

# **Student Internship in Political Science**

## **Political Science 4191**

### **Spring 2017**

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**“Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I will remember.  
Involve me and I will understand.”-- Benjamin Franklin**

#### **PURPOSE**

Internships can serve a variety of purposes. They might serve as stepping stones to a vocation, a chance to “try out” employment in a particular field, as well as an opportunity to gain the kind of experience that can help lead to a career. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to gain practical experience by working for a public official, governmental agency, candidate, political party or interest group while at the same time permitting them to apply concepts learned in the classroom to an organizational environment and gain some professional work experience.

The following is a list of some objectives which the internship might fulfill for you and the organization (agency, candidate, interest group, etc.) with which you work:

1. Provide students the opportunity to relate theory to practice
2. Give students in-service orientation to a career area they may wish to pursue
3. Allow students the opportunity to work in their area of intended specialization
4. Enhance student’s understanding of organizational and group processes
5. Enhance student’s awareness of public service obligations
6. Develop an ongoing relationship between the academic and practitioner community
7. Provide “apprentice” expertise and a new perspective for organizational operations

Although the foundation of this course is a work experience, it is still a course for which you will receive academic credit. It is also a course designed to help you learn from your experiences. Therefore, the requirements for this course and the evaluation of your performance in it are based upon a combination of work experience and more traditional academic activities.

#### **WORK REQUIREMENT**

The first requirement is that you must work on meaningful tasks for a public official, public agency, candidate, political party, interest group, law office, or criminal justice agency while enrolled in the internship. Students are expected to work a **MINIMUM 90 hours** at their internship.

## **CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

### **Personalized Learning Goals and Reading List**

Your internship is an opportunity for you to compare academic theory to the real world and each student in this course will have a unique experience as you are all working in very different environments. Therefore, each of you need to spend some time at the start of the course thinking about what you want to learn during this internship experience. Please identify your personal learning goals and use them to guide you as you select 5-7 academic readings (articles from scholarly journals and/or chapters from books) that will help you achieve your goals. This reading list is a guide, not a contract, but will be useful for your final report. Use your learning goals to help focus your search. For example, if one of your learning goals is to better understand the working of the Ohio Supreme Court, you could search the OSU library (I especially encourage you to utilize jstor) using search terms such as “Ohio Supreme Court” or “State Supreme Courts.”

I am happy to suggest several books if you need some help getting started. Just call 614-292-6961 to schedule an appointment and I will gladly share my library with you. If you need additional guidance navigating the University’s library system, I strongly encourage you to contact Research Service at the OSU library. You can learn more about the assistance they can provide here:  
<https://library.osu.edu/about/departments/reference/>

Please submit your goals and reading list to the appropriate drop box on Carmen no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, January 22.

### **Resume Reviews**

Twice during this course you will need to submit a copy of your resume and offer your classmates constructive comments. Your first resume review should be in the resume discussion no later than 11:59pm Sunday, January 22. This resume is not required to have your current internship listed, it can simply be the resume you used to get your position. Please offer two of your classmates concrete suggestions about how they might improve their resume no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, January 29. Please endeavor to be both helpful and kind!

During the term, you should update your resume to reflect the skills and experiences you have gained through your internship. Please submit your new, updated and improved resume by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 23. Please offer two of your classmates concrete suggestions about how they might improve their resume no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, April 30. Again, please be both helpful and kind! You will earn one point each time you submit your resume and ½ point for each comment for up to 2 points per resume assignment.

### **Informational Interviews**

During the course of your internship you are to select three individuals that you work with and conduct a semiformal interview with them. It would be best if these individuals work at different tasks at the internship so that you get the advantage of a diversity of experiences. Use this assignment to help you reach out to people in your workplace who you do not work with as closely (and thus expand your professional network) such as members of the senior staff at your organization. **DO NOT** interview a peer, such as another intern or page.

What you ask each of the interviewees is up to you; however, there should be an underlying/guiding theme to the interviews so think about what it is you want to learn from this person. For example, you might choose to question them as to their individual responsibilities and how they see themselves within the larger organization. You can then follow up on how they see your particular function as it relates to the office as a whole. You

might choose to use “career” as your theme and question them as to how they went about preparing for their particular jobs and where they see themselves in five or ten years, then inquire as to steps that you should be taking or advice that s/he could give regarding your own progression. You may wish to engage them in a conversation about the differences between the scholarly perspective and practitioner perspective on lawmaking, intergovernmental relations or another topic identified in your readings.

To help facilitate your interviews, please identify your interviewee, the reason you want to interview them and submit a draft of the questions you plan to ask at one week before the final interview is due. Think about what you want to learn from the interviewee and let that theme help you determine your questions. This interview prep will be worth 1 point for each informational interview.

