

POL 193: Seminar in American Politics, UC Davis
Winter 2018
Dr. Travis Baker

Class Times: Friday 9-10

Location: UC Center Sacramento

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11, Friday 12-1, and
by appointment

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Purpose of the Course

A student's public policy internship experience is bound to affect his or her perspective on politics. Seeing policy and politics get made firsthand imparts a sharper, deeper understanding of current events. This course is designed to allow student interns to express their evolving perspectives on current events through discussion and debate, both oral and written.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation	20%
In-class Presentation	40%
Analysis Paper	40%

Students are expected to **attend all classes and actively participate in class discussions**. Students that constructively contribute to class discussion most regularly and fully participate in other in-class activities will receive a boost to their attendance and participation grade. Students that do not contribute to in-class discussion or fully participate in other in-class activities will receive a lower grade. Any student that has two or more unexcused absences will not be able to receive a passing grade for the class. Arriving 10 minutes late to class will count as an absence. Students must sign in on the sign-in sheet during each class period.

During the course of the quarter students will choose three newspaper articles from either *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, or *The Washington Post* that relate to their internship experience. Students will summarize these articles and analyze them critically. For example, students may consider the author's biases and whether the whole story was told; they may relate the news stories to concepts they have learned in other classes; they may make an informed prediction about how the story will unfold; and they may consider potential implications of the articles for California and the United States, among others.

Students will give an **In-class Presentation** on their analysis. Students will be randomly assigned a class meeting. Each student will be allotted 5 minutes to present their analysis and 5 minutes to lead a brief class discussion on their analysis. Each student must provide at least three discussion questions for their analysis.

Students will complete an **Analysis Paper** (3 pages) that presents their analysis of their chosen articles. This paper will be due via Canvas the week after students give their in-class presentations. Late papers will be penalized 5% for each day they are late, including weekends. Papers that are more than three days late will not be accepted. All written work must reflect your own scholarship, in line with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct. For guidelines avoiding plagiarism see the SJA at <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/>. You are expected to be aware of these guidelines; ignorance of guidelines does not excuse a violation.

It goes without saying that all of your graded work must be done by you without assistance from others. You are encouraged to discuss the class and materials with others, but your answers to exam questions and your written essays must be yours and yours alone, with proper attribution for sources you wish to cite. If you are unfamiliar with the University's policy on academic dishonesty and associated penalties, see <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/>.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet any of the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UC Davis will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities.

Tentative Course Schedule

The course will meet in Week 1 to give an overview of the course. Thereafter the course will meet every week starting in Week 2 until all students have completed their in-class presentations.