

Political Science 195 Civic Engagement: Corporate & Community Internship

UCLA Center for Community Learning

Spring 2020

COORDINATORS

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Faculty Sponsor: Professor Chris Tausanovitch

COURSE WEBSITE

<https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/19F-POLSCI195CE-2>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PS 195CE is a 4-unit course that can be taken for a letter grade or pass/no-pass. Completion of the course fulfills one upper division elective course requirement for the Political Science major, but students do not need to be political science majors to enroll, nor does your internship need to be directly related to political science. The goal of this course is to get you to think about the relevance of political science outside of the classroom. As part of this process, this course will help you understand how politics is connected to your internship and more importantly, how it affects your industry and the work that you do. *Students are required to work a minimum of 80 hours total (about 8-10 hours per week) at their internship site over the course of the academic quarter.*

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Define and apply the following core concepts: civic engagement, social responsibility, and governance
- Apply academic knowledge and critical thinking skills to address situations and challenges that arise in 21st century work environments
- Write a research paper integrating real world experience through the framework of political science
- Explore how off-campus, experiential learning contributes to an undergraduate's intellectual, personal, and professional development and informs future career choices

IMPORTANT

Read the first 3 pages of the syllabus *closely* so that you are familiar with all the class requirements. You are responsible for all the material on the syllabus and for fulfilling all the class requirements.

ENROLLMENT

You need to secure an internship before you can enroll. In order to enroll, you must set up an “intake” appointment at the Center for Community Learning with a coordinator, who will explain the enrollment procedures. Since this is a “*Contract Course*,” you will be required to create a contract on MyUCLA and obtain the signature of your internship supervisor. We cannot enroll you without that signature, which we must submit to the Political Science department. If there are any problems with your contract or with enrolling you in the course, one of the coordinators will contact you by e-mail. The deadline to enroll is Friday of Week 2. The class often fills up before then, and students are enrolled as we receive the contracts, so the earlier you submit a contract, the better your chances of getting enrolled.

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS

- **40%** — Eight weekly writing assignments (2-3 pages double-spaced, unless length is otherwise specified)
- **20%** — Four bi-weekly meetings with your coordinator (*in addition to* the intake meeting)
- **40%** — Final research paper (8-10 pages double spaced)
- Signed reflecting at least 80 hours at internship site
- Liability Form

If you are taking the class P/NP, you must adequately fulfill *every* of the requirements to pass. In addition, you must earn a C or better (anything above 73%) to pass. Neglecting to submit the Timesheet or complete 80 hours at your internship will likely result in an automatic grade reduction. *Grade Scale:* A 93-100 A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 63-66 D- 60-62 F 0-59

In order to monitor the educational experience of undergraduate interns, the Center for Community Learning communicates with internship site supervisors for mandatory check-ins at least twice each quarter and provides sites with an online evaluation of their partnership with UCLA. **As a matter of policy, sites must be notified at any point in the quarter if students are in danger of not passing the course or if they withdraw.** As needed, we may also communicate with various campus stakeholders, such as the Dashew Center for International Students & Scholars, the Career Center, and Student Care Managers.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly assignments are required to be at least 2-3 pages double-spaced, unless otherwise specified, written in an essay style. Assignments are due weekly on Sundays at 11:59pm. They are to be uploaded to the class website, or failing that, emailed to your TA. Each writing assignment is worth 10 points.

Essays turned in late will be marked down 2 points each day. If you fail to turn in an assignment on time, it is due at the latest by the Sunday of the following week, or you will receive no credit for having completed the assignment. If an assignment is turned in a week late more than once, it will likely result in an automatic grade reduction to C-/NP.

INTERVIEW

The assignment for week 3 requires you to interview someone at the internship site itself and therefore you may want to reach out to a supervisor sooner to secure a time for the interview.

BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS

Schedule and attend biweekly discussion sessions with your coordinator at the Center for Community Learning at least four times, in *addition* to the intake. The third of these meetings will take the form of a Group Writing Workshop. Come to each 20-minute meeting *prepared to lead our one-on-one discussion* about your (1) weekly response papers, (2) research paper, and/or (3) future career trajectory. This course is an upper-division independent study and your participation score for each meeting is based not only on whether you are engaged and up-to-date on the readings and assignments, but also on how prepared you are to dig deeply and think critically about your internship experience and course assignments. Meetings that focus on superficial analysis or that consist largely of me asking you questions instead of you leading the conversation will not receive full credit. I recommend students come to our meetings with a meeting agenda or series of questions.

