

**POSC 186: Summer 2017**  
**Final Project**

\*This is the basic outline; more information will come via lecture and section in the next few weeks. Please contact me or your TA with any questions that you have.

One skill that is especially important in the work force is communication- and you must be able to communicate both verbally and in writing. This final project will allow you to practice both.

As we are learning through this session, the rulemaking process is long and complicated. The purpose of this final project is to have you learn in-depth about a particular rule while at the same time learning about the rulemaking process in general. As you will see throughout this course, I believe learning about the Bureaucracy and Regulation through the rulemaking process is important as it is likely that once in the “real world” several of you may have jobs that require you to keep up with, and/or participate in, the rulemaking process.

Please choose an issue/topic that interests you but conforms to the following stipulations:

- Your project must be about a federal rule that is **currently open for public comment** in the United States.
- Students **MUST** receive approval of your Agency and Rule from your TA.
- It must regulate either social or economic behavior and it must involve significant legislative rulemaking (i.e., do not use “interpretive rules” or rules dealing with agency organization, procedures or practice).

**Possible Topic Areas (but you are not limited to the following):**

- Financial/Lending Regulation
- Energy/Automobile/Power Regulation
- Environment Regulation

**Presentation:**

**Essentially, in this presentation you want to assume that your audience (your classmates) has a general understanding of the rulemaking process but has no knowledge about your particular rule/industry. After your presentation, the audience should be able to do the following:**

- Understand the rule and where it came from
- Understand why the rule is important and the people/industry that it impacts.
- Your reasoned opinion on how the final rule should be drafted as well as any arguments that oppose your point of view.

In your presentation you should incorporate the following types of information, which are listed in no particular order. Keep in mind that this is NOT an exhaustive list, you can include things not listed, and if you find things are not applicable to your rule, you may find you do not need to explain all of this list.

- What is the agency and what is its jurisdiction (note there might be multiple agencies involved in any rule).
- Who are the actors (interest groups, current commenters, members of Congress, etc)
- Historical context including: what is the regulatory stance and environment/context surrounding particular industry or actors that your rule/regulation will affect?

- Did this rule begin with policy adoption as legislation or as an executive order?
- What parts of the rulemaking process has the rule already been through?
- What is controversial?
- What changes are being proposed to rules/regulations that current exist?

Logistics:

- Presentation length: 10 minutes
- Prior to class on the day you present (no later than 10:00 pm) email your TA a copy of your power point.
- Turn in with the presentation: A brief outline of your talk highlighting the important parts that you want to share with the class.

### **Written Assignment:**

Public participation in government is important. As you will see throughout this course, the public can get involved in the rulemaking process, and, importantly, this is a unique opportunity that is different than participating by lobbying your member of Congress, writing to the president, or voting.

Often communicating via writing in the work force is different than communicating via writing in school. While doing research is key, it is often a “background” step in the real world. Instead of writing about your research in a typical essay- this assignment is meant to take the research that you did (because you want to show your employer that you are knowledgeable about the subject- and because you must do a presentation about it!) and apply it in a more realistic real world way- through a memo. This memo should be written as if you were communicating to your boss at a company that is interested in your chosen rule.

#### **Memo should include:**

- What regulation is being proposed?
- Why this is important for the company?
- What are the arguments for/against?
- What is your argument
- Proposed public comment for submission on behalf of the company.

Most of the information for this memo should be included in your presentation to the class. The new information presented here is the text of the proposed public comment.

To write an effective public comment you will need to do more than just read about them in the main text for the course (K&F). During course lectures and section projects you will see examples of comments. More information regarding the minimum requirements for your comment are *forthcoming*.

Please see the following resources to help you draft an effective public comment:

- Cornell University Regulation Room: [What is effective commenting?](#)
- Environmental Law Institute Ocean Program: [Step-by-Step Tips for Writing Effective Public Comments](#) (2013)
- Regulations.gov: [Tips for Submitting Effective Comments](#)
- For useful examples see:
  - o [Airlines for America and International Air Transport Association comments](#) (March 26, 2014)
  - o [Competitive Enterprise Institute comments](#) (March 26, 2014)

Logistics:

- Memo Length: 3-5 pages.
- Turn in hard copy and via iLearn by the start of lecture on August 6.