POLITICAL SCIENCE 475.001
INDEPENDENT STUDY: TEXAS LEGISLATURE
Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Government
Spring 2011 (1.19.11 – 5.14.11)

Professor: Lee W. Payne
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Office Hours:
MWF: 10-11 & 12:00-1:00
TTH: 10-11

Course Description

1-3 semester hours. Credit determined by the amount and difficulty of the project undertaken. Individual research for advanced political science students. Prerequisites: PSC 141 and 142, 6 semester hours of upper-level political science, plus PSC 475. Consent of the instructor and department chair required. Junior standing.

Course Expectations

Brittane will complete a case study by following a piece of legislation from inception to death/passage. She will include observations on every step of the legislative process that the legislation goes through – sponsors, cosponsors, committee assignment, committee activities (hearings – who favors the bill, what interest groups are involved, constituency input, etc.; and markups – how the bill is changed, pork added, etc.), floor activity, etc. In this process it is expected that Brittane will conduct interviews with involved parties/individuals, include personal observations, etc. The case study will be a minimum of 15 pages long.

The literature review for the case study research paper will be developed from several of the readings included on the syllabus. In addition, Brittane will provide weekly summaries of each journal article to ensure progress.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another;
(2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Program Learning Outcome #5: The student will create research papers, briefs, or reports.

**Additional Points**

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Attendance:** There is no attendance requirement for this course.

**Required Book**


**Reading List**


Bratton, Kathleen A.; Kerry L. Haynie. “Agenda Setting and Legislative Success in State


Rosenthal, Alan. “State Legislative Development: Observations from Three Perspectives.”

