

POSC 4990

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

SUMMER 2018
1 CREDIT HOUR
ONLINE COURSE

PROFESSOR: Dr. Amber Curtis

EMAIL: acurti2@clemson.edu

OFFICE HOURS: “virtual” office hours via Skype (name: drambercurtis) by appointment

*** Although this course is offered entirely online, I welcome student communication to get acquainted, chat about the course or politics, or anything else. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email with any questions, concerns, or to set up an appointment to Skype. ***

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a one-hour pass-fail online course that satisfies half of Clemson University’s academic and professional development requirements for political science majors. All assignments except one will be distributed online via Canvas® and should be turned in to the instructor via Canvas®. The remaining assignment is the Educational Testing Service’s Major Field Test, which will be administered online and must be taken at the designated time. Please note the intensity of this course, due to condensing a semester’s-worth of material into just a few short weeks!

OBJECTIVES: This course is designed for senior political science majors. Through active engagement, students will:

- Reflect on what they have learned and accomplished during their college education—particularly as a Political Science major
- Devote some time to assessing their future career plans, including preparing a formal resume and cover letter
- Explore cross-disciplinary issues, current research, career options, and ethical issues related to the study of political science.

REQUIRED READING: There is no required text for this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Final grades consist of the following components:

ETS Major Field Test (40%)

The single most important piece of work required in this course (worth 40% of your final grade) is the major field test (MFT) in political science, a two-hour online test through by the Educational Testing Service. All graduating political science majors must take this test; failure to do so will automatically result in FAILING this course. Test scores are available to you immediately upon completion of the test. Your score has no bearing upon your grade for this course or upon your graduation; Clemson simply requires compliance as scores from this test are used for routine re-accreditation purposes.

Students may complete the test wherever they choose, but must do so on Tuesday, 7/31 at 10:00 a.m. EST. Additional details will be communicated via Canvas®...stay tuned for more information.

Six Online Assignments (42%)

There are six online assignments that will be posted and submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment is out of 100 points and is worth 7% of your total course grade. Details for each assignment are available in the “Assignments” folder on the “Modules” page of Canvas®. Assignments must be turned in no later than their assigned date; see the late policy below. You are highly encouraged to get things completed and out of the way as early as possible.

Submission of Best POSC Paper Written for a Previous Class (9%)

This assignment simply requires you to submit what you deem to be the “best” paper you have written in a previous political science class. Students must first review the “Best Paper Rubric” posted on Blackboard; submissions that do not seem to follow the criteria will be deleted and students will be required to submit a different, more appropriate paper. Note that this assignment is not asking for the paper on which you received the highest grade, but instead one that exemplifies your best mastery of political science concepts, critical thinking, applied research, assertive and evidence-based argumentation, writing, and proper citation practices. The paper will not be re-graded anew; rather, it will be used in the department’s self-assessment and for re-accreditation purposes. Please upload your chosen paper as a Word document on Blackboard no later than Wednesday, July 25^h at 11:59pm.

Completion of a Senior Survey (9%)

The Department of Political Science at Clemson University conducts this senior survey to gather information about our graduating students with an eye toward improving the education we offer to our majors. (There is an additional, separate “exit survey” the department will administer immediately prior to graduation.) The answers you provide will be kept strictly anonymous and will be considered in the aggregate only. Completing the Senior Survey is worth 9% of your final grade. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, August 3rd at 11:59pm.

*** If you have any questions concerning an assignment, please contact me via email ASAP. If you have technical difficulties accessing Canvas® material, please contact both CCIT (phone: 864-656-3494 or email: ITHELP@clemson.edu) and Dr. Curtis ASAP. ***

GRADING POLICY: POSC 4990 is a pass/fail course.

- 65-100 = Pass
- 0-64 = Fail

LATE POLICY: All assignments except the Major Field Test (which must be taken on the specified day & time) may be turned in late but will be penalized 10 points (a full letter grade) per day! No assignments will be accepted after 11:59pm on Sunday, August 5th to allow adequate time for grading before final course grades are due. Students are welcome to submit assignments early, and I strongly recommend they complete all assignments well in advance of their due date.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: I have a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Violations of any kind, including—but not limited to—cheating or plagiarism, are unacceptable and will be seriously prosecuted. Note that plagiarism includes borrowing ideas and paraphrasing them within a paper without properly citing them, copying passages directly from sources without enclosing them in quotation marks, purchasing or stealing another person’s paper to turn in, or having someone else write an assigned paper. Plagiarism also includes submitting your own identical work for more

than one assignment or course without prior approval from both instructors. I highly recommend that you review the “Plagiarism Packet” posted in the “Resources” module on Canvas®. If you have further questions regarding plagiarism, you should consult Clemson University’s current Undergraduate Announcements catalog for information on rules and regulations related to academic integrity. If you have any doubt about what is or is not permissible, ask first.

Clemson University’s official statement on academic integrity is as follows: “As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a ‘high seminary of learning.’ Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.” See the Student Handbook or <http://www.clemson.edu/academics/academic-integrity/> for more information.

DISABILITY POLICY: Students needing accommodations for disabilities should make an appointment with Dr. Arlene Stewart, Director of Disability Services, to discuss their specific needs. (See contact info below.) Qualified students must then provide me with an Academic Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services within the first week of classes to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. I cannot guarantee accommodations for students who notify me of a disability request after this date! Please be aware that accommodations are not retroactive and that new Academic Accommodation Letters must be presented to each instructor each semester.

Student Disability Services
Suite 239

Academic Success Center Building
836 McMillan Rd.
Box 344060

Clemson, South Carolina 29634-4060

Phone: 864-656-6848

Fax: 864-656-6849

E-mail: sds-l@clemson.edu

Website: <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/sds/index.html>

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

(Subject to change. Please check Canvas® & your Clemson email regularly for important updates!)

Course Introduction

- Familiarize yourself with the course Blackboard page and all its material, particularly the syllabus

Assignment 1: General Education Experience

- Due by Friday, 7/20 at 11:59pm

Assignment 2: Common Course Themes

- Due by Monday, 7/23 at 11:59pm

Assignment 3: Political Science v. “Politics”

- Due by Tuesday, 7/24 at 11:59pm

Submission of Best Political Science Paper

- Due by Wednesday, 7/25 at 11:59pm

Assignment 4: Ethics of Political Science Research

- Due by Friday, 7/27 at 11:59pm

Assignment 5: Career Plans

- Due by Monday, 7/30 at 11:59pm

Major Field Test

- MUST TAKE** on Tuesday, 7/31 at 10:00 a.m. EST

Assignment 6: Cover Letter and Resume

- Due by Thursday, 8/2 at 11:59pm

Completion of the Senior Exit Survey

- Due by Friday, 8/3 at 11:59pm

Completion of Course Evaluations via Canvas®

- Due by Friday, 8/3 at 11:59pm

*** There is no final exam in this course. ***

PLEASE EMAIL ME ASAP WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!

Looking forward to a great term,
Dr. Curtis