

SIMPSON COLLEGE
2010 MAY TERM OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL COURSE PROPOSAL

Date:2/16/09

Completed forms should be submitted to the Office of International Education no later than Jan. 15, 2009 for international travel courses and no later February 17, 2009 for domestic travel courses.

Name of proposer(s): **Kedron Bardwell**

Department(s): **Political Science**

Please check one of the following:

- INTERNATIONAL Off-Campus Travel Course
 DOMESTIC Off-Campus Travel Course

I. Course Information

- A. Course number, if course has been offered previously: **POSC 190**
- B. Course title: **Exploring Politics in Washington, D.C.**
(Note: The name of the place of study should appear in the title)
- C. Transcript Course Title (max. 21 characters): **Explore Washington DC**
- D. Course level (100/200/300): What is the rationale for offering the course at this level?
The class is a good fit for students interested in U.S. politics, even if they have taken few courses in POSC.
- E. Minimum enrollment: 10
(For 1 instructor, must be at least 10 students; for 2 instructors, must be at least 20 students.)
If proposed minimum is less than the requirement, provide a rationale for receiving variance.
- F. Maximum enrollment: 15

II. Course Description

- A. Course goals and objectives: Given that Simpson May Term Off-Campus Travel Courses aim to provide students with an active learning curriculum that integrates a rigorous academic program with experiential immersion activities, please outline the learning objectives for your course.

Learning objectives: *practical knowledge of the U.S. Congress (readings matched to viewing of legislative debates on the floor of U.S. House or Senate), a better understanding of political history and how the U.S. national government operates today (experiential tours of U.S. Congress, the White House, the Supreme Court, Mount Vernon, National Archives, embassies, Arlington Cemetery, and the Holocaust Museum; supplemented by attending lectures and events), and opportunities for reading, writing, and reflection.*

- B. Rationale for the course: Please explain how the course fits in with your department and/or the college's curriculum.

This is another opportunity within our department (similar to the CHIP Washington internship program, other internships, the Model U.N., etc) to engage students in experiential learning. This domestic trip is geared toward students (often non-POSC majors) with political interests, who would benefit from a vivid experience in politics; I hope it will convince the students to take a POSC class or check out an internship.

- C. In-country activities: Describe how the planned immersion activities (these could include home stays, service learning opportunities, interviews with locals, Q & A sessions with local guest lecturers/speakers, etc.) will be integrated into educational goals of the course.

The approximately 8-day trip experience is sandwiched between a week of on-campus reading, writing, and discussion about the politics of Congress AND several days of reflection/writing at the end of the last week. Many of the legislative politics/process issues we read about will be observed via floor debate, the tour of Congress, and interaction with a member of Congress (or at a minimum, with members of their staff). We also schedule as many academic lectures and visits (example: National Archives lecture series, visits to political think tanks) as are practical based on the available events schedule for the week we are in D.C.

D. Required course assignments and evaluation

1. Explain specific course requirements and indicate when they would occur (e.g., P=during the on-campus spring semester prep course, O=off-campus, and D=during the de-briefing portion of the off-campus experience; it's possible that some assignments will happen in all of the periods, e.g., Readings could be P-O-D)

a. Participation: *required attendance/discussion in class and at scheduled events/tours*

b. Readings (please specify what these will be)

Mann & Ornstein, *The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing America*
Beschloss, *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How they Changed America*

c. Journal reflections: *daily journal reflections while in Washington D.C.*

d. Exams: *none*

e. Papers/Presentations/Field reports: *a critical review of Mann & Ornstein book*

f. Other assignments: *online political literacy exercises during the on-campus week*

2. Approximately what percentage will each of the above course requirements contribute toward the final course grade? *About 25% each for (1) participation, (2) critical review (3) journals, (4) web exercises.*

E. Catalog course description of about 100 words which includes a statement of expected course work (papers, exams, journal writing, presentations, etc.)

Immerse yourself in America's rich history and political life in this hybrid domestic trip/course. Spend a week in on-campus reading and discussions, then spend a week in our nation's capital. A typical itinerary includes: watching sessions of Congress, touring the White House, watching the U.S. Supreme Court announce decisions, and seeing academic lectures. Other educational opportunities include: Mount Vernon, the National Archives, foreign embassies, Arlington Cemetery, and the U.S. Holocaust Museum. Evening events, lectures, tours, and entertainment will be scheduled as available closer to the trip date. When we return to campus, students will take time to discuss, reflect, and write about how the experience changed their views of U.S. politics or history.

- F. Are there prerequisites for this course? Yes No
If yes, please list them and briefly provide a rationale.

III. Other Information

- A. Has this course been offered in a previous May Terms? Yes No
If yes, please indicate *when* it was offered and the approximate enrollment.

May 2007: about 10 students

- B. Department(s) in which credit is to be awarded:

POSC

- C. If this course will meet requirements for a departmental major or minor, please explain briefly:

N/A

- D. Proposed dates of the travel course, including dates you anticipate being abroad:
(*Note: It is highly recommended that the group should depart no earlier than Sat., May 1, 2010, and should return no later than Thurs., May 20, 2010.*)

Tuesday, May 11th – Tuesday, May 18th, 2010

- E. Proposed location(s) and how the site location(s) relate to the core objectives of the course:

Washington, D.C. – and I hope the relationship to the course does not require too much explanation! ☺

- F. Indicate your level of familiarity with the site(s) visited during the course.

I have visited Washington many times for sightseeing and national academic conferences, and to participate in the board meeting of representatives of our Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP). I took a Simpson group on this same domestic trip in 2007, and learned even more that I will use this time; I know the area very well.

- G. Will the off-campus component of this course require a significant amount of physical exertion on the part of the course participants? On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being little physical exertion and 5 being a tremendous amount of physical exertion, please rate the anticipated activities related to this course. Do you anticipate that the course activities would pose any significant challenges for someone with physical disabilities?

I rate it a 3.5 (some days we walk several miles!). In my experience, most sites and events are accessible.

V. Proposed Budget for the Course
(A more precise estimate is not due to the OIE until September 7, 2009)

First, estimate expenses for instructor(s) and course assistant(s), if any, (in total, not per student)

Air transportation	\$300
In-country transportation	\$50
Lodging	\$825
Meals	\$200
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$25
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Misc.	\$
Other (explain):	\$
Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses	\$1,400

Next, estimate the cost per student, based upon the minimum enrollment number (10) from page 1 of this document:

Air transportation	\$300
In-country transportation	\$50
Lodging	\$300
Meals	\$200
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$25
Honorariums	\$
Tips	\$
Int'l Student I.D. card is now optional, \$25 each if desired	\$
SC Study Abroad Program Fee	\$
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Contingency fund (\$100 recommended)	\$50
Other (explain):	\$
Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$925

Finally, divide the "Total instructor(s) and course assistant expenses" by "the minimum enrollment number (10) from page 1 of this document" to get a "per student instructor cost." Then add

Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$925
+ per student instructor cost	\$140
= Total per student cost	\$1,065

Additional expenses not covered by the program for which students need to budget:
For example, passport @ \$100, books, meals, immunizations, trip cancellation insurance, etc.

Total estimated additional expenses not covered by the course: \$50 for books

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

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(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date: _____
(division of the instructor)

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