POL 192: Political Science Internship  
Fall 2011

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POL 192 is a course designed for students to work at political internships and receive academic credit. It is graded pass/not pass. The purpose of this course is to bridge direct experience with the political and policy process with the academic study of disciplines like political science, economics, and public policy. The meetings and research paper are integral to this goal and students will not receive credit unless their work is satisfactory. In order to receive credit students must:

(a) Submit an application and provide complete information for their internship and supervisor. (The application is available on the course webpage on SmartSite.)

(b) Work a minimum of 120 hours during the quarter. (Students must work a minimum of 240 hours if enrolled in 192A & 192B).

(c) Attend evening seminar and individual meetings with the TA.

(d) Write a satisfactory annotated bibliography that includes citations to at least five works of political science research (described below).

(e) Write a satisfactory 8-page (12 pages if enrolled in A&B) research paper (described below). The required paper length will be increased by 2 pages for each missed seminar meeting.

(f) Receive a satisfactory evaluation of their internship performance.

(g) Submit an internship evaluation form.

(h) If taking POL192B after previously taking POL192A, students should give the instructor a copy of their work from POL192A.

Seminars will be held on Mondays from 5:10-6:00 p.m.
Schedule

Monday, September 26: Organizational Meeting
If you have not already submitted your application, bring it to this meeting. Students should be prepared to talk about their internships during the class meeting. **Please prepare about 2 minutes for a presentation of your internship and your responsibilities.** Also discuss what you hope to get out of your internship.

Monday, October 10: “Textbook” Accounts of Politics, Policymaking, and Institutional Organization
We will discuss how the textbook descriptions match your experiences. In what ways do the textbooks get things “right”? In what ways are the textbooks wrong?

Assignment: Find a textbook chapter that closely matches your internship and read it. Be prepared to discuss how the textbook description compares to your actual experience. **E-mail Danielle to let her know what chapter you have chosen by Friday, October 7.**

Monday, October 17: How to Write Your Research Papers
In this class meeting we will discuss the expectations for your final research papers and how to go about writing them.

Monday, October 24: Individual meetings to discuss Bibliographies (between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.)
An individual meeting (approximately 10 minutes) will be scheduled between each student and the T.A. Bring an annotated bibliography to the meeting that includes a minimum of 5 academic sources. The suggested reading from the textbook chapter you selected is a good place to start. For each source provide a brief description. If you have any questions, contact Danielle for suggestions about sources and help with the annotations. In addition, prepare a 1-2 paragraph statement of your proposed research paper to discuss with Danielle. **E-mail this statement to Danielle at least 24 hours before your meeting with him.**

Monday, November 7: Individual meeting to discuss Rough Drafts of Research Papers
An individual meeting will be scheduled between each student and the T.A. **E-mail your rough draft to Danielle by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4** and bring a rough draft of your paper to your meeting. The rough draft should show significant progress toward the final version of your paper. It should have a bibliography and should not merely be an outline.

Monday, November 28: Final Papers and Evaluations
The final paper is due by 5:00 p.m. Bring your paper to class. Your evaluation forms are also due. **Please prepare about a 2 minute presentation about your internship.** Discuss what you gained from your internship and whether you found it a worth-while experience.
Annotated Bibliography
The first step toward writing your research paper is to begin reading scholarly research that relates to your internship. By “research” we mean scholarly books and articles, not newspapers, blogs, magazines, etc. While these sources can provide lots of interesting information and insight, the goal of your research paper is to analyze your internship through the lens of scholarship, not the mass media. So you will need to find books and articles that relate to your internship in some way. Many journals are available on-line and can typically be accessed through the library’s website (click on <Electronic Journals A-Z) or through www.jstor.org. To do this off site, you will need to first click on <Connect from Off Campus> or <VPN> to authenticate yourself using your UCD login and password. Once you do this, you can use all of the search features and have access to all that you would have access to if you were accessing the library’s on-line resources from a campus computer. Also, your textbook chapters usually provide good examples of relevant research to consider. If you have any questions about this, talk to the TA, Danielle Joesten.

Your assignment is to write an annotated bibliography where you identify 5 scholarly pieces of research that relate in some way to your internship. For each one, provide a full citation and a description of the research along with how it relates to your internship. Typically these annotated bibliographies are 2-3 pages.

Research Paper
The purpose of your annotated bibliography is to get you reading and thinking about scholarly research and how it applies to the organization at which you are interning. Your research paper should integrate your internship experience, the knowledge you have developed about the organization at which you are interning, and some aspect of relevant scholarly research. For example, political scientists have developed and tested a variety of theories that claim to explain how the political process operates. You could identify political science research relevant to your internship and critique it in light of your internship experience comparing your first-hand experience with what scholars have written on the topic. Are there things that political scientists are completely wrong about? Why? Have they gotten anything right? Or, you could write a paper about how research on the policy making process helps to explain certain aspects of the process as you have seen it in your organization. The purpose of this paper is NOT for students to describe their internship experiences. Papers that only do that are unacceptable. Students’ papers must address the relationship between their internship and scholarly research. A satisfactory paper is one that (a) is at least 8 double-spaced pages (12 pages if you are in A&B) in standard 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins, (b) includes at least five references to scholarly research (8 if you are in A&B), and (c) would receive a grade of C+ or better if given a letter grade. Note: For each missed seminar meeting, the required paper length is increased 2 pages. Late papers will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per day.

Evaluations
Two evaluations are required for this class: your evaluation of the internship and your supervisor’s evaluation of your work. Since you must secure from your supervisor a written evaluation of your work, you must make sure to allow him/her enough time to fill out the form before the due date. It is your responsibility to make sure that this happens. These forms will be made available through the course website on SmartSite and should be returned via e-mail, fax, or regular mail.