



# **POLSCI 279: PROFESSIONALIZATION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

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**Website:** [www.curtisbram.com](http://www.curtisbram.com)

**Classroom:** Perkins Link 065  
**Seminars:** Tr 10:15am–11:30am  
**Office hours:** W 10:00–11:00am (Zoom)

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## **WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?**

What will you do with your Duke degree? This course will prepare you for your professional life after leaving Duke, equipping you with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to thrive in your post-Duke career. The class is tailored for those interested in pursuing internships offered in the coming summer.

## **WHAT ARE THE COURSE OBJECTIVES?**

One aim of the course is to assist you in developing and articulating career goals. In order to highlight career options, the class will host guest speakers—from the intelligence community and foreign service, to nonprofit organizations, think tanks and the private sector. We will also hear from a panel of representatives from Duke’s graduate schools. These sessions are designed to broaden your thinking about career options that draw together your political science background, workplace preferences, and personal values.

A second aim of the class is to prepare you to excel at the internship application process. You will learn how to research summer internship opportunities, network effectively, and ace internship interviews. You will also leave this course with work products that will position you for success as you begin your career: polished resumes and cover letters, headshots, and a LinkedIn profile.

Third, this class will help you gain skills to thrive as a professional—in your internship and beyond. We will go over a variety of practical considerations about the workplace as well as broader questions about workplace strategy. The course aims to prepare you for the exhilaration, and vicissitudes, of professional life.

## **WHAT ARE THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS?**

This course will be graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). In order to receive satisfactory credit for this course, students will:

- Come prepared with, and ask, questions to the guest speakers
- Submit quality work product, on time
- Deliver written and spoken feedback on the work of their classmates
- Be punctual and maintain a near-perfect attendance record
- Read the assigned materials ahead of time and participate in class discussion

Excessive absences or failure to complete assignments will result in not passing the course. Please

discuss any absences with the instructor in advance.

## WHAT TEXTS ARE REQUIRED?

There are **no** required textbooks. All readings will be posted to the course Sakai site.

You may wish to consult:

- Dalton, Steve (2012). The 2-Hour Job Search: Using Technology to Get the Right Job Faster.
- Feaver, Peter, Sue Wasiolek, and Anne Crossman (2012). Getting the Best Out of College.
- Perlin, Ross (2012). Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy.

## WHAT ARE THE COURSE POLICIES?

- **Attendance:** You are expected to **attend and participate in all class sessions**. This means (1) arrive on time, (2) talk and listen as requested, (3) stay until the instructor ends the session—(4) for every class session. Advance notice of absences or tardiness is appreciated.
- **Advising and writing support:** For course-related questions, please come to my office hours. For other academic support, see the Academic Advising Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, or the Thompson Writing Program Writing Studio.
- **Academic integrity:** We are all governed by the Duke Community Standard, and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of cheating or otherwise violating the Standard will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. It is not a violation of the Standard to discuss your ideas with your peers, and brainstorming and soundboarding are encouraged. Please see Duke's Plagiarism Tutorial if you have questions.
- **Accommodations:** Students with challenges requiring special accommodations should inform me during the first week of class.

## WHAT EXTRA RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- **Duke Online Resources:** See the Career Center Online Resources, Library Guide to Career Research, and the Alumni Directory.
- **Leadership Directories:** Duke provides access to: Leadership Directory and the Claremont McKenna College Internship Page.
- **APSA:** You may also wish to consult the American Political Science Association Internship Guide
- **Graduate students** in political science have reviewed many internship applications and are happy to review application materials, contact me for more information

## SPRING 2021 CAREER CENTER EVENTS

- **Updated List Available at the career center website**
- TechConnect (January 27, 2022)
- Relationship Building in the Classroom (February 17, 2022)
- SSG Coffee Chat (February 17, 2022)
- Conversations with Success Academy (February 24, 2022)
- SEC / ACC Virtual Career Fair (April 6, 2022)

## ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1:

#### 1/6: Course Introduction

- **In Class:** What, and how, we'll cover course material. Discuss readings
- **DUE TODAY:** *Education's End*, Chapter 1

### WEEK 2: GUEST SPEAKER

#### 1/13: DC Think Tanks / politics

- **SPEAKER:** Alumni from the Council on Foreign Relations, a congressional campaign, German Marshall Fund and the Alliance for Peacebuilding

### WEEK 3: BIG PICTURE

#### 1/20: Story of You

- **In Class:** Goal setting, present story of me
- **Due Today:** Read Feaver, Wasiolek, and Crossman, "So What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up"
- **Due Today:** After reading, write a reflection of no more than two double-spaced pages, which tells the story of how you got to where you are today. Be creative. In Class 3 we share these essays with each other and consider how our career choices can best reflect our life trajectory and values.

### WEEK 4: GUEST SPEAKER

#### 1/27: Crypto-Finance

- **SPEAKER:** Corbin Page, Head of Product for ConsenSys Codefi

### WEEK 5: RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS

#### 2/3:

- **In Class:** Introduction to resumes and cover letters
- **Due Today:** Read Peter Feaver, "It'll Be Over Before You Know It" (21 pages)
- **Due Today:** Write a one to two page sketch of what you can do after college. It helps to think about the time immediately after as well as 5 years after graduating.

### WEEK 6: GUEST SPEAKER

#### 2/10: The Career Center

- **In Class:** Meeting with Duke University Career Center counselors

### WEEK 7: RESUME AND COVER LETTERS

#### 2/17: Workshop

- **In Class:** Resume workshop
- **Due Today:** Research positions of interests. Bring in list of at least five internships to which you plan to apply.
- **Due Today:** Resume and cover letter specific to an internship of your choice

## **WEEK 8: GUEST SPEAKER**

### **2/24: Entrepreneurship**

- **SPEAKER:** Jed Simmons, Principal at Frozen Pond Ventures, former head of news content partnerships for YouTube

## **WEEK 9:**

### **3/3: NO CLASS (Spring break)**

## **WEEK 10:**

### **3/10: NO CLASS (Spring break)**

## **WEEK 11: INTERVIEW SKILLS**

### **3/17:**

- **In Class:** Interview lecture, case study readings assigned
- **Due Today:** Make a LinkedIn profile and send URL to instructor

## **WEEK 12: INTERVIEW SKILLS**

### **3/24: Practice interviews**

- **In Class:** Mock interviews

## **WEEK 13: GUEST SPEAKER**

### **3/31: Non-Profit World**

- **SPEAKER:** George Sibley, Diplomat in Residence, State Department

## **WEEK 14: TURNING AN INTERNSHIP INTO A JOB**

### **4/7: Presentations**

- **In Class:** Presentations
- **Due Today:** Present based on individual case study readings

## **WEEK 15: WRAPPING UP**

### **4/14: Entrepreneurship Q&A and Headshots**

- **In class:** Entrepreneurship Q&A with Shaun King and Headshot (dress professionally)