

# PSCI 297: Washington D.C. Politics Practicum Interim 2021

**Instructor:** Menevis Cilizoglu, Assistant Professor of Political Science - [menevisc@stolaf.edu](mailto:menevisc@stolaf.edu)



## **Class Meetings:**

When: M-F 10:40-12:40

Where:

<https://stolaf.zoom.us/j/96503669282?pwd=UDNiVDBhSlFTcjM4ZCtYK3BQVi83UT09>

## **Office Hours:**

When: M/Th 9:30-10:30

Where:

<https://stolaf.zoom.us/j/98129211383?pwd=cEF1N0tWVXV5ZTllcnphWGRHbVBEUT09>

**Course Content:** [Google Classroom](#)

This course examines politics as a vocation with an emphasis on efficacy, motivation, and ethics. How do individuals become agents of change in politics? What are the varied motivations for a life of public service? What are the ethical considerations that arise in the context of political callings? You will answer these questions via a discussion-based seminar and explore a broad array of political careers via interviews with practitioners and virtual career panels. The Piper Center for Vocation and Career will support the class so that you have career-related experiences similar to those had by students who participate in DC Connections.

## **Course Policies**

**Care:** Approach all of your coursework with care, especially your class participation, written assignments, oral presentations and your interaction with alumni participants of this class. All work should be turned in on time (or you should contact me before the due-date to discuss

very rare instances in which you cannot meet a deadline). Late work will receive the deduction of 5 points per day late.

**Academic Honesty:** I expect you to be diligent about avoiding plagiarism or cheating in any form. I am committed to treating Honor System violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its [terms](#).

**Communication:** Read this syllabus, all course materials, occasional email, and the expectations/assignment instructions I'll share along the way. You can ask me questions via email and during office hours.

**Disability and Access Accommodation:** I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. Students seeking accommodations, please contact [DAC](#) staff.

**Preferred Gender Pronoun:** This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Course Requirements

- **Participation (15%)**

You cannot succeed in this class if you do not regularly attend online sessions, listen actively, and participate. This is not a lecture-heavy class and there are ample opportunities for participation, debate and questions and answers. I am aware that participating in a virtual class is much different than participating in an in-person class. I also understand that not everyone is willing or feels comfortable sharing their thoughts with others. However, I hope that in the first couple days, we can quickly foster a community where everyone feels comfortable with the virtual setting and everyone feels that their opinions are valid and valued.

- **Reflection Journals (60%, 3 assignments)**

You will complete three reflection journals for three assignments detailed below:

- a) **Interviews with Alumni (30%)**

You are matched with 2 alumni based on the interests you indicated in the form you completed during the break. On **January 6**, you will send emails to the alumni you are matched with during class time to schedule a meeting with them. You are required to complete your interviews between **January 12 and January 22**.

Prior to your interview, you need to conduct research on

- i) the alumni you are interviewing
- ii) their line of work
- iii) the organization/company/agency they are currently working for.

Additionally, you should prepare

- i) notes about introducing yourself to the alumni you are interviewing
- ii) a set of goals for the interview (what do you want to get out of the interview?)
- iii) questions to ask to the alumni you are interviewing.

Your reflection journals on alumni interviews will show evidence of 1) preparation before your interview (summary of your research and list of questions) 2) notes during the interview, and 3) reflections post-interview.

**Deadline for 1) Before the Interview**

**Deadline for 2) At the end of the completion of the interview**

**Deadline for 3) January 23**

#### **b) Career Panels (20%)**

We will have 5 career panels: an early career panel with recent alumni on **January 8**, a panel on law on **January 14**, a panel on federal government on **January 15**, a panel on campaigning and policy-making on **January 21**, and a panel on think tanks, non-profit organizations work, research, and policy analysis on **January 22**. Attendance during these sessions are required. These panels will be great opportunities to get to know a number of alumni, explore a variety of fields, and ask the questions you may have in mind about different career paths, internship opportunities, work/life, life in DC etc...

I expect you to prepare for these career panels in 2 ways:

- 1) Get to know the panelists and the organizations they are working for.
- 2) Prepare questions to ask.

Your journals will show evidence of 1) preparation before panels (your research into panelists and their organizations and a list of questions), 2) reflections after the panels.

**Deadline for 1) The morning of the panel.**

**Deadline for 2) The day after the panel.**

#### **c) Piper Center Meetings (10%)**

You are required to have a virtual appointment with a [Career Coach at the Piper Center](#) on the **week of January 25**. It is your responsibility to schedule your meeting. Do not wait until the last minute to set up an appointment and do it right away on the first couple days of classes.

Prior to your meeting, you will:

- i) set goals for the meeting
- ii) come up with a list of questions to ask to the career coach

Your journal will show evidence of 1) preparation before your meeting (goals and a list of questions), 2) reflections after the meeting.

