

**PLSC 395: Internships**

Monday: 2-3:15  
Wadsworth 204  
Spring 2010

**Professor Edward Drachman**

Office: Welles 3B  
Office Phone: 245-5456  
Office Hours: M W  
10-11:30 and by appointment

**COURSE PURPOSE**

The purpose of this course is to offer students an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the practical applications of a political science or international relations degree and to apply concepts learned in the classroom to the "real world". A further aim of this course is to enhance students' ability to think, speak and write clearly and effectively.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

*Clashing Views on Controversial Political Issues*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill, 2009

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Participation in class discussion	20% of grade
Two position statements (3 pages each)	20% of grade
Weekly journal	10% of grade
Field supervisor evaluation	50% of grade

**CLASS ATTENDANCE**

To receive credit for the internship students are allowed no more than three unexcused absences.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who have been diagnosed with a disability by a physician or other health professional may be eligible for certain accommodations. Students seeking accommodations should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make whatever arrangements may be necessary.

Participation in class discussion

Students should do the following:

- 1) Volunteer responses in class discussion.
- 2) Answer questions from the instructor.
- 3) Challenge positions/ideas/arguments/assumptions by instructor and fellow students.
- 4) Raise pertinent questions regarding class discussions and readings.

Due dates for position statements:

Statement 1: Monday, March 1

Statement 2 will be written in class during the final exam period.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week 1 (January 25): Introduction: Discussion of internship responsibilities

Week 2 (February 1): From the textbook: Issue 6: Should the Court Seek the “Original Meaning of the Constitution?”

Week 3 (Feb. 8): Issue 9: Does Affirmative Action Advance Racial Equality?

Week 4 (Feb. 15): Issue 11: Should the Government Provide National Health Care?

Week 5 (Feb. 22): Issue 12: Is America Becoming More Unequal?

Week 6 (March 1): Issue 13: Does the Patriot Act Abridge Essential Freedoms? And Issue 19: Is Warrantless Wiretapping in Some Cases Justified to Protect National Security?  
**Position Paper due** on a topic related to the problem of prosecuting terrorists while taking into account protection of civil liberties.

Week 7 (March 8): Issue 14: Stopping Illegal Immigration

### **SPRING BREAK: March 15-19**

Week 8 (March 22): Should there be a Wall of Separation between Church and State?

Week 9 (March 29): Issue 17: Is ‘Middle Eastern’ Profiling Ever Justified?

Week 10 (April 5): Issue 18: Is the use of Torture against Terrorist Suspects ever Justified?”

Week 11 (April 12): The “Texting Case” now before the Supreme Court.  
Read: Adam Liptak, “Supreme Court Takes Texting Case,” *New York Times*, December 15, 2009

Week 12: (April 19): Issue 23: Does Conservatism Get the World Wrong?

Week 13: (April 26): TBA

Week 14 (May 3): Conclusion

**FINAL EXAM**: Tuesday, May 11, 12-3