

## **POLS-487: INTERNSHIP – EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS (3 credits)**

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain practical experience in government and politics, broadly conceived. Accordingly, students may work as interns with politicians, lawyers, judges, government or law enforcement agencies, city and county planning departments, advocates and activists, or other politically related entities. The aim of the course is to enable students to make connections between their coursework required for the Political Science major and practice and participation in the different areas of the political process. The course is graded on a satisfactory / unsatisfactory basis.

### **Course Requirements**

To complete this course, each student must:

1. Work a minimum of 100 hours as an intern in a position approved by a member of the Political Science department.
2. Have a brief email sent by the internship supervisor to the POLS internship coordinator at the outset confirming the appointment and describing the work likely to be assigned to the student.
3. Keep a weekly journal that details both the work conducted and impressions regarding the significance and meaning of the work. The journal should be submitted at the end of the semester, along with the reflective paper described below.
4. Have a letter or email sent to the POLS Internship Coordinator at the conclusion of the internship by his or her employer that evaluates the work performance of the student over the course of the internship and verifies the number of hours worked.
5. Write a 10-page reflective paper that examines lessons learned during the internship about the process and practice of politics. These papers should be submitted electronically to the internship coordinator prior to the end of the semester in which you register for the course and address the following questions:
  - a. What is the mission of the organization, agency, or person for whom you interned? How does this organization, agency, or person endeavor to fulfill this mission? How do politics factor in? Please be specific.
  - b. What attracted the people with whom you worked to their jobs? Do they find their work fulfilling? Why or why not?
  - c. What obstacles or constraints limit the capacity of this organization, agency, or person to meet its goals?
  - d. What did you learn about the process and practice of politics? How can you connect these lessons to your other coursework at Linfield?
  - e. What did you learn about your own abilities, interests and commitments to the process and practice of politics?
6. Conduct a brief presentation on your experiences and conclusions in conjunction with the Political Science Senior Seminar (for students graduating after 2012)

### **Statement Concerning Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and feel you may require academic accommodations contact Cheri White, Assistant Director of Learning Support Services (LSS), within the first two weeks of the semester. LSS is located in Walker 124 (503-883-2444). We also recommend that students communicate with the POLS Internship Coordinator and their internship supervisor about any special needs they should be aware of.