

## **GVPT 319D: Topics in Social Advocacy; Careers in Government and Politics**

Spring 2018 | Section 0101

Monday, 12:00-12:50 pm, 1104 Tydings Hall

**Instructor:** Sarah Wolek  
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Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Coordinator:** Karmin Cortes  
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### **Course Overview**

Working in the Government & Politics sector can be immensely rewarding. However, the sector is complex and can appear opaque when first entering the workforce. GVPT 319D will shed light on the sector so that students come away with a fuller understanding on how to approach developing careers in the space.

### **Learning Objectives**

Specific learning objectives for students in GVPT319C include:

- Developing an understanding about career opportunities within the Government & Politics sector
- Developing relationships with practitioners in the field
- Developing a framework for career planning

### **Required Materials**

- Functioning Email Address (registered with Testudo)
- Access to Canvas (<https://elms.umd.edu/>)

### **Policy of Academic Honesty and Integrity**

In all class work and assignments, it is expected that students hold the highest personal and professional standards that reflect the objectives of the University of Maryland. The University's *Code of Academic Integrity* is designed to ensure that the principles of academic honesty and integrity are upheld. Please visit the following website for more information on the University's Code of Academic Integrity: <https://www.president.umd.edu/administration/policies/section-iii-academic-affairs/iii-100a>

### **Students with Special Needs or Disabilities**

Any student needing special accommodations for physical or learning disabilities should speak directly with the course coordinator prior to or at the first class meeting so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Every effort will be made to provide equitable learning conditions for all students.

## Class Communication

Many course announcements and details will be made available via Canvas and email. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all class emails and Canvas notifications are received. Email should be the main mode of communication. Students are expected to check their email and Canvas account regularly to stay apprised of class communications and announcements.

## Attendance Policy

As this class is strongly based on career development information shared in the classroom setting, in class participation is paramount. Students must contact the instructor in advance of the class (if possible) for any excused absences. If desired, a student may make up attendance and participation points lost due to an *excused* absence (which must be cleared by the instructor) by getting an alternative assignment. Unexcused absences will affect participation grades. In addition, students are still responsible for coursework missed and turning in assignments on time for both excused and unexcused absences. This class adheres to the university attendance policy. More details on what is considered an excused absence can be found at: [https://faculty.umd.edu/teach/attend\\_student.html](https://faculty.umd.edu/teach/attend_student.html).

Excused absences include:

- Religious observances
- Mandatory military obligation
- Illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member
- Participation in university activities at the request of university authorities
- Compelling circumstances beyond the student's control (e.g., death in the family, required court appearance)

## Drop/Add Period

Undergraduate Student Deadline to:	
Cancel Registration	January 23, 2018
<u>Change from Full-time to Part-Time (see Schedule Adjustment)</u>	January 23, 2018
Add a Course	February 6, 2018
Apply for Graduation	February 6, 2018
Change Credit Level	February 6, 2018
Change Grading Option	February 6, 2018
Drop a Course Without "W" (Withdrawal)	February 6, 2018
<u>Drop a Course With "W" (Withdrawal; see Drop Policy)</u>	April 11, 2018

### Student Engagement Points

Active participation in class is essential to developing your career skills and understanding and applying the course to your individual career development. Engagement points will be based on participating in class discussions and activities. Students are expected to attend all class sessions.

Student engagement points will be counted for 12 class sessions beginning 02/12. No engagement points will be counted for the first two classes. Of the remaining 12 class periods, students will be allowed one free pass to be used at each student's discretion. It is recommended that students only use their free pass for career or educational activities. Any absence beyond the one free pass that is not excused by the instructor will result in a deduction of participation points. Students can earn up to 1 point for each class. Points earned will be determined by the based on involvement in class activities.

### Class Distractions

In order to foster an atmosphere of learning free from distractions, students are asked to **turn off all cell phones, ipads, and laptops** during class time. Use of these items or having side conversations, including text messaging, may have an impact on your class engagement grade.

### Course materials/Notetaking

Lecture PowerPoints will not be posted. Therefore active notetaking (as needed by the student) is highly encouraged during the class. Notetaking should be done via pen/paper as use of ipads/phones/laptops is not permitted unless special arrangements are made with instructor.

### Summary of Grading

Grading is on a traditional A-F scale and is based on points earned. All grades will be tracked through Canvas. Points assigned to each part are in accordance with the estimated amount of effort needed for successful completion. Rounding will not be used in determining assignment or final grades.

#### *Student Engagement:*

Participation 1 point per session for a total of 12 points Beginning 02/12	12	80% of grade
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#### *Final Project:*

3 points, due last day of class	3	20% of grade
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TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:	15 points
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#### Letter Grade Percentages:

97 – 100% = A+	80 – 83.99% = B-	64 – 66.99% = D
94 – 96.99% = A	77 – 79.99% = C+	60 – 63.99% = D-
90 – 93.99% = A-	74 – 76.99% = C	59.99% and below = F
87 – 89.99% = B+	70 – 73.99% = C-	
84 – 86.99% = B	67 – 69.99% = D+	

## Assignment submission

In class activity should be handed to instructor at the end of class and submission sheet initialed.

Final project should be emailed by 11:59 PM on May 2<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## Schedule of Lectures & Deadlines

**\*Topics will shift depending on availability of guests**

Sessions	CLASS TOPIC
01/29	Introduction
02/05	Setting up coffee chats "Talking to strangers" Part I
02/12	"Talking to strangers" Part II Final Project overview
02/19	Federal Government →Executive
02/26	Federal Government →Legislative
03/05	Federal Government →Judicial
03/12	Guests
03/19	Spring Break
03/26	Designing your career
04/02	Law School
04/09	State/Local Government
04/16	Lobbying
04/23	Campaigns
04/30	Guests
05/02	Final Projects due
05/07	Wrap—up, Presentations