

# UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Semester in Washington

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**RPOS 341 (Sec. 4006)**

### **WASHINGTON IN PERSPECTIVE:**

**A Policy and Political Community**

**In a City of Neighborhoods**

**RPOS 342 (Sec. 4007) – WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP**

**SYLLABUS -- Spring 2019**

**Michael J. Malbin, Professor**

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Office hours: after class each Friday, or by appointment

#### **Class times**

Meetings for RPOS 341 and 495z will be back-to-back on Fridays, starting at 9:30am (unless otherwise notified), in the 1st floor classroom at the Woodley Park residence hall. Some classes will involve (or be supplanted by) field trips. Ending times will vary; students are expected to be available all day each Friday for required activities. There may also be a few evening activities during the week.

#### **Course description**

RPOS 341 (cross-listed as RPAD 341) is a 3-credit course offered as part of the Political Science Department's Semester in Washington program. RPOS 342 (cross-listed as RPAD 342) is the 9-credit internship component of the same program. Admission by application. Enrollment limited. Only one version may be taken for credit. Co-requisite: RPOS 495z/RPAD 490z.

POS 341 pursues two interwoven themes. For one, it will offer an overview of the components that make up Washington as a political and policy-making community. For the second, it will use Washington, DC as a natural laboratory for learning about perennial themes of history, politics, and society: how cities develop and change, how nations establish and promote identities and symbols, how societies memorialize past episodes and leaders, and how a national capital balances the sometimes-divergent interests of its local residents and nationwide stakeholders. After kicking off the semester with a tour of Washington, DC, the course combines a wide range of assigned readings and in-class lecture and discussion with alumni talks, site visits, and team projects.

#### **Course objectives**

Students will learn about the history, architecture, and culture of the city of Washington—both the nation's capital and the "real" city. They will learn about contemporary Washington as a policy and political community, and they will learn how national politics has affected the "real" city's growth, both within and outside the federal core. They will also learn how to interpret historical and contemporary architectural and planning decisions as interpretations of national self-understanding. To solidify learning about these

interactions, individual and team assignments will use (or critique) the theses in assigned readings by applying them to structured observations of the city's buildings, neighborhoods, infrastructure, and spaces. Students will write short papers about the assigned readings on the contemporary political and policy process. They will also work in teams to develop and make class presentations on the city's history, architecture and neighborhoods.

### **Recommended books & required readings**

Grant Reeher and Mark Mariani, eds. *The Insider's Guide to Political Internships: What to Do Once You're in the Door* (Westview 2002). (Recommended. Excerpt on Blackboard is required)

Any good guide book to Washington, DC. (Recommended)

One required book is listed on the syllabus for POS 495z.

All other required readings will be available on Blackboard, in compliance with applicable copyright laws..

## **COURSE POLICIES FOR RPOS 341, 342, & 495z**

### **Attendance:**

Attendance and active participation in class is expected every week, barring legitimate medical excuses (following UAlbany guidelines). Any unexcused absence or lateness may result in a reduction in the student's final grade. Family visits are not acceptable reasons for missing class.

Absence due to religious observance. New York State Education Law ([Section 224-a](#)) - Campuses are required to excuse, without penalty, individual students absent because of religious beliefs, and to provide equivalent opportunities for make-up examinations, study, or work requirements missed because of such absences. Faculty should work directly with students to accommodate religious observances. Students should notify the instructor of record in a timely manner.

### **Internet and laptops:**

Students will need to conduct online research to complete the assignments in this course. Use of laptops for note-taking is permitted and laptops may be used for some in-class work. However, use of any electronic device during class (including laptops) for non-class-related purposes is prohibited, and may result in loss of classroom laptop privileges and/or temporary confiscation of the device.

**Eating in class** is not permitted unless we are having a meal together.

### **Accommodating disabilities:**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, medical, cognitive, learning and mental health (psychiatric) disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Disability Resource Center (518-442-5490; [drc@albany.edu](mailto:drc@albany.edu)). Upon verification and after the registration process is complete, the DRC will provide you with a letter that informs me that you are a student with a disability registered with the DRC and list the recommended reasonable accommodations. Please submit these letters within the first two weeks of the semester (in person, so we can discuss appropriate arrangements).

### **Papers & assignments:**

Reading notes and responses to prompts: typically 2 pages. Reading notes should (a) show that you have read all of the assigned reading, and (b) contain evaluations of the authors' arguments and theses and questions for class discussion, along with summaries of the authors' key points.

Internship logs and informational interview write-ups for RPOS 342 should be **1-2 pages** each.

