POSC 395, Spring 2018
DIRECTED GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP:
California Policy Research Internship

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<tr>
<th>Arthur H. Auerbach, J.D., Ph.D.</th>
<th>Meghan Ginley</th>
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<td>Assistant Professor, Teaching Internship Director</td>
<td>Director, Community Engagement</td>
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<td>Office Hours: By appointment only</td>
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<td>Office Hrs: M/W 2-3 p.m. BSOS15</td>
<td>SOS B15</td>
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**Friday, January 26, by 5 p.m.**
Completed Student Internship Agreement Form should be submitted to the Ms. Ginley in order to obtain D-clearance. Once D-clearance is approved, complete the electronic registration process. You MUST complete electronic registration to be added to the course.

**During the Semester**
- One (1) one-on-one session with Dr. Auerbach
- One (1) mentorship session
- Two (2) Unruh Institute Events
- Optional resume workshop
- Bi-monthly meetings with Community Engagement Director and Internship Director

**March 5, 7 & 8**
HR Director’s Panel (Interviewing Workshop)

**Friday, March 2, by 5 p.m. (PST)**
First political write-up due

**TBD**
Mid-Semester Exchange with partner organization

**April 2, 4 & 5**
Jobs Forum

**TBD**
One-on-one with Internship Director to discuss final policy report

**Friday, April 27**
Final presentations to representatives of partner organization

**Friday, April 27 by 5 p.m.**
Second political write-up due

**Monday, May 1 by 12 p.m.**
Submit final policy report

*Other political events may be substituted with prior approval from Internship Director.*
1. Course Description

Students enrolled in POSC 395: California Policy Research Internship will conduct extensive research and analysis on public policy challenges facing California and the nation. Students will take part in a team-based research project where they will work to develop potential solutions in their respective policy areas by conducting original fieldwork, interviewing policy experts, reviewing academic and policy reports, and using other forms of primary and secondary research. At the conclusion of the internship, each group will present their final product to representatives of their partner organization.

2. Internship Hours per Units of Credit

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<tr>
<th>Units/credits</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Suggested weekly hours</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative hours at internship</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>400</td>
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3. Meetings and Communication with Partner Organization

An introductory meeting between students and representatives of their partner organization will take place in the beginning of the semester. The Mid-Semester Exchange in which students will share research progress with their partner organization will take place midway through the semester. Each policy group will deliver their final product to representatives of their partner organization. Students should stay in close contact with their partner organization throughout the semester, but are required to include the Internship Director and Community Engagement Director in any communication with them.

4. Meetings and Communication with Unruh Staff

Groups will meet with the Internship Director and Community Engagement Director on-campus twice a month. In these meetings, interns are expected to bring a 2-page summary of their research and share research progress as an individual and as a group. Dr. Auerbach will be in contact with you throughout the semester via the Blackboard system. Check Blackboard on a regular basis for information relevant to POSC 395. During the semester, you should also keep in close contact with Dr. Auerbach and Ms. Ginley to discuss your research progress.

Student groups will present their final product to the Unruh staff before the final presentations. The specific date and time is dependent upon the students’ schedules. If a student does not adequately prepare for the run-through presentations, as determined by Professor Auerbach and Ms. Ginley, then he/she may not be permitted to present before their partner(s). Alternative arrangements will be made for students to give their final presentation.

You are encouraged to meet with your policy team at least once a week. The organization of these meetings will be left to group members.

5. Grading

Course grades will be based on satisfactory completion of the required number of hours at the internship, the supervisor's evaluation of your performance, and fulfilling other coursework requirements. The final grade for the course will be based on:

Community Engagement Director Evaluation – 25%
Partner Organization Evaluation - 10%
The Community Engagement Director Evaluation will be comprised of attendance and preparation for all meetings over the course of the semester in addition to any research-related assignments. The Partner Organization Evaluation will include overall performance over the course of the internship and the quality of the final presentation.

(NOTE: All late papers will be marked down by 5 points for each day they are late. Also, papers will be marked down 1/3 a letter grade for every 10 research internship hours short of the required 100 hours).

6. Attending Workshops and Mentorship Sessions

   HR Director’s Panel:
   Students will attend the HR Director’s Panel (interviewing workshops) where we invite internship coordinators and HR directors to conduct mock-interviews. The HR Director's Panel is done over 3 nights with no more than 20 students each night. A 30-minute panel discussion is followed by 4 rounds of "speed dating style" mock interviews - 3 minutes of interviewing followed by 2 minutes of feedback from your peers and the interviewer.

   Jobs Forum:
   The Jobs Forum: Political Careers in the 21st Century is held over 2 or 3 nights and we host a 45-minute panel discussion followed by 10 minute "break out groups" where students can talk to invited panelists including top-level executives, professors, and political professionals in the public and private sectors about job prospects in the current market.

   Mentorship Sessions:
   The mentorship program is a unique professional development opportunity between students and the Unruh Institute Fellows and other high profile individuals who are willing to share their seasoned political advice with students enrolled in POSC 395. Students will meet with a mentor who fits his or her short and long-term career goals over coffee and will be encouraged to build long-term relationships with their mentor after the session.

