

Dr. Kate Weaver
SRH 3.358
ceweaver@austin.utexas.edu
Ph: 512.232.3443

Skype: kateweaverUT
Office Hours: Tues 10-12 am
+ appt

Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security & Law
Next Generation Scholars Program 2014-2015
Fridays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm in SRH 3.214

Program Objectives

The Next Generational Scholars Program is designed to provide professional development and research mentoring to promising young scholars who hope to work in global public policy in the future. The program begins with semester-long training in the basics of research, writing and presentation, before placing students in research apprenticeships with Strauss Center faculty scholars to attain hands-on experience with real research.

To practice many of these skills, we will work on several parts of a draft application for the Truman, Rhodes or Boren fellowships. The final project for the course will include a full draft and presentation/defense of a proposal for one of these highly competitive fellowships. After reading up on each of these, you may choose which fellowship will be the focus of your policy proposal work for this semester.

For information on the Truman Fellowships, see <http://www.truman.gov>
For information on the Rhodes Fellowships, see <http://www.rhodesscholar.org>
For information on the Boren Fellowships, see
https://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/basics.html

Current Events

In addition to our normal course discussions focused on professional development, we will begin each class with a brief discussion of current events. To prepare for this, please make a habit of reading one or more credible sources of international news on a daily basis. Below are some of the key news sources I would recommend:

Economist. <http://www.economist.com>
Financial Times of London. (electronic subscriptions highly recommended).
<http://www.ft.com>
New York Times. <http://www.nytimes.com>
Wall Street Journal. <http://online.wsj.com>. (note: limited access w/o subscription)
Washington Post. <http://www.washingtonpost.com>
BBC: <https://www.bbc.com/>

In addition, you may choose to follow other sources of news via print, the internet, or radio, but make sure you are following at least one authoritative source of international news. Also, you might want to follow some blogs that interest you (and which we will discuss at further length in class). But the important goal here is to read daily and to read widely for perspectives that not only match your interests, but also challenge your preexisting worldviews.

Overview of Assignments

- I. **Session Assignments (70%)**
 1. Editing (10%)
 2. Op-ed on student engagement in policy (10%)
 3. Personal Statement (10%)
 4. Policy Proposal Abstract and Summary of Evidence (10%)
 5. Rough Draft of Policy Proposal (10%)
 6. Final Draft of Policy Proposal (10%)
 7. Oral Presentation and Defense (10%)

- II. **Event Memos (20%):** In addition, you are required to attend at least two Strauss Center events over the course of the fall semester and prepare one-page summaries/reaction memos to each of the events. The calendar of Strauss Center events is available on the Strauss Center website at <https://www.strausscenter.org/categoryevents/2.html>. Each memo will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

- III. **Participation (10%):** This accounts for attendance, in-class participation and performance as a participant on the final panel defense teams.

On Academic Integrity

Students are expected to respect the LBJ School's standards regarding academic dishonesty. You owe it to yourself, your fellow students, and the institution to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. A discussion of academic integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, as well as helpful information on citations, note taking, and paraphrasing, can be found at the Office of the Dean of Students web page and the Office of Graduate Studies. The University has also established disciplinary procedures and penalty guidelines for academic dishonesty, especially Sec. 11.304 in Appendix C of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities section in UT's General Information Catalog.

Reading Schedule and Assignments

August 29: Introduction / Overview of the NGS Program

Guest Speaker: Professor Robert Chesney, Director of the Strauss Center

No required reading

September 12: The Art of Writing Well

William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White. 1999. *The Elements of Style*, 4th Edition. New York: Longman Press, sections II and V. [on Canvas]

George Orwell. 1946. "Politics and the English Language." Available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/orwell46.htm>

"How to Write in Plain English." From the Plain English Campaign. Available at <http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/free-guides.html>.

Assignment 1 (due Sept.24): Editing Policy Proposals

Completed in pairs; due Sept.24 at 5:00 by email to cweaver@austin.utexas.edu. The original policy proposal that you will edit has been posted on Canvas.

September 26: Getting Involved in Public Policy

Guest speaker: Jeremi Suri, Professor and Mac Brown Chair

Required Reading:

Jeremi Suri. 2014. "A Generation in Need of Hope" *E-International Relations*, 13 May 2014. Available at <http://www.e-ir.info/2014/05/13/a-generation-in-need-of-hope/>

"How to Write an Op-Ed." Duke University Office of News & Communications, available at http://newsoffice.duke.edu/duke_resources/oped

Trish Hall. 2013. "Op-Ed and You." *New York Times*, 13 October 2013. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/14/opinion/op-ed-and-you.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Read 2-3 of CNN's most-shared op-eds of 2013:
<http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/25/opinion/opinion-2013-most-shared/>

Assignment 2 (due Oct.8 at 5:00 by email): Op-Ed

Write a 1-page (500 word) op-ed for the *Daily Texan* on why – and how - UT students should become involved in public policy

October 10: Careers in Global Policy and the Writing for Different Public Policy Audiences

Guest speaker: Dr. Will Inboden, Executive Director, Clements Center

Required Reading:

APSIA Careers Site: <http://www.apsia.org/careers/career-opportunities-in-international-affairs/>

Peter W. Singer. 2007. "How to Get a Job in the Foreign Policy World." Available at http://blog.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2007/11/12/how_to_get_a_job_in_the_foreign_policy_world

[LBJ School resources on writing cover letters:
http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/careers/process/coverletter](http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/careers/process/coverletter)

In-Class Exercise: Writing Resumes and Personal Statements

Please bring your resume (as a word document) to class on your laptop.

Assignment 3 (due Oct.22 by email): Personal statement

Write a one-page personal statement for one of the following fellowship applications: Truman, Rhodes, or Boren.

October 24: How to Conduct Research and Gather Evidence to Influence Policy

Required Reading:

<http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/advocacy-research/influence-policy/main>

Peter Andreas and Kelly Greenhill, eds. 2010. *Sex, Drugs, and Body Counts: The Politics of Numbers in Global Crime and Conflict*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, Ch.1. (Book is available electronically online through the UT library at <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/utexas/docDetail.action?docID=10457555>)

Sarah Dykstra, Charles Kenny and Justin Sandefur. 2014. "Global Absolute Poverty Fell by Almost Half on Tuesday," Center for Global Development, Blogpost 2 May 2014. Available at <http://www.cgdev.org/blog/global-absolute-poverty-fell-almost-half-tuesday>. Accessed 9 June 2014.

Assignment 4 (due Nov.5 by email): Policy Proposal Abstract & Evidence

First, write an abstract (250 words) for a Truman, Rhodes or Boren Scholarship an application policy statement and proposal. Your abstract should identify the driving policy question/problem, its significance and your stance.

Second, gather 10 points of evidence/data for your policy proposal. Make sure you include the full citations and have a diversity of sources. Your points of evidence/data

should be a balance between evidence that supports your argument and evidence that challenges your argument.

November 7: From Idea to Execution in Policy Proposals

No required reading

Recommended Reading:

William Zinsser. 2006. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*, Sixth Edition, New York: Harper Perennial: pp. 3-91, 165-77. [Canvas]

In-Class Exercise: Editing abstracts and outlining full policy proposals

Assignment 5: Rough Draft & Peer Review of Policy Proposals

Part 1 - Complete a full draft of your policy proposal (due by email on Nov.14, copies to both Dr. Weaver and to your assigned peer reviewers)

Part 2 – Complete peer reviews (due in class on Nov.21)

November 21: The Art of Oral and Visual Presentations, and Perfecting the Policy Proposal

No required reading

In-Class Exercise: Peer reviews of policy proposals

Assignment 6 (due December 5): complete the final draft of your policy proposal and prepare your final presentation (oral only; no more than 5 minutes in length).

December 5: Final Presentations

No required reading

Assignment 7 (in class): Presentations of final policy proposals, with panel defense (mock Truman/Rhodes/Boren Fellowship interview)

December 9 (no class): Final Due Dates

* All Strauss Center event memos and Final Application of Fellowship Proposal due by December 9 at 5:00 pm by email.