It is up to you and your interviewee to determine if the interview will be recorded. You do not need to transcribe your interview verbatim. Instead, in 2-3 pages summarize what you hoped to learn, what you asked and what the interviewee shared with you. It is very likely that you will learn something you didn't expect, outside or beyond your goal or theme. Please share these surprises as well. Please reflect on what you learned during your interview and how this knowledge has affected your experience as an intern and larger career goals. Lastly, please discuss, in hindsight, what do you wished you had asked during your interview and how you will better prepare for future interviews. Each interview will be worth up to 5 points.

**1st interview must be submitted as a PDF file to the drop box on Carmen no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, February 12.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> interview must be submitted as a PDF file to the drop box on Carmen no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, March 5.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> interview must be submitted as a PDF file to the drop box on Carmen no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, April 2.**

### **Discussion Board Postings**

The assignments in this course are designed to help you develop your career path. This course also provides opportunities develop your professional contacts and this network should include other OSU students who are also interning this semester. To facilitate this networking opportunity and give you the opportunity to reflect on your work experiences you must thoughtfully reply to each the question I post. Then you should respond **at least twice** to another student's post with comments, questions or suggestions by the date outlined in the course syllabus. Please engage with your peers. Your answers to each posted question will be worth up to 3 points each and each of your follow ups will be worth up to 1 point for a total of 5 points per question. Please note: comments like “I agree” or “Of course” do not help the discussion move forward and will not earn any points.

***Response to Question 1 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 5***

*Question 1: Introduce yourself. Talk about yourself, your interests, goals and passions. Please complete the “Finding Your FOCUS” modules from the On PACE program from Career Counseling and Consultation Services to help you frame your response.*

*Where are you working and what kind of work are you doing? What are you hoping to get out of this internship experience? What does your organization do? What role does it play and where does it fit in the political and institutional context? Please be sure to cite the reading(s) that helped shape your answers.*

Instructions for accessing On PACE  
Go to the Buckeye Careers site <http://careers.osu.edu/>  
Then click on students  
Click on Buckeye On PACE  
Login using your OSU user name and dot number  
Go to Modules  
Select the “Finding Your FOCUS” model

You must also ask a question or post a comment or suggestion to another student’s response to question 1 at least twice by **11:59pm on Sunday, February 5**

***Response to Question 2 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 19***

*Question 2: As you observe the people around you in your internship, what are the necessary and valuable skills that help ensure success? Skills can be as specific as computer word-processing or as general as being able to work as part of a team. The second On PACE module might also help you think about skills. In your response, please identify skills you possess (or are discovering that you possess) which will help you market yourself in the field of your choice in the future. What activities have you been involved with either in your internship or elsewhere that demonstrate these skills? Also, have you identified any skill areas in which you are weak and in which you need to develop or grow? How might you improve?*

You must also ask a question or post a comment or suggestion to another student’s response at least twice by **11:59pm Sunday, February 26**

***Response to Question #3 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 19***

*Question 3: What is the biggest challenge facing your employer? How might it be overcome? What was the biggest challenge for you, personally, at this internship? How did you address it? What have you learned about yourself and your workplace during this internship experience?*

You must also ask a question or post a comment or suggestion to another student’s response to question 3 due by **11:59pm on Sunday, March 26**

***Response to Question #4 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 9***

*Question 4: Where will you go next? What would you do if you **knew** you couldn’t fail? Create a plan of action and timetable outlining the steps you might take to reach your goal. When will you take the first step? Think about contacts you have made in your current internship which you can utilize in helping you achieve your goals. How can you continue to connect with these people? Are there contacts you should make with people in certain types of positions who could help? Can you identify these people and/or positions? Create a plan of action and timetable outlining the steps you might take to reach your goal. When will you take the first step?*

You must also ask a question or post a comment or suggestion to another student’s response to question 4 at least twice by **11:59pm on Sunday, April 16**

**Final Poster**

Please create a single PowerPoint slide as a poster highlighting your internship experience. On this slide, identify your position, your workplace as well as how you learned of the opportunity and what you did to get

your position. Please share a highlight of your internship and, if possible, advice for others. Your slide should include at least one, and no more than four images. Unless you explicitly wish to keep this private, this slide will become part of the Department of Political Science's digital signage and may be shared on our webpage. Therefore, please be sure that your slide is sized as "widescreen" or 16x9. Please **do not** use any copyrighted images that could get everyone in trouble. Please be sure to correctly attribute any creative commons images, should you choose to use them. This assignment is worth 5 points and should be turned into the appropriate drop box on Carmen before 11:59pm on Sunday, April 23.

## **Final Report**

All students are required to write a final report discussing their work experience. This report (typed, double-spaced) should be between 6-8 pages in length.

