POLSC 222: Seminar in New York City Government  
Monday/Thursday, 1:10-2:25 pm, HW1731

Professor Sanford Schram  
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Office hours: M/TH 11:30 am -12:30 pm & appt

Course Description

This course is associated with a university-wide program designed to complement academic coursework in American government by combining rigorous study of New York City government with internships. Each semester up to 20 Hunter students are admitted to this program by enrolling in either POLSC 221 or POLSC 222 for internship study concerning New York State or New York City politics respectively. This semester we focus on New York City. Prerequisites include that students have completed at least 60 overall credits with 12 to 15 of those credits in political science credits. It is recommended that at least one course has been completed in the field in which the student is interested in taking the internship. Students should have at least a 3.0 grade point average in political science before applying.

Interns spend eight to ten hours a week in agencies, political offices, or nor-for-profit groups working on administrative or research assignments related to urban affairs and services. They attend a classroom seminar at Hunter and monthly meetings of the entire program at the Graduate School and University Center, while completing reading and writing assignments associated with the seminar and the internships.

Learning Objectives

Through internship placement and seminar work, students will learn the basic formal structures of New York governance, understand the relationships between state, city and federal governments, understand the role of the main branches of the state government, understand the policy making process as it relates to any number of areas (possibly including health, welfare, education, budgeting, development, housing, and criminal justice), understand the place of the student’s internship assignment in the governing structure, and analyze the role of various actors in the decision making process. Students will also learn about the key forces that shape New York State and City politics.

Course Requirements

1) Each student must find a suitable internship and commit to it for eight hours every week for 13 weeks. Most placements will prefer you go in one full day or two half days per week. At the end of the semester, the internship supervisor will submit an evaluation of your performance to me.

2) Each student must attend three CUNY Forum Panels at the CUNY Graduate Center and turn in a 2-3 page summary of the panel discussion. These are discussions of current government issues with prominent figures in New York government and politics. The panels are at the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue (corner of 34th) in the CUNY-TV studio (first floor). You must arrive promptly at 7:30pm. The dates for the forum sessions will be posted on the web: http://www.cuny.tv/show/cunyforum
3) Each student must submit a weekly journal and critical summary of each week’s readings. These submissions are 2-3 pages long and due at the beginning of class each week. Each submission should try to relate the internship placement to the week’s readings. The submission should include a) a summary of the readings (1-2 paragraphs); b) a critique of the readings (1-2 paragraphs); c) a summary of tasks and observations at the internship site during the week (1-2 paragraphs); d) an attempt to relate the internship experience to the readings (1-2 paragraphs); and e) three questions the readings and internship experience raised for you during the week. On weeks where attendance at the CUNY Forum Series is required, there will not be any assigned readings.

4) Each student must write a Term Paper and give an oral presentation to the class. Based on your internship experience, your weekly journal entries, your readings, and additional research, each student will write a ten page term paper analyzing a policy problem that you learned about during the internship. The paper should a) define the issue (what is it about, who does it affect); b) research the policy history; c) discuss the roles of different government and non-governmental actors in the policy; and d) include a summary of the current status of the issue (proposals, implementation, budget, etc.). You will submit a first draft of the paper on Thursday, April 29th. Final papers are due on Monday, May 9th at noon.

5) All written assignments should be submitted via email each in a Microsoft Word Document, double-spaced, in 12 point font Times Roman, with the student’s name and the course listed on a title page.

The overall grade will be broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internship placement evaluation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly journal submissions</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper (1st &amp; 2nd draft each worth 15%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Students are expected to attend every class. Excused absences should be approved prior to class. Students should complete the assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned with the exception of the first class.

**Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

**ADA Policy**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary
academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

**Course Materials:**
There are no required books to be purchased for this course, but students should regularly read *The New York Times*, plus articles assigned later based on class selection of policy topics. Students should try to read the *New York Times* every day, and come to class in command of current events, especially those relating to New York City politics. As a Hunter student, you have access to the paper online for free through this link: [Free Digital New York Times for Hunter students](#). If you want a real paper delivered to your home, discounted home delivery for students is available, which includes access to NYTimes.com and the apps for tablets and smartphones. Go to nytimes.com/collegerate to subscribe. M-F home delivery typically costs $3.50 per week.

**Course Schedule**

2/1: Introductions and Review of Internship Placements

2/4: New York State in the Federal System
   *The Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Sections 8, 9, 10, Article IV; Article VI, Amendments X, XI, XIV*

2/8: The New York State Constitution
   *New York State Constitution*

2/11: New York City Government
   *New York City Government*

2/15: State-City Relationship
   *Stephen Goldsmith, “Mending the City-State Relationship,” Governing, December 22, 2010.*

2/18: Personalizing the Relationship

2/22: The Impending Battle: State-City Relations at Peak Conflict

2/25: State-City Relations as Post-Democratic Neoliberal Governance
   *Jacob Lederman, “Flint’s Water Crisis Is No Accident. It’s the Result of Years of Devastating Free-Market Reforms: This is What Neoliberal Governance Looks Like,” In These Times, January 22, 2016.*

2/29: Public-Private Ventures to Pick Up the Slack: Philanthrocapitalism and Dedemocratization

3/3: Economy


3/7: Taxes


3/10: Jobs


3/17: Housing


3/21: Homeless


3/24: Poverty


3/28: Child Care


3/31: Education


4/4: Crime


4/7: Corruption

4/11: Race Relations

4/14: Transportation

4/18: Environment

4/21: Political, Economic, Environmental Sustainability

4/22-30: Spring Break

5/2-19: Student Presentations