

Brock University
Department of Political Science

Political Science Internship
POLI 4P95
Winter 2018

Instructor/Coordinator: Dr. Livianna Tossutti
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Course Description:

The course combines academic assignments with community-based experiential learning. Students work five hours per week for a period of 12 weeks during the term in a career-relevant position with a governmental or non-governmental organization in the Niagara Region. The duties and hours are determined by the student and their placement supervisor. Additional hours are up to the discretion of the student, provided that students spend no more than 10 hours per week in the placement. Students are also required to submit weekly journal assignments and a final reflective essay to the course instructor. These assignments require that students reflect upon their experiences and connect those experiences to their academic studies.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

The course will provide students with an opportunity to apply the research, analytical and communication skills they have acquired through the Honours BA Political Science degree program to career-relevant positions, and to acquire new knowledge, skills and contacts that will help them achieve their professional goals, whether they involve graduate studies, law school, or direct entry into the workforce. Students will acquire a better understanding of the connection between the theories, concepts and methods of the discipline and the practice of politics, law, administration, research and/or advocacy. The course also aims to reinforce a sense of personal responsibility to their placement organization and to the broader Niagara community in which these organizations are situated.

Grading Scheme:

Weekly Journal (12 weekly entries): 50%
Reflective Essay (due Monday, April 16 at 4pm): 50%

Weekly Journal:

Weekly journal entries are required during the internship to encourage constant, engaged, active reflection. Each journal entry should be approximately 500 words in length, and must be submitted by email to the instructor by 4pm on the Friday of each week, beginning the first week of the placement. The journal outlines observations about the organization, day-to-day responsibilities, actions taken, and, where appropriate, connections between these and the knowledge you have acquired in your political science courses. Points are awarded for the acuteness of the observations and the implications drawn from them. A list of weekly journal topics in the recommended order has been provided in Part 2 of the Political Science Internship Workbook that is available on the course website. Students may choose which journal entries they wish to complete on most weeks, with the exception of “Goal Setting” in Week 1, “Midterm Goal” evaluation in Week 6, and “Beyond the Classroom” in Week 12. If students wish to write on a topic not listed, approval from the course instructor is required.

Reflective Essay:

Students must write a 3,000-word reflective essay, which provides you with the opportunity to look back at the totality of your internship experience, to reflect on skills acquired and the relationship between the practical reality of a work placement, and the lessons learned in Political Science courses. The topic of the essay will be agreed upon between the student and the supervisor in light of the nature of the internship placement. In general, the essay deals with some aspect of the placement, and the purpose is to relate the experience to the broader study of political science. No additional research is required, but students should consult readings from relevant courses where appropriate, and reflect upon the connections between theory/concepts and practice. The essay must be more than a simple description of your placement duties.

Late Penalties:

A late penalty of 5 percent per weekday and 10 percent for the weekend period beginning at 4:00pm on Friday and ending at 8:30am on Monday shall be assessed for all late assignments. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date, without documentation of medical or personal emergencies. Extensions of due dates are granted only in circumstances that are beyond the student’s control, such as health problems that are supported by a medical certificate, or personal emergencies. Requests for extensions of the assignment deadline must be made in writing and supported by documentation.

Confidentiality:

Confidentiality is taken very seriously by the Political Science department. Students are expected to maintain the standards of confidentiality of their placement organization. No confidential information will be disclosed through either the weekly journals or the research papers.

Liability:

Throughout their internship placements, students are insured by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The appropriate paperwork must be completed and returned to the Instructor prior to the commencement of the placement.

Mental Health Support Services:**Confidential Personal Counselling on Campus**

To make an appointment to see a counsellor call 905-688-5550 extension 4750 during regular office hours (8:30 - 12:00, 1:00 - 4:30) or visit the Student Development Centre (ST400) during office hours.

<https://brocku.ca/personal-counselling>

Student Justice Centre

A space safe on campus that provides listening, support, and referral services. Services are available Monday through Friday 9:00-5:00 (TH252A) by appointment or drop in.

www.brocksjc.ca

I.M. Well App

The I.M. Well app aims to address the stigma surrounding mental wellness by connecting students to the appropriate services on campus and within the community. This is an educational tool that covers a wide variety of topics such as anxiety, depression, transition and addiction. This app also offers a 24/7 live chat with mental health professionals.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.eapexpert.iamwell&hl=en>

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/im-well/id1150435727?mt=8>

Academic Policies

Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulations and University Polices" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

Intellectual Property Notice:

All slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other course materials created by the instructor in this course are the intellectual property of the instructor. A student who publicly posts or sells an instructor's work, without the instructor's express consent, may be charged with misconduct under Brock's Academic Integrity Policy and/or Code of Conduct, and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

Academic Accommodation:

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Student Development Centre (4th floor Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

Academic Accommodation due to Religious Obligations:

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.

Medical Exemption Policy:

The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. The Medical Certificate can be found at: <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>