

**New York State Assembly Graduate Scholars  
January 6, 2014**

## Instructor Contact

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## Seminar Information

Regular Date/Time	Mondays/9:30 am per schedule
Room	LOB 104A Training Room
Semester	January 8, 2014 through June 9, 2014

## Course Description

The seminar is designed to provide an introduction to the state legislature and the issues it faces in New York. It is also intended to introduce the Graduate Scholars to the work and work products expected of legislative staff in New York.

Scholars are expected to do the weekly readings and attend a series of 14 seminars. These will be held in accordance with the schedule below. You will notice “Hold” on some dates. These will give us the opportunity to hold “make-up” sessions should they be required. If not, they will be “buy” weeks with no seminar and you can expect to be assigned topical readings or on-line discussions instead. Also, we will be flexible with the readings and seminar topics. There may be occasions where current events would make it worthwhile to change the schedule so that the seminars and readings coincide with events.

Scholars will also be expected to write professional work products. Smith’s “Writing Public Policy” (one of the assigned books below) will be used as a guide. These will be related to the work of the office. Each scholar is asked to develop the proposal for each in consultation with both the office supervisor and with me. The written assignments must be completed to the satisfaction of the office supervisor and submitted to both the office supervisor and me in a timely manner. Expect the

assignments to be settled upon before the February break.

All of the usual academic rules apply. Proper citations to works and people consulted, etc. are expected.

In addition, the scholars will be asked to present their work to their colleagues.

I will be available in the Intern Office immediately before and after our seminars and by e-mail or telephone. Please make specific arrangements with me via email for an appointment to see me if at all possible. You are always welcome to stop in or call without prior arrangement, but you should know that you may be competing with other classmates that have appointments. And, of course, the staff of the Intern Program are always available to you should any issue arise when I am not in Albany.

If you are unexpectedly confronted with a scheduling conflict or any other kind of issue, please send me an email to let me know you will not be attending the seminar. Many of the activities of the legislature are intimately connected to the session calendar. But many are scheduled with little advanced notice because members and staff frequently need to adjust their schedules to address the requirements of issues, meetings, etc. originating outside the Assembly. Ill health, prior commitments, or office scheduling issues are legitimate excuses from seminar attendance.

The reading assignments and class meeting times for the first few weeks are identified below. You should expect to get further detail regarding additional readings and other assignments in the weeks to come.

As you have been told during Orientation this week, you are expected to attend the Issue Forums on Mondays or Tuesdays. You are also expected to obtain copies of the three books listed below.

## Books:

Schneier, Edward, Murtaugh, John Brian and Pole, Antoinette. (2009) *New York Politics: A Tale of Two States*, 2nd Edition, M.E. Sharpe.

Smith, Catherine F. (2013) *Writing Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Communicating in the Policy Making Process*, 3rd edition, Oxford University.

Rosenthal, Alan. (2004) *Heavy Lifting: The Job of the American Legislature*. CQ Press.

Ward, Robert B. (2006) *New York State Government*, 2nd Edition. Rockefeller Institute Press.

