

SYLLABUS

FALL, 2017

PSC 525

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

All ILSIP interns are expected to take PSC 525, a two credit course designed to prepare them for their intern experience. The course includes an orientation session and four full day seminars. The course provides an overview of Illinois government and politics and a review how the state has dealt with specific policy areas.

The first three seminars will be held on the UI-S campus, in University Hall Building, Room UHB-1005. The final seminar will be held at the State Capitol Room (To Be Determined). The seminar will meet from 9-12 and 1-4, but subject to adjustments to accommodate guest speakers and any supplemental training scheduled by the ILSIP program coordinator.

The seminar will meet on these days:

Friday, August 25 – UHB-1005

Friday, September 15 – UHB-1005

Friday, September 29 – UHB-1005

Friday, October 13 – State Capitol Room 400 (*Tentative*)

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To provide a basic knowledge of Illinois government and politics and an understanding how fundamental public policy issues have been or not been addressed.
2. To provide concepts and a context to assist in placing the internship experience in its proper perspective.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS

Each intern will receive the following books at orientation:

1. Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, *Illinois Politics: A Citizen's Guide*
2. Nowlan and Johnson, *Fixing Illinois: Politics and Policy in the Prairie State*
3. Mooney and Van-Dyke Brown, *Lobbying Illinois*
4. Pensoneau, *Arrington: Powerhouse from Illinois*
5. Rock, *Nobody Calls Just to Say Hello*
6. Gradel and Simpson, *Corrupt Illinois*

The following materials from the Legislative Research Unit are also supplied:

1. Preface to Lawmaking
2. 1970 Illinois Constitution Annotated for Legislators
3. Illinois Tax Handbook for Legislators

ATTENDANCE

Attendance (and hopefully active participation) for all seminars is **MANDATORY**. Work related absences, which are rare, will be accommodated. Interns who otherwise miss part or all of a seminar will be obligated to make up for their absence. This will be arranged with the instructor.

GRADES

The course grade will be calculated as follows: 35% each for papers 1 and 3; 20% for paper 2; 10% on attendance and participation.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There are three written assignments for the seminar:

1. Ever since the General Assembly in 2011 completed the task of redistricting its legislative and congressional districts, there has been serious discussion and much controversy as to how the process should be changed, and even is it should be changed at all, as we close in on the next round of redistricting in 2021 (just four years from now!).

Do the following: review how well the process worked, or didn't work, in the 2011 session, analyzing the role of the major players in the General Assembly as well as outside groups. In addition, review the two major efforts to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot which would have changed the process. Who were the movers and shakers behind this movement, why did both ultimately fail and indicate your opinion as to the substance of the proposals.

SUGGESTED LENGTH – 8 PAGES – DUE SEPTEMBER 15

2. Handicap the gubernatorial race for 2018. This should include a review of the candidates of both major parties. Who will be elected our next Governor, by what margin and why? Be thoughtful, reasoned and objective in your analysis.

SUGGESTED LENGTH – 5 PAGES – DUE SEPTEMBER 29

3. In Nowlan and Johnson's book, chapters 2 through 7 address six major policy areas of significant concern: 1) taxing and spending, 2) education, 3) health care and human services, 4) infrastructure, 5) economic development and 6) reengineering state government. Your assignment is to choose one of the six and do the following: a) outline/summarize the problem(s) as presented by the authors, b) critique their proposals for change and c) indicate whether their proposals have a realistic chance of gaining approval, given the political structure and climate in Illinois.

SUGGESTED LENGTH – 8 PAGES – DUE OCTOBER 13

COURSE SCHEDULE

AUGUST 25

UHB-1005

UNIT #1: ILLINOIS: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO PLAY POLITICS HERE

- What is meant by political culture
- Illinois' own civil war: Chicago vs. downstate
- The new kids on the block: the collars
- Is regionalism real and does it matter

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapters 1-2

Nowlan and Johnson, introduction and chapter 1

Gradel and Simpson - entire book

UNIT #2: ILLINOIS: THE RULES OF THE GAME

- History and politics of constitution making in Illinois
- The legacy of the 1870 Constitution
- The basics of the 1970 Constitution
- Do we need a new constitution

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 4

LRU – 1970 Constitution Annotated for Legislators

UNIT #3: ILLINOIS: WHO ARE THE PLAYERS

- The Office of the Governor – the notables and not so notables
- The other Constitutional officers – who they are, what they do and how important they really are

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 6

The websites of the six constitutional officers

NOTE: Continue (or begin) your reading of *Fixing Illinois* and complete by mid-September

SEPTEMBER 15

UHB-1005

UNIT #4: ILLINOIS: HOW ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED

- The State Board of Elections and its counterparts in other states – remember Kathryn Harris
- Do we have state elections and federal elections
- What happened to cumulative voting
- Who draws the lines – the politics of redistricting
- Election reform – are the feds ready to take over

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 3

www.elections.il.gov

UNIT #5: ILLINOIS: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- How it is structured
- Who are the players
- Where is the power
- How does it really work

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 5

Mooney, chapters 2 and 4

Pensoneau – entire book

Rock – entire book

LRU – Preface to Lawmaking

SEPTEMBER 29

UHB-1005

UNIT #6: ILLINOIS: THE THIRD HOUSE

Readings: Money, all chapters not previously assigned

UNIT #7: ILLINOIS: MONEY IS THE MOTHER'S MILK OF POLITICS

Readings: Illinois Campaign for Political Reform – www.ilcampaign.org

Center for Responsive Politics – www.opensecrets.org

Federal Election Commission – www.fec.gov

Campaign Finance Institute – www.cfinst.org

www.illinoissunshine.org

www.elections.il.gov

UNIT #8: ILLINOIS: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM AND HOW IS IT SPENT

- The Illinois State income tax – the great debate in 1969
- The GOMB – does it really run state government
- Why budget crises and the rule rather than the exception

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 10

LRU, Illinois Tax Handbook for Legislators

www.ilga.gov/Commission/cgfa

www.state.il.us/budget

www.ioc.state.il.us.com

OCTOBER 13

State Capitol – Room 400 (*Tentative*)

UNIT #9: EDUCATION – HOW MUCH LEARNING IS REALLY TAKING PLACE

- Role of the ISBE
- The haves and the have nots
- Will we ever change the way we fund schools

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 9

www.isbe.state.il.us

www.isbe.state.il.us/EFAB

UNIT #10: ILLINOIS: THE JUDICIARY; REDISTRICTING

- How the court system is structured
- Should we elect our judges
- The increasing role of money in judicial elections

Readings: Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, chapter 7

UNIT #11: ILLINOIS: THE NEWS MEDIA AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS

- How powerful is the fourth estate
- The State House press corps – why does it barely exist anymore

Readings: No assignment

NOTE: In Nowlan, Gove and Winkel, read chapters 8 and 11 at your leisure as they are not specifically assigned to any unit.