News+ guest questions: 2-3 informed sentences each. News should contain reference to an article.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, in 12-point Times New Roman, Calibri (or closely comparable) font. Proofread carefully. Given the professional orientation of this program, points *will* be deducted for sloppy work (poor grammar, typos, etc.).

All RPOS 341 papers and assignments are due via email attachment before the beginning of class on the date listed in the syllabus, unless otherwise specifically noted. Instructions will follow for naming your subject lines and attachments. RPOS 342 logs and write-ups should also be submitted via email by the date indicated. **Late assignments** will incur a penalty of ½ grade (e.g., from a B+ to B) per calendar day.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to adhere to the University at Albany's regulations concerning academic honesty: [http://www.albany.edu/elt/academic\\_integrity.php](http://www.albany.edu/elt/academic_integrity.php). *Read these guidelines carefully, make sure you understand all provisions, and follow them in all your courses.* Pay particular attention to the need for citations even when paraphrasing or summarizing material. Violation of these rules will result in severe penalty (usually failing the assignment and/or the course, depending on the violation) as well as referral to the appropriate academic authorities.

***So far this is standard formula, so pay special attention to what is coming next:*** Penalties will be imposed for *inadvertent* as well as deliberate plagiarism. Since inadvertent plagiarism is not fully intentional, you need to be aware of what it is. It is easy to cut-and-paste material from the Internet, summarizing a source's logic, evidence, reasoning or language. When you do this, you are obliged to acknowledge *in the main body of the paper* that you are doing so, and not merely with a within-text citation. You need to say something like "Smith says that..." even when you paraphrase. Putting in a citation at the end of a series of directly paraphrased sentences is NOT adequate. The same thing goes for following the order of another person's argument and evidence. Summarizing another person must be acknowledged, and close paraphrasing should be rare. When you paraphrase closely, you probably should be quoting. Using only the within-text citation is adequate only if you are taking a fact or referring to another's conclusion. Much more is needed once the phrasing or the other's argument begins to look similar. And copying the other person's footnotes is NEVER appropriate because it suggests that you did not look up the original source on your own. When you do want to do a second-degree citation like this, it should contain something like this: Jones, p. 133 as cited by Smith, p. 221.

If your paper turns out to be a series of quotes and paraphrases, and if you give all of the proper references using words of acknowledgment as well as within-text citations, then it will not be plagiarized. It will not be considered dishonest. So far, so good – but that is still not enough to make a paper satisfactory. Compiling a series of quotes and paraphrases – even if properly acknowledged – will not be enough to do a passable job. A paper must be made up of and organized around *your* thoughts – your thesis, reasoning and evidence, phrased in your words and serving your paper's end.

If you have any questions about this while writing, it is your responsibility to ask questions in advance. The university's policy is available at [https://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/regulations.html](https://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)

**Grading:**

POS 342: (9 credits, S/U grading). A grade of "S" requires: (a) satisfactory performance and punctual attendance for internship, and (b) completion of all four internship logs, two informational interviews and write-ups, and internship evaluation.

POS 341: (3 credits, A/E grading). Explanation for POS 341 grading appears with homework and writing requirements after the following weekly schedule.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, GUESTS AND READINGS

- (1) Read all assignments before class. They are essential background for in-class work.
- (2) Timely articles will be added during the semester and will be considered required.
- (3) Writing requirements appear as part of the grading rubric, after the schedule of assignments.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

The basic core of these two courses is laid out below. Many guest speakers and dates have been confirmed. However, the items highlighted are not yet confirmed and therefore subject to change. The dates, readings, and even topics may shift, but there will always be advance warning. There may also be additional evening or Friday afternoon sessions not indicated here.

DATE	341 ASSIGNMENT	Same week 342	Same week 495
Jan 24	All-Day Orientation		
Jan 25	Tour of DC		
Feb 01	<p><u>The Layers of Washington</u> (59)</p> <p>Fogle, <i>Washington, DC's Hidden History</i>: Introduction (4)</p> <p>Hyra, <i>Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City</i> (ch. 1) (20)</p> <p>Leibovich, <i>How to Win</i> (20)</p> <p>Lippman &amp; Schrekinger -- <i>Young Trumpies Hit DC</i> (8)</p> <p>Fonatana – <i>Washington is now a cool city. That terrible news for American democracy.</i> (W. Post Magazine. May 7, 2018.) (7)</p> <p><b>Submit:</b>  <b>Internship log #1 (RPOS 342):</b> initial impressions and expectations; include the name and email address of your direct supervisor.</p>	Log #1	L of C?
Feb 08	<p><u>DC, The City: First Century through Macmillan.</u></p> <p>[DATE DEPENDS ON LOC. READINGS WILL NOT CHANGE.]</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> (65)</p> <p>Clement, <i>City Thinking, City Spaces</i> (7)</p> <p>Ellis, <i>Founding Brothers</i>: pp. 48-52 (top) (5)</p> <p>Map of the District of Columbia, 1800</p> <p><i>Visions for the Millennium</i>: pp. 1-6 + front/back cover</p> <p>Lewis, <i>District of Columbia</i>:, ch. 1 (37)</p> <p>Bowling, <i>Federal Town to National Capital</i> (16)</p> <p>History of the Mall website: <a href="http://mallhistory.org/">http://mallhistory.org/</a></p>		Policy Making Process

