

Internship Course & Seminar

Spring 2011
Criminal Justice. 01:202:406-8
Lucy Stone Hall A-143

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Course Syllabus

Introduction

Internship programs have become an integral part of the experiential learning process for students seeking careers in public service or the private sector. Such programs bridge the academic and practitioner arenas and provide a rich understanding for students by affording them “hands on” experience at various federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies or in private sectors. Through interactions with practitioners, students develop marketable skills, begin to establish valuable networks, and oftentimes their internship is a pathway for future employment with their sponsoring agency. Through observation and participation, students are better informed to decide on career choices. Similarly, students can recognize the value of classroom learned theoretical concepts are they are applied in the professional environment.

Credits and Hours

You may take 3 credits per semester. Three credits require **120 hours** of internship and the rest of the participation listed below. You may do this class for a maximum of 6 credits over two consecutive semesters by doing 240 hours. Or, if you are in your senior year and in your **last** semester, you may do the 240 hours in one semester for 6 credits. Note that if you do 6 credits over two semesters, you only attend the internship class for the first semester, and do not attend classes for the second semester. You then hand in your **10- 15 pages of journals**, internship hours, **twenty page paper** and evaluation at the end of the second semester. You must complete your internship during the same semester in which you are registered for this class. Please note that if you are doing this class for six credits, these may not all count towards your major. **It is your responsibility to ensure that your credits are going to fulfill your overall and/or your major credits. If you have any doubts, talk to Sarah Laboy-Almodovar at Lucy Stone Hall!**

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following five factors:

I. Class attendance and participation

There will be weekly seminar meetings on Thursdays 6:40 to 8:00 pm. Attendance is **mandatory** and will be taken. **Three absences will result in a lowered grade, and excessive absences will result in a failing grade.** There will be class discussions on your

experiences and progress of your individual internship so that the entire class can benefit from your knowledge of your agency and your personal experiences. Additionally, there will be guest speakers throughout the semester that will enlighten you about their particular fields of expertise.

II. E-mailed questions to guest speakers

Within 48 hours after I have emailed you the speaker's position and resume, you are required to email me **at least three (3)** questions to ask of the guest lecturer. These questions should be intelligent, relevant, and avoid the obvious such as "what is the best part of your job" or "how did you get where you are today." After I receive each email with your questions, I will respond with a "QN", or "question noted". This is your 'receipt' that shows I have received your email. *Keep these emails.*

III. Journal entries

You will maintain a journal, which is a student account of intern life. In this journal you will record your observations, analyses of experiences, and interpretations of practices. Some tasks may appear meaningless to you and perhaps your conclusions should be explored in depth during your interview of the agency representative. You can ask yourself questions on why certain agency practices are followed, why particular courses of action are taken, and how the agency bureaucracy or office politics are interwoven in the daily routines of agency employees. You can reflect and realize that sometimes scholarly theory does not conform to reality. ***The journal is not a log where you outline what you have accomplished hour by hour.*** Identify what new skills you acquired and their impact on your personal growth for your future career goals. Date your entries. Entries must be **typewritten, 12-point font, double spaced, Times New Roman, between 5 and 10 pages.** Although not explicitly part of your grade, good journal entries will bump you up to a higher grade if you are within 1 or 2 points.

IV. Term essay (50% of your grade)

You will have to do a ten page paper on one of the three topics on the attached page. Please review carefully the paper requirements. **If your paper is late, you will be marked down 10 points for each day it is late.**

V. Agency evaluations (50% of your grade)

Your supervisor will evaluate your performance at the culmination of your internship and will be large factor in your final grade. You must hand your supervisor the evaluation along with an envelope. You will not be allowed to see the recommendation. Please have your supervisor **fill out the form, place it in the envelope, seal it shut, and then write his or her name over the flap.** You may either mail it or hand it to me.

PAPER TOPICS

Your paper should be a persuasive paper, meaning that you must pick one side on a divisive issue and then defend it. It does not matter which side you choose as long as your side is well defended. It will be graded using the attached rubric. The paper must follow these guidelines:

- **Typewritten, 12-point font, double spaced, Times New Roman, 10 pages**
- **MLA format**
- **At least FIVE (5) acceptable peer-reviewed sources**

Please choose ONE of the following topics:

- If a parent treats a sick child with prayer instead of medicine, if the child dies, should the parent be tried for murder?
- Should severely mentally ill defendants who are not sane enough to stand trial be forcefully medicated in order to make them able to stand trial?
- Should defendants convicted of marital rape have lesser sentences than defendants who raped strangers?

~*~*~ IMPORTANT NOTES ! ~*~*~

Students may have a hard time finding an internship because they started late or a promised internship fell through. **If it looks like you will not be able to fulfill the required 120 hours, speak with me immediately:** we will add a certain number of proportional pages to your paper requirement for the amount of hours you cannot meet.

- CLASSES ARE ONLY ON THURSDAYS
 - NO CLASS 1/25
 - NO CLASS 3/17

The paper, logs, hours completion form, and internship evaluation are due April 28, 2011.