- Meeting 1 (Weeks 3-4)—*schedule at front desk*
- Meeting 2 (Weeks 5-6)—*schedule at front desk*
- Meeting 3 (Weeks 7-8)—Group Writing Workshop: I will assign students into small groups and you will need to find a time for all the students and the TA to discuss papers.
- Meeting 4 (Weeks 9-10)—*schedule at front desk*

*SCHEDULING MEETINGS

Once students are officially enrolled in the course and have been assigned to their coordinator, students will be able to schedule their biweekly meetings through MyUCLA by going to the "Academics" tab, "Advising & Academic Services", "Appointments". Students are required to schedule four meetings and should schedule them every other week. All meetings should be scheduled at once to ensure that students receive the meeting times that work for them. Meetings can be scheduled for weeks 3 through 10. No meetings will be held during finals week.

ALL MEETINGS ON ZOOM

You are required to use Zoom (<https://ucla.zoom.us/>) for your biweekly meetings, so take the time to familiarize yourself with it by thoroughly reading the step-by-step instructions found here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>. You will access your Zoom meeting space in one of two ways: (1) Log in via the app after you have followed the instructions to initially download, install, and login. Then enter the meeting number provided by your instructor at the time set for the meeting. (2) Copy and paste the URL (or click on the web link) provided by your coordinator at the time specified for the meeting. Launch the app (after initially downloading, installing, and logging in), and you will enter the meeting immediately. You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device or computer. **Your video MUST be on during your meetings.**

GROUP WRITING WORKSHOP

In Week 6, I will assign students into groups of 3 or 4 to host a group writing workshop sometime during weeks 7-8 in Luskin Public Affairs 1379, which will satisfy the Third Meeting Requirement. The purpose of the meeting is to workshop each others' papers in a group: learning how other students are approaching similar topics and providing constructive feedback to each other. Students will be grouped based on similar interests. Then students will fulfill four steps:

1. Schedule Meeting: Please find a **1hr 15min time slot** that works for *everyone* to meet on campus in Luskin Public Affairs 1379. Date/time will be determined by group and through consultation with the TA.
2. Exchange Papers: Circulate your Week 6: Introduction, Outline, and Bibliography assignment at least **24 hours** before the meeting with your group. Circulating the assignment is *required*.
3. Bring Written Feedback: Each student is required to bring written feedback on *each* of your peers' papers. Please include:
 - a. Two questions: (a) first on the general argument of the paper; (b) secondly how you feel they are substantiating their claim.
 - b. Three points of specific feedback on the structure, evidence, and citations in the paper. Is their paper convincing?
4. Introduce Your Paper: Prepare brief remarks on your paper that includes the (1) intention, (2) question, and (3) structure of your paper.

Remember: writing is a sensitive, personal, and challenging process for many of us. Please be *sympathetic, generous, and constructive* to your classmates' writing aims, attempts, and aspirations.

FINAL PAPER

Please see the Week 4 assignment for the final paper prompt. Your final research paper is due by Friday of Week 10 by 11:59pm, to be uploaded to the website. For each 24-hour cycle it is late beyond this deadline your paper will lose 1/3 of a letter grade. We will not accept papers that are more than 7 days late. If you do not complete your paper within 7 days of its original due date you will receive a "0" for the paper and therefore you will fail the course since it is worth 40% of your final grade.

INTERNSHIP HOURS AND TIMESHEET

To pass the course, interns must work remotely for their internship site at least 8 weeks during the 10-week quarter for a minimum of 80 hours total (approximately 8-10 hours/week). If you know that you must miss more than 8 hours during any given week throughout the quarter and will be unable to meet the minimum requirement, please let your UCLA internship coordinator know right away so they can determine how to best advise you. If an unforeseen circumstance arises mid-quarter which impacts your ability to complete your hours, please consult your UCLA internship coordinator as soon as possible to create a plan to move forward. Failure to complete the required hours is grounds for substantial grade penalty.

GRADING SCALE

A 93-100 A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 63-66 D- 60-62 F 0-59

LIABILITY FORM

The Liability Form is available at the Center for Community Learning and required by UCLA for off-campus work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

If you're quoting someone (whether verbal or written), use quotation marks and cite them. When referring to a conversation that you were a part of, it is sufficient to quote them like you see in a newspaper article; published sources require formal citations.

1. If you are paraphrasing what someone said—you are not using their words but are using their ideas—you still need to cite them, although you don't need to use quotation marks.
2. All papers turned in must be original work. Besides the above rules about citation, this means that you can't turn in a paper to this class that you turned in for another class. Different classes require different papers. No exceptions.

All policies in the UCLA Catalog regarding academic dishonesty apply to 195CE internship courses, including policies regarding plagiarism. When warranted, infractions will be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in disciplinary action and/or expulsion from the university. UCLA's complete policy regarding academic dishonesty can be found at the following website: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/>

COURSE ACCOMODATIONS AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

UCLA provides a wide range of resources to support students facing challenges, whether inside or outside the classroom. Consult the Student Care Managers program website for information about these resources, including information about confidential one-on-one consultations:

<http://www.studentincrisis.ucla.edu/Who-can-Help>. If you need to request an academic accommodation based on a documented disability related to your work in this course, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. OSD can be reached at A255 Murphy Hall, 310-825-1501, or 310-206-6083 (telephone device for the deaf). You can learn more about their services by exploring their website at <http://www.osd.ucla.edu>. Students should also notify their internship coordinator about any issues as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged with OSD well in advance of assignment due dates.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

All weekly assignments should be written in a 2-3 page 'essay' style response and property cited. Do not answer the prompt questions one-by-one.

WEEK 1: Understanding the Organization (2-3 pages)

This assignment will have you better understand your organization. You will answer the questions based on internet research and, if you can, with your supervisor's assistance. Be sure to adhere to all of the organization's confidentiality requirements when answering these questions.

If a business, use the company's website, or look up some information about the company on Lexis-Nexis Business.[1] If a non-profit, government office, or if the company is too small to show up on these sites, use the organization's website. Use the following questions as a general prompt for your 2-3 page written essay-style response. Do not answer the prompt questions one-by-one.

- Read the excerpts from *The Logic of American Politics* (focusing on p. 26-30). Learn the definitions of the following terms: command authority, veto power, and agenda setting. Describe the decision-making process and explain how major decisions are made at your organization. Ask yourself: who sets the agenda for all the major decisions? Who has command authority and who exercises veto power in these instances? As part of this question, think about whether there are institutions (like an executive council) within the organization that influences decision-making. If so, how are decisions made within these types of institutions?
- What is the company or organization's purpose or mission? What products or services does it provide? Find out the full range of products and services the organization provides, particularly those that you may not be exposed to in your specific office or division.
- How large is the organization, in terms of number of employees? How large was their revenue last year? If a non-profit or government office, how large is their budget? Where does their funding come from?
- If the organization you work for is large, how does your office fit in within their larger structure and purpose? Which other divisions of the organization do you rely on to get your specific task done? If the organization you work for is small, which other organizations, businesses or government agencies does it rely on to accomplish its tasks?
- What is the population that your organization serves? How does it identify and communicate with the population it serves? How does it learn the demands of this population and adjust the product or service to meet those demands?

The assignment for week 3 requires you to start early and get the assistance of your supervisor. We recommend you begin preparing for this assignment in advance.

WEEK 2: Current Events Assignment (2-3 pages)

First, read the provided excerpts from *The Successful Internship*. Second, find two or three recent newspaper and/or magazines articles that deal with a serious economic or political issue confronting either your internship site (if it's a big company) or more broadly, your field or industry. All your articles should be about a single issue so that you have enough information to properly answer this week's questions.

After reading through the articles, use the following questions to guide your response essay-style response. Do not answer the prompt questions one-by-one.

- Describe the major challenges that your office or industry currently faces and just how widespread is this problem. Provide concrete evidence to support your argument.
- Has your firm or industry done anything in response to these types of issues? If so, how? Be specific. Perhaps your firm has filed individual lawsuits or maybe it has collectively organized with other firms to lobby the local, state, or federal government. If there is some sort of a lobby group that articulates and represents the interests of your industry, then describe this organization and its lobbying efforts. Has it thus far succeeded or failed in confronting the challenges described above? If the lobby group has proposed a law or initiative, then describe the law and explain how it would help your industry.
- This question is just an opportunity for you to reflect on your role in society as a professional in your industry. The excerpts from *The Successful Internship* emphasize the importance of recognizing that professionals have certain moral and ethical obligations to society. What obligations do professionals in your industry have in regard to dealing with the issue you've identified, obligations both to the business or industry itself and to the wider society?

