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**Master Syllabus**

**Course: PSC 305 Political Science Internship**

**Cluster Requirement: 5B – Learning Through Engagement**

This University Studies Master Syllabus serves as a guide and standard for all instructors teaching an approved course in the University Studies program. Individual instructors have full academic freedom in teaching their courses, but as a condition of course approval, agree to focus on the outcomes listed below, to cover the identified material, to use these or comparable assignments as part of the course work, and to make available the agreed-upon artifacts for assessment of learning outcomes.

**Course Overview:**

As a liberal arts discipline, political science develops intellectual skills that prepare students for a wide variety of careers. The Political Science Internship gives students an opportunity to apply, in the real world, the theories and concepts learned in their political science courses. Besides serving as a bridge and prelude to professional employment, the course gives students an opportunity to build their resumes and make professional connections. In a highly competitive labor market, these experiences will better position students for post-graduation employment. It also provides an opportunity to make connections between their classroom learning and real-world problems and concerns off-campus.

As a political science major, you learn much about the political world in the classroom. However, this course is different than most as it provides students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge in a workplace setting. Rather than focusing upon classroom lectures and assignments, the internship course seeks to give students the chance to do hands-on learning in a working environment. Students must work a total of 140 hours in their internship to receive the 3 course credits. When and how these hours are to be completed is to be arranged in a mutually agreeable fashion between the intern and his/her supervisor. The specific work duties, etc. will be outlined in the Internship Agreement Form which should be completed and signed by the student, the supervisor and the professor before any work begins.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the work routines and organizational features of a particular job in politics, government, law, advocacy or public policy.
2. Communicate effectively one’s strengths as a potential employee.
3. Identify specific contacts that could potentially lead to professional opportunities.

University Studies Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the needs and resources of the communities to which they belong.

2. Apply knowledge and skills gained through academic study to real problems and/or opportunities within their communities.

3. Describe the connections between learning on campus and the issues and needs of broader academic, professional or civic communities.

4. Articulate the value of engagement to other members of their communities.

**Examples of Texts and/or Assigned Readings:**

None.

**Example Assignments:**

Paper Assignment

Students write a 10-page essay on their internship. In this paper, students use their internship experience as a case example for examining specific concepts or ideas they have learned about in their academic studies. For example, an intern in the District Attorney’s office may talk about the role of plea bargaining in the legal system and how the internship experiences illustrated, contradicted or extended what was learned in class. Or, an intern on a campaign might relate their internship experience back to what was learned in classes about campaigns and elections, focusing perhaps on the use of survey data or the importance of fundraising. Students are encouraged to consult with the Internship Director about their topics.

The paper should include three key elements:

1. A discussion of the concepts or ideas, with references to the relevant courses and books. Student are encouraged to do additional reading or conduct further research on the topic they focus on.
2. A brief overview of the organization.
3. A discussion of the concept in the context of the organization.

Journal

Students are required to keep a journal, with at least one entry per week. These journal entries should address the following:

* What sorts of work activities did you engage in?
* What did you learn from your work activities?
* Were there any particular incidents or experiences that really helped demonstrate something you had learned about in your classes on campus?
* Did you learn anything about what it might take to be successful in an organization like this one? Are there any skills or abilities you think are particularly important in this kind of work? How would one improve theses skills and abilities?
* Did you learn anything about the broader community off campus—whether a local, national or professional community? Did you discover anything about the needs of these communities or, in contrast, what kinds of resources these communities bring to society?

**Sample Course Outline:**

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