Feb 15	<p><u>The Policy/Political DC – Congress.</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speakers:</u>  Marian Currinder, R Street Institute and LegBranch.org  Michael Beckel, Issue One</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> [44]  Barber &amp; McCarty, “Causes and Consequences of Polarization” in  Mansbridge &amp; Martin, <i>Political Negotiation</i>, [28]  Currinder, Beckel, and Ratliff, <i>Why We Left Congress</i> [16]</p> <p><u>Reference:</u>  About LegBranch.org <a href="https://www.legbranch.org/about-legbranch/">https://www.legbranch.org/about-legbranch/</a>  About R Street: <a href="https://www.rstreet.org/about-r-street/">https://www.rstreet.org/about-r-street/</a>  About Marian Currinder:  <a href="https://www.legbranch.org/author/mariancurrinder/">https://www.legbranch.org/author/mariancurrinder/</a>  About Issue One: <a href="https://www.issueone.org/about">https://www.issueone.org/about</a>  About Michel Beckel: <a href="https://www.issueone.org/staff/michael-beckel/">https://www.issueone.org/staff/michael-beckel/</a></p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u>  Backstage tour of the US Capitol + discussion with Michelle Mittler.  (Michelle is an SIW alumna who works for the Senate Democratic  Leader, Charles Schumer, NY..)</p>		Topic to Question
Feb 22	<p><u>1. The Policy/Political DC – The Budget as a Policy Tool</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Michael Murphy (Ch. of Staff &amp; Dir. of Special  Initiatives; Comm. for a Responsible Federal Budget [CRFB]) (Mike is a  U Albany Washington Semester Alumnus.)</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> [~25]  <u>On Blackboard:</u>  Center for Budget and Policy Priorities – Introduction to the  Federal Budget Process [9]  CRFB: Everything You Should Know about Government Shutdowns [6]  CRFB – “The Year-End Debt Dilemma” (Dec. 2017). [7]  <u>Available Online:</u>  CRFB’s “The Debt Fixer”. Visit and make some of the policy choices  on this interactive game. <a href="http://www.crfb.org/debtfixer/">http://www.crfb.org/debtfixer/</a>  CRFB – “Budgeting for the Next Generation” – a series of policy  papers on federal budget policy and children. (Recommended)  <a href="http://www.crfb.org/project/budgeting-next-generation">http://www.crfb.org/project/budgeting-next-generation</a></p> <p><u>Reference:</u>  CRFB, “About Us” <a href="http://www.crfb.org/about-us">http://www.crfb.org/about-us</a> [1]  CRFB’s presence in the ongoing budget policy debates – see  <a href="http://www.crfb.org/media-coverage">http://www.crfb.org/media-coverage</a></p> <p><u>2. DC, The City: Monuments, Memorials and Symbolic Architecture</u></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> [~66]  Wilson, <i>Architecture and Reinterpretation of the Past</i> (19)  Penczer, <i>Washington National Mall</i>: (50 w photos, est. 25 of text)  Savage, <i>Monument Wars</i>: Introduction (22)</p>		Select paper subjects
Mar 01	<p><u>DC, The City: Monuments and Memorials</u></p> <p><u>Team Presentations</u> -- Monuments/Memorials</p>	Info Interview 1	Tools, Skills; submit subjects
Mar 08	<p><u>DC, The City: Museums</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speaker (not confirmed):</u> Richard Kurin, Smithsonian  <a href="https://www.si.edu/about/bios/richard-kurin">https://www.si.edu/about/bios/richard-kurin</a></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> (62)  Post, <i>Who Owns America’s Past</i>: Preface (13)  Henderson, Blockbuster Brown (2)  Kurin, <i>Reflections of a Culture Broker</i>: ch. 1, 2, 15 (47)</p>	Log #2: your job, job of unit within whole, who does what	Submit 2 Thesis questions

