

## **GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP**

### **Purpose**

The aim of this course is to give you the opportunity to gain practical experience in state or local government. In most cases, your internship placement will include work on a specific project that has been designed by your internship sponsor. In all cases, my hope is that first-hand exposure to in the work of a state or local government agency will help to give you a deeper understanding of the important work that government does and the role it plays in our communities. I also hope that this experience helps you think about the possibility of government as a vocation.

In addition to the internship, which will be 8-10 hours a week (a minimum of 120 hours total), we will also meet as a class once a week on Monday afternoon, from 2:30 to 4 pm. In class we will hear from and talk with eight guest speakers from city, county, and state government (see below for the list of guest speakers and the dates they will be speaking with us). If the purpose of the internship experience is to give you an immersive, hands-on experience in the work of a particular agency, the purpose of the class sessions is for you to learn about the work of a broader range of state and local government agencies and the varied career trajectories of those who have chosen a life in government. My hope is that these sessions will be an opportunity for you to network with and learn from a diverse array of folks outside of your specific internship.

### **Requirements/Grading**

Every Friday I will expect you to submit a log of the dates and hours you worked that week as well as a brief but informative accompanying description of the work you did that week. These should be submitted using a Google Doc that you will share with me. I will also check in periodically with your internship supervisor. The weekly log and work descriptions will be worth one third of your grade. However, completing the 120 hours is a prerequisite to passing the class. Even the best log and work descriptions cannot compensate for failure to complete the required 120 hours.

Although the class sessions are only once a week, attendance is mandatory and active engagement and participation are essential. I have asked our guest speakers to plan to speak for about 20-25 minutes about their work and their career trajectories, so that most of the class will be interactive and will depend on the quality of your questions and engagement. I will also periodically ask for written reflections on the guest speakers and these too will be part of the participation grade. Class attendance and participation will be worth one third of your grade. If you miss more than one class, your final course grade will be reduced by a full letter grade. If you miss more than two classes, your final grade will be reduced by two full letter grades. If you miss more than three classes, you will fail the course.

The final third of your grade will be based on an assessment of the quality of your work in the internship. This assessment will be based on (1) your supervisor's midterm and final assessment of your work, (2) your own midterm and final self-assessment of your work, and (3) my

assessment of your work. In those internships where there is a final work product, I will assess that work product directly. In those internships where there is not a final work product, I will ask you to write a detailed statement of the work you did and will lean more heavily on the supervisor's assessment of that work.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

- Gain work experience in state or local government
- Utilize their internship and class experience to explore their career interests and career goals
- Reflect on the role that state and local government plays in American society

### **Sexual Misconduct and Mandatory Reporting**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for all of my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that I am required to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination to Willamette's Title IX Coordinator. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact our confidential advocate at [confidential-advocate@willamette.edu](mailto:confidential-advocate@willamette.edu). You may also contact WUTalk - a 24-hour telephone crisis counseling support line at 503-375-5353. If in immediate danger, please call campus safety at 503-370-6911.

### **Office Hours**

If at any point you would like to meet with me individually, either in person or on Zoom, please email me at [rellis@willamette.edu](mailto:rellis@willamette.edu). My office is Smullin 324.

### **Schedule of Class Sessions and Guest Speakers**

1. Aug 30. Introduction

Amy E. Lerman, *Good Enough For Government Work: The Public Reputation Crisis in America (And What We Can Do to Fix It)* (University of Chicago Press, 2019), 225-245

2. Sept. 6. Labor Day.

3. Sept 13. Guest speaker: Kirsten Wyatt, executive director and founder of ELGL (Engaging Local Government Leaders)

4. Sept 20. Guest speaker: Madison Thesing, Assistant City Manager, City of Lake Oswego

5 Sept 27. No class

6. Oct. 4. Guest speaker: Ariel Nelson, lobbyist for League of Oregon Cities

7. Oct. 11. Guest speaker: Serena Stoudamire Wesley, Oregon's Chief Cultural Change Officer, Dept of Administrative Services

8. Oct. 18. Guest speaker: Lili'a Uili Neville, Public Information Officer and Administrative Manager, Benton County

9. Oct. 25. Guest speaker: Daniel Adotto, Budget Analyst, Marion County Finance Department

10. Nov. 1. Guest speaker: Roberto Franco, Assistant Director of Rental Housing, Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

11. Nov. 8. No class

12. Nov. 15. Guest speaker: Tobias Read, Oregon State Treasurer

13. Nov. 22. Fall Break

14. Nov. 29 Reflections/Lessons Learned/Reports on Projects

15. Dec. 6. Reflections/Lessons Learned/Reports on Projects