**POLI 341**

**Legislative Simulation**

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County**

Fall 2011

*Syllabus*

Professor Sponsor: Dr. Laura Hussey

Public Policy Building, Room 319

(410) 455-6560

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Office Hours: Wed. 2:15-4:15 & by appt. or walk-in

MSL Delegation Chairperson: David Anguish ([anda1@umbc.edu](mailto:anda1@umbc.edu))

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course teaches legislative skills via active, faculty-supervised involvement in UMBC’s Maryland Student Legislature (MSL) delegation. Students write and debate original legislation, learn parliamentary procedure, and participate in off-campus legislative sessions with college students from around the state. They also gain in-depth knowledge of the Maryland General Assembly. This course may be taken up to four times. To learn more about the Maryland Student Legislature, please visit msl.org.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

To receive credit for POLI 341, students must complete each of the following requirements. The particular letter grade students receive will reflect the instructor’s assessments of a) how proficiently these requirements have been fulfilled; b) the student’s degree of effort in learning and/or helping peers learn course topics; and c) the overall quality of the student’s contribution to the legislative simulation.

1) Write and submit at least one piece of original legislation for consideration at the Fall Interim Assembly. To get an A for this class, at least one of the pieces of legislation you submit *must be an act* (as opposed to a resolution)*.* You will need to submit a draft copy of the legislation that you will receive help in refining **(due Sept. 30)** as well as a final, official copy **(due Oct. 21)**. *Late draft legislation may be accepted only at Dr. Hussey’s discretion, while late final legislation cannot be accepted*. (Additional submissions of legislation to MSL are welcome and do not need to go through Dr. Hussey.)

2) Submit a set of research-based, written “talking points” that will guide your oral argument for your legislation. These are informal and should be turned in with your draft legislation**.**

3) Participate in the MSL Leadership Training Institute, to be held **Saturday, Oct. 8 at the University of Maryland, College Park**. Effective participation means that, at minimum, you attend the entire session. Veteran MSL’ers are strongly encouraged to guide new members through the event.

4) Participate in the Fall Interim Assembly, to be held **Friday, Nov. 18-Sunday, Nov. 20** **at Hood College**. Effective participation in means that, at minimum, you attend the ENTIRE session, including closing procedures, and formally sponsor and argue for the legislation you have submitted. Students unable to participate due to *compelling circumstances beyond their control* may write a research paper instead. For details on the paper, please contact Dr. Hussey.

5) Prepare for, reliably attend and participate in weekly MSL meetings, held Fridays 12:00-12:50 in ITE 233**.** Students who miss more than 3 meetings will fail POLI 341. (Students whose absences are due to compelling, documented circumstances beyond their control should contact the instructor immediately.) Two late attendances equal one absence. Prior to each meeting, you will need to read legislation scheduled for debate. In addition to leading the affirmative when your own legislation is up for debate, you will need to commit to taking the negative for at least one bill.

**Required Readings**

* Select readings on Maryland government, available on Blackboard (BB)
* UMBC MSL legislative skills handouts, available from instructor and on Blackboard
* Proposed legislation, distributed weekly by MSL officers

**Course Schedule**

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| **Sept. 2** | Introduction |
| **Sept. 9** | Bill writing workshop  *Read:*   * Schaller, Thomas F. 2008. “Pioneer and Outlier: Maryland Constitutionalism in Its Third Century.” In *The Constitutionalism of the American States.* Eds. George E. Connor and Christopher W. Hammons. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri, 97-112. (BB) * Maryland State Archives. 2011. “The Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law.” In *Maryland Manual On-Line.* Available: [www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/proc.html](http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/proc.html) * Maryland State Archives. 2011. “Legislative Branch Organizational Chart.” In *Maryland Manual On-Line.* Updated January 25. (BB) * Bill Writing Handouts (BB) |
| **Sept. 16** | Bill writing workshop, Mock Debate  *Read:*   * Office of Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer. 2009. “Health Care Reform Talking Points.” June 17. (BB) * Tea Party Patriots. 2009. “Health Care Talking Points.” (BB) * Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed) |
| **Sept. 23** | Parliamentary Procedure, Mock Debate  *Read:* Parliamentary Procedure Handouts (BB), proposed legislation (to be e-mailed)  **LTI universal deadline.** |
| **Sept. 30** | Mock Debate  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed)  **Draft legislation due to Delegation Chairperson and Dr. Hussey** |
| **Oct. 7** | Critique and debate draft legislation; Prepare for LTI  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed) |
| **Oct. 8** | **Leadership Training Institute at University of Maryland, College Park** |
| **Oct. 14** | Critique and debate draft legislation  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed) |
| **Oct. 21** | Session Prep: debate proposed legislation, hone debate techniques  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed)  **Final legislation due to MSL Attorney General (**[**ag@msl.org**](mailto:ag@msl.org)**). Please cc Dr. Hussey on the email. Fall IA universal deadline.** |
| **Oct. 28** | IA Prep: debate proposed legislation, hone debate techniques  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed) |
| **Nov. 4** | IA Prep: debate proposed legislation, hone debate techniques  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed) |
| **Nov. 11** | IA Prep: debate proposed legislation, hone debate techniques  *Read:* Proposed legislation (to be e-mailed) |
| **Nov. 18-**  **Nov. 20** | **Fall Interim Assembly, Hood College** |
| **Nov. 25** | Thanksgiving Break – No class |
| **Dec. 2** | Session Recap |