Reminder: make sure you've begun the week 3 assignment by the beginning of the week. It will require you to interview a supervisor or superior at the internship, so you will have to conduct that interview before the end of the coming week.

WEEK 3: Interview (2-3 pages)

This assignment will have you interviewing a superior in your office about professionalism and your academic interests. Use the following questions to guide your analysis in an essay-style response. Do not answer the prompt questions one-by-one.

- First, the assignment includes a so-called "informational interview," in which you discuss with a more experienced person about their own journey in order to learn for yourself how you might navigate school and future employment.
- Secondly, the assignment also includes an opportunity to discuss with your superior some of the thematic interests you may explore in your research paper.

I recommend you try to interview the highest ranked individual that you can get access to, such as an owner, executive, or department head. If you cannot get access, your immediate supervisor will also work. You should see this as an opportunity to sit down and structure a conversation in a way that you might not otherwise be able to. It also serves as a great way for senior members of the organization to meet you.

For this assignment, you will want to write up a series of interview questions to be prepared before meeting. However by no means must you stick exclusively to the questions. I find it best to use these as a broad structure, but to allow the conversation to naturally flow. Include a few of your own questions, especially for the second part of the assignment to explore themes for your final research paper.

- What was your own journey into this profession?
- What do you think are the fundamental skills to support success in this field?

- How might you define your ethical or moral obligations in this sector to the people we serve (e.g. clients, constituents, customers) and to the wider community? Are these two groups sometimes in conflict? If so, how do you reconcile that personally?
- What is the most important thing I could get from this internship, and what can I do to get the most from my experience here?
- (Insert question about the themes of your research paper.)

Finally, I encourage you to *ask* if your supervisor is comfortable if you audio record the interview, especially the part regarding your research paper, as this could serve as a primary source material.

WEEK 4: Research Paper—Topic, Question, and Sources (2-3 pages)

The purpose of this research paper is to question some phenomenon that influences the industry of your workplace through the framework of political science, analyze relevant scholarship and data on the topic, and develop a strong argument that you substantiate through research.

Please answer the following questions separately, rather than trying to integrate them into an essay.¹ You must properly cite sources (see below) or lose points.

1. Project Title
2. Topic: Identify some phenomenon or dynamic that influences your field or industry. While this may be a popular contemporary political issue—for instance the influence of #MeToo on the entertainment industry—your topic may also be more unique and not of widespread public discussion. *Describe the topic.*
3. Difference: What difference or anomaly do you want to explain?
4. Question: Develop a succinct question that frames the *puzzle* you're interested in exploring about your topic. A question inquires into some unknown dynamic. I recommend avoiding yes or no questions. Instead, you should search for processes that reveal the tensions, power relationships, institutional processes, etc., of your topic.
5. Bibliography: I recommend beginning your research by exploring academic sources at Google Scholar, and write a few paragraphs explaining how three academic sources are relevant to address your question. In Google Scholar: first, try different combinations of keywords. Second, adjust dates for your search inquiry to discover articles relevant to your research (for instance, if you're studying the Movement for Black Lives, you'll want to search for articles in the past few years since it began). Third, you may gauge the influence of the article by noticing how many people have cited the article. Fourth, you may want to explore the bibliographies of articles you find insightful, as well as the links on Google Scholar called "cited by" and "related," which may list similar pieces.
 - a. To access academic articles on your personal computer, you will need to follow steps on "Connect from Off-Campus" on the UCLA Library website. This will allow you to use a Proxy Server or Virtual Private Networking (recommended). <http://www.library.ucla.edu/use/computers-computing-services/connect-campus/>

¹ My design of this assignment was inspired by a research design course with Barbara Geddes.

- b. Go through the useful tutorial on the library website, located at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/tutorial.php>. If possible, browse over some of the other guides that have been put together by the library staff.
- c. Please cite your research paper sources using **Chicago Manual of Style — Author-Date**: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html
- d. Supplement your scholastic research with magazines, newspapers, websites, think tanks, etc. Again, check what these scholars cite for other possible sources.

