Overview:

Political Science 4910 Honors studies the intersection of business and government. Our emphasis will be on how firms and activist groups influence public policy and how political, legal, and social institutions affect the behavior of businesses. The course will examine government regulation of industry, activist and public interest groups, the role of lobbying and campaign contributions in the policymaking process, ethical frameworks for nonmarket strategy, and other related topics. Examples and cases will be drawn from the United States, developed democracies, and emerging markets. More so than most undergraduate courses, student participation will be an integral component of the course. Many of our class meetings will consist of me introducing a theoretical framework to study a concept in business-government relations and then we will transition into a case study. Students will be expected to have read the material and come to class prepared to participate in the discussion.

Compared to the standard version of Political Science 4910, the Honors version of the course will entail dramatically more reading and writing. If you are not willing to read a great deal, I encourage you to drop the course. The readings will be somewhat eclectic, ranging from journalism to contemporary academic studies. The primary textbook, *Business and Its Environment*, will be our point of departure and the additional readings will supplement and expand on the material in the textbook.

Texts:

There are three required books for the course:


In addition to the books, we will read many academic articles, which are listed below. I will post links to the readings on Carmen. I reserve the right to supplement the material with additional readings.

Prerequisites: There are no formal prerequisites for the course. Exposure to introductory political science and microeconomics will be helpful.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Your grade will be determined by four components: in-class quizzes (25 percent), group presentation (15 percent), in-class midterm (25 percent), and final exam (35 percent). There is no official attendance policy, but absences will prevent you from participating in class and will ultimately
limit your participation grade. In groups of 2-3 students, you will be required to present one of the academic papers to the class. A strong presentation will identify the primary research question that the article addresses, describe the method that the article employs to answer the question, summarize the main findings and draw out their broader implications for our understanding of business and government relations.

**Academic Honesty:**
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in Political Science 4910H. The code of student conduct can be found online at [http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/) If you have any questions or doubts, ask me about the situation.

**Special Accommodations:**
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Course Overview:**

1. An Introduction to the Nonmarket Environment

2. Political Institutions

3. Government Regulation

4. Comparative and International Nonmarket Strategy

5. Nonmarket Strategy in the Financial Sector

6. Ethics

**Course Schedule:**

Jan. 13: Introduction


Jan. 22: BIE, Private Politics (p. 74-91) and Nike In Southeast Asia (p. 95-97).


Jan. 29: BIE The Organization of Congress (p. 152-157) and Chapters 1-4 of Showdown at Gucci Gulch

Feb. 3: Chapters 5-8 of Showdown at Gucci Gulch

Feb. 5: Chapters 9-11 and Epilogue of Showdown at Gucci Gulch

Feb. 10: BIE, Nonmarket Strategies for Government Arenas (p. 162-188) and Federal Express (p. 188-189).


Feb. 12 BIE Nonmarket Analysis (p. 195-213) and Internet Taxation (p. 214-218)

Feb. 17: Campaign Contributions


Feb. 19: Lobbying


Feb. 24: Rent Extraction


• Pablo Querubin and James M. Snyder Jr. The Control of Politicians in Normal Times and Times of Crisis: Wealth Accumulation by U.S. Congressmen, 1850-1880. 2011

Feb. 26: The Role of Political Institutions


March 3: Catchup, recap and review

March 5: In-class Midterm

March 10: BIE Antitrust (p. 230-251) and Microsoft (p. 257-263)

March 12: BIE Regulation (p. 264-285) and Enron Power Marketing, Inc. (p. 289-291)

March 24: Political Mechanisms of Regulation


March 26: BIE European Union (p. 417- 439) and European Union Carbon Tax (p. 439-442)

March 31: BIE Emerging Markets (p. 477-493) and “Buried Secrets” by Patrick Radden Keefe


April 2: Private Empire Prologue and Chapters 1-11

April 7: Private Empire Chapters 12-20

April 9: No class due to conference - use this extra time to work on your final papers

April 14: Private Empire Chapters 21-28

April 16: *BIE* Corporate Social Responsibility (p. 619 - 641) and Enron (p. 642-647)

April 21: CSR continued


April 23: *BIE* Ethics Issues in International Business (p. 681-699) and De Beers and Conflict Diamonds (p. 702-703)

April 29 8:00-9:45 a.m.: Final Exam