

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP POS4941 AND ISS4944
Spring 2017

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Internship Objectives

The purpose of the internship is to provide an alternative means, e.g., direct observation and participant observation, to learn the substantive content of political science or some other social science discipline. The internship provides an opportunity to gain experience in researching and writing about political/social science by drawing on firsthand experience. The internship also provides students the opportunity to enhance their professional experiences and qualifications and to build their professional networks.

Internship Structure

This course has interns serving in positions in a wide array of geographic locations. Moreover, your 10 or 20 weekly hours of internship responsibility more than exhaust your weekly commitment. Accordingly, we will not have regular meetings during the semester. We will only have them as the need for them arises. All communication for the internship will be done via e-mail and Blackboard. All students are expected to maintain communication with the instructor (i.e. respond promptly to e-mail, meet deadlines) as part of the internship. Please note that e-mail is the most effective method of communicating with me. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

Internship Course Requirements

If you are taking the internship course for **3** credits you will be expected to intern no less than **10 hours** per week. If you are taking the internship course for **6** credits you will be expected to intern now less than **20 hours** per week.

Regardless of whether you are taking the political science or social science internship, and whether you are taking the internship for 3 or 6 credits, the weights used in grading the various components of the internship are the same:

- Term paper outline: 10% of course grade
- Term paper final draft: 40% of course grade
- Internship supervisor evaluation: 50% of course grade

Term Paper: The term paper is the major academic component of the internship regardless of whether you are taking the political science or the interdisciplinary internship course and regardless of the number of credits you registered for. For students taking the internship for 6 credits, completed papers should be **exactly 15 pages** in length, **excluding** title page, bibliography and tables (if any). For students taking the internship for 3 credits the paper should be **exactly 10 pages** in length **excluding** title page, bibliography and tables (if any). Papers should adhere strictly to these page requirements. Papers should be typed in a standard 12-point font, 1" margins and double spaced. You can choose whatever citation style you prefer, just be consistent. Written assignments for the internship should be submitted to the digital drop box on Blackboard (<http://campus.fsu.edu>). Papers that fall short of the page limit will be reduced in grade in proportion to the number of pages missing. (e.g. 5/10 pages = 50% reduction in total points possible).

The paper must be related to your internship experiences (for those enrolled in the ISS4944 section). **The paper must draw on the existing academic or social science theory and/or concepts and should then relate these concepts to what you are doing or observing during your internship.** For example, your internship experience may give you the opportunity to observe political/economic decision-makers in action. You could use your observations to link concepts and theories in political science to your internship experience. Suppose you are interning for a lobbying organization, a legislator or a state agency. There is a large literature in political science on lobbying, legislatures or the bureaucracy. You could use your experience to explore one or more hypotheses found in that literature concerning who lobbies, how, and with what results, what motivates

legislators or the factors that influence agency decision making. In this case, your paper would consist of a review of the relevant academic literature and a detailed discussion of how your observations relate to the hypotheses you identified, whether your observations confirm or counter existing findings, and/or whether they extend or modify existing explanations offered in the academic literature. In no case should it be simply a diary of what you did during your internship. You should check with me early in the semester regarding any questions related to your paper topic.

The paper should have three parts. The substantive questions that your paper ought to address in each part are as follows:

Part I – Internship Summary

What are the details of your internship? For whom are you working? What were your main duties, etc.?

Part II – Introduction of Academic Concept

Identify a theory or academic concept to which you will relate your internship experiences.

How have academics conceived of this concept? Cite academic work that has discussed this concept?

Review hypotheses that this literature has produced on this concept.

Produce and state clearly one hypothesis that you will explore with your internship experience.

Part III – Testing and Results

Use your internship experience to ‘test’ the hypothesis outlined above.

Discuss the type of evidence (pro and con) that your experience provides.

Given your experience, do you find support for the hypothesis, how?

Discuss whether your experience is generalizable beyond your specific circumstance.

- The detailed outline, which addresses each part of the outline above and includes references to the academic literature that you intend to build on, is due **February 15th**.
- The final draft of the paper is due **April 15th**
- Internship supervisor evaluations forms are also due to me on or before **April 15th**.

Penalties for Late Assignments: *For each day* a written assignment (term paper) is late, one letter grade will be deducted from the grade it otherwise would have earned. Assignments **MUST** be submitted in order to receive a passing grade for the internship course. Please note that I do not negotiate grades for individual assignments nor final grades, so assignments should be submitted on time and to specifications to maximize your grade in the course. Be sure to **SUBMIT** and not just **ADD** your file to the digital drop box (this is a common mistake, and I will not be able to see the paper you have submitted and will penalize you for late submission).

Grading Scale: **The grading scale for each element of the course and for the course overall is as follows:**

A 94-100, A-90-93.9, B+ 87-89.9, B 84-86.9, B-80-

83.9, C+ 77-79.9, C 74-76.9, C-70-73.9, D+ 67-69.9, D 64-66.9

D-60-63.9, F 59.9 and below

Other Policies

- Extra-Credit Work. Under no circumstances will extra credit work be permitted.
- Incomplete Grades. No incomplete grades will be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student **PRIOR TO** the end of the course. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate reasons for an incomplete grade.
- Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Florida State University Bulletin and The Student Handbook. **Plagiarism (including extensive use of quotations without citation) will result in an “F” for the assignment and/or course and referral to the Academic Honor Policy Committee.** The full policy can be reviewed at <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>. Students should adhere to the policy both in letter and in spirit.
- Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should; (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students

with disabilities contact the Student Disability Resource Center, 97 Woodward Ave. South (Student Services Bldg.), 850-644-9566, <http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>.

- This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. All students are expected to have read and to abide by all policies presented in this syllabus throughout the semester, without exception.

Course Schedule

February 15th: Completed Detailed Outline of Paper is due.

- Outline should be submitted **to the digital drop box** on Blackboard before 5:00pm EST. Please do not email me your outline.

April 15th: Completed Term Paper/Supervisor Evals due.

- Papers should be submitted **to the digital drop box** on Blackboard before 5:00pm EST. Please do not email me your paper.
- On the front page of your paper include the number of credits you are taking for the course.
- Internship supervisor evaluations forms MUST be emailed or faxed to me on or before this date.