

POLS 4942/8407 — Internship in Political Science — Fall 2019

Instructor: Colin M. Brown

Phone: (617) 373-8192

E-mail: colin.brown@northeastern.edu¹

Office: Renaissance Park 905

Formal Office Hours (sign up online): Monday 3:00 to 4:30 pm (or by appointment), RP 905

Informal Office Hours (drop-in): Wednesday 10:30-11:30am, Snell Library 1st Floor

Course Description: An internship combines work experience in an applied setting with academic supervision and course credits. For undergraduate students, internships count toward satisfaction of the Experiential Education requirement.

Learning Goals: Students will be able to:

- Describe the culture and expectations of the workplace in which they are placed, and demonstrate their ability to meet workplace conventions.
- Apply academic coursework in political science to specific workplace tasks.
- Describe how academic coursework can be used to better perform the tasks of their internship, and describe how day-to-day work in the field reinforces or contradicts what they have learned in the classroom.
- Develop learning goals for themselves for the semester, and relate them to both their broader educational goals and to the kinds of tasks they will be expected to perform.
- Conduct academic research on a topic, and explain how the findings of that research relate to their work as an intern.

Grading: The final course grade for POLS 4942 will be determined as follows:

1. 50%: Participation at Placement: Regular attendance at work and satisfactory performance, as measured and reported by your supervisor
2. 15%: Journals: Completed on-time and showing thoughtful reflection on the work experience
3. 10% Research Paper Components: Completed on-time and showing efforts toward integrating work and academic growth
4. 25%: Final Paper: Makes an effective theoretical or policy argument using evidence, and relates clearly to questions raised by internship experience.

¹ (there are other people with my name at Northeastern---double-check who you're sending it to!)

For graduate students registered in POLS 8407, the course grade will be determined as follows:

1. 50%: Participation at Placement: Regular attendance at work and satisfactory performance, as measured and reported by your supervisor
2. 15% Research Paper Components: Completed on-time and showing efforts toward integrating work and academic growth
3. 35%: Final Paper: Makes an effective *and original* theoretical or policy argument using evidence, *clearly connects to the existing literature*, and relates clearly to questions raised by internship experience.

Additional Information: The internship program coordinator will contact your site supervisor at the beginning of the semester and at the end of the semester. Supervisors will be asked to complete an evaluation of the student's performance, which will be factored in to the student's final grade. You must receive a satisfactory evaluation to pass the course.

In addition to the written assignments, students should plan to complete periodic "check-ins" with the internship program coordinator 2 or 3 times over the semester. These may be completed in person or via phone/Skype.

Course Requirements: Students who wish to complete an internship for course credit must complete the following:

1. Students must receive pre-approval of the internship site from the department's internship program coordinator **no later than** the last week of the semester immediately preceding the internship.
2. Once the student is accepted to the internship, he or she must complete the "Internship Application."
3. Students registered for this 4-credit course are required to work 225 hours throughout the semester.
 - a. POLS 4942 students will keep a short (~1 page per entry), weekly reflective journal entry starting the week of September 9th
 - i. *For graduate students registered in POLS 8407, the journal is optional and ungraded*
4. A political science research paper or policy paper, with the following components:
 - a. A list of 8-10 journal articles or books that might be useful for your research paper and might relate to your internship, due Fri. Oct. 4
 - b. A proposed research question and ideas for how relevant data/materials can be collected, due Fri. Nov. 8
 - c. A 3-4 page draft literature review and a one-paragraph abstract for your research paper, due Fri. Nov. 22
 - d. A completed research paper, due Monday, Dec. 9
 - i. *For POLS 4942, this paper should be 12-15 pages. For POLS 8407, this paper should be 15-20 pages.*

The instructor will share a Google Drive folder with each student containing the journal template, and all assignments should be submitted there (please e-mail the instructor to confirm when you submit assignments).