Course Syllabus

Professors:
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Office hours by appointment.

Summary:
Students engage in the federal regulatory process by analyzing proposed regulations from the public interest perspective and filing public comments with federal agencies that reflects their findings and views. The course combines practical lectures on the regulatory process with workshops on how to analyze regulations and effectively communicate ideas to different audiences (e.g., government agencies, the public, and Congress). Students will present their analysis through a mock hearing and op-ed, as well as a public comment.

Grading:
Grades for the course will be based on performance on an oral testimony (15%), op-ed (5% for the draft + 10% for the final version = 15%), and public comment (10% for the draft + 40% for the final version = 50%), as well as participation in class (including ability to discuss the readings and listenings) and group activities (20%). This is a writing course.

Readings:
Readings are listed below, but a few more not listed might be assigned via e-mail.

Required texts
- *Primer on Regulation* by Susan E. Dudley & Jerry Brito, available free online or paperback at Amazon.com.
Jan. 7  Introduction, aims and scope of the course, grading and policies. 
What is the public interest?

Readings:
   - Susan E. Dudley & Jerry Brito, *Primer on Regulation*, Ch. 1. 
      Available at: [http://mercatus.org/publication/regulation-primer](http://mercatus.org/publication/regulation-primer)

Jan. 14  What is rulemaking? The regulatory process.

Readings:
   - Dudley & Brito, Ch. 4.
   - Rauch, Ch. 2.

Jan. 21  Why should we regulate and why do we regulate? Theories of regulation.
Guest Speaker: Eli Dourado, Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at GMU.

Readings:
   - Dudley & Brito Ch. 2.
      Available at: [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/537972/Clinic/winston.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/537972/Clinic/winston.pdf)

Jan. 28  Analysis of economic regulation
Guest Speaker (invited): Dr. Jerry Ellig, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center.

Readings:
   - Dudley & Brito, Ch. 6.
   - Summaries of the FCC final order on cable franchising. Available at:
Assignment: By today you should have selected the regulation about which you will write a comment.

Feb. 4  What is Executive Order 12866? What is OIRA?
Guest Speaker (invited): Susan Dudley, Director, Regulatory Studies Center, GWU & Former Administrator of OIRA.

Readings:
● Dudley & Brito, Ch. 8.

Assignment: Before class today, email Professors a memo explaining your selected regulation. Professors will provide feedback by the following class.

Feb. 11  Analysis of social regulation
Guest Speaker: Heidi King, Global Director of Environmental Risk at GE Capital, Former Policy Analyst, OIRA.

Reading & podcast:
● Listen to interview with Sam Peltzman on Econtalk. Available at: http://tinyurl.com/y9m68x4
● Dudley & Brito, Ch. 7.

Feb. 18  Public choice and rent seeking
Guest Speaker: Matt Mitchell, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center

Readings:
● Rauch, Chs. 3 & 5.
● J. Patrick Gunning, Understanding Democracy, Ch. 16 Rent Seeking, Available at: http://bit.ly/rPCLui
Feb. 25  Elements of a public interest comment / Workshop: Student projects

Reading:
- Jerry Brito & Jerry Ellig, Public Interest Comment on Video Franchising, submitted to the FCC, February 13, 2006. (Don’t read for the content; skim it. Read for the structure and to see how the arguments are laid out and how the regulation is analyzed.) Available at: http://bit.ly/wwL67a

Assignment:  Come prepared to discuss your regulation and your comment with the class.  In class, please sign up for individual meetings for the week of March 28.

Mar. 4  Communicating complex ideas: Giving live testimony, writing an op-ed, and turning your comment into a law review article
Guest Speakers: Bob Ewing, Director of Media Relations, Mercatus Center.

Readings:
- Read the Washington Post's op-ed page for the week leading up to this class.

Mar. 11  No Class -- Spring Break

Mar. 18  Behavioral Economics

Readings:
- Steve Lohr, NY Times, The Default Choice, So Hard to Resist, Available at: http://nyti.ms/okMJtw

Assignment:  Email your draft comment to Professors before class today. Drafts will be discussed in individual meetings next week.

Mar. 25  No Class -- Meet Individually with Professors

Apr. 1  Midnight Regulations; Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Review of Final Regulations

Readings:
• OMB Watch, Midnight Regulations Roundup: [http://www.ombwatch.org/node/9739](http://www.ombwatch.org/node/9739)

Assignment: Email your draft op-ed to Professors before class today. Professors will provide feedback on your draft by the following class.

Apr. 8            Current Topics in Regulatory Policy: TBD

Apr. 15           Mock Testimony (at GMUSL, room TBD)

May 5            Comment & Op-Ed Due -- email Professors by 11:59pm