

## Political Science 498: Public Policy Internship Spring 2017 Syllabus

Part of the experience of completing an internship is to gain work experience that prepares you for your chosen profession. Bridging this practical experience is an academic, educational component that will make the link between what you learn in the classroom with your experience in the workplace.

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Office Hours: By appointment only

**Students with Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; ☎ 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the Access Center.

### Deadlines

Paper and journal due date: **Monday December 4 by 4pm** by email to [relgar@wsu.edu](mailto:relgar@wsu.edu).  
**The supervisor evaluations are also due on the same date. You are responsible for making sure that these are sent to me in time – preferably by email, otherwise fax or by mail is also acceptable.**

### Learning objectives

This public policy internship provides academic credit for workplace experiences in government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other public entities. The goals of this program are to:

1. Acquire practical skills to enhance your opportunities for graduate school or employment in a chosen career
2. Provide a ‘real-world’ experience that encourages self-exploration and assessment for various professional roles and/or further education
3. Provide an opportunity to integrate your knowledge of political science with public and non-public organizations and agencies
4. Learn crucial workplace skills that can be applied to future academic or professional careers

In order to pass this class, you must successfully complete the practical portion of your internship (i.e., the actual working with an employer), as well as the academic component of the internship (i.e., paper, journal, and evaluation turned in complete and on time) in order to receive a grade. Your actual grade will be based on the academic paper that you complete.

### Paper

Base your paper on the assigned readings, other professional or scholarly journals, and

newspaper articles only if you wish to add some background information. **Proper citations are a must.** You should use in-text citations in parentheses by (author year: page number). For example, if you cite some text by John Kingdon, or use examples based on the text do it like this: **(Kingdon 2003: 17)**, after the text or idea that you have used. If you are using a general idea from the text, you do not need to list the page number. List **every** source that you have used in the bibliography. Please submit your papers electronically.

**The paper must have a minimum of ten sources, and be a minimum of ten pages (maximum 15 pages unless you are also signed up for Pol S 497 credits).** Font: Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced with standard 1 inch margins. The minimum word length should be over three thousand (3,000) words, not counting the references.

Use the Kingdon book plus at least 9 other sources. Give yourself enough time to read the texts before the paper is due! Possible other sources should include academic articles, many of which you can find by using the WSU Library search option, or through using Google Scholar. Some use of government publications is also acceptable, but you must mostly use academic sources.

When using internet sources take great care in citing and determining that they are legitimate and credible. You may use government websites, "think-tank" sources, and news media outlets, but make sure you cite them correctly so that I can check them if necessary.

Remember, the paper length **does not** include the title or reference pages.

## **Journal**

In addition to your paper you must also write a 5 page journal about your internship experience. The journal should be typed in Times New Roman using size 12 font, double-spaced with standard margins.

Your journal could include:

- ~ A description of some of the daily tasks you performed and highlight significant learning experiences. Please do not recount a daily log of what you did - make it a narrative
- ~ Your thoughts, perceptions, what you learned, an evaluation of the internship experience
- ~ Plans for the future. Did the internship help you professionally?

**If you have any problems at your work place please notify me AND your supervisor (at the internship) as soon as possible.**

## **Academic integrity**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited in this course. This includes cheating, plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration. Cheating is defined in the Standards for Student Conduct WAC 504-26-010 (3): <http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=504-26-010>. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the

Office of Student Conduct. For complete information, go to <http://conduct.wsu.edu/>.

### **Paper Topic: Policy Analysis**

Select a national or state public policy topic that is of personal interest to you. Some examples include (but are not limited to): health care reform; Social Security reform; civil partnerships; carbon trading; etc. The topic you choose is your decision (with my approval) but it must have been (or is being) seriously considered in Congress or by a state legislature. The paper should trace include the following stages outlined below:

- a. **Policy Agenda:** How did this problem become part of the government agenda? What role did linkage institutions such as public opinion, the media, political parties, elections, or interest groups play in putting this issue on the agenda?
- b. **Policy Formation:** How did the proposed policy address the public problem? In other words, what would this policy do or what was it supposed to do? How was it formulated and by whom?
- c. **Policy Adoption:** Describe the politics surrounding the consideration of this policy. Who were the key actors (legislators, interest groups, agency officials, etc.) involved in determining whether the policy was adopted or was not adopted? What role did other factors such as public opinion and the political environment play in the outcome?
- d. **Policy Implementation and Impact:** If the policy was adopted, how was it carried out, and what is its likely effect on society? If the policy was not adopted, what are some of the potential consequences of its failure on society?

You are encouraged to express your own opinions in the conclusion, but the assignment - your assessment of a policy - is to be as objective as possible.

### **Bibliography**

**Books** (supplement with **at least 9** recent journal articles or academic books):

**Required text:**

**Kingdon, John.** (2011). *Agendas, Alternatives, and Policies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Longman.

### **Journal articles**

You should use scholarly articles, in peer-reviewed journals, to support the points you make in your paper. Using Google Scholar, and the WSU libraries, will be of great help to you. If you have any questions about finding suitable articles to use, please contact me.