

## **Fall 2016 POLI 194SD Local Internship Research Seminar Syllabus**

POLI194SD serves as a follow up to the local internship course, 197SD.

### **Objective:**

After completing their local internship obligations, students will undergo and complete a research project that allows them to analyze more deeply and/or broadly some aspect of their internship experience. The project will be coordinated with their internship supervisor and overseen by the local internship director (currently Dr. Galderisi).

As part of this research exercise, students are expected to develop some already-obtained research skills or acquire new ones. The following are just a few examples of this process:

- **GUNS AND BUTTER:**  
A student had interned at a local congressional district office where part of her responsibility included assessing constituent attitudes toward military spending. In her follow up research project, she analyzed a host of national surveys with the assistance of the SPSS statistical package. The final paper analyzed how the U.S. public views tradeoffs between military and social spending and how economic fluctuations alter assessment of those tradeoffs.
- **THE PERSONAL VOTE-1:**  
A group of students had interned at a state senator's district office. The major part of their responsibilities centered on reaching out to local constituents and groups. In their follow up project, the students learned how to use demographic mapping (GIS) programming in order to assess how well covered the senator's district was through that outreach.
- **THE PERSONAL VOTE-2:**  
A group of students had interned at a state senator's district office. The major part of their responsibilities centered on reaching out to local constituents and groups. In their follow up project, they conducted a fairly complete review of whether and how constituent outreach is conducted in other democratic nations, drawing distinctions between proportional and single member districting systems, as well as presidential vs parliamentary systems.
- **CENTRE-PERIPHERY:**  
Students who had worked in a variety of legislative district offices had dealt with, either through outreach or policy analysis, local views about immigration and how the fear of large-scale immigration was based upon a broader sense of losing one's culture and place in society. The students then did a comparative analysis in which immigration views and the causes of those were studied both in the U.S. and in other countries.
- **DOCTOR-DOCTOR:**  
A student served a judicial internship with the Center for Public Interest Law. Part of her responsibilities was to assess certain California medical licensing procedures. Her follow up project entailed a thorough, case based review of licensing procedures in both California and other states.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Attend, as a group, a session conducted by the UCSD Social Science librarian discussing how to use library resources to conduct a literature review of their respective topics. Individually, students will meet with that librarian as they develop their individual topics.
- Attend, as a group, a few sessions in which each student will discuss their research agenda, procedures and goals, and then comment on each other's presentations.
- Individually meet with the internship academic adviser on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to discuss and develop their research ideas. Depending on the subject-matter or research methods expertise needed, the adviser may have other faculty assist with this development.
- Complete a final research paper that fully addresses their topic. Although there is no page limit requisite for this paper, students are asked to produce a paper that meets the breadth and depth framework of journals in the field they are investigating. Papers have generally been targeted at 20 pages, minor graphs and charts, but excellent papers have been submitted ranging from 15-50 pages.
- The final project is then shared with each student's original internship granting agency.

#### **GRADING:**

- The actual internship (197SD) is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. A 'Pass' is only granted once the internship provider documents that the student has successfully completed at least 100 hours of service. Four credit hours are then granted that can count for upper-division, *general* elective credit.
- The research seminar and paper (194SD) is graded on a letter-grade basis. On successful completion, four credits are granted that can count towards upper-division, *Political Science* elective credit.

The current academic adviser has generally only granted credit if the work completed meets the standards necessary to obtain no less than a B+ grade, preferring to hold off on a final grade until "A"-level work has been submitted.