7. Attending Political Events and Write-Ups

You are required to attend at least two (2) politically-focused events during the fall and turn in a short, 2–page write-up for each event. You write-up MUST follow the memorandum format, an example of which is attached to the syllabi. Please submit your write-up on Blackboard within one week of the event. Your write-up should briefly describe the event, including what was the event, who spoke, at least one page on what was said and at least ½ page on whether you agree or disagree on what was said and why.

The first write-up is due no later than Friday, March 2, by 5 p.m. (PST).

The Final Written Policy Report & Presentation

You are required to complete a writing assignment in which you analyze your designated area of research and make policy recommendations.

Final written projects should be 8-15 pages (depending on units, see below) and must include substantial scholarly research, including consideration of relevant literature. Please discuss your project in detail with the Internship Director and Community Engagement Director throughout the course of the semester.
A) Written Policy Report: Monday, April 30, by 12 p.m.

The final written component should be in the format of an 8 to 15-page policy report. Papers must be typed and double-spaced in 12-point font with 1” margins. Paper/project length is dependent on the number of credits/units earned:

2 units: 8-10 pages
3 units: 10-12 pages
4 units: 12-15 pages

Students’ papers will receive 5 point deductions for failing to meet the minimum page length, failure to include a “references” page and 5 points for every day late. Note: You must use parenthetical citations along with your work-cited page. Only include citations in work cited that are used in the paper. Papers must be submitted on Blackboard. Students are required to submit their final papers on Blackboard through the “Turnitin” system by the deadline.

B) Policy Presentation: Friday, April 27 (Time: TBD)

Presentations will be one hour in length comprised of a 30-minute presentation to representatives of your partner organization followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. Each team member will be responsible for a 4 - 6 minute report.

8. Academic Integrity

Because the completion of the internship is a major part of this course, you MUST work all of the hours listed on your internship agreement form. All written assignments for this class must be your original work, completed only to fulfill the requirements of this course. Sources must be cited accurately and completely.

A NOTE ON “RECYCLING PAPERS”: Your paper/project MUST be original work done for this class and related to your internship. You may not re-use another student’s paper, or your own paper from a previous course or a course in which you are currently enrolled. This is an extremely serious issue which, according to University policy, can result in failing this course as well as the course from which you “borrowed” your paper.

Please refer to the Scampus chapter on “University Student Conduct Code” (scampus.usc.edu/university-student-conduct-code) or contact the Internship Director if you have any questions.

*Please note that the POSC 395: California Policy Research Internship Syllabus is not a binding contract. Dr. Auerbach has the discretion to make changes if deemed necessary.
MEMORANDUM

FROM: (Your name)

SUBJECT: California Water: Planning for a Better Future

The purpose of this memorandum is to understand how climate change, population growth, long droughts, and severe floods have created stark regional differences in availability and demand of water throughout California. Consequently, this means the State might have to make inconvenient legal and political changes in order to reach effective solutions.

Background (This section should include general event details such as who spoke at the event, what was the general topic of the panel, etc…)

The event was sponsored by the California Water Project and participants included: John Jones, Jane Smith and Sam Hadley. Hadley began by suggesting the biggest challenge behind California’s water system is the issue of instability in the Delta, which is considered to be the hub of California’s water supply. The instability issue with the Delta comes from weak levees, damaged by earthquakes, rising sea levels as well as climate change and the collapse of native fish species (creating cutbacks for pumping water). Jones noted California is fortunate enough to have many tools to be able to cope with the challenges facing its water system, because the economy continues to prosper. . . .

Tools to Combat Water Scarcity (This section should be a general summary of what was learned at the event):

The following targeted reforms are believed to be the key to seeing fruitful changes in water management in California so that our state will be able to overcome its current challenges:

- **Bay Delta Conservation Plan**

  The construction of two tunnels, upstream on the Sacramento River, and move the tapped water to underneath the Delta, where pumping occurs. The results would be having fewer native fish trapped in the pumps and it would become easier to restore more natural water flow in the Delta.

- **Governance and Finance Solution**
While the state’s economy will benefit from an improved quality and supply of water and taxpayers are willing to support the new required infrastructure, moving to more locally based funding will help to fill funding gaps in water management efforts.

- **New Water Efficiency Options**
  Options such as using recycled water or water marketing (the sale or leasing of water) will provide more incentives to conserve.

- **Underground Storage**
  Storing underground can be a cost-effective way to save water for drought years, which will become more important with climate change.

**Analysis** *(This section should be your analysis of the event – do you agree or disagree with the topic? Your analysis must be at least ½ page):*

While we have laid out some very thought provoking solutions to the issue of California water management, only through policy reform and new investments will these solutions see the face of reality. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan, while a good concept, will require solid policies on finance, governance, and mitigation for the residents of the Delta to be in full support. In addition, the state of California always seems to face issues of funding. In order to truly find a solution to this issue, we will need to have more local funding, which requires making a solid case to the voters. I agree with Hadley’s comments on the reasons for the reason California has so many water issues, however, I believe that he overlooks one key factor . . . . Jones correctly acknowledges that California possesses many solutions to deal with these issues. However, I would have liked Jones to offer greater specific solutions rather than simply relying on the strength of the California economy as a means of resolving this significant problem. Overall, there will need to be a more active policy approach to preserving California’s ecosystem.