PS 594 Political Science Internship

To obtain 4 credit hours for a Political Science internship, students need to work at least 160 hours in a political setting. Political settings include political campaigns, the offices of elected officials, and law offices, among others.

Students should have the setting approved by a professor in Political Science before beginning their internship to make sure that the setting is appropriate. Students must find a member of the Political Science faculty to approve the setting, review their work, and assign a grade for the internship. Grades will usually be on the S/U scale, though letter grades may be assigned if the faculty member believes that the situation warrants.

Students will keep a work journal in which they describe their work experience. There must be at least one journal entry per week. Students should provide details about their work day as well as personal reflections on what they are doing and learning. Journal entries should provide enough detail to allow readers to understand the activities the intern is participating in at the setting.

Students will write a paper in which they apply some of the scholarly literature to their internship experience. The paper should be 6 to 8 typed pages, double spaced with standard font and margins. The paper provides students with an opportunity to put their experience in a larger context and to assess how their academic experience provides insight into practical politics. Journal entries and papers are due 1 week in advance of the grading deadline for the semester in which they take place.