Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security & Law
Next Generation Scholars Program 2014-2015
Fridays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm in SRH 3.214

Program Objectives

The Next Generational Scholars Program is designed to provide professional development and research mentoring to promising young scholars who hope to work in global public policy in the future. The program begins with semester-long training in the basics of research, writing and presentation, before placing students in research apprenticeships with Strauss Center faculty scholars to attain hands-on experience with real research.

To practice many of these skills, we will work on several parts of a draft application for the Truman, Rhodes or Boren fellowships. The final project for the course will include a full draft and presentation/defense of a proposal for one of these highly competitive fellowships. After reading up on each of these, you may choose which fellowship will be the focus of your policy proposal work for this semester.

For information on the Truman Fellowships, see http://www.truman.gov
For information on the Rhodes Fellowships, see http://www.rhodesscholar.org
For information on the Boren Fellowships, see https://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/basics.html

Current Events

In addition to our normal course discussions focused on professional development, we will begin each class with a brief discussion of current events. To prepare for this, please make a habit of reading one or more credible sources of international news on a daily basis. Below are some of the key news sources I would recommend:

BBC: https://www.bbc.com/
In addition, you may choose to follow other sources of news via print, the internet, or radio, but make sure you are following at least one authoritative source of international news. Also, you might want to follow some blogs that interest you (and which we will discuss at further length in class). But the important goal here is to read daily and to read widely for perspectives that not only match your interests, but also challenge your preexisting worldviews.

Overview of Assignments

I. **Session Assignments (70%)**
   1. Editing (10%)
   2. Op-ed on student engagement in policy (10%)
   3. Personal Statement (10%)
   4. Policy Proposal Abstract and Summary of Evidence (10%)
   5. Rough Draft of Policy Proposal (10%)
   6. Final Draft of Policy Proposal (10%)
   7. Oral Presentation and Defense (10%)

II. **Event Memos (20%)**: In addition, you are required to attend at least two Strauss Center events over the course of the fall semester and prepare one-page summaries/reaction memos to each of the events. The calendar of Strauss Center events is available on the Strauss Center website at [https://www.strausscenter.org/categoryevents/2.html](https://www.strausscenter.org/categoryevents/2.html). Each memo will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

III. **Participation (10%)**: This accounts for attendance, in-class participation and performance as a participant on the final panel defense teams.

**On Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to respect the LBJ School's standards regarding academic dishonesty. You owe it to yourself, your fellow students, and the institution to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. A discussion of academic integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, as well as helpful information on citations, note taking, and paraphrasing, can be found at the Office of the Dean of Students web page and the Office of Graduate Studies. The University has also established disciplinary procedures and penalty guidelines for academic dishonesty, especially Sec. 11.304 in Appendix C of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities section in UT's General Information Catalog.
August 29: Introduction / Overview of the NGS Program
Guest Speaker: Professor Robert Chesney, Director of the Strauss Center

No required reading

September 12: The Art of Writing Well

George Orwell. 1946. “Politics and the English Language.” Available at http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/orwell46.htm

‘How to Write in Plain English.” From the Plain English Campaign. Available at http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/free-guides.html.

**Assignment 1 (due Sept.24): Editing Policy Proposals**
Completed in pairs; due Sept.24 at 5:00 by email to ceweaver@austin.utexas.edu. The original policy proposal that you will edit has been posted on Canvas.

September 26: Getting Involved in Public Policy
Guest speaker: Jeremi Suri, Professor and Mac Brown Chair

**Required Reading:**


Read 2-3 of CNN’s most-shared op-eds of 2013:
http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/25/opinion/opinion-2013-most-shared/

**Assignment 2 (due Oct.8 at 5:00 by email): Op-Ed**
Write a 1-page (500 word) op-ed for the *Daily Texan* on why – and how - UT students should become involved in public policy
October 10: Careers in Global Policy and the Writing for Different Public Policy Audiences
Guest speaker: Dr. Will Inboden, Executive Director, Clements Center

Required Reading:
APSIA Careers Site: http://www.apsia.org/careers/career-opportunities-in-international-affairs/


LBJ School resources on writing cover letters:
http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/careers/process/coverletter

In-Class Exercise: Writing Resumes and Personal Statements
Please bring your resume (as a word document) to class on your laptop.

Assignment 3 (due Oct.22 by email): Personal statement
Write a one-page personal statement for one of the following fellowship applications: Truman, Rhodes, or Boren.

October 24: How to Conduct Research and Gather Evidence to Influence Policy

Required Reading:


Assignment 4 (due Nov.5 by email): Policy Proposal Abstract & Evidence
First, write an abstract (250 words) for a Truman, Rhodes or Boren Scholarship an application policy statement and proposal. Your abstract should identify the driving policy question/problem, its significance and your stance.

Second, gather 10 points of evidence/data for your policy proposal. Make sure you include the full citations and have a diversity of sources. Your points of evidence/data
should be a balance between evidence that supports your argument and evidence that challenges your argument.

**November 7: From Idea to Execution in Policy Proposals**

*No required reading*

**Recommended Reading:**

**In-Class Exercise:** Editing abstracts and outlining full policy proposals

**Assignment 5: Rough Draft & Peer Review of Policy Proposals**
Part 1 - Complete a full draft of your policy proposal  (due by email on Nov.14, copies to both Dr. Weaver and to your assigned peer reviewers)
Part 2 – Complete peer reviews (due in class on Nov.21)


*No required reading*

**In-Class Exercise:** Peer reviews of policy proposals

**Assignment 6 (due December 5):** complete the final draft of your policy proposal and prepare your final presentation (oral only; no more than 5 minutes in length).

**December 5: Final Presentations**

*No required reading*

**Assignment 7 (in class):** Presentations of final policy proposals, with panel defense (mock Truman/Rhodes/Boren Fellowship interview)

**December 9 (no class): Final Due Dates**

* All Strauss Center event memos and Final Application of Fellowship Proposal due by December 9 at 5:00 pm by email.