

# New York State Assembly Graduate Scholars Seminar Outline: 2015 State and Local Governance

## Instructor Contact

Instructor	Janet Penksa, PhD
Phone	585-520-1586
E-mail	penksaj@buffalostate.edu
Office Hours	On Request

## Seminar Information

Regular Date/Time	Thursdays 12:00-1:30pm (Per schedule below. Upon occasion seminars will be moved to alternative dates and times based on legislative calendar changes and scheduling of the Speaker's Series)
Room	LOB104a
Semester	Winter/Spring 2015

## Seminar Description

The seminar is designed to provide an introduction to the state legislature and the issues it faces. Special attention will be paid to the state's budget process and its relationship to its local governments, both key in policy formation and implementation. The seminar will also 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 15 seminars. These will be held in accordance with the schedule below. **However, please be aware that dates may change depending on the schedule of the legislature.**

**In addition, scholars will be expected to attend a "Speaker's Series" sponsored by the Intern Office where senior state officials and policy makers will address all scholars and interns on current events and selected topics.**

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 at hand.

Scholars will also be expected to write professional work products. These will be related to the work of the office. Scholars will be asked to present their work to their colleagues.

Senior legislative officials and Albany “insiders” will be frequently invited to class as guest speakers. Many of these will be former graduate scholars who launched their careers from this position.

## Attendance Policy

Scholars are expected to attend the policy meetings (“Speaker’s Series) held by the Intern Office on certain Monday or Tuesday evenings. Scholars are also expected to attend each of the graduate seminars.

**If a scholar is unexpectedly confronted with scheduling or any other kind of issue, an excuse from class must be obtained by calling or emailing the Intern Office or the Instructor stating the reason for the absence.** Ill health or office scheduling issues are legitimate excuses from seminar attendance.

**On-time attendance at all workshops, seminars, and speaker series scheduled by the Intern Office or the Instructor is a mandatory component of your employment with the Assembly unless excused by the Intern Office or the Instructor.**

## Books and Readings:

The seminar series is intended to provide each scholar with the practical skills to succeed in government. Weekly assignments will include current government publications and web resources in addition to those on the reading list below. Many will be assigned as they become available.

Required:

Daily Media: It is expected that scholars keep up on current events in New York State by reading the Albany Times Union and the state sections of other publications, for example, the New York Times, the New York Post, and the New York Daily News. In addition, viewing *Inside Albany* at 8pm weeknights on TWC is highly recommended.

Pecorella, Robert F., Stonecash, Jeffrey M., editors (2012) *Governing New York State, Sixth Edition*. SUNY Press.

Schneier, E. V., Murtaugh, J. B., & Pole, A. (2009) *New York Politics: A Tale of Two States*. ME Sharpe.

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

Supplemental:

Lee, Robert D. Jr., Johnson, Ronald W. Joyce, Philip G., (2013) *Public Budgeting Systems*, 9th edition, Jones & Bartlet: MA.

Miller, D. Y., & Cox III, R. W. (2014) *Governing the Metropolitan Region: America's New Frontier*. ME Sharpe.

Pierre, J. (2011) *The Politics of Urban Governance*. Palgrave Macmillan.

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

Smith, K. B., & Greenblatt, A. (2013). *Governing states and localities*. CQ Press.

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

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Seminar Schedule: Dates and topics may change in accordance with changes to legislative schedule or availability of speakers

Dates	Topic	Required Readings* (Expect additional readings to be assigned)
1/7	Governor’s State of the State Speech & Introduction to the Seminar Series <i>Will convene 15 minutes following the Governor’s Speech</i>	Governor’s 2014 State of the State Address
1/15	Introduction to the Legislative & Budget Process	The Division of the Budget’s “ <i>Guide to the NYS Budget Process</i> ” available at: <a href="http://www.budget.ny.gov/citizen/process/process.html">http://www.budget.ny.gov/citizen/process/process.html</a>
1/22	*New York State and Local Government: Politics & Conflict	Pecorella, et al., Chapter 1, “Regional Political Conflict in New York State,” Chapter 2, “Political Conflict and “Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations”  Schneier, et al., “Introduction,” “Chapter 1, The States of New York”
1/29	*The NYS Budget: How to understand the financial plan and read budget bills	Pecorella, et al., Chapter 9, “The Policy Debate: The Economy, Taxes and Public Program,
2/5	*2015 Budget Review  <i>Over the course of the legislative session, each scholar will be asked to select a budget/policy issue and lead ongoing class discussions as these issues are deliberated.</i>	Schneier, Chapter 8, “Taxing, Spending, and Public Policy Priorities”  Obtain and review “ <i>Governor’s Budget Message</i> ,” Assembly “ <i>Yellow Book</i> ” & Senate “ <i>White Book</i> .” 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>
2/12	Budget Review: Top issues for 2015	Speaker from Ways and Means Prior to this, scholars are expected to attend 2 budget hearings, including the Local Assistance Hearing. Select 1 agency hearing based on issue area to be presented during later weeks as noted below).
2/19	*Governance & Legislating *Advocacy, Lobbying and Interest Groups: The Powerful Role of Non-Governmental Actors and	Pecorella, and Chapter 4, “Interest Groups and Lobbying”  Schneier, Chapter 6, “Struggles for Power, Position, and Access” and Chapter 7, “Making

