Field Experience in Political Science
PS 4312: Fall 2023

Professor: Jessica Velasco, DPA
Office Hours: MW 2-5 p.m. and by appointment
Office Location: LH 210
Telephone: 432-837-8742/505-362-0406
Email Address: jessica.velasco@sulross.edu

Required Texts: There are no required texts for this course.

Course description: This is an internship course.

Course Learning Outcomes:

The internship program in political science is designed to give the student an opportunity to learn more about government while working in a supervised setting.

Program Learning Outcomes (Political Science):
The graduating student will:
- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

Marketable skills for Political Science:

- Students can effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually, and in writing
- Students can distinguish between credible/relevant information and information lacking credibility/relevance
- Students can identify critical and common institutions of political decision-making and policymaking across different nation-state settings
- Students can engage with social and political problems and use critical thinking to develop logical solutions

GRADING, EXPECTATIONS, & ASSIGNMENTS:

The following are requirements for the intern:

The student should complete 120 hours of work at the internship site (3 hours of credit) or 240 hours (6 hours of credit).

At the end of the internship, the student intern must submit a reflection paper/evaluation that includes the following sections:

I.   A setting analysis. The setting analysis will include a description of the work environment and agency/institution (if applicable). It should include demographics of the community including a statement on the economic environment of the community (average incomes, business statistics), a statement on the social environment of the community (major groups in the community such as religious, ethnic / racial, civic, educational), and a statement of the political culture of the community.

II.   An organizational analysis. The organizational analysis should include a statement on the governing structure of the agency and a statement of the administrative structure of the agency. Your office should be clearly identified within the organization. In addition to your statement on the formal organizational structure, you should note your observations about the informal structure of the organization. If working in the office of a political leader, an analysis of the leader's leadership style, typical schedule, and major tasks/duties should be included. Please also include a description of areas the leader was especially strong.

III.   Overall assessment of what was learned: Please provide an in-depth analysis of what was learned as it relates to government, working in government, being in particular positions in government, and the power dynamics of the particular environment the internship was conducted in.

IV.   Suggestions for future students who want to do similar internships or the same one: Please provide tips for future students that will help them maximize the experience and/or get an internship. Include a description of anything you wish you would have done differently.

The grade for the internship will be determined by the supervising faculty member in consultation with the internship supervisor.

OTHER INFORMATION

ADA Statement
SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

SRSU Distance Education Statement
Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.
Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Alpine Library Information

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

New for Fall 2023: Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.