POLI 440*Q1: South Carolina State Legislative Process  
Fall 2014
W, 3:00 – 3:50, Brittain 239

Instructors: Frederick Wood; 353 Brittain, 843-349-6594, fwood@coastal.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 11:30 – 1:30 & MWF by appointment.

Adam Chamberlain, 357 Brittain Hall, 843-349-6506, achamber@coastal.edu
Office Hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00 & W 2:00-3:00.

Catalog Description
POLI 440 – South Carolina State Legislative Process. (1) (Prereq: POLI 201 or permission of instructor) An introduction to the practice of state legislative procedures. Students are required to participate in the South Carolina Student Legislature activity. Students may take the course up to three times for elective credit only.

Course Objectives
1. Provide an overview of the processes and procedures that govern the South Carolina State Assembly.
2. Improve knowledge and understanding of state legislative policymaking.
3. Discuss and evaluate various contemporary issues in South Carolina politics & policy.
4. Improve verbal and written communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the South Carolina state legislative system.
2. Analyze, discuss, and advocate for or against specific policy solutions to state political and policy problems.
3. Recognize the responsibilities of citizenship and articulate ways in which individuals can actively participate in the political system.
4. Present and defend a unique piece of state legislation.

Grading Procedures
Final Grades will be based on total points accumulated throughout the semester. Students earning between 93 and 100 percent will receive an “A”. A grade of “B+” requires that you earn between 88 and 92, “B” between 82 and 87, “C+” between 78 and 81, “C” between 72 and 77, “D+” between 68 and 71, “D” between 60 and 67. Grades lower than 60 will result in an “F” for the course.

Attendance Policies
Students are obligated to attend class regularly. Absences, excused or not, do not absolve a student from the responsibility of completing all assigned work promptly. Students who miss assignments, announced quizzes, or other course work obligations due to excused absences will be allowed to make up the work in a manner deemed appropriate by the instructor. It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and make arrangements at the convenience of the instructor. The instructor is
not obligated to allow a student to make up work missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused for documented cases of:

a) incapacitating illness,
b) official representation of the University (excuses for official representation of the University should be obtained from the official supervising the activity),
c) death of a close relative, and
d) religious holidays. (see www.interfaithcalendar.org.)

The instructor will determine whether other absences from class should be excused or unexcused. In the event of an impasse between the student and the instructor, the department chair and/or the dean of the college shall make the final decision as to whether an absence is to be considered excused.

An instructor is permitted to impose a penalty, including assigning the grade of F, for unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings.

Attendance is particularly important for SCSL, where you must learn to be part of a team – the CCU delegation. Attendance at class is also important for you to begin to learn the ins and outs of legislative and parliamentary procedure. Additionally, you must attend Fall session in Columbia. If you do not attend session, you will receive an “F” for the course. If you leave session without consulting the professor(s) first, you will receive an “F” for the course.

Grade Scale and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draft legislation</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final legislation</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation at session</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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Assignments
Legislation. You are required to write a piece of original legislation to be presented at the SCSL Fall session. The legislation must be germane to state politics and policy, and should be targeted towards relieving an ongoing or a contemporary problem in the state. The best bill is one that tackles an important topic, presents an innovative solution, and is “debatable” by the entire legislative assembly.

Participation at session. Your professors attend session with you for one reason: to grade your performance. Participation at session will be graded on your ability to do the following: work within your delegation to forward your own bill as well as those of your delegation members; caucus with members of other delegations to aid in the passage of CCU bills and to elect members of the CCU delegation to executive positions; clearly present your own legislation in front of the proper assembly; represent CCU with pride and respect.

Reflection Paper. As part of the QEP, you need to reflect on the experience, what you learned from it, and how it connects to other politics classes you have taken. This is a short, 2-3 page paper. It will be due after participation at the session on a date TBA.
All late work is penalized a full letter grade for every 24-hour period it is late. One minute to just under 24 hours late is a reduction from an A to a B or a B to a C. For the next 24 hour period, it drops another letter grade. The earlier the draft is submitted, then, the better.

You can also lose points for failing to address the changes to your bills that are suggested by your professors. Failure to edit based on our suggestions will also result in a lower grade in the course.

**There are no extra credit assignments. Don't ask!**

**Conduct**

We are all adults here, so I should not have to address this topic again. Conduct in the classroom is simply about basic courtesy and professionalism. You are expected to behave in ways that do not distract others (e.g., reading the newspaper, allowing your cell phone to ring, text-messaging, sleeping, discussing last night’s party with your neighbor, etc.). In addition, please do not use personal attacks as you debate or discuss matters – you should be able to make your point based on logic and evidence. The eighth deadly sin is text-messaging during class. Professors (including me!) really hate this more than anything else that you do in class. Tip: put the phone away when you get into class. Whoever is waiting for your response can wait for 50 minutes. On a similar note, you may use your laptop in the class. However, if I find that you are using the laptop for purposes other than taking lecture notes, I will request that no one use laptops for the remainder of the semester.

Finally, a particular note on conduct while traveling for session. While at session, you are technically “in class” from the time that session starts each day until the time that it ends. Additionally, you are “in class” after session ends when the chair, vice-chair, or professors call for a delegation meeting. That means that you should behave accordingly. It also means that sometimes you might be “in class” from 8am until 11pm. As such, if you show up intoxicated or otherwise disrupt the class, you will be docked on participation at session. Once class is done for the day, you are free to live your adult life. However, please remember that the professor(s) are required to follow the student code of conduct, and therefore are required to report any violations of that code.

**Disabilities**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with appropriately verified disabilities.

**Academic Integrity**

If we catch you cheating or committing plagiarism, you will receive an FX for the course.
Statement of Community Standards
Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

Expectations of Community Members
All members of our community – students, faculty, staff and administrators – share responsibility for promoting a culture of academic integrity. Each group plays a different role and, together, cultivates mutual respect and ethical behavior.

Students:
• Understand and abide by the Code of Student Conduct
• Take responsibility for personal behavior
• Actively oppose every instance of academic dishonesty

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course, and may be updated or changed throughout the semester as necessary.

Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>Intro to SCSL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Picking a topic for your Bill</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>How to write a bill for a state legislature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 10, 17, 24</td>
<td>Parliamentary procedure and legislative leadership and decorum</td>
<td>*1st Bill Draft Due Sept. 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1, 8, 15</td>
<td>Presentation of Bills</td>
<td>*Edited Bill Draft Due TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Session @ Columbia, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Debrief and wrap-up</td>
<td></td>
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