COURSE DESCRIPTION

The department of Political Science is committed to the notion of encouraging its students to utilize the knowledge and concepts generated in the classrooms as a means for interpreting and (where possible) shaping events outside of the classroom. The opportunity for a merger of theoretical knowledge and practical application can be found in an internship experience. An internship (which is either brought to the department by the student for prior approval OR is arranged by the internship coordinator) – see requirements below – runs between twelve and fourteen weeks. There are a variety of opportunities available ranging from House and Senate offices on Capitol Hill to community organizations and political action committees. While most of these internship opportunities are non-paying, academic credit is available or political science majors and minors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive academic credit (and a letter grade) for this course (and its equivalent Internship I/II, offered in the Fall/Spring semesters), students must be either a major or minor in Political Science with at least junior standing, i.e., completed 60+ credits. The student who registers for the interns should not spend more than twenty (20) hours per week in the internship experience. The specific hours worked by the student are determined by the immediate supervisor on the internship placement site.

In addition to completing the internship experience, students are also required to attend a series of seminars scheduled by the internship coordinator over the course of the semester. Not more than six (6) of these seminars will be held. The tentative dates for these seminars are attached to this syllabus. Students will also be required to complete a written assignment called the Policy Options Memorandum (details provided in a separated handout). This course also requires that the student’s immediate supervisor on the placement site, provide an evaluation of the student’s performance.

These requirements will be given greater attention in the first two scheduled seminars. Be advised that academic credit for the internship will not be granted to any student unless the experience has received prior approval from the internship coordinator.
TENTATIVE DATES AND TIMES FOR INTERNSHIP SEMINARS
(All seminars will meet in Room 121-B, Douglass Hall unless otherwise posted)

Each student is required to attend each session. Different topics will be discussed and students will be asked to actively participate in all the discussions. Roll will be taken at each session – TEN points will be deducted for each missed class.

Tuesday, August 26, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 2, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 16, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 7, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 28, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 11, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

Final Reports due on December 2, 2003 for students