

**New York State Assembly Graduate Scholars
January 5, 2012**

Faculty: Roman B. Hedges

Phone:

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Office:

23rd Floor
AE Smith Building

Meeting Place:

Room 104A, LOB

Meeting Time: 1:00pm-3:30 pm Thursdays

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, attend the weekly seminars, and write the three papers assigned. Scholars are also expected to participate in the seminars. All of the usual academic rules apply to the papers. Proper citations to works and people consulted, etc. are expected.

The three written assignments for the seminar will be related to the work of the office. Each scholar is asked to develop the proposal for each of the three papers 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.

In addition, the scholars will be asked to present their work to their colleagues in the seminar in the two weeks that follow the due date of the written assignments.

The readings and seminars are “front loaded.” Once the readings and written assignments are completed, the remaining work of the session will be in the office where you have been placed.

I will be available in my Smith Building office, and by e-mail or telephone. Please make specific arrangements with my office 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 I may be unavailable unless you have made prior arrangements.

If you are unexpectedly confronted with scheduling or any other kind of issue, please reach out to let me know. If you cannot reach me directly, leave a message with my office and I will get back to you. Of course, the offices of the intern program are always available to you.

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. Please be patient with those asking you to rearrange schedules to mesh with the unexpected.

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 policy meetings on Monday evening. You are also expected to obtain copies of the three books listed below.

Books:

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

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

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

Week 1: Introduction to New York Government and Politics (January 12)

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, “Introduction” and “Chapter 1, The States of New York”
Ward, “Chapter One—A Broad Impact” and “Chapter Two—Reform: Is This the Time?”

Week 2: Origins (January 19)

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, ““Chapter 3, Parties, Politics, and Elections”
Ward, “Chapter Seven—The Constitution” and “Chapter Twenty—The People's Government”

Week 3: The Budget (January 26)

Ward, “Chapter Ten—State Government's Biggest Job: The Budget”
George E. Pataki v. New York State Assembly, et al. and Sheldon Silver v. George E Pataki (2004)
Robert B. Ward, “Gubernatorial Powers to Address Budget Gaps During the Fiscal Year,” Rockefeller Institute, June 17, 2010 (http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/budgetary_balance_ny/2010-06-17-Gubernatorial_Powers.pdf)

Week 4: Introduction to the Legislature (February 2)

Rosenthal, “1, Looking at What Legislature's Do,” “2, Representation: Serving the District's Interests,” and “3, Representation: Expressing Constituency Views”
Ward, “Chapter Five—The Legislature”

Week 5: Legislative Context: Federalism, the Executive, and the Judiciary (February 9)

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Chapter 2, New York in the Federal System"

Ward, "Chapter Four—The Governor and Other Statewide Elected Leaders," and "Chapter Six—The Judiciary"

Rosenthal, "4, Lawmaking: Challenges of the Legislative Process"

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Chapter 4, Power, Pluralism, Public Opinion, and the Permanent Government"

Week 6: Legislative Context: The Constitution (February 16)

First paper due

No longer than 5 pages, topic to discussed with me (individually) in advance

Rosenthal, "5, Lawmaking: Ostacles to Overcome"

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Chapter 5, The Living Constitution"

Ward, "Chapter Seven—The Constitution" (again)

Week 7: (March 1)

Rosenthal, "6, Lawmaking: Putting It Together," "7, Lawmaking: Managing Majorities"

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Chapter 6, Struggles for Power, Position and Access"

Week 8: (March 8)

Rosenthal, "8, Balance: The Executive's Upper Hand," "9, Balance: How Governors and Legislatures Deal with One Another"

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Chapter 7, Making Public Policy," "Chapter 8, Taxing, Spending and Public Policy Priorities"

Ward, "Chapter Nine—The Workforce"

Week 9: (March 15)

Rosenthal, "10, Does Legislative Leadership Make a Difference?"

Schneier, Murtaugh, and Pole, "Chapter 9, New Directions for New York"

Week 10: (March 22)

Second paper due

Rosenthal, "11, What Is a 'Good' Legislature?"

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/the_new_york_state_legislative_process_an_evaluation_and_blueprint_for_refo/

Week 11: Redistricting (March 29)

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/a_citizens_guide_to_redistricting_2010_edition/

Week 12: Education (April 5)

Ward, “Chapter Thirteen—Education”

Week 13: (April 12)

Ward, “Chapter Eleven—State Debt and Public Authorities”

<http://www.abo.state.ny.us/commissionPublicAuth/FinalReport.pdf>

<http://www.abo.state.ny.us/aboTaskForce/ParaTaskForceFinalReport.pdf>

Week 14: (April 19)

Third paper due

Week 15: (April 26)

Week 16: (May 3)

Week 17: (May 10)