**State and Local Internship**

**Political Science Department**

**Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics and Public Service**

POLS 4865 (one to six credits)

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**Course Description:**

The Walker Institute/Political Science Department local and state internship program is designed to provide students with practical experiences in the realm of politics, government, and non-profit organizations. Students who serve internships at the state and local levels will contribute to their civic education at Weber State University, and enhance their practical work place skills. Students who serve public service internships apply what they have learned in their Weber State University classroom to practical circumstances. As interns at the Utah State legislature, in executive offices at the State level, or in local government and public service offices, students will acquire the communication and organization skills necessary for success in the workplace.

**Course Requirements:**

To fulfill the requirements of these State or Local internship credits, a student must submit:

* a weekly journal post of his/her daily internship work and experience to the supervising professor (40%)
* a 5-7 (1-3 credits), or 10-12 (4-6 credits) page paper on an issue relating to the internship on a topic approved by the internship supervisor. (50%)
* a self- evaluation of the intern’s performance and an evaluation from a supervisor (10%)

 (Non-political science students may take political science internship credits, or make arrangements to take 4860 internship credits within their own departments where applicable.)

All required writing assignments will be due on the last day of classes for a given semester.

**POLS Learning Outcomes:**

Students serving internships should be able to synthesize and demonstrate advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies, including: written, oral, or graphic communications, use of information technology, use of library or other research sources, collaborative group problem solving.

**Appendix I: Grading Standards**

A 93-100 C+ 77-79

A- 90-92 C 73-76

## B+ 87-89 C- 70-72

B 83-86 D+ 67-69

B- 80-82 D 64-66

 D- 60-63

4. Grading Standards: These papers should show that you have read carefully and thought seriously. Stick to the assigned topics. You will be credited for clarity, conciseness, and the degree of reflection your papers display.

A (90-100): An excellent piece of work. A paper in the A range will not only demonstrate a competence and solidity in treating the topic at hand, but it will go beyond that to demonstrate hard, original, and critical thinking. An A paper will not rest content with unsupported assertions (even sharp ones), but will build an argument or a series of arguments. I will have no doubt about what the guiding idea of the paper is. It will be well grounded in the text under discussion, with pertinent citations and quotations. Obvious opposing views will be anticipated and responded to. The writing throughout will be simple, clear and unambiguous and presented in a thoughtful and organized way. It will be proofread, well-polished, and contain very few grammatical and typographical errors.

B (80-89): Good, solid, above-average work. A B paper will demonstrate a basic competence in the topic at hand. The argument of a B paper will be typically either solid but unremarkable, or it may face some notable, but not grave, problems. If the paper has attempted something more ambitious, there may be some significant problem (such as a failure to address opposing possibilities or insufficient textual support). A paper that otherwise might get an A may drop to a B owing to poor writing. But in general, a B paper will be clearly written and argued and well organized. Your basic argument should be clear to me, whether or not your support for it is rock-solid. A B paper will be free of major problems. Receipt of a B on a paper conceived and executed the night before is cause for celebration (except for the fact that if you had begun earlier and devoted more serious thought to the paper, it might have been an A).

C (70-79): Average work that may suffer from a variety of major ills. The reader may be left unsure what your main thesis is. Your basic thesis may contradict itself in a crucial way or be insufficiently supported or contradicted by the text. Many C papers are poorly written and haphazardly organized, giving the appearance of having been written in haste and with little reflection or attention to the text. Some C papers may evidence significant work, but fail to demonstrate the basic competence in the topic required by a B paper.

D (60-69): A paper receiving a D will have many major problems. This should serve as a wake-up call.

F: Unacceptable work by any measure.

**Appendix 2:** **Rules on Cheating, Falsification, and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a violation of the WSU Student Code and is not acceptable in this course (IV.D.2.b). If your writing appears plagiarized, or if sources are not documented properly, you may receive an E on the assignment. If repeated offenses occur, you will receive a failing grade for the class and I will notify the WSU Due Process Officer.

**Appendix 3: Students with Disabilities**

If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Services for Students with Disabilities, preferably during the first week of the course. Any requests for special considerations relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc. must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the SSD, course materials can be provided in alternative formats--large print, audio, diskette, or Braille.