

**PUBPOL 4060/5060 / GOVT 4998 / ALS 4998 / AMST 4998 /
CAPS 4998 / NS 4998 / Engaged Learning
Fall 2024**

Professor David Silbey, silbey@cornell.edu
Aleksandar Vladicic, av569@cornell.edu
Rose Brown, arb354@cornell.edu

Course: This course is about having a chance to reflect on, engage with, and analyze your experience in DC. It gives you an opportunity to reflect on your internship experience and learn from that reflection, to understand the larger environment and discourse that you have entered into by being in DC, and finally to research and analyze a particular policy area. This is about locating yourself as part of a larger community and figuring out what that means to you.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the semester students should have (1) employed engaged learning techniques through readings, class sessions, reflection journals, guest speakers, and other activities to examine the professional norms and codes of working in the policy world, (2) identified the day-to-day processes of the American policy and political community in DC, its aims and goals, and how it works at the ground level, and (3) composed both policy and political memos in order to be able to construct a policy and political analysis and recommendation. *PAM 5060 students are also expected to (4) assess the state of knowledge in their particular policy area.*

Structure: Class meets every Friday from 9:30 to 12:00. Attendance is mandatory. In addition, there are 7 signature events scheduled at varying times during the semester, giving us a chance to engage with DC on a cultural, political, and policy level. You must attend at least five of them.

Each student is assigned a tutor with whom to work. The tutors will support the students in doing the academic work of the course, including meeting with them biweekly, and grading and giving them feedback on their work. The assignments will be made on the first day of class.

The course must be taken for a letter grade.

For class, you should bring your laptop and be ready to use it. Laptops may be open and in use for note-taking during lectures. For discussion periods or guest speakers, they should be put away. Assignment extensions are possible (except for the reflection journal) but must be cleared with me ahead of time. Late assignments will be penalized one grade increment (ie, an A to an A-) per day. I reserve the right to change this syllabus but will make reasonable attempts to warn you if I have to do so.

4000-level students are graded on assignments connected to the first three learning objectives. PAM 5060 students are graded in connection with all four learning objectives.

My **office hours** to meet with students are **Wednesdays, 4 - 5:30 pm** via Zoom and **Fridays 4:00 - 5:00 pm** in my office. I'm also happy to do an appointment at another time, if those aren't convenient. The two official channels of communication for the course are via email or on Canvas, so be sure to monitor both of those.

There are a number of CIW specific resources available that will be helpful in your research, linked to in the Canvas site under "Modules."

Integrity: Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. All required papers may be subject to review for the detection of plagiarism or the use of AI.

Access: Your access in this course is important to me. Cornell has a wide range of resources to support you during the semester. Some particularly useful ones are listed under "Resources" in Canvas/Modules.

If you need one, please request an accommodation letter early in the semester, or as soon as you become registered with SDS, so that we have adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations.

- Once SDS approves your accommodation letter, it will be emailed to both you and me. You must follow up with me to discuss the necessary logistics of your accommodations.
- If you experience any access barriers in this course, such as with printed content, graphics, online materials, or any communication barriers; reach out to me or your SDS counselor right away.

If you need an immediate accommodation, please speak with me after class or send an email message to me and SDS at sds_cu@cornell.edu.

Guest Speakers: There will be a number of guest speakers this semester. They are listed in the course schedule. There may be additions.

Assignments: There are a number of assignments in the course:

1. Policy Memos — you will write three policy memos during the course of the semester. One will be a crisis memo, which will be done on a short-time line, as if during a genuine crisis. CAPS majors must do Asia-related policy issues; NS majors public health issues. *PAM 5060 students must do extended versions.*
2. Presentation — at the end of the semester, you will choose one of the topics from an earlier policy memo and deliver a presentation at the student conference outlining the problem and potential response.
3. Internship Reflection Paper — at the end of the semester you will write a reflection paper on your internship experience, analyzing and evaluating it as part of your professional development.
4. Participation — Your participation grade is based on attendance and engagement in class, at bi-weekly meetings with your TA, with the bi-weekly reflection journals, and at the signature events. You may miss two signature events (out of 7) without penalty.

