

Political Science 99
INTERNSHIP: FIELDWORK IN POLITICS
Tufts University
Fall 2021

Course description: <https://as.tufts.edu/politicalscience/undergraduate/internships>

Professor Shinju Fujihira
Email: shin.fujihira@tufts.edu
Twitter: @sfujihira

Online Office Hours: Mon., 5:00-6:15
p.m. (link on canvas) & by
appointment.

Overview

***Note:** The Political Science faculty have decided that internships for PS-99 in the 2021 fall semester can be conducted remotely.*

PS99 offers the opportunity for fieldwork or internship experience and completing a research paper. Each student is responsible for obtaining the internship by the beginning of the semester.

PS 99 is a full-credit course, offered in both fall and spring semesters; the internship must take place *either* in the fall or spring semester. The course is *not* offered during the summer; summer internships cannot count towards PS99. It can be taken only once by a Tufts undergraduate student. For a full-year internship, we can only provide three course credits (one course) during one semester. There is *no pass/fail option* for PS99.

Students interested in pursuing an internship in Washington DC should apply to the Tufts-in-Washington Program.

Objectives

This course has two objectives. First, it provides an opportunity for professionalization. This means understanding the day-to-day workings of government, political, advocacy, non-profit, or private sector organizations. The internship often is also a good place for professional networking, “to get your name out there” in the professional marketplace, and become known in particular fields of specialization. In the past, the internship was an effective way to explore postgraduate employment or graduate study relating to politics, public policy, and the non-profit sector.

Second, the course aims to teach students how to write a research paper in the social sciences, in a focused policy or subject area that relates to the internship. Often times, I often hear from juniors and seniors, “I don’t have a good research writing sample to submit for graduate/professional school applications or employers.” The course offers an opportunity to go beyond “response papers” (which most Tufts students know how to write well), and understand the process of writing a good research paper. In the course of the

semester, students will also have an opportunity to give feedback to one another on their research and writing.

Application Form & Prerequisites

Students wishing to take PS99 must upload the application form on the department's website. The filled-in application form—with the internship supervisor's signature—is due before the Friday of the 2nd week of classes. The application form stipulates the following prerequisites for applying to PS99:

1. Sophomore standing, or consent of the instructor.
2. The student must have completed one foundation courses in the Tufts Political Science Department (or equivalent courses at other universities), numbered between PS10 and 79. One of the two foundation courses can be taken concurrently during the same semester. These courses are:
 - PS 11: Introduction to American Politics
 - PS 21 Introduction to Comparative Politics
 - PS 41: Western Political Thought I
 - PS 42: Western Political Thought II
 - PS 61: Introduction to International Relations
3. Two related Political Science courses, one of which can be taken in the concurrent semester.

. The application form requires the student to:

1. provide the name, address, email address, telephone number, and supervisor's name and signature for the proposed internship. In the current COVID-19 circumstance, the application emailed to the instructor, cc: email of the supervisor, would be an acceptable as the supervisor signature. *Please make sure the supervisor reviews carefully p. 3 of the application form, which outlines their and the student's expectations.*
2. briefly describe the proposed internship position and the work involved.
4. discuss how that position relates to the student's previous course work in political science, and long-term professional goals.

Requirements

There are three requirements for this course:

1. A regular internship position (paid or unpaid).

The internship is your “classroom,” and it should involve approximately 10 hours of work per week. If an internship ends a few weeks before the semester (e.g. due to the end of an election campaign in early November), please make sure to discuss with the instructor. Each student is encouraged to communicate regularly and have weekly check-in conversations with their supervisor.

2. Three class meeting participation and three online posts.

The course will have 3 one-hour meetings, during the second, (roughly) eighth, and the last week of classes. You will be asked to write an online post prior to each, regarding your internship and/or research paper. Tentative dates of these meetings are as follows:

September 15 (Wed), 12-1 pm

October 27 (Wed), 12-1 pm

December 8 (Wed), 12-1 pm

3. Draft & Completed Paper.

For the research paper requirement, the student must submit a draft in the middle of the semester (roughly 1,250 words/5 pages) and a completed paper at the semester’s end (roughly 2,500 words/10 pages). During the first few weeks of the semester, the student is required to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss plans for the paper.

For the paper, the student is required incorporate a minimum of 10 substantive political science or policy writings (books, journal articles, think tank reports etc.). By “substantive,” it means length of roughly 20 pages or more, and the writing is analytical, rather than a blog, a news article, or website which tend to give snapshot and descriptive observations. The student is encouraged to use news articles, blog posts, or websites as sources of information, but for they cannot be part of the 10 sources requirement.

The paper should present the student’s argument and analysis, that is original and supported by empirical evidence. The paper should present a novel perspective or theory on questions related to political science and public policy; and should have significant empirical component, such as a case study of recent events, laws, or policymaking. The paper should not be a literature review, which summarizes what scholars have found, asserted, or debated. The instructor will circulate expectations and strategies for completing the research paper during first class.

In the paper, the student is encouraged to include a brief discussion of their internships experiences, either at the beginning or wherever appropriate. The paper must include footnotes and a bibliography. Please do not use parenthetical citations or endnotes.

There are two deadlines for the writing requirement: a draft before the first deadline; and the completed paper on the second date:

Spring: **October 23 (Sat); December 23 (Thurs).**

In general, students are encouraged to sign up for a slot in the instructor's online office hours, to discuss their internship and research paper.

Grading

Internship supervisor	50%
3 class meeting participation	5%
3 online posts	5%
5-page draft	15%
Completed 10-page paper	25%

1. Grade from the supervisor

The internship supervisor must submit the internship portion of the student's grade before Monday during the last week of the final exams. I will remind students to ask their supervisors to do so.

2. Deadlines for papers.

The student's grade will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade for every twenty-four hours after the deadline of the assignments. This means that a grade of "B+" will be "B" if the work is submitted within the first 24 hours after the deadline, and will be "B-" if the work is submitted between the 24 to 48 hours after the deadline.

I will grant extensions for the written work, only in cases of *documented* personal, health, and family emergencies. In such cases, a family member, physician, or academic can send me an email, copying the student's Tufts email address.

3. Academic Integrity

Tufts holds its students strictly accountable for adherence to academic integrity. The consequences for violations can be severe. It is critical that you understand the requirements of ethical behavior and academic work as described in Tufts' Academic Integrity handbook. If you ever have a question about the expectations concerning a particular assignment or project in this course, be sure to ask me for clarification. The Faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering are required to report suspected cases of academic integrity violations to the Dean of Student Affairs Office. If I suspect that you have cheated or plagiarized in this class, I must report the situation to the dean.

As part of this course, I will utilize TurnItIn in the Trunk learning management system to help determine the originality of your work. TurnItIn is an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of websites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. When papers are submitted to TurnItIn, the service will retain a copy of the submitted work in the TurnItIn database for the sole purpose of detecting plagiarism in future submitted works. Students retain copyright on their original course work.

4. Student Accessibility Services

Tufts University values the diversity of our students, staff, and faculty, recognizing the important contribution each student makes to our unique community. Tufts is committed to providing equal access and support to all qualified students through the provision of reasonable accommodations so that each student may fully participate in the Tufts experience. If you have a disability that requires reasonable accommodations, please contact the Student Accessibility Services office at Accessibility@tufts.edu or 617-627-4539 to make an appointment with an SAS representative to determine appropriate accommodations. Please be aware that accommodations cannot be enacted retroactively, making timeliness a critical aspect for their provision.”