Course Time: Thursdays, 2:30 to 5:20
Course Location: Mary Gates Hall 228
Course Website: https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/cvapv/52375/
Instructor: Chris Vance
Officer hours: Thursdays, 1:45-2:15, Parrington 406
Phone: 253-347-9713
Email: cvapv@uw.edu

Course Description

Virtually everyone who works in or around public policy, whether in the public, private, or non-profit sector will eventually be asked to work in the legislative arena. To do so successfully one must understand how public policy analysis, raw politics, and parliamentary procedures intersect. This course, taught by a former State Legislator, County Councilmember, and Congressional Staffer, is designed to give participants real world training in the American legislative process. The focus will be on the Washington State Legislature, but we will also study the workings of the US House and Senate, and unicameral local legislative bodies. The goal is that upon completion of the course, students will not only understand how the legislative process really works, they will actually be prepared to work as an entry level Legislative Relations professional.

The course will be organized in four segments:

**Segment 1:** Learning basic legislative structures, rules, terms, and practices

**Segment 2:** Objective legislative analysis. How to approach the legislative process from the perspective of a committee staff person or an agency professional.

**Segment 3:** Legislative advocacy. How to influence the legislative process, lobbying and advocacy.

**Segment 4:** (Ongoing) *The Dance of Legislation* as a case study. Throughout the quarter we will discuss this classic book as an example of how the legislative process works in the real world.

**Required Reading**

Eric Redman, *The Dance of Legislation*. Available in the bookstore
On-line readings listed below in the course outline

**Course Assignments and Grading:** 100 points possible
**Course participation: 10 points.** Please show up and participate. Ask questions. If you have to miss a session I expect you to notify me. More than two unexcused absences will affect your participation grade.

**Basic structures quiz: 20 points.** An in-class short answer quiz on rules, terms, and basic legislative procedures. *Jan. 28th.*

**Assignment 1: 20 points.** You will write a bill and a bill report for the Washington State legislature. Details provided later. *Due by email on Tuesday, Feb. 17.*

**Assignment 2: 25 points.** A one to three page memo to a client outlining a plan to achieve a legislative objective of your choice (10 points), and a one page memo to a legislator, advocating for your client’s position (10 points). Details provided later. You will also use this issue to make a presentation to the class during a mock committee hearing (5 points) *Memos due by email Tuesday, March 8. Mock committee hearing on March 3rd and 10th.*

**Dance of Legislation Paper: 25 points:** A five to ten page paper (suggested) on the required reading. Discuss how the following influenced the progress of S. 4106 through the legislative process, and how the influence of those factors have or have not changed since the book was written:
- Individual lawmakers
- Staff who work for individual lawmakers (personal staff)
- Committee staff
- Interest groups
- The executive branch
- Electoral politics
- The news media and public pressure
- Legislative rules and parliamentary procedure
- Luck

*Due by email Monday, March 14th.*

Assignments will be graded down by 1 point for each day late.

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**Course Outline (Tentative)**

**Week 1 (Jan. 7): Overviews**
- Course overview
- Guest speakers: Contract lobbyists Brad Tower and Cliff Traisman
- Overview of the legislative process: the American System
Week 2 (Jan. 14): Basic Structures: State Legislature

- Discuss Forewords, Preface, and Chapter 1 of *Dance of Legislation*
- Structure, Rules, and Procedures of the Washington State Legislature

Additional Readings:
Overview of the legislative process
http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Overview.aspx
Rules of the Washington State House of Representatives
http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/HouseRules.aspx
Rules of the Washington State Senate
http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Administration/Pages/senate_rules.aspx
Joint Rules of the House and Senate
Reeds Rules of Order

Week 3 (Jan. 21): Basic Structures: Congress and Local Government

- Discuss Chapters II and III of *Dance*
- Rules, Procedure and Structure of Congress
- Rules, Procedure and Structure of the King County Council and Seattle City Council

Additional Readings:
The House Explained. Be sure and read “The legislative process.”
http://house.gov/content/learn/
The Senate’s Legislative Process
http://www.senate.gov/legislative/common/briefing/Senate_legislative_process.htm

The King County Council
http://www.kingcounty.gov/council.aspx
The Seattle City Council
http://www.seattle.gov/council/

Week 4 (Jan 28): Basic Structures

- Discuss Chapter IV of *Dance*
- Present scenario for Assignment 1
- In class short answer quiz on basic structures
Week 5 (Feb 4): Objective Analysis
- Discuss Chapters V and VI of Dance
- Overview of the Revised Code of Washington (RCWs)
- How to read and write a bill
- Researching and writing bill reports

Week 6 (Feb 11): Objective Analysis
- Discuss Chapter VII of Dance
- Examination of Leg.Wa.Gov
- Case Study: OSPI Legislative Relations
- Watch and discuss a legislative hearing on TVW

Week 7 (Feb 18): Advocacy
- Discuss Chapters VIII and IX of Dance
- Present scenario for assignment 2
- Lobbying strategy and tactics focusing on the Washington State legislature
- Watch and discuss legislative floor sessions on TVW

Week 8 (Feb 25): Advocacy
- Discuss Chapters X and XI of Dance
- Public affairs campaigns

Week 9 (Mar 3): Advocacy
- Discuss Chapter XII, Epilogue and Postscript of Dance
- Guest speaker: Eric Redman, author of The Dance of Legislation
- Begin mock committee hearings

Week 10 (Mar 10): Advocacy
- Alternatives to the American system
- Mock committee hearing presentations