

**Fall 2009**

**Dr. Robert W. Smith**

**POSC 305-001**

**Creative Inquiry**



**Project Title:** The Local Government Management Project

**Project Description:** The Southeast Local Government Laboratory is a recently developed entity/project housed in the Department of Political Science. This newly created “laboratory in concept” identifies projects in local governments throughout South Carolina and the southeast for study and analysis by students and faculty. In Fall of 2009 under the direction of Dr. Robert W. Smith the undergraduate participants will become fully involved in the analysis of selected problems or issues facing local government in South Carolina.

This project operates as a Creative Inquiry class where students receive academic credit for work. This project is an ongoing effort by the Department of Political Science to provide applied experiences for students and offer services/assistance to selected local governments. In the Fall of 2007 students helped develop the governance structure of the laboratory (as a nonprofit entity). In Spring 2008 students began the process of outreach to and identification of local government projects for the laboratory to pursue, and helped develop the infrastructure and financial capacity of the laboratory to undertake the ongoing work of the Lab. In addition, a preliminary database of local governments was prepared by the Laboratory.

Students function as staff management analysts for the laboratory under the direction of the faculty member.

**Meeting Times:** Meeting times for the course/project will be determined by the undergraduate participants and faculty member. Several group meetings will be scheduled throughout the semester. Each student will meet periodically with the instructor.

**Student Outcomes and Evaluation:** Student outcomes will be determined by the nature of the assignments given to the students during the semester. Each student will be guided by an individual performance plan developed by the. As part of this individualized plan, students will develop specific outcomes with both professional and academic components. Grading will be based upon fulfillment of performance plans each semester.

**More Details on Enrollment:** Seven (7) students are enrolled in Political Science 305-1.

**Work Plan and Projects:** For Fall 2009 several projects will be launched or continued:

1. Local Government Studies:
  - a. City of Mauldin
  - b. City of Georgetown
  - c. City of Beaufort
  - d. Town of Hilton Head Island
  - e. City of Camden
  - f. City of Pickens
2. Nonprofit Status of Lab
3. Finalize Data Base
4. SC Statewide Survey Project
5. Statewide Intern Registry
6. Funding Opportunities for Lab

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