<p>Mar 15</p>	<p><u>The Policy/Political DC – Interest Groups and Advocacy Organizations</u>  <u>Guest Speaker:</u> Ron Eidshaug, VP Congressional and Public Affairs, US Chamber of Commerce (U Albany BA and MA) (11 AM at C of C HQ)  <a href="https://www.uschamber.com/ron-eidshaug">https://www.uschamber.com/ron-eidshaug</a>  <u>Reading:</u> (70)                  Nownes, Interest Groups, ch. 3, “The Formation and Maintenance of Interest Groups” [25]                  Drutman, <i>The Business of America is Lobbying</i>, pp. 71, 97-117, 218-25. [30]                  Holyoke, “Shifting Politics at the US Chamber of Commerce,” in <i>Interest Groups and Lobbying</i>, pp. 262-265. [4]                  Boatright – <i>The Voice of American Business</i>, pp. 31-38 &amp; 50-52 [11]                  Open Secrets – Top Spending Lobbying Orgs, 2018  <a href="https://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/top.php?indexType=s&amp;showYear=2018">https://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/top.php?indexType=s&amp;showYear=2018</a>                  Open Secrets – Top Independent Spenders in Elections, 2018  <a href="https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/summ.php?disp=0">https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/summ.php?disp=0</a>                  Chamber of Commerce Home Page - <a href="https://www.uschamber.com/">https://www.uschamber.com/</a>                  Donahue – “New Opportunities for Bipartisanship” --  <a href="https://www.uschamber.com/series/above-the-fold/new-opportunities-bipartisanship">https://www.uschamber.com/series/above-the-fold/new-opportunities-bipartisanship</a>  <u>DC, The City:</u>                  Teams select neighborhoods.</p>		<p>Refined thesis question</p>
<p>Mar 22</p>	<p><u>DC, The City: African-American D.C. + Museum Presentations</u>  <u>Reading:</u> (53)                  Lewis, <i>District of Columbia</i>: chap. 2, (The Second City) (41)                  Fitzpatrick &amp; Goodwin, <i>Guide to Black Washington</i>: Foreword, Introduction (12)                  + Differentiated reading for neighborhood teams  <b>Team Presentations</b> -- Museums (Could be moved earlier. Date depends upon guests to be scheduled.)</p>		<p>Writing process + Weekly progress ¶ + biblio</p>
<p>Mar 29</p>	<p><u>The Policy/Political DC – National Security Policy</u>  <u>Guest Speaker</u> (not confirmed): Gil Klinger, VP for Space, Intelligence, and Cyber U.S. Business, Raytheon Inc. (Klinger is a former Deputy Asst. Sec. of Defense and a U. Albany alumnus.)  <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/gil-klinger-2a713314/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/gil-klinger-2a713314/</a>  <u>Reading</u> (subject to change): [44]                  Rosati &amp; DeWitt, <i>The Department of State</i> [15]                  Auger, <i>The National Security Council</i> [13]                  Fendrick, <i>Diplomacy as an Instrument of National Power</i> [8]                  Columbia Accident Investigation Board, ch. 9 [5] and App. C [3] (required), Executive Summary [18] and ch. 5 [9] (recommended)  <u>DC, The City: Twentieth Century DC – A City of Neighborhoods</u> [63]                  Smith, <i>Washington at Home</i>, Timeline + Introduction (23)                  Muller, <i>DC neighborhoods in 1979</i> (2)                  Gringlas, <i>Gentrifying Shaw</i> (18)                  Singer – <i>Immigrant Trends in Metro Washington</i> [20]</p>	<p>Log #3: Organization’s Context + your new tasks</p>	<p>Weekly progress ¶ + biblio</p>

