

**Clemson University
Department of Political Science
232 Brackett Hall**

Dr. Bruce Ransom
Fall 2009
Time: Tuesday, 5:00-6:00 pm
Classroom: 234 Brackett Hall
Office: 231C Brackett Hall
Office Hours: TTH, 10:30 am—12:15 pm & 2:00 pm—3:15 pm
Phone: 656-1650 or 656-4700
E-Mail: bruce@strom.clemson.edu

PO SC 310: POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP

Course Description: This course offers an opportunity for **political science majors and minors** to experience an internship. The course includes the internship and an academic component. **Normally, students will complete the internship prior to enrolling in the course, usually during the summer or the previous semester.** The agency or organization selected for the internship must explicitly give the student practical exposure to the workings of politics, policy-making, and/or public administration. The class will not assemble as a group after the initial meeting. During the semester of course enrollment, students may find it necessary to consult with the instructor as they complete the academic component of the course.

Course Requirements: After completing the internship, students must submit **a letter on official stationery** written by a representative of upper management in the organization or agency attesting to the nature of the internship, including the intern's duties and responsibilities. The letter should also note the dates of the internship and the total number of hours the intern was on-the-job. **(To receive 3 credit hours for the course, a minimum of 160 hours on-the-job is required.)** The letter should also include an evaluation of the intern's performance. The letter should be mailed to the Dr. Bruce Ransom, the internship coordinator, at the following address:

Dr. Bruce Ransom
Clemson University
Department of Political Science
232 Brackett Hall
Clemson, SC 29634-1354

Each intern should maintain **a daily diary or journal** of internship activities and projects; each daily diary entry (roughly one or two paragraphs) should report principal assignments, significant meetings, and unusual observations or issues.

On November 16, 2009, at the latest, students should **submit a paper** reporting on the internship experience. The paper, 10-12 double-spaced typed pages in length, must cover the following points:

1. A description of the agency or organization and the intern's position within the organization;
2. The dates of the internship and the name and position of your supervisor;
3. A description of the intern's general duties, major activities and projects;
4. A general discussion and evaluation of the contribution of the internship to the organization's mission and to the intern's own educational and professional development;
5. A critical examination and assessment of the relationship between the internship and the organization (e.g., Were the intern's duties defined? Was the intern's role well integrated into the work of the agency? Was the relationship between the intern and supervisor a productive and congenial one?);
6. A critical examination and assessment of the relationship between the internship and the political science program (e.g., Did your course work in political science prepare you for the internship? Was there important knowledge and skills that you needed that the political science program did not provide?);
7. An identification and discussion of some of the most relevant courses, books, articles, and projects in political science to your internship experience;
8. A general observation of the internship, identifying, for example, major lessons learned, specific eye opening experiences, and questions or issues raised.

The diary, which may be handwritten, should be submitted with the paper.

Academic Integrity: "As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form."

"When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge."