INTRODUCTION

This course is for advanced undergraduates. It combines practical internship experience for students in the offices of state and federal government officials, and classroom discussion of government—especially the legislative process—and how elected officials represent their constituencies and shape public policy. The course will also offer students opportunities to develop professional skills necessary to pursue successful careers in both the public and private sectors.

READINGS

Written materials required for this course will be provided by the instructor, or are available online.

Students are encouraged to acquire:

- The Constitution of the United States (pocket editions are available at bookstores)
- Wisconsin Blue Book (generally these are available free from state legislators) A new biennial edition was published in 2011.

You are also encouraged to read a daily newspaper and follow national and state political news during the term. Two good sources of Wisconsin political news are: WisPolitics.com and thewheelerreport.com. If you are a political “junkie,” you should consider acquiring:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRADING SYSTEM, AND DUE DATES

This course has three primary goals:

1) for you to acquire a deeper understanding of the legislative process and how public policy is developed and implemented; a special focus will be on the current tension which exists between views of federal and state responsibilities under our constitutional system of government;

2) provide an opportunity for you to develop your analytical, writing, and verbal skills;

3) heighten (or awaken) your interest in civic engagement. You are encouraged to ask questions, express your opinions, and challenge your instructor, guest speakers, and fellow classmates during the classroom discussions.
Consistent with these goals, the course requirements and grading system are as follows:

- **Statement of Internship Goals (5%, due February 9 and Final Assessment 5%, due May 4).** One page (double spaced) maximum each.
- **Class Attendance and Participation (25%)** – Come to class prepared!
- **District Profile (15%, due February 13).** A fact-based document (4-6 pages, double spaced) that describes your elected official and his or her constituency and district, including political analysis (comparable to a profile in the Almanac of American Politics).
- **Midterm exam (25%, March 26).**
- **Policy Presentation (25%, April 30, May 7).** A simulated, 5-minute lobbying presentation to the class on a current issue of your choice (details to follow).

**COURSE OUTLINE, CALENDAR, AND READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

**January 23:** Introductions
Overview of course content, and responsibilities and expectations

**January 30:** Legislators and their Districts
Reading assignments:
- Almanac of American Politics – Wisconsin profiles (handout)
- Wisconsin Blue Book, pages on the Legislative Branch

**February 6:** What Influences Legislators
Reading assignments:
- Handouts

Career Development – Successful Careers in Public Policy
Guest speaker(s)

Writing assignment: Statement of Goals due

**February 13:** Constitutional Framework/The Federal System/The Commerce Clause
(“regulate commerce…among the states”)
Reading assignments:
- U.S. Constitution – Article 1 (Sections 8,10), Amendment X
- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)

Writing assignment: District Profile due

Career Development – Guest Speaker
February 20:  The Commerce Clause and the Ebb and Flow of Congressional Power
Reading assignments:
- Hammer v. Dagenhart (1918)
- N.L.R.B. v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. (1937)
- U.S. v. Darby (1941)

February 27:  The Commerce Clause (Ebb and Flow, cont.)
Reading assignments:
- Wickford v. Filburn (1942)
- Heart of Atlanta Motel v. U.S. (1964)
- Katzenbach v. McClung (1964)

March 5:  The Executive Branch
Reading assignments:
- Handout

Guest speaker(s)

March 12:  The Commerce Clause/Boundaries of State and Local Power
Reading assignments:
- Cooley v. Board of Wardens (1852)
- South Carolina State Highway Dept. v. Barnwell Bros (1938)
- Dean Milk Co. v. City of Madison (1951)
- Bibb v. Navaho Freight Lines (1959)

March 19:  Redistricting – Congressional and State decennial processes
Reading assignments:
- Handout

Guest speaker(s)

March 26:  MIDTERM EXAM

April 2:  SPRING BREAK
April 9:  Direct Democracy – Initiatives and Recall Elections
Reading assignments:
  ● Handout

Guest speaker(s)

April 16:  The Role of Lobbyists – Guest Speaker
Career Development: Presenting Your Case
Writing assignment: Presentation Topic/Outline due

April 23:  Campaign Financing and Ethics
Reading assignments:
  ● Handouts/Internet Research

Guest speaker(s)

April 30:  Class Presentations (1/2 of class)

May 7:  Class Presentations (1/2 of class)

Writing assignment: Internship Assessment due