	Interest Groups *Ethics	Public Policy”  Review NY Code - Article 1-A: LOBBYING ACT <a href="http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/nycode/LEG/1-A">http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/nycode/LEG/1-A</a> ---AND JOCUBE Guidelines to the NYS Lobbying Act <a href="http://www.jcope.ny.gov/about/lob/Lobbying%20Guidelines%204_24_12revised2.pdf">http://www.jcope.ny.gov/about/lob/Lobbying%20Guidelines%204_24_12revised2.pdf</a>  Attendance at Budget Hearings Continued
2/26	The Federal-State-Local Financial Relationship	Schneier, “Chapter 2, “New York in the Federal System”  Research Brief, Office of the New York State Comptroller (2013) Fiscal Stress Drivers and Local Government Coping Strategies. <a href="http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/fiscalstressdrivers.pdf">http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/fiscalstressdrivers.pdf</a>
3/5	The Negotiation Process	Pecorella, et al. Overview: State Government Institutions. Chapter 5, New York’s Governorship “Restored” and Chapter 6, “The Legislature, Parties and Resolving Conflict”  Obtain and review legislative budget resolutions
3/12	Public Policy Issues & the Budget	Pecorella, et al., Chapter 9, “The Policy Debate: The Economy, Taxes and Public Program,” Chapter 10, “State Education Aid in New York in the Wake of Campaign for Fiscal Equity Decision,” Chapter 11, “Health Policy in the Empire State: Trying to Put The Brakes on Escalating Costs While Maintaining Access” and Chapter 12, “Welfare Policy in New York State”
3/19	*The Constitution & Courts *Power & Leadership	Schneier, Chapter 4, “Power, Pluralism, Public Opinion, and the Permanent Government” and Chapter 5, “The Living Constitution”  Pecorella, Chapter 5, “New York’s Governorship “Restored”” Chapter 6 “Struggles for Power, Position, and Access” and Chapter 7, “New York’s Courts”  <a href="#">George E. Pataki v. New York State Assembly, et</a>

		al. and Sheldon Silver v. George E Pataki (2004). Available at: <a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I04_0160.htm">http://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I04_0160.htm</a>
3/26	Policy Issues & the Budget	Scholar presentations. Each scholar will be asked to select a budget issue and lead a class discussion relating the issue area to the budget deliberations.
4/2	No Seminar/Budget Close-down	
4/9	Executive Implementation, Agencies & Bureaucracy	TBD
4/16	Budget & Policy Oversight	NYS Comptroller Review of the Executive Budget (to be posted)
4/23	*Municipal Home Rule & Local Governance	Frug, G. E. (1979) City as a Legal Concept, The. Harv. L. Rev., 93, 1057. Available at: <a href="http://duncankennedy.net/documents/Legal%20History%20Other%20Articles/The%20City%20as%20a%20Legal%20Concept.pdf">http://duncankennedy.net/documents/Legal%20History%20Other%20Articles/The%20City%20as%20a%20Legal%20Concept.pdf</a>
4/30	*Political Parties	Pecorella, Chapter 3, Political Parties and Elections  Schneier, Chapter 3, "Political Parties and Elections"
5/7	"What is a good legislature?"	Schneier, Chapter 9, New Directions for New York"
5/14	Professional Development/Speakers	Seminar "make-up" session if required
5/21	Professional Development/Speakers	Seminar "make-up" session if required
5/28	Professional Development/Speakers	Seminar "make-up" session if required
6/4	Professional Development/Speakers	Seminar "make-up" session if required
6/11 & 6/18	No seminar	End of Session/Final days for 2015 legislative action