INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to explore your experience in a legislative or executive internship from both experiential and academic points of views. You will review concepts such as democratic representation, federalism and legislative behavior. A main goal of the course will be to deepen your understanding of the interplay of political forces and actors in the legislative process and public policy. We will discuss these concepts in the weekly context of your experience as interns in the legislative and executive branches. Through the internship and other requirements of this course, you will be given the opportunity to enhance your analytical and communications skills. Finally, the course will also offer students opportunities to develop professional skills necessary to pursue successful careers in both public and private sectors.

I encourage you to contact me by email or make an appointment if you have questions about the material, your internship experience, or would like to provide me feedback about the course.

READINGS

The following book is available at the University Bookstore and is required for the course

1. Wisconsin Votes: An Electoral History by Robert Booth Fowler

There will also be online reading and multimedia assignments that will be required throughout the semester.

Additionally, I highly recommend that you follow state and national politics during the course by reading a daily newspaper or checking Wiscpolitics.com. Thewheelereport.com is another good source of press releases and information about Wisconsin politics.
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Contract/Goals for Internship</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Due. Wednesday Sept 17 via email</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Reaction Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due as Assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Discussion Leader</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Due as Assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Book Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due Finals Week</td>
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<td>5. Office Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due Finals Week</td>
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<td>4. Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Contract/Goals for Internship:** Write up a contract and discuss your goals with your internship supervisor. There are two key components involved: what you hope to achieve in this internship and the specific responsibility/tasks that your supervisor expects you will perform. The document must have signatures from you and your supervisor.

**Reaction Papers and Participation Assignments:** Write reaction papers to assigned readings on the dates that they will be due. These reactions must be completed on time because they will provide the basis for our discussion in class. I'll hand out reaction paper assignments at least a week in advance of their due dates. Sometimes these assignments will come in the form of participation assignments in which I'll ask you to submit questions or relevant news articles based on the readings for discussion.

**Discussion Leader:** Starting the second week of the course, you and several other students will be responsible for leading class discussion on a topic or issue directly relevant to Wisconsin legislative politics. You will be assigned a week and group and will be asked to provide a group presentation (you can be creative) and lead discussion for at least 30 minutes of the course time.

**Book Review:** One 1000 word book reviews of the two course books will be due during Finals Week. The assignments will be handed out the first couple of weeks of the course.

**Office Project:** A project for your office -- a product that you can leave behind for your advisor and/or Representative. You’ll want to meet with your advisor/mentor at your office within the first couple of weeks of the semester to identify something you can work on throughout the semester as a project for the office.

**Class Participation:** You are expected to attend class each week. The class will be conducted in a discussion format. Therefore, it is really important that you come prepared and willing to participate on a week to week basis.
COURSE POLICIES

I wish to fully include persons with special challenges in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction or assessments for this course to enable you to fully participate. Every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me. You may also contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center (1305 Linden Drive, mcburney@odos.wisc.edu) if you have questions about campus policies and services.

Academic honesty: All instances of plagiarism in writing assignments will be given a grade of zero. Please consult the writing center if you are unaware of what constitutes plagiarism.

COURSE OUTLINE

Mon. September 8    Introductions

Mon. September 15
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 1
Assignment: 1. Reaction Paper
            2. Group Presentation

Wed. September 17    Internship Contract Due via email to agangl@wisc.edu

Mon. September 22
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 2
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
            2. Group Presentation

Mon. September 29
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
            2. Group Presentation
Mon. October 6
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 3
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation

Mon. October 13
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 4
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation

Mon. October 20
Assignments: Office Project Descriptions Due
1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation

Mon. October 27
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 5
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation

Mon. November 3
No Class

Mon. November 10
Assignments: Office Project Updates Due
1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 6
1. Reaction Paper

Mon. November 17
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation
Mon. November 24
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 7 and Chapter 8
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation

Mon. December 1
Reading: 1. Wisconsin Votes Chapter 9
Assignments: 1. Reaction Paper
2. Group Presentation

Mon. December 8
Project and Book Review Work

Finals Week:
Projects and Book Review Due