

POL 192A/B: Political Science Internship Program, UC Center Sacramento
Thurs 2:00 - 4:00 PM, at UCCS

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Office: UC Center Sacramento
Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00-2:00 and 4:00-5:00, and by appointment

Course Objectives

POL 192A/B is a course designed to bridge the internship experience with the academic study of related disciplines such as political science and public policy. The ability to translate empirical evidence for use in policy debates is central to policymaking. As a member of the policy community students require a sophisticated understanding of a variety of types of data and policy analysis. This course will introduce strategies for data analysis and collection, study design, and principles for evaluating research. Topics will include: experimental design, survey and questionnaire design, sampling, case study evaluation, formal modeling, game theory, agent-based modeling, measurement, correlation, and hypothesis testing.

The internship, coursework, and independent policy analysis are integral and students will not receive credit unless all coursework is satisfactory. In order to receive credit for POL 192A/B each student will:

1. Fill out a POL 192 Information form
2. Work a minimum of 120 hours (240 if enrolled in A/B)
3. Complete internship journal
4. Attend all seminar hours
5. Receive a satisfactory evaluation of internship performance and internship journal
6. Complete all in-class activities
7. Submit a Research Analysis Paper proposal
8. Submit the Research Analysis Paper [10-12 pages]
9. If enrolled in POL 193 [20 pages]

Course Outline:*

Thursday, 1/7: Identifying the Focus of Research
Thursday, 1/14: Research Design, Data Collection and Analysis
Thursday, 1/21: Experimental Methods and Surveys
Thursday, 1/28: Formal Models, Game Theory, and Agent-Based Modeling
Thursday, 2/4: Geographic Information Systems, ArcGIS
Thursday, 2/11: Measurement Construction and Reliability
Thursday, 2/18: Hypothesis Testing and Statistical Analysis
Thursday, 2/25: Data Visualization
Thursday, 3/3: Writing an Analysis Paper
Thursday, 3/10: Program Evaluation
Thursday, 3/17: Research Analysis Paper Due

Grading

Course grades for POL 192A/B are pass/fail and are based on the following components:

- Attendance and participation
- In-class assignments
- Research Analysis Paper proposal
- Research Analysis Paper
- Internship requirements

Attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend all classes. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and complete the in-class assignments. Any student that has two or more unexcused absences will not be able to receive a passing grade for the class.

In-class assignments: During the course of the quarter students will complete in-class assignments designed to help them with their Research Analysis Paper. Assignments will be completed independently or in groups, students are encouraged to bring their laptops to class for these assignments.

Research Analysis Paper proposal: During the fourth week of the quarter students will submit a 2-3 page proposal for the Research Analysis Paper. The proposal will outline the Research Analysis Paper and provide a road map for your analysis.

Research Analysis Paper: This course requires a written Research Analysis Paper [10-12 pages]. This analysis will examine an important public policy issue in California politics. Late proposals will be accepted up to three days after the due date. Late proposals will be penalized 5% for each day they are late, including weekends. 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. Additional information on the paper/proposal will be provided during class sessions, and this information will also be available through Smartsite. The Research Analysis Paper will be due on the last day of the course.

*Course schedule subject to change/adjustment.

Course Policies

Attendance, Participation, and Weekly Readings: Class attendance and the corresponding weekly readings are mandatory. All students should come to class prepared to participate in class discussion and to participate with the in-class activities.

Late Policy and Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams and extensions will be allowed only in the event of a medical or family emergency. The emergency must be documented [doctor's note] in order to be able to take a make-up exam or to have an extension. If documentation is provided, then a decision will be made regarding whether you will be granted a make-up exam or receive an extension. Any requests for an incomplete must be accompanied by a written medical report. Arriving late to exams is a disruption to your classmates, students who arrive more than 20 minutes late for a final exam will not be allowed to sit for the final.

Grade Appeals: Students will have one week from when grades are posted to appeal their grade. All appeals must include a typed, double spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal, and you must justify with evidence from your exam, paper, or summaries. If you choose to appeal your grade, the instructor reserves the right to increase or decrease the existing grade.

Academic Honesty

As a University of California student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy. Cheating and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Students are expected to work independently on all graded assignments. Please refer to the UC Davis policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. Students who engage in cheating will earn an F grade.

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.

Laptops and tablets are permitted in-class for note-taking only. Please do not disrupt your classmates by surfing the web or engaging in other activities