WEEK 5: Laws and Regulations (2-3 pages)

Laws and regulations govern the context around the operation of all jobs. Identify some way in which a law or some regulation specifically affects the work you do at your internship or more broadly your organization. Use the following questions to guide your analysis in an essay-style response. Do not answer the prompt questions one-by-one.

- What is the law? What is the jurisdiction of the law (international, national, state, regional, local, etc.)?
- How does it affect your industries operations? Does adhering to the law result in costs on the company?
- Who enforces the law and how? What are the consequences for breaking the law? Does the law achieve its goals?

WEEK 6: Research Paper—Introduction and Outline (2-5 pages)

This week's assignment will be preparing for your final paper by writing an introduction and structured outline.

1. Project Title: (see Week 4)
2. Difference: (see Week 4)
3. Question: (see Week 4)
4. Introduction: Write an introductory paragraph or first few pages of your research paper. The introduction should (1) introduce your research puzzle, (2) how you intend to structure your paper, (3) the implications of such a topic, and (4) the hypothesis or preliminary argument for your paper.
5. Outline: Develop a structured outline of the paper, including as much detail as you can.
6. Bibliography: Include a bibliography in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style.

WEEK 7: Organization's Links to Politics (2-3 pages)

First, read Charles Lane's article in the *Washington Post* and then read the excerpts from Olson's *The Logic of Collective Action*. Use the following questions to guide your analysis in an essay-style response. Do not answer the prompt questions one-by-one.

- Why is it uncommon for groups of individuals who have a common interest to work together to achieve that common interest (e.g., if everyone benefits from government services, why don't people voluntarily pay taxes)?
- Why are businesses better able to organize to represent their interests than other groups?

- How do groups solve the problem of getting individuals to work together to achieve a common goal? Why, therefore, does Olson consider political power a “by-product” of other activities? What are Olson’s examples of groups where political power is a by-product of their normal activities?
- Using Google, Wikipedia, your organization’s website or other internet resources, identify an organization that lobbies the government to represent the interests of your industry (e.g. Motion Picture Association of America, American Banker’s Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce), professionals in your industry (e.g. Writer’s Guild of America, American Medical Association, National Association of Realtors, California Teacher’s Association, American Association for Justice), or workers in the industry (e.g. AFL-CIO, Service Employee’s International Union). If you work for a large corporation or non-profit, the organization itself may lobby the government directly. If you work for a legislative office, you can choose an organization that your office has had contact with rather than one that represents your interests. Using the organization’s website, Google News, Wikipedia or other internet resources, find an example of this organization lobbying the government on behalf of your industry or its workers (e.g. donating money to a political campaign, testifying before Congress, promoting its own agenda in a public relations campaign).
- Describe the organization you identified. What is your internship site’s relationship to that organization?
- What is the organization trying to accomplish through its lobbying efforts in the example you identified? Has it succeeded or failed yet?

For a presentation of rival explanations on interest group formation, you may want to read:

Jeffrey M. Berry and Clyde Wilcox. 2009. *The Interest Group Society*. 5th edition. New York: Pearson Longman. Read pp. 34-46 in Chapter 3.

WEEK 8: Draft of Final Paper (5+ pages)

Please submit a rough draft of your research paper, which should expand substantially beyond the Introduction and Outline from Week 7. Please revise the following as appropriate.

1. Project Title: (see Week 4)
2. Difference: (see Week 4)
3. Question: (see Week 4)
4. Introduction: (see week 7)
5. Body Paragraphs
6. Conclusion

WEEK 9: Paper Exchange

Please exchange research papers with another student from your group writing workshop. After completing the following steps, please upload to CCLE.

1. Provide track changes comments, edits, and analysis on their rough draft.

2. Write a half-page of feedback on the paper addressing both (a) strengths, (b) weaknesses, © and suggestions for moving forward.

WEEKS 10: Final Paper and Timesheet (8-10 pages)

Research papers and Timesheet (signed) are due by **11:59pm on Friday of Week 10**, uploaded to the course website. Papers must be uploaded to the course website.

8-10 pages of writing, double-spaced, NOT INCLUDING CITATIONS!

[1] Note: To use Lexis-Nexis, go to the UCLA Library website. Under “Search and Find,” go to “Frequently Used Databases.” There will be a link for Lexis-Nexis Business. You can also Google “Lexis-Nexis Business.” If you are off campus, you’ll need to configure your computer to use the proxy server.