

**SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 495—SPRING 2015**  
**CRN: 21034**  
**Section: 001**  
**Credits: 3.0**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class: via email**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
**VOICE: 304.327.4034 (W)**

**Course Room No.: NA**  
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**Office No.: B120**  
**512-924-2364 (M)**

**Special Topics in Political Science (1-3 hours).** Independent research in major field for students who have demonstrated a capacity for responsible work. Not repeatable. PR: POSC 200 or POSC 210, permission of directing professor and dean.

Grading Policy: 100% for Presentation of some aspect of your legislative intern experience (schedule a date with me during the semester [at the latest by April 15, 2015], and I shall set up an acceptable venue)

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: "A" = Excellent; "B" = Good; "C" = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of "C" or better is required in major courses); "D" = Poor (passing, except in major courses); "F" = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is "excluded" from grade point average. The second grade is "included" in the recalculation of the grade point average); and "I" = Incomplete.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 490, students should be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts; to articulate arguments and examine their flaws; be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning; understand the workings of the West Virginia Legislature and its role in society and the various political struggles currently unfolding therein.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of grading and checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be calculated by responding to email with the professor on course assignments and requirements.

Cell Phone Policy:

Turn off all cell phones during class or put on vibration. If you absolutely must answer your phone, leave the classroom before answering your phone and return only after you have completed your conversation.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a Change In Schedule form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and the advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

Disability Services Statement: BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial; Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics;

Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

**Jan. 14 – Mar. 15:** West Virginia 2015 Legislative Session (60 days)

**Apr. 30:** [**Presentation Due**] (Presentation must be concluded by today)

**Assignment:** Presentation Due today. Presentation of some aspect of your legislative intern experience (schedule a date with me during the semester [at the latest by April 30, 2015], and I shall set up an acceptable venue)

**May 9:** (Last day of classes. All course work **MUST** be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

**May 19:** Final grades due to Registrar electronically