

The American University Washington Semester Program
Govt 412.004 – Legal Research Project
Professor Mark C. Miller
Spring 2007

Contact Information for Professor Miller:

This course will enable the students to produce a 50 page research paper involving original research, including interviews of key individuals in the Washington, D.C. area. This research project is an opportunity for students to explore in detail an issue in public law that particularly interests them. The project should be one that is tailored to the Washington, D.C. location, including 5-6 personal interviews of relevant individuals in the D.C. area.

You should all receive a copy of the Washington Semester Program Research Project Guide, which will explain most of the key requirements for this project. You must register separately for this project with A.U.; registration for the broader seminar in public law is not sufficient.

The easiest way to reach me is to call me, either at the office or at home before 9:00pm. Please speak slowly when leaving your phone number for me on either of my voicemails, and I will return the call as quickly as I can. I only read email when I am in my office, and I am not in my office every day. Thus it could take several days for me to read an email from you, although I will certainly read it eventually.

Evaluation Mechanisms:

Potential Bibliographies, Updated Outlines, and Literature Reviews	10%
Oral Presentations	20%
Final Draft of Research Paper	70%

Class meetings will usually occur on Monday afternoons, although scheduling may need to be flexible. Assignments will be due at those class meetings. Late penalties will apply if any of the assignments below are late. Late penalties for all late assignments will be subtracted from the final course grade.

Meeting Schedule and Assignment Due Dates:

Thursday, January 11 – Introduction and Nuts & Bolts about Registration for the Class, etc.

Tuesday, January 16 at 10:30am in Dunblane 104 - Introduction to the Research Project

Monday, January 22 at 4:30pm in Dunblane 104 – Choosing a Good Topic

Monday, January 29 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 – Analyzing Scholarly Debates and the Literature Reviews

Monday, February 5 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 - Preliminary Paper Topics, Potential Bibliographies, and Outlines Due

Tuesday, February 20 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104? – Choosing Proper People to Interview and Conducting Interviews

Monday, February 26 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 - Revised Outlines, Potential Bibliographies, and at least 5 pages of literature review due

Monday, March 26 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 – Class to discuss interviews and other research problems

Monday, April 2 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 -- Mandatory Third Draft of Research Paper Due

Monday, April 16 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 – Oral Presentations on Research Project

Tuesday, April 17 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 – Oral Presentations continue

Monday, April 30 at 4:30 in Dunblane 104 – Final Draft of Research Paper Due