Reform
Guest: Robert Glennon – Partner, Hogan Lovells, Adjunct Professor of Law,
       University of Florida
       John Stanton, Partner, Hogan Lovells, Staff House Banking Committee

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Congress vs. 1st Amendment: Privacy and Social Media
Guest: Chris Wolf, Partner and Head of Privacy, Hogan Lovells
       Lance Bultena, Partner, Hogan Lovells, and former Chief of Staff, Senate
       Commerce Committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 4
Washington Career Night: Beginning and Sustaining a Career in Washington
Guest: John Cox, Association Executive, Verto Solutions
       Debra Ashford, Partner, Hogan Lovells, General Counsel, Presidential
       Inaugural Committee
       Brad Knox, Senior Vice President, AFLAC