

Brock University
Department of Political Science

Political Science Internship
POLI 4P95
Winter 2021/2022

Instructor/Coordinator: Dr. Livianna Tossutti

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Consultation: MS Teams appointments on request.

Sakai URL: <https://lms.brocku.ca/portal/site/59af4b00-003e-45a6-913e-970679158422>

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. The duties and schedule are determined by the student and the 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 10 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, public administration, research or advocacy. The course also aims to reinforce a sense of personal responsibility to their placement organization and to the communities in which the partner organizations are situated.

Grading Scheme:

Journal entries (10 entries x 5 percent each): 50%

Reflective Essay (due Friday, April 22 at 4pm): 50%

Journal Entries:

In order to encourage constant, engaged and active reflection, students are required to submit 10 weekly journal entries in Word format, to Assignments on SAKAI. Each journal entry is approximately 500 words in length. Marks are awarded for the acuteness of the observations and the implications drawn from them, as well as for clarity of expression, grammar, spelling etc.

A list of journal topics in the recommended order has been provided on pages 10-12 of the Political Science Internship Workbook available at Resources on SAKAI. Students may choose which journal entries they wish to complete on most weeks, with the exception of:

- Week 1: “Goal Setting” (Please see p.13 of the Course Workbook for a copy of the goal setting form that must be submitted to the instructor and your placement supervisor)
- Week 6: “Midterm Goal” evaluation
- Week 10: “Strengths and Weaknesses of the Placement”

For the first 10 weeks of the course, weekly journal entries are due at 9am on Monday following the week when you contributed service to your host organization. For example, if the first day of your internship is scheduled for the week of January 10, 2021, then your first journal entry is due Monday, January 17 at 9am. Your second journal entry would then be due on Monday January 24 at 9am, and so on, until you have completed 10 weekly journals.

If the first day of your internship is scheduled for the week of January 17, 2019, then your first journal entry is due Monday, January 24 at 9am. Your second journal entry would then be due on Monday, January 31 at 9am, and so on, until you have completed 10 weekly journals.

Reflective Essay:

Students must write a 3,000-word essay which reflects upon the relationship between the practical reality of the internship placement and the broader study of political science. The essay is due Friday, April 22 at 4pm and must be submitted to Assignments on SAKAI.

Due to the diverse nature of the internship placements, the topic of the essay will be determined by the student and instructor. In general, successful essays tend to include three parts: a brief account of the placement, a description of the skills utilized and improved upon, and the connection the placement had with your academic courses. Students should cite readings and lectures from relevant courses, and reflect upon the connections between practice and the theories, concepts and methods of the discipline of political science and/or cognate disciplines.

Turnitin.com opt out option:

The Turnitin.com phrase matching software program will be enabled for the Reflective Essay assignment. Students may opt out of a turnitin.com submission with the prior approval of the instructor. Approval of an opt-out is contingent upon evidence of personal research. Students who have received permission to opt-out of the turnitin.com service should submit evidence of their research directly to Dr. Tossutti at ltossutti@brocku.ca.

Late Penalties:

A late penalty of 5 percent per day shall be assessed for all late assignments. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. Extensions of due dates are granted only in circumstances that are beyond the student's control, such as health problems (medical documentation required) or personal emergencies.

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, or shortly after, the commencement of the placement.

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.

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 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 Policies" 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>