Course: PSC 475.001. Independent Study in Political Science [3 hours]
Term: Fall 2017
Instructor: Dr. Davis, Department of Government
Email: Through D2L course email (preferred) or pressleyc@sfasu.edu
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: One to three semester hours. Credit determined by the amount and difficulty of the project undertaken. Individual research for advanced political science students. Prerequisites: completion of nine hours in PBA courses with a 2.5 GPA; consent of the instructor and department chair; Junior standing

- Student will examine and outline the evolution and implementation of public policies and procedures in the field of emergency management. The student will analyze a specific emergency management plan and operations, and will complete a literature review, policy analysis and video presentation.

Required Readings: A set of academic journal articles and government document readings will be assigned. They will be available on D2L.

Course Requirements:

- Literature Review: 8-10 page literature review examining the evolution and development of emergency management policies. A comparison of state and federal policies and organizations will likely be included. Literature review should address issues such as goals, strategies, leadership and ethics involved with emergency management.
- Policy Analysis: 5-7 page analysis of a specific emergency management plan, its operations and whether it is effective in meeting its stated goals
- Video Presentation: Student will record a 10-15 minute presentation that covers both the literature review and policy analysis

Grading: This course is graded pass/fail. To achieve a passing grade in this course the student must complete the requirements above in the course requirements section.

Program Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the institutional, political and legal processes of the United States, and articulate the functions of public administration in terms of historical roots, structure, and contemporary issues.
2. Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply important terminology, facts, concepts, principles, analytic techniques, and theories in the field of public administration when analyzing complex factual situations.
3. Demonstrate critical reasoning, problem solving abilities, communications skills, technology skills and ethical considerations relating to public responsibility.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that influence public administration.
5. Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate, both in writing and orally, using the important terminology, facts, concepts, and theories used in the field of public administration.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues in public and nonprofit organizations, and how to use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote positive organizational and professional trust.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. Students will describe work situations where important terminology, facts, concepts, principles, analytic techniques, and theories in the field of public administration. Reflections will demonstrate effective application.
2. Students will discuss critical reasoning, problem solving abilities, communications skills, technology skills and ethical considerations relating to public responsibility.
3. Student will display understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that influence public administration.
4. Student will effectively communicate work duties and responsibilities, and provide reflections, using the important terminology, facts, concepts, and theories used in the field of public administration.
5. Student will discuss ethical issues and use ethical reasoning to formulate decision alternatives that could promote positive organizational and professional trust.

**Academic Integrity:** An individual’s integrity is a reflection not only on themselves, but on the reputation of their profession as well. The standards you hold in your academic career will weigh heavily on those you retain throughout life. Your professional reputation is of the utmost importance in maintaining a positive career path. Thus, your academic integrity will be held to the highest possible standard while in this classroom. Zero tolerance will be given for academic irregularities. According to the university: “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"
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.” If modifications or accommodations are needed due to disability, please make an appointment with me as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

According to the university: "Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54) 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.”

“Acceptable Student Behavior. Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.”