## Course Schedule

Week/Dates	Topic	Core Readings*
Week 1 1/8	Seminar Introduction Governor's State of the State Speech & Introduction to Program	Governor's 2014 State of the State
Week 2 1/13	Report to Offices	
Week 3 1/21	Introduction to: *NY Gov't & Politics *The NYS Budget Process	Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Introduction" and "Chapter 1--The States of New York" Ward, "Chapter 1—A Broad Impact" & "Chapter Ten—State Government's Biggest Job: The Budget" Rosenthal, "Chapter 1—What Legislatures Do" Schneier, "Chapter 8—Taxing, Spending, and Public Policy Priorities" Read the Division of the Budget's "Guide to the NYS Budget Process" available at: <a href="http://www.budget.ny.gov/citizen/process/process.html">http://www.budget.ny.gov/citizen/process/process.html</a>
Week 4 1/27	Individual budget review No Seminar	Obtain and review Governor's Budget Message, Assembly "Yellow Book" & Senate "White Book." All available on-line at: <a href="http://www.budget.ny.gov">www.budget.ny.gov</a> <a href="http://www.assembly.state.ny.us">www.assembly.state.ny.us</a> <a href="http://www.senate.state.ny.us">www.senate.state.ny.us</a>
Week 5 2/3	Seminar *The Constitution *Gubernatorial Power *Review of 2013-14 Executive Budget	Schneier, "Chapter 5---The Living Constitution" Ward, "Chapter 7—Constitution" Ward, "Chapter 4—The Governor and Other Statewide Elected Leaders" <u>George E. Pataki v. New York State Assembly, et al. and Sheldon Silver v. George E Pataki</u> (2004). Available at: <a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I04_0160.htm">http://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I04_0160.htm</a>
Week 6 2/10	Seminar Legislating	Ward, "Chapter 5---The Legislature" Rosenthal, "Chapter 4---Lawmaking: Challenges of the Legislative Process," "Chapter 5---Lawmaking: Obstacles to Overcome" & "Chapter 6---Lawmaking: Putting It All Together" Schneier, "Chapter 7—Making Public Policy"

Week 7 2/17	February Break	
Week 8 2/24	Seminar Representation <b>Policy Issues*</b>	Rosenthal, “Chapter 2---Representation: Serving the District’s Interests” & “Chapter 3---Representation: Expressing Constituency Views” Ward, “Chapter 20---The People’s Government”
Week 9 3/3	Seminar Power & Leadership <b>Policy Issues</b>	Schneier, “Chapter 4---Power, Pluralism, Public Opinion, and the Permanent Government” and “Chapter 6---Struggles for Power, Position, and Access” Rosenthal, “Chapter 10---Does Legislative Leadership Make a Difference?”
Week 10 3/10	Hold	
Week 11 3/17	Seminar The Negotiation Process <b>Policy Issues*</b>	Rosenthal, “Chapters 7---Lawmaking: Managing Majorities,” “Chapter 8---Balance: The Executive’s Upper Hand” & “Chapter 9---Balance: How Governor’s and Legislatures Deal With One Another”
Week 12 3/24	Seminar <b>Policy Issues*</b>	<b>*Each student will be asked to select an issue area from Ward, “Chapters 12 through 17” and lead a class discussion relating the issue area to the budget deliberations.</b>
Week 13 3/31	Hold	
Week 14 4/7	Seminar Executive Implementation, Agencies & Bureaucracy	Ward, “Chapter 8---Appointed Officials, Administrative Law, and the Bureaucracy,” “Chapter 9---The Workforce” & “Chapter 11—State Debt and Public Authorities” Ward, “Gubernatorial Powers to Address Budget Gaps During the Fiscal Year,” Rockefeller Institute, June 17, 2010 <a href="http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/budgetary_balance_ny/2010-06-17-Gubernatorial_Powers.pdf">http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/budgetary_balance_ny/2010-06-17-Gubernatorial_Powers.pdf</a> )
Week 15 4/14	Hold	
Week 16 4/21	Seminar Local Governments	Ward, “Chapter 3—The Upstate Challenge,” “Chapter 18—The 3,166 Local Governments” & “Chapter 19---The State-Local Paradox: Home Rule and State Mandates”
Week 17 4/28	Hold	
Week 18 5/5	Seminar Reform	Ward, “Chapter 2—Reform: Is This the Time?” The Report of the Mooreland Commission. Available at: <a href="http://moreland.ny.gov/">http://moreland.ny.gov/</a>
Week 19 5/12	Hold	

Week 20 5/19	Seminar The Constitution and Politics	Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, “Chapter 3, Parties, Politics, and Elections” Ward, “Chapter Seven—The Constitution” and “Chapter Twenty—The People’s Government”
Week 21 5/26	Memorial Day	
Week 22 6/2	Seminar Federalism	Schneier, “Chapter 2—New York in the Federal System” Ward, “Appendix A---Federalism: What is the Role of State Governments?”
Week 23 6/9	Seminar Wrap-Up “What is a good legislature?”	Rosenthal, “Chapter 11—What is a Good Legislature?” Schneier, “Chapter 9---New Directions for New York”