The paper is an analysis of what you learned, how you learned it, and is not a report on "what I did this summer" or the organization of the agency. Please reflect on your learning goals and focus your paper on your experiences and the readings you selected at the beginning of the term. How did your real world experience compare to what you learned from your readings? Did you learn anything from your readings that helped you understand your workplace better? Are there gaps in the scholarly literature (problems, constraints, resources or players) that you experienced but did not read about? I expect a minimum of five scholarly citations.

In writing the paper, please remember that you have worked in an institution that is concerned about confidentiality. If you are uncomfortable writing about specific people or using names, you can use initials, create names, or write the paper in such a way as to avoid using any names. Remember that no one will see your paper other than your instructor. It will not be given to your internship supervisor. None the less, you need to write the paper in such a way that protects you from issues surrounding confidentiality concerns.

Papers must be typed and double-spaced, with one-inch top, bottom, and side margins, have numbered pages, and display a reasonable font size. A cover sheet is NOT required. Excessive grammatical and/or spelling errors will affect the student's grade.

**The Final Report must be submitted as a PDF file to Carmen no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, April 30**

## **Evaluations**

Each student is required to secure a formal evaluation from his/her internship supervisor by the end of the semester. In addition, each student is required to complete a formal evaluation of his/her internship. The evaluation forms are located on CARMEN. **All evaluations forms are to be turned in EITHER to the instructor before noon on FRIDAY, April 21 OR submitted as PDF files to the drop box on Carmen no later than 11:59pm on the same day.**

## **Grades and Late Work**

Late submissions to the discussion boards or drop boxes will lose 20% of the total available points for every day they are late. The discussion boards close and lock one week after your initial responses are due and no additional comments will be possible. Please remember, you are responsible for your own technology. Computers do break and powerlines go down, so it is in your best interest to plan to turn assignments in early.

Grading rubrics will be used to evaluate your informational interviews and discussion board postings. You are welcome to review them on Carmen. You will also always be able to view your grade on Carmen. The Gradebook has been set to keep your cumulative score constantly updated. Grades will be assigned based on the following:

Initial Resume Review	2 points
Learning goals and reading list	3 points
Informational Interview plan and draft questions (3)	3 points
Informational Interviews (3)	15 points
Discussion Board Discussions and responses (4)	20 points
Final Report	25 points
Final Poster	5 points
Final Resume Review	2 points
Supervisor's Evaluation	25 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 points</b>

*While I do not anticipate the need to make changes to this course, assignments and due dates must be regarded as a flexible because life and technology can surprise.  
Students will be notified of changes on Carmen and/or by e-mail from the instructor.*

### **Students with Disabilities**

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let one of us know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Student Life Disability Services**

The Student Life Disability Services office coordinates accommodations and academic support services for students with documented disabilities, including but not limited to: learning disabilities, hearing or visual impairments, mobility impairments, attention deficit disorders, and psychiatric or medical disabilities. If you require this syllabus or other course materials in an alternate format, or if you require special classroom/testing arrangements, please notify your instructor and contact the Student Life Disability Services office at 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., (614) 292-3307 (voice), (614) 292-0901 (TDD). A 24-hour information line is available at (614) 292-3307, and the office can be reached via the Web at [www.ods.ohio-state.edu](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu) or via email at [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu).

## Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service

A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other, and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises during the term are encouraged to contact the OSU Counseling and Consultation Service (614-292-5766; [www.ccs.osu.edu](http://www.ccs.osu.edu)) for assistance, support and advocacy. This service is free and confidential.

## Code of Student Conduct/Policies

The Code of Student Conduct is established to foster and protect the core missions of the university, to foster the scholarly and civic development of the university's students in a safe and secure learning environment, and to protect the people, properties and processes that support the university and its missions. Preservation of academic freedom and free and open exchange of ideas and opinions for all members of the university are central to these missions.

- The Code of Student Conduct can be accessed at: <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>
- For information regarding IT/computer policies: <https://ocio.osu.edu/policy/policies>
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- For Residence Hall policies: <http://housing.osu.edu/living-on-campus/fees-contracts-policies/residential-living-handbook-code-student-conduct>
- For Parking policies: <http://tp.osu.edu/students/parking/parking.shtml>

## Academic Integrity

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

**Plagiarism** is the act of stealing the ideas and/or the expression of another and representing them as your own. It is a form of cheating and a kind of academic misconduct, which can incur severe penalties. It is important, therefore, that you understand what it consists of, so that you will not unwittingly jeopardize your college career. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: word-for-word copying of someone else's work, in whole or in part, without acknowledgment, whether that work be a magazine article, a portion of a book, a newspaper piece, another student's essay, or any other composition not your own without proper citation. Changing a few words of another's composition, omitting a few sentences, or changing their order does not constitute original composition. If you have any doubts about the originality of a paper/assignment you have written, see your instructor before you turn it in (*Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Degree Planning Manual 2006-7*, pp. 34-35).