

Field Experience in Political Science

PS 4312

Professor: Jessica Velasco, DPA
Office Hours: 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 gain experience 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

The grade for the internship will be based on the completion of the items below and by the supervising faculty member in consultation with the internship coordinator.

ASSIGNMENTS

The following are requirements to receive course credit for the internship:

- The student must work in an internship for a total of 120 hours to earn three hours of

course credit (240 hours for 6 hours of course credit). The schedule will be based on the availability of the internship supervisor and student.

- The intern must turn in a final paper and do a presentation about his/her internship experience (instructions below).
- There are also forms for the internship supervisor to sign before and after the internship. These must be submitted to the Dr. V. (at the beginning and end of the semester)
- **NOTE: Due to the variety of internship formats and schedules, parts of these requirements may be different for some students.**

FINAL PAPER & PRESENTATION

The paper must include the following sections: NOTE: Although information in this paper will not be shared publicly, please refrain from using specific names in the paper.

- I. A brief summary of what you did. Please describe the work you did during the internship.
- II. 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.
- III. An organizational analysis. The organizational analysis should include a statement on the governing structure of the organization/agency/office you are working in and a statement of the administrative structure of that organization/agency/office. In addition to your statement on the formal organizational structure, you should note your observations about the informal structure and governing norms of the organization.
- IV. 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.
- V. 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.

PRESENTATION

Before the end of the semester, the intern will schedule a time to do a brief presentation about the internship experience for fellow undergraduates (virtual presentation).

OTHER COURSE POLICIES & RESOURCES

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 engaging 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. ***In this course, every element of class assignments must be fully prepared by the student. The use of generative AI tools for any part of your work will be treated as plagiarism.*** 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.

As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/>

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments. Respondus Lockdown Browser & Monitor will be used for the two exams as well. I do NOT like using these tools, but they are an unfortunate necessity in a world with generative AI.

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

LATE WORK:

I have been very intentional about how I have designed this course and distributed the content to optimize your learning and comprehension. Trying to cram weeks of work into a few days or waiting until the end of the semester to do everything isn't conducive to learning. For this reason, you must have an extenuating circumstance and approval from me to submit late work. If you submit late work without an approved extension from me, I reserve the right not to grade it. IMPORTANT NOTE: Since school/university-related travel (e.g., travel for athletics competition) is planned in advance (with a few exceptions), make sure to plan ahead. Please consult with me if you have concerns about how your university-related travel will impact a submission deadline. This needs to be done BEFORE you leave and before the deadline.

COURSE BLACKBOARD RESOURCES:

There are several resources on the course Blackboard page. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class. NOTE: Please post general, course-related questions to the discussion board forum I have set up for this. Typically, if one student in the class has the question, others do as well. Please allow 24 hours for a response, and then feel free to email me or call me directly with your question.

ADA STATEMENT

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. To help protect confidentiality, students seeking accessibility/accommodation(s) services must submit the Accommodation Request Form located on our website. Students are welcome to call the Office of Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or stop by Ferguson Hall Room 112 if they have any additional questions regarding the process. Our mailing address is PO Box C-122; Alpine, TX; 79832.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of

communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://timelycare.com/srsu). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

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 LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by 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.

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 a 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.

BLACKBOARD TECHNICAL SUPPORT: SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support Online Support Desk Contact Info: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu