

Humboldt State University
PSCI 470-474
Founders Hall 181
Tues 6:00-8:00pm (as announced)
Spring Semester 2001

Prof: John Meyer
Office: 138 Founders Hall
Hours: Tues, 2-3, Thurs 11-12,
or by appointment

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INTERNSHIPS

This internship allows you to gain experience in and understanding of a political world beyond the classroom. You will also have the opportunity to reflect upon this experience and explore the links between it and your classroom studies. This can fulfill the experience/methods requirement for political science majors.

There are two avenues to arranging an internship placement. If you already know of an organization, agency, or office in which you can work, then you may set up the placement yourself and discuss it with me. Otherwise, you should review the binders in our department office that list possibilities and work with me to arrange a placement. Once we identify a possibility together, I will help arrange a meeting between you and a potential supervisor. You will be responsible for meeting with this person and determining whether the position is mutually agreeable and discussing expectations and scheduling with them. Internships are unpaid.

Hands-on experience can be the most effective and interesting way to learn. As a liberal arts major, it is also a great way to develop skills that will open up future career possibilities. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity. Ask questions, make suggestions, demonstrate interest and motivation! Don't always wait for a supervisor to tell you what to do; sometimes it's best to figure out what needs to be done and offer to do it. Most importantly, be sure to communicate frequently with your supervisor and with me.

Requirements: The central requirement of this 'class' will be to serve the organization or office, for which you are interning, capably and professionally. Remember that your performance reflects not only upon you, but also upon our department and University. Your supervisor will fill out an evaluation of your performance at the end of the semester.

I encourage you to keep an informal journal of your internship. You will be required to write up **four brief papers** (2 pages each) over the course of the semester reflecting upon your experiences. These will serve as the basis for our Tuesday evening discussions. I will announce the specifics of these assignments via an email discussion list, *so everyone is responsible for checking this on a regular basis.*

Credit Hours: This is a variable unit course (1-4). (NOTE: If you do not select a particular number when registering online, the default is 1 unit!) For each unit of internship credit, you should work an average of 3 hours per week during the semester. So, if you are registered for 4 units, you should expect to work about 12 hours a week. In some cases, you may work more hours at one point in the semester and less at another point. A minimum of 3 units is required to complete the experience/methods requirement for political science majors.

Class Meetings: We will only meet as a whole group on Tuesday evenings six times. I have scheduled these required meeting dates for: **Jan.23, Jan.30, Feb.6, Feb.27, April 3, May 8.** These are subject to change. We will also have an ongoing email discussion list to which you should all be subscribed. This is a place where you can share thoughts, experiences, or frustrations, as well as pose questions to me that are of general interest. It is your responsibility to contact me between these times if you have any questions, problems, etc., with your internship.