**Deadline 1) The day of the meeting**

**Deadline 2) January 29**

- **Presentations (10%)**

On **January 27 and 28**, you will present your two interviews to the rest of the class. This will be an opportunity for you to learn the insights from your classmates' interviews.

- **Reading Quizzes (15%)**

In order to make sure that you comprehend the readings and are prepared to participate in an active discussion of the topics, 10 quizzes will be provided throughout the course. The top 8 scores will count towards this component of your grade. If you miss class during a quiz day, you will not be able to take a make-up quiz.

## Evaluation Policies

I follow the College's official grading benchmark. You can access them in the Academic catalog section on "grades."

93 and above: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B
80-82: B-	77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	64-66: D	61-63: D-	60 and below: F

## Course Schedule and Readings

### Unit 1: Politics as a Career

**January 4, Monday: Introduction**

- Read the Syllabus.
- Read Smith - "[Why Social Science?](#)"

- Add your slide to Google Slides.

### **January 5, Tuesday: Politics as a Vocation**

- Casson - "[Notes on Weber's Politics as Vocation](#)"
- Casson - "[On Teaching Politics as a Vocation](#)"

### **January 6, Wednesday: Career Exploration Presentation by Bryan Schealer**

- Send interview invitations in class.

### **January 7, Thursday: Theory vs Practice**

- Hacker - "[Healing the Rift between Political Science and Practical Politics](#)"
- Bogenschneider & Corbett - "Evidence-based Policymaking Insights from Policy-Minded Researchers and Research Minded-Policymakers" - [Chapter 1](#)

### **January 8, Friday: Early Career Panel**

- Submit your panel questions before class.
- Submit your reflection during the second half of the class.

## **Unit 2: Ethics and Politics**

### **January 11, Monday: Political Ethics**

- Thompson - "[Political Ethics](#)"
- Boston, Bradstock and Eng - "[Public Policy: Why Ethics Matters](#)"

### **January 12, Tuesday: Ethical Debates Day 1**

- Doyle - "[International Ethics and Responsibility to Protect](#)"
- Hattori - "[The Moral Politics of Foreign Aid](#)"
- Peterson - "[Is Obama's Drone War Moral?](#)"

### **January 13, Wednesday: Ethical Debates Day 2**

- Robinson et.al - "[Lying and Deception in Politics](#)"
- Hassoun - "[How to Distribute a COVID-19 Vaccine Ethically](#)"
- Staub - "[What are the Ethics of Gentrification](#)"
- Xenakis - "[Guantanamo Bay Damages American Democracy](#)"

### **January 14, Thursday: Law Panel**

- Submit your panel questions before class.

- Submit your reflection during the second half of the class.

#### **January 15, Friday: Federal Government Panel**

- Submit your panel questions before class.
- Submit your reflection during the second half of the class.

### **Unit 3: Social Change**

#### **January 18, Monday: MLK Day of Service and Leadership (No Class Meeting & Complete Google Classroom Activity)**

- 11am: Attend virtual campus event “*Deliberate Dialogues: Engaging Students in Social Justice Conversations*”. Click [here](#) to join. Meeting ID: 921 9349 3572, Passcode: mlk
- Visit [St. Olaf’s MLK Site](#) and learn about the other events for the day and participate in the ones you are interested in.

#### **January 19, Tuesday: Civil Society**

- Chambers and Kopstein - “[Civil Society and the State](#)”
- Keck and Sikkink - “[Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics](#)”

#### **January 20, Wednesday: Presidential Inauguration 2021**

- Jervis - “[Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know?](#)”
- Volker - “[US Foreign Policy after November 3](#)”
- American University - “[What Will the World Look Like in a Biden-Harris Administration?](#)”

#### **January 21, Thursday: Campaigning and Policy-Making Panel**

- Submit your panel questions before class.
- Submit your reflection during the second half of the class.

#### **January 22, Friday: Policy Research and Think Tank Panel**

- Submit your panel questions before class.
- Submit your reflection during the second half of the class.

#### **January 25, Monday: Campaigning & Lobbying & Activism (No Class Meeting. Complete Google Classroom Activity)**

- Watch one of the documentaries below:

- Knocking Down the House (Netflix)
- I am Greta (Hulu)
- Meet the Donors: Does Money Talk (HBO, also available on Canopy)
- How to Change the World (Netflix)
- Slay the Dragon (Hulu)

**January 26, Tuesday: Presentation Day 1**

**January 27, Wednesday: Presentation Day 2**

**January 28, Thursday: Conclusion**

**January 29, Friday: Final**

- Submit your "Piper Center Career Coach meeting" reflection assignment.