17.901/902
POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP AND RESEARCH
Fall 2001

Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:30 pm in 38-136

Class days: September 11  November 20
September 18  December 4
October 2  December 11
October 23
November 6

Instructors: Tobie Weiner  Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch
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http://web.mit.edu/17.901

Description of Course

The Political Science Department's Internship Program is designed to supplement the classroom learning experience with “hands-on” experience in settings where political activity and policy-making and implementation actually take place. Placement possibilities include political campaigns, legislators’ offices, legal service organizations, human service agencies, advocacy groups and organizations concerned with such issues as education, public health, the environment, the homeless, and more.

The class is units-arranged and can be taken for 6-15 units. The number of units corresponds to the number of hours students work each week at their internship site.

Requirements for the class

Internship placements typically last one semester and students are required to work between 6-15 hours each week at the internship site. Students will work directly with the program administrator, a teaching assistant from the Political Science Department and with a supervisor at the internship site.

Interns must secure two letters from their on-site supervisors. The first letter details what hours they are working and what their duties will be. The second letter is an evaluation of their performance during the semester.
Students in the class attend 7 class sessions and one reception dinner, complete 3 reading assignments, write 3 short response papers (3-5 pages) analyzing the readings and their relationship to the internship placement, and write one three to five pages response to several questions we will ask about their internship organization.

Papers are due in class on the assigned dates. Late papers will be penalized.

Class attendance is mandatory.

The final requirement is the student's evaluation of their internship experience. In the evaluation you’ll share with future interns how you received the placement, the benefits you received from the internship and some tips for other students looking for a placement.

Grading is as follows:

Internship (completion of required hours and evaluation from supervisor) = 50%
Four papers = 30%
Class participation = 20%

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Tobie or Michal.

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Syllabus

9/11 Orientation Session

How to find an internship
Description of the seminar and requirements for the class
How to write a paper discussion
Schedule an appointment with Michal or Tobie to discuss placement opportunities.
Hand out first reading packet

For the next two weeks you’ll be calling internship organizations, interviewing and deciding which placement is best for you. Contact Tobie or Michal for information on placements and help with cover letters, resumes. Also see the hand out, “How to find an internship.”
9/18  Discuss first reading packet  
First paper due  
Hand out second reading packet  

10/2  Discussion of second reading packet  
Second paper due  

10/23  Placement discussion  
Response to questions due  
Hand out third reading packet  

11/6  One of the following:  
Discussion of third reading packet, guest speaker, field trip  

11/20  One of the following:  
Discussion of third reading packet, guest speaker, film, field trip  

12/4  Final placement discussion and class evaluations  

12/11  End of semester party  
Second supervisor letter due  
Student evaluation of placement due