Apr 05	<p><u>The Policy/Political DC – Immigration Policy</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Prof. Rey Koslowski  <a href="https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/faculty_pos_koslowski.shtml">https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/faculty_pos_koslowski.shtml</a></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> [60]  Ruth Ellen Wasem, “Immigration Governance for the Twenty-First Century,” <i>Journal on Migration and Human Security</i>, (2018) [24]  Daniel Tichenor, “The political dynamics of unauthorized immigration: Conflict, change, and agency in time,” <i>Polity</i> (2015) [19]  Doris Meissner and Sarah Pierce, “A Wall Cannot Fix Problems at Border; Smart Solutions for Asylum Crisis Can,” Migration Policy Institute, January 2019 [4]  Mark Krikorian, “Stopping the Caravan,” <i>National Review</i>, 2018 [6]  Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, <i>U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Total Dips to Lowest in a Decade</i>. Pew Hispanic Center (2018) [7]</p>		Weekly progress ¶ + biblio
Apr 12	<p><u>The Policy/Political DC: Presidency/Executive</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speaker:</u> Prof. Bruce Miroff  <a href="https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/faculty_pos_miroff.shtml">https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/faculty_pos_miroff.shtml</a></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Miroff, <i>Presidents on Political Ground</i>, ch. 3, 4, 5 (81)</p> <p><u>DC, The City:</u>  Neighborhood <b>presentations</b></p>		Draft thesis ¶ + biblio
Apr 19	NO CLASS		Weekly progress
Apr 25 (Th)		<i>End internship</i>	
Apr 26	<p><u>The Policy/Political DC: Looking Ahead to the 2020 Election</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speaker</u> (not confirmed): Charlie Cook, Cook Political Report  <a href="https://www.cookpolitical.com/about/staff/charles-e-cook-jr">https://www.cookpolitical.com/about/staff/charles-e-cook-jr</a></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> TBD</p> <p><u>DC, The City: City and Region looking forward</u></p> <p><u>Guest Speaker</u> (not confirmed): Paul Jutton, National Capital Planning Commission (401 9th St NW)  <a href="https://www.ncpc.gov/about/staff/ope/">https://www.ncpc.gov/about/staff/ope/</a></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> (35 + 23 slides)  Self-government timeline  <i>Visions for the Millennium</i>: pp. 8-10 (3)  Helfrich, <i>Modernism for Washington?</i> (23)  Browse National Capital Planning Commission website  (<a href="https://www.ncpc.gov">https://www.ncpc.gov</a>), esp. <a href="http://www.ncpc.gov/ar2017/">www.ncpc.gov/ar2017/</a>  Schrag, <i>How Metro Shapes DC</i> (3)  Interested in more on transportation issues? See <a href="http://www.yptwdc.com">http://www.yptwdc.com</a>  Brookings, <i>Overview of DC Region</i> (23 slides)  Widdicombe, <i>The Fall and Rise of Downtown DC</i> (4)  Sandalow, <i>The “New Washington”</i> (2)  DeBonis – <i>DC Planners (Height Limit)</i> [1]</p> <p>Additional subjects and readings TBD</p>	Log #4: Assessment	Check-in with drafts so far
May 1 - W			Submit
May 2- Th	495 - Oral presentations; peer reviews	Info #2	Present
May 03	495: Individual consultations, appointments		
May 11	Submit Final 495 papers		
May 12	Check out of apartment		
May 17	Commencement weekend on campus		

## ASSIGNMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED AND GRADING FOR POS 341

Please note that to do well in this course, you will have to complete *every one* of the following steps. Missing a single week's assignment can cost you a full plus or minus on the final grade. A bad grade on an interim assignment will be a *lot* better for the final grade than a zero. NB: many of the items labelled as "reading notes" below will come with prompts to be given by the instructor in advance. Weekly news and guest questions are expected to show knowledge of the reading, news items, and guest.

Date	To be graded (each item graded A-E)	% of grade	Cumulative %
Feb 01	The Layers of Washington – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	3
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests. (POS 342: Log #1)	1 --	4 --
	Feb 08	First century – reading notes, comments, and questions. Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	3 1
Feb 15	Congress – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	11
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	12
Feb 22	Budgets – reading notes, comments, and questions.	2	14
	Monuments and Symbolic Architecture – reading notes.	2	16
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	17
Mar 01	Team Presentations on Monuments/Memorials	15	32
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests. (POS 342: Info interview)	1 --	33 --
	Mar 08	Museums – reading notes, comments, and questions. Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests. (POS 342: Log #2)	2 1 --
Mar 15	Interest Groups – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	39
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	40
Mar 22	African-American DC – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	43
	Team presentations on museums	15	58
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	59
Mar 29	National Security Policy – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	62
	City of Neighborhoods – reading notes, comments, and questions.	2	64
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	65
	(POS 342: Log #3)	--	--
Apr 05	Immigration policy	3	68
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	69
Apr 12	Presidency – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	72
	Team presentations on neighborhoods.	15	87
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	88
Apr 19	No class. No assignment.	--	--
Apr 26	City and region looking forward – reading notes.	3	91
	2020 Election – reading notes, comments, and questions.	3	94
	Written questions – on one news item of your choice + for guests.	1	95
	(POS 342: Log #4)	--	--
May 03	No 341 requirement.	--	--
	(POS 342: Info interview #2)	--	--
	Informed class participation over the course of the semester	5	100

### *Grading scale*

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72,  
D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62, E: 0-59.

Grades of Incomplete will only be awarded for reasons explained in the university's guidelines.  
See <https://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/grading.php>