POLSC 784
INTERNSHIPS IN GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS

Description: Supervised field work at the international, national, state and local level of government or with political parties, think tanks, not-for-profit groups or other politically oriented organizations.

Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor and a minimum of two POLSC courses. Many government internships require at least a sophomore standing. Student does not need to be a Political Science major or minor. Non-majors earn general elective credit.

Credit: From one to six hours are possible on a credit/no credit basis. Up to six hours can be applied to a Political Science major or three hours for a minor (elective credit).

Purpose: To bring students into an applied political setting for hands-on experience in the political process of the organization. Internships provide an excellent opportunity to connect academic scholarship, analytical skills and work in actual political environments. It also is a valuable period in which to evaluate a potential career in politics, law and public service.

Requirements:
1. Meet course prerequisites.
2. Establish internship through networking and letters of application.
3. Enroll in POLSC 784.
4. Get letter to academic supervisor from field supervisor, describing work to be done. A final letter from the field supervisor that evaluates the quality of the intern’s work and the period over which the work was done is also required.
5. A minimum of 50 hours of work must be completed for each credit hour of the internship. (3 credit hours = 150 work hours)
6. Readings appropriate to the internship will be determined with the academic advisor. In general, at least one book or five-six articles will be required for the three-hour credits. A five page analytical report or book review is expected on the readings. Depending on the topic, resources available and the number of credit hours, the academic advisor will adapt the readings to encourage complementary preparation for the internship. As the readings are meant to enhance the internship, they should be completed before or very early in the internship.
7. Submit final assessment paper evaluating the internship experience. It should be 10-12 pages. It will be easier to write if you keep a journal during your internship. Guidelines for both papers are provided.

Note: Credit cannot be arranged after an internship is completed. It is important to plan ahead and work closely with the internship Director and/or another academic advisor.

Questions? See Dr. Brianne Heidbreder, 227 Waters Hall, 532-5366 or heidbr@k-state.edu