Assignment	Grade %	Due Date	How to Hand in
Participation	20%	In-class & bi-weekly reflection journals, & TA meetings, signature events	
3 x Memos (policy, politics, and crisis) (4-5 pages for undergrad; 6-8 pages for graduate)	15% each	Sept 29, Oct 27, Nov 17	Canvas
Presentation (15 minutes & Q&A)	20%	Dec 6	Student Conference
Internship Reflection Paper (5-7 pages)	15%	Due Dec 16	Canvas

Grading: All assignments except the reflection journal are given letter grades. Individual reflection journals are graded check/no check, which then feeds into the participation grade.

Class Schedule:

Each week's readings will be available in Canvas, under "Modules."

August 30: Introduction. *Getting organized; introductions; engaged learning; internship goals; semester goals; signature experiences.*

Reflection Journal: Describe yourself as a professional and reflect on what you aim to achieve at your internship this semester. How does the internship fit into your larger path?

Class Prep: Make sure you can access Canvas.

September 6: Guest Speaker: Jess Smith, Chief of Staff for VP Kamala Harris. *Debrief the speaker. Getting settled at your internship; professional norms & conduct; previewing Election 2024. Analyzing electoral factors.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: NONE.

September 13: *The “hidden curriculum” of DC. The DC world: public & private, advocacies, fiefdoms and communities; deep diving the election: House & Senate races. Choosing an election to analyze.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: Describe your internship (organization, people, mission) and analyze how you see your role in this.

4. September 20: SIGNATURE EVENT, National Museum of African-American History & Culture with Professor Ron Christie.

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas

Reflection Journal: NONE.

5. September 27: *Debrief the NMAAHC; Internship experiences and reactions; case studies. Career paths and directions. Writing the first memo.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: NONE.

6. October 4: *Internship: working in a partisan world. Partisanship and policy in the new Congress. Internship experiences and strategies. How to make policy: defining a policy problem.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: How does partisanship and politics in general affect your internship organization?

7. October 11: Guest Speaker: Nieva Brock, Office of the General Counsel, Defense Intelligence Agency. *Debrief the speaker.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: NONE.

8. October 18: Guest speaker: Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker of the VA House. *Debrief the speaker. Professional ethics; responsibilities to work and from work. Ethics in government. How to make policy: evaluating a policy's effectiveness & feasibility.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: What are your ethical responsibilities in and to your organization?

October 24: SIGNATURE EVENT: *Advocacy Day with Cornell Federal Relations.*

9. October 25: *Debrief Advocacy Day. How to make policy: making a recommendation. Writing the second memo.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: NONE

10. November 1: *Election prediction. The role of morality in policy.*

Class Prep: Reading in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: NONE.

November 2: SIGNATURE EVENT, *The National Museum of the American Indian with Dr. Nicholas Courtney.*

November 5: SIGNATURE EVENT: *Election results watch party.*

11. November 8: *Crisis policy.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

November 14: SIGNATURE EVENT, Capitol Tour with Rep. Steve Israel

Reflection Journal: Talk to someone at your organization and find out what their path was, what they do, etc. Write it up with quotes

12. November 15: Debrief the Capitol Tour. *Crisis topics for third memo revealed. Group work on crisis topics.*

Class Prep: Readings in Canvas.

Reflection Journal: NONE

13. November 22: *Presentation Workshop; Internship: thinking about lessons learned and building on the semester.*

Reflection Journal: List 5 people who you plan to keep in touch with professionally after the semester is over. For each, identify who they are and why you're adding them to your network.

14. November 29: THANKSGIVING

15. December 6: STUDENT CONFERENCE. Everyone will present the results of their policy or political research at today's student conference, organized into panel sessions of 3 speakers each.

Reflection Journal: NONE.