

Application for Capstone Course for Existing Course

Course Subject and Number: POLS 499

Course Name: Public Service Internship

Contact Person: Neal Coates, Chair, Department of Political Science

For Capstone courses:

Explain how your course or courses will meet the learning outcomes:

☐ Habits of mind that foster integrative thinking between the liberal arts core curriculum and their major field of study.

This course will allow students to perform an internship in their field of study, and in the process connect their understanding of their collegiate-level studies with real-world experience. This will be facilitated by specific assignments in research, faith and vocation, and a comprehensive skills and accomplishments inventory tied directly to their major.

☐ Achievement and demonstration through advanced research and/or creative projects the ability to frame questions, carry out critical analysis, and produce work of substantial complexity and quality related to their chosen field of study.

Students will select a research topic that is appropriate for their internship experience. They must review and analyze the corresponding academic literature, select a research method, and incorporate any ethical implications of their research.

☐ Reflect and demonstrate their ability to think critically, globally, and missionally about their discipline.

Students are asked to reflect and think critically about how they will act as graduates of their major field of study in light of the completion of their internship and in conjunction with the range of activities which they have been involved in during their collegiate career. In this light they must not only use their resume to do so but must prepare a research assignment, which combined with discussions with the instructor, will address ethical and professional questions that social scientists and those working in the field must face as a part of what they see as their mission. Finally, students in this capstone internship course (it is also an experience) must think globally by considering how their faith and how Christianity informs the kinds of questions they ask, their commitment to the highest of ethical practices, and preparation for professional life. This will be reflected in the paper and resume assignments.

Explain how your course or courses will meet the required assignments:

☐ Research assignment

LO: A required paper with a minimum length of 2,000 words (approximately 7 pages) and worth a minimum of 10% of the assessment for the course in which it is included. This paper provides an opportunity for a summative assessment of the student's information literacy skills, including the proper citation of a minimum of 5 appropriate sources that support their research. Options to satisfy this prompt include, but are not limited to, a traditional research paper or an evaluative/reflective essay that accompanies a creative or scholarly work.

Students will complete a research assignment complying with the above guidelines, from questions formulated if needed with the help of the instructor. Students also present their research papers as they would in a professional setting.

☐ Faith and vocation assignment

LO: An assignment that demonstrates the student's ability to think critically about faith and vocation as it is expressed in a particular discipline met by a course or experience in the students' degree plan or major.

Students will prepare an essay regarding their faith and how it relates to their chosen vocation. This essay will be impacted by their involvement in their internship. It is likely that this assignment will be formulated in the future to comply with the writing intensive requirements of the University.

☐ Comprehensive skills and accomplishments inventory

LO: A comprehensive skills and accomplishments inventory reflecting the student's scholarship (research and creative activities), accomplishments, co-curricular activities, service, leadership, internships, integrative thinking, knowledge, etc.

Students will prepare and submit a resume to the instructor for this assignment, which will aid them in reflecting upon their academic accomplishments and better prepare them for applying for graduate studies and employment.

Attachments: Course syllabus