

POLS 402  
Field Internship  
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This course provides an opportunity to do an internship in Charleston, to interact with other political science students also doing internships and to ground that internship experience in a classroom setting. The course is designed to enhance your internship experience by providing a community within which to share experiences, a set of readings that will allow you to critically assess your internship experience, and a series of writing assignments that will allow you to process and analyze not just your internship, but also research questions that have emerged from your internship experience. Each of you is required to work a minimum of 140 hours during the semester (10-15 hours a week). Recognizing that this is a large time commitment the class sessions are built to allow you to reflect on that time and to share strategies with your fellow classmates for time and work management. Class attendance is required and class time will be most useful when you come ready to participate. You can shape this class to be what is most effective for you by participating actively.

### **Course requirements**

#### *Participation (10%)*

I expect active participation in this class. Come to class ready to contribute to the general discussion with particular experiences from your internship. Feel free to e-mail me before class with any timely issues that have arisen from your internship.

#### *Presentation (10%)*

In addition to your research paper or design, you will be expected to give a 6-8 minute presentation on your research and how it emerged from your internship. These presentations will be on 4/8 and 4/15. You are required to use the speaking lab as part of your presentation preparation. On 4/1 the class will have a general presentation session in the speaking lab.

#### *Response Papers (10%)*

There are 4 response papers due throughout the semester. These are short (3-6 pages depending on the assignment) directed reflection assignments. The general topics are noted in the syllabus and there will be more detailed assignment sheets handed out prior to the due date. These will be due in class.

#### *Journal (10%)*

You are required to keep a reflection journal noting the hours you work and your work tasks and projects. You will be asked to go beyond this mere listing. The journal will be a space for you to reflect on your internship – how is it meeting your expectations? If you were in charge how might you solve any issues that might arise? How are you doing balancing your school work and internship work? What kinds of questions does this work raise for you? What is happening locally or nationally that is

impacting your organization? Some weeks I will ask you to reflect on specific questions (some already noted in the syllabus). You should keep your journal in one continuous word document dating your entries. Each week you must e-mail me your entries from the previous week by 5pm on Tuesday afternoon. At the end of the semester you will submit the entire journal.

#### *Research paper or design (35%)*

Working with me you will choose a research topic (proposal due by 2/25) that directly connects to your internship. This is a place for you to connect your work as a political science student to your internship experience. You will produce either a research paper or a research design. You will be expected to draw from both traditional political science scholarship and your first hand observations. The annotated bibliography is due 3/18 and a rough draft is due 4/8. The final paper (12-15 pps.) is due May 2.

#### *Internship placement (25%)*

Grade is based on the successful completion of 140 hours of work and on the feedback provided by your site supervisor.

### **Required Readings**

John Medina            *Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, School and Home*  
Studs Terkel            *Working*  
National and Local Newspapers

### **Course Schedule**

- 1/14            **Introduction**  
                  Guest: Erin Blevins
- 1/21            **Idea of Work**  
                  Read: Introduction to *Working*. Read 5 additional interviews of your own choosing. Look for the interviews that seem potentially closest to your internship.  
  
                  Journal questions: What are your expectations of this internship? What would you like to get out of it? What do you think that your organization can get from you?
- 1/28            **Performing Well**  
                  Read: *Brain Rules* Chs. 1-4  
                  Journal Questions: Does any of the brain research surprise you or make you want to change the way you do things? Is your internship site set up to enhance the way people's brains work?
- 2/4             **What shall I do with my life?**  
                  Strong Interest test (take by 1/28)  
                  Guest: Meredith Gerber

Career Services  
Read: "In search of a calling" interviews in *Working*  
Response Paper: What shall I do with my life?

- 2/11        **Doing Research**  
Library Session  
Meet in room 120 of the library  
Journal Questions: List at least 10 questions that you might be interested to research for your paper.
- 2/18        **Organizational Structure**  
Read: *Working*, interviews in "A Pecking Order" and "Bureaucracy"  
Response Paper: Organizational Analysis
- 2/25        **Stress**  
Paper proposal due  
Read: *Brain Rules* Chs 7-8
- 3/4         **No Class Spring Break**  
(Be sure to remind your supervisor that this is Spring Break week)
- 3/11        **Workplace environment: Race**  
Read: "Uncovering the White Place: Whitewashing at Work" (E-reserve)
- 3/18        **Workplace Environment: Gender**  
Read: *Brain Rules*, Ch. 11  
Annotated Bibliography Due
- 3/25        **Workplace Environment Sexual Harassment**  
Read: "A Short History of Sexual Harassment" (E-reserve)  
Response Paper: Interview
- 4/1         **Powerful presentations**  
Meet in the speaking lab  
Guest: Deb McGee  
Read: *Brain Rules* 9, 10, 12
- 4/8         **Presentations**  
Rough Drafts Due
- 4/15        **Presentations**  
Response Paper: Thank you letter to site supervisor  
Site evaluation due
- 4/22        **Wrap-up**  
Entire journal due.

**Research Papers are Due Friday May 1 by 4 pm.**